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BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

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Cordillera hand, foot and mouth disease up by 1,000 percent

BAGUIO CITY – The Cordillera office of the Department of Health (DOH-CAR) disclosed that hand, foot and mouth disease cases in the region dramatically increased by approximately 1,000 percent after registering 733 cases from January to November this year compared to the 67 cases that were recorded during the same period last year. Based on the data obtained from the DOH-CAR's Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (RESU), the increase in hand, foot and mouth disease cases was pegged at 999 percent

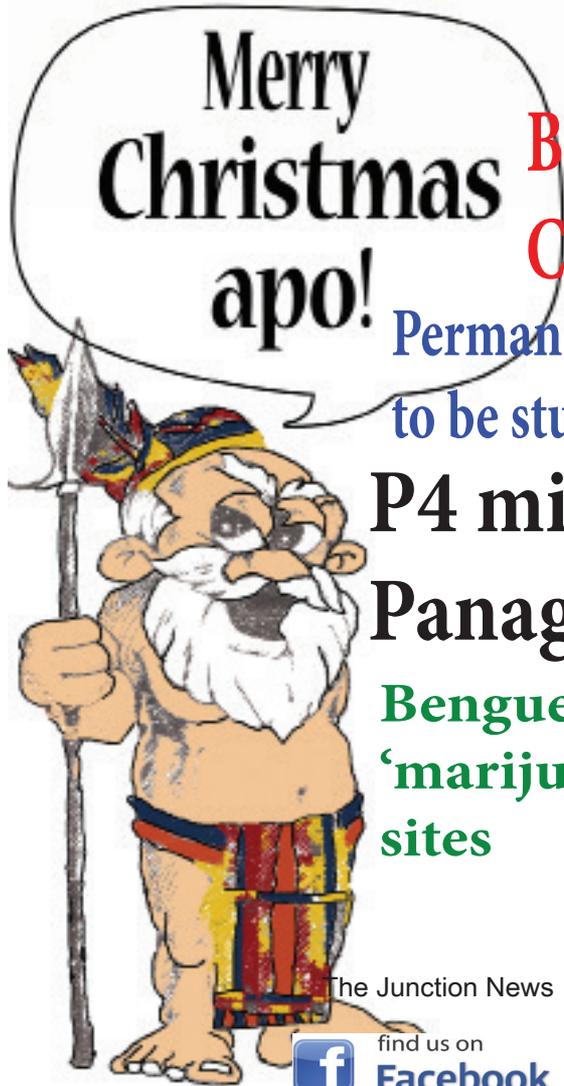
which is considered to be alarming although there were no related deaths that were recorded by the different disease reporting units during the prescribed reckoning periods. Further, health officials claimed that there were clustering of hand- foot and mouth diseases that were noted in the different parts of the region as a result of the drastic increase in the number of individuals afflicted with the said illness. Health experts stated that hand, foot and mouth disease is a common infectious disease caused by a group of enterovirus,

including coxsackievirus A16 (CA16) and enterovirus 71 (EV71). According to them, hand, foot and mouth disease is characterized by a brief febrile illness in children and typical skin rash, with or without mouth ulcers. The health officials pointed out that typically, the rash is papulovesicular and affects the palms and soles of the feet, or both. Moreover, infection of EV 71 is of particular concern of the health officers as it can cause severe disease in children, sometimes resulting in death and hand, foot and mouth disease is spread from person to person by

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Mayor Benjamin Magalong, City Building and Architecture Assistant Department head Johny Degay and Regional Director Tiburcio Canlas of the Department of Public Works and Highways inspected the ongoing rehabilitation works at the Baguio Convention Center on Wednesday, 18 December 2019 to ensure works are compliant to the specifications set particularly on "world class craftsmanship on infrastructure projects". - Photo by Glenn Pat-ogan



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Demonstration of iPermit application in city okayed

BAGUIO CITY – The City Council approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Benjamining B. Magalong representing the local government to enter into a memorandum of agreement with SVI Information Services Corporation (SVI-ISC) to provide a proof of concept, demonstration of iPermit application at no cost to the city.

Earlier, the local government, mindful of the current need for an efficient and effective information technology and document management system that would enhance the delivery of services to residents and constituents and is interested to know more about SVI-ISC's local government unit App Suite and how it can address the requirements of the city's different departments and agencies.

Baguio City is a primary government instrumentality tasked to develop and promote economic development in its area of jurisdiction while Software Ventures International (SVI) group, of which is SVI-ISC is part of has been in the informa-

tion technology ventures for over 20 years providing national and local government offices as well as private enterprises with innovative information technology solutions.

The group is the reported copyright owner and developer of iPermit, a tailor-fit app for local government units to streamline the day to day operations for issuing and processing of business permits.

Under the approved agreement, the company shall conduct a proof of concept at no cost to the local government on the iPermit app upon the request of the city whereby SVI-ISC shall demonstrate its capability among other needed specifications that should be known by the city.

Further, the parties shall organize a joint project management committee which shall be tasked to supervise and observe the implementation of the proof of concept and ensure the mutual cooperation between the parties, including the performance of all necessary activities such as exchange of information, correspondents,

consultations among others to be undertaken to accomplish the objectives of the agreement.

The agreement also provided the hiring of an information technology (IT) security officer by the local government who will be tasked to keep the keys to inscription among others considering that the city shall own all of the contents, information and data collated and collected, inputted and used in the proof of concept of the iPermit.

Each party will be provided a copy of the proof of concept but the parties shall protect the confidentiality of the report, including the conduct of the same and contents and that the data, information among others relating to the proof of concept shall not be publicly divulged.

The agreement stipulated that the local government unit shall ensure that the any personal information of individuals that might be included in the data in the proof of concept will be protected and will not be unnecessarily divulged.

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Accommodation establishments to be compelled to submit tourist arrival data

BAGUIO CITY – Accommodation establishments in the city will be compelled to submit data on tourist arrivals to the City Tourism and Special Events Division for the city to obtain accurate

statistics on tourist influx. Mayor Benjamin

Magalong issued Executive Order No. 172 series of 2019 mandating all punong barangays to require all hotels, resorts, apartelles, pension houses, inns, transient houses and similar establishments to first acquire a certification

from the tourism division under the Office for City

Administration that they have submitted the required data before they can be issued a barangay business clearance.

This is in line with of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Ordinance No. 120 series of 2017 which mandates the establishments to religiously submit standard data on tourist arrivals.

This is also in compliance to Republic Act No. 9593 or the Tourism Act of 2009 which stresses on Local Tourism Development Planning and mandates local government units to provide reports periodically on the status of tourism statistics and inventory of resources to the Department of Tourism "to ascertain the economic and social



In line with the Christmas in Baguio Celebration, a Special Day for Persons with Disability dubbed as Game-O-Rama was conducted by the City Government of Baguio through the City Social Welfare and Development Office headed by Ms. Betty Fangasan and Persons with Disability Affairs Office in partnership with the Silahis ng Pasko Committee last December 15, 2019 at the Athletic Bowl and Upper Session Road. The Game-O-Rama was enjoyed by the Persons with Disability who have participated in the walkathon for Visually Impaired at the Athletic Bowl followed by Chess for VI, Parlor Games and Singing Competition for PWDs at the Session Road. - Photo by Dolor Busacay

Council okays P2.255 billion annual budget next year

BAGUIO CITY – The City Council approved the P2.255 billion annual budget of the city government next year during its last regular session this year.

Earlier, the executive and legislative branches of the city government agreed to increase the city's proposed annual budget from the previous P2.230 billion to P2.255 billion to accommodate a number of priority programs not provided appropriations.

The adjustment on the proposed 2020 city budget was made by

the members of the city finance committee on the beginning balance from P200 million to P225 million to accommodate the P15 million funding needed for the city's hosting of the Cordillera Administrative Region Athletic Association (CARAA) and the P10 million required for the city government's educational assistance to indigent residents wanting to pursue their studies.

Under the proposed annual budget of the city next year, the sources of funds include

impact of tourism."

Apart from imposing the certificate requirement, the mayor also directed the punong barangays and the Barangay Tourism Councils to periodically update and submit the tourism office an inventory of accommodation establishments like hotels, condotels, serviced residences, resorts, apartelles, motels, pension houses, homestay sites, tourist inns, transient lodging houses and similar ones in their respective barangays.

They were also asked to ensure that all of these establishments are periodically submitting their reports.

Earlier records said only 120 of the 175 hotels, inns and transient houses registered with the city are complying with the ordinance and religiously submitting data.

The city needs to get the support of all of these establishments to be able to come up with accurate data on the number of tourists coming up to the City on a year-round basis to serve as basis in planning for the future development programs for the city./Aileen P. Refuerzo

beginning balance – P225 million, tax revenue – P518,212,938, non-tax revenue – P345,850,000, external sources – P1,165,937,062.

Among the expenditures of the city government where the budget will be used include personal services – P820,826,000, maintenance and other operating expenses – P741,766,000, capital outlay – P262,008,000, special purpose appropriations – P405,340,000.

The proposed 2020 annual budget of the city that was increased represents the strategic priority projects, programs and activities of the city government that is anchored on the 15-point core agenda of the administration.

Earlier, a joint planning session of both the executive and legislative departments resulted to an agreed executive-legislative agenda for 3 years that gave the opportunity for city officials to examine the city government's existing processes,

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The JUNCTION
Bing Dawang-Farres: Editor (on leave)
Freddie J. Farres: Consultant
Support Staff:
Nelson Tunaño
Gerry P. Binwagan
John T. Baguyan
Annabelle Pedromio
Bradenburg Sawac
Kevin Villena
Levis

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E-mail Address: thejunctionnews@yahoo.com
Mailing Address P.O. Box 1588, 2600 Baguio City
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Benguet mourns death of Cong. Fongwan

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - The province of Benguet and the Cordillera region mourn for the passing away of Congressman Nestor Bagtang Fongwan Sr due to lingering illness.

La Trinidad Philippine Councilors League President and Benguet Board Member Nestor "Bobot" Fongwan Jr. confirmed the demise of his father thru the social media on Wednesday night, December 18. He was 68 years old.

Fongwan Sr. was elected as councilor of La Trinidad in 1988 and served until 1992. He was elected as the vice mayor from 1992-1995, where he served as acting mayor towards the end of his term and as mayor of La Trinidad from 1998-2007.

He served as three-term Governor of Benguet from 2007 to 2016. He was serving his first term as the lone district representative of Benguet following his landslide win in the May 2019 elections when he died.

Fongwan made La Trinidad more popular

around the world with the entry of the town to the Guinness Book of World Records for making the largest strawberry shortcake in the world in March 2004. The cake which served more than 10, 000 people weighed 622.24 kilograms. It highlighted strawberries as the main ingredient which is the One Town-One Product of the capital town.

During his stint as a governor, Benguet was awarded the Seal of Good Local Governance by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and topped the United Nations Development Program human development index report.

Benguet was also awarded with Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index award by the Department of Trade and Industry, Green Banner Award by the National Nutrition Council, Gawad Pamana ng Lahi and Seal of Good Housekeeping by the DILG, May Malaking Pag-angat sa Kaunlarang Pantao and May Mataas

na Kaunlarang Pantao by the UNDP and the government of New Zealand, and a Philhealth award for having the most numbers of enrollees, exceeding the required universal coverage.

Known as the "Action Man of Benguet," Fongwan Sr. had been active in public service particularly during calamities as he himself responds to the needs of affected people.

In 2009, Fongwan took the lead in the rescue and retrieval operations in one the province's worst disasters when a massive landslide in Little Kibungan in Puguis, La Trinidad covered houses leaving more than a 70 dead.

After the tragic incident, Fongwan took actions to ensure that his province and constituents would be prepared and ready for calamities that would occur and that they would be more conscious of their environment. This also led to the strengthening of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils of the different local government units thru the conduct of various activities such as DRRM trainings, summits, drills and orientations for various audience including schools and offices to make them ready and prepared during disasters.

He advocated the improvement of farming in the province as well as made it easier for farmers to trade their goods linking market in the different areas in Metro Manila and other areas. He was also a strong environment advocate leading the protection of the various watersheds.

Benguet Governor Melchor Diolas remembers the late leader as person who takes actions on all problems that reaches him and even going the distance and personally doing things that would solve these problems.

Fongwan led the PDP Laban in the May →



Benguet Cong. Nestor Fongwan Sr. delivering his message during the proclamation of winners of the province of Benguet in the May 2019 elections. (RMC/PIA-CAR)

Cordillera hand,foot and... from page 1

direct contact and viruses are found in the nose and throat secretions such as saliva, sputum, or nasal mucus, fluid and blisters and stool of infected persons.

The viruses may be spread when infected persons touch objects and surfaces that are then touched by others and enteroviruses could be excreted in the stools for up to 6 weeks and throat secretions for up to 2 weeks.

Among the recommended hand, foot and 2019 elections with almost all their bets from the provincial governor down to municipal officials winning.

His fellow colleagues in Congress also took to social media messages for their late congressman.

Fongwan was vice chairman of three House committees at the time of his demise - agrarian reform, indigenous cultural communities and indigenous people, and natural resources.

Among the bills he authored include an Act to terminate the collection of toll fees along Kennon Road, the act to increase the bed capacity of the Benguet General Hospital, the act making the position of Social Welfare and Development officer and Agriculturist mandatory in the municipal level and the conversion of various national high schools in the province.

Just recently, he joined the Cordillera lawmakers

measures against hand, foot and mouth disease is to ensure that people have a strong immune system, especially when frequenting crowded places.

There's no specific treatment for hand-foot-and-mouth disease. Frequent hand-washing and avoiding close contact with people who are infected with hand-foot-and-mouth disease may help reduce your child's risk of infection.

The usual period from initial infection to the onset of signs and symptoms (incubation period) is three to six days. A fever is often the first sign of hand-foot-and-mouth disease, followed by a sore throat and sometimes a poor appetite and malaise./ Dexter A. See

mouth disease preventive and control measures include the conduct of information campaigns n good hygiene and basic sanitation to reduce spread of the disease and the timely reporting of individuals that are infected with the said illness for them to be provided with the appropriate diagnoses considering that such illness is curable.

Health officials explained that children and adults have the tendency to acquire the illness when getting in contact with infected individuals in crowded places, thus, one of the suggested preventives and control

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

IMELDA M. CABRADILLA
Applicant
CASE No. 2014-CAR-898
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on Dec. 17, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of 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 Board shall hear this application on January 13, 2020 at 9:00 AM the LTRFB Office, Paddal Baguio City in which date and time 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) daily newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable Engr. LALAIN E. SOBREMONT E, OIC-Regional Director, this 19th day of December 2019, Baguio City. **ATTY. LAIRD DIONEL N. URBANOZO**
Hearing Officer

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

JOCELYN A. PANAYO
Applicant
CASE No. 2011-CAR-869
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on Dec. 12, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience with DROPPING AND SUBSTITUTION OF UNIT to operate TX Service for the transportation of 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 Board shall hear this application on January 13, 2020 at 9:00 AM the LTRFB Office, Paddal Baguio City in which date and time 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) daily newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

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WITNESS, the Honorable Engr. LALAIN E. SOBREMONT E, OIC-Regional Director, this 13th day of December 2019, Baguio City. **ATTY. LAIRD DIONEL N. URBANOZO**
Hearing Officer

Demonstration of iPermit... from page 2

In the event that the local government decides to implement the iPermit app which had been the subject of the proof of concept by itself or in joint venture consortium with others, and the same actually meets the qualification requirements pursuant to relevant laws, rules and regulations, SVI-ISC or its joint venture consortium shall have the option to submit an unsolicited proposal under the pertinent provisions of Republic Act 6957 as amended by Republic Act 7718 or the Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT) law, and its implementing rules and regulations or enter into a joint venture contract./Dexter A. See

in filing House Bill 5687 or the act establishing the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera. He was a staunch advocate of Cordillera autonomy which he sees will help in the resource management and the sustainable development of Benguet

and the Cordillera region. He is survived by wife Priscilla and children Marie Rose, Nestor "Bobot" Jr., Marilyn, Ma. Theresa, and Marson. (JDP/RMC-PIA CAR)

Chilling effect

By Antonio Contreras (www.manilatimes.net)

OMBUDSMAN Samuel Martires has a gripe against Malou Mangahas, a veteran journalist affiliated with GMA-7 and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ). The main beef of Martires is that according to him, Mangahas recorded their conversation without his knowledge, and she then caused its publication in her investigative report, recounting what Martires said on the issue of the statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) of President Duterte. Mangahas has been trying to obtain a copy of the President's SALN, and as she revealed, the Office of the Ombudsman has been delaying the release. What particularly irritated Martires was Mangahas quoting him as saying that he was not sure whether he had the authority to release the President's SALN and that she should just ask for a copy from the Office of the President and the Office of the Executive Secretary.

It should be noted that Martires has not denied that he indeed said the things Mangahas attributed to him. What he is accusing Mangahas of is unethical conduct, and he even suggested that she violated Republic Act (RA) 4200, or the "Anti-Wiretapping Law." These allegations are serious because Mangahas is a journalist, and this will have far-reaching implications because it dwells on the issue of press freedom and the limits of the rights of media.

Section 1 of RA 4200 states, "It shall be unlawful for any person, not being authorized by all the parties to any private communication or spoken word, to tap any wire or cable, or by using any other device or arrangement, to secretly overhear, intercept, or record such communication or spoken word by using a device commonly known as a dictaphone or dictagraph or walkie-talkie or tape recorder, or however otherwise described."

A direct and simple reading of the provision reveals two key elements for the crime to attach to any person. First, the recorded conversation must be a private one.

And second, such should have been secretly recorded by the accused party. While it will be for a competent court of law to decide, it appears that the allegations of Martires and

EDITORIAL

others may not hold water.

First of all, the conversation was not private. Mangahas introduced herself as a journalist. And Martires is a public official, and the subject of the conversation was on a public matter involving the President's SALN, which as a matter of law can be made public upon legitimate request, and as a matter of policy the disclosure of which is covered by Executive Order 2 issued by the President himself in 2016 to ensure freedom of information. Second, Mangahas was openly holding a device to record the conversation; she did not surreptitiously have her body wired with secret recording devices, like some undercover agent.

It has already been well settled by the Supreme Court, in GR 168338 promulgated in 2008, in *Chavez v. Gonzales* and the National Telecommunications Commission, that a free press and free speech are preferred rights, even in the face of possible violations of a law. In the said case, the issue was also about an alleged violation of RA 4200 and where government threatened media against publishing the contents of an alleged wiretapped conversation between then-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), popularly known as the Garci tapes. To quote the court:

"We rule that not every violation of a law will justify straitjacketing the exercise of freedom of speech and of the press. Our laws are of different kinds and doubtless, some of them provide norms of conduct which even if violated have only an adverse effect on a person's private comfort but does not endanger national security. There are laws of great significance but their violation, by itself and without more, cannot support suppression of free speech and free press. In fine, violation of law is just a factor, a vital one to be sure, which should be weighed in adjudging whether to restrain freedom of speech and of the press. The totality of the injurious effects of the violation to private and public interest must be calibrated in light of the preferred status accorded by the Constitution and by related international covenants protecting freedom of speech and of the press."

Since Mangahas already published her conversation with Martires, the arguments on prior restraint, which was clearly elucidated in GR 168338 may not directly apply. Nevertheless, the optics created by an Ombudsman accusing a journalist of violating a law for publishing an interview about a legitimate public matter creates a chilling effect. In GR 168338, the court ruled that government doesn't have to issue formal circulars to censor free speech. A mere utterance of a public official like the Ombudsman accusing a journalist of violating a law would be enough to create a chilling effect.

Beyond the legalities, however, lies the commonsensical. A public official, who is approached by a journalist who openly identifies herself as such and begins asking questions, that doesn't want to be quoted, has two options. Either he replies with a terse "no comment" or just walks away and ignores media; or he can ask that the conversation be off the record. Martires did not do any of these.

The ethical obligation of media people requires that they are duty bound to clearly identify themselves as such. In fact, they often carry press identification cards with them. Mangahas announced her identity as a journalist. Martires' staff knew that she wanted to interview Martires, who is not an anonymous whistleblower or news source whose identity and revelations Mangahas is duty bound to

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KAKAMPIMO ANG BATAS

Kaya may Pasko kasi may mga taong

sumunod sa Diyos

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY: "... Nang magising si Jose, sinunod nga niya ang utos ng Panginoon na nagpakita sa kaniya sa anyo ng anghel, at pinakasalan niya si Maria..." (Mateo 1:24, Ang Tanging Daan Bibliya).

-000-

KAYA MAY PASKO KASI MAY MGA TAONG TAPAT NA SUMUNOD SA DIYOS: Alam ba ninyong ang kuwento ng Pasko ay kuwentong nakasentro di na lamang sa pag-ibig ng Diyos sa mga tao? Lumilitaw, kaya may Pasko tayong ipinagdiriwang ngayon kasi may mga taong tapat na sumunod sa mga utos ng Diyos, bagamat sa unang tingin, ang pagsunod nila sa Diyos ay magdudulot sa kanila ng kahihyan, pighati at dusa, at kahirapan.

Ipinakita ng mga taong ito na ang pagsunod pala ay isang mabisa at makapangyarihang paraan upang maganap ang mabuting kalooban ng Diyos sa mga tao at sa buong mundo, gaya na lamang ng kuwento ng Bibliya ukol kay Jose, ang nobyo o ang lalaking nakatakda ng ikasal sa isang dalagang birhen na ang pangalan ay Maria. Makikita nating kaya natuloy ang Pasko dahil tinupad ni Jose ang utos sa Kaniya ng Diyos na ipinarating sa kaniya sa isang panaginip.

Si Jose ay isang Israelita at mula sa lahi ni Haring David. Una natin siyang nakilala sa Mateo 1 ng Bibliya, matapos siyang mabanggit sa talaan ng mga ninuno ni Jesus. Noong mga panahong iyon, nakatakda na siyang ikasal sa isang dalagang birhen na ang pangalan ay Maria. Ang problema, nalaman ni Jose na buntis na si Maria, bagamat sila ay di pa nagsisiping, kaya't inisip niyang tahimik na hiwalayan ang babae.

-000-

PAGSUNOD SA MGA UTOS NG DIYOS, TANDA NG PAGIGING MATUWID: Sa pasya ni Jose na hindi na niya pakakasalan si Maria matapos itong mahayag na buntis na, bagamat di pa sila nagsisiping bilang mag-asawa, kumilos ang Diyos upang pigilan si Jose sa pakikipaghiwalay kay Maria. Nagpakita Siya kay Jose sa anyo ng isang anghel, habang si Jose ay mahimbing na natutulog.

Sinabi ng Diyos kay Jose na hindi niya dapat hiwalayan ang babae at hindi ito dapat matakot na pakasalan ito dahil ang ipinagbuntis ni Maria ay mula sa Banal na Espiritu. Malugod na tinanggap at sinunod ni Jose ang naging utos ng Diyos sa kaniya, kaya dahil dito, hindi na niya itinuloy ang balak na hiwalayan si Maria, at nagpasya na lamang siya na ituloy na din ang kanilang kasal.

Sumunod nga si Jose sa utos ng Diyos, bagamat ang pagsunod niyang iyon ay mangangahulugan ng kaniyang kahihyan, pati na ng kaniyang pamilya at angkan. Hindi siya kumilos ayon sa kalakaran noong mga panahong iyon sa mga sitwasyong ang isang babae ay nagbubuntis bagamat wala pa silang mga asawa. Ipinakita niya ang kaniyang pagiging matuwid, dahil mas minahalaga niya ang pagtupad sa naging utos sa kaniya ng Diyos.

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MAY BIYAYANG DALA ANG PAGSUNOD SA DIYOS: Kung ating pag-aaralang mabuti, makikita natin sa kuwentong ito ng Pasko na nakasentro kay Jose, ang asawa ni Maria, na bagamat sa maraming pagkakataon ay may dalang hirap, o pighati at dusa, o kahihyan sa lipunan at sambayanan, ang pagsunod sa mga kautusan ng Diyos, mas malaking biyaya naman ang dulot nito sa atin at sa iba pang tapat din ang pagsunod sa mga utos ng Diyos.

Sa totoo lang, maliban sa kuwento ni Jose, marami pang ibang mga kuwento sa Bibliya tungkol sa mga taong nagdalawang-isip noong sila ay napag-utusan ng

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Why locate national stadium in Capas, Tarlac and not in NCR?

BY YEN MAKABENTA

THIS is the first question that the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games inquiry should strive to resolve.

And whose idea was it to bring the games to Capas or to New Clark City?

I have advocated multiple times in this column the relocation of the nation's premier international airport from its present location in Pasay City, Metro Manila, to somewhere in the Clark economic zone, which is a world-class site for aviation and has abundant space for several modern runways and airport terminals. At the same time I have advocated connecting Clark and the National Capital Region (NCR) through a high-speed bullet train and rail system.

On the other hand, I have opposed the proposal to relocate the country's principal sports stadium and sports facilities from its current site at the Rizal Memorial in Manila to Clark or somewhere in Central Luzon. I opposed it on the grounds that Metro Manila has a natural fan base and athletic nursery with its 12 million population, and the commercial clout to support and make viable the grandest sports infrastructure and staging facility.

While watching and reading about the 30th SEA Games, the public thought it was all taking place at Clark. In fact, the event was happening in Capas, Tarlac, where the new stadium is principally located, and in 22 other venues.

The 30th SEA Games became the most decentralized in the history of the games, as the competition was spread by the host in 23 cities across Luzon and divided into four clusters (Metro Manila, Clark, Subic/Olongapo, and a fourth cluster consisting of stand-alone venues in Batangas, Cavite, Laguna and La Union).

Since 1954, when it hosted the 2nd Asian Games in Manila, the Philippines has not hosted a major international multi-sport event. The challenge was colossal and the logistics prohibitive, that no administration dared to venture into it.

The SEA Games are more within our reach.

Kakampi mo ang Batas

from page 4

Diyos na gumanap sa mga gawaing ang Diyos mismo ang nagbigay, pero tumupad pa din sila. Nandyan si Abraham, si Jacob, si Moises, at ang marami pang iba mula sa Lumang Tipan ng Bibliya, at ganundin naman sina Jose at Maria, Pablo, at Pedro, na tumupad sa mga utos, kaya naman nabigyan sila ng matinding biyaya, pati na ng maraming tao.

Kaya tayo ay may Paskong ipinagdiriwang sa ngayon dahil nangahas sumunod sina Jose, Maria, at ang iba pang mga propeta ng Diyos, sa Kaniyang mga utos. Sa kanilang pagsunod, natupad ang kalooban Niya, na naging daan upang tayong mga mananampalataya sa kasalukuyang panahon ay magkaroon ng katiyakan sa ating kaligtasan habang nabubuhay pa tayo sa daigdig na ito, at sa araw ng Matinding Kapighatian, at sa buhay na walang hanggan.

-000-

REAKSIYON? Tawag po sa 0977 805 9058, 0918 574 0193, 0933 8251308 o sa aking Messenger account sa Facebook: Melanio Lazo Mauricio Jr. Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com, mmauriciojr111@gmail.com. Maaari din po kayong mag-post ng inyong mga reaksiyon sa aking Facebook page, www.facebook.com/attybatas.

Editorial

from page 4

protect. He is the Ombudsman and Mangahas is just doing her job. To accuse Mangahas not only of being unethical but also of violating RA 4200 would just be silly, except that it has a chilling effect.

The Rizal Memorial Stadium, which was used for the 1954 Asian Games, has not undergone extensive renovation and upgrading since 1954.

This year's SEA Games featured the highest number of sports in its history, with a total of 56 sports.

What puzzles is why when the opportunity came to redesign, remodel and upgrade the Rizal Memorial facility, courtesy of the 30th SEA Games, the government decided to invest sports infrastructure money instead in Capas and its farmlands.

You could argue that by building away from the metropolis, the SEA Games would be spared from the ordeal of coping with Manila's monstrous traffic and congestion. You could also say that this way, we can show our neighbors and the world other places and sights in the country.

But then deserting Manila also means surrendering the natural and guaranteed millions of spectators for the games. You are fleeing the biggest nursery of sports and athletic talent in the country. You are depriving the SEA Games of the commercial clout and media attention in Manila that are always vital for a successful sports competition.

It is instructive that Japan in preparing for the Tokyo Olympics next year, decided to build its new and ultra-modern national stadium in Central Tokyo, at the same site where the historic 1964 Olympiad was staged. They invested \$1.5 billion for a new stadium in their capital, not away from Tokyo.

Japan unveils 2020 Olympic stadium

Last Sunday, December 15, Japan unveiled its new national stadium, the main stadium for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics.

Tokyo proudly presented its 60,000-seater main Olympic Stadium last Sunday, more than seven months before the 2020 opening ceremony — with a host of special features to beat the feared heat.

Built on the site of the former national stadium used for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, it has five floors above ground and two below, with greenery planted on the decks to provide shade from the scorching summer sun.

The eaves around the outer perimeter keep out sunlight and rain and will help channel breeze into the stadium. There are also eight mist-spraying facilities, 185 fans and 16 air-conditioned lounges.

Opening the facility, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hailed its "top-**TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK**

Benguet town transforms...

from page 6

conserving our place. We continue to hope that the people of our town will have as an eye-opener the attractions we promote showing our rich culture and tradition," he said.

Fermin said for several decades, Kapangan carried the tag as marijuana producer.

"Every month they (villages) are being monitored, actual monitoring with the law enforcers visiting and fortunately, they are clear," he said.

He also thanked President Rodrigo Duterte's campaign against illegal drugs, prompting all stakeholders in the town to fight the marijuana cultivation.

Col. Elmer Ragay, Benguet provincial director, confirmed Fermin's claim, saying Kapangan maintains its drug cleared status.

"There is no resurgence since the time I was assigned in September and based on eradication operation, it is showing a negative result," Ragay said.

"The people [in Kapangan] are the ones shying away from planting [marijuana]," he added.

Fermin said in Barangay Sagubo, residents are now producing muscovado sugar with the help of the municipal government in partnership with the Departments of Labor and Employment and Trade and Industry.

In Gadang, on the other hand, residents have flower production for their livelihood and the other villages mostly in sayote and rice production, Fermin added.

Meanwhile, Fermin said they have allocated around PHP5 million for the opening of a farm-to-market road in Barangay Tawang, which is near the border of Kibungan town.

"Compared before, now is better, they have roads and every year the villages allot funds as identified by the barangay council as priorities," Fermin said. (PNA)

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

EDILIZA V. GUERRERO

Applicant

CASE No. 2016-CAR-188

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on Dec. 19, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of 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 Board shall hear this application on January 13, 2020 at 9:00 AM the LTRFB Office, Paddal Baguio City in which date and time 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) daily newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable Engr. LALAIN E. SOBREMONTTE, OIC-Regional Director, this 19th day of December 2019, Baguio City.

ATTY. LAIRD DIONEL N. URBANOZO
Hearing Officer

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

IMELDA M. CABRADILLA

Applicant

CASE No. 2013-CAR-203

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on Dec. 17, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of 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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WITNESS, the Honorable Engr. LALAIN E. SOBREMONTTE, OIC-Regional Director, this 19th day of December 2019, Baguio City.

ATTY. LAIRD DIONEL N. URBANOZO
Hearing Officer

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

IMELDA M. CABRADILLA

Applicant

CASE No. 2014-CAR-895

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on Dec. 17, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of 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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WITNESS, the Honorable Engr. LALAIN E. SOBREMONTTE, OIC-Regional Director, this 19th day of December 2019, Baguio City.

ATTY. LAIRD DIONEL N. URBANOZO
Hearing Officer

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

IMELDA M. CABRADILLA

Applicant

CASE No. 2012-CAR-620

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on Dec. 17, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of 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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WITNESS, the Honorable Engr. LALAIN E. SOBREMONTTE, OIC-Regional Director, this 19th day of December 2019, Baguio City.

ATTY. LAIRD DIONEL N. URBANOZO
Hearing Officer

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

IMELDA M. CABRADILLA
Applicant
CASE No. 2012-CAR-029
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on Dec. 17, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of 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 Board shall hear this application on January 13, 2020 at 9:00 AM the LTRFB Office, Pacdal Baguio City in which date and time applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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WITNESS, the Honorable Engr. LALAIN E. SOBREMONT E, OIC-Regional Director, this 19th day of December 2019, Baguio City. **ATTY. LAIRD DIONEL N. URBANOZO**
Hearing Officer

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

VICTOR T. LUACAN
Applicant
CASE No. 2005-BENG-CAR-1096
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on Dec. 12, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of 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 Board shall hear this application on January 13, 2020 at 9:00 AM the LTRFB Office, Pacdal Baguio City in which date and time applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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WITNESS, the Honorable Engr. LALAIN E. SOBREMONT E, OIC-Regional Director, this 12th day of December 2019, Baguio City. **ATTY. LAIRD DIONEL N. URBANOZO**
Hearing Officer

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

DELIA G. CANLAS
Applicant
CASE No. 2015-CAR-592
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on Dec. 17, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of 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 Board shall hear this application on January 13, 2020 at 9:00 AM the LTRFB Office, Pacdal Baguio City in which date and time applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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WITNESS, the Honorable Engr. LALAIN E. SOBREMONT E, OIC-Regional Director, this 19th day of December 2019, Baguio City. **ATTY. LAIRD DIONEL N. URBANOZO**
Hearing Officer

Benguet town transforms 'marijuana lairs' into tourist sites

BAGUIO CITY--What used to be regular visits from law enforcers to destroy marijuana plants, Kapangan town in Benguet now get tourists to visit the place.

The municipal government of Kapangan has slowly transformed the sleepy town into a tourist attraction.

"We are seeing a shift with tourists now coming to our town especially with the Badi [Badbadi] falls gaining popularity," Mayor Manny Fermin told Philippine News Agency (PNA) on Thursday.

Badi falls is located in Barangay Sagubo, one of the three villages identified in the past where high-grade marijuana plants were clandestinely grown, some uprooted and destroyed on-site or intercepted by law enforcers during operations outside the town

The falls is around 75-feet high waterfalls in the center of a virgin forest that drops on a natural pool of fresh clean water. It is around two hours walk from the road with spelunkers who need to

walk down rocks with using both legs and arms to keep

themselves from falling.

It is regularly visited by tourists from different parts of the country, especially during the summer.

The village also has also Camp Utopia located some 43 kilometers from the town proper.

Camp Utopia played a role in the history serving as a camp and infirmary of the 66th Infantry of the United States Armed Forces in the Philippines- Northern Luzon (USAFIP-NL) during World War II.

Fermin said villagers depend on marijuana cultivation as a source of income.

"Talagang walang community na dependent sa marijuana talagang zero (There is no community that is depended on marijuana now) but the change was started years back and did not happen overnight," said Fermin, who was still the Sangguniang Kabataan chairman when the transformation happened in 2002.

Led by then-Mayor Rogelio Leon, Barangay



TRANSFORMATION. The new Kapangan town hall that was built in 2010 through the initiative of then-Mayor Rogelio Leon. The town has shed its tag as a marijuana lair, transforming them into tourist attractions, including the Badi Falls in Barangay Sagubo. (Photo from the FB of Kapangan LGU)

Sagubo was the focus of the "change of a lifestyle" project of the town. The other two villages were Gadang and Beling-belis.

"Now, they [Sagubo] are the highlight of Kapangan in terms of tourism," Fermin said.

Kapangan is about one and a half hours from Benguet capital town La Trinidad via the Halsema road in Tublay town.

Other tourist attractions in the town include the Amburayan River, a trek at Mount Dakiwagan or popularly known as Santa Claus mountain- that looks like the Christmas icon with its beard, the Tampan Rice Terraces, Longog Cave which is only 10-minutes going down to the cave's entrance from the road and the burial caves in Barangay Pungayan.

Fermin said the cultural museum and the war veteran museum are both continuously being developed, which are both favorites of cultural exchange visits of students who go to Kapangan.

"We want the public to know the rich history of Kapangan and its participation during the war," Fermin said.

"This is one way of promoting and **Cont. on page 5**

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

IMELDA M. CABRADILLA
Applicant
CASE No. 2012-CAR-696
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on Dec. 17, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of 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 Board shall hear this application on January 13, 2020 at 9:00 AM the LTRFB Office, Pacdal Baguio City in which date and time applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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WITNESS, the Honorable Engr. LALAIN E. SOBREMONT E, OIC-Regional Director, this 19th day of December 2019, Baguio City. **ATTY. LAIRD DIONEL N. URBANOZO**
Hearing Officer

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

IMELDA M. CABRADILLA
Applicant
CASE No. 2012-CAR-1042
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on Dec. 17, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of 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 Board shall hear this application on January 13, 2020 at 9:00 AM the LTRFB Office, Pacdal Baguio City in which date and time applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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WITNESS, the Honorable Engr. LALAIN E. SOBREMONT E, OIC-Regional Director, this 19th day of December 2019, Baguio City. **ATTY. LAIRD DIONEL N. URBANOZO**
Hearing Officer

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SOLEDAD P. NONATO who died intestate on November 8, 1997 at the City of Baguio without any will. Covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-5934 has been the subject of an affidavit of self-adjudication by heir BERNARDO P. NONATO on December 2, 2019 before Notary Public Randy W. Lem-ew of Baguio City as per Doc. No. 245, Page No. 49, Book No. VI, series of 2019.

December 7, 14 & 21, 2019

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

IMELDA M. CABRADILLA
Applicant
CASE No. 2012-CAR-447
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on Dec. 17, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of 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 Board shall hear this application on January 13, 2020 at 9:00 AM the LTRFB Office, Pacdal Baguio City in which date and time applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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WITNESS, the Honorable Engr. LALAIN E. SOBREMONT E, OIC-Regional Director, this 19th day of December 2019, Baguio City. **ATTY. LAIRD DIONEL N. URBANOZO**
Hearing Officer

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

IMELDA M. CABRADILLA
Applicant
CASE No. 2014-CAR-312
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on Dec. 17, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of 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 Board shall hear this application on January 13, 2020 at 9:00 AM the LTRFB Office, Pacdal Baguio City in which date and time applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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WITNESS, the Honorable Engr. LALAIN E. SOBREMONT E, OIC-Regional Director, this 19th day of December 2019, Baguio City. **ATTY. LAIRD DIONEL N. URBANOZO**
Hearing Officer

Guidelines on disposal of cut logs set

BAGUIO CITY – Guidelines had been prescribed on the management of logs, lumber and firewood cut and retrieved by the City Environment and Parks Management Office.

In Executive Order No. 153 series of 2019, Mayor Benjamin Magalong said there is a need to spell out the rules and regulations to complement those stipulated under Section 253, Article 37 of Ordinance No. 18-2016 (Environment Code of Baguio City).

The said section provides that “All felled logs and cut firewood with permits issued by the City Mayor within public lands, parks and forest, except those cut logs issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall be used by the City Government of Baguio. These felled logs and firewood shall be deposited at the City Forest Nursery of the City Environment and Parks Management Office or area designated by the same office. These logs and firewood shall only be used for city or barangay projects in a manner prescribed by the City Environment and Parks Management Office.”

Section 254 of the said ordinance also provides that “An applicant who uses the felled logs and cut firewood shall as stated in this Code should pay the corresponding cost estimated by the City Environment and Management Office and/or City Forest Officers. Payment should be made at the City Treasury Office after an order of payment had been issued by the (CEPMO).”

The guidelines will cover those retrieved from the CEPMO’s implementation of the tree management and improvement program where dead and dangerous trees, dead and/or live infested trees are cut and undesirable branches of live trees within road-right-of-way, city parks and other forest reservations are trimmed.

These logs and branches retrieved are converted into good lumbers for office furniture and fixtures, landscaping materials in the parks, and the rest for firewood purposes, all of which are deposited at the Diplomat Heritage Hill.

The mayor’s executive order will apply to the following requests

All city government

P4 million subsidy for...

from page 8

grateful to the corporate sponsors for extending assistance in various forms to the organizers for the staging of the different events next year.

He admitted during the previous years, the foundation was willing to solely manage the flower festival but the previous administration wanted to contribute, and the city government’s P4 million annual subsidy had never been handled by the foundation but the city government disbursed the same through the cash prizes and subsidies for performers.

While it will be an added burden to the foundation to look for more sponsors to raise the scrapped subsidy and the increase in subsidies to participating contingents and landscapers and the cash prizes for winners, both de Leon and Alquiros asserted the foundation will do its best to raise the required budget and make the upcoming flower festival dynamic and successful.

He pointed out despite the removal of the city government’s annual subsidy for the flower festival, the Panabenga will remain a private sector-led and government-supported endeavor with concerned government agencies and the city government solid partner for the festivities./Dexter A. See

offices without the capacity and appropriations intended for furniture and landscaping fixtures; victims of calamities like typhoons, landslide and earthquakes needing wood resources; poor and less fortunate needing wood for coffin and firewood during vigil and burial of departed love ones;

Public schools needing construction materials to improve their classrooms and school facilities; different barangays to support projects which have no funds or appropriations from either the local or national government; the applicant granted permit to cut tree/s within public lands and other forest reservations for firewood or lumber; and private individuals who are requesting firewood for wedding ceremonies.

The City Mayor may grant requests for wood materials to the city offices, schools and barangays subject to submission of the following documents: letter request; certification of non-availability of funds from concerned office or agency; bill of Materials estimated by CBAO; sketch or design of proposed project; validation, clearance and/or recommendation from the Forest and Watershed Management Division of CEPMO; and approval of the mayor or CEPM

Officer.

Requests from private individuals may also be granted with the following requirements: letter request addressed to the City Mayor or CEPM Officer; certification from City Social Welfare Office for calamity victims; certification from the CSWO or Punong Barangay for indigents, less fortunate and the needy; validation, clearance and/or recommendation from the WAMD; and approval of the City Mayor or CEPM Officer.

A minimal fee shall be collected to be paid at the City Treasury Office except for city offices, barangays and victims of calamities: good lumber regardless of length and width -- P 45.00/board foot; lumber with defects (cracks, partially rotten) P30/board foot; and firewood (logs which are not suitable for lumber/branches) -- P400/cubic meter; felled logs suitable for lumber cut with permit issued by the City Mayor to individuals within public lands -- P18/board foot; felled logs and branches suitable for firewood cut with permit issued by the City Mayor to individuals within Public Lands -- P400/cubic meter; and aside from the fees, the applicant is also responsible in the felling of the subject tree/s and slicing logs into desired lumber./Aileen P. Refuerzo

Permanent closure of...

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conduct of a 6-month traffic experiment on the closure of the ascending portion of Session Road to allow the possible pedestrianization of the same and to help in reducing the pollutants in the city’s air.

Among the 15-point collective agenda of the present administration that is related to the closure of the said portion of the road include revitalizing the environment and effective traffic management.

Initial assessment conducted by the Baguio

City Police office (BCPO) showed that traffic in roads that link up with Session road only happen during the peak hours but most of the time, traffic is normal in the said roads.

On the other hand, public utility vehicle drivers complained on the prevalence of tremendous traffic along roads that connect with Session road when the ascending portion of the same is closed to vehicular traffic every Sunday which significantly affected their operations and caused a decline in their

Baguio to spend...

from page 2

assess most pressing concerns and suggested potential operational innovations and efficiencies, cost reductions and new revenue sources.

The city legislative body agreed to conduct the necessary hearings and consultations with the concerned offices of the city to ensure the planned programs, projects and activities of the city will be funded to realize the overall objective of the administration to have a better Baguio after 3 years.

Under the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) 7160 or the Local Government Code of the Philippines, local legislative bodies have until March next year or the first 90 days of the coming year to deliberate on the proposed annual budget of the city once it will not be able to pass the same by the end of the year.

The approved annual budget of the local government will be contained in an appropriation ordinance to be submitted to the Cordillera office of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM-CAR) for review as to its compliance to budgeting rules and regulations before the execution of the same by the concerned offices of the city.

The DBM-CAR is required to review all the annual budgets of local governments within 90 days after the same shall have been transmitted to the said office pursuant to existing budgeting rules and regulations./Dexter A. See

Baguio to spend...

from page 8

trative Region (CAR) take turns in hosting the aforesaid competition but Baguio City already declined the hosting of the sports meet in 2021 and 2022 for the other provinces and cities to experience hosting the competitions.

It is during the CARAA that athletes are selected to represent the region in upcoming national sports competitions, such as the Palarong Pambansa which will be held in Davao City in April or May next year, among other similar competitions sanctioned by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC).

Baguio City emerged as the overall champion in most of the regional sports competition conducted in the different parts of the region over the past several decades.

Aside from the funds that come from the city government, the education department also earmarks a certain amount to help in defraying additional administrative expenses for the hosting of the said competition which is expected to bring over 7,000 athletes and officials from provinces and cities, an added boost for economic activities for the host local government./Dexter A. See

projected income that day.

The concerned operators and drivers suggested that those conducting a study on the effects of closing the portion of the said road should not confine themselves to those who are directly benefitting from the closure of the road but they should expand their interviews to ordinary motorists who have been affected by the closure of the road every Sunday.

The vice mayor urged concerned sectors and those that have been affected by the closure of the ascending portion of Session road to formally submit to the local legislative body their position on the matter so that the appropriate committee will be able to include the same in deciding whether or not to recommend its permanent closure.

The pedestrianization of Session road is one of the identified strategies identified to help in encouraging the residents and tourists to walk around the city and lessen the pollutants in the city’s air./Dexter A. see

P4 million subsidy for Panagbenga scrapped

BAGUIO CITY – The Baguio Flower Festival Foundation, Inc. (BFFFI) announced the city government will no longer provide the P4 million annual subsidy for the Panagbenga to allow the 25th edition of the flower festival to be a purely private undertaking.

Anthony de Leon, general manager of the Baguio Country Club (BCC) and co-chairperson of the Panagbenga Organizing Committee, said the foundation accepted the responsibility of sustaining the annual conduct of the city's major crowd-drawing event even without the annual subsidy as the

organizers will provide the required resources for the events lined up for next year's festivities. Earlier, Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong declared the conduct of the annual Panagbenga festival to be a purely private sector undertaking and the city government will only serve as a support group to ensure the successful staging of the annual festival.

The city chief executive lauded the foundation for effectively and efficiently handling the conduct of the flower festival that made the festival gain national and international recognitions as one of the best organized festivals in the world.

He underscored there is nothing to fix in the

conduct of the festival as there is nothing broken, thus, it is unnecessary for the city government to interfere in the conduct of the festival, but instead it is best for the city to allow the private sector to continue spearheading the annual staging of the festival that has placed Baguio city in the map of the site of must-see festivals in the country.

Freddie Alquiros, co-chairman of the Panagbenga Organizing Committee, said the foundation already started its resource generation activities to raise the required P10 to P12 million needed to ensure the implementation of the activities lined up for the month-long festivities and organizers are

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Baguio to spend P8.3 million for CARAA 2020 hosting

BAGUIO CITY – The city government will spend some P8.3 million from its approved P2.255 billion annual budget next year for the 2020 edition of the Cordillera Administrative Region Athletic Association (CARAA) to be played in different playing venues around the city.

The budget for the hosting of the CARAA will only be some P8.3 million based on the updated budget proposal from the Department of Education-Division of City Schools during the regular session of the local legislative body.

Earlier, the education

department proposed some P15.5 million as the total expenses the city government will need to host next year's regional athletic competition thus some P15 million was included in the proposed annual budget of the city for next year as this was not included in the earlier computations for the 2020 budget.

However, city officials urged the education department to take a second look and review the items which can be reduced and some items were eventually scrapped from the original proposed CARAA budget.

The city legislative body

decided to include the P1.6 million from the P10 million earlier proposed by the executive department for the city's hosting of the CARAA to the capital outlay of the body specifically to be used for the purchase of an added service vehicle for the members of the council.

The education department was required by the City Council to turnover to the City General Services Office the units of portable sound system, sports equipment, among others, that will be purchased for the CARAA for safekeeping and for future use of the city.

The city government

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spent more than P12 million when the city hosted the CARAA in 2017 before the regional sports competition was hosted by Abra in 2018 and Apayao in 2019.

Local government units comprising the Cordillera Adminis-

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BLOOMING THROUGH THE YEARS - Mayor Benjie Magalong, together with Vice Mayor Faustino Olowan, city officials, and the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation, Inc. led the launching of the 25th Panagbenga Festival today, 16 December 2019 during the flag raising ceremony. - Photo by Glenn Pat-ogan

Permanent closure of Session road to be studied by council

BAGUIO CITY – The local legislative body will be studying the contending positions of concerned sectors on the proposal to permanently close the ascending portion of Session road before coming out with a collective decision on the matter.

Vice Mayor Faustino A. Olowan claimed that the 6-month experimental period on the closure of the ascending portion of

road for 4 Sundays but the same was extended up December upon the request of Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong for concerned offices to be able to come out with the appropriate assessment on the merits of closing the ascending portion of the city's main road.

Olowan said that the proposal to permanently close the ascending portion of Session road will have to pass through

the deliberations of the committee in charge and public hearings for the concerned sectors to be able to air their sentiments on the matter.

The local legislative body completed its last regular session last December 16, 2019 and will resume their regular meetings on January 6, 2020.

Magalong recommended for the

Cont. on page 7

Session road will end this month and the local legislative body is simply awaiting whatever will be the recommendations of the executive department on whether or not to make the closure permanent.

Earlier, the local legislative body approved Ordinance No. 65, series of 2019 closing the ascending portion of Session

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