



A screengrab from Facebook shows one of the memes being spread on social media to criticize the family of Vice President Jejomar 'Jojo' Binay. The VP's son, suspended Makati Mayor Junjun Binay, belittled social media, which he said hosted many 'paid hacks.' **FACEBOOK SCREENGAB/Inquirer.Net**

Modernization Sought for Baguio Convention Center

BAGUIO CITY – City Supervising Tourism Officer Benedicto Alhambra Monday appealed to the City Council for additional funding for the improvement of the Baguio Convention Center to make it at par with other convention centers here.

Alhambra was invited to the City Council along with City Administrator Atty. Carlos Canilao to shed light on the basis of computation for the payment of water, electricity and other fees on the use of the city's convention center and the areas where immediate improvement is needed.

Alhambra said, "there are areas in the Baguio Convention Center that needs immediate renovations such as the comfort rooms which at present do not provide a cubicle for persons with disabilities, re-piping and plumbing of the basement comfort rooms, supply pipes for water and septic tank piping."

"We also have to replace busted bulbs and

ballast in the lobby and main hall and replace damaged breakers, we have to install street lights outside the facility," he said.

Over-all, we have to consider the restructuring of the electrical architecture of the building," he said.

Aside from the electrical improvements, Alhambra also mentioned the need to replace the broken and detached glass doors and glass windows of the facility and fix the damaged portion of the roof and gutters.

The facility's drainage also needs rehabilitation to prevent flooding in some areas of the parking lot.

In 2013, an allocation of P15 million was spent for the rehabilitation of the facility to fix its leaking roof, old and worn out carpet and chairs and renovation of its comfort rooms.

The allocation however was too low to improve the whole property and the available budget was used to improve mainly the exterior of the building.

Cont. on page 9

Nutrition Month Activities

BAGUIO CITY – Anchored on the theme, "Timbang iwasto sa tamang nutrisyon at ehersisyo!" nutrition month activities are conducted in the barangays up to August, but with culminating and awarding ceremonies at the Baguio Convention Center on July 31.

Awareness on the role and importance of proper nutrition and physical activity to prevent obesity which may result to non-communicable diseases, and implementation of education and information campaign among communities, national and local government units, non-government organizations, private sector, media, the academe and other stakeholders are among the objectives of the celebration of July as nutrition month.

Activities on the second week of July are medical missions and blood-letting at Padre Zamora; lodized salt distribution at Phil-am, and clean-up drive at East and West Quirino Hill, BGH compound and Upper QM.

Cont. on page 9

Dengue Cases Update

BAGUIO CITY – Residents are urged to stick to the 4 o'clock clean-up habit as the rainy days approach, to halt the spread of Dengue-carrying mosquitoes in water-logged breeding places.

The appeal was often mentioned during earlier Ugnayan forums; Alay Sa Kalinisan (ASKI), and Punong Barangay meetings with Mayor Mauricio Domogan, city and regional health authorities.

Data from the City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (CESU) of the Health Services Office (HSO) present a 33% increase, from 100 cases in January - June 2014 to 133 cases in January - June this year.

In January this year, there were 21 Dengue cases, 15 in February, 7 in March, 8 in April, 17 in May and 60 cases in June.

There were 305 recorded Dengue cases in Baguio City for 2009, 1161 in 2010, 485 in 2011, 715 in 2012, a record high of 1866 in 2013, and 377 in 2014.

Cases increase in June and July, peaks in August and tapers off in September and October towards the cold and dry months.

Generally, there were more males bitten than females, and those aged 10 to 29 years are bitten more than those older. Those

Cont. on page 9

The JUNCTION Pahayagang Palaban!!!

City Plans for the 115th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary Celebration

BAGUIO CITY - The Philippine Civil Service will be marking its 115th anniversary of the Civil Service Commission with the theme "Kayang Kaya Mo, Lingkod Bayani."

Consequently, the city government in Baguio in collaboration with the CSC Baguio Field Office is preparing for the activities commemorative of the 115th Philippines Civil Service that will take place in September.

Recently, mayor Mauricio Domogan created a committee that will manage and spearhead the 115th anniversary of the PSC and the appropriate celebration of the Civil Service month this coming September through Administrative Order 056.

Congressman Nicasio Aliping, Jr. is the honorary chairman of the said committee, with mayor Domogan as the chair; vice mayor Edison Bilog as vice chairman; city council chair

Said committee convened last June 30 to thrash out activities for this year's celebration. Cont. on page 9

July 4 - 10, 2015

THE JUNCTION Pahayagang Palaban!!!

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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Lawmaker Says Phil's Internet Speed 'Pathetic'

Senator Chiz Escudero will look into the "pathetic state" of internet speed in the country to see how the government can address the situation and give the information technology (IT) sector a boost.

"The current situation in the country is, sad to say, unacceptable. The state of internet speed is pathetic, and unless we remedy this situation, our IT sector is likely to suffer in the long term," Escudero said.

The senator said the government, particularly the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), should give the situation immediate attention.

"The government should crack the whip on our telecommunications companies. If they have to be mandated to

allocate some of their earnings for improving internet speed, mainly through investing in more equipment and hardware, then so be it," Escudero said.

"These telcos have been going to town in the past few years telling their shareholders that they have been earning billions of pesos. But they conveniently forget the millions of subscribers and users who put those billions in their coffers but who continue to suffer from poor service," he added.

"The point is, something needs to be done and done very soon."

The senator, who chairs the Senate Committee on Finance, said he is willing to spearhead legislation that would help improve the situation.

"The problem is that government Cont. on page 9

City Plans for the 115th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary Celebration

Lawmaker Hopeful PAGASA Modernization Bill Will Be Signed Into Law This Year

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KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Ombudsman Outburst: Childish, Arrogant

page 5 BY: BATAS MAURICIO

Council-BCDA Meet to Push Through on July 8

'Oasis' Provider for Operation Sayote Volunteers Passes On

Monitoring of Project Implementation Urged

Dengue Cases Update

Bibak Dorm Vignettes

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

The Bongbong Marcos I Know

page 4 BY: JESUS DUREZA

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FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN'S SAFETY - City officials headed by Congressman Nicasio Aliping Jr, Secretary to the Mayor Rafael Talloco representing Mayor Mauricio Domogan and City Schools Division Superintendent Francis Cesar Bringas cut the ceremonial ribbon during the inauguration of the overpass along Quezon, Elementary School. The overpass will ensure the safety of elementary school pupils and the public./By Bong Cayabyab

Requirement for Buildings Reiterated

Modernization Sought for Baguio Convention Center

La Trinidad Women's Brigade Opposes E-bingo

All Set for July 10 Autonomy Public Hearing

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Bibak Dorm Vignettes

BAGUIO CITY - Ignorance of how it was originally for – as home-away-from-home of – Igorot students from the then five sub-provinces of the Cordillera stepping into the city for the first time to obtain an education for their communities – must have led to its occupation by 58 illegal structures.

Some, if not all of the buildings occupying the choice 5,000 square-meter lot, have been turned into commercial structures or sleeping quarters, far from what it was originally intended for, as a home for students coming from the BIBAK provinces of Benguet, Ifugao, Bontoc (now Mt. Provinces), Apayao and Kalinga.

At the risk of opposition by those now occupying and profiting from these spaces, the city is bent on restoring the area to what it was for, as a home-away-from-home for many a newcomer from the hinterlands of the Cordillera who come to study to become nurses, teachers, engineers, doctors, policemen, accountants or journalists.

The revival plan has stirred nostalgia, mostly from those who stayed in the two-building dormitory for boys and girls. Having lived there, current and former community leaders, retirees from professions learned while under its wings, can't help but join the clamor for its restoration, as a symbol of transformation and pathway to a better, useful life when its occupants have returned

to serve their communities.

For those who had lived in it during their transformative years, the BIBAK Dorm was an Ellis Island. Like the island, it is a symbol of the education of a large percentage of Igorots, in the same token that it was estimated that close to 40 percent of all current U.S. citizens can trace at least one of their ancestors to Ellis Island.

If only for this, the BIBAK Dorm must be restored. This is the sentiment of those who had lived there, in the same token that every chair and table, even the sleeping quarters of those who were detained at Ellis Island had to be preserved for these are part of American history.

One of those who helped trigger the construction of the BIBAK Students' Dormitory was retired school superintendent Cyril Bacala Sr. A graduate of the Mountain State Agricultural College, he was then the school's BIBAK President.

There was no Centralized BIBAK Association then, so links among leaders was done through a league of presidents who, one day, came up with a joint resolution calling on then President Ramon Magsaysay to build a dormitory for students coming from the then five provinces of the Cordillera.

Last week, Bacala wrote from memory:

Cont. on page 8

Parking Requirement for Buildings Reiterated

BAGUIO CITY – Commercial buildings defying the parking requirement face closure, Mayor Mauricio Domogan reiterated last Monday.

The mayor directed the city buildings and architecture office (CBAO) to fast-track and complete the inventory of establishments within a month and identify those that failed to comply for purposes of issuing orders for the cancellation of their building and occupancy permits and closing down the establishments.

"These businessmen have been given due process as we have met with them and given them enough time to comply. They will have no reason to question our order," the mayor said.

Owners of the business establishments within the central business district earlier committed to comply with the city's requirement to provide ample parking spaces.

They were earlier found to have violated their building permit by converting the space allotted for parking space into other uses.

Assistant CBAO Johnny Degay then said that in the course of their inspections of the edifices, it was discovered that many establishments with approved parking spaces in their building permits have altered the plans and instead rented out the spaces intended for parking.

The mayor said this constitutes violation of Presidential Decree 96 or the National Building Code and city ordinances and as such the city can revoke the building and occupancy permits and close the establishments.

The mayor however gave them a grace period of until last February to rectify their violations either by restoring their parking areas or by designating a parking area outside their buildings but within the property's 200-meter radius.

The mayor also directed the CBAO to continue their inspections to also include other buildings within the CBD. *A Refuerzo*

Monitoring of Project Implementation Urged

BAGUIO CITY - During the executive-legislative meeting last Monday, mayor Mauricio Domogan directed the City Buildings and Architecture Office headed by the newly appointed Engr. Nazita Bañez to monitor the performances of the contractors in the implementation of a certain project.

With the various national road projects being implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways, Domogan is very aware that there is a serious problem the people of this mountain resort is experiencing due to the ineffective implementation of road construction and rehabilitation projects.

On the other hand, there were some city projects that the CBAO did not accept because of the deficiency of the project.

Domogan expressed his dismay with the performances of the contractors, and to prevent problems on the project implementation happening again, he instructed Engr. Bañez to submit a report on deficient projects to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for appropriate

Lawmaker Hopeful PAGASA Modernization Bill Will Be Signed Into Law This Year

Senator Chiz Escudero is optimistic that the bill seeking to modernize the country's weather bureau will be signed into law before the year ends.

Senate Bill No. 2834, or An Act Providing for the Modernization of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), passed the third and final reading at the Senate on June 9 and will soon go through the bicameral conference committee.

"I'm hoping that President Aquino will be able to sign the PAGASA Modernization Bill into law within the year to give long-overdue upgrades to the weather bureau's equipment, staff pay, research capabilities and communication reach," said Escudero, one of the principal authors of the bill.

Escudero said he expects smooth bicameral conference committee deliberations since there are no major differences between the House and the Senate versions. The House approved its own version of the PAGASA Modernization Bill in May 2014. The bicameral version will have to be ratified by both the Senate and the House before

action and at the same time to forewarn the BAC not to get the same contractor in the future projects.

"Look into the contractor's available manpower, equipment and project backgrounds before qualifying them to the bidding process to ensure efficiency," stressed the mayor.

With regards to projects, he directed CBAO to give tract of records of every contractor for performance monitoring purposes.

On barangay projects, SP committee on urban planning, lands and housing chair and councilor Leandro

being submitted to the President for signing.

Escudero said that the measure, which seeks an extendable three-year modernization program for PAGASA, is expected to "boost the weather bureau's capabilities in providing timely, accurate and reliable weather, flood, climate monitoring, forecasting and warning services."

"The bill also aims to arrest the brain-drain problem in the agency by increasing the basic pay, allowances and other benefits of its workers," he added.

The proposed legislation also wants to improve research and development, promote human resource, and develop ways to integrate disaster management with socioeconomic development planning and water resource management.

It also seeks to enhance regional weather service centers, and develop a "technology-based" and financially self-sufficient" data center.

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Yangot, Jr. proposed to come up with a system in order to fast track the preparation of program of works and at the same time add manpower through a job order appointment.

Also, in identifying sites for a certain barangay project, it is important for the city to validate first the site so as to avoid problem in the implementation of the said project.

"Being the project implementer, let us help each other in monitoring the performances of the contractors to avoid the same setback in the implementation of city project," said Domogan. *Jho Arranz*

Dengue Update... from page 10

from age one to nine years old and 30 to 39 are also more susceptible to bites of the dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

Records from Baguio government and private hospitals show that there were 516 Dengue cases in Baguio City for 2009, 1882 in 2010, 959 in 2011, 1440 in 2012, a high of 3196 in 2013 and 649 in 2014. It may be noted that patients in the city include those from Rizal, Pampanga, Davao del Sur, Cavite, Bulacan, Bataan, Zambales, Laguna, Cagayan, Apayao, Aurora, Ilocos Norte, Quirino, National Capital Region, Isabela, Tarlac, Ilocos Sur, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, La Union, Pangasinan and Cordillera provinces.

As to the Department of Health (DOH), the 4 o'clock habit strategy focuses on the stop, look and listen strategy: stop - shift task for mosquito control, look - search and eliminate mosquito breeding places, and listen - heed instructions for the synchronized implementation of the 4 o'clock habit.

Dengue is spread mostly through bites from either the female Aedes aegypti, A. albopictus and other mosquito species. Though rarely, it may also be spread through blood products and organ donations.

The symptoms after an incubation period which may last for 7 days, fever, headache behind the eyes, muscle and joint pains and skin rash. There may be nausea, vomiting, and bleeding from body openings.

Dengue may also cause organ dysfunction, and if untreated, death. Residents who have the symptoms are advised to report to health authorities at the Baguio Health Department, T. Alonzo St., Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, DOH or any of the nearest hospital.

Health authorities; HSO head Dr. Rowena Galpo, CESU head Dr. Donabel Tubera issued the appeal for clean-ups and vigilance against

Nutrition Month... from page 10

Feeding of underweight preschool, daycare and school children are scheduled at Lower General Luna, Trancoville, DPS, Military Cut-off, BGH Compound, Lourdes Subdivision Extension, San Roque, Middle Rock Quarry, Burnham-Legarda barangays with a supplementary feeding for highest gainer month-long activity will be conducted at Imelda Marcos barangay.

Nutrition slogan, poster, poem, essay song and talent presentation, draw and tell, trivia, fruit and vegetable carving are featured in Upper Dagsian, Bakakeng Central, Minesview and Leonila Hill barangays.

A nutrition garden contest at Balsigan barangay go on, as with cooking contests in various districts. Tree planting, clean and green program, distribution of seeds, community gardening are scheduled in East Quirino Hill, P. Burgos, Holy Ghost Proper and Phil-am brygs.

Lectures and forum including a no-smoking campaign shall be conducted at South Drive, Upper QM, Middle Rock Quarry, City Camp Central and Pinget.

Multivitamins are distributed to underweight preschool children at P. Burgos, as a Buntis and Lactating congress, bright child contests, healthy baby, mother and father, breastfeeding are scheduled in San Antonio Village and Palma-Urbano.

Health buffs are invited to join the eco-walk, hataw, taichi, fun run, run-for-a-cause, and physical exercises at Andres Bonifacio, Quezon Hill Proper, Lower Quirino Hill, Loakan, Liwanag, Gibraltar, Kias, Camp 8, Mines View, Sto. Nino, Trancoville, Padre Zamora, Holy Ghost Proper, City Camp Proper, BGH Compound.

Diseases during the Dengue day press conference June 11. *Julie G Fianza*

Modernization... from page 10

Alhambra said, "in a general perspective, several aspects of the building require improvements such as the acoustics of the main hall to include pipe in sound system, restructuring of the electrical wiring, purchase of its own generator set, general piping and architecture for water and wastes and the installation of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)."

The modernization of the facility however will need a hefty budgetary allocation.

The Baguio Convention Center was once the venue of the 1978 World Chess Championship series between two Russian Grandmasters Anatoly Karpov and Victor Korchnoi, an event where the facility gained international prominence during the time of President Ferdinand Marcos. *Paul Rillorta*

Lawmaker... from page 1

agencies that are supposed to monitor these telcos and help consumers don't seem to feel the urgency of the situation," Escudero said.

The senator also warned that slow internet speed may derail the projected growth of the IT-BPO industry.

"The IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP) recently reported that it was targeting \$25 billion in revenues and 1.3 million jobs by 2016. Even these targets might be affected if our internet service in the country does not improve, and we might see these jobs go to other countries in the region that can provide investors and clients better internet services," Escudero warned.

He cited recent reports by global internet providers Ookla and Akamai that showed the dismal state of internet speed in the Philippines.

The latest Ookla household download index report ranked the

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

and justice, and lead most lives.

"Section 2., RA 6713: Declaration of Policies. - It is the policy of the State to promote a high standard of ethics in public service. Public officials and employees shall at all times be accountable to the people and shall discharge their duties with utmost responsibility, integrity, competence, and loyalty, act with patriotism and justice, lead modest lives, and uphold public interest over personal interest."

City Plans...

tion of the 115th PSC anniversary.

Highlighting the month long activities will be the Annual Awards and Luncheon Program for the city government of Baguio employees who have been in government services for 10 years and every succeeding five years thereafter up to 40 years of service; employees who finished the Bachelor of Laws and Letters; masteral honorees, doctorate graduates, retiring employees, nominees and outstanding employees of the year, among others.

In recognition for the dedication to public service, loyalty awardees will be expected to receive memorabilia from the city government.

Philippines 21st out of 22 countries in Asia, trailed only by Afghanistan.

Singapore was ranked first with a broadband speed of 122.43 Megabits per second (Mbps) followed by Hong Kong with 102.96 Mbps.

The household download speed in the Philippines clocked in at an embarrassing 3.64 Mbps.

On the other hand, Akamai's latest state of the Internet report showed that the

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from page 10

There will be "Ugnayan at Balitaan" so as to improve and develop the city government's delivery of basic services for the people of Baguio.

The Baguio Day will kick off the month long activities of the city.

As in the past, there will be livelihood proposed activities and the much awaited raffle draws for city government employees.


To tie up with the celebration, city hall employees will have a community service in their respective barangays as well as clean up drive along Balili River.

"Other activities are still to be lined up for this year's 115th PCS anniversary celebration," said Domogan. *Jho Arranz*

country's average internet speed in the fourth quarter of 2014 was 2.7 Mbps, peaking at 21.9 Mbps.

South Korea had the fastest average internet speed in Asia with 22.2 Mbps while Indonesia had the slowest average at 0.9 Mbps.

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EDITORIAL

tracks a decline of women religious to 37,947 in Europe, 14,686 in North America, 5,880 in South America, 1,012 in Oceania, and 358 in Central America.

"This is not the entire story. Between 2002 and 2007, the number of professed women religious increased in 99 nations: 13,542 in Asia, 7,906 in Africa, 370 in the Middle East, and 1,947 in the Caribbean.

So is India now the Rome of the East?

Ten of the 10 largest women religious institutes are headquartered in India—where only 1.6 percent of the world's Catholics live. The number of professed women religious in India grew by 9,398 between 2002 and 2007.

Vietnam, South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia and Burma (Myanmar) are also among the 25 nations that witnessed the greatest increase in women's religious vocations between 2002 and 2007.

Africa is home to 14 of the 25 nations that witnessed the largest growth in women's religious vocations between 2002 and 2007.

"I am not sure BIBAK Dorm...

"The Centralized BIBAK officers prepared a resolution to His Excellency, President Ramon Magsaysay containing the following points:

"A good site in downtown Baguio City spacious for two buildings; erection of two buildings for boys and girls dormitories; and provision for funding for the construction of the same."

The council of

...from page 4 exactly what heaven will be like," Mother Teresa once said, "but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?' Rather, he will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?'"

"The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved.... [Yet] kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless...."

"Do not think that love to be genuine has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired. Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.... Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier." Juan L. Mercado

Juan L. Mercado was a communication officer for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Bangkok. Thereafter, he was posted in FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, as attaché de cabinet. He wrote for the Inquirer as a regular columnist from February 2004 until December 2014.

from page 2 presidents had taken the cue from Gov. Bado Dangwa, then the council adviser, to wait for then President Magsaysay was coming to Baguio as guest speaker in the opening ceremony of the Northern Luzon Athletic Association Meet (NLAA).

Bacala recalled: "When the President was speaking, we lined ourselves

led by the adviser on the right side of the gate inside. The car where the President rode came near the gate, the adviser presented the resolution. The president read the title and turned to Mayor (Alfonso) Tabora (of Baguio at the backseat and said, "Mayor, look for a good site for the construction of BIBAK student buildings as dormitory for boys and girls. "Yes sir," the mayor replied. The President then turned to Congressman (Ramon) Mitra at the backseat and said, "Allo0t from your pork barrel the needed funds for the construction of buildings for BIBAK students, boys and girls dormitory."

"Yes sir, no problem," Congressman Mitrac Answerd.

Bacala ssaid he is one of the living officers of the Centraized BIBAK Organizaion.

While I did not stay even for a night at the BIBAK Dorm, I have my own memories of the place, like fetching glassmate Carlos Abellon and guided by a toss-the -coin formula hatched by another's Episcopal Church prie's son, Norman Rulite, on where to go:

"If it's tails, we go and drink; if it's heads we go to the bar," Norman would explain the mechanics.

I tried to court a girl dormitorian once ,going as far as talking to her in her room with nothing but a short T-shirt against the cold. She handed me her sweatshirt, the hands of which I wrapped around my neck. I was careful not to soil it and returned it in our masteral subject without ever wearing it. You may have your

own vignettes and memories of this place which you would like to share with us and the present occupants. This space is open for them. Do email them to mondash bench@yahoo.com or mail them to me, c/o public information division, mayor's office, baguio city. / Ramon Dacawi

NEWS

July 4 - 10, 2015

GSIS to Implement Enhanced Conso-Loan Plus Program Starting July 1

BAGUIO CITY - The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) will implement the Enhanced Conso-Loan Plus Program starting July 1, 2015.

In an advisory issued to Agency Authorized Officers (AAOs) and Liaison Officers (LOs), the GSIS announced that members who have at least 15 years of service with paid premiums may borrow a 12-month salary loan while those with not less than 25 years of service will be eligible for a 14-month loan.

Previously, the credit limit for these members was only 10 times their salary. The program also extends the maximum payment term for the loan from six to 10 years for members with not less than 10 years of paid premiums.

It was stated that availment of the Enhanced Conso-Loan Plus program will result in the consolidation of the following salary loans; Salary Loan, Restructured Salary Loan, Enhanced Salary Loan, Emergency Loan Assistance and Summer One-Month Salary.

The consolidation of the loan will result in the full liquidation of the outstanding balances of said loans, less penalties and surcharges (if any), which are automatically waived

Cont. on page 7

NEDA Official Calls for Stronger Collaboration with RDC, BLISST

BAGUIO CITY - National Economic and Development Authority-Cordillera (NEDA-CAR) Assistant Regional Director Jedidia Aquino shared recommendations to help address the growing socio-economic and environmental challenges of this capital town as a result of increasing population and advancing technology.

"The challenges being experienced by La Trinidad are not a monopoly of this town. Such issues permeate other communities in the region and in fact, in the whole country. When issues are similar among political units, a common forum where discussions are pursued and solution are generated may be our best bet," Aquino said as she called on the local government unit (LGU) to further strengthen collaboration with the Regional Development Council (RDC).

Aquino, who was the guest of honor during the 65th Foundation Day of the municipality on June 16, explained that with the vast experiences and resources of its members, "the RDC can serve as a platform for transforming dialogues into insights, insights into agenda, agenda into actions, and actions into impact."

She also pushed for continued engagement with the Baguio, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, Tublay

Cont. on page 7

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July 4 - 10, 2015

Builders Told to Prioritize Quality of Construction to Ensure Resilience vs. Disasters

BAGUIO CITY - Builders and owners of structures here should prioritize the quality of their constructions to ensure the buildings' resilience against earthquakes and climate change-induced calamities.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan reiterated this advice as the City prepares to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the July 16, 1990 killer earthquake.

"Let us be mindful of the quality of the buildings that we are constructing. That is a big lesson that the killer earthquake taught us. Let us not forget and let us learn from it," the mayor said.

The mayor recalled that results of post-earthquake studies showed that most of the buildings that collapsed during the 1990 temblor had structural defects or violated construction standards.

Newly installed city building officer Nazita Banez in her report during the flag-raising ceremonies last Monday affirmed that the soundness of buildings lies in the hands of the owners and the private engineers undertaking the project.

"We at the city buildings and architecture office (CBAO) are on hand to see to it that the plans and programs of work are within standards but at the end of the day, the resilience of

the structure will depend on the owner and the private engineers because they are the ones who actually implement the project," Banez said.

Banez said that as part of their office's policies in ensuring the resilience of structures, the city buildings and architecture office requires that the designs submitted by the private engineers hired by the owners conform to the standards of the National Building Code.

She said the CBAO particularly requires that structures withstand a magnitude 7 earthquake.

Soil tests are also imposed to determine the geological condition of the lot for purposes of identifying engineering interventions.

In the construction phase, the CBAO advises owners and their private engineers to strictly follow the approved plan along with the standards and specifications.

She said CBAO undertakes periodic monitoring but cannot fully supervise the construction so it is up to owners and their contractors to ensure that the approved specifications are followed.

The CBAO last year enhanced the process of securing building, occupancy and other permits required under the National Building Code./A Refuerzo

La Trinidad Women's Brigade Opposes E-bingo

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - The La Trinidad Women's Brigade is against the operation of e bingo in this valley claiming that this will only lead to problems in the family and the community.

"Nakakasira ito ng pamilya, apektado ang pag-aaral ng mga bata, ang mga kalalakihan, imbes na umuwi na mate-tempt pa na maglaro sa pag-aakalang ito ay pandagdag kita pero sa kalaunan ito pala ay dagdag gastos", said Mila Bingcola, the group's president.

Their efforts at helping keep peace and order might be also be jeopardized, she added. The La Trinidad women brigade is composed of 50 women volunteers who partner with local police teams do nightly patrol around five pilot barangays namely

NEWS

'Oasis' Provider for Operation Sayote' Volunteers Passes On

Bernardo Dicang, the Baguio boy who opened his house to Cordillerans needing rest and food while delivering "sayote" and other relief goods when Mt. Pinatubo was blowing its top in 1991, succumbed last Monday to liver cirrhosis in his home in Dinalupihan, Bataan.

Bernard Tiongco Dicang was cremated last Friday, according to his younger brother Swanny, one of the pillars of "Operation Sayote", the longest-serving relief operation Baguio media organized in response to the disaster spawned by lahar flow from the active volcano. He was 85.

He is survived by wife Efreña (nee Reyes), children Erlinda, Fernando, Gregorio, Alexander, Bernardo, Celena and Dafrosa and 13 grandchildren.

Prior to "Operation Sayote", Bernardo kept an annual tradition of sharing his blessings with children to keep the spirit of Christmas alive. When the Baguio media launched "Operation Sayote", a relief operation as a way of Baguio's paying back the support it got from all over in the wake of the July 16, 1990

Balili, Betag, Poblacion, Pico and Puguis.

Residents and concerned groups have filed a petition to stop the plan of Cabahug Gaming Enterprise to establish an electronic bingo in this town.

The La Trinidad Sanggunian Bayan did not oppose the proposal of the company citing that national government does not object to it and at least this form of gambling is contained in a specific area. It should not create noise, and minors are not allowed, it added.

But they said they

killer earthquake, he asked his brother Swanny to use his to his home to recharge and refresh themselves from the lowland heat.

"As a result, he lost his chickens, geese and other domestic animals which were all turned into food by those who came to rest in his home," recalled one of the media volunteer. "What he did - providing an instant home to us who needed refuge in Bataan - is a class act. We sustained "Operation Sayote" for three years because he turned his house into an oasis for Baguio and Beguuet residents on their way to and from relief operations at the height of the volcanic eruption."

His sense of community apparently runs in the blood. His eldest son, Alex, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, while working as PMA's public information officer, drafted out of the blue a letter asking whether Hyundai, the giant motor corporation, could donate one or two buses for the cadets.

"What color?," came the reply, enabling PMA to acquire a fleet of buses./Ramon Dacawi.

do not disregard the sentiments of those who are against it. "Maganda ang may petition para maipakita ang mga maaaring negatibong epekto nito. What we will do as officials is we will ask the proponent how they can allay the apprehensions of the people."

La Trinidad Mayor Edna Tabanda said she is against the e-bingo operation "because we might develop the culture of gambling where people will risk everything in the hope that they will win."/JDP/JBZ-PIA CAR



COUNTRY'S CLEANEST RICE SECTION NOMINEE - National Food Authority - Regional Office I assistant regional manager Marieta Ablaza and NFA-Baguio provincial manager Cecilia Concubierta present the award to Grains Retailer Confederation of the Philippines- Baguio Chapter president Jun Medrano and Mayor Mauricio Domogan as the Regional Winner For The Best Retailer Group-Region I category. Baguio City MARKET- Rice Section automatically landed in the national leg of the search./By Bong Cayabyab

All Set for July 10 Autonomy

Public Hearing the autonomous quest of the Cordillera region may also receive similar treatment.

The Baguio public hearing will be held on July 10 at 1 in the afternoon at the City Hall multi-purpose hall with the 52 members of the committee expected to attend, Rep. Aliping added.

The public hearing is with the cooperation of the city government of Baguio, with Mayor Mauricio G Domogan as co-host to the event.

"We expect both House of Congress will finalize the law by early next year and ready for President Benigno Aquino III's signing into law before May 2016," Rep. Aliping stressed.

After Baguio, the ad hoc committee will travel to Apayao province on July 15, where the main celebration of Cordillera Day will be held.

Then it is off to Bangued, Abra on July 22; Bontoc, Mt. Province on July 23; Lagawe, Ifugao on July 24; Tabuk City, Kalinga on July 30; and La Trinidad, Benguet on July 31./Carl C. Taawan

Basic Bangsamoro Law,

Fact or Hypothesis?

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta may be canonized next year, forecasts a top Catholic Church authority. Hold it, cautioned a Vatican spokesman. That's just a hypothesis—for now.

Early this month Italy's newspaper Corriere della Sera reported the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization president as saying that Teresa—the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize laureate—will be enrolled in the calendar of saints on Sept. 4, 2016.

But the Vatican spokesman, Fr. Federico Lombardi, doused Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella's claim. It's "a working hypothesis, the [sainthood] process is ongoing, so it's premature to talk of a date for the canonization."

ADVERTISEMENT

After getting permission to leave her teaching order in Calcutta, Teresa started to work, single-handed, with the poorest. She organized the Missionaries of Charity (MC) which today counts 4,501 nuns. That does not count MC priests and brothers.

Here, MC homes are scattered from Tondo, Cebu and Davao to Aklan. They also work in 132 other nations.

St. John Paul II beatified Teresa in October 2003, two years after her death. "This beatification has been the shortest in modern history." He waived the normal five-year waiting period and instead allowed the immediate opening of her canonization cause.

In 1962, the Philippines Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation elected Teresa to receive its award for International Understanding. "The Trustees recognize her merciful cognizance of the abject poor ... in whose service she led a new congregation."

Mother Teresa responded: "I am happy to join you in thanking God to have given our world, torn with suffering, a man like Ramon Magsaysay, who served his people so well."

"This award which is given to me and through me to the young Congregation, to the countless benefactors and to our poor will be a new source of encouragement to serve the poor as Ramon Magsaysay did..."

"Our Congregation is dedicated to serve Christ in His distressing disguise of penury. Therefore our homes for the dying, ... crippled unwanted children, lepers, our slum schools, all come from that Source and aim, to give wholehearted service to the poor..."

To some critics, however, Teresa is no saint, wrote the Washington Post. Back in the early 1990s, the Hindu nationalist group Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, for example, criticized the intentions behind her work: to convert beneficiaries.

Mohan Bhagwat's comments whipped up a storm among opposition politicians angered by the implication. Congress party officials led by Rajiv Shukla demanded an apology.

Bhagwat found "an unlikely ally" in the devoutly atheist Christopher Hitchens. The late British became one of the most vocal critics of Teresa in 1994.

With journalist Tariq Ali, he wrote a critical documentary on Teresa. "Hell's Angel" faults conditions in the facilities of Teresa's mission in Calcutta. "[They] compared to the photographs of Nazi Germany's Bergen-Belsen concentration camp." Worse, "Mother Teresa's nuns would baptize the dying."

At about that time, the British medical journal Lancet questioned the adequacy of the care in Teresa's facilities. But the polemics has died to a whimper today. Teresa, meanwhile, became an honored Indian citizen.

Teresa's significance in the Catholic Church today "cannot be overstated," writes Fr. James Martin, Jesuit priest and editor-at-large of America magazine.

"Her very name became a byword for charity," Martin adds. Only "after her death was it learned that she had experienced spiritual darkness for the second half of her life and had to rely on her earlier mystical experiences. Then, she was seen for what she is: one of the greatest saints in Christian history."

Martin was referring to a 2007 book based on Mother Teresa's private journals and letters, which revealed that she had experienced a loss of faith in later life. The nun died at age 87 in 1997.

The special report "Nuns Worldwide" by J.J. Ziegler

Cont. on page 8



Hindi naman overnight ang pag usbong ng mga istraktura sa Spratly Islands na Philippine Territory, tung bakit walang ginawa ang mga INUTIL na mga kinaaukulan opisyal ng pamahalaan??!!

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

The Bongbong Marcos I Know

BY: JESUS DUREZA



When I saw him last week in his Roxas Blvd office in Metro Manila, Senator Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. was looking well. But I soon found out why he sent "Zandro", his 21-year old son, an Oxford London student who was on school break to read his speech at a Manila university the day before.

(Zandro was a "hit" by the way to the young university students.) "Bonggets" — his friends usually call him — had stomach problem and had been subsisting on water and hot tea. But he was otherwise in his usual high spirits. We had a good chat for over an hour.

FIRST SIGHT — Flashback. I was a young Davao journalist then in the mid 70s during Martial Law after I passed the 1973 Philippine Bar exams. I joined a delegation from the Davao media to Malacanang to meet then President Marcos who was reclusive due to his ailment. That was the first time I spotted young Bongbong who was unobtrusively standing in a corner by the window curtains just watching closely what was going on. My take then was that he was closely looking after his father who was just seated on a chair talking to us. Every time FM would take a glance towards his back, as if wanting something, the young son would oblige. Then he would return back to his corner.

FRIENDS — Fast forward. When I was Davao Congressman from 1992 to 1995, "Bonggets" was Ilocos congressman. Although we were colleagues, we did not bond much as close friends while working in the Batasan. He was seated up front and I was in the back row. Having humble beginnings and as a "probinsyano" reporter, the Marcos family was a distant star from my own ordinary world down south. However, it was when a congressional committee of which we were both members (together with then Congressmen Ralph Recto, Oscar Orbes, etc) came to Davao and stayed at our family owned Seagull Beach Resort in Punta Dumalag that I got to know more about him.

Before last week's chat, the last time we met was in November 2013 when we disembarked at the Manila airport together from an international flight from Frankfurt, Germany (after my wife Beth got her second fresh stem cell infusion from Villa Medica for her kidney problem). Bonggets was with wife, Lawyer Liza (nee Araneta) and yes, "kodakan" even at the tube area.

"LOW-KEY & SHY" — More recently, when the Mamasapano incident broke out and the issue about the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) broke the headlines, "BBM" (that's his cryptic initials that his staffers and co-workers refer to him) was enthused about how he could be of help but as low key as possible. Unknown perhaps to many, he was known for being "shy" about publicity and would prefer to just quietly do his work. But the BBL issue was something he could not duck and must grapple with as he was chair of the committee tasked to handle it for the Senate. Suddenly, he was thrust to the center of the public eye, a scenario he did not relish much — a task that if mishandled would be very divisive, sensitive and explosive. But which he must do.

HIS DREAMS — During our chat last week, he intimated that due to the intense polarization of the pro and anti BBL factions, he would be in a no-win situation. Nonetheless. But his formula, from how it

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE CITY SHERIFF
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BAGUIO CITY

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as PAG-IBIG FUND),

Mortgagee,

-versus-

SANDRA VANESSA MARIE J. SALVADOR,

Mortgagor.

FORE. CASE NO. 15-574-S

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF AUCTION

Upon petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4148 filed by HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as PAG-IBIG FUND), hereinafter referred to as the MORTGAGEE, executed on November 5, 2009 By SANDRA VANESSA MARIE J. SALVADOR, of 2303 Prestige Tower Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, hereinafter referred to as the MORTGAGOR, to secure her mortgage obligation which as of June 1, 2015, amounts to NINE HUNDRED SIXTY TWO and 45/100 (P979,862.45) PESOS, and other expenses of foreclosure proceedings, the undersigned Sheriff, will sell at public auction on July 22, 2015 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the Hall of Justice Lobby, Baguio City, and all the improvements existing thereon and more particularly described as follows:

Prospective bidders may investigate the Title, rights and improvements of the property with regards to encumbrances, if any there be.

Baguio City, Philippines, this 22nd day of June, 2015.

(SGD)
ATTY. LINDA G. MONTE-LOLOY
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff
Regional Trial Court, Baguio City

(SGD)
BOBBY D. GALANO
SHERIFF IV

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Sale on or before the date of sale under the penalty of law.

Notice Raffled to:
The Junction
Dates of publication: June 27, July 4, and 11, 2015

CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-100333

"A parcel of land Lot 8, Block 2, PSCAR- 001212, being a portion of lots P-Y-2, 2-Y-3, 2-Y-4, 2-Y-5, 2-Y-7, 2-Y-8 & 2-Y-9 (LRC) Psd-254706, situated at Rurban Code 131162, Barangay Re. Sec. "L", City of Baguio, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 6, Block 2 of the consolidation subd. plan; on the SE., along line 2-3 by Road Lot 1 of the consolidation subd. plan; on the SW., along line 3-4 by Lot 10, Block 2 of the consolidation subd. plan; on the NW., along line 4-5 by Lot 9, Blk. 2 of the consolidation subd. plan; on the NW., along line 5-1 by Lot 7, Block 2 of the consolidation plan. Beginning at the point marked x x x to point of beginning. Containing an area of ONE HUNDRED NINETY (190) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS x x x. (complete technical description appears in the title.)"

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

looks, does not however kow-tow to what is preponderantly popular or what the gallery wants. It's definitely NOT about "playing to the gallery." He wants to do justice to the task and to the Bangsamoro as well. He personally led Mindanao-wide consultative meetings on the ground and met and heard the views of all stakeholders, especially those who were excluded from the earlier engagements. He dreams of an inclusive and sustainable legal framework for the Bangsamoro.

DOING RIGHT.

He tersely said: "I want to do what is right to be able to help the Bangsamoro. I could just let things pass as they are and not at all lift a finger. But from where I sit, there is still a lot of work and refinement to be done to make the BBL compliant to our basic law. There are sacrosanct parameters that must be observed; there are the lines we all ought not to cross. Otherwise, we are not doing our Bangsamoro justice; we are again misleading them and denying them the aspirations they have all dreamed of for so long".

VINDICATION

Yes, he is agonizing over accusations by some sectors that he is resorting to alleged "delatory moves" in the Senate, missing timelines and watering-down the BBL. He said that if there is anyone who should be blamed for some delay, it is Malacanang, for the length of time it worked on a revised BBL after the Bangsamoro transition commission submitted its finished work. Malacanang "embar-

...from page 4

goed" it ostensibly to review but what came out was still a non-compliant version. He added that if there is some more blaming to do, the OPAPP must explain why it gave in to demands that clearly crossed lines that not anyone of us is allowed to do.

He said he was not surprised by some quarters tagging him as "anti-Moro" but he said the final output of his work will vindicate him and "prove them wrong". So far, he has done great efforts, listening and consulting. Let's see how this ends.

LOVES MUSIC

Bonggets, although nurtured by a "princely world", has his two feet on the ground, so to speak. His is a well-rounded personality and can easily de-stress himself. He loves music and as a musician, he plays the saxophone and the flute. He dotes on his 3 boys, all studying in London whom he and his wife Liza assiduously protect from the public eye. As I said earlier, the debut of vacationing "Zandro" in public reading his father's speech with some faltering Tagalog due to his Londoner accent must be a desperate option, the ailing senator not wanting to be a "no show" to the expectant university students. (Zandro's video appearance posted by some netizens has gone viral, by the way!) Liza is a practicing lawyer at the MOST Law firm in Manila. (For the curious, the "M" there obviously is because of her and yes, the "O" is for Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa who is "on leave" and the "T" is for my friend Atty. Joseph Tan who is

NEDA Official...

(BLISTT) group in discussing development issues and solutions transcending LGU boundaries like the rehabilitation of Bahli River, local water sources, garbage, among others.

"Among the municipalities in Benguet, La Trinidad has the smallest land area; yet, it carries the highest population of 107,188 (2010)," and continues to attract in-migration due to its bustling economy, and results to issues on congestion, traffic, air and water pollution and related environmental concerns like illegal logging, encroachment in watershed areas and more garbage, which radiates to towns that surround it", she said.

She also commended the LGU's

married to a Dabawenya daughter of the pioneering Garcia-Montemayor family). Liza comes from the prominent Araneta family and hence a close relative of another Araneta scion, DILG Secretary Mar Roxas. As they say: 'it's a small world!'

COMING OF AGE

— We will hear a lot more of Bonggets, I am sure. As some say, he is "coming of age" and is no longer basking in the shadows of his illustrious father, Ferdinand, Sr. whom I know he idolizes and looks up to with unending admiration./ADVOCACY M I N D A N O W FOUNDATION, INC. (AMFI) Follow us at Twitter: AMFI_Mindanao/Email us: info@advocacymindanao.org/Visit us: www.advocacymindanao.org

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level of networking with other organizations that resulted to successful partnerships from external sources.

Aside from these institutional efforts, Aquino encouraged everyone to have an active role to achieve changes for the better. "Let's reflect on what matters to us. Is it family or comfort? Is it relationship or materials things? Is it what our government can give us or what we can give to our community? Is it I or We?"

She also called for everyone to "nurture our children; let us be there when they need us for guidance; empower our women so they don't have to leave home and become targets of abuse and maltreatment."

In parting, Aquino urged the public to "get back to the basic values of honesty and integrity, love and respect, giving and sharing instead of taking, continue to build on the gains of our predecessors rather than reinventing the wheel, and continue to be resilient and able to rise amidst the challenges of our times."/JDP/ JBP/MAWC – PIA CAR

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of ALFREDO R. CACHERO who died in Baguio City on June 29, 1995 was extrajudicially settled by the heirs on June 23, 2015 as evidenced by Doc. No. 40; Page No. 102; Book No. III; Series of 2015 of the Notary Public Romeo D. Lopez.

Publication Dates: July 4, 11, and 18, 2015

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under the conso-loan program.

A member should have a computed loanable amount of at least Php15,000 to be able to qualify under the Enhanced Conso-Loan Plus Program. Loan will not be processed if computed loanable amount is less than Php15,000.

The interest rate under the Enhanced Conso-Loan Program will remain at 12% per annum compounded annually based on diminishing balance.

Under the new conso-loan program, GSIS will not give a grace period in the payment of loan amortizations since agencies do not prepare their payroll in advance anymore.

The first monthly amortization for loans granted on or before the 23rd day of the month is due on the 10th day of the month following the grant of the loan. For loans granted after the 23rd day of the month, the first due date is on the 10th day of the second month after the grant of the loan. / JDP/MAWC – PIA CAR

Council-BCDA Meet to Push Through on July 8

BAGUIO CITY – The City Council-BCDA will finally push through July 10, 9-11 a.m. at the Sangguniang Panlungsod session hall.

The body set the meeting as a special session after getting confirmation from BCDA president and chief executive officer Arnel Paciano Casanova of his attendance.

The meeting will be devoted to issues concerning Camp John Hay with special focus on the 19 conditionalities set by the city in relation to the development of the former military reservation as per Resolution Numbered 362, series of 1994.

The aldermen who on several occasions sought a dialogue with Casanova and JHMC president and chief executive officer Jamie Eloise Agbayani to no avail.

They expressed hopes that with the meeting finally pushing through, all questions will be answered, issues will be clarified and problems will be resolved once and for all.

The talk is expected

BENECO Donates PIM for Watershed Fencing

BAGUIO CITY - An amount of P 1 million was donated recently by Benguet Electric Cooperative (BENECO) to Baguio Water District (BWD) for its fencing project of Busol Watershed to help prevent further encroachment by illegal settlers and other destruction to a major water source.

BENECO general manager Gerardo Verzosa said this part of their corporate social responsibility - a worthy cause for the protection and preservation of the forest, the source of water.

BWD in coordination with the Baguio Baguio Regreening Movement (BRM) will construct a perimeter fence to protect Busol Watershed.

Atty. Erdolfo Batavia, chairman of BRM, said that a total amount of P32.8 million is needed to fence the watershed with a length of 25,369 meters. The fence will be made of concrete hollow blocks reinforced by concrete posts.

The Busol watershed supplies 15% of the water needs of Baguio. It has six deep wells directly supplying 6,179 households in Aurora Hill.

It also has 10 deep wells and two springs within the watershed that serve as recharging area for 7,728 households from other areas of Aurora Hill and Pacdal.

Engr. Salvador Royeca, BWD general manager, is thankful for the donation and requested that institutions like BENECO as well as individuals to support the preservation of all the watersheds in the city./JDP/JBZ- PIA CAR

BWD Grants Water Bill Discount to Senior Citizens

BAGUIO CITY - Member-consumers of the Baguio Water District (BWD) who are senior citizens can avail of the five percent discount on their water bills.

Engr. Noriel Calpito BWD Commercial Division OIC Manager, in a Kapihan media forum Friday, iterated that senior citizens whose water bill is on their name, are entitled to a 5% discount as long as their water consumption does not exceed 30 cubic meters as provided under the Expanded Senior Citizens Act.

Calpito reported that of the 38,078 active water connections in the city as of this year, 1,097 connections belong to senior citizens who have been granted of the discount.

Senior citizens who

Benguet PLGU, DA Ink MOA to Enhance High Value Crops Production

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - The Department of Agriculture and the provincial government of Benguet recently forged a memorandum of agreement to enhance the production of high value crops.

The project dubbed, "Enhancement and Sustainability of High Value Crops Production in the Province of Benguet," has a project cost of P3.57 million of which the provincial government committed 15 percent as its counterpart.

The DA, which is implementing development programs to attain food self-sufficiency, is now prioritizing the production of quality vegetables and coffee which are cost competitive.

Moreover, part of the agency's role is to increase the volume of production, as part of its enhancement and expansion program.

While the provincial government has projects of its own in helping the vegetable

wish to avail of the discount need to present their senior citizen's ID and proof of billing to the BWD. Upon application, members of the BWD will inspect the household of the applicant to know if the application is valid, he added.

BWD in 2014 produced 41,504 cubic meters of water supply a day to around 312,000 people in 122 of the 129 barangays in Baguio City.

The supply has increased by almost three percent this year, generating 42,594 cubic meters a day.

BWD admits that they are still facing the challenge of larger demand with the city's increasing population and influx of transients and tourists./JDP/CCD / Marivic Wayah- PIA/UP Intern

PRO - Cor Briefs Baguio Media on PNP PATROL Plan 2030

BAGUIO CITY - A highly capable, effective and credible police service working in partnership with a responsive community towards the attainment of a safer place to live, work and do business.

This is the vision of the Philippine National Police PATROL Plan 2030 that the Police Regional Office - Cordillera (PRO-Cor) imparted during an information sharing and fellowship night with Baguio media and national correspondents under the PNP Press Corps last Friday.

Police Superintendent Cherry Olucan explained that the implementation of the PATROL plan is a follow-up to the Performance Governance System (PGS) that was integrated in the PNP Integrated Transformation Program that started implementation in 2005.

Key components of the plan are resource management through the optimal use of both financial and logistics funds; continuing learning and growth to develop competent, values oriented and disciplined personnel, as well as a professional organization; and achievement of process excellence.

As for PRO-Cor, Olucan shared that they have developed a scientific management tool in crime prevention such as the Crime Mapping System, e-learning system, the web-based Online Community Engagement System and e-Personnel engagement survey.

Other best practices, she reported are the Oplan Tambuli implemented in public markets, tourists spots and public transportation terminals; the Barangay Integrated Defense System; the conduct of youth leadership summit; the creation of the Regional Law Enforcement Cooperating Committee website and a Model Regional Tactical Operations Center.

The police regional office has been encouraging small units to develop and initiate best practices, she added.

PRO-Cor Director, Police Chief Superintendent Isagani Nerez in giving gratitude to the tri-media participants for their effort and suggestions to improve police service, also called for a continuing partnership especially in the advocacy of PNP programs for the achievement of a better and safer Cordillera.

PNP Press Corps president Joseph Cabanas, in behalf of the media, accepted the challenge and assured that media will play its role truthfully in the dissemination of information on peace and order and security.

"We are here to share the real picture presented by the PNP", Cabanas said.

The program was followed by a fellowship night where PNP personnel and media practitioners enjoyed a night of music and singing under the accompaniment of the PRO - Cor band./JDP/CCD and Jenina Munoz - PIA CAR/UP Intern



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KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Ombudsman Outburst: Childish, Arrogant

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... Your rulers are rebels, partners with thieves..." (Isaiah 1:23, the Holy Bible).

OMBUDESMAN'S OUTBURST: CHILDISH, IMMATURE, ARROGANT: Childish. Immature. And recklessly arrogant. These, to many, sum up the public outburst made last July 01, 2015 by Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales, when she lambasted her critics who are accusing her of double standard of justice in prosecuting only the political enemies of her patron, President Aquino.

First, the use by a supposedly dignified official occupying the very lofty and noble position of Ombudsman of street language, such as "nabubuwisit ako" or, roughly, "I am already fed up" in describing how she felt about those criticizing her is cockiness of the highest order.

Why, as a government official whose salary is paid by the taxes of the Filipino people, including her detractors, she is mandated to act and speak prudently at all times, ever mindful that she is first and foremost a "public servant" who should always be amenable to comments and criticisms, especially in relation to her official duties and responsibilities.

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OMBUDESMAN LACKS UNDERSTANDING OF HER POSITION: Second, Morales' display of anger at people who talk about her conduct as an official of government betrays her dangerous lack of understanding (or even of her deliberate refusal to understand) of her real role as a public servant, which immediately raises issues about her competence and integrity to remain in her position.

This is inexplicable since she is a former justice of the Supreme Court, and is now the top government graft buster as the Ombudsman, tasked with the duty of seeing to it that all those serving in government must maintain a sensitivity to the people's needs and desires.

Morales' outburst is proof enough that either she really does not know what is required of her as Ombudsman, or that the power of her position has already gone to her head, making her unable to realize the ramifications of public outbursts from an officials occupying such a very sensitive position.

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OMBUDESMAN MUST RESIGN OR BE FIRED: Either way, there is a need for her to voluntarily relinquish her position now, or for her to be fired as an Ombudsman, so that President Aquino can appoint someone in her place who would be more tolerant or understanding of criticisms, whether constructive or not.

And so Morales is reminded once again of what is expected her as an Ombudsman, I am reproducing here the following Constitutional and statutory provisions about government officials: "Section 1, Art. 11, 1987 Constitution: Public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must, at all times, be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency; act with patriotism

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DIMENSIONAL ROAD

A Dead-end of GAMCA's Monopoly (Reprint)

BY: MARVIN WAGNAG LIDAWAN



"Corruption and hypocrisy ought not to be inevitable products of democracy, as they undoubtedly are today." Mohandas Gandhi

This monopolizing group's gradual disappearance from the nationwide overseas recruitment scene is a favorable news and information to fellow residents of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and to all citizens of the country who wanted employment in the Gulf Region as Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW).

Over the years, OFW's endured manipulative procedures just to pass the medical examinations to make a living in the Mid-Eastern countries. Several complaints repetitiously were brought out by activists to the public of which media have been drumbeating ever since but due to the lack of government authorities' concern, these forms of abuse over them became rampant prompting vigilant group advocates' attention to resurface and exert efforts in exposing the wide spreading dilemma.

To further understand the nature of this deviant organization, Gulf Cooperation Council -Approved Medical Centers Association (GAMCA) is a conglomeration of medical clinics authorized by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member-in the conduct of pre-deployment medical tests for Filipino applicants. Its scheme requires GCC applicants to be appointment by a centralized office upon which they will be referred to an accredited clinic. The practice is called decking system which undermines Philippine laws including but not limited to malpractices which define applicants from the different parts of the archipelago to being subjected to unusually extreme discomforts specially to those who are financially-handicapped.

And to address this predicament of successfully recruited applicants overseas, an inter-agency task force comprising the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) was delegated to reject a monopoly exercised by the GCC who accredited about nineteen (19) local medical clinics that process Filipino overseas applicants' medical examination with legal contracts bound for work in GCC member-states: Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Kuwait, Sultanate of Oman, Kingdom of Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

I am among the migrant workers in the gulf who had untoward experiences with GAMCA's decking system. As their generally-implemented procedure, all applicants' medical examination documents are submitted by a specific recruitment agency that holds the job orders from overseas employers to GAMCA. GAMCA shuffles the names of these applicants to be directed to undergo medical check-ups not of their own choices but through its recognized hospitals and clinics. In every clinic or hospital, every applicant has to undergo long, tiring and stern procedures with its area barely able to contain a crowd of thousands of applicants. In worst cases, you need to walk sideward to be able to move from one place to another. Long queues would take you hours to ac-

complish a single step. If you are lucky enough, you would complete the examination for two days. While it is true that the applicant has to bear an expenses of his own medical examination which is usually Two thousand seven hundred (P2,700.00) Philippine currency, this amount could extend into more financial constraints not to mention expenses incurred in going and returning to the hospital's location in the National Capital Region (NCR). This is so because applicants are subjected to major and minor medical processes for two or several times like -x-rays, AIDS, drug and stool examination; blood pressure examination among others. Though some clinics allow you to have dental examination and cleaning from other places, the assurance of passing the test is slim because the dental groups of the hospitals usually find ways for applicants to repeat the procedure adding financial burden and inconvenience. Despite their awareness that the applicant has a visa and ready for deployment, their delaying tactics-repetition of the processes they deemed unsatisfactory done, may hamper the urgency of work travels which can possibly transpire even for several months. Some OFW's employment status have been cancelled by employers due to GAMCA's decking system. Applicants are fortunate if employers are patient enough to wait-a rare opportunity.

This beneficial action performed by the cooperating government agencies against the system links to the country's Republic Act No. 10022 that provides Filipino migrant workers the freedom to choose any clinic accredited or operated by the Department of Health (DOH). It stipulates that applicants need not to travel to the NCR to avail of their medical examination due to the establishment of accredited clinics in all regions depending on the origin of applicants that favorably results to cost-cutting expenses and reducing inconvenience.

Alay Buhay party-list Representative, Wes Gatchalian, Senior Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Overseas Workers' Affairs (HCOWA), said that "the decision of the inter-agency task force has cleared the way for our overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to exercise their democratic right to choose their preferred clinics under the law, of which the circular directs all Philippine posts in the GCC to inform and seek the cooperation of host governments to abolish the GAMCA decking system, which were practiced over the past fifteen (15) years." It can be recalled that there were concerned citizens' groups who constantly advocate the removal of GAMCA but were not successful enough in demanding reforms due to the displace focus of some government officials who almost squander their reigns on political affairs neglecting other major government issues that needed to be crucially addressed. Despite some officials' inefficiencies towards their expected public services, there are still dedicated men and women, who acted on their credence to lead reforms.

In appreciation to some members of the government authorities, this is a manifestation that change can possibly occur depending on authorities that were converged and emerged by the changing times whose ultimate objectives to publicly rule concentrate on elimination of corruption and rejection of abusive powers. Edward Gibbon's thematically-contained line says "Corruption is the most infallible symptom of constitutional liberty." marvinwagnaglidawan@gmail.com