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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

People's Summit

BAGUIO CITY - A manifesto as a result of the peoples' summit done last Wednesday, Feb. 25, at the Bulwagang Juan Luna of the University of the Philippines Baguio, is being firmed up by concerned participating groups before submission to authorities.

The multi-sectoral group included the academe, socio-civic groups, religious, business community and interested individuals and groups. Problems tackled are those on urban land problems, land and housing, tourism and heritage, environmental degradation, water and resources, governance and legislation, among others.

Groups were segregated to discuss possible solutions and alternatives.

For tourism matters, which is one of the city's source of income, misrepresented and commercialized culture was discussed; as for housing issues, over-expansion both vertically and horizontally is delved into.

For governance, a genuine consultation with the public is sought, as with active participation from Baguiotes.

The garbage issue should also be properly addressed, and the need to protect areas and forest reserves for commercial purposes.

In a press conference later that day, Mayor Mauricio Domogan admitted that the city's

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BENDIAN DANCE - Ibaloi elders form a circle as they dance the Bendian Danceto the beat of gongs and solibao during the Adivay Shi Avong 6th Ibaloi Day celebration./By Bong Cayabyab

Sa kagaganap lamang na Peoples Summit, ipaalam sa madla at isatupad ang mga maka bubuting adhikain!!!

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City Names Most Improved Barangays in Sanitation Practices

BAGUIO CITY – three barangays topped this year's search for the 'Most Improved Barangay in Environmental Sanitation Practices' here.

The search was launched in July this year by the City Government of Baguio under the Health Services office - Sanitation Division (HSO-SD) to encourage and inspire the different barangays to work towards making a remarkable dent on environmental sanitation conditions.

From among the 128 barangays of the city, only six barangays from the different health districts made it to the final validation namely: GEFA (Lower Q.M.), North Central Aurora Hill, Kias, Loakan, Liwanang, Poliwe and Victoria Village.

Accordingly, three validation visits were conducted last year by the team composed of the Health Services Office and the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO).

The search yielded GEFA Barangay headed by Punong Barangay Mark Jones Awisan as the most improved barangay for 2014.

2nd placer is North Aurora Hill Barangay under PB Guillermo Francisco and 3rd place is Victoria Village Barangay under PB Lilian Somera.

The 4th placer is Loakan Liwanag Brgy. under PB Rosalina Martin and the 5th is Kias Barangay under PB Timothy Pudlao, Jr.

Finally, taking 6th place this year is Poliwe Barangay under PB Robert Galong.

The barangays were rated according to the indicators on key areas such as water supply, improvement of water source and increased household with access to safe water for the last 3 years.

Nuisance, drainage, excreta and sewage disposal such that no wastewater or stagnant water along roads and open spaces, improved wastewater management and improved condition of septic tank or pit.

They were also rated according to the general cleanliness of the barangay on the following, backyard piggeries should have constructed septic tank, vermin composting for hog wastes, solid waste management practices like composting, segregation and provision of a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and regular sanitation practices to include clean-up drives, aso ko tali ko campaign, tapat ko linis ko etc.

Barangay sanitation initiatives were also checked as far as barangay legislations on sanitation, clean and green program and beautification, community participation and preparedness and readiness plans.

Lastly, the barangay budget for water and sanitation projects and programs were also included as an indicator.

Winning barangays were given cash prizes and certificates and were honored during Mondays Flag raising ceremony. */Paul Rillorta*

The Baguio We Want Through the People's Summit

As the City commemorates the anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution, a conveners meeting was held wherein different movements joined to empower the residents of Baguio through active participation for sustainable development.

The people's summit seeks to address different problems in the city and they specified nine (9) key issues such as Environmental issues, community participation, Supporting local business; tourism, Governance, Sumppp, Heritage, Land Use, Zoning, Blistt, and legislation.

According to Rev. Bishop Carlito Cenzon, we need a forum to be able to capture the voices of the people and listen to one another's concerns for us to bring the conversation useful and fruitful. Rev. Cenzon also stated that participation of each and every one is what we need to attain the progress we want. He also mentioned that there are core groups that will lead the residents to a fruitful development.

"What we need is a dialogue, listen" Rev. Cenzon added.

Karlo Altomonte member of One Baguio Movement stated that the focus of the summit is to look for solutions for the identified problems and they will present the resolutions to the City Hall and he hope that the City Government will listen to their concerns. Altomonte also said that the EDSA Revolution Anniversary is the best and spectacular day to conduct the said summit.

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Mayor Commits 4M City Share in Flower Fest

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan Wednesday during the Panagbenga Kapihan Forum is bent on giving the city's share for the Panagbenga here.

The city government has an annual appropriation of 4 million pesos as counterpart for the Panagbenga activities.

Domogan was reacting to comments given by some sectors that the city's Flower Festival can run even without city funding.

The mayor stressed, "income generated from the Session Road in Bloom and Baguio Blooms is not sufficient to run an event with this magnitude."

"Open naman yung financial statement ng Flower Festival, they can see it for themselves," he said.

It is the biggest city-community activity that sustains the tourism industry of the City of Baguio, talagang there is a problem with us if we do not sustain it," he said.

Domogan said, "not giving the city's share means destroying the principle of the Panagbenga

MOA Strengthens Save the River Coalition

BAGUIO CITY - stakeholders of the 'Salaknib ti Waig' program converged Tuesday at the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) Multi-purpose hall to put in paper their renewed commitment to sustain rehabilitation efforts being undertaken to save its rivers.

City Mayor Mauricio Domogan, DENR OIC Regional Director Paquito Moreno, Jr. and heads of the different colleges, universities, non-government organizations and barangay officials spearheaded the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) strengthening their role as guardians of inland waterways of the city.

The 'Salaknib ti Waig' program is a pet project of the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO) patterned with the DENR's 'Adopt-an-Estero' program.

It aims to sustain waterway protection initiatives by tapping the assistance and support of partners from the private sector and community.

The main focus of the program is the adoption of rivers and streams within the city being the headwaters of four major river systems.

Adoptors and partners will be responsible in the upkeep and maintenance of the adopted river, formulate action plans to rehabilitate and ensure that measures are undertaken to reduce pollution and improve the quality of the water in said areas.

the adoptors will also be working with the barangays which has jurisdiction of these adopted rivers thru information and education campaigns and community mobilization activities in partnership with the city government and the DENR-EMB.

The program covers 28 barangays within the Balili River Basin and involves around 17.750 km of inland waterways within these barangays has been identified for adoption.

The adopters are Saint Louis University with partner barangays Cabinet Hill-Teachers Camp, DPS Compound, Engineers Hill, Marcoville and South Drive while Goshenland adopted and partnered with Holy ghost Proper and Upper General Luna barangays.

The Rotary Club of Baguio adopted and partnered with Imelda Village and M. Roxas Teachers Camp barangay and Pines City Colleges partnered with Happy Homes, North Sanitary Camp and South Sanitary Camp barangays.

Other adopters are MJ Corporation partnering with ABCR barangay, NIIT with Camdas, Private Road, Tabora and Trancoville barangay, Baguio City Academy Colleges with Tabora barangay and University of the Philippines-Baguio with Brookside barangay.

Other partners of the program include BENECO, Baguio Regreening Movement (BRM), Baguio Heritage Foundation, Association of Barangay Councils (ABC), BRSRC and Alay sa Kalinisan (ASKI). */Paul Rillorta*

when it was founded that it should be a city-community activity."

"If it is proven by the finance committee of the Flower Festival that there is a big income for the Session in Bloom and Baguio Blooms, then siguro pwede ng mawala yung city subsidy and I am sure that is also their objective, Domogan said.

"I will not also allow that the city will not give its counterpart if funds to run the event is not

enough," he said.

Domogan also said, "the bottom line is, if there is sufficient sources of income not necessarily from the city government then that would be good, but if none then by all means the city should always appropriate an amount for this festival."

Domogan also thanked the BFFFI for sacrificing their time and effort in helping sustain the Panagbenga Flower Festival as community partners.

"We should not allow that partnership to be ruined and destroyed by certain comments which can be addressed and solved," he said. */Paul Rillorta*



THE JUNCTION

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BFFI Launches Walk Happy Campaign

BAGUIO CITY – the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation, Inc. (BFFFI) has released its long awaited infomercial to strengthen the proper conduct of tourists visiting this mountain resort.

The film was presented to Mayor Mauricio Domogan, BFFFI officials and members of the media.

The infomercial dubbed “Walk Happy Baguio City” revolves around the character of Mikey Bustos and friends, first time Baguio visitors exploring the city by walking.

The short film runs approximately 20 minutes and would be played in buses, hotels, restaurants, cinemas and aired via youtube and facebook.

The campaign is a joint venture of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Baguio (HRAB), Baguio Flower Festival Foundation Inc. (BFFFI), Baguio Conventions and Visitors Bureau (BCVB), Baguio Country Club and Infinite Media, Inc. under Indie film director Ferdie Balanag.

The infomercial was launched Wednesday simultaneous with the final briefing for the Panagbenga Grand Street and Float Parade where it was showed to the public for the first time.

It encourages visitors to leave their vehicles while exploring the city and take alternative ways of going around like walking, biking and taking public transportation.

Highlighted in the short film are different tourist attractions while **Cont. on page 9**

Council Wants City Dev't Plan for Athletic Bowl

BAGUIO CITY – The city council on Monday asked the city buildings and architecture office (CBAO) to prepare the city government's master development plan for the Baguio athletic bowl to serve as guide for future rehabilitation works for the sports facility.

The body noted that with the on-going improvement works at the athletic site, the city would need a blueprint specifically for the sports facility to harmonize subsequent pocket upgrading works in the site.

The aldermen gave the CBAO two months to come up with the plan including a perspective and a scale model.

The body, in another move, requested the Dept. of Public Works and Highways Cordillera (DPWH-CAR) to review with the city government the phase 2 plan on the improvement of the facility being planned for implementation after the Panagbenga celebration.

The aldermen aired some suggestions to DPWH-Baguio district engineer Alexander Castaneda during the dialogue with the city council including Councilor Peter Fianza's proposal to do away with the construction of additional bleachers to save two mature trees and to consider the construction a rain collection facility and a lounging area.

Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda asked that the works be made “gender-sensitive” while other councilors suggested the fencing of the rubberized oval for protection and the construction of a parking area.

Fianza, who broached the review of the project, said he learned that an additional P50 million has been allocated from the DPWH 2015 general appropriations act for the second phase of the work which accordingly will include an

Council Wants City's Action Firmed up on John Hay

BAGUIO CITY – The city council committee on laws will confer with Mayor Mauricio Domogan and city legal officer Melchor Carlos Rabanes to firm up the city's position and course of action in face of the probability of the city's non-collection of its share from the Camp John Hay lease rental as a result of the arbitral court decision on the case between the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and the Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevCo).

The aldermen on Monday adopted Councilor Faustino Olowan's suggestion tasking laws committee chair Councilor Richard Carino and member Councilors Elmer Datuin and Fred Bagbagen to consult with the city executive to address the dire situation of the city and referred the decision to the city legal office to render an opinion on the courses of action that the city can take.

In the ruling dated Feb. 11, the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center Inc., finding “mutual breach” of the agreement by both parties, rescinded the original and derivative lease agreements and ordered the CJHDevCo to cede the leased premises to BCDA while in turn directing the BCDA to return to the CJHDevCo the rental payments it made totaling P1,421,096,052 and further cleared CJHDevCo from its liability to pay its arrears amounting to P3.3 billion.

“With the latest ruling of the Arbitration Tribunal on the feud between BCDA and CJHDevCo, it is perceived that the city might lose its rightful share from the operation of the Camp John Hay,” Councilor Leandro Yangot Jr. noted in his proposed resolution which seeks to task the city legal office to take legal actions so the city can collect its rightful share following the decision.

“Considering that the lease contract of CJHDevCo was terminated through ‘rescission’ and not ‘expiration,’ the city government has to take all the necessary legal actions in asserting its right over the development done by the CJHDevCo which includes, among others, the **Cont. on page 9**

additional span of bleachers in the newly rehabilitated grandstand, comfort rooms, offices and a rubberized track oval.

“The improvement of the Athletic Bowl is definitely a long and most awaited development in the city (but) with what was seen however in the implementation of the initial phase (of the work), primarily in the rehabilitation of the grandstand, there is a need for the city to fully apprise itself with the remaining program of (work) and as much as possible, take part in its design and in the implementation of the same,” Fianza said.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan earlier said the improvements being introduced in the area are in consonance with the planned major development for athletic bowl and other areas at Burnham Park under a public-private partnership (PPP) venture based on the terms of reference approved by the city council.

Projected to cost P4.3 billion, the proposed development will cover the upgrading of the Athletic Bowl, tennis court and swimming pool, construction of a commercial complex at the site of the former city auditorium and the installation of a monorail within the park.

As per the approved TOR, the sports facilities upon upgrading will remain as city government properties and the revenues to be generated from their use will go to the city coffers and only the commercial complex will be run by the developer. /A Refuerzo



TPLEX ISSUES - Former Congressman of the 5th District of Pangasinan Mark Cojuangco, after attending the SP Regular Session, submits a copy of his proposed re-alignment of Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX) to Mayor Mauricio Domogan to help ease traffic congestion along Kennon Road and Marcos Highway.

Cojuangco objects to the original plan of the Department of Public Works and Highways where large portion of indigenous lands and other private properties will be affected. /By Bong Cayabyab

City Sets Rules in Burnham Park Use, Maintenance

BAGUIO CITY – The city government has set the rules and regulations to govern the operation and maintenance of the Burnham Park reservation.

In Administrative Order No. 20 series of 2015, Mayor Mauricio Domogan said, “It is high time that the City Government of Baguio institutionalize the rules and regulations governing the operation and maintenance of the Burnham Park Reservation, its facilities, resources for the guidance and direction of the general public.”

The rules will cover the facilities and features developed inside the reservation that provide comfort, convenience and services to the general public like Burnham Lake, Children's Playground, Skating Rink and Fun Rides, Rose Garden and Burnham Bust, Orchidarium, Igorot Garden, Melvin Jones Grandstand and Football Grounds, Old Auditorium Parking Area, Athletic Bowl, Tennis Courts, Picnic Grove, Japanese Peace Tower, Pine Trees of the World, Sunshine Park, Swimming Pool complex and Ibaloy Heritage Garden.

As spelled out in the order, Burnham Park will be “used exclusively for legal and moral activities (and will not) be used for political activities, trade fairs (except those sponsored by the City Government of Baguio

through Sangguniang Panlungsod Resolution 011-A series of 2014), as venue of selling fireworks, firecrackers, pailaw and similar pyrotechnics products and other non-conforming uses that can impact on the environmental and historical value of the Park.”

“All activities or facilities carried out in the park shall be subjected to control, regulation and licensing or permitting by the City Government of Baguio. Activities to be regulated shall include but are not necessarily limited to the following: boat rides in the lagoon, bicycle rides within the Park within designated bicycle lanes, restaurants, food stalls/kiosks/snack stalls/refreshment parlors, orchidarium, parking areas, roving vending, and all other activities which the City Government of Baguio may deem necessary for regulation and control.”

These also include the following: fitness/wellness/exercise, musical concerts, prayer meetings/rally/thanksgiving mass, camping, television shows/TV and film promotion, marathon/walkathon/fun run, garden wedding, race/ tour, challenge/event, social gatherings, children's party, clan/family/class reunions, team buildings, sports & musical

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Peace Panel: Traitors or Protecting Gov't?

Senator Francis Escudero joins calls for the removal of government peace negotiators, and adds his voice to criticism of the Bangsamoro bill

MANILA, Philippines – Another co-author of the Bangsamoro bill now doubts the measure, and even calls for the removal of the government peace negotiators in the wake of the Mamasapano clash.

Senator Francis Escudero joined Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano in urging President Benigno Aquino III to replace presidential peace adviser Teresita Quintos Deles, peace panel chairperson Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, and other peace negotiators.

Like Cayetano, Escudero accused the government negotiators of “siding” with the rebel group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in the peace talks.

“Di nila ginagawa ang kanilang trabaho at dapat palitan sila ng mga taong kayang gawin ang kanilang trabaho. Paano ang kumpiyansa ng ating mga tao? Ipakita naman nilang kakampi nila ang SAF 44, ang gobyerno at ang pulis,” Escudero said in a press briefing on Thursday, February 26.

(They are not doing their job, and they should be replaced by people who can do their job. What about the confidence of our people? They should show they are siding with the SAF 44, the government, and the police.)

EDITORIAL

Earlier this week, Cayetano called on Aquino to fire Deles and Ferrer for acting like “the spokespersons, lawyers and campaign managers” of the MILF.

Deles and Ferrer are hard pressed to defend the peace process after the January 25 clash in Maguindanao killed 44 Special Action Force (SAF) troopers, 18 MILF members, and 3 civilians. The incident raised questions about the sincerity of the MILF in the peace process, and threatens to derail the peace talks.

Senate President Franklin Drilon defended the peace negotiators, saying they are tasked to secure peace in Mindanao, “and their actions before and after the Mamasapano incident are based on their mandates.”

“It is highly unfair and improper for people to label as traitors those striving to ensure peace in our nation, for all Filipinos,” said the staunch administration ally.

“Contrary to [the] accusation, our peace panel is actually protecting the government and the Filipino people’s interest by protecting and continuing the peace process amid the tensions resulting from the Mamasapano clash,” said Drilon.

The Senate chief asked his colleagues and the public “not to be too hard” on Deles and Ferrer, and to understand the role of the peace panel in ensuring peace in Mindanao, “which for 4 decades suffered from all forms of insurgency and criminality.”

“While I fully understand and recognize the public’s high emotions following the Mamasapano tragedy, Secretary Teresita Deles and Professor Miriam Coronel-Ferrer do not deserve to be maligned in such an unwarranted manner,” Drilon said.

BBL CO-AUTHOR. Senator Francis Escudero co-authored the Bangsamoro bill but now raises many questions about it. Photo by Ayee Macaraig/Rappler

BBL CO-AUTHOR. Senator Francis Escudero co-authored the Bangsamoro bill but now raises many questions about it. Photo by Ayee Macaraig/Rappler

“What does gov’t get from BBL?” Escudero said that unlike Cayetano, he is not withdrawing his co-authorship of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), which aims to create an expanded region in Muslim Mindanao with more powers and resources than the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The passage of the bill is a key step in the peace process.

Yet Escudero uses the same tone and lines of Cayetano, who evolved to becoming the strongest critic of the BBL.

The Senate finance committee chairperson said that the bill allots at least P75 billion (\$1.7 billion) to the proposed Bangsamoro region, an amount bigger than the budget of the Philippine National Police (PNP), and almost the equivalent of the budget of the military.

“To be honest, the MILF panel is so good. They got all they wanted. What will the government get in return? The MILF forces are still holding arms. They will just give up old firearms, and hide their new ones,” Escudero said in Filipino.

Under the peace process, the MILF is supposed to turn over its firearms after the passage of the BBL, a gradual phase called “decommissioning.”

Escudero is also sore about the issue of coordination. The MILF and government peace panels insist that had the SAF only followed proper coordination mechanisms, the heavy death toll could have been avoided. No clash

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ADVOCAY MINDANOW

Mamasapano and RioTuba

BY: JESUS DUREZA



Almost one month has passed since Mamasapano. Up to now, we are wasting precious time and missing opportunities. And we have already squandered precious gains. Yet we are not moving forward. Instead, bitterness, anger, grief, disbelief, divisiveness, hatred, blame, revenge still rule our hearts. And we are witnessing more polarization of our people. Worse, we hear the drums of war. I’m sad.

RIO TUBA — That reminds me. When Mamasapano happened on January 25, I was in Rio Tuba, Palawan. I headed a delegation from the Philippine Press Institute (PPI) to take a look at what a mine site looked like and how the community coped. Nickel Mining Corporation’s “JB” BAYLON and his team arranged the visit.

It’s a barangay of Bataraza town, about 5 hours of land trip going south of Puerto Princesa. By the way, in the opposite direction going north are the famed resorts and havens Palawan is known for worldwide. The southern part hosts mining companies. Rio Tuba is home to Nickel Mining Corporation, owned and operated by the company of mining tycoon Manuel Zamora and Japan’s Sumitomo. The PPI officials wanted to see for themselves how nickel mining is done and how the operations of a “responsible” mining company impact on the environment, given the issues and concerns that are usually brought to the attention of the press. What we saw was impressive. Nickel, by the way, is a mineral that is used to make stainless materials that don’t rust. For instance, nickel is used for airplanes, engines, utensils or cellphones etc..

COMING TO PARADISE — Before we arrived at the mine site, many of us journalists were bracing ourselves to see wastelands and mined out landscapes considering that Nickel Mining Corp. (US\$1.5 billion project) had been on the ground extracting for about 38 years since 1977. But we had a pleasant surprise. Instead of disturbed environments, we saw forests. I remember saying aloud: “I came to visit a mine site. Instead I came to “paradise.” Indeed, instead of gaping mine pits, we saw lush green vegetations and plants and trees and flowers on rehabilitated grounds. Nickel mining does not create kilometer wide craters and bottomless pits as we usually see in gold and copper mines. They scrape the topsoil and go only as deep as 20 meters down to extract the precious ore and then refill and re-contour the ground and restore the green cover with trees and vegetation.

CITY-LIKE AMENITIES — Life is a breeze in such remote far-away place. Bataraza is almost the last frontier near Balabac Island at the tip of elongated Palawan where on a clear night, a promenader can see the shore lights of Malaysia from across the sea. The 15,000 or so Rio Tuba residents are living in city-like amenities in the middle of nowhere. Families of mine employees enjoy free electricity and free water. And who would think a De La Salle-supervised school operates in such far way place? Named after the late Leonides Virata, 1,300 pupils are taken cared of by about 56 faculty members. And guess how much each student pays for one whole year: a messy P300! Every classroom by the way

Cont. on page 8

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

**Blame PNOy Officials,
not me - Purisima**

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "...Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself"..." (Jesus Christ, our God and Savior, in Matthew 22:37-39, the Holy Bible).

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BLAME PNOY'S OFFICIALS, NOT ME—PURISIMA: If a press statement from the lawyer of former Police Director General Alan Purisima being circulated in social networking sites is authentic, there seems to be a new twist on the Mamasapano massacre which may yet enable the truth on the killing of 44 officers and men of the Special Action Force to come out, and thereby determine who should really be held liable for the carnage.

A careful reading of this press statement purportedly coming from lawyer Kristoffer James E. Purisima, the counsel of the beleaguered PNP chief, will show that General Purisima is in fact saying that he should not be blamed for the botched operation.

Rather, he is suggesting, in broad strokes and in more ways than one, that the blame for the death of the SAF commandos in Mamasapano should be laid on the top officials of President Aquino who were with him in Zamboanga City on January 25, 2015, and who should have informed him about what was happening in Mamasapano.

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PURISIMA SAYS HE WAS ALWAYS TRUTHFUL WITH PNOY: Here are portions of that press statement: "Police Director General Alan La Madrid Purisima did not lie to President Benigno S. Aquino III about the status of Operation Exodus in the morning of 25 January 2015. It is not in Purisima's character to relay inaccurate information to the President.

"Throughout their decades of professional and personal relationship, Purisima's deportment towards the President has been one of utmost candor, honesty, loyalty and respect. At no time would Purisima violate the trust reposed upon him by the President.

"When PDG Purisima informed the President about the status of Operation Exodus, Police Deputy Director General Leonardo Espina, Philippine National Police (PNP) Officer-In-Charge; General Gregorio Catapang, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff; and Lieutenant General Rustico Guerrero, AFP Western Mindanao Command Commander, were already aware that hostile forces have engaged our PNP SAF troopers.

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OFFICIALS SHOULD HAVE BRIEFED PNOY: "Thus, when Purisima informed the President at 8:17 AM on January 25 that the engaged PNP SAF troopers 'are supported by mechanized and artillery support', Purisima relied in good faith on the information given to him at 8:03 AM by Lieutenant General Guerrero, which stated that '[m]eron ng coordination sa ground tank infantry and artillery support are made available'.

"To Purisima, Guerrero's reference to '[m]eron ng coordination sa ground' implies more than just the availability of support; it refers to the coordinated efforts to use tank, infantry and artillery assets in support of our PNP SAF troopers. Purisima had no reason to believe or interpret otherwise, since the request for reinforcement for our SAF troopers has already been relayed by Purisima to Guerrero by telephone conversation as early as 6:09 AM.

"As he was in San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija, on January 25, Purisima could not have **Cont. on page 9**

DIMENSIONAL ROAD

**Terrorism Builds No
Safer Place in the Planet**

BY: MARVIN WACNAG LIDAWAN



"The purpose of terrorism lies not just in the violent act itself. It is in producing terror. It sets out to inflame, to divide, and to produce consequences which they then use to justify further terror." - Tony Blair

In the Philippine Archipelago, the month of February is characterized by a significant tragedy that shook the Philippine populace as it reverberated to the whole part of the globe where even Filipinos, based away from their countries, grieved. The main cause of this tragedy that took the lives of these men has recurring patterns of occurrences in the Southern Philippines which were done by leftist called Islamic extremists who can never solve the country's dilemma emerging constantly. The aggressive form of their solidarity couldn't change the course of Philippine history to be a better society for the cause they are fighting complicates the multiplicity of current problems in the country. They who have joined their heads together and condemned "farewell- to -arms -for- peace movement" can never aid in the erection of a sturdy society with tremendously opposing ideologies, impossible to be integrated in the foundation of a society that needs peace for stability. They are the lost souls incapable of realizing that societal change must emanate from every individual. This is a group who assumes that the only ideology that leads to the right path of prosperity and favorable change is their own credence and that interference of their unsanctioned affairs means death to those who attempt.

This is the Abu Sayyaf Group, also known as al-Harakat al-Islamiyya which is one of several militant Islamic-separatist groups based in the southern islands of the Philippines. These Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas were involved in the killing of 49 dispatched Special Action Force (SAF) commandos, recently.

Before this tragedy in the Philippine soil took place, many countries around the world have one appalling thing in common. Mass destruction of human lives from other nations has been taking place. The dreadful events disturbing the world's populace damage the peace of nations who yearn for tranquility of survival despite the adversities of life. These deeds created by co-mortals become the deadliest experiences all man in this planet could ever have. Man-made disasters are deadliest than natural calamities. Bombings, beheadings, hostage-taking, shooting, ambush, burning, deceptions, hanging, abducting, revenge, flogging,

imperialistic moves, and even lone wolf attacks lead to genocides. Man is subjected to physical and psychological ordeals. These are forms of terrorism which are called apocalyptic visions as CNN (Cable Network News) points out.

It is depressing to note that terrorism around the world is always associated with Islam. Terrorism damages the image of true Islamism which means peace. It is so disappointing to point out that unscrupulous entities continue to massively thrive and destroy human lives. United Nations' research of these consecutively annoying events manifested too that other tactics of the Islamic Extremists' operations are through suicide attacks, hijacking, kidnappings, summary execution and even Internet recruiting.

The World's destruction of human lives is as old as mankind and continuous to thrive from the first quarter of the 20th century to the present. Other than those early horrendous events, the 21st century has much to convey that made headlines created by extremists who have set "society-unsanctioned- norms" through their evil operations.

The following extremist groups are anti-militant groups that made headlines through their peace- disturbing movements could be specifically pointed out from varied countries around the world from our source.

The Philippines' Moro Islamic Liberation Front or the Abu Sayyaf group, also known as al-Harakat al-Islamiyya, is one of several militant Islamic-separatist groups; Pakistan and Afghanistan's Taliban and Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin forces; Tajikistan and Uzbekistan's IMU (Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan); Russia's Shamil Basayev's Islamic-nationalist rebel faction or Dokka Umarov's pan-Islamist movement Caucasus Emirate; Turkey's Hezbollah in Turkey not connected to the Shia Hezbollah in Lebanon; Iraq, Syria and Yemen's Al-Qaeda which is the biggest threat to Canada and the United States; Israel and the Palestinian territories' Hamas called Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya; Palestine's Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine; Lebanon's Hezbollah known as Fatah al-Islam; Algeria's The Armed Islamic Group; Bangladesh's Bangladesh Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh; India's Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed and Nigeria's Boko Haram. There are other emerging Islamic extremist groups underground which are to be defined as time emerges more discoveries.

We are never alone in a world of condemning tragedies. Many have more sufferings than what previously confronted us. The world's populace has now sensed continuous perils ever since which justify the freedom to say that there's no safer place on earth to stay.

Anti-Human Trafficking Conference

BAGUIO CITY — Women groups and members of the academe joined the anti-human trafficking forum and covenant-signing and capped with a solidarity walk from the Baguio Convention Center up to the Rose Garden, Burnham Park last Tuesday morning.

Led by the Baguio City Police Office Women and Childrens' protection desk and Soroptimists International (SI), the forum focused on ways of protecting the vulnerable groups from human trafficking, violence and abuse.

There were also heart-wrenching testimonies of survivors from the vicious cycle of human trafficking, here and abroad.

SI officer Dr. Milandre Rusgal ably facilitated the survivor's story of faith and hope, and restoration to family and the community.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan in his message emphasized the role of parents, the whole family and community in inculcating incorruptible values within a person. Once a person's values and discipline through character education are impressed, the chances

of addiction, prostitution and having vices is remote, he said.

The mayor also mentioned of 54 ladies in the 80s, rescued from questionable business establishments in the city, and extended values orientation programs and financial grants for livelihood. The commitment and participation of each, with concerned government agencies is valuable in renewed lives, Mayor Domogan noted. He also mentioned the anti-trafficking act of persons or Republic Act 9208, presently being implemented.

An academic paper on slavery was also presented by SI official and former city councilor Phillian Weygan-Allan while discussions on campaigns against slavery were done. An anti-human trafficking covenant was presented by SI officials Imelda Cuesta Bisnar, Rose Dulnuan, Ma. Purificacion Nerez, Fabiola Boleman, Nancy Alabanza and signed by representatives and Mayor Domogan.

Special numbers by the Baguio City National High School School of Performing Arts (BCNHS-SPA) and the Baguio School of Business and Technology were presented during the forum. *Julie G. Fianza*

Adolescent Health TWG tackles High Incidence of Teenage Pregnancy in

CAR

BAGUIO CITY — Uncoordinated programs and projects by different agencies and institutions appears to be the root cause for the high incidence of teenage pregnancy in the Cordillera region.

This surfaced during the strategic planning workshop of the Adolescent Health and Development (AHD) Program Technical Working Group (TWG).

Using the SWOT analysis which is a tool used to understand the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats involved in a program, the participants identified uncoordinated programs and projects by different agencies and institutions as the root cause why in spite of health programs already in place, Cordillera region has the most number of teenage pregnancies in the country as shown in the recent Young Adult Fertility and Sexuality (YAFS) survey.

Other identified root

causes as seen under the "Weaknesses" include autonomous behaviour of adolescents, limited funding both local and international, culture, mismatched of schedules and/or adolescent health programs due to different targets/mandates per agency and absence of situational analysis.

The group agreed to address the identified root causes by coming up with the following activities; strengthen advocacy, develop baseline data through researches to address the lack of situational analysis, development of a data indicator system for benchmarking, and to sustain trainings already in place like peer education training and adolescent job aid manual training for health workers.

Among the strategies identified include the adoption of culturally-responsive measures in the implementation of adolescent

Cont. on page 9

Management Policies Set For Dominican Hill

BAGUIO CITY — Mayor Mauricio

Domogan issued rules and regulations for the operation and maintenance of the Dominican Hill and Retreat House which was recently declared by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) as a 'Historical Site and Structure' and included in the list of the National Registry of Historic Sites and Structures in the Philippines.

In his Administrative Order No. 21, the mayor said the place is drawing increasing interest from individuals, organizations, media outfits, and tourists to conduct activities like religious gatherings, social activities, business meetings/trainings/seminars, photo shoots/ film shooting and other similar worthwhile activities.

Because of this, the city has infused resources for its continuing development and now there is a need to establish management systems and policies for its operation to be implemented by the city environment and parks management office (CEPMO).

As per the rules, the Dominican Hill and Retreat House will be used exclusively for legal and moral activities and never for political headquarters, political rallies, gambling including bingo socials, trade fairs and other uses that can compromise the environmental and historical value of the Park.

All organized events/activities to be conducted at the site should be supported by permit issued by the CEPMO at least five days before the scheduled event for appropriate processing and coordination with other offices. This permit is for the use of the area only and totally different from the shooting permit and bonds required by the city.

Cont. on page 7

Ibaloi Day Message

BAGUIO CITY — Mayor Mauricio Domogan urged Ibalois to unite in preserving their heritage and rich culture, with their history being written, during the 6th Ibaloi day celebration last Monday, Feb. 23, at the park.

The mayor joined the festivities of Ibaloi day, institutionalized through a council resolution in 2009 during former Reinaldo Bautista, Jr.'s term of office. The Ibaloi Heritage Park, between the city Orchidarium and childrens' park was also designated, with Feb. 23 institutionalized as Ibaloi Day.

Mayor Domogan hailed the Ibalois as being generous and benevolent as National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) head Brigit Hamada-Pawid attributed this part of the region's being unconquered by the Spaniards for over two hundred years to the Ibalois.

Despite being labeled as timid and reserved, Ibaloi warriors, now elderly World War II veterans, have kept the enemies at bay.

Pawid also urged the group to uphold and preserve the traditional costumes and presentation. She also reminded them not to forget the legacy of Mateo Carino's native titles which extended up to the US Supreme Court.

The city has extended funding of P200,000 for the group's activities.

There were over 3,000 participants for the three-day celebration, with the theme, "Daing, Takhal tan Semek ni Ivadoi." A parade with participants in full Ibaloi garb down Session road, Harrison road up to the Ibaloi park kicked-off the three-day celebration. Traditional rites and dances were performed, as with the "owik," "tayao and sadong" and Bindian.

The activity aims to sustain and gain appreciation for the Ibaloi culture in Baguio and Benguet. *Julie G. Fianza*



CATHOLIC FAITHFUL SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, INC.



Wanted Immediately Ticket Sellers

Male/Female who are willing to SELL Entrance/Donation Tickets for the "Panata," the re-enactment of Christ's crucifixion. The event will be held on Good Friday (April 3) at the Santuario dela Sagrada Catolica at Itogon, Benguet (Ambuclao Rd). This event is the first in the Cordillera, where ticket holders can witness the LIVE CRUCIFIXION of a penitent/devotee to celebrate the passion of Christ. Sellers can expect generous commissions and sales support. This is open to individuals and store/business owners.

Email resume or letter of intent to catholicfaithfulorg@yahoo.com.

Visit our website: www.catholicfaithful.asia for more details.

Tel: (074) 422-4215 / 0917-5061005

Management Policies... from page 6

Admission to the historical site for sightseeing, communing with nature and similar tourism activities is free.

The order also enumerated the activities allowed and disallowed in the area "to consider the Dominican Hill and Retreat House both as a historical item and an LGU economic enterprise in support of the City's thrust to enhance socio-economic development through local initiatives and innovations."

"Economic development options must be conservative sensitive. The potential of economic development should be in tandem with environmental conservation a recent paradigm and prove to be a promising venture. Restore and sustain the attractiveness of the area as nature inspired tourist destination with low density tourist facilities anchored on the basic principles of sustainable development. With this mindset, local measures become imperative to protect the heritage and historical sites from disappearing very fast. If nothing is done now, 'the historical site' such as the Dominican Hill and Retreat House will just a thing of the past," the mayor stressed.

Activities allowed are photo or film shoots by individuals, organized groups and media outfits/ productions for pre-nuptial marriage/wedding, for publication purposes, cinema works and among others, the 2nd floor, 3rd floor and 4th floor of the building may be opened with proper coordination with the personnel on duty or on weekends with properly oriented security guards.

For hobby ordinary photo shooting or picture taking by students for academic purposes/tourists/visitors using Smart phones/I phones, small capacity/megapixel cameras, are not required any permit but this is limited to the grounds, lobby, rooms in the first floor and Ten Commandments vicinity and proper coordination with the personnel or security guard on duty must be done;

The "Clean as you Go Policy" is enforced to all users where the requesting entity or user of the Historical Site will take the responsibility to clean up the area after the activity as required among others by the issued permit. This is in support to the "Garbage In, Garbage Out Policy."

The facility is open from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. however, in special cases, evening activities may be allowed provided there is an approved permit issued by CEPMO.

Parking for visitors/tourists shall be at the designated parking area and not anywhere to maintain order in the Park.

Activities disallowed are camping or setting of tents; pasturing, raising or breeding of pets and domesticated animals; picking, pruning of flowers or uprooting of plants; leisure walking with pets; practice driving with vehicles and motorcycles; parking of vehicles of non-visitors; dumping of earth or any solid waste materials; gambling; urinating in any area; treasure hunting or similar activities

Fortune-telling and personal services such as massage, nail spa and tattoo; visitor/tourist smelling liquor or alcohol and under the influence of alcoholic drinks; joy or leisure biking; smoking; drinking of alcoholic beverages and liquor; bonfire or undue burning; and littering./A Refuerzo

City Sets...

from page 3

the Park; horseback riding; fishing by anybody in the lake; bathing in the lake or at the fountain; unnecessary shouting, screaming, yelling; packing or repacking of foodstuff or any merchandize in the parking area or in any part of the park; repair of vehicle in any part of the park unless there is on site damage/defect needing immediate attention; littering and spitting;

Gambling of any kind either Bingo socials; urinating in any area other than the designated rest rooms; treasure hunting or similar activities; personal services such as massage nail spa and tattoo; unauthorized flyering, poster distribution, religious open preaching and similar activities; fortune telling using tarot cards or any devices/instrument/tools; begging, caroling by individuals or groups, soliciting contribution or donation; marketing/promotion of products/product sampling;

Unauthorized use of views and scenic spots in the park by local and foreign film producers to shoot movie films, motion pictures and other similar purposes are not allowed in the Park without the proper shooting permit from the Office of the City Mayor; sleeping or taking up residence; peddling of goods of any kind; use of uncertified animals by the City Veterinary Office for recreation purposes; destroying, disfiguring, defacing or vandalizing any monument, implements, amenities, devices, displays, play or athletic equipment, signs or any property installed in the Park and or for the use thereof for purposes of hanging any form of advertisements; and leaving of unmanaged solid waste materials after the event and/or untended solid waste materials in designated pick up points for organized events.

Bicycles, tricycles of any kind shall not be allowed to pass along the road network of Burnham Park Reservation.

The pay parking area at the old City Auditorium or any part of the park shall not be used as "Bagsakan" of goods/merchandise for sale provided except during All Saints/Souls Day period when some portions of the Burnham Park are used as Flower Market where personnel from the City Treasurer's Office are mandated to collect charges and fees.

Private individuals or groups are not allowed to control, assist in the parking of vehicles in the park for purposes of expecting "favor fee" from drivers or owners of the vehicles.

Park concessionaires, Tennis Club members and other users of the Park are not exempted from the payment of parking fees.

The personnel of the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO), Baguio City Parks Management Committee and the Security Guard Agency personnel contracted out by the City Government of Baguio were tasked to enforce the rules./A Refuerzo

The Baguio We Want...

from page 2

"We commemorate this day by doing something significant" Altomonte added.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan on the other hand stated in the "Ugnaykay Mayor" that the People's summit is a development because private sectors are involving themselves for the progress of the city. Domogan said that he will wait and look forward to movement's recommendations as to strengthen the relationship between local government and the private sectors. The mayor encouraged the people to work with the government.

"We welcome, kung ano man angkanilang recommendations"

Over 300 people and 42 organizations joined the 1st People Summit held at the University of the Philippines Baguio Bulwagan. After the message of the different representatives a workshop was conducted that makes the said event successful./ By Jepryll Santos

BFP Reminds Public to be Fire Safety - Conscious

BONTOC, Mountain Province - The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) here is reminding the public to be always fire safety-conscious to prevent the occurrence of destructive fires.

BFP officials gave the reminder as they intensify their fire safety awareness campaign in line with the observance of the Fire Prevention Month this March.

Provincial Fire Marshal Fire Chief Inspector Floyd Toyokan said the BFP provincial office and the seven municipal fire stations in the province are all set to conduct various activities geared towards motivating the public to always observe fire safety in their respective homes and communities.

With the theme, "Kaligtasan sa Sunog: Alamin, Gawin at Isabuhay Natin," BFP officials said the focus of this year's observance is more on creating public awareness on fire safety and measures to prevent fire occurrence in residential buildings.

Reports of both BFP and the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office in the province show that from January to February this year, there were already four incidents of residential fires of which three incurred casualties.

The month-long Fire Prevention Month observance will kick-off with a unity walk dubbed "Walk for a Fire-Free and a Fire-Safe Nation" on March 1 to be participated in by the province's firefighters, fire volunteers, Mt. Province State Polytechnic College Criminology Interns, government employees as well as the private sectors, students and other interest individual. The walk will end at the MPGHS grounds for a Fire Olympics by criminology students.

For whole month of March, the different fire stations will conduct their fire safety awareness information drives thru radio guesting, house to house visitations and community public announcement using their firetruck's built-in public address system.

On March 3 -7, the fire stations will conduct the "Berong Bombero sa Paaralan" where the firemen will lecture the school children on fire safety and prevention tips and what to do in case of fire.

There will also be an open house on March 11-13 where invited school children will familiarize themselves on the use of the various fire-fighting equipment as well as learn how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.

For the whole month of March, the town fire stations are placed under heightened alert status where fire personnel will conduct intensive monitoring of fire prone areas in their respective areas. Identified fire prone areas are subjected to constant monitoring and fire safety inspection campaign.

Presidential Proclamation 115 declares the March as Fire Prevention Month, being the hottest month of the year./JDP/

DepEd to Establish Public Senior High School Facility in Every Town

BAGUIO CITY - With the K to 12 curriculum expected to be fully implemented (Kindergarten up to grade 12) by 2016, the Department of Education (DepEd) is focused in ensuring that there will be at least one public senior high school facility in every town.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro, in an interview here last weekend, said not all public high school can offer grades 11 and 12 in their campuses either due to lack of facility or capable teachers that will teach the senior high school curriculums, which is why DepEd is looking into the establishments of additional senior high facilities every town.

Citing topographical difficulties in the Cordillera, Luistro bared that they are also looking into the need for establishing a dormitory that will accommodate senior high school transferees from far places.

He also shared that DepEd will also talk to local chief executives on the possibility of local government units to help in providing transportation or school service to those students that will be affected in their respective municipalities.

Luistro reiterated the importance of K to 12 in preparing high school graduates to be competitive in the ASEAN Economic Community. With the additional two years, if they graduate from high school, they are already qualified to work with the nationally certified technical-vocational skills embedded in the curriculum, he explained.

"With the K to 12 curriculum, competencies of high school students in technical and vocational skills are assured, thus, they have better employment opportunities, here and abroad", Luistro said./JDP/CCD - PIA CAR

Advocacy Mindanow

...from page 4

has hi-tech LCD screens, IPAD enabled.

FREE HOSPITAL — When I walked into the mine hospital, I saw on the bed getting an intravenous antibiotic treatment a fisherman from Balabac Island for an infected swollen foot wounded by a sea urchin days before. The level 1 hospital is manned by nine doctors, 33 nurses and gives free medical services, including medicines and treatment to all, including the IPs with an annual budget of about P90 million. It has ultra-sound facilities and can do surgeries with 100-bed capacity. In serious cases, it can airlift patients to Puerto Princesa with the company's air assets hangared in a private airstrip nearby.

Who would also imagine that about P1.1 billion (yes, billion) of social development projects for a 5-year period are enjoyed by 11 impact barangays and 22 other neighboring barangays in the province? Another P50 million annual royalties are also given to the IPs, the area being a part of the ancestral domain.

ENVIRONMENT — Of the total mining tenement area of 5,265 hectares, only about 600 plus hectares had been "disturbed" by actual extraction for a period of 38 years of mining operations, and 280 hectares have been rehabilitated and now turning into mini forests. Its tailings storage facility or tailings pond where the waste is deposited has an area of 90 hectares. The feared acid emissions are addressed by massive limestone applications. We personally inspected the filtering and monitoring sites where mine wastewater are recycled and tested before they are released to the waterways.

I recalled how Ms. GINA LOPEZ, a strong anti-mining advocate came swinging hard against Rio Tuba mine by showing an aerial video of the mining tenement that had wide reddish-colored spots from the skies several years ago. I wished she would come back and take another shot from the air today. I'll bet, the color would be greenish this time with the ground rehabilitation work as a result.

We were brought to a big pond where fishes were raised from mine waters recycled and cleared of harmful toxicity. The group enjoyed hauling in some fish catch with their bamboo poles with hooks. In my case, I did not catch any fish as I was angling for a sexy mermaid that I was told lived in the depths. She did not bite my bait. So, I had to content myself later looking at two-legged mermaids on dry land instead.

The Rio Tuba visit was pleasant and enjoyable and instructive. I did not know that at that precise same time, that same day, a tragedy was happening in Mamasapano.

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City Sets...

from page 3

practice & competition, bloodletting/donation, field demonstration, opening/closing programs, airsoft and other sports tournament, skills olympics/competition, youth congress, military parade and inspection, display of inflatable balloon and similar activities that are consistent in the use of park.

"The City Government reserves the right to disallow any activity. Activities that will damage the lawns and pavers of the Rose Garden are discouraged like football, rock concerts that tend to be loud and disturb the park goers. However, such activities are encouraged to be held at the Athletic Bowl and Sunshine Park," the order stated.

The order also enumerates the activities allowed in the area to wit:

*Admission to the Burnham Park as a protected landscape is "FREE" through the harmonious interaction of man and land while providing opportunities for the public enjoyment through recreation and tourism within the normal lifestyle and economic activity;

*Pay parking is allowed in the old auditorium, Lake Drive, street fronting the Orchidarium, Jose Abad Santos Drive and extension;

*Sunshine Park is the designated "Freedom Park;"

*Juan Luna Drive, Jose Abad Santos Drive and distal portion of the Biking Lane (near Tourist Police Unit (TPU) are allocated for fitness, wellness and similar activities. However, these activities are limited from 4:00a.m. to 7:00a.m. for the regular concessionaires and to the general public as well;

*Instructors/organizers of fitness/wellness are required to secure the necessary permit for the use of area before they are allowed to conduct their activities;

*Personnel of the Burnham Park Office and the contracted security agency assigned are authorized to implement the Anti-Peddling, anti-littering and other ordinances/policies in the Park by virtue of the authority from the City Mayor; and

*Organized camping and setting of tents are allowed in the Park particularly at the Picnic Grove area and Tower of Peace.

In contrast, the disallowed activities are: smoking; drinking of alcoholic beverages or liquor; bonfire or undue burning; unauthorized camping or sleep out except in the designated area; raising, pasturing, herding, breeding, tying out or turning loose of pets and other domesticated animals; destroying, mutilating, picking, neither pruning of flowers nor uprooting of plants.

Also prohibited are leisure walking with pets to prevent defecation and mutilation of animals; practice driving of four wheeled vehicles, ATVs or motorcycles especially at the Melvin Jones grounds, Athletic Bowl, Lake Drive, Biking Lane, Juan Luna Drive, Jose Abad Santos Drive; work out biking/joy biking along the inner lane of the Lake, Melvin Jones grounds, Rose Garden and Athletic Bowl; bringing of pets, fighting cocks and the like in any part of the Park;

Unnecessary nailing, bolting, posting of signage on live trees or in any part of

Editorial

...from page 4

occurred since 2011 because of coordination with the MILF.

"The BBL mentions coordination 26 times," Escudero said. "If there is no coordination, they have the license to impose a death penalty on our troops? They already do that now without the BBL, what more when the BBL is passed?"

The bill was initially meant to be passed by March but the Mamasapano clash moved back the target to June.

Escudero said even the new deadline will not be met. He vowed to actively participate in the hearings, pointing out what he felt were questionable provisions.

"The BBL says the decision of the Shari'ah Court is final and executory. Is that in line with our Constitution, which says the Supreme Court is the final arbiter?"

"The Judicial and Bar Council that will be created for the Bangsamoro has the power to discipline judges. In our Constitution, that power lies with the Supreme Court. These are just some of the things we need to study and should pass through the eye of a needle," he added.

'Invest in Mindanao, instead of BBL'

Senator JV Ejercito is the other senator besides Cayetano who withdrew his co-authorship of the bill. Their flip-flopping reduced the majority 13 votes in the Senate to just 11.

Ejercito said on Thursday that opposing the BBL should not be seen as being against peace. The senator is the son of former President Joseph Estrada who declared an all out war against the MILF in 2000.

Ejercito said his alternative to the BBL is to increase funding for Muslim Mindanao.

"I believe that by investing a significant portion of government funds to Mindanao public infrastructure – airports, ports, roads, railroads, schools, and universities – we will be able to alleviate poverty, and this could be the most effective way to attain peace," the neophyte senator said.

The peace panels said that the bill is the best option for peace, and that the MILF is the most moderate Muslim group to negotiate with as the rest are terrorist and lawless elements. This is the closest the government and the MILF reached in concluding the peace talks in 17 years.

Negotiators maintain that the peace process must be completed before Aquino steps down in 2016.

Ejercito believes otherwise. "If the Aquino administration failed to have it during its term, we can continue the effort with the next Philippine president." / Rappler.com



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Unemployed Woman...**from page 10**

chained to a treadmill that keeps on turning faster and faster, until you spin out into oblivion.

So Rosela mustered the courage last week to have her story featured in the local papers. She hopes a Samaritan or two out there would respond and sponsor one or two dialysis treatment.

She's on the eight p.m. schedule every Tuesday and Friday at the Baguio General hospital and Medical Center, thanks to support for eight to nine sessions from the Philippine charity Sweepstakes Office.

"Client's live-in partner works as a farmer, at the same

time (as a seasonal laborer and his minimal earnings (are being stretched for their daily needs," noted social welfare assistant Fevilyn Dionesio in a report endorsing the patient's plea for support.

She can not turn to her daughter, Rosepeter, who now has her own family. Her son, Jim, died in 2006.

Her recourse is to appeal to strangers, people she might have or had never met, yet feel the need to reach out to her. She can be reached through cellphone n u m b e r 09499491796./ *Ramon Dacawi.*

BFFI Launches...**from page 3**

teaching tourist about simple city ordinances such as 'no smoking' in public, no littering, segregation and taking care of nature.

It also highlights different city activities where tourist will surely enjoy like boating, trekking, eating, reading books and star gazing among others.

Different products were also highlighted like fresh vegetables, ukay-ukay, unique souvenirs and art works including the city's varied cultural activities and dances while encouraging visitors to respect it.

The filmmaker's push in directing and producing the film is, "the hope that people will take closer notice of the city's beautiful environment and experience its natural allure, know and remember it not just for its strawberries and commercial souvenirs, but discover its rich cultural roots and artful heritage safeguarded as well as embodied by its wonderful people."

A re-discovery of Baguio in this way will inspire a deeper, more personal appreciation and respect for our home, " he said./ *Paul Rillorta*

Kakampi Mo Ang Batas**...from page 5**

known that Maj. Gen. Edmundo Pangilinan, Philippine Army 6th Infantry Division chief, had declined the SAF's request for even an indirect artillery fire. However, since Purisima was already preventively suspended and was not part of the PNP command line, it fell on those who were with the President on January 25 to brief the Chief Executive and provide vital in-

formation as they had direct contact with the ground commanders."

-ooo-

REACTIONS?

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Live Out the True Spirit...**from page 10**

But what is more ironic and which leaves an impression that the present regime of BS Aquino is afraid of People Power was the overpowering presence of state security forces at the EDSA Shrine during the EDSA I anniversary. It appears that President Aquino is forgetting our nation's history. His mother, former President Cory Aquino, ascended to power because of the people. The commemoration of People Power I is not simply a visit and mass attended by government officials. It is about the people by the millions from all walks of life who toppled a dictator out of Malacanang. It is then important and politically correct to state that this commemoration belongs to the people. Limiting the commemoration by putting barricades because of a paranoia and self-serving interest is a move undermining and reducing the courage and heroism of the Filipino people. The activity should have served to educate the younger generation on important dates and events in our history.

Why should President Aquino be

afraid of people gathering to celebrate the victories of People Power I if he thinks and believes that his slogan *Daang Matuwid* brought significant changes to the people? President Aquino must be weary of the growing dissatisfaction and the people's demand for his resignation and ouster from his presidency. President Aquino failed to curb corruption; reduce hunger and poverty; distribute land to the landless; provide employment; stabilize peace and order; deliver basic social services; end development aggression, and failure to respect and protect the people from being killed, arrested, tortured and detained simply because of their being critical of the government.

The worsening plight of the people and BS Aquino's self-serving actions are legitimate and just grounds for the people to demand resignation and ouster. This is the best time for President Aquino to leave his post before the people start to gather in millions in every corner of the country to demand that he steps down from Malacanang./ *CPA-PR*

Council Wants...**from page 3**

possibility of petitioning for 25 percent of the assets which CJHDevCo would relinquish to the BCDA, should a regional trial court confirms the arbiters' ruling," Yangot said.

JHMC chairman of the board Silvestre Afable Jr., in a letter to the mayor, confirmed that in ruling for the turn-over of the whole leased premises to the BCDA, the arbitral court stated that "it should be 'inclusive of all new constructions and permanent

improvements introduced during the term of the Lease as reckoned from the execution of the Original Lease Agreement" or October 19, 1996 'in good and tenable condition.'"

Mayor Domogan earlier also brought up the possibility of the city seeking share from the assets to be turned over to the BCDA but said the city's decision and consequent action will have to wait until the ruling is finalized./ *A Refuerzo*

Expat Karateka...**from page 10**

Chees handed P20,000 to keep the couple afloat while their baby recuperates towards a possible surgery to mend his heart.

At a loss on where to turn to for help, Tweeny earlier e-mailed Chees. In his reply, the Germany-based Igorot martial artist from Maligcong, Bontoc, Mt., Province, made no commitment to help and surprised the couple with his hospital visit upon his arrival here.

Two other babies in the ward became instant beneficiaries. Three-month old Jhon Alfred Santos of Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija who was fighting pneumonia and sepsis, got an oxygen tank and suction machine he needed at home once discharged from the hospital.

The benefactor then reimbursed the medical expenses totaling PP759 for Lord Ashley Palinos Agagen, a month-old baby afflicted with hydrocephaly.

His first stop was in Dantogan Barangay here to deliver P10,000 to widow Ofelia Nalos who had just lost her husband, Leonardo who passed only last Jan., 4 after surviving for months on hemodialysis treatment for kidney failure. Shoshin earlier paid P5,000 for the plot where the patient was buried.

He then extended P2,500 support to Jeannie Chomacog Acosta who was diagnosed for P2,500.

In Bontoc, he provided emergency funds for Kendra Franco, Jaime Tumatak, Lee Joy Pokis, Ahmid Onggao and Clarineth Galap, either for their or their children's medications.

In the wake of super-typhoon Yolanda's wrath, Chees found his way to Capiz province in December, 2013 where he, in coordination with a crew sent by the Benguet Electric Cooperative to restore lines and Fr. Niel Olano of the St. Martin Church, delivered P1 million worth of rice and cash to the howler's victims in Dumalag and Tapaz towns.

Back in Baguio, he turned over what remained of his fund - P100,000 - to the fund drive mounted by the Baguio Midland Courier for the typhoon victims.

"Sensei (Master) Chees (has been collecting donations on his seminars throughout Germany for the needed in his homeland and it is not easy for him to beg for money (for the sick children and grown-ups in the Philippines again and again." foundation secretary Renate Doth told this writer early last year.

As of February last year, the foundation had distributed some P4.5 million pesos as support to indigent patients here and in other parts of the Cordillera./ *Ramon Dacawi*

People's Summit...**from page 1**

forest covers are dwindling. All the more, should we plant more trees, he said, citing a donation of 500,000 seedlings. Reforestation should be done in parks and denuded areas, and in BLISTT boundaries he added.

A study done reveals that city forest covers in 1988 is 43.14% of the total area, 26.45% in 1998, and 15.84% in 2009.

The first multi-sectoral planning in September, three months after the temblor that shook the city and surrounding areas.

In the years that followed, the Baguio-La Trinidad-Itogon-Sablan and Tuba (BLIST) links were established. Tublay was newly added to the group with aims of development for the Baguio-Benguet area. An inner and outer circumferential road was envisioned and partially constructed.

In 2012, an environmental summit was conducted and later the city land use plan (CLUP) were made./ *Julie G. Fianza*

Adolescent Health...**from page 6**

health programs and activities; strengthen collaborative activities with other agencies; intensify activities on promoting awareness on reproductive health and for the local government units to establish and sustain adolescent-friendly centers after being equipped during trainings conducted by agencies.

The workshop facilitated by Virginia Anceno of the National Economic and Development Authority, was participated by representatives from the Department of Health, Philippine National Red Cross, Philippine Information Agency, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Commission on Population, Dept. of Social Welfare and Development, National Nutrition Council, Benguet State University, Luzon Health, Dept. of Agriculture, SLU Sunflower Children's Center, National Youth Commission, Cordillera Youth Leaders, and Family Planning Organization of the Philippines Baguio-Benguet./ *JDP/MAWC-PIA CAR*



COMPUTER LITERACY FOR THE BAGUIO'S FINEST - Members of the Baguio City Police Office undertake computer literacy course to ease their burden on paper works for fast and efficient service in maintaining peace and order in the city/By Bong Cayabyab

Live Out the True Spirit of People Power: Genuine Change and Power to People

The Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) joins the rest of the Filipino people in remembering February 25 as a day of victory against tyranny, repression and oppression from the regime of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos. We commemorate the 29th anniversary of EDSA People Power I to honor our people who stood up against wanton corruption, grave human rights violations, all-out war policy, plunder and destruction of ancestral lands and natural resources. We also commemorate EDSA I as a reflection that change can happen with people power. But more importantly, we commemorate EDSA I as one of the platforms for the people to demand genuine change.

CPA laments that 29 years after the EDSA I when the people toppled a despotic dictator and regime due to massive corruption; widespread discontent; repression; systematic violations of human rights; and the operationalization of all-out war against the growing

people's protest, indigenous peoples of the Cordillera continue to assert and defend their right to their ancestral lands and resources against destructive projects as the Moro people also continue their struggle for their right to self-determination in Mindanao, nothing much have change.

Today, 29 years after, the very reasons for the People Power remains the realities of the present time and the situation is even worsening. For 29 years, political leadership has rotated among the ruling elite which did not end any of the abuses suffered by the majority of our population during the Martial Law period. The CPA has been critical to this system which results in the systematic violations of indigenous people's collective rights and human rights. CPA believes that genuine social change means a change of the current rotten system into a system where the majority of the people, including indigenous peoples, are truly represented and their rights are upheld.

Cont. on page 9

Unemployed Woman Deeds Dialysis Treatment Support

Despite practically having nothing - unemployed, separated from her husband for years and now staying with a seasonal farm laborer - 55-year hold Rosela Dalmacio of Camp 3, Tuba, Benguet would not have considered herself fit as a charity case.

Not until last October, when she was rushed to the hospital and doctors told her she had kidney failure. To survive, the medics said, she has to undergo life-time hemodialysis treatment twice a week, each lasting four hours and costing, at the least, P2,200 per session.

Kidney failure is one of the most debilitating diseases, not only physically but, on the part of family and kin, emotionally and financially. For thousands of ordinary families in this Third World, Having to scrounge for funds in time for the next dialysis after you had your latest is akin to being Cont. on page 9

Expat Karateka Sustains Out-Reach to Cordillera

A Cordillera expatriate has been coming home for the last 10 years to reach out to the sick and needy here, the latest of whom were patients at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center and the Mountain Province General Hospital in Bontoc town.

Sensei Julian Chees, a sixth dan traditional karate master and former world champion, was home again early this year to prop up nine patients, mostly infants and children he visited at the pediatric wards of the two medical institutions.

The visit was pure relief for young Baguio couple KristianKerwin and TweenyDabucol who were squeezed dry by the medical needs of their baby, Winter Jaycen, who has been in and out of hospitals since last December for congenital heart ailment and complications.

From his Shoshin Kinderhilfe, a foundation he established in 2004, Cont. on page 9

The JUNCTION

Pahayagang Palaban!!!

Council to Review Cojuanco's TPLEX Re-routing Plan

BAGUIO CITY - The city council will further study and review the documents presented by former 5th District of Pangasinan Rep. Mark Cojuanco during the Monday's city council session in order to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed re-alignment to the original plan of Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway.

Cojuanco stressed that his proposal to re-align the last phase of TPLEX will help ease traffic congestion along Kennon Rd. and Marcos Highway and at the same time reduce traffic jam situations in Rosario, La Union.

He pointed out the reason for their objection to the original plan of the DPWH is because a large number of private properties will be affected most especially that of indigenous people.

"Private properties will be compromised in the said project and there was no any public hearing conducted to take into consideration the interest of

the local community of Sison, Pangasinan. That, being the case, there will be a big possibility to get an in-junction and that would serve no one, the project will be delayed and we will lose," added Cojuanco.

He further explained the re-alignment may be far-away compared to the original plan, but it will mean saving more time, gasoline and toll fee for those going to the Cordilleras.

Cojuanco revealed that the re-routing of TPLEX can one way or another help address the problems in solid waste since there is a land which can be accessed by different cities and municipalities to be used as an engineered sanitary landfill.

The city council is expected to further study and review to come up with a resolution regarding the TPLEX.

Cojuanco hopes that the council will support his proposal with the same support he got from mayor Mauricio Domogan./ Jho Arranz

The JUNCTION

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