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# THE JUNCTION

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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

## Vergara and Balanag Deny Involvement in Ballot Theft

Baguio City- The heart of Worthy Acosta's ballot theft story as stated in a sworn affidavit submitted to the Comelec investigation panel revolved around the alleged participation of former Congressman Bernardo Vergara and Ferdie Balanag in the alleged electoral offense.

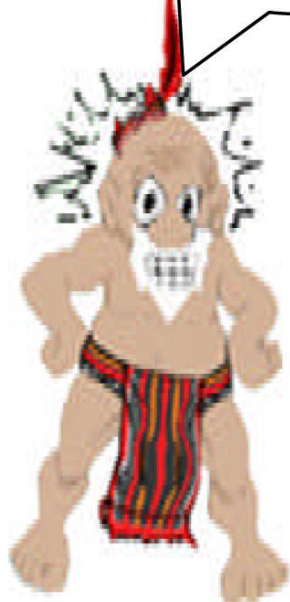
In paragraph 18 of his Affidavit, Acosta said, "sometime before June 30, 2013, I was instructed to go to Baguio". Acosta then says, "about a day or two after" he travelled to Baguio where he allegedly met respondent Vergara and that "the following day" he went to the warehouse where the ballots were kept and that he then opened the ballot boxes and stole the ballots with Balanag. All in all, Acosta said that he stayed in Baguio for "three or four days". Thus, even assuming that he got the instruction to go to Baguio on June 30, 2013 and he did travel a day or two later on July 2, 2013 and that he stayed in Baguio for four days or until July 6, 2013 - it would have been impossible for respondent Balanag to have accompanied Acosta in stealing the ballots since Balanag was out of the country from June 17, 2013 to July 7, 2013.

Balanag included in his **Cont. on page 9**



Former Cong. Bernardo M. Vergara and his Press Relations Officer, Ferdinand L. Balanag, with their lawyer, Atty. Abraham Espejo present evidences to disprove the allegations of election offenses hurled against them before Comelec lawyers assigned to investigate the case headed by Atty. Charlie L. Yap along with the Comelec panel composed of Atty. Akia A. Co, Atty. Abegail Claire F. Carbero-Llacuna and Atty. Erwin S. Villarin (on leave)/Photos and caption by Ferdie Balanag, PR of Bernardo Vergara

*Dapat sana ay paspasan ng COMELEC ang kanilang imbestigasyon hinggil sa diumanong pagnanakaw ng balota !!!*



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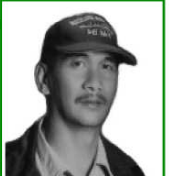
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**MAGKASANGGATAYO**

**Balanag at Vergara nag Hain na ng Kanilang Depensa!!!**

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BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO





## Council Seeks Master Development Plan for Santo Tomas Site

BAGUIO CITY – the city council here is asking for a master development plan for the Santo Tomas area covering approximately 139 hectares in this mountain resort.

This came as plans for the area as a multi-use site emerged during deliberations to approve the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the planned Engineered Sanitary Landfill (ESL).

The council however will return the TOR for the development of the city's ESL to the Solid Waste Management Board (SWMB) unacted.

This was decided Monday after Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda inquired from City General Services Officer Romeo Concio the complete paper works for the Integrated Solid Waste Management System (ISWMS).

Tabanda said, "what was forwarded to the council is the endorsement for the approval of the TOR on the future development of the ESL."

City General Services Officer Romeo Concio said, "they did not yet submit documents for the ISWMS and the revised 10-year Solid Waste Management Program pending completion of the Waste Analysis and Characterization Study (WACS) preparatory to the development of the city's waste system."

Concio added, "the conduct of the waste

characterization study was bidden-out twice but unfortunately, there were no takers."

"We are in the process of a negotiated procurement for the WACS, the amendments to the 10-year solid waste management program is dependent on the completion of the WACS that is the reason why we are not yet submitting it," he said.

Concio however requested the august body to give them more time until they have completed the negotiated procurement on the WACS being the guiding principle for any development on the waste system.

Concio was invited to present to the council the waste system operation and its components and documents prior to approval of the TOR for the planned sanitary landfill.

It can be recalled that five potential sites were investigated and the Santo Tomas Site was recommended by the monitoring committee and eventually approved in city council Resolution number 78-2009.

Concio updated the council on the present status of the Santo Tomas area and the components of the system consisting of a central Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), Environmental Recycling System (ERS), Engineered Sanitary Land-

## Lawmaker to COMELEC: Rebid Deal, Don't Appeal SC Decision on Smartmatic

Senator Chiz Escudero said that a no-election scenario in 2016 was impossible after serious concerns emerged following the Supreme Court's decision to nullify a deal between the Commission on Elections (Comelec) and Smartmatic for the repair and maintenance of 82,000 voting machines for next year's national polls.

The high court nixed the Comelec-Smartmatic deal amidst allegations of indiscretion and abuse surrounding the awarding of the repair contract, but Escudero said the SC ruling will not impede the conduct of the 2016 elections since there were other options available to the poll body.

"Postponing the elections is not possible. Under the Constitution and even under our laws, elections cannot and should not be postponed," Escudero said. "Comelec has no power to do that. Their only mandate is to supervise elections in our country every three years. And precisely because elections happen only every three years, there is no reason for the Comelec not to do it effectively."

Escudero, who heads the Senate Committee on Finance, said the best option for the Comelec was to bid out the contract anew as there is still enough time left to do so.

"Para sa akin, mag-bidding na sila at huwag nang umapela sa sa korte upang sa gayon ay mas magkaroon sila ng sapat na panahon para dumiskarte at gumalaw pa ng naaayon sa SC decision. Lalo na at unanimous ang desisyon ng korte, malamang hindi na 'yan babaligtarin," the senator explained.

According to Escudero, if Comelec would stick with the bidding process and procedures, there is still time to address the technical needs for operating the machines and even Congress has time to help the poll body if needed.

"May sapat pang panahon. Ngayon kung magkukulang sila ng pera, alam ko may savings pa ang Comelec na humigit kumulang dalawang bilyong piso; pwede nilang kunin dun. Kung may kailangan pa silang dagdag na gastusin, ipagbigay alam nila sa amin para sa lalong madaling panahon maaksyunan ng Kongreso at maibigay ang kinakailangang pondo para sa automated elections sa 2016," Escudero said, as he dismissed the possibility of going back to manual elections next year in

related to the election season. OFFICIAL WEBSITE: [http://chizescudero.com/OFFICIAL\\_FACEBOOK](http://chizescudero.com/OFFICIAL_FACEBOOK) PAGE: [@saychiz](https://www.facebook.com/senchizescudero/OFFICIAL_TWITTER_ACCOUNT)

fill (ESL), Waste-to-Energy (WTE), Anaerobic Digester (AD) and Health Care Waste Treatment Plant (HCWTP).

Concio said, "the survey of the area has been completed and the Solid Waste Management Board is awaiting the Geophysical study being done by

the Bureau of Mines on the soil structure in the area."

"The road leading to the site, an alternate route is being prepared by the Office of the City Engineer," he said.

Concio requested the council to hold in abeyance the discussions for the ISWMS until the WACS is accomplished.

Concio said, "they have already requested

## Lawmaker on LTO's Refusal to Postpone "No Plate, No Travel" Policy Implementation

We need a government that will make a real change in people's lives, not make their lives harder.

It is, therefore, regrettable that LTO chooses not to help itself and in the process relieve the public of the stress and inconvenience caused by its officials' inefficiency and failure to serve the agency's mandate.

We all know there is the law and our people also know that it's LTO that created the problem because it could not provide the plates within 7 days early on. And LTO is being given a chance to put its house in order through the suggested moratorium.

The insistence of LTO officials to make law abiding taxpayers suffer for their inefficiency, will not be taken lightly by our people.

If LTO insists on punishing taxpayers, then our people have the right to hear LTO officials explain their inefficiency to them

Our people also have the right to know who created this problem, who must face the administrative cases, and who decided not to provide our people the relief they deserve.

We'll also wait for their explanation during the budget hearing to determine what kind of budget it deserves given what the taxpaying citizens are made to suffer, from late delivery of plates to late issuance of license cards, because of LTO officials' inefficiency and incompetence. Reference: Communications Office of Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano. Contact 0917-814-1703 (Ms. Cherry Dacanay) and 0917-633-05349 (Ms. Ofel Rodeles)

## Cong. Aliping Helps Indigents Together with DSWD

BAGUIO Rep. Nicasio M. Aliping Jr. has assisted over a thousand indigent constituents with a roll out of more than P13 million from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)'s Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) program.

The AICS is a little known program of the DSWD to help defray the cost of emergency situations which indigents can avail. A maximum of P5,000 per individual can be availed of by the recipient. Beneficiaries have been given financial assistance to pay for a myriad of crises including burial assistance, hospitalization aid, educational support, and transportation help.

"Although there is maximum amount which can be disbursed, we make sure to carefully assess the crisis of the beneficiary so we can recommend a higher amount to be released by the DSWD," Rep. Aliping

said.

He added, "We make sure that we not only help pass quality laws for the entire country, but we also help our indigent residents of Baguio access financial assistance from government to directly assist them in their crisis."

Last year, 1,774 locals took advantage of the AICS through the referral and assistance of Rep. Aliping and the congressional staff at the Baguio City Hall office.

A total of P13,024,029 have been disbursed to the beneficiaries referred by Rep. Aliping in 2014 alone.

"We hope to help more of our constituents through this program so that they can feel directly how government is taking care of them," he added.

Majority of the financial assistance sought under the AICS allotment of Rep. Aliping come in the form of medical assistance, burial assistance

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**THE JUNCTION**


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## Customs' Sevilla: Political Nominees Last Straw

STEPPING DOWN. Ex-Customs Commissioner John P Sevilla resigns, after refusing political appointments.

MANILA, Philippines – When newly-resigned Customs Commissioner John “Sunny” P. Sevilla first took the post in December 2013, it didn’t take long before text messages and phone calls started coming in.

They came from government officials – people asking for favors, political appointments – but Sevilla, who vowed to run the bureau without politics, ignored the requests. Appointments especially, he said, should be the call of the deputy commissioner who would oversee those positions.

“Early on, actually days within I started, there were already lots of pressures for me to move certain people to certain sensitive positions,” Sevilla told Rappler in an exclusive interview on Thursday, April 23, his first since he publicly announced his resignation.

“When it all started it was texts and phone calls. From people I knew within government. None of these were, ‘Do this.’ It was all, ‘Hey you know so and so is counting on this. So and so wants so and so to be placed there.’ But I thought if you give in to one, it’s a slippery slope.”

His refusal to play along worked. For about a year and 4 months.

“I did not think that anyone outside of Customs or outside of government should have any say in appointments in Customs so I just asked the relevant deputy commissioners,” he said.

But on Wednesday, April 22, Sevilla submitted his resignation to the Office of the President after receiving word that an appointment he opposed is set to go through.

Intellectual Property Rights Division acting chief Teddy Sandy Raval has been pushed “very hard” for an appointed position in the Bureau – for the post of Director of Enforcement and Security Service (ESS), more commonly known as head of the Customs police. The position would oversee the 400 or so armed police force of Customs.

Sevilla had no information on Raval’s qualifications for the post, but the only reason always being given, he said, was that Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) or Church of Christ – a group that has grown to 2.25 million followers – wanted Raval there.

“I said, ‘What is this? Why are we appointing people at the behest supposedly of Iglesia ni Cristo? That just goes against my own principles. Every assurance I made to our own team here at Customs that politics and influence-peddling would have zero role in appointments and promotions in Customs,” he said.

“So I tried to resist that appointment for as long as I could. I learned fairly recently that the appointment is going to come through. I said, ‘Look there is something that is not right about this and I think it is something that’s important enough to the future of Customs and to me personally to take a stand against.’”

On Thursday, with little fanfare and seeming abruptness, Sevilla announced his resignation. There have been rumors since January that he was on his way out. There had been some personal attacks here and there and talk of powers-that-be easing him out, but when Rappler last spoke to Sevilla 3 months ago, he denied he was stepping down.

Did anyone ask him to leave his post this time around?

“I’d rather not answer that,” he said.

### INC behind appointment?

Just hours after Sevilla announced his resignation, the Bureau of Customs

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## Travel Clearance Needed for Minors Traveling Abroad Alone, DSWD

BAGUIO CITY – Children who are travelling abroad alone or with companion other than their parents should secure a travel clearance from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) here before applying for the children’s passport in the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

In the issuance of clearance for minors travelling abroad, the children’s parents or legal guardians submit documents to the DSWD to ensure that the travel to be undertaken is favorable to the minor’s safety and well-being. Assigned social worker assesses the documents and recommends the approval or disapproval of the request for a travel clearance.

“Aside from the travel clearance being a DFA requirement, securing a travel clearance shall protect the children from the threat of human trafficking,” DSWD-Cordillera Regional Director Janet P. Armas said.

Human trafficking or trafficking in persons is an act of recruitment, transportation, transfer, or receipt of persons by means of threat or coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or compensation, with or without the consent of the person for the purpose of exploitation.

Minors Travelling Abroad Section (MTA) Focal Person Julie Balagot advised applicants to secure all necessary documents when filing for a travel clearance to facilitate the process. “The processing and release of

Cont. on page 8

## Solon Goes After Baguio’s Share of CJH Rent

BAGUIO CITY – Baguio Rep. Nicasio M. Aliping Jr emphasized that he together with other city officials will make strong representations with the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) to collect the city’s 25% past dues share of the rentals from Camp John Hay.

This developed as the Office of the Ex-officio Sheriff of the Regional Trial Court Branch 6 served the Notice to Vacate to Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevCo) representatives Monday afternoon.

The order was addressed to CJHDevCo “and all persons claiming rights under them [CJHDevCo].”

When Rep. Aliping learned of the Notice to Vacate, said Wednesday, April 22, that he will make representation with BCDA president and CEO Arnel Paciano Casanova on how to collect the city’s share from the P1.4 billion the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. (PDRCI) ordered the government-run corporation to return to CJHDevCo.

The amount represents the rental CJHDevCo paid to BCDA for the first years of its operations of the former American rest and recreation facility located in Baguio.

Previous to the issuance of the notice, Casanova opined that the city can collect its share from the amount BCDA is set to return to CJHDevCo.

He also gave the similar advice to other third parties of interest to the case particularly the locators, sub-lessees, unit owners, and golf club members.

It was learned that Regional Trial Court Branch 6 Judge Cecilia Corazon Dulay-Archog ordered BCDA to set up a trust fund, the amount would be deposited and which the court will disburse to CJHDevCo depending on the

Cont. on page 8



Former Customs Commissioner John P. Sevilla. Another truly SAD day for Juan dela Cruz, another good man leaving government!!!

## City Working Out Requirement to Rev up Waste Program

BAGUIO CITY – Waste program implementors here are working on the main requirement to jumpstart the Integrated Solid Waste Management System (ISWMS), a multi-strategy program for the long-term solution of the city’s garbage woes.

City general services officer Romeo Concio of the City Solid Waste Management Board said the city is in the process of bidding out through negotiated procurement the waste analysis and characterization system (WACS), which will serve as the basis of all solid waste projects in the city and even the ten-year solid waste management plan.

He said the WACS contains primary data needed to determine the viability of solid waste projects and thus is essential to the implementation of the ISWMS.

Concio also said that regular biddings for the WACS failed so the city will undertake the negotiated mode.

Concio also said the CSWMB has withdrawn the proposed terms of reference for the engineered sanitary landfill (ESL) earlier submitted to the city council for approval deciding to pursue the project alongside the other component strategies of the ISWMS.

The board earlier thought of advancing the implementation of the ESL as an immediate solution for the city to stop hauling its waste to outside facilities but the city council balked at the piecemeal pursuit of the ISWMS and questioned some of the terms including the cost and the life span of the proposed facility.

Concio explained that the ESL is intended only as a support facility or as a stop-gap waste strategy while the city is still constructing the waste-to-energy technology which is the main strategy of the ISWMS thus they did not plan for a larger facility with a longer life span.

“In fact, if we can help it we really do not want to construct an ESL because of its effect on the environment. Climate change program advocates are now wary of the effect of the methane gas being emitted by the ESL facilities that there is now a pending proposal at the United Nations to ban these facilities,” Concio said.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan when told of the council’s question on the short life span of the proposed ESL said, “To me, the shorter the lifespan is, the better for the city because even the World Health Organization is now discouraging ESL because of their seepage underground. Until now, there is no concrete finding on their long-term effect to the environment,” he said.

The city’s ISWMS consists of several waste management strategies intended for long-term management of the city’s wastes among which a waste-to-energy technology, a central

Cont. on page 7



## AFP Chief: We're on Our Own Against China

MANILA - Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gregorio Catapang has admitted Filipino soldiers will have to go it alone if armed conflict erupts in the West Philippine Sea between the Philippines and China.

Catapang said the United States would not come to the defense of Manila, its long-time ally.

"We understand the treaty, it does not include the West Philippine Sea, and so we want to develop our own capabilities. When the time comes that we will be on our own, given the training with the Americans, we can do it on our own," Catapang said in an interview with ABS-CBN News. "It's a contested area. Until now it's in the international tribunal, so we have to be realistic."

Catapang was referring to the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) between the Philippines and United States, which compels both nations to come to each other's defense if an external armed attack occurs in metropolitan areas, island territories in the Pacific Ocean, or armed forces, vessels, and aircraft in the Pacific. The MDT makes no mention of the South China Sea, also known as the West Philippine Sea.

Catapang's position is different from that of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The DFA said the US considers the West Philippine Sea to be part of the Pacific Area, based on a letter of former US Ambassador Thomas Hubbard to former Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon.

### NO SOLUTION

When the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) was signed a year ago in April 2014, its proponents said it would help the country solve problems in the West Philippine Sea.

"To me, the value of EDCA is in the assistance during times of calamity and it will serve as a deterrent to would-be aggressors," then AFP Chief of Staff Emmanuel Bautista told ABS-CBN News in May.

By June, the agreement's constitutionality had been challenged thrice before the Supreme Court. No temporary restraining order was issued.

In December, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin told a Senate committee hearing the EDCA had successfully kept China's aggression at bay.

"Kita nyo, hindi tayo ina-atake sa pag-resupply ng mga tropa sa Ayungin Shoal," he said.

But while EDCA was being discussed at the Senate, the court, and in the streets, and as questions about the sincerity of the United States continued to linger, China quietly but swiftly reclaimed land and constructed runways and buildings in seven different reefs within disputed waters.

At least five incidents involving Chinese vessels in the West Philippine Sea were also reported last year.

"EDCA will not solve our problem," Catapang said.

P450B modernization plan

But building a credible defense and security posture could help.

Unfortunately, it will take at least P450 billion and decades before the Philippines achieves this goal.

In the meantime, Catapang said the US can aid the Philippines through training, equipment, and information.

Facilities that may be built or refurbished under the EDCA could also be useful. But any aid would come before, not during, an armed conflict./by Gigi Grande, ABS-CBN News



### KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

**PNOY, Most Incompetent RP President**

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



**LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS:** "... Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight..." (Isaiah 5:21, the Holy Bible).

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**FILIPINOS NO LONGER WANT TO BELIEVE PNOY:** To Malacanang's assurances that President Aquino is renewing his pledge to serve his "bosses" more during the remaining two years of his term in answer to his lowest net satisfaction rating since 2010, readers of a big Manila newspaper took time out to react and put in print that they do not believe him anymore.

One Noriel Bernabe wrote the following: "Less than two years in office, Noynoy will not be able to implement his big ticket projects because most of them are still at the drawing boards. The slacker son of Ninoy, the non-achiever Noynoy, lacks leadership skills."

"Under his incompetent leadership: transport sector is a mess; corruption in local level has increased as more cases are being filed by private citizens against local officials with the Ombudsman; many graft cases involving Noynoy Aquino's allies are still collecting dust at the Ombudsman."

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**CORRUPTION UNDER PNOY HITS EVEN THE BUDGET:** Bernabe also said: "Corrupt politicians involved in pork and DAP (President Aquino's disbursement acceleration program) scam have not been indicted or investigated by DOJ (or the Department of Justice); prices of goods have increased because of port congestion; under Noynoy's rule, transportation is one big mess."

"Power shortage remained unattended and (electricity also remained) very expensive; lack of jobs continues to hound the growing number of the work force; very few FDIs (or foreign direct investments); under Noynoy's rule we've got the smallest share of investment in the region."

"Prices of basic commodities, fare, fuel, tuition, utilities, food and more, are increasing significantly; billions of CCT (cash conditional transfer) budget were unaccounted for and fell to the wrong hands; under Noynoy's rule, the budget is prone to corruption and more than half of the national budget are being pocketed."

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**PNOY IS THE MOST INCOMPETENT RP PRESIDENT:** Then, Bernabe concluded: "Under Aquino's rule, public hospitals (intended for the poor) are being privatized; under Aquino's rule, rotating brownouts in Mindanao remain unsolved; hypocrisy and blame is the highlight of this administration."

"This administration has done more damage to our institutions and to the country as a whole. Noynoy proved to be the most incompetent president in history of Philippine politics..."

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Cont. on page 7



## DIMENSIONAL ROAD

**Republic Act No. 1047  
Ladderizes Philippine  
Education: An Equal  
Opportunity (Reprint)**

BY : MARVIN WACNAG LIDAWAN



*"Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is our fundamental resource."* John F. Kennedy

Every child's bright future through the formal educative processes is ensured with the advent of the K-12 in the Philippine Curriculum. That is if they follow the system's sanctioned and prescribed procedures. Many students who finished K-12 will have a great possibility to land technical-vocational jobs of which will be the basis of their future livelihood. However, it is expected that the many among these graduates may realize that they need further studies which to them will mean additional period of time and additional expenses. With a new act from the government authorities, they have nothing to fear in as far as they are determined to push through.

Ladderized education is a scheme which does not waste whatever educational credentials and knowledge every Filipino graduate has earned since the basic education earned can be utilized to advance studies. From K to 12 to TVET to Higher Education (HE) courses, nothing is wasted. Having completed any of these levels ensures employability and supports additional studies. Students after completing their K to 12 may start to work for some time and can again enroll in the undergraduate courses without reverting back to the basic subjects of the course they plan to achieve.

And to address this crucial need, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education Skills and Development Training Authority (TESDA) and the Department of Education (DepEd) as three educational governing bodies in consultation with the Philippine Regulation Commission (PRC) cooperatively devised a means of promoting quality education in the country and this is through the Ladderized Education Program (LEP) as mandated by Republic Act No. 10647.

Other government agencies have expressed their support: the PRC, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and Technology, (DOST) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), among other concern agencies as this pedagogical process goes.

The LEP under "Ladderized Education Act of 2014," approved on November 21, 2014 by President Benigno S. Aquino III is a result of the consolidated Senate Bill No. 2272 and House Bill No. 3575 passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on September 24, 2014.

According to this Act, "It Promotes an equal opportunity rights of all citizens to quality and accessible education at all levels and to establish and maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrative system of education relevant to the needs of the people and contributory to national development. "Therefore this elucidates a policy for the state to institutionalize and ladderize the gaps between Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Higher Education of which the TVET graduates and even workers have easy access in

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## MAGKASANGGATAYO

**Balanag at Vergara nag  
Hain na ng Kanilang  
Depensa!!!**

BY : NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO



Sayang at hindi pa kami pinadalhan ng kabuuan Counter Affidavit ni kagalang-galang na Honorable Bernardo M. Vergara at ng kanyang Public Relations man na si Honorable Ferdinand "Ferdie" Balanag hingil sa kasong kinasasangkutan nila na isang criminal election offense on the violation of the omnibus election code hingil sa kanilang alleged involvement sa diumano ay pag nanakaw ng mga balota. Ang ibinigay sa aming tangapan ni Mr. Odell Aquino ang Publisher ng Upland News On Line ay ang liham mula kay Mr. Balanag at sa aking pag kakaalam ay yuon kabuuan liham ni Mr. Balanag ang siyang naka publish sa headline story sa isyu ngayon ng pahayagang ito. Maliban sa impormasyon na ibinigay sa akin ni Mr. Aquino ay mayroon din akong isang impormante na sa ngayon ay ating tatawagin na si Mr. RG na nag email sa akin ng diumano ay mga ebidensya na inilabas ni Mr. Balanag sa kanyang Pisbuk este Facebook na nag papatunay na siya ay na sa USA nung panahon na nangyari ang alleged na krimen. Ang mga impormasyon na email sa akin ay ang passport, visa, flight confirmation at iba pa. Ayon kay Mr. Balanag ay lumipad siya papuntang USA nuong June 17, 2013 at bumalik sa Pinas nuong July 7, 2013, samakatwid ay nasa USA si Mr. Balanag sa mga panahon na yuon. Sa puntong ito ay aking tatanggapin na tunay nga na na sa USA itong si Mr. balanag nung mga petsa na yuon, ngunit ayon naman sa nag aakusa na si Mr. Acosta ay ang krimen daw ay nang yari sometime before June 30, 2015 samakatwid ay nasa Pinas pa naman si Mr. Balanag before June 30, 2013 at siya lamang ay umalis nuong June 17, 2013. Hingil dito sa mga info na ipinabas ng mga inakusahan ni Mr. Acosta ay sinubukan namin kontakin si Mr. Acosta sa pamamagitan ng pag tawag at pag text sa kanyang celpen at sa pag eemail sa kanya, salamat nga pala Mr. RG sa ibinigay mo na CP Number at email address ni Mr. Worthy Acosta. Nag bigay rin ng komento si Mr. Acosta na inyong mababasa sa headline story ng pahayagang ito. Sa puntong ito ay neutral pa rin ang inyong lingkod at hindi pa ako maka gawa ng pinal na konklusyon hingil sa isyu na ito, at sana manawari ay **paspasan na ng Comelec ang pag resolba ng imbestigasyon** para nang sa ganuon ay magka alaman na at nang malaman ng ating mga bobotanteng tanga Baguio este botanteng taga Baguio kung mayroon ngang kinalaman si Apo Bernie at Apo Balanag sa operasyon dukot balota na naganap daw. Sa ngayon ay nais ako lang muna kayong iwanan ng ilan komento:

1. Sa dinami dami ng tao na ma sasangkot ni Mr. Worthy Acosta, bakit sina Ginoong Balanag at Vergara ang kanyang idinamay, bakit kaya, anong meron sila o kinaugayan nila sa kwento na ito ng mga dinumanoy mga pangyayari?

2. Ayon sa mga impormante, si kagalang-galang na Apo Bernie Vergara ay ilan beses daw nag banggit in small groups na siya daw ay nadaya ng Hokus-Pokus-PCOS na yan nuong

## Mar Roxas: 'I was Betrayed by President Aquino'

MANILA, Philippines (The Adobo Chronicles) – Initially one of the leading contenders in the 2010 Philippine presidential elections, now Secretary of Interior and Local Governments Mar Roxas slid down to become a vice-presidential candidate in order to make way for then Senator NoyNoy Aquino. Roxas was defeated by Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay by the narrowest margin in the history of the Fifth Republic.

In the last 5 years, Roxas has been one of Aquino's staunchest supporters and apologists, often sacrificing his own reputation and integrity just to make Aquino look good in the eyes of the Filipino people.

Now, Aquino is reportedly mulling on court-ing Senators Grace Poe and Francis Escudero to run as a tandem under the Liberal Party in the 2016 presidential elections, as the ratings of presumptive standard bearer Roxas fail to improve.

Binay is the opposition party's standard bearer.

Upon hearing of Aquino's plan for the party, Roxas screamed an expletive, the same one that he was heard saying at a campaign rally in 2010. (The Adobo Chronicles is a family-oriented news site, so we can't print the expletive.)

"I have been betrayed," Roxas said. "After all that I've done for Aquino, this is what I get," he added. A very religious man, Roxas likened himself to Jesus being betrayed by Judas.

In his frustration, Roxas told reporters that if he is not anointed as the party's standard bearer, he will immediately resign as Local Governments secretary and work for Binay's political campaign. "Let's see who will have the last laugh," Roxas said.

nakaraang eleksyon. Tutuo kaya ito na opinyon at paniniwala ni Apo Bernie Vargara na tunay nga siyang na daya ng Hokus-Pokus-PCOS at marahil ay siya dapat ang tongressman este congressman sa kasalukuyan (Hi ! Hi ! Hi ! - Mark Go isa ka pa sigurong na daya rin ano, cge na sumawsaw ka na rin ?) ? At kung nag karoon nga ng dayaan eh di si Apo Nicasio Aliping na siyang naging tongressman este congressman ang siyang marahil ang mastermind ng pandaraya sa Hokus-Pokus-PCOS. Hi ! Hi ! Hi ! Ikaw talaga Apo Cong. Aliping mayroon ka palang kapangyarihan na mag magic ng Hokus-Pokus-PCOS machine ha!!!

3. Kung walang na nakaw na mga balota, bakit hindi icertify ng kagalang galang na tresurero at ng ibang kinaukulan opisyal na Baguio at Comelac na walang na nakaw na balota, hindi ba nagsagawa ng imbentaryo ang treasurer etc..., ng sa ganuon ay medaling pabulaanan ang bintang ni Mr. Acosta at kung intact nga ang mga balota at walang nawala eh d walang naganap na krimen, hindi po ba simple common sense lang po yun?



## Customs' Sevilla...

released a press statement on Friday's turnover ceremony for the new commissioner – Alberto D. Lina, a known supporter of the ruling Liberal Party and a close friend of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima. Lina was also Customs chief under former president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Sevilla's resignation comes just a day after he announced his refusal to have the Bureau used as a fundraiser for the coming elections.

Sevilla, a former finance undersecretary, boasts an Ivy-league education, having graduated from Cornell and Princeton. Prior to joining the Department of Finance, Sevilla was an investment banker. He worked as executive director at investment bank Goldman Sachs, and was associate director and sovereign rater for credit rating agency Standard and Poor's.

Sevilla has a subdued air about him, and is not one to speak much to media. He works long hours, and does it all again the next day, and is the first to admit that the job is tough – but he sincerely believed, and still does – that reforms in the agency are still possible. Just not with him at the helm.

Sevilla speaks of a changing atmosphere in the Bureau – one that has become tangibly more political as the country approaches the 2016 presidential elections in May. And because he knows he is not a politically savvy person, he decided to step down.

Even now, he admits he still does not know who is behind all the pressure for the appointments.

"To be honest, I don't exactly know because the name that was being dropped all the time was Iglesia ni Cristo. Nobody from Iglesia ni Cristo ever spoke to me so I have no direct knowledge of whether this is really Iglesia ni Cristo. I also find it hard to believe that the INC would do this. Maybe it's just a name being dropped. But obviously powerful

## from page 3

people (are behind this)," he said.

The INC is known for its strict rules. Aside from bans against marrying non-INC members, gambling, and excessive drinking, it requires members to vote only the politicians whom their leaders endorse. This is where it gets its political influence – in its powerful bloc voting.

During elections, it has been a tradition for candidates, from the local to the national levels, to make a pilgrimage to INC leaders to secure their support. The INC has also been known to lobby for government posts for members of its church.

Sevilla may have no evidence, aside from what he has been told, that it is the INC indeed pushing for Raval. But in his press conference, Sevilla talked about how, in June 2014, Deputy Commissioner of the Enforcement Group Ariel Nepomuceno, challenged Sevilla's new process of promotion and appointments – which opened up positions to both insiders and outsiders.

"He (Nepomuceno) said, 'Officers of ESS are requesting only insiders be considered for senior positions in ESS because it might demoralize people, and there's a certain chain of command and experience that should be preserved,'" Sevilla said.

"I told him and some senior members of ESS, 'I don't agree that we should only promote insiders. We need new blood, we need to be open. Once we start making exceptions, our credibility will be undermined. My promise is a level playing field when it comes to promotions.'"

If Raval does get the appointment, he will report to Nepomuceno who is also reportedly supported by the INC.

### Full support of Palace?

Sevilla refuses to name names of who sent him text messages and who called, only saying "people in government." Asked whether he thinks the pressure comes all

the way from the top, he shrugs his shoulders.

**CORRUPTION.** Widespread corruption is a problem associated with the Bureau of Customs.

The point is, Raval may soon be appointed by the President – despite Sevilla's irreverent objection. And while Sevilla concedes this is well under the jurisdiction of President Benigno Aquino III, he simply feels wrong about it, knowing there have been people pushing for Raval to get that post.

"Put it this way. I have my own theories but I won't talk about what they are. I think the mere principle of a political appointment is wrong in and of itself. And I think it imperils the consistency of merit-based hiring and promotions within Customs that we have been trying so hard to achieve," he said.

"The fact that elections are just a wee bit more than a year away makes me 10 times more sensitive to these types of considerations."

Meanwhile, in Malacañang, while Rappler spoke to Sevilla on outside pressures weighing in on Customs, Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr was simultaneously and perhaps ironically telling reporters that "whoever is appointed to the position can expect the full support of the Palace and the Department of Finance."

### 'It felt wrong'

During Sevilla's tenure, he was able to grow the Bureau's collections by 21% year on year. He made moves toward transparency and efficiency, and filed 30 administrative cases against erring individuals. His entry into the Bureau was trumpeted as the start of reforms in one of the government's most corrupt agencies.

On social media, netizens expressed surprise and sadness at Sevilla's departure, but Sevilla is hopeful "they find someone better than me to go forward."

He admits he could have possibly dealt with political appointments, but simply said it was

something he felt the need to take a stand against, adding, "when your conscience bugs you about something you've got to listen to it."

"It didn't sit well with me. It felt wrong. It felt like something I shouldn't just let go by," he added.

"Could I have dealt with it? Yes I could've dealt with it. There are ways to deal with it, yes. But I can already sense the environment is changing. I think it's better for someone who has the skills to navigate in a much more political environment to take over at this point."

Sevilla said he had already submitted suggested names to the Palace, but did not want to share his list to give the President full discretion.

He did say, however, that the next person would need to have integrity – "given the extent of temptation in a place like this" – an ability to think strategically, and someone who can "navigate a much more political environment without compromising principles and efficiency."

He said he has also neatly outlined key points for continuity, for his successor.

"One – do we achieve 4-hour processing time by the end of this year? Two – do we achieve paperless processing by next year? I've outlined in more detail than anybody wants, for whoever comes after me, what we are trying to do, what we've gotten to do – what's the situation today – and what would have been my next steps," he said.

"Now obviously whoever comes in may have ideas of their own. But the next person, I'd like that person to at least have the benefit of the stuff I've thought about. Whether she or he wants to continue in that direction, or tweak it, or has better ideas, that's obviously up to them."

### Reforms possible

Despite the evident challenges of the post – one of the "most challenging ones out there," as he describes it – Sevilla is grateful for hav-

## DOLE, TESDA Conduct Job-Skills Matching and Employment Coaching

BAGUIO CITY - In preparation for the upcoming May 1- Labor Day Jobs Fair at the Baguio Convention Center, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and TESDA Cordillera regional offices partnered for the conduct of job-skills matching and employment coaching on April 21.

Around 200 technical – vocational graduating students and graduates from various training institutes in the Baguio – Benguet area attended said activity at the Baguio School of Arts and Trade.

The activity also served as a pre-registration for the Jobs Fair so that on May 1, they can go directly to the industries or companies wherein job vacancies match their education and skills.

For the employment coaching, Mark Tungpalan of DOLE – CAR gave a lecture on Labor Education while Lucille Gayaman discussed Labor Market Information. University of the Cordilleras Guidance Counselor Judith Adina gave advices on how jobseekers market themselves.

DOLE Regional Director Henry John Jalbuena, in his message, called on the participants to do their role in seek- **Cont. on page 7**

ing had the opportunity to work as Commissioner.

"I regret absolutely nothing. I regret the fact that I started a lot of stuff and didn't get to finish it but I have no regrets whatsoever. Serving the people of this country has been the greatest honor of my life and that's something I will carry with me for the rest of my life," he said.

And while "it takes a lot out of whoever is sitting here," he also believes the job is doable, and reforms possible.

"I think there's no reason to give up on Customs. There's no reason to give up on the prospects of reform," he said.

For most of the interview, Sevilla spoke with a sense of excitement in his voice, perhaps relieved and almost ecstatic about the decision he finally made, considering that the idea of resignation had been on his mind for quite some time.

He joked about drinking "more beers than I've ever drank in my life put together," now that he has resigned, and how his mother is the happiest person on earth. But his voice dropped when asked what he wants people to know about Customs, following his departure.

"I think what's important to know is that this effort has been a huge team effort. I've been the face of it just because we're a culture that's very personal but behind me have been hundreds, maybe thousands, of brave, risk-taking men and women who, despite the fact that they know they work for the most hated government agency out there, take risks and make sacrifices every day. And those people are still there," he said.

"So there's no reason to despair. But it's going to be tough. It's a tough situation but the elements of success are all there. I could pull out my phone right now and show you texts that would make you cry. I'm not talking about reactions to my departure. I'm talking about texts that have come through in the last 14 months by people telling me, 'You know. We seized this. And my wife got visited by armed people she doesn't know at her house.'"

He paused, "That's the kind of sacrifice I'm talking about. Made by people who are still there." / *Natashya Gutierrez / Rappler.com*



Republic of the  
Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL  
COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL  
REGION  
OFFICE OF THE  
CLERK OF COURT  
La Trinidad,  
Benguet

FLORENCE  
BACAYAN  
GALANGEY,  
*Petitioner-Mort-*  
*gagee,*

-versus-

RAMIL BESLEY  
NISPEROS,  
*Respondent-*  
*Mortgagor.*

CASE NO.  
15-EXF-1818

FOR: EXTRA-  
JUDICIAL  
FORECLOSURE of  
REAL ESTATE  
MORTGAGE  
UNDERACT NO.  
3135 as AMENDED

SHERIFF'S NOTICE  
OF PUBLIC  
AUCTION SALE

Upon petition for  
extra-judicial fore-  
closure of real estate  
mortgage under Act  
No. 3135, as  
amended, filed by  
F L O R E N C E  
B A C A Y A N  
G A L A N G E Y of legal  
age, Filipino citizen,  
married and with  
residence at No. JC-  
226 Km. 5, La  
Trinidad, Benguet,  
hereinafter referred  
to as petitioner-mort-  
gagee for the satis-  
faction of the obliga-  
tion of RAMIL  
BESLEY NISPEROS,  
of legal ages, Filipino  
citizens, married and  
with residence at  
Acop, Tublay,  
Benguet, herein re-  
ferred to as respon-  
dent-mortgagor, to  
satisfy his obligation  
which as of the  
present time  
amounted of EIGHT  
HUNDRED NINETY  
SIX THOUSAND (PhP  
896,000.00) PESOS,  
Philippine currency,  
e x c l u d i n g  
attorney's fees and

other charges and ex-  
penses.

The undersigned  
announces that he  
will sell at public  
auction on April 29,  
2015 at 10:00 o'clock  
in the morning or  
soon thereafter, in  
front of the  
Bulwagan ng  
Katarungan Build-  
ing (Justice Hall of  
Benguet), Justice  
Hill, La Trinidad,  
Benguet to the  
highest bidder for  
CASH and in Philip-  
pine Currency the  
mortgaged proper-  
ties together with  
all the improve-  
ments thereon, to  
wit:

TAX DECLARATION  
OF REAL PROP-  
ERTY  
ARP No. 99-007-  
02121

A parcel of  
unregistered resi-  
dential lot contain-  
ing an area of FOUR  
HUNDRED (400)  
SQUARE METERS  
situated in Beckel,  
La Trinidad,  
Benguet; bounded  
on the North by lot  
068; on the South by  
lot 016; on the East  
by lot 071; and on the  
West by lot 046. Said  
lot has a Market  
Value of PhP  
128,000.00 and As-  
sessed Value of PhP  
25,600.00.

TAX DECLARATION  
OF REAL PROP-  
ERTY  
ARP No. 99-007-  
02122

A one (1) storey  
residential house  
with floor area of  
44.40 sq.m. and with  
pore containing an  
area of 13.80 sq.m.  
built of mixed mate-  
rials with galvanized  
iron roofing. Said lot  
has a Market Value  
of PhP 128,000.00 and  
Assessed Value of  
PhP 17,860.00.

TAX DECLARATION  
AOF REAL PROP-  
ERTY  
ARP No. 99-007-  
02123

A two (2) storey  
residential house  
with floor area of  
37.10 sq.m. on both  
storeys and with ter-  
race having a floor  
area of 6.3 sq.m. built  
of mixed material

**DOLE, TESDA...**  
ing to improve the  
quality of their life  
and of their families  
and to contribute in  
increasing the com-  
petitiveness of the  
Filipino workforce  
especially with the  
onset of regional in-  
tegration in the  
ASEAN Economic  
Community 2015.

J a l b u e n a  
pointed-out that em-  
ployers or compa-  
nies today do not  
only look for diplo-  
ma but also on the  
skills of the job-  
seekers, which is  
why the TESDA Na-  
tional Certification is  
equally important in  
getting a decent job.

He also that as  
jobseekers, they  
should present  
themselves decently  
and convince the  
employers that they  
are the right persons  
for the job.

Also present  
during the said pre-  
labor day activity

with galvanized iron  
roofing. Said lot has  
a market value of  
PhP 302,720.00 and  
Assessed Value of  
PhP 30,270.00.

Prospective buy-  
ers/bidders are  
hereby enjoined to  
investigate for them-  
selves the real prop-  
erties herein above  
described and the en-  
cumbrances thereon  
if there be any.

In the event the  
public auction  
should not take place  
on the said date, it  
shall be held on May  
6, 2015 at the same  
time and place with-  
out further notice.

La Trinidad,  
Benguet, Philip-  
pines, April 6, 2015.

FOR: THE PROVIN-  
CIAL SHERIFF  
EX-OFFICIO OF  
BENGUET

(SGD)  
CRISTOPHER C.  
ORALLO  
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:  
All parties  
concerned  
The Junction  
newspaper

Publication: April  
11, 18 and 25, 2015

**from page 6**  
were TESDA Re-  
gional Director Fran-  
cisco Jucar, TESDA  
Baguio - Benguet  
Provincial Director  
Angela Gabriel and  
DOLE Asst. Re-  
gional Director Atty.  
Erwin Aquino.

For the May 1  
Jobs Fair, more than  
14,000 job opportu-  
nities (12,652 over-  
seas and 1,411 local)  
will be offered by 28  
local companies and  
14 overseas recruit-  
ment agencies. Top-  
ping the local vacan-  
cies are various po-  
sitions in the Busi-  
ness Process  
Outsourcing/Man-  
agement, hotels  
and restaurants and  
business establish-  
ments. For overseas  
employment, most  
needed are con-  
struction workers,  
service crews,  
nurses, drivers and  
agricultural work-  
ers. /JDP/CCD-PLA

**KAKAMPL...**  
**...from page 4**

**IT WAS A WASTE  
VOTING FOR  
PNOY IN 2010:** It  
was indeed a big  
waste for the Fili-  
pino people to have  
voted for Noy noy  
as President in 2010.  
He held out so much  
promise of a re-  
formed government.  
Now that he is near-  
ing his term, this  
promise has re-  
mained a promise,  
still very far from  
being fulfilled. The  
only thing Noy noy  
seems to have ful-  
filled are written pre-  
dictions he will hurt  
the country if and  
when he became  
president! What a  
shame!

-000-  
**REACTIONS?** Please  
call me at +63 917 984  
24 68, +63 918 574  
0193, +63 922 833 43  
96, or Skype  
(batasmauricio), Viber  
(+63 918 574 0193)  
and Line (+63 917 984  
24 68). Email:  
batasmauricio@yahoo.com  
mnauriciojr@outlook.com  
mnauriciojr111@gmail.com

**DIMENSIONAL ROAD**

availing these cre-  
ated educational  
breakthrough." As  
stated, "The state  
recognizes and sup-  
ports the promotion  
and protection of  
the inherent aca-  
demic freedom en-  
joyed by all institu-  
tions of higher learn-  
ing."

Section 4 of this  
act stipulates the  
Philippine Qualifica-  
tion Frameworks  
(PQF) for graduate  
attributes that em-  
bodies the following  
objectives for its  
recognition: "Adopt  
national standards  
and levels for out-  
comes of education,  
support the devel-  
opment and mainte-  
nance of pathways  
and equivalencies  
which provide ac-  
cess to qualifications  
and assist people to  
move easily and  
readily between the  
different education  
and training sectors  
and between these  
sectors and the la-  
bor market and to  
align with interna-  
tional qualifications  
framework to sup-  
port the national  
and international  
mobility of workers  
through increased  
recognition of the  
value and incompa-  
rability of Philippine  
qualifications.

The PQF Na-  
tional Coordinating  
Committee (PQF-  
NCC) is composed of  
the CHED, TESDA,  
DepEd, DOLE, PRC  
and DepEd as the  
chair.

In order to cater  
to the needs of  
graduates, Section 5  
specifies Priority  
Disciplines as the  
first major approach  
for the implementa-  
tion of the ladderized  
program, the  
CHED, TESDA and  
DepEd in consulta-  
tion with the DOLE,  
Department of Agri-  
culture (DA), the  
DTI, DOST, NEDA  
the PRC and other  
related agencies in  
consistent with the

**...from page 5**  
Philippine Develop-  
ment Plan (PDP) are  
directed to identify  
priority disciplines  
and programs for  
Ladderization which  
links with labor mar-  
ket realities." In here,  
benchmarking of  
knowledge and skills  
in the industries for  
students to learn is  
an imperative coop-  
erative procedures.

Section 10 of  
this deed, points out  
Academic Freedom  
to be standardized  
through the Higher  
Education Institu-  
tions (HEIs) "to re-  
tain the right to as-  
sess the level and  
standard of the pre-  
viously completed  
TVET Programs by  
an applicant-student  
in a manner that is  
transparent and ob-  
jective, incorporat-  
ing therein its own  
admission require-  
ments. The applicant  
-student must gain  
admission to the  
HEI's undergraduate  
program by meeting  
the prescribe criteria  
and program requi-  
sites and such other  
requirements by  
HEIs."

To sum it up,  
Republic Act  
No. 10647 supports  
Filipino students  
access for quality  
education and re-  
spects the options of  
every Filipino stu-  
dent in gaining  
knowledge from K-  
12, TEVT to HE with-  
out necessarily re-  
peating the basic  
education require-  
ments in HE be-  
cause these are em-  
bedded under the  
initial courses they  
have earlier com-  
pleted. This is tanta-  
mount to saying that  
the ladderized edu-  
cation program be-  
comes an easy ac-  
cess due to reduced  
time frame of taking  
additional courses  
which cuts back fi-  
nancial constraints  
in ensuring the se-  
curity of every Fili-  
pino student's fu-  
ture.  
marinwacmgidawan@gmail.com

**City Working...**  
**from page 3**

material recovery fa-  
cility, anaerobic di-  
gestor and health  
care waste treatment  
facility, the Environ-  
mental Recycling  
System (ERS) ma-  
chines and the ESL  
"if needed."

The city is eye-  
ing its 130-hectare  
property reserved  
for the public need  
at Mt. Sto. Tomas  
to house the ISWMS  
which is now the  
subject of feasibility  
study.

The city council  
last Monday reiter-  
ated an earlier re-  
quest to the city  
assessor's office to  
plot the area on its  
projection or to "tax  
map" the same to  
protect it from land  
speculation.

C o u n c i l o r  
Isabelo Cosalan Jr.  
recalled an ap-  
proved resolution in  
2010 to protect the  
said land located at  
Barangays Camp 7,  
Bakakeng Norte,  
Sto. Tomas Proper  
and Sto. Tomas  
School Area has  
been identified for  
multi-land use spe-  
cifically for engi-  
neered sanitary  
landfill, housing,  
government office  
and facility sites  
among others.

He said that in  
the 2010 resolution,  
it was noted that the  
lot has been identi-  
fied by the City Land  
Needs Identification  
and Survey Commit-  
tee for multi-land  
use specifically for  
engineered sanitary  
landfill, housing,  
government office  
and facility sites  
among others.

The body also  
approved Councilor  
Betty Lourdes  
Tabanda's move to  
ask the city plan-  
ning and develop-  
ment office to sub-  
mit a comprehensive  
plan for multi-pur-  
pose use within 15  
days. /Aileen P.  
Refuerzo and Paul  
Rillorta



## Vergara and Balanag... from page 9

for a few days after", why then did Balanag ask for Acosta's phone number only on August 2, 2013? It negates any suspicion that Balanag was a co-conspirator. Verily, it exonerates Balanag.

The private confidential Facebook messages between Acosta and respondent Balanag all talk about an educational forum on August 16, 2013. Nothing about any supposed plot to steal ballots. And certainly, there is nothing in the confidential text messages that would show any crime being committed by respondent Balanag. As would be detailed in the counter statement of facts below, respondent Balanag was only informed by respondent Congressman Vergara on August 2, 2013 about the request of Worthy Acosta for assistance in putting up an educational forum on Election Irregularities. On that same day, respondent Balanag contacted Acosta for the first time. Other than the perjured narration of Acosta, there is nothing—no evidence to show that respondent Balanag participated in stealing ballots with Acosta "some-time June 30" 2013 and for a few days after".

Acosta narrates in his sworn affidavit... "While in Baguio City, we met with Vergara at a coffee shop along Session Road. He was accompanied by a man he introduced as Ferdie Balanag his Press Relations Officer ... the three of us discussed, Vergara laid down the details of the retrieval plan..."

Why would respondent Vergara meet with Acosta in a COFFEE SHOP along a very busy Session Road—a place crawling with multitudes of people to discuss the commission of a crime? Would it not be more prudent that such a planned crime be discussed with utmost secrecy?

Bernardo M. Vergara had honorably served the people of Baguio for five terms as Congressman and one term as Mayor untainted by any charges of wrongdoing. At the height of the Napoles Scandal, respondent Vergara is one of a very few upright congressmen who did not abuse and misuse their PDAF allocation. In fact, Respondent Vergara NEVER had any dealing with the infamous Janet Napoles. In more than 50 years of honest and dedicated public service, starting as a humble District Engineer, Vergara had NEVER committed any crime, offense, and or felony. All these years, Vergara had zealously guarded the sterling reputation of his name.

Vergara respectfully states that he is totally innocent of the charges of participating in any crime to steal ballots in Baguio. Respondent has been very careful to protect the honor of his name—and now at the twilight of his career, he will make sure that his name remains untainted. In this paper's attempt to get the side of Mr. Acosta, his email reply to us was *"Hello Mr. Sermi, my lawyers said not to comment first ongoing na po ang kaso kasi. But i can send you my affidavit po. And i stand po on what i said there. I have proofs to prove my claims just waiting for right time to reveal them. I hope you understand po. Now they want to destroy my credibility, its okay, but in time we will be able to prove my claim and accusations are true". Further to this, in our interview with Mr. Nestor Castro, the Director for Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices of Linis Gobyerno, he expressed his hope that the Comelec should immediately resolve their investigation*

## Solon Goes... from page 3

latter's compliance to the Writ of Execution she penned based on the PDRCI judgment.

Casanova said that city and other locators, sub-lessees, unit owners, and golf club members can recoup their paid rentals from this amount. He also advised them to seek legal counsel on how to collect their paid rentals to CJHDevCo.

Meanwhile, Rep. Aliping said he will make it his priority when Congress resumes its sessions on May 4 to collect what is due to the city now that all the court cases are over.

Rep. Aliping added, "We have a pending House [of Representatives] resolution with the House Committee on Bases Conversion calling for the automatic deduction of the city's share from the amount the BCDA is supposed to refund to CJHDevCo."

There are 118 business establishments in Camp John Hay, including 85 residential structures and 384 hotel rooms with 75% of them sub-leasing from CJHDevCo.

The Sobrepenaled CJHDevCo also has stakes in at least three establishments sub-leasing from the private development company.

These are the Forest Lodge, The Manor (both hotels) and the Camp John Hay Office of Cong. Nicasio Aliping

*and that according to him "the Affidavit of Mr. Balanag on his trip to the US does not prove his innocence as the alleged crime was committed sometime before June 30 2014"* / By Ferdie Balanag, PR of Bernardo Vergara with reports from Sermi Agus, The Junction Reporter/Researcher and RG.

## Council Seeks... from page 2

assistance from the National Solid Waste Management Commission to furnish the city lists of probable consultants who can conduct the waste analysis and characterization study of the city to hasten the process".

Tabanda also said, "a technical study on what kind of technology or possible technologies that are available should also be conducted which will be open to bidding so as not to limit one unsolicited proposal."

Councilor Peter Fianza proposed since the waste system is not new and the principle for such a facility was acceptable, the application should comply with necessary planning policies.

Fianza added, "there are things which have to be

done first before implementation can begin such as the comprehensive study on the use of the land."

It can be recalled that Mayor Mauricio Domogan also pinpointed the area as possible site for the expansion of the Baguio Cemetery and resolutions of the council recommended an area for housing purposes and satellite market. / Paul Rillorta

## Travel Clearance... from page 3

travel clearance usually takes 3-5 days, but due to incomplete documents, some applications take longer. So, we encourage our clients to complete the necessary documents before filing", Balagot said.

Among the requirements in securing a travel clearance include duly accomplished application form, photo copy of the birth certificate or passport of minor, written consent of both parents, solo parent or legal guardian permitting the child to travel alone or with someone else, two colored passport size photos of the minor taken within the last 6 months, and a photocopy of which is applicable, marriage certificate of minor's parents, certificate of legal guardianship, solo parent identification card issued by the local social welfare and development office or death certificate of deceased parent of minor.

Application for travel clearance can be filed at the DSWD-Field Office Cordillera Administrative Region or in the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Offices (PSWDOs) in their areas.

Application form can already be downloaded from [www.dswd.gov.ph](http://www.dswd.gov.ph). A process-

## Cong. Aliping... from page 2

and educational support.

"Even though the Supreme Court found the PDAF to be unconstitutional, there are a number of government funded assistance programs we can access to directly help our constituents. We can only hope to increase this amount next year so more of our poor constituents can be helped," Rep. Aliping stressed. / Carl C. Taawan

ing fee of P300.00 is required for travel clearance valid for one year and P600.00 for travel clearance valid for two years.

For queries and concerns, applicants may visit the DSWD-Field Office at #40 North Drive, Baguio City (near NBI and BIR) or call (074) 444-3209. Applicants in the provinces may also visit the PSWDOs in their respective areas.

DSWD-CAR for the first quarter of 2015, has issued 237 travel clearances. The purpose of travel is mostly to visit or to have vacation with parents/relatives and travel or leisure. Hongkong is noted to be the top destination for the minors. / Nerizza Faye G. Villanueva- (DSWD CAR)



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**John Hay Biz...**

tential and (development efforts) will be better without CJHDevco," Pantaleon said.

The 42-year old business and civic leader cited the unfortunate experience of the BCDA with CJHDevco adding that if only government had the right business partners to deal with, "John Hay would have been a much better place (for investments) than it is right now."

Pantaleon said the business club will respect the decision of the court as she urged "well-meaning CJHDevco officials to just respect the court order."

The court's notice of eviction is expected to be a prelude to finally close the long-running legal tussle between CJHDevco and the BCDA.

"It is important that we are united and we want a smooth transition," Pantaleon said and cited that some sublessees who entered into original contracts with the departing CJHDevco might be facing legal problems.

"I am sure JHMC (John Hay Management Corporation) will take care of them," Pantaleon said.

JHMC is a subsidiary of the BCDA and is tasked to oversee the development of the former US military camp in Baguio City.

A number of sublessees and sublocators were reportedly duped by CJHDevco to enter into lease contracts for 50 years in spite of the latter's lease agreement with the BCDA for only 25 years.

The BCDA claimed that CJHDevco failed to disclose these transactions in spite of the government's

**from page 10**

repeated demand for transparency.

Earlier, the BCDA through its president and CEO Arnel Paciano Casanova said that the sublessees are part of the Notice to Vacate and, therefore, CJHDevco should be held liable to these sublessees for damages.

"Sublessees should lay claim to the P1.4 billion that BCDA will be returning to CJHDevco as part of the Writ of Execution," Casanova said.

Pantaleon, on the other hand, said unlike commercial establishments with yearly contracts, most of those affected by contracts tainted with irregularities are hotel residents or homeowners or buyers of log homes.

"Tens of millions of hard earned money by some of these buyers were invested for their vacation place or retirement home," Pantaleon said and expressed concern that some of these buyers who originally dealt with CJHDevco will be affected by the eviction notice.

"The JHMC Help Desk is also a good thing," she said referring to the government's support center inside Camp John Hay for sublocators and sublessees which will eventually demand compensation from CJHDevco for the unfinished portion of their contracts.

Pantaleon, who owns a restaurant along John Hay's commercial complex, added the club has commissioned the services of third party lawyers to help club members who might be facing legal issues.

According to Pantaleon, JHMC is set to call the next

**City Employees...**

acting businesses within government offices that employees should always be upright in discharging their duties.

Pauly said that CSC-CAR has hired researchers to validate the provisions of the Anti-Red Tape Act (ARTA) such as the wearing of IDs, the creation of public assistance and complaint desk, observance of the "No Noon/Lunch Break" policy and the posting of Citizens Charter in all government offices.

"These researchers will visit government offices unannounced to observe the activities within a government office/s with some posing as clients. These researchers

quarterly meeting of all John Hay locators within the month to discuss, among other issues, the court's recent eviction notice to CJHDevco.

"JHMC has been very transparent, but with CJHDevco, we never had any meetings," Pantaleon said.

She added that the club is looking for more family-oriented businesses to enter John Hay. "We wish to have more commercial areas developed," she said adding that a skating rink, a batting range, bowling alleys, and additional amusement parks are some of the proposed projects with JHMC.

"We'd like to involve the people of Baguio also and to revive the old time when Americans maintained sports and recreation facilities," she added.

Pantaleon said the club's successful transport mobility project inside John Hay, where cabs are readily available to the

**from page 10**

will also interview clients to get their sides on the frontline services given by the service provider," she said.

This prompted the City Government of Baguio to conduct training on basic customer service skills to improve their confidence in responding or servicing client needs.

Aside from trainings, the City Government also gives cash reward to employees who render outstanding performance.

Recently, Mayor Mauricio Domogan formed a monitoring committee to assure that all offices in the City government are complying with the requirements of ARTA./*Danny Killip*

commuting public for increased number of visits, paved the way for their support to the city-based Walk Happy Baguio in which a huge parking terminal is allocated for motorists to encourage walking around the city and to lessen noise and air pollution.

The group is also working for the issuance of a Camp-wide Discount Card to encourage more tourists to visit John Hay's commercial areas.

The business club is confident that in the wake of CJHDevco's eviction, more locators will come and comfortably deal with government without the unnecessary strain of a legal dispute.

"We should be positive," Pantaleon said. "Let us believe and unite to strengthen the business community of Camp John Hay," she added.

Meanwhile, the BCDA on April 17 said it has deposited the P1.42 billion refund for the evicted CJHDevco at the Development Bank of the Philippines and constituted it as escrow funds in favor of the Baguio RTC Branch 6./*BCDA PR*

**Lawmaker...****from page 10**

"The MILF and our own peace panel always say that these are just regional offices. Kung regional office 'yan, ilagay natin sa provision na regional office 'yan. Hindi yung ang nakalagay diyan, magkakaroon ng sariling COA, for example, ang Bangsamoro," Escudero pointed out. "In fact, bakit pa natin kailangan ilagay? Nasa batas na 'yan. May Regional Office na doon ang CoA, may Regional Office na doon ang Comelec. It's existing, they have regional directors there. So if it's there already, why would you then reiterate it?"

He added: "The BBL is not written in stone. Everyone should be open to learning and relearning to ensure that the measure will be compliant with the Constitution. I am confident of convincing the BBL advocates, instead of being convinced, that all of us want peace, but not at all cost and certainly not at the cost of violating the Constitution and dismembering our nation."

Escudero once again put to task the OPPAP to convince their counterparts in the MILF to understand and accept such amendments and the realities surrounding BBL.

"No one has the monopoly of good intentions and intelligence for Mindanao, not the OPPAP nor the MILF. It is the job of the OPPAP to get the exact message across their counterparts in the MILF that they will not and cannot get everything they want. And even if they don't, there should be no reason why we cannot achieve peace that is constitutional, inclusive, legal, fair and just," Escudero said./

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**Vergara and Balanag...****from page 1**

counter affidavit a faithful copy of his passport and travel documents attesting to the fact that Balanag was out of the country during the time of the commission of the alleged crime. The Bureau of Immigration stamp on Balanag's passport shows that he left the country on June 17, 2013 and that he came back on July 7, 2013. Balanag travelled to the United States of America with his 80 year old father and returned to Manila on July 7, 2013. He rested in Manila for a day and returned to Baguio on July 8, 2014. Obviously, it was impossible for Balanag to have accompanied Worthy Acosta in allegedly stealing election ballots in Baguio.

The flight and booking records of Balanag attached to his counter affidavit shows the fact that he indeed left the country for San Diego on June 17, 2013 aboard Japan Airlines and that he left San Diego California for Manila on July 6, 2013 using the same Airline. It was therefore ridiculous for respondent Balanag to have participated in the ballot stealing story of Acosta.

The truth of the matter is that no arrangements were ever made by Tingting Cojuangco and former Biliran Cong. Glenn Chong with Vergara for any ballot retrieval or ballot-stealing plan. Vergara recalls receiving a phone call on August 2, 2013 from Cojuangco on a proposal to hold an Educational Forum in Baguio on Election Irregularities and for herein respondent to assist a certain Worthy Acosta. Putting up an Educational forum is a millennium away and vastly different from stealing ballots. Vergara thereafter called up respondent Balanag and instructed him to contact this Worthy Acosta and assist him in organizing the said forum.

Balanag's affidavit states that he only got to know of Acosta on August 2, 2013. attached to his affidavit are faithful copies of the private confidential facebook messages that were exchanged between Acosta and respondent Balanag. It can be gleaned from these Facebook messages that the earliest confidential conversation between Acosta and Balanag transpired on August 2, 2013 at around 6.42pm to be precise. The conversation is damning for Acosta's story. It is quoted below as follows,

"Conversation started August 2, 2013. Ferdie Balanag : Magandang gabi sa iyo Worthy. Paki send naman

Yung email address mo. Pati na rin phone Mo. May ipapadala akong email sa iyo tungkol

sa forum na tentatively scheduled on August 16

Worthy Acosta : lamworthy49@gmail.com 0915 7827 105

sir, may I ask lang po regarding our visit on Baguio if cong vergara could shoulder

the forum, kahit saan lang naman po medyo malaki po kasi expenses na namin dahil we are doing rounds nationwide. "

The conversation establishes the fact that prior to August 2, 2013 respondent Balanag did not personally know Acosta – we see this from the request of Balanag for Acosta to give him his phone number. If they were really co-conspirators "some-time June 30" 2013 and

Cont. on page 8





**ZUMBA AND STRIDES FOR A CAUSE** - More than 300 Zumba enthusiasts join the Zumba and Strides diabetes and oral awareness fitness program of the Baguio Everlasting Lions Club headed by project chair Emma dela Cruz. More than 650 availed of free cholesterol, triglycerites and diabetes check-up which was jointly sponsored by the Philippine Medical Women's Association-Baguio Chapter headed by Dr. Lilia Opena and Dr. Joanne Balderas of the Philippine Dental Association-Baguio Chapter. /By Bong Cayabyab

## John Hay Biz Group Asks Evicted CJHDevCo to Respect Court Decision

LOCATORS AND businesses want the government to make the transition inside Camp John Hay in Baguio City as orderly as possible and for the evicted private developer to respect the court's decision.

This is the general sentiment of business people in this special economic zone, according to the head of the John Hay Business Club (JHBC).

Ma. Teresa Pantaleon, president of the JHBC, said her group wants the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) to ensure an orderly transition and for the Camp John Hay Development Corporation to respect the court order.

JHBC members include hotels like Manor and Le Monet, the Ayala Technohub, homeowners, service providers, and several commercial establishments.

"The court's notice is

good for everyone to move forward but we want normalcy and a peaceful transition," Pantaleon said.

On April 20 the Office of the Ex-Officio Sheriff of the First Judicial Region, Branch 6 of the Regional Trial Court in Baguio City served a notice against CJHDevCo and "all persons claiming rights under them" to vacate the premises of Camp John Hay.

The Notice to Vacate also ordered CJHDevCo to promptly deliver the leased property, inclusive of all new constructions and permanent improvements, to the BCDA within 30 days upon receipt of the said notice.

The notice also read: "Failure on your part to voluntarily vacate the subject premises within the given period, the Office of the City Sheriff will enforce the Writ of Execution in accordance with the rules prescribed by law."

"John Hay has so much po-

Cont. on page 9

## 60 Girls Commit Suicide Every Month After Being Sexually Abused by IS Jihadists

London - At least 60 girls commit suicide every month after being sexually tortured by Islamic State (IS) jihadists, an aid worker based in Iraq has said.

While narrating the horrific sexual abuse that the women and children are subjected to by the jihadists, Yousif said that at least two girls kill themselves every day, reported The Daily Star.

He added that many decide to take their lives because they feel that they have dishonoured their beliefs. They don't hope that their families will accept them and at the same time, they don't want to have their babies, Yousif said.

Several "un-Islamic" civilians, including those from the Yazidi community, have been a key target for the terror group as they advanced through Iraq and Syria.

The news came after the Human Rights Watch said earlier that women and girls attempted suicide in order to escape rape, forced marriages and religious conversions at the hands of the IS jihadists. By ANI

## City Employees Reminded to Treat Clients Well

BAGUIO CITY - The

Civil Service Commission-Cordillera Administrative Region (CSC-CAR), the agency overseeing government personnel, reminded city employees to treat taxpayers and clients with due respect and care.

This is in view of the increasing number of complaints reaching the commission against government employees nationwide mostly for arrogance, dishonesty, reporting to work under the influence of liquor, loafing and receiving "juicy gratitude" among others.

According to Carlota Pauly of the CSC-CAR, just a simple violation of the civil service law, rules and regulation can result to suspension or dismissal of a government employee and in fact, many government employees have been suspended or dismissed after due process because of these complaints.

She said clients are now vigilant and well updated on their rights when trans-

Cont. on page 9

## The JUNCTION Pahayagang Palaban!!! Lawmaker : BBL Should Withstand Legal Challenges

Senator Chiz Escudero has asked the Senate Committee on Local Government for a thorough review of the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) to ensure that the legislation could withstand any legal challenge once the bill is passed.

"Iyan po ang hiniling ko na kay Senator Marcos, as chairman of the Committee on Local Government, na sana provision by provision ay ma-discuss natin para mapagharap-harap lahat ng stakeholders. Ang problema puro press release ang laban ng OPAPP (Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process at GRP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines)," Escudero said.

"I look forward to engaging the advocates of the BBL, including OPPAP, the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front), the Advisory Committee on the issues of constitutionality and unconstitutionality of some of the provisions. I don't think we should just sit on it

and let it drag on," he added.

According to Escudero, the contentious issues in the BBL must be settled because getting the law passed at its present form is very unlikely.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, Escudero previously said he wanted a line-item budgeting for Bangsamoro government since it will receive P70 billion for its first fiscal year.

Escudero is pushing to amend separate provisions in the proposed BBL for the creation of constitutional offices like the Civil Service Commission (CSC), the Commission on Elections (Comelec), the Commission on Audit (CoA), the Office of the Ombudsman and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR). These can be consolidated, he said, in a single provision.

Escudero takes the position that the Constitution does not allow the creation of the equivalent of the said agencies.

Cont. on page 9

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