

Want to know more about the cult – Jehovah's Witness? Visit www.carm.org/jehovahs-witnesses
This advertisement is paid for by Pastor Jules Samaniego of the Good Samaritan Everlasting Christian Ministry Email : gsecministry@yahoo.com

THE JUNCTION

WEEKEND

www.junctionnews.com

Pahayagang Palaban!!!

P8.00

MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Baguio City's Drug Lord Gets Life Term

"This Court has to condemn, as a matter of duty, the accused to a life in prison where he shall be of harm to society no more. The streets of Baguio City has become a little safer from one notorious drug pusher less, a small measure of comfort but greatly attributable to the seamless efforts of this Court's Prosecutor Ma. Lourdes D. Soriano and the concerned PDEA agents," declared Judge Antonio Reyes of the Baguio City drug court in a 15-page decision sentencing Bernardo Oliveros alias "Bernie", the so-called "Baguio City's drug lord", to life term and ten million pesos penalty for unlawful sale of a dangerous drug.

Nearly two years prior to conviction, Oliveros, then 56, married, elementary graduate, businessman, native of Baguio City and resident of No. 38 San Carlos Heights, Irisan, Baguio City, was busted on September 6, 2011 by Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) – Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) agents, at that time led by now PDEA – CAR Assistant Regional Director Gil Cesario Castro, at Trancoville, Baguio City, thru the active support of the City Anti-drug Abuse Council headed by its chairman, Mayor Mauricio Domogan of Baguio City.

"This is a display of collective efforts from stakeholders supporting PDEA to achieve its goal," averred Dir. Castro.

The nailing of the "godfather" of organized local drug

Cont. on page 6



ASIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' MEETING - La Trinidad, Benguet Mayor Edna Tabanda welcomes the delegates of the 29th Asian Parliamentarian's Meeting Population and Development and Study Visit on High Level Dialogue on Population and Development in a Culturally Pluralistic Society held at La Trinidad Municipal Hall August 30. Ifugao Congressman Teddy Baguilat was the keynote speaker while Secretary to the Mayor Raffy Tallocoy (seated at the head table) represented Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the meeting./ By Bong Cayabyab

Dapat mas marami pa na mga drug pushers and masentensyahan!!!



Baby Needs Liver Transplant **page 2**

Fourth Attempt for City Charter Change **page 3**

Market's New Scheme Expected...p8

Dumpsite Wall Completed; Eco-Park Conversion Next – Mayor...p3

FAIR AND SQUARE

COMPLAINT WAS NOT BARE OF PROOFS

page 5

BY: ATTY. JAMES VALEROS



Mayor to Dog Owners; Keep Your Pets on A Leash **page 2**

BCDA, JHMC and DepEd Ink Usufruct Agreement on John Hay Lot For School Building **page 3**

RIP Pork: Lawmaker Bent on Ensuring Passage to Abolish Pork **page 2**

Study Proposed on Redevelopment of Session Road **page 3**

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

ASSAULT ON PRESS FREEDOM

page 4

BY: JESUS DUREZA



Baby Needs Liver Transplant

Kurt Xylo Lehoc, a nine-month old baby, is in need of liver transplant, but his parents, both minors, know not how, who and where to turn to for help.

Distraught, his mother, Rosemarie, 15, turned to media. She's hoping people in the know would read of her baby's plight and guide her to which institution or agency helps work out liver transplant so Kurt can be in the waiting list of organ recipients.

The clinical abstract, issued after the toddler was hospitalized last May, pointed to "decompensated liver disease secondary to biliary atresia; sepsis (Escheria coli); health care associated pneumonia".

The findings are far beyond a baby's endurance, or a mother's capacity to accept. "Decompensated liver disease" meant Kurt Xylo's liver has been damaged and can hardly function. Biliary atresia is a rare disease characterized by the blockage of bile that should normally flow from the liver to the gallbladder.

According to emedicinehealth, "sepsis is a condition in which the body is fighting a severe infection that has spread via the bloodstream". WebMD says "pneumonia is a lung infection that can make you very sick".

In a social case study report she prepared, social welfare officer Jacqueline Tupong noted that the baby was recommended for a liver transplant. Such delicate procedure is done in Japan, estimated to cost P5 million.

Baby Kurt, his mother, her three sisters and her brother stay in their father's house at 192 Km. 3, Asin Road, Baguio City. Reynaldo Lehoc Sr., the family patriarch, is the sole breadwinner. He earns between P2,000 to P3,000 a month as photographer.

As they're minors, the baby's parents can not yet legally marry. They live apart but Kurt's father, who is in senior high school, visits mother and child after his class.

People who can help this young couple save Kurt may ring up Rosemarie's cellphone - 09305769826/Ramon Dacawi.

RIP Pork: Lawmaker Bent on Ensuring Passage to Abolish Pork

Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano is determined to push for the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4 which seeks to abolish the pork barrel system.

"I will not let anyone derail the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4. The Million People March shows that it is not enough to say 'We are listening to the people'. We need to act now," he said.

The Senator recently filed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4 amidst calls for a thorough inquiry into the alleged P10-billion pork barrel scandal, seeking an end to the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) and pushing to reveal, investigate, and prosecute those involved in the pork barrel scam (R.I.P. Pork).

Cayetano also called on fellow lawmakers to open their books to state auditors for greater

transparency and accountability in the 16th Congress.

"The clamor for transparency is great. Let us be transparent. Those tagged in the issue should be willing to submit themselves to questioning during an investigation in the spirit of transparency, accountability and reform," he said.

"(Sa investigation, lahat ng lead kailangan mong sundan. So if it leads to the door of a senator or a congressman, whether

'AlkanSSSy' program Launched in City's Public Market

BAGUIO CITY - the social Security System (SSS) launched Tuesday (August 27) the AlkanSSSy program in this mountain resort for the city's public market vendors.

The program is a micro savings program designed for the self-employed and informal sector workers who wish to enroll with the government owned-insurance system.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan, Councilor Elaine Sembrano and key officials of the SSS in the person of AVP Josie Magana, OIC-Luzon Operations Group, AVP Luis Olais, Head,

pamilya niya o staff niya o kamag-anak niya o siya mismo ang ipatawag ng NBI, huwag silang matatakot at ang senador naman hindi niya dapat isipin na insulto ito kung hindi part of the investigation lang," Cayetano pointed out.

It was in line with his call for lawmakers to submit themselves to investigations on the PDAF scam that Cayetano slammed the decision of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee not to allow the questioning of senators tagged in the scan-

Luzon North Division and SSS Baguio Branch head Benjamin Lopez spearheaded the soft launching of the program to three market vendors associations.

The market vendors were represented by FABVAI President Nenita Querido, Block 3 vendors president Ada Alvarado and BASSVEMPCO President Feliciano Agaton and first to enroll with the program.

The number of enrollees for the program is yet to be determined.

Cabinet-like piggy banks will be used to help its members save-up on premiums and eventually reach P312 needed as

dal in its hearings which will begin on Thursday.

The Majority Leader stressed that the first step the Senate should take in order to protect its integrity as an institution representing the people is for all Senators to allow themselves to be questioned and investigated during the Blue Ribbon hearings most especially those whose names have been linked to the Napoles scam.

Asked about senators' parliamentary immunity, Cayetano said: "Under the rules, we have the option to appear or not to appear before the investigating panel (and be questioned). But under the same rules, we also have the option to waive this rule."

The Senator said that moves to shield members of the Senate from the hearing will be unfair to the Filipino people clamoring for a thorough

monthly due.

The program offers a convenient remittance for market vendors who could drop as low as P10 to P20 per day in designated coin slots in a secured metal cabinet 'alkansssy'.

The individual savings inside the coin slot will then be counted at the end of every month and credited to each member's personal SSS account.

According to the SSS, the P10 or P15 savings a day will already be sufficient to cover for their monthly dues.

AlkanSSSy members will be issued a unified identification card which they can use when transacting business.

Cont. on page 7

and transparent investigation.

Cayetano has already opened his books to the public and allowed state auditors to scrutinize his use of the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) in the past years especially those not covered by the recently released Commission on Audit (COA) report. He likewise urged his colleagues from both houses of Congress to do the same.

The Majority leader further suggested that Senators be willing to sign a waiver declaring that they will disclose to the public all their transactions involving public funds during the ongoing investigations.

"The best way to resolve the issue is for everyone to come clean. No excuses. No exemptions. I am urging all lawmakers to open their financial records to the public."

Cont. on page 7

Mayor to Dog Owners; Keep Your Pets on A Leash

BAGUIO CITY - the City Health Office (CHO) has reported an alarming increase in "dog bite" incidence in this mountain resort over the past months.

City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (CESU) head Dr. Donabelle Tubera during the Alay sa Kalinisan (ASKI) meeting revealed dog bite cases in the city has increased dramatically and now ranks second in morbidity for the first semester of 2013.

Tubera said, "at least 1,670 dog bites to humans have been recorded in the different barangays of the city."

Among the barangays with the highest dog bite cases are Irisan with 471, Asin Road with 201, Camp 7 with 174, Bakakeng Central with 164, Loakan Proper with 130, Fairview Village with 127, San Luis Village with 123, Kias with 101, Bakakeng North with 84, Paddal with 83, Pinget with 80, Pinsao Proper with 75, Dominican-Mirador with 74 and Gribaltar and Dontogan with 70 cases each.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan advised the public to beware of stray dogs and ordered the City Veterinary Office (CVO) to step-up its campaign in impounding dogs most especially in barangays reported to have high incidence of dog bites.

Domogan said, "dog owners should also be responsible enough to have their dogs vaccinated and restrain them from roaming around in public."

"Our barangay officials should also do their part in reminding their constituents to help in our campaign by putting their dogs on a leash and ensuring that dogs are confined within the owner's fenced surroundings," he said.

Authorities meantime advise the public to immediately wash the wound with soap and water if bitten and seek medical attention.

Under Republic Act 9482 or the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007, owners of dogs who have bitten an individual should report immediately the incident to concerned officials for appropriate action and place their dogs under observation.

The dog owner should also assist the dog bite victim and shoulder all medical expenses incurred including incidental expenses relative to the victims injuries.

In order to prevent such incidents, the Department of Health and the City Veterinary Office is conducting massive information and education campaign including anti-rabies vaccinations and pet neutering to control the city's dog population.

City Veterinary Officer Dr. Brigitte Piok said, "employees from her department are visiting residential areas yearly to offer vaccinations and promote the anti-rabies campaign."

Piok said, "the yearly campaign is part of prevention measures which the city implements to keep rabies at bay."/ paul rillorta



THE JUNCTION

Bing Dawang - Editor (on leave)

Freddie J. Farres - Consultant

Support Staff: Regular Columnists:

Nelson Tuano Atty. James S. Valeros

Danilo B. Javier Atty. Batas Mauricio

Gerry P. Binwagan Atty. Jesus Dureza

John T. Bagayan Arturo Boquiren

Orwen L. Trazo Emilio Liwanen

Annabelle Pedronio Nestor A. Castro

Mike Lucban

The Junction is printed and published by Farco Trimedia Ventures, Inc. (FTV, Inc.) every weekend, with office address at Ambucloa Road, Sitio Marooc, Itogon Benguet, and c/o Linis Gobyemo, Bldg. 2 Ground Floor PCEC Bldg., Happy Homes, Campo Sico, Baguio City; Mobile Phone No. (0917) 5069123 Tel. No. (074) 442 - 3583 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

Website: www.junctionnews.com

Member:



Press Foundation of Asia
Philippine Press Institute
Beyond Borders Reporting

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

*Our articles and stories (news/features) are ready to go for printing without the involvement of the editor and publisher who happen to be on leave.

Dumpsite Wall Completed; Eco-Park Conversion Next – Mayor

BAGUIO CITY – The restoration of the collapsed retaining wall at the Irisan dump facility has been completed and the city can begin the process of converting the area into an eco-park, Mayor Mauricio Domogan announced on Wednesday.

The mayor said he inspected the site last week and found that the project funded by the P80 million approved by President Benigno S. Aquino III and undertaken by the Baguio City District Engineering Office of the Dept. of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has been finished.

The project was intended to rehabilitate the collapsed wall into a more sturdy structure that could withstand strong typhoons and heavy rains and stabilize the dump facility preparatory to its conversion into a nature park.

The work started last January and was finished right on target which according to BCDEO project facilitator Engr. John Paul Buliyat was set for August this year.

The project's scope of work consisted of structure excavation; rock excavation; construction of box culvert, open canal, canal with gratings and pathwalk; reinforced concrete retaining wall; litter fence; embankment and benching and stabilization of slope; grouting works; sewer pipes and drain pipes; final cover/top soil; gas vents; suction pump; manhole; and hauling of materials.

Now that the site has been stabilized, the city can now pursue its plan to convert the area into a nature park as part of the final closure plan for the facility.

He said the city will allot an amount in the 2014 budget to implement the conversion of the site into an eco-park based on the upgrading plan being prepared for the purpose. /A Refuerzo

Fourth Attempt for City Charter Change

BAGUIO CITY – The city will take yet another crack at having its age-old charter amended as Rep. Nicasio Aliping Jr. agreed to refile the bill in Congress, Mayor Mauricio Domogan said on Wednesday.

This will be the city's fourth attempt to update its charter. Domogan during his term as congressman filed the bill twice but the legislations did not go beyond the Lower House.

Former Rep. Bernardo Vergara refiled Domogan's bill which managed to get past the Lower House and the Senate but the same was vetoed by President Benigno S. Aquino to the surprise of the city officialdom and Senate Committee on Local Government chair Senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr. who went out of his way to push for the passage of the bill.

"We are happy that Congressman Aliping committed to refile the bill so that we will have another chance to amend our outdated charter and of course to further improve the provisions that were questioned by the President," the mayor said.

Aquino in his veto message to the House of Representatives dated January 17 said the intention of the bill was "laudable" but the provisions "are all covered by the present Local Government Code."

The President also questioned the provisions on the disposition of alienable and disposable land which he said "impinge on the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources" (DENR) exclusive mandate over control and supervision of (these) lots and run counter to the laws governing the disposition of townsite reservations."

He also said it was not clear what entity will be in charge of disposal alienable and disposable lots and further questioned the provision that proceeds from the sale of lands through miscellaneous sales applications shall accrue to the city and not to the national treasury.

Aquino also said that some of the provisions of the bill run counter to the Bases Convention and Development Authority (BCDA) Act of 1992 on the matter of disposition of properties already transferred to the BCDA.

Cont. on page 7

Study Proposed on Redevelopment of Session Road

BAGUIO CITY – Two aldermen have proposed the conduct of a comprehensive study for the redevelopment of Session Road for tourism purposes.

Councilors Elmer Datuin and Richard Carino in a proposed resolution said it is high time "to consider the redevelopment and upgrade of Session Road to keep up with the present situation and to prepare the city for the future in its development plan."

"The redevelopment may focus on the possibility of having a one-way traffic direction at Session Road with regulated parking, expanded pedestrian walkway, with greeneries and the possibility of removing the center island," the aldermen noted.

They said the redevelopment project should provide "economic and tourism benefits for a revitalized Session Road with an improved traffic and an increased pedestrian walkability. The expanded pedestrian walkway will be come comparable to the best walkways all over the world."

"Experiences from big cities all over the world in streetscape improvement will show that a redevelopment of a principal street to a lesser congested area for traffic and pedestrian will give great benefits in terms of economic and tourism potential," the aldermen noted.

If approved, the comprehensive study will be done through the city planning and development office in collaboration with other departments tasked in urban planning or may also be contracted out experienced urban planners in the city.

The aldermen said results of the study will guide the executive and legislative departments in the implementation of the development plan for Session Road.

Session Road is a "historical and heritage site of the city being one of the first main streets established and used in the early years of the city."

"Session Road has grown through the years and has become the main hub of the City's Central Business District with all its commercial establishments apart from being a favorite walking area for local residents, students and tourist,

"The city's population has increased and Session Road as the principal street cannot any longer cope with the increasing pedestrian users for its walkways and motor vehicles are more often congested as they traverse the two-way vehicle lane," thus the need for a redevelopment, the aldermen said.

The proposal will be discussed by the city council in its next session. /A Refuerzo



ALKANSSSYA PROGRAM - Social Security System (SSS) Luzon Operations Group OIC/AVP Josie Magana and Luzon North Division head AVP Luis Olais hand over the ceremonial key during the turnover of AlkanSSSYa Keys to D' Pioneer Block 3 president Ada Alvarado and FABVAI president Nenita Querido while Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Councilor Elaine Sembrano look on. The market vendors signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the SSS where its members will pay their minimum SSS contribution through ALKANSSSYa remitting from P10 to P20 daily./By Bong Cayabyab

BCDA, JHMC and DepEd Ink Usufruct Agreement on John Hay Lot For School Building

The state-owned Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and the John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC)—BCDA's implementing arm in the John Hay Special Economic Zone (JHSEZ) and John Hay Reservation Area (JHRA) announced that it had recently signed a usufruct agreement with the Department of Education (DepEd) for the latter's use of a lot within Camp John Hay to put up a school building.

"It is an honor for the BCDA to partner with DepEd Secretary Br. Armin Luistro FSC in pursuing DepEd's plans of providing the children of Baguio City better education and educational facilities," BCDA President Arnel Paciano D. Casanova said.

Under the usufruct agreement, BCDA will allow the DepEd to use 1,529 square meters of land for free for establishing a school building. The lot is located at Barangay Country Club and is within Camp John Hay.

According to Casanova, the establishment of a school building is in line with the development of Camp John Hay as a human resource development center.

Casanova noted that the lot will be used solely for support of the school building and other related purposes. He emphasized that the lot will not be used for commercial, industrial, residential, or entertainment purposes except for those business and activities providing support services and only to satisfy the needs and requirements of the learning institution.

For his part, Education Secretary Br. Armin Luistro FSC said that this will not be the first and last time that DepEd will be partnering with the BCDA on obtaining lots within John Hay. "We are going to explore with BCDA more usufructuary lots within John Hay for more school buildings," Luistro said.

He added that plans are underway to ensure that Baguio City will be a city where there will be no out-of-school youth. "The partnership we have with BCDA in putting up the needed facilities will allow us to achieve our goal for the people of Baguio," Luistro said.

Casanova also pointed out that some of the public school buildings within the John Hay area are built near cliffs and may be prone to landslides not to mention the high risk and danger to the children who may fall. "Our partnership with DepEd will solve this problem and assure the safety of the children," he said.

Casanova added that aside from school buildings, the BCDA is looking into usufruct agreements with DepEd for training centers as well. /BCDA PR

When the strong weep

How would Sen. Jose Diokno (1922-1987) see those six tarred senators who twisted in the wind at Monday's rallies against the pork barrel scam?

If historian Ambeth Ocampo were born 30 years earlier, he regretted, he could have watched Diokno or Sen. Claro Recto debate. The Senate then had a Lorenzo Tañada, an Emmanuel Pelaez, a Jovito Salonga.

Not anymore. Scam mastermind Janet Lim-Napoles "asked me to pick up a Montblanc pen from Rustan's," said Whistleblower No. 9. She paid P65,000 in cash and had the senator's name engraved. So, "did Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. brag to Sen. Jinggoy Estrada: My pen is mightier than yours"? Dr. Carolina Camara of Butuan e-mailed.

"More important" than Montblanc pens is what "induced [Senator Diokno's family] to shed tears," wondered President Aquino in an *Inquirer* interview on the 30th anniversary of his father's murder.

Diokno and Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. vanished from their Fort Bonifacio cells and

EDITORIAL

their personal effects were returned without explanation. "Will

he not need his toothbrush?" Corazon Aquino asked stone-faced jailors. Over 42 days, the two families searched.

Blindfolded and handcuffed to escorts, Diokno and Aquino were secretly helicoptered to Nueva Ecija. "Their escorts had .45 pistols pointed at the midsection of both my dad and Senator Diokno," P-Noy recalls. "They didn't know where they were being brought."

Aquino smuggled "A challenge to martial law" that the Bangkok Post published in a three-part series. Reprisals followed. They were half-starved to death in solitary confinement at Fort Magsaysay.

"I admire the Dioknos," P-Noy added. "They are tougher than us. As tough as us at the very least. But when I saw them step out of [the Fort Magsaysay] building, they were in tears. A few minutes later, the 13-year-old Aquino and his family saw why Carmen Icasiano-Diokno and her family had wept.

They saw, behind cell bars, Benigno Aquino Jr. "He had no glasses. He was unshaven, no watch, no ring... He held on to his pants because he lost so much weight," P-Noy told Lifestyle editor Thelma Sioson San Juan. "He was so pleased to see us, very emotional."

The strong weep, too. Tears of the Dioknos and Aquinos remind us of what the gospels report: Before the tomb of his friend Lazarus, "Jesus wept."

Nonsense, Imelda Marcos insists. The "New Society" ushered in the most democratic regime the Philippines ever knew. Move over, Imelda. There's a new kid on the block. The Net is awash with uploads of 21-year-old Jeane Napoles' bash at Beverly Hills. They display multiple Porsche cars, million-peso watches, a clutch bag costing roughly P400,000 and—how did you guess?—nine pairs of shoes costing P360,000 each.

Another showed shopping sprees in other countries. Imelda has no franchise on foreign homes. The Napoles admit they "co-own" a \$7-million hotel near Disneyland in Los Angeles, California. The photos were hastily scrubbed from the Net. But not before Kim Henares of the Bureau of Internal Revenue said they were asking some questions. No problem if the right tax is paid.

See those mindsets in the context of the letter that Diokno wrote from his prison cell in 1972: "True, there is little that men of goodwill can do now to end the madness that holds our nation in its grip. But we can, even now, scrutinize our past; try to pinpoint where we went wrong; determine what led to this madness and what nurtured it; and how, when it ends, we can make sure that it need never happen again. For this madness must end—if not in my lifetime, at least in yours."

The Manila airport murder of Ninoy triggered the revolt against the Marcos dictatorship. People Power installed Aquino's widow as president. Equally hesitant about seeking election, her son is now the 15th Philippine president. These events blur memories of Diokno's towering role in governance. Thus, it is right that P-Noy remind our children of this IOU for Diokno.

Martial law in September 1972, aborted Diokno's second term as senator. After two years of detention, he was released without charges being filed. He passed away a year after the Marcos regime collapsed.

Our grandchildren have no memories of Diokno. In future history classes, we hope they'll glimpse what this Filipino did for them. For now, their lolo tries to bridge the gaps with stories culled from experience.

One was of Press Foundation of Asia chats among journalists that Diokno often joined. What about martial law? fretted publisher Joaquin "Chino" Roces. "Marcos can create a throne of bayonets," Diokno said. "But how long can he sit on it?"

Fourteen years, it turned out. Those years included a 1972 Supreme Court hearing for a petition for habeas corpus by detained officials, including Diokno, and journalists, like us. We don't recall now the question posed by the pro-Marcos justice. But Diokno's answer is seared into our minds: "We beg leave to submit a memorandum of reply since our answer now would be unprintable."

That was unvarnished Diokno. And our children need that spirit more today. Despite being tarred by the dictatorship's abuses and today's pork scam, Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. jostles to make a bid for the presidency come 2016. What would a Jose Diokno say?

In Monday's rallies against those who pigged out on the pork barrel, we hear Diokno's blunt comments re-echo, from prison and that 1972 Supreme Court hearing: "This madness must end—if not in my lifetime, at least in yours..." (And) "we beg leave to submit a memorandum of reply since our answer right now is unprintable." /E-mail: juan_mercado77@yahoo.com/Juan L. Mercado



ADVOCACY MINDANOW

ASSAULT ON PRESS FREEDOM

BY: JESUS DUREZA



Here's a planned assault on press freedom that the Philippine press must fight AGAINST to the end.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada filed Senate Bill No. 380 that would require journalists to pass professional exams before they are allowed or accredited to practice their profession like doctors, lawyers, engineers or other professionals. Those who fail the exams will not be accredited.

We don't know what prompted the good senator to do this. He ought to know that journalism is a distinct calling or craft that enjoys special and full protection accorded by the Philippine Constitution itself. Everyone is free to write and express his views under the principle of free speech. He doesn't have to get prior permits to write and express his opinions or views. One can even publish his own newspaper freely without securing any prior permit or license. In fact, journalists are so free they are free to even make fools of themselves, if they so wish. Prior restraint is a constitutional no-no! That's what freedom of the press is all about.

Of course, a journalist will be liable AFTER for what he writes (*libel or civil cases for damages*) but PRIOR restraint is anathema to press freedom.

This is not to be construed however that journalists are free to malign and libel anyone. There is a recourse given to the public for redress. Civil and criminal cases can be filed against them AFTER PUBLICATION and this does not constitute infringement of the freedom of the press. PRIOR RESTRAINT before publication is what the constitution does not countenance.

RADIO AND TV — A slight distinction however will have to be made between print media and electronic media (radio and TV). In the latter case, frequencies have to be approved by government (specifically by the National Telecommunications Commission) before radio or TV stations can broadcast. Government may regulate them or even remove them from the air, if need be. Even movies and shows have to get the approval of the government (*in this case the MTRCB*) and can be priorly censored.

MY LIBEL CASE — I have spent more than one half of my whole lifetime doing presswork — as a reporter, stringer, correspondent, columnist, editor and now publisher — in between forays in government and lawyering. Some media friends had been saying that a veteran journalist is measured by the number of libel cases filed against him. I don't have much to brag about on this. Except one libel case that is unforgettable. That happened before Martial Law when PRESIDENT MARCOS filed a case for libel against the MANILA TIMES and his nemesis, SEN. NINOY AQUINO. I just happened to be an unknown reporter from Davao City getting caught in their battle of giants.

Let me recall. I was then Davao correspondent of the Manila TIMES before Martial Law and taking up law at Ateneo de Davao Law School. One day, I got a personal long distance call from no less than the venerable CHINO ROCES, Times publisher himself telling me to cover Senator NINOY who was scheduled to speak in a Davao political rally at the Rizal Park. (*Ninoy obviously was Chino's "fair haired boy" having started his public career as a young TIMES correspondent covering the Korean War*). He was to expose the alleged unexplained wealth of President MARCOS citing several mansions and properties here and abroad. It was to be the initial salvo against the President. But since the speech would be made late in the evening and beyond deadline time for the following day's **Cont. on page 7**

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

*Good eyesight, key to
good children's
education*

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "Train the child in the way that he should go and he will never depart from it when he goes old..." (Proverbs 22:6, the Holy Bible).

-000-

GOOD EYESIGHT, KEY TO CHILDREN'S CAPACITY TO LEARN: Classifying the intelligence levels, or, maybe, the capacity to learn, of millions and millions of very young Filipino school children across the country has taken a very important, if greatly interesting, twist, as the National Capital Region of the Department of Education is finding out.

With the help of well-meaning friends from here and abroad, particularly from a group of socio-civic spirited citizens composed of medical doctors and professionals which goes by the name of Physicians for Peace Philippines, Metro Manila education officials are realizing that, having a good eyesight, or, conversely, having problems with their eyes, play a vital role in the child's interest and ability to absorb and understand what is being taught to him and his school mates.

Now, it is no longer a simple matter of the school children being taught how to read and write, or even add or subtract. With the help of Physicians for Peace under the leadership of its executive director, Lyne Abanilla of the Manila Bulletin, it has become a matter of determining, first and foremost, the eye condition of the children through free refraction, and then giving them free eyeglasses to correct their sight defect or impairment, through a program called "Save the Sight of a Child".

-000-

QC SCHOOL CHOSEN FOR "SAVE THE SIGHT OF A CHILD": This kind of a vision correction program among the young was officially launched in Metro Manila schools last August 27, 2013, after two postponements caused by the onslaught of Typhoon Maring and the monsoon rains the week before. The school chosen to be the pilot testing ground for the program is the Kamuning Elementary School in Scout Torillo, Quezon City.

Eye defects, it turned out, disabled many students from seeing clearly, thereby removing or greatly diminishing their capacity to read and fully appreciate what their teachers were teaching them. Once they were given corrective eyeglasses, however, their capacity to understand their lessons vastly improved, making them eager pupils from then on.

Using this lesson, the Physicians-for-Peace Philippines has embarked in an effort to weed out eye defects among young school children. In various places in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, Abanilla had been bringing more eyeglasses, and an increasing number of eye doctor volunteers, to conduct the refraction and the examination of the eyes of the children.

-000-

BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN: These efforts are actually a part of a program which Abanilla and her colleagues at the Physicians-for-Peace and Rotary International have called as the "Save the Sight for a Child", an objective of which is empower teachers of pupils who are in public elementary schools across the country to know whether their wards are suffering from eye defects or not.

This program is now furiously, albeit slowly, being realized. The doctor-volunteers are now teaching teachers with the rudiments of eye refraction, and how to list down the needed corrective glasses of their own pupils. The records of the children found with defects are then forwarded to Abanilla, who would then approve the issuance of the glasses.

Indeed, the whole exercise is turning out to be much more than a mere giving away of free eyeglasses to the youth. It was in fact a confirmation **Cont. on page 7**

FAIR AND SQUARE

*COMPLAINT WAS
NOT BARE OF
PROOFS*

BY: ATTY. JAMES VALEROS



In a Resolution dated 15 August 2013, the Peoples Law Enforcement Board (PLEB) in Baguio City exonerated P/Supt. James Logan in the administrative charges of Neglect of Duty, Misconduct and Incompetence.

Since the PLEB's Rules of Procedure do not allow complainant to appeal in this kind of a case, the resolution and verdict is final. I accept it, in fact, I have already extended my congratulatory hands to P/Supt. Logan. Nothing personal. However, since the rules also do not forbid complainants to disagree with the verdict of the Board, allow me to take this opportunity to differ.

The principal fact and issue in the complaint was whether or not the respondent, as Chief of Traffic, has implemented Administrative Order No. 162 issued by Mayor Domogan as Chairman of TTMC (Transportation and Traffic Management Committee) specifically, Item 22 and 23 of Page 6 thereof providing for the routes and loading area that Tuding-Mangga and Tuding-Bua jeepney operators should take and follow.

This complainant was of the position that from the time A.O. 162 was issued on 22 November 2011 up to time the Complaint was filed on 27 December 2012 or even after he was ordered in February 2013 by his superior, C/Supt. Magalong, to implement the same, the said provisions of A.O. 162 were never implemented by the respondent P/Supt. Logan.

As proofs thereof, this complainant submitted, among others: **1)** a letter dated 24 May 2012 addressed to P/Supt. James Logan requesting for the faithful implementation and compliance to A.O. 162 in behalf of Baguio-Tuding and Baguio-Ucab operators; **2)** a letter dated 3 Sept. 2012 addressed to Mayor Mauricio Domogan as TTMC Chairman calling the attention of the Committee that allowing the Tuding-Mangga jeepneys to use Upper Mabini St. as loading area and Gen. Luna Road as exit route is violative of A.O. 162; **3)** the fact offered that the respondent *was ordered* by C/ Supt. Benjamin Magalong in the presence of P/Supt. Jesus Cambay and myself sometime in the 1st week of February 2013 to implement A.O. 162 *which was never denied by the respondent*; **4)** twenty-three (23) photographs all dated 14 February 2013 *showing* that Tuding-Mangga and Tuding-Bua were still illegally using Upper Mabini Street as loading area and Gen. Luna as exit point notwithstanding the order given by C/Supt. Magalong and debunking his report to the TTMC that the Tuding-Mangga and Tuding-Bua operators were abiding with A.O. 162; **5)** the letter of Atty. Daniel Mangallay, counsel for Tuding-Mangga stating that his clients were surprised when personnel from the Traffic Management Branch *started* implementing A.O. 162, meaning that it was not being implemented before his letter; **6)** the testimony of Punong Barangay Michael Flores of Kabayanihan Barangay during the TTMC meeting on 7 September 2012 *admitting* that Tuding-Mangga and Tuding-Bua jeepneys together with those of Mines View Park were indeed using Upper Mabini Street as loading and unloading area;

Ironically, the Board failed to consider and adduce these evidences of the complainant, reason why it concluded that the complaint was but bare allegations. In contrast, it admitted the evidences of the respondent hook-line and sinker, thereby exonerating him based alone on: **1)** proofs of implementation of A.O. 162 performed and done mostly after the order given by C/ Supt. Magalong and none before the complaint was filed; **2)** a long list of his service schoolings and achievements, medals, commendations and awards received by the respondent, all of which have no bearing and materiality on the issue of whether or not Item No. 22 and 23, Page 6 of A.O. 162 were implemented.

Honestly, I anticipated that the Board will have no

Outstanding Citizens Feted

Sept. 1

BAGUIO CITY – For rendering outstanding community service in their own

fields of expertise, nine Baguio citizens including three in the military service shall be honored 8AM today, Sunday, Baguio's 104th charter day celebration, at the Baguio Convention Center.

The awardees were announced by Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the media Ugnayan at city hall last Wednesday.

Oscar Cadelina, the founding president of the Baguio-Benguet Public Information and Civic Action Group (BB-PICAG), Inc. which for 38 years has worked with and for Baguioites during times of calamities and other occasions shall receive the award in Community Service. Cadelina has also served the community through other roles such as a forester, businessman, researcher, consultant, lecturer, professor, member and Director of the Cordillera Executive Board (CEB), commissioner of the Northwestern Luzon Growth Quadrangle, and other socio-civic memberships.

Pines City National High School Principal Dr. Rachel Bugtong shall also receive the outstanding citizen award for community service and education. Dr. Bugtong as a dedicated teacher makes sure her students and teachers both grow in education and profession, and looks after their welfare within and outside of the four walls of the classroom.

She also made extra effort to make the physical surroundings comfortable for students in her school, oftentimes knocking on doors of benevolent individuals for this; and has linked with the community during times of need; through acts of kindness.

Henedino Luzano, better known as Jimmy Luzano, or Lolo Doro on the airwaves is one of the awardees; specifically for community service, in journalism. Working as a broadcaster, reporter, scriptwriter, announcer, commentator, program director and drama talent; he became the Station Manager of DzWX, and later the Area Manager for Northern Luzon of Bombo Radyo Philippines. He has retired from the radio station, but has now partnered with Ecarta Media Productions and Promotions, and a columnist with a daily newspaper in the city.

In the 80's he has served as negotiator for the release of military captives in Abra. Earlier, he is a recognized musician and bodybuilder; and now an active civic leader with community service through different organizations, including senior citizens' groups.

Baguio Country Club General Manager Anthony de Leon, is a tireless worker, a passionate endorser and up-lifter of tourism for the city. An involved sportsman, he supports golf, tennis, bowling, boardgames and airsoft, a sport with a group in Baguio he himself founded.

De Leon is considered a bastion of the tourism industry as he has successfully hurdled numerous trainings and development programs for hotels, restaurants and tourism endeavors, here and overseas. He has also served the community in various endeavors; through the Philippine National Red Cross, BB-PICAG, Silahis ng Pasko, Outreach programs, Monday Afternoon Club, Barangay Council, the Baguio Flower Festival and the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Baguio (HRAB), the Baguio Tourism Council.

Eye doctor and awardee Marcelino Dizon, Jr. reaches out through mission work and vision programs; in schools, at the city jail and the community as a whole. He also does research on Amblyopia, Istrabismus, Dilopia, Low Vision and vision-related problems. **Cont. on page 6**

guts or courage to find guilts in high ranking police officers. However, in this case, I did hope that, using the long list of awards and schoolings as mitigating circumstances, a reprimand is still appropriate and shall be awarded, if only to justify its true existence as a disciplining authority of the PNP.

Whatever, the only merit of the PLEB's Resolution that I find is that it was issued within the period prescribed under the rules. For this, kudos to PLEB in Baguio City!

Coop Sector Stakeholders Assess CDA Policy Directions

BAGUIO CITY - The Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) in the region convened various stakeholders to assess and evaluate the policy directions of the cooperative sector based on the medium term development plan.

CDA-Cordillera Officer-in-Charge Atty. Franco Bawang Jr. said the mid-assessment of the 2011-2016 Coop Medium Term Development Plan was undertaken to determine if CDA is on the right track in accomplishing what were indicated as planned, and if they are adhering to the policy directions. The coop MTPDP is now on its third year of implementation.

Representatives of federation and union coops, primary coops, line agencies, local government units and the respective municipal coop development councils came up with assessment based on their perspective.

There were still gaps identified that need to be addressed vis-à-vis the policy directions of the CDA as coop regulating agency in terms of the attainment of objectives, impact to coops, extent of program implementation and programs for coops towards transforming and integrating coop sector.

The five policy directions include strengthening and enhancing delivery mechanisms of CDA, providing and enabling environment for the strengthening and development of coops, ensuring local and global competitiveness of coops, promoting cooperativism as the vehicle for social transformation for people, planet prosperity and peace, and massive expansion of coop membership.

Bawang said the regional workshop outputs will be integrated to eventually lead to a common evaluation nationwide, and will be used for the updating of the Philippine Coop Medium Term Development Plan.

The Coop's MTPDP is anchored on the Philippine Development Plan of the government which translates the social contract of President Benigno S. Aquino with the Filipino people./JDP/SCA-

DSWD-CAR Assures Ample Family Packs, Emergency Fund for Any Emergency Situation

BAGUIO CITY - The Department of Social Welfare and Development in the Cordillera Region (DSWD-CAR) assured it has enough buffer stock of family packs and emergency assistance for any emergency situation.

DSWD - Cordillera Regional Director Leonardo Reynoso disclosed that their office maintains a minimum of P500,000 emergency assistance fund at any given time for emergency/disaster relief and response operation.

In addition, it maintains a stock pile of family packs in its regional office which are ready to augment stocks of the provincial government to ensure that each province maintains a buffer stock of at least 1,500 family packs for disposal during emergency.

Reynoso clarified that emergency response and relief in the local communities are now devolved to the local government units (LGUs).

"Bringing in relief to typhoon victims is the responsibility of the LGUs and the role of the DSWD is to assure that there are available relief goods or family packs that will be distributed in times of emergency", Reynoso said.

Meantime, Reynoso also reported that during the onslaught of typhoon Labuyo, DSWD provided around P1.8 million worth of relief assistance in the region- P375,000 each for the provinces of Abra, Apayao, Ifugao, Mountain Province and Kalinga. For the province Benguet, augmentation of family packs was delivered from the DSWD Regional Office in Baguio City.

Meanwhile, Reynoso reported that 245 families (around 800 persons) mostly from Lubong, Abra and Tublay, Benguet were affected by tropical storm Maring which intensified the Southwest monsoon last week.

Reynoso gave credit to the different LGUs and local disaster risk reduction and management councils, from the regional to the municipal level, for the faster responses through pre-emptive evacuation lessening loss of life and damage to properties./JDP/CCD- PIA CAR

Ifugao Lawmaker Supports Plan to Reform Pork Barrel System

LAGAWE, Ifugao - Ifugao Congressman Teddy Baguilat, Jr. is supportive to President Benigno Aquino's plan of reforming the pork barrel system and consolidate development projects in the national budget.

He said that with the overhaul of the pork barrel system, congressional district representatives will have to work to secure government approval of and funding for projects and programs badly needed in their respective cities or provinces.

"The removal of the pork barrel should not prevent us from lobbying for approval of our proposals and representatives should not be criticized for doing this because a big part of our job is to get funding for our own district," he said.

Baguilat disclosed that during his first term, he allocated P35.7 million for scholarships through the Ifugao State University and the Commission on Higher Education, more than P9M went to livelihood assistance, P5.2M for Philhealth assistance and more than P3M for medical assistance. The lawmaker prioritized education as this was demanded by the people of Ifugao.

Baguilat stressed that the Department of Budget Management under the Aquino administration limited the areas where the PDAF could be used placing priority on schools, roads and health facilities.

"The pork barrel has long been criticized for

being prone to abuse and corruption and perhaps it is high time to reform the system. But for Ifugao, the PDAF was used to help the province since local funds are not enough to cover the needs of the people," said Baguilat.

He stressed that in the absence of a pork barrel, he is committed to secure much needed funds for the province's specific needs through government agencies. (MBL,PIA-CAR/Ifugao)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING
AND REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City
SPS. BUSTAMANTE & ZENALDA HIDALGO
Applicants
Case No:2004-BAG-CAR-0061
NOTICE OF HEARING
This is an application of Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - CITY CAMP and Vice Versa with the use of One (1) Unit.
Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on September 18, 2013 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRB Office, Paadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.
At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant/s shall publish the NOTICE once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.
Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so desire, appear during the hearing.
This application shall be acted upon by the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.
WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER - Regional Director this 23rd day of August 2013.
(SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR
Attorney IV

Outstanding Citizens... from page 5

As the only sports vision specialist in Northern Luzon, Dr. Dizon, Jr. volunteered and is tasked to train and improve visual needs of national athletes.

Fred Fanganon who has pioneered eco-composting, and demonstrated this in Loakan Proper also receives an award in community service. Starting young, Fanganon has planted trees in his place of birth; and now produces organic fertilizers to grow fruits and luscious vegetables in his rooftop garden, and teaches others to follow suit.

Though a graduate of political science, a former Overseas Contract Worker, and a businessman, Fanganon is passionate about being a farmer and environmentalist, which he shares to the community through lectures, demonstration and technical innovations of the Eco-Composting Receptacle (ECR). He presently maintains said ECRs in Loakan and other areas of the city.

The awardees were chosen by the Society of Outstanding Citizens of Baguio (SOCOB), and in consonance with this year's theme, "Steadfast Service to the City."

Three soldiers join the list of awardees; Colonel Romeo Brawner, Jr, Major Daneck Dang-awan, and Police Superintendent Edgar Alan Okubo.

Baguio-born Col. Brawner, Jr., is a 1989 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, and has served the country for 24 years. He has seen combat in various parts of the country, and has been instrumental in the decrease of strength of the New People's Army. He has also joined in disaster rescue and relief missions, and livelihood advocacy programs in areas where he was assigned. His tour of duty includes being involved in medical-dental outreach, blood-letting, anti-insurgency and anti-criminality, and anti-drug campaigns in far-flung areas; and infra-structure projects such as medical and birthing center, and a two-classroom building.

Major Daneck Dang-awan is also a Baguio-born soldier working in the chaplain service where he pioneered the prayer walk, vesper divine services through music and neighborhood host bible studies. Other programs include brotherhood projects with Muslims, Mindanao street children ministry, Support a child - Save A Future ministry, Feeding program, and partnering with the Serving Neighbors Network for Out-Of-School-Youth, and the distribution of relief goods during times of calamities. This is in addition to his functions as evangelical chaplain and spiritual adviser to soldiers and their family and the community at large.

A graduate of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA), P/Supt. Edgar Alan Okubo has served the government for 22 years. His experience includes the pursuit of dangerous lawless elements and eventual capture and prosecution.

P/Supt. Okubo involves the community in crime-busting, as well as information and educational campaign through the calling-card project, the church and the faithful, and the Mag-aaral Kontra Krimen Project. Checkpoints against dissidents were also installed during his watch resulting to arrest of armed groups and confiscation of high-powered firearms; and the use of motorcycles for police officers riding-in-tandem projects, which resulted to easing of tension and peace of mind in the community.

The awardees shall be honored in the presence of Baguio boy Associate Justice Mario Victor Leonon who is this year's charter day speaker./juliegfianza

Baguio City ...**from page 1**

groups brought about the neutralization of the wide-ranging and deep-seated Oliveros drug group in the Cordillera Region, which he had led. From his humble beginning as a *probinsiyano* stowaway, he became the city's most powerful drug personality for a very long time.

Judge Reyes further convicted Oliveros to twelve years and one day to 20 years imprisonment, and a fine of four hundred thousand pesos, for having found guilty beyond any reasonable doubt of violating Section 11 (Possession of Dangerous Drugs) of Republic Act 9165 (The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002).

The decision by the First Judicial Region's Regional Trial Court Branch 61 in Baguio City dated August 20, 2013 also read, "The Jail Warden is hereby ordered to cause the immediate transfer of the accused Bernardo Oliveros to the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila, no matter what action he intends to take after the promulgation of this Decision."

The subject drugs of the cases were likewise ordered for destruction in accordance with law.

Regional Director Ronald Allan Ricardo of PDEA - CAR lauded the city prosecution for its outstanding performance leading to the conviction. In the same way, he welcomed the honorable court's guilty rulings to the notorious leader of the Oliveros local drug group.

According to Dir. Ricardo, "Once again, the forces of evil were defeated by our concerted efforts. We thank the action and vigilance of the prosecution and the court in safeguarding the case of public interest."

Oliveros, an elusive, seasoned drug dealings top dog was Number One in the Target List of Drug Personalities in the region and had already been a key player in the shabu trade in Baguio City by the late 1990's. He had long been the subject of various drug law enforcement operations in the region even before the birth of the PDEA - CAR.

The big-time Oliveros drug group leader was once arrested with ten grams of shabu by operatives of PDEA - CAR, on November 17, 2004, in a buy-bust operation at Lower Rock Quarry, Baguio City. But the criminal cases filed against him were dismissed shortly, on December 7, 2004. He had been, subsequently, so hard to corner, though, his son, Federico Oliveros y Bayuga alias "Eric" was nabbed with 9.09 grams of shabu at Maria Basa, Pacdal, Baguio City during an entrapment operation by the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Baguio City Police Office on November 10, 2007. Sadly, the cases against him for illegal sale, possession and use of dangerous drugs were also dismissed on January 6, 2009.

More than two years and five months later, on June 11, 2011, Eric was again collared in Alfonso Tabora, Baguio City by members of the Regional Anti-illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Group of the Police Regional Office - Cordillera in a buy-bust operation. He was apprehended with .41 gram of shabu and consequently

charged for unlawful drug sale and possession. Unfortunately, he was acquitted on July 9 last year.

The younger Oliveros, who had also been previously most wanted by law for Frustrated Murder, was last captured on May 21, 2013, which is a little over ten months after his latest acquittal.

Eric, a regional top priority target and member of the Oliveros group, was nailed at New Lucban, Baguio City in a sting operation by agents of PDEA - CAR. Three sachets of shabu, weighing about 2.18 grams, were confiscated from him.

Like his father, Eric will rot in prison for keeps when found guilty of his newest drug law violations.

What's more, at least three other close relatives or drug group members of Bernie, who were collared by PDEA - CAR agents, had already been convicted.

Bernie's conviction is in line with the PDEA Director General Undersecretary Arturo Caddac Jr.'s Operational Thrusts & Priority Programs, specifically on 'ensuring air tight cases against drug personalities' /PDEA PR

Advocacy Mindanow...**from page 4**

TIMES issue, Chino told me that he had arranged for the senator to receive me for an exclusive interview at the downtown Imperial Hotel before the scheduled rally. Indeed, Senator Ninoy was waiting for me at the coffee shop. And gave me the full story and a copy of his speech. I dispatched it to the Manila desk by long distance call (*no fax or emails yet at that time*), worrying that a looming big rain could abort the rally and the speech — a contingency that enterprising reporters must face.

Come to think of it, I cannot remember now having checked if Ninoy got to actually deliver the speech as indeed a big rain came that night. But I had a spare copy of his prepared speech that the senator handed to me, just in case.

The following morning, the TIMES printed my by-lined story in screaming headline: "MARCOS UNEXPLAINED WEALTH EXPOSED". Malacanang's retort was swift and furious. President Marcos himself announced he would file libel cases against NINOY, the MANILA TIMES and "that Davao reporter." I was already in 2nd year law at the Ateneo Law School at that time and I had the biggest scare of my life when Dean PANYONG ESTRELLADO told me: "Jess, kiss your plans of being a lawyer goodbye." A libel case, even pending would be a problem in qualifying to take the bar examinations or taking the lawyer's oath. More so that the President of the Republic, no less, was the one suing. I spent many sleepless nights after that.

I never got to know what exactly happened with the case after I sent to Manila my written statement in my defense. I was so troubled I personally appealed to CHINO to please do something. I was told later that somehow President Marcos dropped it after a much-publicized "gate crash" event where CHINO although uninvited, attended one of the former strongman's parties where they were seen on a close huddle and serious talk. Some settlement must have been made. I was too far remote down south to know and an

insignificant player just caught in the crossfire. But I recall having thanked and expressed my great relief to CHINO when I saw him later. Yes, I was able to take the bar exams, although another unforgettable episode took place later: that of transferring to Manila to join the **Philippine Press Institute** (again, with CHINO ROCES) and the sudden declaration of Martial Law forcing me to go back to law school and finish my law. (READ "WATCHING THE WATCHDOG" June 2013).

But that was not the end of that episode. One day during Martial Law, a delegation of Davao media men went to **Malacanang** to meet with **President Marcos**. I recall it was arranged by businessman-logger **JOHN HOFER**. In tow were Davao newsmen **SERAFIN "JUN" LEDESMA**, the fiery **JOE JISON** and others. When I was introduced to President Marcos (*who already looked sick*), he immediately noticed my name and first asked whether I was related to his private nurse from Iloilo **BELEN DUREZA**, and when I said she was my cousin although I resided in Davao City he remarked: "Ah you are the one with the MANILA TIMES. I remember you." I was not sure whether he remembered me for being "that Davao reporter" who wrote the Ninoy Aquino story. But there could be no other reason for the former President to remember me by. That was then my only closest call to fame!

Kakampi mo ang Batas...**from page 4**

of a commitment from socio-civic and charitable leaders to provide children with a brighter future. For, every child whose eye defects have been corrected acquires the opportunity to learn better, and therefore capacitate himself or herself to reach beyond the poor and squalid surroundings he had been born to.

-ooo-

REACTIONS? Please call me at 0917 984 24 68, 0918 574 0193, 0922 833 43 96. Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com, mmauriciojr11@gmail.com.

AlkanSSSy...**from page 2**

ness.

The scheme allows members under this program to enjoy the same benefits of a regular SSS contributor.

Members who complete at least 3 months in contributions can enjoy a sickness and maternity benefit, 36 months contributions can avail of disability and salary loan benefits and 120 months contributions entitles the member to retirement benefits.

A member who has paid only for a month and dies is still entitled to a burial benefit.

Domogan said, "market vendors should already grab this opportunity to ensure savings for themselves and their loved-ones."

He said, "the alkansssy program of the SSS demonstrates a 'self help' program suited to help people help themselves through savings."

"It shows the importance of saving for our future and this program is a big help for the informal sector by giving them a system that works," he said. /paul rillorta

RIP Pork...**from page 2**

lic in the spirit of transparency, accountability, and reform," he maintained.
a i n e d . /
WEBSITE: alanpetercayetano.com/
FACEBOOK: Alan Peter Cayetano /
TWITTER: @alanpcayetano; @alanoffice/
YOUTUBE: alanpetercayetano

Fourth Attempt...**from page 3**

The grounds cited by the President were disputed by the mayor saying there are concerns in the bill that the LGC cannot address like the settlement of the boundary dispute with Tuba municipality which cannot be carried out on the basis solely of the LGC; that the authority to process the sale of these lots will still rest with the DENR and the participation of the city government will only be as a member of the committee that will facilitate the processing; and that MSA as mode of disposing public lands without public bidding "has been in effect in Baguio under the present charter but only in identified areas."

On the proceeds of the sale of public land accruing to the local treasury, the mayor said this should not have been cited as a ground by the President as this is not an amendment but an existing provision in the city charter.

The mayor said the President's statement that some of the provisions of the bill run counter to the BCDA Act of 1992 on the matter of disposition of properties already transferred to the BCDA is not true as the bill only covers alienable and disposable public land and thus excludes the BCDA lots.

Domogan said what the city can do is to refine and clarify the provisions in the new bill to be filed by Alipingo so that the President will be enlightened on the intent and wisdom of the provisions.

The city's charter has remained unchanged since it was written by Justice George Malcolm in 1909. The Charter even pre-dates the 1935 Constitution and has not yet been revised since its enactment so that almost all of its provisions have become obsolete and irrelevant. /A Refuerzo

CSC Anniversary...**from page 8**

On Sept. 30, there are various awarding ceremonies: the CSC Seal of Excellence to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); the Pondong Pamanang Lingkod Bayan to three CAR beneficiaries; the regional "PARANGAL;"

A PRAISE summit shall also be conducted, as to, Packaging Award-Winning Nominations. The program is for administrative officers, human resource officers, and employees' Union officers. "A Day at the Museum," and a family day shall also be scheduled. All activities are part of the month-long CSC celebration. /juliegfianza with reports from CSC

CSC Anniversary Activities Slated

BAGUIO CITY - The Civil Service Commission (CSC) joins the city charter celebration during the program and parade from the Baguio Convention Center up to the Melvin Jones Grandstand, Burnham Park, this Sunday, Sept. 1.

This September is CSC's 113th anniversary, with the theme, "Tatak Lingkod Bayani: Isabuhay, Ipagmalaki, Ipagbunyil," while Baguio celebrates its 104th charter anniversary.

On Sept. 6, Friday, a blood-letting activity shall be done at the CSC Regional Office located at 116 Wagner Road, Military Cut-off. This is in support of the Philippine National Red Cross' advocacy on voluntary blood donation.

On Sept. 12, a photo exhibit of outstanding public servant-heroes from the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), who were awarded the Dangal Ng Bayan, Lingkod Bayan, and Pag-asa awards under the Honor Awards Program with the Citizen's Satisfaction Center - Seal of Excellence Award (CSC-SEAL), the whole day at the city hall lobby.

On Sept. 13, there shall be an Engrandeng Pagtitipon ng Mga Lingkod-Bayani ng Kordilyera at the PFVR gym and Baguio City School of Arts and Trades, starting with an integrity walk at 7AM.

The Baguio office shall also have a "hataw" exercise showcase; indigenous and fun games; and in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and other government entities, shall have good grooming, health and wellness products and services. The Benguet Field Office in La Trinidad shall have a cheer dance fun competition.

On Sept. 19, awardees of the Honor Awards Program shall be feted in Malacanang.

On Sept. 26 to 28, there shall be a local government executive forum and a fun run as sponsored by the CSC Abra province field office.

Cont. on page 7

Jobs Fair on Sept. 4

BAGUIO CITY - Job seekers for local and overseas employment are advised to be at the Baguio Convention Center on Sept. 4, with multiple copies of education and employment credentials on hand.

This is to have more chances with employment agencies, Public Employment Services Officer Romelda Frances Escano emphasized during the press conference last week at city hall.

Representatives from the City Engineers Office (CEO), Baguio City Police Office (BCPO), Lino Cungihan of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), George Lubin from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Atty. Allyson Locano of the Civil Service Commission (CSC), Adela Dario of the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) were also present.

They addressed issues about underemployment and unemployment; placements, labor laws, anti-child labor laws, and related issues; all in the Cordillera region.

Vacancies; mostly service-oriented jobs, tourism-oriented jobs; in-demand and employable jobs were also mentioned during the forum. Countries, mostly in the middle east are those where Filipinos are employed, it was known.

Accordingly, CAR has good placement rates; and is better as to job creation compared to the other regions.

The rate for employable skilled workers in CAR is also good on national ranking, it was learned.

The CSC claimed the biggest chunk of employees, 1.5M for the country, is with the government. Salary rates due to the standardization law is better than what private medium-sized companies offer, it was also learned.

The activity is part of the 104th Baguio Day celebration with the theme, Steadfast Service to the City."

There shall also be free international calls, health and wellness clinic, free haircut and massage, courtesy of sponsoring agencies and government offices during the jobs fair./juliefianza

Market's New Scheme Expected

BAGUIO CITY - The city government has targeted September 2 for the implementation of the market's new scheme in order to elevate the general welfare and safety of ambulant vendors and consumers, thus, enhancing the physical aesthetic of the city's public market.

With the new scheme, the vendors will be given equal opportunity to sell their goods.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan emphasized

that the city government is strengthening the clearing operations to eradicate structural as well as human obstructions along the sidewalks and streets so as to improve traffic.

"We will be continuously implementing clearing operations on the sidewalks including parks of ambulant vendors", said the mayor.

The Baguio City Market Authority (BCMA)

has already identified portions of Blocks 3 and 4 of the public market to relocate displaced vendors.

There are about 660 vacant slots, said Alicia Onoza, In-Charge of Office of the Treasury Office. Thus, Domogan urged the vendors to apply with the BCMA. The same fees and screening process will be undertaken by interested individuals.

The mayor hoped that the vendors will take the opportunity to apply for vacant slots so they can freely sell their products without being apprehended.

Mayor Domogan together with the BCMA had an ocular inspection last August 29 at the city market. They had a chance to have a short dialogue

with the vendors raising some concerns and issues for the improvement of the present set up in the public market that would benefit both the vendors and the consumers.

The mayor has ordered the BCMA to issue notices to illegally constructed structure owners to voluntarily dismantle said structures within five days, if not, the city will be forced to demolish the same./Jho Arranz

DO YOU WANT TO EARN \$60 A DAY (OR P65K A MONTH) WORKING AT HOME?

A career in Video Captioning and Subtitling can make this possible.

Join our daily FREE career orientation to find out if this is something you can do.

Who should attend this FREE Orientation?

- Those who want to earn \$, £, € without leaving the country.
- Those who want a real part time or full time home-based job.
- Those who are planning to go abroad to Canada, US, Australia, and UK.

Call us now to reserve a seat. NO FEES will be collected.

Transcripro - IT Dynamics



Rm. 415 Mount Crest Hotel

Legarda Rd., Baguio City

Tel. Nos.: (074) 423-9988; 423-9228

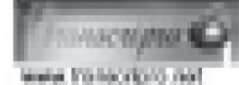
OP: 0917-606-1006(G), 0949-623-3176(Sm), 0943-603-3964 (Sun)

www.itdynamicsphil.com

In support of TESDA's Job Creation Program



Industry Partners



Notice: This career orientation is meant to let the attendees understand the job description of a Professional Video Captioning/Subtitling, demand forecast, and industry requirements. Actual class/training will start upon TESDA's release of Program Registration.

The JUNCTION

Ad Rates

1 page : P19,000.00
1/2 page: 9,500.00
1/4 page: 4,750.00
1/8 page: 2,375.00
1 col. cm. 85.00

Paper/Page Size: 9"x12" (22.5cm x 30.5cm)
1 column length: 28.5 cm @ 7 columns per page for judicial ads

Above rates are for black and white. For colored Ads, add 30%.

Generous rate discounts available depending on volume of ad placements
Judicial Publication Rates: 80% of commercial advertising rates as per PD 1079 and SC A.M. No. 01-1-07
All Baguio and Benguet Judicial Publication Rates are standard as agreed with

the IBP and RTC as follows: Baguio City - P180/column inch; Benguet - P160/column inch

Published every weekend except during election season when publication is on a bi-weekly basis
www.junctionnews.com



Tired of Graft & Corruption?

Linis Gobyen anti-graft, corruption prevention and detection office.