

December 12-18, 2015

VOL. XIX NO. 11
ISSN 0119-7487

THE JUNCTION Pahayagang Palaban!!!

MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Fiscal cites outstanding accomplishments

BAGUIO CITY – the Office of the City Prosecutor this week cited its accomplishment for this year during Mondays Flag Raising ceremony here.

Prosecutor Rolando Vergara said, "the office has received a total of 2,337 new complaints under normal prelim-

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"KUDOS" – Mayor Mauricio Domogan acknowledges the outstanding performance of the Baguio City Prosecutor's Office during Mondays flag raising ceremony citing their integral part in the delivery of public service to the constituents of the city. Photo by Paul Rillorta

Apo Pros. Elmer Sagsago gawin ninyong isang marangal at respetadong opisina ang Baguio City Prosecutor's Office ng maalis sa isipan ng mga tao ang salitang Fikkal at Prosecutong!!!

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Bicameral committee approved P3.002 trillion national budget

Baguio Representative Nicasio M. Aliping, Jr. announced the approval of the bi-cam report of the House and Senate bicameral conference committee on House Bill 6132 or the 2016 General Appropriations Bill (GAB), which reconciled the amendments of both chambers.

Aliping, a member of the Committee on Appropriation said the 2016 General Appropriations Bill (GAB) provides for a P3.002 trillion national budget for 2016. The bicameral panel started discussions on HB 6132 last December 1. He said this will be the sixth year that the budget passage was done on time.

Alipingsaid they expect the ratification of the bicameral committee report before the holiday break of lawmakers, and subsequently the signing of the budget bill by President Aquino before the year's end.

Alipingsaid four substantial changes, restorations and augmentations in HB 6132 that were reflected in the bicameral report namely: an increase of P1.2 billion in the budget for indigent senior citizens; an increase in the budget of state universities and colleges (SUCs) by P2.7 billion to cover their capital outlays; the veterans' pension totaling P4.7 billion was sustained; and provision of P7 billion to fully fund

the Salary Standardization Law (SSL) of 2015 for its first tranche of implementation next year.

Changes to HB 6132 include the increase in the Department of Education (DepEd) budget. Per the bicameral report, the DepEd original budget of P411.482 billion was increased by P422.468 million, for a final budget of P411.905 billion.

The DepEd budget increase includes: P50 million for the preservation of Gabaldon school buildings which are considered National Heritage; funds for Special Education for persons with disability; Education and Sustainable Development and teachers training; the Philippine High School for the Arts additional allocation of P25.64 million for capital outlay; for SUCS, additional amount for the University of the Philippines for the construction of buildings and gyms, and support to the Philippine General Hospital (PGH).

For the Philippine Normal University (PNU), an amount was provided for the modernization of PNU on the basis of Republic Act 9467. Other SUCs would receive additional funding which will be used for academic buildings, equipment and the TulongDunong Program. Likewise, all

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CHIZ: SC HAS FINAL SAY ON POE'S PRESIDENTIAL RUN

Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero said the ultimate decision whether his running mate Sen. Grace Poe is qualified or not to run for the highest position in the land rests with the Supreme Court (SC) once it rules with finality on the legal questions surrounding her candidacy.

Escudero, an indepen-

dent vice-presidential candidate, is optimistic that Poe will achieve justice from the high court after the Second Division of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) voted in favor of a petition to exclude her from the presidential race.

"Though the

Cont. on page 6

Duterte-Cayetano tandem push for decentralization, spreading growth to other regions

In an effort to address the metro's worsening traffic congestion and to achieve inclusive growth throughout the country, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano are pushing for the decentralization of government power to spur development in the countryside.

"For the longest time, the drive for development is mainly focused on the National Capital Region (NCR), while the other regions are left to fend for themselves. This is not only unsustainable, it's also inequitable. It's time to think out of the box and overhaul this unequal development paradigm," Cayetano said.

Cayetano said the country's NCR-centric economic growth also contributed to the worsening traffic situation.

"NCR is perceived by many as the only place

where there are real economic opportunities. Thus, people unnecessarily flock to the region creating problems such as traffic, unemployment and housing woes. But if development is spread evenly to the regions, we can solve these problems," Cayetano explained.

Cayetano noted that his call for Decentralization is perfectly aligned with Duterte's advocacy for federalism.

"This is one of the reasons why there is a strong clamor for a Duterte presidency. The mayor not only symbolizes order, he also stands for the empowerment of regions which have long been neglected by the national government," Cayetano said.

Cayetano said decentralization will change how the budget is allocated across the country's 18 regions and 81 provinces. He pushed to allocate 1 billion per region to institutionalize a capital-lending scheme for local Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The senator also called for the creation of a Philippine Decentralization Committee (PDC) that will be tasked to enhance the delivery of services in the countryside as well as to study the relocation of several government agencies to different parts of

Contractor told to correct Christmas tree errors

BAGUIO CITY—The contractor of the Baguio Christmas Tree at Session Road has been told as early as Dec. 2 to rectify the errors and deficiencies found by the city buildings and architecture office (CBAO) after inspecting the structure on Dec. 1.

In a letter dated Dec. 2, Arch. Homer Soriano of the CBAO wrote Pilipinas Realty Corporation owner Masihiro Okuda "to supply the lacking items and rectify the deficiencies" noted in the structure on or before Dec. 6 "to enhance the aesthetic aspect of the Christmas Tree as originally planned."

In the inspection report submitted to CBAO head Engr. Nazita Banez, there were 14 observations noted.

The CBAO said Okuda is in the process of complying with the recommendations.

In the report, the CBAO observed the following: "poor quality of work for the Panaflex; quantity of Christmas lights as per submitted estimate of contractor was not followed; ascending rope lights not synchronized; four spotlights installed should have been floodlights; neon blue strip or rope lights at the corner base of the semi-circular Panaflex lighting not installed;

"There are only 12 gift boxes instead of 18 and these do not have steel matting frame; wavy design of the terraced plants as per plan was not followed; LED tube lights were installed

instead of LED strip lights as per approved plans; alcove lighting and groove lighting did not follow the approved plan; Panaflex strip design on the tree has no continuity; Panaflex acrylic plastic cover as reflected in the plans were not followed; orange instead of green pots for the plants were used; and the Christmas letterings should be improved.

The CBAO also suggested that the contractor improve the design, add more potted plants at the terrace portion of the tree and provide LED strip lights at the base of the tree.

The project has a contract amount of P1,235,117 and the design was done in collaboration with the United Architects of the Philippine Cordillera chapter (UAP-CAR).

Reacting to criticisms that the tree failed to measure up to public expectations despite the big budget and the UAP-CAR design, Mayor Mauricio Domogan on Wednesday said he did not directly participate in the bidding but he can assure that the project underwent the bidding process and it was unlikely that an anomaly transpired in view of the strict rules of the Commission on Audit.

"The city naturally wanted to put up nice decorations and even consulted with the UAP so it was presumed that the Christmas Trees will be a masterpiece but unfortunately others see it as (lacking)," he said. /A Refuerzo

the country. This may in turn provide better opportunities for Filipinos to work and live in other regions, Cayetano noted.

"This is the real change that we speak of - a change that moves people because of opportunities made possible by a strong brand of leadership," he said. "We need to create alternative

corridors of development outside NCR. This will not only decongest the already overcrowded capital but will also extend growth throughout the rest of the country. This is the foundation of the proposals that Mayor Duterte and I have long been advocating," he added. /Office of Senator Alan Peter Cayetano



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The Junction is printed and published by Farco Trimedia Ventures, Inc. (FTV, Inc.) every weekend, with office address at Ambuclao Road, Sitio Marooc, Ilogon Benguet, and c/o Linis Gobyerno, Bldg. 2 Ground Floor PCEC Bldg., Happy Homes, Campo Sioco, Baguio City; Mobile Phone No. (0917) 5069123; Tel. No. (074) 422-4215; E-mail Address: thejunctionnews@yahoo.com; Mailing Address P.O. Box 1588, 2600 Baguio City; Entered as Second Class Mail at the Baguio City Central Post Office PCC-CAR 01-04-99

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

Website: www.junctionnews.com

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

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City prepares parking areas this peak season

BAGUIO CITY - The summer capital of the Philippines will be expecting voluminous influx of both domestic and foreign visitors this Christmas season.

Along with the said voluminous visitors is the problem on parking space in the city.

To address the parking problem, in his weekly forum, mayor Mauricio Domogan disclosed that the city has identified parking areas to be utilized by the motorists.

Apart from the existing parking areas, government properties like the Baguio City National High School grounds, Quezon elementary school, frontage of the PFVR building and the former city auditorium will be utilized as parking areas.

Domogan has also requested the private schools and the GSIS

president Robert Vergara to allow the city to use their property as parking area this Christmas season.

He stressed that police personnel will be designated in the different identified parking areas to ensure safety of the motor vehicles.

The realization of the proposed off-street parking facility at Melvin Jones football grounds will take time because of several oppositions, thus, Domogan said that the Technical Working Group is still working on the terms of reference for the put up of the multi-level parking building within the Ganzan property in order to help in decongesting the city roads from the excessive volume of vehicles that contribute to traffic jams in the city.

On the other hand, the mayor urged barangay

officials to address the problem on parking along barangay roads by allotting available lots within their jurisdiction as a common parking space for lease to residents with vehicles.

"I encourage the barangay officials to look for empty lots and designate the same as common parking spaces where vehicle owners can park for a fee. This could solve the parking problem and at the same time become a revenue source for the barangays," the mayor said.

Once the development of the city market will push through, the city is also looking for the possibility of putting up one or two floors centralized parking space in the market.

"We are doing what we can to put up necessary parking spaces in the city," Domogan said. / *Jho Arranz*



"LUCKY FOREIGN VISITORS" Tomoko 'Monica' Ushimaru, 27 of Takayamachi, Gifu, Japan and Peng Jun Qi 'Penny', 25 from Wuzhixian, Jiaozoushi, Henan, China are officially welcomed by City officials headed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan, Department of Tourism -CAR Regional Director Marie Venus Quinto Tan and NCCB President Narciso Padilla last December 11 at the mayor's office. / Photo by Paul Rillorta

City continues to regulate increase of HIV cases

BAGUIO CITY - The Health Services Office has recently recorded and average of nine Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) cases in the city every year starting 2011 to 2015, most of the new cases are MSM (men having sex with men).

Mayor Mauricio stressed that the city has the Baguio AIDS Watch Council (AWAC) headed by Dr. Celia Brillantes of the Social Hygiene Clinic, HSO monitoring the different night spots, clubs here in the city.

According to Brillan-

tes, the entertainers were informed about HIV infections and they are tested if they are positive with the infection.

In order to regulate the increase of HIV cases in the city, an ongoing group education to MSM's and street workers are being conducted by peer educators.

"Raising awareness on HIV/AIDS can also help in the reduction of HIV infection occurrence," said Brillantes.

Prohibiting the existence of night spots in the city is not the

solution in preventing the occurrence of HIV cases, but instead, the values of every individual is very important to get rid of said infection, stressed Domogan.

To prevent HIV infections, it is very important to practice the ABC prevention of HIV - abstinence for our young people, be faithful to your partners, and practice careful and responsible sex.

The HSO is carrying out free testing and detection for HIV patients. / *Jho Arranz*

Christmas traffic plan mapped out

BAGUIO CITY - A traffic plan has been mapped out for the expected influx of tourists in the city for the Christmas and New Year break.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan on Wednesday said the Traffic and Transportation Management Committee (TTMC) has firming up the road contingency measures with the hope of alleviating if not totally avoiding the traffic problems experienced last year.

The mayor said the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) traffic division under P/Supt. Evelio Degay has made the necessary coordination with their counterparts in La Union and Pangasinan for a collaborative effort in monitoring and regulating the flow of vehicles at Kennon Road, Marcos Highway and other major entry points to the city.

The police offices agreed to closely coor-

dinate with each other in ensuring the smooth inflow and outflow of vehicles towards the access points to the city by posting uniformed men and appropriate traffic signs in strategic and chokepoints in areas leading to the city.

Groups will also be tapped to provide motorist assistance in cases of mechanical trouble or road accidents to prevent further travel disruptions, the mayor added.

Degay who presented the traffic plan before the city council last Monday said they expect the "aggregation of vehicles and pedestrians to peak" from Dec. 24-27 and from Dec. 30 to January 3, 2016 causing a moderate-to-heavy level of traffic and shortage of maneuver areas and shortage of parking spaces.

Degay said the police action will be anchored

on the effective deployment of policemen in the so-called traffic hotspots, intensified enforcement of traffic laws, posting of additional traffic signs and implementation of traffic systems including the diversion or loop system and the control point concept.

They will designate one-way routes along the following:

*Romulo Drive (from Wright Park pool) through Mines View Park and Gibraltar Road until the intersection at Gibraltar barangay hall.

*From Leonard Wood Road bridge until C.M. Recto Road junction (side of Botanical Garden). Motorists from Pacdal circle shall pass through C.M. Recto Road (Navy Base Road).

*Kisad Road will be a one way inbound route from BGH Rotunda towards the central business district. Legarda

Cont. on page 6

Mayor wants clarity on the implementation of infra projects

BAGUIO CITY - Some city officials are wondering why a number of infra projects in the city has not been implemented.

Calendar year 2015 is about to end and yet there are identified priority projects in the city that has not yet been implemented.

The causes of delay in the implementation of the said projects were enumerated during the executive-legislative meeting last Monday.

Among the causes of delay include the late approval of the city budget by the city

council, the preparation of detailed cost estimate, the compliance of Republic Act. 9184 also known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, the failure and/or no bidders of the project, and the lack and/or non investigation in identifying the site/location of barangay projects.

"The late approval of city budget by the council has a great effect in the delay of implementation of project," said the mayor.

Because of this, Domogan urged the council to approve the

city budget by the end of the year in order that the projects of the city will be implemented immediately.

Domogan instructed the City Planning and Development Office headed by Engr. Evelyn Cayat to submit the lists of the 2013 and 2014 implemented as well as unimplemented projects to his office and to the city council in order to discern the status of every project.

Said listings will be used as the basis in addressing the problems of unimplemented projects. / *Jho Arranz*

What a country!

Jihadist terrorism has stricken the West with fear and anger, and the battle they fight is a kind of war taken straight from the medieval ages that modern society may not be equipped to confront. How can you fight a people who believe they are warriors for God, who see the innocents as infidels and the murderers as heroes deserving of precious rewards in the hereafter?

And whether we like it or not, the tide of blood poured onto the ground will soon spread to our shores. We have a significant Muslim population—a mostly poor one as in Syria and Iraq—living in their own world and territory. Let's not kid ourselves—we're the only country in Asia with an independent Islamic army that runs its own armed camps, thanks to the delusion of this President that he could win the Noble Prize by fooling the rebel troops into surrendering their arms.

The US invasion of Iraq had unleashed a Pandora's box of sectarianism and religious fanaticism in the Middle East, creating a condition in which incidents such as Turkey's shooting of Russian jets could get out of control and lead to regional, or even global, conflagration. How much could the price of oil jump if that happened, and how could our industries survive, given that 70 percent of them are dependent on that commodity for fuel?

EDITORIAL

Ok, forget the rest of the world. Just take a look at our country. Every decade, a neighbor in Asia overtakes us in terms of prosperity, measured as GDP (gross domestic product) per capita.

South Korea and Malaysia overtook us in the 1960s, Thailand in the 1980s, Indonesia in the 1990s. In the past 14 years our GDP per capita grew by only 50 percent; that of Vietnam by 100 percent. Yet, idiots like the foreign news reporters and this President keep boasting that we are Asia's emerging tiger.

Vietnam will be overtaking us soon. To teach us a lesson for being the vanguard of the fight against its territorial claims in the South China (West Philippine Sea), China has been and will be pouring billions of renminbi in aid and investment in Vietnam, a suitable replacement for us as a market similar to ours in size.

Vietnam is also fiercely nationalistic and has been formulating and implementing the kind of national economic plans similar to what Asia's economic tigers, China and Malaysia, have done.

Here in our own land, leaders and economists are all free-market believers, even if the UNCTAD and such former neoliberal zealots as the World Bank's chief economist, Joseph Stiglitz, about a decade ago debunked that old "privatization, deregulation, and liberalization" paradigm.

The OFW Dutch disease

Worse, our growth has really been an artificial one, and even carries a certain economic disease. Our economic growth has been due to OFW remittances for more than two decades now. Such inflows account for about 10 to 12 percent of GDP, more than Pakistan's 7 percent, India's 3 percent, and in Indonesia, which used to be a big labor exporter, less than a percent as of 2014.

The impact of OFW remittances on our economy is much broader as it funds the huge consumer power that explains why SM malls, Jollibee restaurants and Megaworld condos have been sprouting around like mushrooms.

Did you foolishly think it was due to increased incomes of workers employed here, or to a booming export sector? Which leads us to that "disease" I referred to, called in economics as the "Dutch disease."

That is the negative economic impact of anything that gives rise to sharp inflows of foreign currency, in our case the OFW remittances, where other countries would, instead, mostly have the discovery of large oil reserves. The currency inflows have led to the strengthening of the peso, weakening our export sector – the undisputed engine of growth for the so-called Asian economic tigers.

What exactly do we do to fix our economy when our manufacturing, and especially the export sectors, have become anemic – the result not only of OFW remittances but of the laissez-faire policies we have adopted since 1986?

The Supreme Court decided that the law that could have helped us mitigate our runaway population was unconstitutional. So what do we do, forget about it?

No way that the Bangsamoro Basic Law will be passed now with its lies exposed. So what do we do with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, to which this inane President promised the moon? The insurgents will definitely retaliate, and pretend a fury for being betrayed. Are we planning for that?

A metropolis of 12 million, and probably a further 10 million traveling through during the week on infrastructure basically vintage 1990s; a deteriorating quality of education, partly another result of the OFW phenomenon given that many of our teachers have left abroad to be the world's most qualified domestic workers

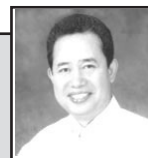
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KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

**"RP needs
mother*cking
John Wick"**

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts. Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times, for the times are evil..." (Amos 5:12-13, the Holy Bible).

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FACEBOOK GEMS: I am reproducing here today, with the least possible editing, materials I call "Facebook gems", which are original posts in the social networking site Facebook by various personalities and groups reflecting on our beloved country, the Philippines. I enjoyed reading them, and I believe you, our readers here, will enjoy them, too. So, read on.

-000-

DIFFICULT PSE PROCEDURES TO LIST A SMALL COMPANY: From Melcor Virata, a business entrepreneur: "The Philippine Stock Exchange has very few players. Or, few companies listed. I asked a group of lawyers to help me have my company listed as small companies listing. MAHIRAP/ MARAMING REQUIREMENTS DAW (It is difficult, there are so many requirements allegedly).

"Advise nang isang experienced successful Chinoy businessman---BACK-DOOR LISTING in other countries. Then have your company listed in Philippine Stock Exchange. Any take on this?"

-000-

FURIOUS AGAINST CEBU PACIFIC: From Rafael Abanggan Usa, Jr.: "Naka-kainis talaga tong Cebu Pacific. Dahil hindi daw aabot ng three (3) hours yung delay, baka daw hindi magpo-provide ng meals. Lang hiya, magla-lunch na po kaya?! Papa-iralin nyu pa yang walanghiyang three-hour rule na yan?!"

"Buti nalang fighter tayo! Bumigay din! Pinas nga naman, kailangan mo pa talagang i-assert yung rights mo para maibigay ng wasto. Walang own initiative ng malasakit. Panu naman yung mga ordinaryong tao?"

-000-

THE REAL DAILY LIFE OF FILIPINOS: From Michelle Callanta Toledo: "I kept and saved this picture in my phone because I just found it too incredible to ignore. And what strikes the proverbial chord is just how unbelievable this image actually is because THIS IS REAL. THIS IS THE REALITY OF OUR PEOPLE. THIS IS THEIR EVERYDAY. THIS IS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.

"A picture painting a thousand words... of a thousand people in line, in heat and humidity for hours, just to ride a rickety train JUST TO GO TO WORK. To make that honest, hard-earned living (and only bring home 68% of it).

-000-

RP NEEDS "MOTHERF*CKING JOHN WICK": "So as far as elections are concerned, all I want is someone to look at this reality and be MOVED TO THE CORE by it. This and so many other painful realities our country is facing and to be physically emotionally and spiritually SICKENED by it.

"I don't want sympathy. I don't want consolation. I don't want lip-service. I want someone to f*cking straight up MOURN at the sight of this and then go off and pull a motherf*cking JOHN WICK on whoever is responsible for stealing our car and killing our dog --I MEAN-- stealing taxpayer's money and killing our spirit.

"Because shouldn't that be the worst crime of all? To kill a person's spirit?

Gosh, if the Pope saw this he would probably curse himself out too. I mean didn't Jesus also ask why he had been forsaken? Don't we all feel like we've been forsaken?

Now I don't know about you but there really is only one guy I see who can pull a dope John Wick, even though he ain't no Keannu..."

MAGKASANGGA TAYO

Binay o DU30?

BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO



Matindi at mainit ang magiging bakbakan ng dalawang presidential candidates na ito. Neck to neck, ika nga sa ngayon ang lumalabas na parating buking bibig ng mga Juan dela Cruz. Magtanong po kayo sa mga taxi drivers, tricycle drivers, bus drivers at iba pa at ang parati ninyong maririnig ay si Binay at si DU30, at paminsan pinsan ay maririnig mo si Miriam at si Poe at kapag narining mo na mababanggit ang pangalan ni Mar Roxas ay kapag kanila itong minumura o sinasabing hindang hindi nila iboboto ang katarantaduhan na tuwad este tuwid na daan na yan ni Pangulong Penoy. Sabi nila malakas daw talaga si Binay sa mga probinsya at si DU30 naman malakas sa sarit-saring uri ng tao at pati na rin sa mga OFW.

Kayo po mga dear readers, sino sa dalawang ito ang sa tingin ninyo ang mas karapat-dapat? Ating ipagkompara ang the very obvious sa dalawang ito. Si Binay ay tanggap na ng sambayanan na isang hari ng korapsyon at marami raw nilimas at ninakaw sa kaban ng bayan, abot na raw sa bilyun-bilyong piso ngunit bilib sila kay Binay sa kanyang mga librong pa-ospital, pa-aral, magagandang benepisyo sa mga senior citizens. Marami raw natulungan sa pabahay at tunay raw na malapit ang kanyang puso sa mahihirap. Ewan ko lang kung tunay nga ito na siya ay tunay na may malasakit sa mahihirap at mga dukha.

Eto namang si DU30 ay isang ganap na overrated na killer at mamamatay tao. I say overrated sapagkat marami sa mga napabalita kay DU30 na siya ay pumatay ng ganito at ganuan ay pawang mga image making na lang sa kanya at hindi tutuo ang lahat ng mga kwento at ang kanya mismong mga kwento ay mga exaggerated. Ito ay kunumirma mismo sa akin ng isang Dabaweno na for the past 30 years ay nagtatrabaho para kay DU30. Oo at tunay na pinapapatay ni DU30 ang mga kriminal at mga police character at mga ibang sira ulong mga sindikato, ngunit yang ganyang istilo ay nauna pa si Kagalang -Galang na Roberto "Bobby" "Bungo" Ortega at ang mga iba pang matitinding mga law enforcers katulad ni Fred Lim at iba pa.

Ang tanong kay DU30 ay hanggang pagsugpo na lang ba siya ng kriminalidad? Eh paano ang korapsyon at ang ekonomiya ng bansa na napaka-importante sa pag-unlad ng sambayanan Pilipino? May magagawa kaya itong si DU30, sapagkat hindi parating tutuo na kapag may magandang peace and order sa isang lugar ay automatic na gaganda ang hanap buhay at ekonomiya ng lugar na iyon.

Kailangan ng magagarang economic policies at siyempre kelangan rin ng magagarang foreign policies and relations sa mga global foreign partners natin.

Isang nakababahalang bagay kay DU30 ay ang kanyang pagpapabor sa BBL kaya't maraming nangangamba na lalong lalakas ang mga Islamic Jihadists sa Pilipinas kapag si DU30 ang mahalal

Isa namang pangamba kay Binay ay ang kanyang malambot at mukhang handa na siyang iurong ang stand ng gobyerno sa Spratleys laban sa mga intsik. Eto lang pong dalawang bagay na ito ang medyo mahirap isipin kung paano ba talaga ang magiging istilo at stand ng dalawang ito kapag sila ay naging pangulo.

Si DU30 pro BBL at pro Muslim samantalang si Binay naman ay malambot at player sa mga intsik.

IPANALANGIN NA LANG NATIN SA MAY KAPAL NA ANG MAGWAGI AY ANG SIYANG NARARAPAT PARA SA ATING MAHAL NA INANG BAYAN PARA SA IKAUNLAD NG KABAYAN PILIPINO. Mabuhay ang PINOY!!!

Editorial

...from page 4

— what do we do to solve those huge problems?

And more: A crime situation so prevalent that TV news could only rely on video provided by private closed-circuit television for public broadcast. A legal system so bad that a regional trial court judge has a backlog of cases of at least 1,000, many for crimes alleged to be committed ten years ago. The Ombudsman keeps filing cases at the Sandiganbayan, whose case-backlog, however, is even worse than that of the trial court, that its statistics show it takes seven years on average for a case to be resolved.

A depressing litany

I can go on and on with a litany of the country's problems that will ruin your day.

What's more depressing, though, is that our economic elite don't seem to care at all, as long as people are buying their products. If the market becomes saturated, then they move on to other countries, as Henry Sy has done building several malls in China; Carlos Chan constructing Oishi noodle factories in that country, as the Ayalas are building property projects in Vancouver. There can only be so much cheap-whiskey addicts in a poor country, so whiskey magnate Andrew Tan has bought renowned European liquor companies geared for the global market.

But there is another depressing thought, which is really the point of this column:

Are such problems as these discussed in this political season when we are soon to choose leaders who are supposed to lift the country out of its poverty, so that at least the children and grandchildren of millions of Filipinos now living a life of hell on earth can hope for a better future?

Are our candidates for the highest posts in the land discussing such areas of utmost concern to us the same way the US presidential candidates tackle key issues confronting America today as migration, health care, strategy to combat Islamic jihadism?

I don't think so.

Damn her. Because of her own unique problem, our brightest minds and writers have been forced to debate obscure issues such as the difference between a natural-born and naturalized citizen, the nature of international laws, and even the relevance of DNA analysis on citizenship. Does she have a very special quality or magical skill to give her the right to mess up political discourse for the 2016 elections?

She offers a list of 20 things "na aayusin niya," as if running a government was a simple matter of coming up with a list of household to-dos.

Damn them. Duterte has taken us to the really sophomoric discussion of whether it's better for us to just kill to get rid of all suspected criminals. Hasn't that issue been settled at least a hundred years ago? He spices up the campaign by disclosing his sexual abuse under the Jesuits, burying his advocacy for a federalist form of government, which is a really important issue, or his plan on how he would deal with his MILF and NPA friends if he wins as President.

Binay focuses on his being the only real candidate who came from the poor. But we know that. What we don't know is what his program of government really would be.

Roxas just intones the yellow party's sickening Tuwid na Daan mantra as if he were high on hash, and simply lies about his boss Aquino's past five years. Will he just carry on Aquino's huge dole-out and vote-buying scheme called the conditional cash transfer? (Local political operatives are now cleverly, or sarcastically, telling CCT areas that the program will be "conditional" on Roxas' victory.

Meanwhile, with hundreds of millions of pesos

Local human rights action team up for creation

BAGUIO CITY – A Baguio City Human Rights Action Team (BCHRACT) will soon be formed here as part of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR)'s Human Rights Action Center and Rule of Law (HRAC and RoL) strategy to mainstream human rights principles at the grassroots level.

The CHR-CAR headed by officer-in-charge regional director Romel Dagumol on Thursday facilitated the organizational meeting of the BCHRACT members led by city administrator Carlos Canilao.

The HRAC and RoL "widens the democratic space" for civil society, non-government and people's organizations to be part of local governance particularly on addressing issues and concerns on human rights, rule of law and access to justice, according to Dagumol.

BCHRACT's formation is based on the Dept. of Interior and Local Government-CHR Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1 series of 2014 entitled Mainstreaming Human Rights through Rule of Law and Access to Justice at the Level of Provinces, Cities, Municipalities and Barangays.

It will be composed of the city administrator as chair, city legal officer as co-chair with the city social welfare and development officer, city planning and development coordinator, city health officer, city information officer, Philippine National Police human rights affairs officer, city schools division superintendent, barangay human rights action officer and representatives from civil society, non-government and people's organizations advocating human rights.

The BCHRACT will operate the HRAC, a unit at the city government that will act on human rights matters including human rights promotion and complaints on human rights violations to ensure the city government of its mandate to respect, protect and fulfill human rights within its jurisdiction.

The team will be specifically tasked to develop and implement the human rights plan of the local government unit, propose to the city council the integration of human rights programs, projects and activities in the budget, recommend appropriate legislations to the human rights committee of the council, utilize available resources for human rights promotion activities, spearhead and coordinate the implementation of human rights programs, projects and activities, among others.

During the meeting, the members prepared an administrative order which will be presented to Mayor Mauricio Domogan for approval and pave the way for the formal creation of the team. — A Refuerzo

(where did he get that?) he buys off celebrities' favor to endorse him: celebrity politics to the extreme. That seems to be Roxas' real strategy to win in 2016, even as the veteran of a hundred election contests, former Comelec head Sixto Brillantes says quite seriously, really, that even a nuisance candidate can beat him.

Don't bother to ask Roxas what, if he becomes President, he would do with the MRT-3 mess, or if, as a former trade and industry secretary, he thought we should adopt what the Asian Tigers and the emerging cubs have been doing: to direct industrial policy. He'll just say "bahala na ang tuwid na daan diyan."

What a country, indeed. The word that best describes our exercise in democracy next year is Duterte's favorite expression, that which he will be known for in the annals of our history: putangina./tiglaol. manilatimes@gmail.com

Baguio Character council extends to religious council

BAGUIO CITY—Religious leaders in the city were oriented as to the Baguio Character Council program with Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Lady Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda at the Crown Legacy Hotel, last week.

Speaking before more than 60 local religious leaders, Councilor Tabanda emphasized that the involvement of each sector to the character council is important.

Earlier, the character council sponsored a day of character-enhancing program for women leaders who were expected to re-echo same to colleagues and constituents.

Councilor Tabanda then explained that more

multi-sectoral orientations are scheduled for the character program. With 49 core character traits to be nurtured since 2003, and Baguio a member of the International Association of Character Cities, Tabanda saw it fit for an interfaith program in the city.

The religious sector are credible models for the citizens, the councilor said, thus the forged partnership. Being a character city would mean a righteous government and disciplined-citizensry, family-oriented activities in the academe and community, individuals developed physically and intellectually, sufficient business and economy,

Cont. on page 9

Fiscal cites...

inary investigation or summary procedure from January to September this year.

Vergara said, "out of the total cases, 1,729 informations were filed in court, 499 were dismissed by the office and 68 were referred to other agencies."

"The number of pending cases still to be resolved as of September is 50 and our disposition rate is 97.82 percent" he said.

For cases inquest proceedings, the office received 509 new complaints, filed 470 informations in court and dismissed 33 cases while 5 cases were referred to other agencies.

Vergara said, "the office disposition rate is a modest 99.80 percent or outstanding."

This is despite the lack of manpower and office equipment the office is experiencing as per appeal from City Prosecutor Elmer Sagsago.

Sagsago said, "ideally, there would be 2 prosecutors assigned per court, however there are only 15 prosecutors in his office."

from page 1

Sagsago added, "the office is also in dire need of additional staff to complement the prosecutors as those who have retired were never changed."

Meantime, Assistant City Prosecutor Ruth Bernabe of the same office have been designated Head of the newly formed CAR Anti-Trafficking Task Force (CATTF) as per Department of Justice order 809 established by the Inter-Agency Council against Trafficking (IACAT).

The members are Abra prosecutor Ferdinand Palma, Benguet Prosecutor Jurgenson Lagdao, Mountain Province Prosecutor Golda Bagawi, Ifugao Prosecutor Marvin Ngayawan, Kalinga Prosecutor Bartolome Gamonnac, Apayao Prosecutor Jhon Aguda, Tabuk Prosecutor Rito Bungaoen and Baguio Prosecutors Maria Nenita Opinana and Ma. Lourdes Esperanza Soriano.

The CATTF is designated to investigate and prosecute all trafficking in persons cases in the Cordilleras./Paul Rillorta

Bicameral committee...

from page 2

SUCs were provided increase in capital outlays according to Legarda.

For the Department of Energy (DOE), an amount was provided for personnel services for the Renewable Energy and Management Bureau, and the legal services and compliance service.

Per the bicameral report, the DOE original budget of P775.876 million per HB 6132 was increased by P19.564 million, for a final budget of P795.440 million.

Meanwhile, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) additional fund was provided for the construction or repair of various buildings of the Philippine Science High School, and technical assistance to the Philippine Research Institute.

For budgetary support to Government Corporations, funding was provided for the National Dairy Authority, and for the specialty hospitals to allow them acquire new equipment and be provided with assistance to indigent patients.

Funds for the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) were also adjusted to provide funds for the Quick Response Fund of the Department of National Defense

(DND)-OSEC that was not previously provided to the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), which are front liners in times of national hazards, and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) since it did not have funds for rescue operations.

Per the bicameral report, the DOST budget of P17.949 billion was increased by P80 million, for a final budget of P18.029 billion. Budgetary support to government corporations per HB 6132 had a budget of P113.351 billion, and this was adjusted by P9.8 billion, for a final budget of P103.453 billion. Meanwhile, the DOTC budget of P43.453 billion was adjusted by P773 million, for a final budget of P42.680 billion.

Overall, the bicameral report provides for a total budget of P1,651,521,790 for the various government departments, with a net change of P11,295,251, for a final amount of P1,662,817,041.

Both the budgets for programmed new appropriations and unprogrammed fund amounting to P2.071 billion and P67.5 billion respectively, were retained./Carl C. Taawan

Christmas traffic plan...

from page 3

Road will be a one way outbound route towards Marcos Highway.

For the alternate routes, M. Roxas Road will serve as an alternate route from Leonard Wood Road towards the central business district (CBD) or La Trinidad and vice versa.

Travellers via Kennon Road may turn right towards Loakan Road going to these places: Philippine Military Academy, Camp John Hay, Baguio Country Club, The Mansion,

Botanical Garden and Mines View Park.

Degay said they will also implement road clearing operations to remove parked vehicles and other blockages and will adopt a tourist-oriented policing strategy.

The pay-parking areas are the Ganza, Burnham Park, Old City library, Baguio Convention Center, SM, Ang Dating Daan, Center Mall, Cooyeesan, Marbay, University of Baguio, Abanao Square and the Baguio Cathedral and at

Chiz: SC has final say...

from page 2

COMELEC Second Division decided to disqualify Sen. Grace, at the end of the day it's the Supreme Court who can disqualify a candidate with finality," Escudero said. "We are hopeful that if Senator Grace cannot achieve justice from the COMELEC, she will finally achieve justice in the Supreme Court."

There are three other separate petitions pending with the First Division of the poll body seeking to cancel Poe's certificate of candidacy on grounds that she allegedly failed to comply with the residency and citizenship requirements of the law.

Escudero, however, said that should the COMELEC en banc uphold these petitions, the only recourse is to seek relief from the high court.

"We are confident that the law is on our side," said the leading vice-presidential candidate, citing previous Supreme Court rulings involving election-related cases that may serve as precedents in Poe's pending cases once they reached the high tribunal.

One of these is the SC ruling in 2004 that declared actor Fernando Poe Jr., whose citizenship was also questioned when he ran for president

at the time, a natural-born Filipino.

"Under the law, adoptive children take over the rights and the pertinences of a legitimate child. So if you are a legitimate child of a natural-born father, then the status of your citizenship is also natural-born," he pointed out.

The "King of Philippine Cinema" is the adoptive father of Poe.

"The Supreme Court also said in that case and I quote, 'We cannot leave the unelected members of these Court the power and to decide who is the next president will be. That decision is best left to the sovereign Filipino people,'" Escudero said.

"As they say, let he candidate run and let the people decide who is the next president will be. The Supreme Court cannot and will not choose who our next president will be by disqualification," he added.

According to Escudero, the high tribunal is fair and would not allow an elected president to win by default./OFFICIAL WEBSITE: <http://chizescudero.com/> OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/senchizescudero/OFFICIAL> TWITTER ACCOUNT: @saychiz @chiznewsalert

the Bonifacio, Mabini, Quezon elementary schools and at the Baguio City National High School.

Roadside parking will be allowed along Naguilian Road near station 1, Shagem St. Abanao St. (9a.m.-4p.m.), Session Road (9a.m.-4p.m.), Harrison Road, Harrison Road fronting University of the Cordilleras, Lake Drive, Gov. Pack Road (BCNHS roadside) while contingency one-side parking will be allowed along Kennon Road, Legarda Road, Botanical Garden roadside, P. Romulo Drive and Outlook Drive.

The truck ban will

remain to be enforced from 7a.m. to 7 p.m. within the CBD while the lifting of the number-coding scheme has been proposed from Dec. 21.

Degay said the city police will do their best to contain the road situation but the scheme does not guarantee the elimination of traffic jams as they have no control over the volume of vehicles coming to the city.

"The exodus of tourists and vacationists into the city may cause heavy traffic. It is best to leave your vehicles in the safety of your accommodation then commute or walk and enjoy," the police said./A Refuerzo

FEATURE

Duterte is like religion

Presidential aspirant Rodrigo Duterte is like religion, as Karl Marx described it: "Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions."

Rather than a sigh, though, Duterte's is a howl, a rage, hisputangina the new version of Heneral Luna's punyeta. It is a rage against the continued failure of the legal system to protect the oppressed and deliver justice to all, the hypocrisy of organized religion, its nature as the great brainwasher of the oppressed, keeping them at bay without the force of arms.

Duterte, in fighting form, without the magazine, of course.

I would have thought Duterte had also screamed against the economic elite: "Putanginang mga bilyonaryong iyan, payaman na lang ng payaman at walang pakialam sa bayan." Actually, and strangely, he hasn't said that. Or, maybe it's just because it is the season of campaign fund-raising.

He's sympathetic to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (he supports the Bangsamoro Basic Law) and the New People's Army as he shares the anger of those two organizations against oppression through the centuries.

A surprising revelation to me is that he reads history: "We were subjugated for 400 years, repressed, at iniis natin 'yun mga Pilipino. Then we were given over to the Americans by the Treaty of Paris when Spain lost the American-Spanish War. And we had another set of rulers. Masakit 'yun. masakit 'yun. Maybe the younger generation has not really felt the dimensions of being a subjugated people."

More than its use to denigrate somebody, Duterte's putangina bursts out as a reflex expression of explosive anger mixed with on-the-brink exasperation over a desperate situation. (It's a Tagalog term imported into the Cebuano Visayan by the people of Davao, and is seldom directed against a person but rather, blurted out over an extremely bad, serious or dangerous situation.)

It expresses anger that explodes after one had queued up for an hour just to get on the MRT-3, it breaks down between the stations. I said it again and again in 2012 when 20 of the 23 senators voted to remove Chief Justice Renato Corona from office on

very flimsy grounds, in complete servility to President Aquino's assault on an independent branch of government. I said it when it was disclosed that the senators were paid hundreds of millions of pesos in pork barrel and DAP funds for their vote.

I said it again and again when I saw a photo of one of the SAF 44 fallen, already lying on the ground yet still fired upon point blank by a Muslim insurgent, and later, a photo of Aquino in Zamboanga City probably at around the same hour, pretending nothing was happening in Mamasapano.

Bursts out of your mouth

More recently, the word just came bursting out of your mouth when you realized you've been trapped in monstrous traffic for five hours because Aquino's APEC team had failed to plan well ahead of time so that the multi-nation summit could have been hosted properly elsewhere than the congested metropolis. When Aquino claimed that the tanim-bala extortion racket – which even international news agencies such as CNN and BBC picked up – was just sensationalized by the press.

I say the word every time Aquino boasts of GDP growth under his term, since he has contributed nothing, nothing to that growth. And at the thought that he even impeded it by scrimping on public expenditures, while he kept in jail as his trophy of sorts President Gloria Arroyo, the person really responsible for the economic momentum built in the aftermath of the 2008-2009 global financial crisis, before Aquino took over the reins of government.

After all, what can Aquino boast about when growth continues to be essentially due to OFW remittances, which directly account for 10 percent of our gross domestic product (GDP)? Their contribution is actually more than that, as the remittances have also financed the booming domestic trade and property markets.

The more familiar quote from Marx on religion, however, is that it is "the opium of the masses." Our metaphor here breaks down a bit, and we have to amend it.

The difference with opium

Duterte is totally unlike the effect of opium on the psyche: drowsiness and dreamless sleep after a brief euphoria.

Duterte is more like shabu, or methamphetamine, and the Wikipedia description fits Duterte: "Elevated mood, increased alertness, energy in fatigued individuals, reduced appetite and weight loss."

Translate that individual feeling to a political one, read his fans' delirious Facebook postings praising him, and the picture that emerges: Duterte has stimulated an elevated political mood and alertness in the body politic, and a renewed sense of hope for people so sick of our political and social system.

But shabu is shabu and it is an artificial, even dangerous, chemical that creates illusions.

As shabu obliterates the past, Duterte totally obliterates civilization's past with his boasts of killing kidnappers and rapists as soon as they are captured.

Duterte is a lawyer, but he is a case study that should

convince the Supreme Court to require law schools to offer more classes in the history and philosophy of "the rule of law." These should etch in their minds that a crucial element of the rule of law is that there clearly laid-down procedures to determine who is guilty and who is innocent.

"Rule of Law" was invented a long time ago – 2,500 years ago – at least as far as we know, in ancient Greece, mainly by the statesman Solon and the philosopher Aristotle in the 6th century C.E., and then developed in Rome – although both societies merely paid lip-service to it with "might-is-right" as their dominant form of rule.

Rule of law

The notion of the rule of law was forgotten after the fall of the Roman Empire as barbarian tribes with the barest forms of civilization ruled Europe. What's very interesting in this concept is that it is a value that had not been upheld by any religion. It, therefore, remains a difficult concept to follow as it goes against our vengeful, emotional reptilian minds even as no religious teaching requires us to follow it.

The religions of the Book (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) have never advanced the concept. The Old Testament's great King Solomon's due process was a kind of psychological test: ordering the infant claimed by two mothers to be cut in half, to expose the liar who delighted in the faked decision. How can there be a rule of law emerging out of the Old Testament when even innocents – the first born of the Egyptians – were summarily executed by the Angel of Death just to convince the Pharaoh to free the Israelites?

There is no crucial 11th commandment that could have spared probably millions of innocent people from beheading or death by burning at the stake: "Follow due process to determine who breaks the above ten commandments."

Christ didn't ask the mob if the alleged adulteress had been proven guilty through due process, but instead, made them feel hypocritical when he reminded the mostly male members of the crowd that they probably also cheated on their wives. Even the due process in Christ's "trial" was not Jewish but based on Roman legal processes.

Infamous of course was the Catholic Church's "due process" under its Inquisitions during medieval times: torture. There could not have been a "rule of law" under Christian Europe for centuries since its monarchy was based on the notion that he represented God on earth, and therefore, could not be subject to laws made by men. The ISIS' atrocities are really Islamic rule of law followed to its extremes.

Yet "the rule of law," if you look at it more closely, separates us from chaos and the rule of the mighty.

The rule of law's emergence was so contingent, even accidental: it emerged in England in the 13th century as the Magna Carta, or more precisely the Magna Carta Libertatum (Latin for "the Great Charter of the Liberties").

It is an artefact of mankind, and when it was invented, even had a political goal: the unpopular King John of England promulgated it based on the thoughtful Archbishop of Canterbury's draft to save his skin as it calmed down rebellious barons with the comforting thought that they would not be persecuted. While it was a crude form of the rule of law, it was the start of mankind's development, helped by the rediscovery of Greek philosophical justifications, of the concept into the huge body of law we now know.

Duterte would have us forget this gem of mankind's achievements that have been with us for 2,500 years, just as shabu makes one forget human values. There is no artificial quick-fix solution to our country's depression. And Duterte's do-dirty tack is a very slippery slope, lubricated by blood. tiglaomanila-times@gmail.com



Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
Branch 4

FAMILY COURT
OF BAGUIO CITY

IN RE: PETITION
FOR ADOPTION
OF MINOR CHILD
REGINA LHIAN
MARIE C. AGUI-
LAR,

SPS. CESAR AND
EULALIA GRACE
VILLANUEVA,
Petitioners,

-versus-

LOCAL CIVIL
REGISTRAR OF
BAGUIO,

Respondent.

x-----x

SP. PROC. CASE
NO. 485-A
FOR: ADOPTION

ORDER

The petitioners,
Sps. Cesar and Eula-
lia Grace Villanue-
va, filed this verified
amended petition
praying for the Hon-
orable Court to de-
clare minor REGINA
LHIAN MARIE C.
AGUILAR to be the
legitimate child of

Spouses Cesar and
Eulalia Grace Villan-
ueva and for all to
acquire the reciprocal
rights and obligations
arising from the re-
lationship of parents
and child, including
the rights of the mi-
nor child to use the
surname of petitioner
and be made known
henceforth as "REGI-
NA LHIAN MARIE C.
VILLANUEVA" and
to direct the Local
Civil Registrar to ef-
fect the same adoption
and on the Certificate
of Live Birth of said
minor child.

Finding the peti-
tion to be sufficient in
form and substance,
let the same be heard
before the Regional
Trial Court, Branch 4,
Baguio City on March
9, 2016 at 8:30 o'clock
in the morning, at
which place, date and
time, the petitioner
shall prove this case.
Any person interested
may appear and show
cause, if any there
be, why the petition
should not be granted.

Let a copy of this
Order be published
at the expense of the
petitioners in The
Junction, a newspaper
of general circulation
in Baguio City once
a week for three (3)
consecutive weeks no
later than December
28, 2015.

The petitioner are
directed to make an
appointment with the
assigned Court Social

Worker for the con-
duct of the required
case studies on the
child Regina Lhian
Marie C. Aguilar and
the petitioners. The
Court Social Worker
is required to submit
to the court the case
study reports not later
than February 5, 2016.

The Judicial Affida-
vits of the Petitioner
and her witnesses to-
gether with their ex-
hibits are due for sub-
mission not later than
February 12, 2016.

Furnish copies
hereof, together with
copies of the Petition
and its annexes, to the
Office of the Solicitor
General, the Office of

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT
BRANCH 9
(FAMILY COURT
FOR BENGUET
PROVINCE)
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
La Trinidad,
Benguet

SPS. JEAN BAGNI
AND MOUSTAFA
SOULTANI a.k.a
MUSTAPHA SUL-
TANI,

Petitioners,

-versus-

EMMANUEL D.
DIMARUCUT.
THE LOCAL CIV-
IL REGISTRAR OF
TABUK CITY AND
THE PHILIPPINE
STATISTICS AU-
THORITY (FOR-
MERLY NATION-
AL STATISTICS
OFFICE).

Respondents.

x-----x

SPECIAL
PROCEEDINGS
CASE NO.
15-A-1036

For
IN THE
MATTER OF THE
ADOPTION OF
MARCHELLA
BAGNI
DIMARUCUT

the City Prosecutor
of Baguio, the Court
Social Worker of the
Regional Trial Court
in Baguio City, Lo-
cal Civil Registrar
of Baguio City, the
petitioners through
counsel and the re-
spondents.

SO ORDERED.

DONE IN CHAM-
BERS, this 26th day
of November, 2015, at
Baguio City, Philip-
pines.

(SGD) MIA JOY C.
OALLARES-CAWED
Presiding Judge
Publication Dates:
December 5, 12, and
19, 2015

ORDER

Petitioners, through
counsel, filed this
verified Amended
Petition for Adoption,
praying that after
due notice, publica-
tion and hearing, the
prospective adoptee.
MARCHELLA BAGNI
DIMARUCUT, be
declared for all legal
intents and purposes
as the adopted child
of petitioners. It is
further prayed that
said prospective
adoptee shall then
acquire the reciprocal
rights and obligations
arising from parents -
child relationship. Still
further, petitioners
pray that the office of
Local Civil Registry of
Tabuk Kalinga and the
Philippine Statistics
Authority (PhhhSA)

be directed to CANCEL
the Certificate of Live
Birth will all its appro-
priate and applicable
entries.

It is alleged in the
Amended Petition,
among others, that
petitioners are emo-
tionally, psychologi-
cally, and financially
capable of caring for
children; that peti-
tioners possess all the
qualifications and none
of the disqualifications
to adopt; and, that this
petition for adoption
will certainly redound
to the best interest,
welfare and benefit of
the prospective adoptee
MARCHELLA BAGNI
DIMARUCUT.

WHEREFORE,
finding the Amended
Petition to be suf-
ficient in form and
substance, the peti-
tioners are directed
to meet and confer
with the Municipal
Social Welfare and
Development Officer
(MSWDO) of the
local government
unit (LGU) of La
Trinidad, Benguet,
where petitioners are
now residents, for the
conduct of Child and
Home Study in relation
to this Amended
Petition. Consequent-
ly, the MSWDO of La
Trinidad, Benguet,
in coordination with
the Department of
Social Welfare and
Development-Cordil-
lera Administrative
Region (DSWD-CAR),
Baguio City, is directed

to conduct a Child
and Home Study and
submit to this court
said Child and Home
Stud REPORTS, incor-
porating therein her
appropriate findings
and recommendations.

The REPORTS of
the MSWDO should
be submitted to this
court at least fifteen
(15) days before the
initial hearing of this
Amended Petition,
which shall be on
March 17, 2016, at
9:00 o'clock in the
morning. Copies of
the said REPORTS
Should be furnished
to the Offices of the
Regional Director of
the DSWD-CAR,
Baguio City, the Pro-
vincial Prosecutor of
Benguet; and, the
Solicitor General.

The office of the
DSWD-CAR, Baguio
City, or through its
duly authorized rep-
resentative, is respect-
fully directed to file
its COMMENT to this
Amended Petition,
stating therein its
recommendation
when applicable. The
COMMENT shall be
filed at least fifteen
(15) days before March
17, 2016, the initial
hearing of this Petition.

Let this ORDER
be published at the
expense of the Peti-
tioners in the Junction,
a newspaper of general
circulation in Baguio
City and Benguet
Province and the Cor-
dillera Administrative

Region, once a week for
three (3) consecutive
weeks, the first publi-
cation to be made not
later than December
20, 2015. All interest-
ed persons may come
to court and show
cause, if any, why this
Amended Petition
should not be granted.

Furnish copies
of this ORDER
with copies of the
Amended Petition
and its annexes, to: the
offices of the Regional
Director of the
DSWD-CAR, Baguio
City; the Solicitor
General; the Provincial
Prosecutor of Benguet;
Mr. Emmanuel D.
Dimarucut and the
Civil Registrar of
Tabuk, Kalinga and
the MSWDO of La
Trinidad, Benguet;
furnish copies of this
ORDER to the Junction
and the petitioners and
counsel.

SO ORDERED.

In chambers, this
11th day of December
2015 at La Trinidad,
Benguet.

(SGD) RUFUS G.
MALECDAN, JR.
Acting Presiding
Judge

Publication Dates:
December 12, 19, and
26, 2015

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH SIMULTANEOUS DEED OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the es-
tate of the late John C. Dorian, who
died on October 21, 2015 involving
a motor vehicle with Plate No. AYR
308 has been extrajudicially settled
by his heirs through an Extrajudicial
Settlement of Estate with Simultane-
ous Deed of Sale, acknowledged on
November 26, 2015 before Notary
Public for Baguio City, Atty. Robles
G. Calabias and entered into his no-
tarial register as per Doc. No. 403,
Page No. 81, Book No. CXXXVII;
Series of 2015.

*Publication Dates: December 5, 12,
and 19, 2015*

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

RODEL A. BASANES
Petitioners
Case No: 2006-CAR-342

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Extension of Validity of Public
Convenience to operate PUJ Service for the transportation
of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA -
TRANCOVILLE and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.
Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board
on December 22, 2015 at 2:00 P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal,
Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally
submit his/her/their evidences.

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

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

This application shall be acted upon 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 Atty. Jose Eduardo L. Natividad,
Regional Director this 3rd day of December 2015.

(SGD) Atty. ROBERTO B. BASCO
Hearing Officer

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

BERNARDINO M. BATULAN- Vendor
HORACIO B. SISON-Vendee
Petitioners

Case No. 2011-CAR-587/2015-CAR-705
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Sale and Transfer of a Certificate of
Public Convenience to operate PUJ Service for the transportation
of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA -
CRYSTAL CAVE and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board
on December 22, 2015 at 2:00 P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal,
Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally
submit his/her/their evidences.

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(SGD) Atty. ROBERTO B. BASCO
Hearing Officer

CHIZ URGES GOV'T TO COMPENSATE VICTIMS OF 'TANIM-BALA' SCAM AT AIRPORTS

Now that criminal complaints have been filed against members of the airport police and transportation security personnel in connection with the "tanim-bala" (bullet-planting) scam, Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero is pushing the government to compensate victims of the extortion racket for the inconvenience and trauma they suffered.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has filed charges against two personnel from the Office for Transportation Security (OTS) of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and four members of the Philippine National Police-Aviation Security Group (PNP-Avsegroup) for their alleged involvement in the scheme.

"This only confirms that this modus operandi exists at our international airports, and not simply a media hype as some camps had tried to portray it," said the leading vice-presidential candidate.

Escudero, thus, urged the government to devise a system to compensate the passengers who were victimized by the bullet-planting scheme.

"The victims had to endure delays, miss their flights and shell out money for wrongdoings they did not commit. The government could at the

least give them financial aid as a way of compensation," he said.

Doing so, the veteran senator added, will not only benefit the victims but will also help the government redeem itself from the global humiliation stemming from the modus operandi that was very well covered and reported by the international media.

The DOTC's OTS and the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) in November reported 1,394 ammunition-related cases since the start of the year.

The independent vice-presidential bet said taking this step would also send the message that the government is serious in addressing the problem to ensure that passengers travelling to the Philippine are safe.

"It cannot be denied that the racket caused a sense of insecurity among local and foreign travellers. We have yet to find out its effects on the country's tourism industry since it has no doubt caused a chilling effect among tourists here and abroad," he said.

The Philippines had 4.27 million visitors in 2012 and 4.68 million in 2013. Visitor arrivals increased to 4.83 million in 2014, with the biggest number—461,383 and 487,654—arriving in January and December, respectively. *Office of Senator Chiz Escudero*

City-bcda-dpwh agree...

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school children at the covered court in the barangay agreed upon by the city government, deped and barangay officials including JHMC head Jaime Agbayani.

Domogan reiterated, "the utmost priority should be the education of the children which should not be compromised."

Domogan insists the joint soil evaluation will

once and for all answer if the whole or only a portion of the identified site is slide-prone.

Domogan clarified, "the slight delay in the bidding is not intentional but just to make sure that the school building is constructed at the right place including future expansions."

The joint soil evaluation will be conducted immediately. *Paul Rillorta*

Private school administrators appear in council

BAGUIO CITY – A meeting is set among members of the Association of Private Schools Administrators (APSA), City Treasurer Alicia Onoza, representatives of the Department of Education (Dep-Ed), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the council committee on education chair Peter Fianza.

This was agreed upon during the council session last Monday with APSA President Annie Marie Caguioa presenting a resolution as to their academic operations in the city. The APSA consists of 149 private academic institution members - 88 elementary and 61 high schools in the city.

Among the concerns brought to the attention of the city council were: the strict implementation of the zoning ordinance as to the proximity of computer shops and bars to schools; exemption of teachers from paying the Professional Tax Receipts (PTR), as their licenses are renewed with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), and pay for their income and community taxes.

The council vowed to look into the zoning ordinance, and City Treasurer Onoza informed the body that the PTR is paid to the local government unit due to Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) tax laws.

APSA members, in their resolution requested that private schools, including nursery, recognized by the Dep-Ed be exempt from securing business permits from the City Licensing and

Permits Division, as they have "undergone rigid and thorough process in obtaining recognition."

A compromise was however presented for nursery schools not yet recognized shall apply for a business permits with the city government.

The APSA resolution ruled that expenses for faculty development of the school comes from the return of investment (ROI), as 70% of tuition fees is for teachers' salaries, 18% for school facilities, equipment and other operational costs, with the remainder as ROI.

Caguioa and APSA members were informed that tax exemptions may be granted to a school if proven that there is no surplus income. Documents should also be submitted: books of accounts and audited financial statement with references to sources of income, summary of expenses, capital outlay, and sources of other income, if any.

As to school canteens exempted from filing for business permits, APSA members were informed that a Baguio school avails of such privilege. The basis, Onoza clarified, is that the school directly operates the canteen with the income used for research and faculty development. A leased-out school canteen however should have a business permit, she said.

Financial and legal documents are also important for schools serving as charitable institutions, Onoza said when informed of a school with free board and lodging for differently-abled students. A certificate of tax exemption would be needed, it was

Two Asians chosen...

from page 10

City" assisted by DOT Regional Director Marie Venus Quinto Tan and NCCB President Narciso Padilla.

After the official welcome, the lucky foreign visitors also visited La Trinidad Mayor Edna Tabanda and Benguet Governor Nestor Fongwan and were toured at the Strawberry Farms and vegetables gardens of

Benguet.

Part of the itinerary are religious, cultural and social events with tours to the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), the Brown Madonna, BENCAB Museum, Ifugao Woodcarving Villages, Easter Weaving, City market, Wright Park and Burnham Park. *Paul Rillorta*

Baguio Chapter council...

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balanced politics, she added.

The multi-sector factor would move the character council in the right direction, Tabanda said.

Mayor Domogan urged active participation from the religious leaders to the character council program, notwithstanding

differences in churches, ethnicity and groupings. He requested from them, programs to help combat vices, teen-age pregnancies and too much politics; and activities for unification of the family, peace and order in the community. *Julie G. Fianza*

known

Onoza however clarified that annual inspection and sanitary fees should be paid to the city as deferred payments would incur fines and penalties.

Councilors Faustino Olowan urged the school administrators to comply with tax laws and submit the required annual reports and financial documents, since these are submitted as well to the Securities and Exchange Commission, BIR and other offices.

Vice-Mayor Edison Bilog also requested that the city's jurisdiction over schools be clear, for those with affiliates around the province or region.

An ordinance would also be crafted if needed, the council agreed.

Other matters were also clarified: basic education or pre-school for children below five years old is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Dep-Ed takes charge of those from Kindergarten level up to Grade 10.

City Schools Division Superintendent Francis Cesar Bringas cautioned the public about fly-by-night or illegal schools, and acknowledged the need school permits, regulation and accreditation for the protection of students. This includes technical and vocational institutions.

Councilor Elmer Datuin stood for Korean institutions that cater to English students in the city, which also boosts employment for the teachers.

The council also admitted that the private education's sector role in the city is indispensable. The ASAP members were assured that notices for the venue and date of meeting will be delivered.

Other offices earlier requested to join the meeting were City Health Services Office, City Social Welfare and Development Office, Licensing and Permits Division, Buildings and Architecture Office, and Planning and Development Office. *Julie G. Fianza*

Christmas toys sale venue sought

BAGUIO CITY – The Melvin Jones stage, Burnham Park is proposed to be the venue for Christmas toys' sale, by members of the former Paputok, Lucis at Ibp group, now Pailaw.

This is being considered, Mayor Mauricio Domogan said, as coordination is being done with the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO) head Cordelia Lacsamana.

The group now called Pailaw formerly dealt with firecrackers and pyrotechnics, but was convinced to sell Christmas toys and decors this year. They sold their wares last year, with permission from Mayor Florencio Bentes of Tuba, after the ban from Baguio City and

neighboring municipality La Trinidad.

Permission was sought from the city council to sell at Ibaloi Park and Ganza parking, both at Burnham Park, but was denied for various reasons. The Baguio Convention Center was also suggested, but turned down as it is used for vehicle parking. Parking areas for vacationers with vehicles are needed this season, the mayor said.

As the group was convinced to change wares from pyrotechnics, to toys, we support them, the mayor added.

A comprehensive study is underway, Domogan also said during the weekly Ugnayan, for an available venue. *Julie G. Fianza*

City-BCDA-DPWH agree on joint evaluation of country club school site

BAGUIO CITY – the City government, the Bases Conversion and Development Authority and the Department of Public Works and highways during a special meeting here agreed to put on hold the bidding for the construction of the Country Club School and conduct first a joint soil evaluation in the area.

The bidding for the school building was set December 10 however, Mayor Mauricio Domogan reiterated his stand to first conduct

a joint soil evaluation before any construction can be undertaken.

"It is best that you postpone the bidding of the project, we should conduct a joint soil evaluation first before you proceed with the bidding but if you insists, keep me out of it, I won't agree," he said.

It can be recalled that the City government identified a 8,500 square meter lot in Country Club Village as site for a new school to accommodate school children in area

with an initial fund of P2 million for its construction.

The basketball court area was however recommended by BCDA and John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC) for the construction of the school stating the proposed site identified by the city was landslide-prone as per a certification from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

Domogan raised two questions as far as the identified school site was concerned which can only be answered by conducting a joint evaluation on the area.

This include assessing if the entire 8,500 square meter area is slide prone and the possibility of introducing engineering interventions to make the area safe.

Domogan said, "his inquiry regarding these concerns were not answered by the report coming from the MGB.

Presently, temporary classrooms were built to house the displaced

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ECO-WALK - Members of the Baguio General Hospital Dialysis and Partners Association headed by their president Nora Mangusan underwent an eco-walk at the Busol watershed to plant memorial trees in memory of their members who passed on to higher grounds. *Rosa Moresto photo*

Two Asians chosen lucky foreign visitors

BAGUIO CITY – hand-picked to form part of the growing lucky foreign visitors.

They are Tomoko 'Monica' Ushimaru, 27 of Takayamachi, Gifu, Japan and Peng Jun Qi 'Penny', 25 from Wuzhixian, Jiaozoushi, Henan, China.

Sponsored by the National Correspondents Club of Baguio (NCCB) in cooperation with the City government

The two are visiting Baguio, the Department of Tourism-CAR, presently enrolled at the Monol International Education Institute taking up short courses in English Second Language

(ESL) and International Language Testing System (IELTS).

They will be treated for 4 days with free hotel and meal accommodations and tours of the different tourists spots in the city and Benguet.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan officially welcomed them December 11 at the Mayor's Office where they were given the symbolic "Key of the

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