

# THE WEEKEND JUNCTION



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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

## *Pahayagang palaban!!!* **21 ODA projects over-budgetted by 33B pesos - Chiz**



**BEEH! BUTI NGA!** - Members of the "Baguio's Finest" traffic enforcers remove the plate registrations of motorcycles parked along the alley blocking stairways of pedestrians along Session Road. It is high time to strictly enforce the traffic ordinances without let up to bring back order and discipline along Baguio's thoroughfares./  
By Bong Cayabyab

A total of P33.5 billion pesos has racked up in cost overruns for twenty one (21) foreign assisted projects, prompting opposition Senator Chiz Escudero to call for tight and transparent review and approval of over the budget payments for projects funded by loans.

The amount, however, could just be the tip of the iceberg, Escudero said, as it does not yet include overruns incurred by locally-funded projects.

Worse, total cost overruns of official development aid (ODA) bankrolled projects are expected to increase this year as five big-ticket infrastructure projects are showing signs of breaching their budget ceiling.

"This practice should be curbed and loopholes should be plugged because it is becoming a lucrative industry in construction business.

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Email: [aquino\\_odell@yahoo.com](mailto:aquino_odell@yahoo.com)  
BY: ODELL "BOMBITO" AQUINO



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### DIRETSAHAN

Mayor Bautista small time squatters lang ang kaya

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



## Pulse asia: Chiz is most trusted, approved public official

Senator Francisco "Chiz" Escudero has again garnered the highest ratings as the country's most trusted and approved public official, according to a recent survey of Pulse Asia.

Escudero registered a trust rating of 75% in a nationwide survey conducted by Pulse Asia from October 14-27, 2008. He also posted the highest perfor-

mance approval rating of 78% among all senators in the same survey.

Included in the latest Pulse Asia survey are the President, Vice-President, Senate President, House Speaker, Supreme Court Justice, Senators, Congressmen and selected local and executive officials. Prior to this, Escudero topped both trust and approval ratings in the same survey con-

ducted by the same polling outfit in July 1-14, posting a 75% trust rating and 79% approval rating, respectively.

Escudero was followed by Senator Loren Legarda at 72%, Senator Mar Roxas at 67%, then Senate President Manny Villar at 59% and Senator Ping Lacson at 51%.

Meanwhile 48% of the respondents expressed trust in Vice-President Noli De Castro while Chief Justice

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## Pia questions GMA's self-appointment as 'climate change czar'

Senate opposition member Pia S. Cayetano today said Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's recent appointment of herself as 'climate change czar' will only add a redundant layer to the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change that will not necessarily lead to a more focused government campaign to address climate change.

"I totally agree that this problem requires full government attention, but is this really the way to go? Should the President head ev-

ery government body where her appointed deputies have failed to perform, or where overlapping agencies cannot seem to get their acts together?" asked the lady senator, an environmentalist.

She noted that Arroyo had earlier also named herself anti-narcotics czar at the heat of the finger-pointing between the Department of Justice and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency over the dismissal of high-profile drug cases.

"Aren't there enough qualified

and dedicated women and men out there for the job? We have so many environment advocates who have received recognition here and abroad, but why appoint herself? Is she afraid of putting competent people to her cabinet? We are told that Mrs. Arroyo is a micro-manager, we know she likes to dip her hands on everything, but this is going too far," she added.

Expounding on the redundancy of the President's self-appointment, she explained: "Whether she

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## Chiz committee to revisit procurement law

Senator Chiz Escudero today said he will revisit the existing procurement law via a bill he had filed in 2007 amending Republic Act (RA) 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Escudero filed Senate Bill (SB) No. 1963 to address the issues and problems that have resulted from ZTE and Cyber Education project scandals then.

With the recent public works contracts anomalies in the country exposed by World Bank, the senator said tackling the bill now is most timely.

Incidentally, the bill has since been referred to the Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes and Laws, of which Escudero now heads.

S.B. No. 1963, one among the first bills Escudero filed during his first year in the Senate, seeks to

address three points in the currently existing government procurement system embodied in the RA No. 9184.

Firstly, the bill seeks to lessen the discretion of procuring agencies specifically in the consideration of single calculated/rated and responsive bid submissions, and the use of observers.

Escudero said this provision will address the issue of collusion among local and international firms bidding on contracts, as found out by World Bank in the Philippine National Roads Improvement and Management Program (NRIMP 1).

"To avoid the practice of what the World Bank has already called a major cartel, discretion of procurement agencies should be lessened. In the bill, a procuring agency can only submit a bid by, in addition to the current requisites provided for in RA No.

9184, subjecting it to the approval of the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPBB)".

Escudero also proposed the use of observers in the bidding process. However, invitation of observers should be made strict by limiting the number of times an observer can be invited by a procuring agency.

"This should be done so because observers who become regulars of the BAC become friendly, if not, even cohorts in anomalous biddings and transactions.

Second feature of the bill proposes to strengthen and advance transparency by mandating the posting of decisions of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) relative to the criteria, ratings and calculations of bids as well as all other bids, responsive or otherwise, on the procuring agency's website or that of the GPBB.

"This feature seeks to bolster and reinforce account-

**Cont. on page 10**



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## Tanods now under mayor's office

BAGUIO CITY – Members of the Integrated Barangay Tanod now known as Police Auxiliary Force will now be under the supervision of the city mayor's office through the public order and safety division (POSD).

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. last week issued Administrative Order No. 8 for the transfer of the supervision of the police auxiliary force effective February 2 "to unburden the administrative

load of the Baguio City Police Office over said support group."

He said the roles and functions of the tanods "must conform with the current needs and requirements of the city."

Under the setup, members of the police auxiliary force will report to the POSD with the POSD head to act as their immediate supervisor.

The IBT was founded as a result of

the 1980 Barangay Brigade Development Program.

The IBTs were initially deputized as honor guards to then President Ferdinand E. Marcos during his visits to the city and eventually they were assigned to assist the Integrated National Police-Special Market Operations Detail in discharging tasks involving mainly traffic management and operation. / aileen p. fuerzo



**DOC PALENGKE.** Senator Mar Roxas grants the wishes of his female beneficiaries for a farewell "tayaw." Roxas sponsored a health mission, January 23, at the Sunshine Park where loads of medicines were handed out to indigent residents of Baguio upgrading his moniker from mere "mister" to "doc palengke." / Monch David

## Smoke-belching monitoring starts

Baguio City – The Clean Air Monitoring Unit (CAMU) of the Roadside Inspection, Testing and Monitoring Team (RITMT) from the City Environment Management Office (CEMO) has started implementing the clean air ordinance through random inspection of vehicles along some

city roads.

Procedures in cleaning up environmental air have been an issue as reports from the Baguio City Health Services Office (HSO) show that ten of the ten leading causes of death are respiratory ailments caused by or aggravated by air pollution. The data

has been culled from records of the past five years.

It is also a known fact that emission from motor vehicles is a major cause of air pollution.

Thus, owners of smoke-belching vehicles have been sternly warned

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## Cadac anti-drug abuse agenda bared

BAGUIO CITY – The City Anti-Drug Abuse Council (CADAC) hopes to sustain its anti-drug campaign program in the city this year.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. who heads the City Anti-Drug Abuse Council (CADAC) committed to implement all the CADAC programs which cover the preventive, arrest, prosecution and trial and rehabilitation aspects of the anti-drug campaign.

Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas, CADAC action officer, said he is confident that with the

concerted effort of all the agencies, the city can achieve its ultimate goal of a drug-free Baguio.

In the press conference conducted by the CADAC and the Baguio Center for Young Adults on the theme, "Gearing Ac-

tion for a Drug-free Baguio," Farinas sought to correct the impression painted by recent events that Baguio is a "drug haven."

"Our city may be used as transit point of drug activi-

**Cont. on page 11**

## Juvenile law complicates anti-drug fight

BAGUIO CITY – In the heels of launching an advocacy dubbed "Gearing Action for a Drug-free Baguio," members of the City Anti-Drug Abuse Council (CADAC) last week found out "car keys are always in the pocket of the hand that is fullest."

Promising taut cooperation among government, non-government, and scholastic institutions to make Baguio narcotics free, CADAC during a press call, January 21, revealed while they intend to enforce anti-drug laws, some statutes are diametrically opposed to

their planned ops like the Juvenile Justice Welfare Law (RA 9344).

Dr. Evelyn Gabol of Baguio City National High School (BCNHS) revealed, "School youths are currently most vulnerable to being caught in the drug trade, either as couriers or as buyers."

She admitted in BCNHS alone, the number high school students caught with or involved with narcotics have been alarming.

Although there

were nil presentation of the number of actual cases involving kids, Police Chief Inspector Elmer Cerenio of the BCPO and PDEA chief Edgar Apalla confirmed Gabol's report adding there is proliferation of drug misuse and drug-related exploitation of minors in the city.

Overall, the group supported a national campaign to conduct random drug testing in schools.

But a question **Cont. on page 11**

## PROBLEMA Sa Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB-CAR)?

Send us an email at [info@hlurb.net](mailto:info@hlurb.net) or text/call 0917-5069123 and we will post the information at [www.hlurb.net](http://www.hlurb.net).

**Magsumbong at mag-ingay para mabawasan ang katiwalian sa Gobyerno!!**

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**We believe that the Golden Rule applies to animals, too. We don't accept the prevailing notion that "people come first" or that "people are more important than animals." Animals feel pain and suffer just as we do, and it is almost always humans making animals suffer and not the other way around. Yet in spite of how cruelly people behave towards animals – not to mention human cruelty to other humans- we are supposed to believe that humans are superior to other animals. If people want to fancy themselves as being of greater moral worth than the other creatures on this earth, we should begin behaving better than they do, and not worse. Let's start treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves.**

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno

[www.linisgobyerno.org](http://www.linisgobyerno.org)

## First Global President

"My Filipino associates declined an invitation for dinner Tuesday," the Australian visitor said. "So, I did what they did: hunker down, in my hotel room, and watch the first Afro-American take his oath as 44th president of the United States.

So did millions in over 190 countries. Why so? After he won the Iowa caucuses, then-candidate Barack Obama asserted: "They said this day would never come. They said our sights were set too high. They said this country was too divided."

The day came on Tuesday.

Like many others, the wife and I watched, till dawn, the oath-taking of what some call the "first global president". Half in jest, some say that "choosing the US president is too important to be left only to Americans". A BBC poll, in 17 countries, found two-thirds believe Obama will improve US-world relationships.

Yet, Obama dealt with race in one short sentence: "This is the meaning of our liberty... A man whose father, less than 60 years ago, might not have been served at a local restaurant, can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath."

He didn't need to. "The surroundings said it all," New York Times noted. He put his hand on the Bible used by Abraham Lincoln who abolished slavery. "His appearance on the Capitol steps (built by slaves) was so historic that the address became larger than its own language."

More than a third of the officials, clustered around Obama, in the reviewing stand, were of various ethnic backgrounds starkly different from George Bush's officials, CNN noted. "The face of America is changing."

The parade reflected that change too. Marchers included surviving Tuskegee airmen: Negroes who flew World War II combat missions. They continued to be the butt of Jim Crow laws. Belatedly, they received, as a group, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Japanese-Americans — "Nesei" — won similar honors years earlier. But no one notices now. That, too, is a sign of change. "Our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness," the new president said.

Over half (54 percent) of Americans thought racism a major problem in 1996. That's down to a quarter today, an Washington Post-ABC News survey found. "But there has been little change in racism people perceive in their local communities".

Instead of focusing on old resentments, Obama addressed the task of crafting new ways to apply America's "old strengths". There is much that will resonate for Filipinos too.

"Forty-four Americans have now taken the presidential oath" Obama began. The peaceful transfer of power has always been the hallmark of democracy.

"Greatness is never a given. It must be earned... It has been the risk-takers, the doers — some celebrated, but more often men and women obscure in their labor, who have carried us up.

"The ground has shifted beneath the (cynics). The stale political arguments... no longer apply. The question we ask is not whether government is too big or too small, but whether it works.

Like John F. Kennedy, Obama addressed specific sectors: "To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect". To leaders who sow conflict — "we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist.

To poor nations: we pledge to work alongside you to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow; to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds" To rich countries "We can no longer afford indifference to suffering outside our borders. Nor can we consume the world's resources without regard to effect. For the world has changed. And we must change with it."

"Dissection of the speech is already underway," notes Gordon Stewart, a speechwriter for President Jimmy Carter. "And there will be lots to pick at long after the speech is in the morgue. But never have I known of one to so aggressively seize the center and at-

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## DIRE TSAHAN

Mayor Bautista small time squatters lang ang kaya

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Opisyal nang naupo bilang presidente ng "Merika" si Barack Obama. Sa pag-upo nyang ito, marami ang umaasa sa kanya,... Ng magagandang pagbabago,... isa na rito ang Pinas. Ang sabi naman ng ibang sipsip sa palasyo, may makukuha naman daw na leksyon si Obama kay pangulong GMA, aba, nagbibiro ba si mamang ermitanyo,... este Ermita o nahihibang na?

Sa totoong lang marami ang nagtatanong kung makakaaapekto ba sa pilipinas ang bagong administrasyon ng Merika kung makakabuti ba o hindi, yan mga suki ang dapat nating pakaabangan.

oOo

Sa tsina, 2 ang hinatulan ng kamatayan at 1 ang habambuhay dahil sa paggawa at pagbenta ng gatas na may melanin. bDito sa pilipinas, aabutin pa ng syam syam ang paghatol sa mga akusado,...lalo na pag pera pera ang paandarin at hustong sobra ang bayad sa mga abugago,... este abugado,... na kasapakat ng mga pulitiko!

oOo

Dapat pagukulan ng seryosong pansin ng ating kinauukulan ang nagbabadyang epekto ng Global Crisis sa bansa. Marami ang mawawalan ng trabaho dahil sa maaring sunod sunod na pagsasara ng mga negosyo, nagsimula na ang sibakan sa Intel sa Cavite at sumunod naman ang isang pabrika sa Laguna. Paano na rin ang OFW na nasibak sa ibang bansa at napilitang umuwi dito sa Pinas? Napakalaking problema ito pag nagkataon. Siguradong marami ang kakapit sa patalim para lang may makain at may maipakain sa kanilang pamilya huwag naman sa iligal na patalim sila kakapit, kaya't atensyon mga bosing, tsip, sir, mam, baka naman pwede na kayong maglatag ng magandang programa para dito, huwag iyong puro pagsasayaw ng cha cha, o tango,... este tong ko ang inaatupag ninyo! "maawa naman kayo"! plis!

oOo

Naggigisahan na ang mga prosekutong,...este prosekutong at mga ahente ng droga,... este PDEA pala na isinasangkot sa suhulan ng kaso sa Alabang Boys Drug Case. Unang pumiyok itong si Ferdinand Marcelino ng PDEA na ayon ay may nagtangka raw na manuhol sa kanila. Umarangkada naman itong si John Resado ng DOJ na syang naging Prosekutong at nagdismis sa kaso na si atty Larazo umano ang abugago,... este abugado ng PDEA ang syang nanuhol daw.. ito ay pagkatapos na kinuwestyon ang perang nasa account ng una (ayon kasi sa liham na ipinadala sa liham sa NBI ng isang concerned citizen, 1.6 million umano ang inilagay na pera sa bangko ni Resado.

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## THE PEACE COMBATANT

*Work for peace in Gaza, protect the women and children*

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



(This is a Re-Print of last issues Column)

Last week, The Peace Combatant expressed concern on the recent assaults of Israel in Gaza. The Peace Combatant, of course, does not wish to express sides in the conflict given that the resolution of the conflict is not really easy.

The Peace Combatant noted last week that the Palestinian death toll was 760 as of 10 January 2009, with the half civilians. As of 16 January 2009, however, one report says that the death toll stands at 1,132 Palestinians killed, including 311 children and 100 women.

This strongly indicates that Israeli assaults have been largely targeted on non-combatants. In contrast, only 13 Israelis were killed with only 3 of the 13 are civilians.

The Peace Combatant noted last week that while the recent assaults were Israeli response to rocket and mortar from Hamas, the Hamas response was triggered by the food and physical blockade made by Israelis on Gaza. Israel has effective control over the shores and borders and Gaza thereby affecting Gaza's access to food. Hamas argues that the mortar and rocket fires are simply a response to Israel's attacks and blockade.

On the other hand, the United States, European Union, and a number of country governments consider Hamas a terrorist organization. It is the dominant group in Gaza and had marginalized its rival Fatah in leading the Palestinian people. Hamas and Fatah had been competing in leading the Palestinian people.

Recently, Hamas has won the elections in Gaza and had declared itself as the legitimate government. Sympathizers consider Hamas as a fighter for national liberation, a movement for self-defense given Israel's tightening grip on its neck or territory.

Israel has attacked civilian buildings and mosque's claiming that the infrastructures have hidden weapons for the Hamas. In the process, 100 women and 311 children were killed. The attack on civilian infrastructure also explains why around half of the deaths are civilians. Around 45% of the Gaza population are children 14 years or younger. Thus, attacking civilian infrastructure has always a 45% probability that the casualty would be children 14 years or younger.

Gaza, of course, is a biblical landmark. It is the location where much of the story of Samson and Delilah took place. This can be used as a justification for Israel to claim the territory but Islamics can also use the same biblical reference to argue for their claim. Ishmael, son of Abraham with Hagar, is a legitimate heir of Abraham. Islamics identify Ishmael as their ancestor. Ishmael is also the ancestor of Islam's prophet Muhammad. Thus, both the Israelites and Palestinians can have strong bases for their claim on Gaza based on the bible and history.

Unfortunately, far from the being an agent of peace, the United States under the incoming presidency of Barack Obama would most likely heighten the tensions in Gaza. This is because it is a foreign policy view of Barack Obama not to distance itself from Israel. Most likely, the Israeli attack on Gaza found encouragement from the policy view of Barack Obama.

This is to say however that the Barrack Obama government does not have a positive contribution to the American people. The victory of Barrack Obama signals a potential end to the racial divide in America. He is the first black U.S. president. This is the most important contribution of Obama's win.

Unfortunately, Obama's popularity and policy view provide the synergy that will exacerbate the Middle East conflict. His policy view as incoming U.S. president will worsen the divide between Islamics and the rest of the world. For peace to be realized, the American people must review the policy perspective of Obama while the rest of world must condemn with one voice the slaughter of the innocents.

(The author maintains a website at [www.geocities.com/arturoboquiren](http://www.geocities.com/arturoboquiren) and can be contacted through [artboquiren2040@yahoo.com](mailto:artboquiren2040@yahoo.com) and 0927-536-8431)

## KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

*Rotarians build "Super Health Center" for the poor*

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



**ROTARY CLUB OF TAWI-TAWI NEEDS MEDICINES:** Here is an appeal for help which was texted to me by 09087005793: "The Rotary Club of Bongao, Tawi-tawi needs donors from other Rotary clubs, particularly medicines. Presently, we have on-going medical missions. Hopefully, your club can help." I hope some of our readers here can respond to this. Please communicate directly with the texter.

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**TENT OF PRAISE MINISTRIES APPEALS FOR HELP:** Juan Borra, a fraternity brod of mine from the Sigma Rho Fraternity of the UP College of Law, forwarded to me another appeal for help for medicine and related items: "This year, the Tent of Praise Ministries will be expanding their mission to cover a full medical-dental mission which will be held on April 25 & 26, 2009 (Saturday & Sunday). I hope that, once again, you will be willing to help out this cause for our fellow Filipinos (in Barangay Pineda, Pasig)." Please email Johnny Borra at [jvborra@gmail.com](mailto:jvborra@gmail.com) for any assistance.

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**MOVEMENT TO DISCREDIT GOD NOW IN RP:** To all Christian believers out there in the four corners of the Philippine archipelago, our newly-formed group, the Alyansa ng Mananampalataya, reiterates its appeal for all of us to unite toward pushing a more aggressive preaching of the Word of God, regardless of our differences in doctrines.

The worldwide movement to discredit God and say He does not exist, which is raging in Britain, Spain, Italy, Canada and Australia, among others, has already reached the Philippines. Just go around the posh villages along Julia Vargas Avenue in Pasig City and you will see huge signs saying "There is no God."

For inquiries about joining or linking up with the Alyansa ng Mananampalataya, text or call me at 0917 984 24 68.

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**DISTRICT 3780 ROTARIANS BUILD SUPER HEALTH CENTER:** Some 200,000 poor and marginalized residents of Payatas, Quezon City and neighboring villages are now being given free medical assistance on a regular basis by a "Super Health Center" established by Rotarians from Rotary International District 3780 (Quezon City).

The center is located in what used to be a huge metropolis garbage dumpsite at Lupang Pangako, a district of Payatas where scores of slum dwellers perished in the early 2000s, when fire swept uncontrollably through the trash stored in the area.

District Gov. Alexander Cureg explained that among the services the center offers is the Comprehensive Unified Health Plan (CUHP) developed by Dr. Irene Santos, RI D3780 Health Committee Chair.

"The CUHP is a project aimed at bringing down maternal, infant and child mortalities and promoting health through its immunization, nutrition and an Anti-TB program offered to children between the ages of one to ten years old," Cureg said.

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**FREE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE POOR AVAILABLE ON A DAILY BASIS:** Gov. Cureg added that the health center also provides awareness programs for the prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases such as cancer, stroke, hypertension, diabetes and chronic obstructive lung disease. A daily project is the feeding of malnourished children aged 3 to 8.

RID3780 Rotarian doctors offer free diagnostic, dental and minor surgical services on a weekly rotation basis.

Other components of the CUHP are parenting, responsible parenthood, values formation and livelihood seminars, organization of

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## PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

*Tanggap ni RD, CD at Mayor sa  
JUETENG!?!?*

Email: [aquino\\_odell@yahoo.com](mailto:aquino_odell@yahoo.com)

BY: ODELL "BOMBITO" AQUINO



(This is a Re-Print of last issues Column)

Ayon sa isa nating bagong ipormante-Deep Penetrating Angel (DPA) na kasalukuyang kasapi sa mga laganap na operasyon ng Jueteng sa siyudad ng Baguio at sa Cordillera, ang mga sumusunod na opisyaes ay nagpataas daw ng kanilang **suhol, lagay, patong o tanggap** mula sa operator at financiers ng Tengwe. Ayon sa ating DPA dating tanggap ni **PNP-CAR RD Eugene Martin** ay P1.2M (isang milyong at dalawang daan libong piso) per month na ngaypon ay P1.5M (isang milyong at limang daan libong piso) na raw. Ang dating tanggap daw ni **PNP Baguio CD Wilfredo Franco** P550K (limang daan at limampung libong piso) na ngayon ay P800K (walong daang libong piso) na daw. Ang dating tanggap daw ni **Baguio City Mayor RAB** ay P1M (isang milyong piso) na ngayon ay P1.3M (isang milyong at tatlong daan libong piso). Ayon pa sa ating DPA itong tatlong kagalang -galang na opisyaes lang na ito ang binigyan ng increase at wala ng iba. Ayon pa sa aking DPA ay binawasan pa raw ang sa iba, katulad ng sa mga medias este media etc... Kung tutuo ang ipormasyong ito marahil ay binigyan sila ng karagdagang patong dala ng kanilang very good performance at marahil ay dala na rin ng krisis ekonomiya na kung saan nahihirapan na rin siguro ang mga ito na kung saan napakaliit ng kanilang lehitimong suweldo kaya nararapat lang naman na mabigyan sila ng Patong Increase, **He!He! He!**. Anong palagay ninyo mga dear readers, tutuo kaya ang impormasyong ito o intriga lamang? At sa inyong mga kinaukulang opisyaes na aking nabanggit, bukas ang aking kolum para ihayag ang inyong say, ang inyong komento whether it is an admission or denial, please feel free to send me your reply!!!

## Editorial

..... from page 4

tempt to enlarge it to the very boundaries of the nation."

The Obama of the inaugural is more measured than the Obama on the stump. The swearing in address has tamped down "anaphora" —repetition of a phrase as rhetorical tool. Obama deployed it, with brilliant effect, on November 4, in Chicago's victory speech: "Yes. We can."

"This is our moment. This is our time - to reaffirm that fundamental truth—that out of many, we are one; that where we are met with cynicism and those who tell us that we can't, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of a people. Yes We Can."

These "complex signifying, verbal devices are taken for granted in the black church," Georgetown University's Michael Eric Dyson notes. In August 1963, Martin Luther King used that too on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.... I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation

where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character...."

Obama titled his book: "Audacity of Hope". And in his memoir "Dreams From My Father", here calls that in **chur ch**, he'd "imagine the stories of ordinary black people merging with the stories of David and Goliath, Moses and Pharaoh". But from the ranks of the oppressed came a ruler.

A f t e r Tuesday's inauguration, "Pharaoh has yielded to Moses. David is now Goliath". How that will change Obama's administration — and language — will now be tested. /J.L. Mercado

## Direksahan.....

..... from page 4

Ganoon? Saan galing?) sa ngayon mainit ang salpukan nina Rekado, este Resado at ni La paz batchoy, este Lazaro pala. He!he! buweltahan na ito mga suki, siguradong marami pang baho ang sisingaw, kumbaga teksas sa teksas, at siguradong maaaliw na naman ang madlang pinoy sa panibagong "sabong" na ito.

Naniniwala tuloy ako sa kasabihang ang magnanakaw ay galit sa kapwa magnanakaw, pero matindi ang galit ng isang magnanakaw na hindi man lang nabalatuhan ng kapwa magnanakaw na dapat ay sa kanya mapunta ang grasya...oops wala po akong pinapatamaan..alalahanin ang pikon ay talo!!!

oOo

Matutuloy naman itong pebrero ang random drug test sa mga kolehiyo, aprub tayo dito na para rin kasi ito sa sa ikabubuti ng mga kabataang mag-aaral... at sa mga sumasalungat naman dito, tama na, ika nga sa ingles, "there is nothing to fear if you have nothing to hide"!

Pero teka, bakit puro estudyante lang ang pag-uukulan ng pansin sa Random Drug test? Dapat pati na rin ang mga empleyado, drayber etcetera, at ang mga dapat pulbusin ay ang mga Drug Pushers at Drug Manufacturers na yan! Pulbusin na! period!

oOo

160 million halaga naman ng marijuana ang sinunog sa La union kamakailan lang...eh ang nagtanim at may-ari ng lupa kunsaan nakuha ang marijuana, kasama ba sa nasunog?... kelan naman ang "harvest time" at Sunugan ulit ha? Buwisheeeett!!!!

oOo

Sunod sunod ang nangyaring "Bomb Threat" sa mga Unibersidad ng Baguio City halos dalawang linggo ang nakalipas. Buti na lamang at maagap ang pulisya at napag-alaman na ang mga ito ay isa lamang pananakot o pagbibiro.

Dapat matukoy kung sino man ang may kagagawan nito at ilublob ng patiwarik sa may burnham lake.

Ano sey nyo mga bosing dyan sa National Telecommunications Commission? Baka naman pwede ninyong kung sino ang hinaupak na ito. Larga na!

oOo

30 bahay ang nademolish sa may barangay Fairview, Baguio City ng Demolition Team noong biyernes Enero 23, 2009, base sa order ni butihing mayor Reynaldo Bautista Jr. samakatuwid, halos 30 pamilya ang nawalan ng masisilungan sa araw na iyon. Ayon sa pahayag, natalo umano sa kaso ang mga residente kaya't nagkaroon ng pagkakataon ang may-ari ng lupa na paalisin ang mga bahay na nakatayo doon, pero ayon naman sa ibang residente, nagkaroon

naman daw sila ng paguusap sa may-ari na bayaran na lamang nila ang lupa na kinatatayuan ng kanilang bahay, kaya't nagulat na lamang daw sila ng bigla na lamang dumating ang demolition team at pinaggigiba ang kanilang bahay. Itutuloy naman daw ang paggiba sa iba pang mga bahay na natira sa lunes, Enero 26, 2009.

Ano sey mo dito apo mayor Bautista, Ser? Mukang mga ismol taym na iskwaters lamang po yata ang kaya ninyong ipagiba ng bahay pero ang mga big taym ay tiklop po kayo katulad ng mga nagdaang mayor? Pakisagot po!

oOo

Dapat na paigtingin ng mga awtoridad ang k a n i l a n g pagbabantay sa mga nagtitinda ng mga secondhand na cellphones! Mismo kasing ako ay bumili ng isa dito sa may first floor ng Center Mall para pansamantala kong magamit habang inanayos ang nasira kong cellphone pero por diyos, laking pagsisisi ko dahil laging nawawalan ng signal at ang siste, halos 5 oras o mahigit pa bago dumating ang mga message.

K a y a ' t paalala lang sa mga gustong bumili ng medyo mura murang secondhand na cellphone, mag-esep esep muna, baka kayo rin ang sumunod na biktima, Kuwidaw!





## Iligal na pagputol ng kahoy at puno, dapat ng tigilan.



Kamakailan lamang ang Linis Gobyerno at Beyond Borders Reporting (BBR International) ay lumagda ng isang kasunduan (Memorandum of Agreement) para sa monitoring activities on illegal logging and similar forest destruction and related environmental degradation activities na pangungunahan ng BBR Philippines. Ang magiging masusing partisipasyon ng Linis Gobyerno (LG) ay ang paghain ng reklamo at kinaukulang kaso sa mga maglalabag sa PD 705 or the Revised Forestry Code Of The Philippines at Executive Order 277. Hinggil dito ang BBR ay nag deploy ng mga monitoring teams sa iba't ibang rehiyon sa Pilipinas. Sa dakong ito ay nais manawagan ang Linis Gobyerno sa publiko na maaari ninyong iparating sa aming tanggapan (Email address: [info@linisgobyerno.org](mailto:info@linisgobyerno.org) or [info@beyondbordersreporting.net](mailto:info@beyondbordersreporting.net) or text/call- (0917) 506-9123 ang ano mang impormasyon hinggil sa mga iligal na pagputol ng puno at kahoy.

### The Philippines should show strong political will in addressing destructive logging in its own backyard.

Manila, PHILIPPINES (Dec. 2005) - The Philippine experience on illegal logging and the resulting catastrophic effects of severe deforestation should serve as a lesson to other countries in the enforcement of measures to stop forest destruction, particularly illegal logging and associated illegal timber trade, Greenpeace said today at the conclusion of the East Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Customs Law Enforcement Workshop.

The Philippine experience on illegal logging and the resulting catastrophic effects of severe deforestation should serve as a lesson to other countries in the enforcement of measures to stop forest destruction, particularly illegal logging and associated illegal timber trade, Greenpeace said today at the conclusion of the East Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Customs Law Enforcement Workshop.

"Destructive logging in the country has been the cause of extremely devastating catastrophes such as the tragic Ormoc, Aurora and Quezon disasters," said Greenpeace Southeast Asia Campaign Director Von Hernandez, "It is ironic that the Philippines, who is Chair of the FLEG Task Force, and thus lead agent in its mission to address violations of forest laws and commission of forest crimes, is itself currently unable to act on the problems that the FLEG process aims to eradicate. Moreover, recent moves by the DENR to open remaining intact forests to large-scale logging shows that the government itself is not serious in reversing forest destruction."

"The government's schizophrenic approach to forest protection cannot continue," added Hernandez.

Greenpeace, an observer at the FLEG Customs Law Enforcement Workshop hosted by the DENR, also stressed that the Philippine government, as FLEG Task Force Chair, should take the lead in adopting measures at the national and local government levels, in order to combat destructive logging.

The FLEG is a process that seeks to involve international collaboration to combat



forest crimes. In East Asia, the FLEG Process emerged out of a series of multi-stakeholder consultations in 2001 prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("WSSD") Ministerial preparatory meetings in Bali, Indonesia. The FLEG Task Force and Advisory Group regularly conduct meetings to review progress on actions to implement the commitments of participating countries and to assess and determine current challenges of the forestry sector. The Philippines is hosting the next meeting February next year.

"As Chair of the Task Force, we appeal to the Philippine government to push the FLEG process forward in the East Asian Region, also to safeguard forest areas in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, which are now suffering from the highest rates of deforestation in the world today, explained Hapsoro, Greenpeace Southeast Asia Forest Campaigner based in Indonesia.

"Time is running out for our forests. Strong measures to check forest destruction and illegal timber trade, as well as an ambitious timeline for their implementation, is crucial," he added.

Greenpeace is an independent campaigning organization that uses non-violent creative confrontation to expose global environmental problems to force solutions that are essential to a green and peaceful future.

Republic of the  
Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL  
COURT  
FRIST JUDICIAL  
REGION  
La Trinidad,  
Benguet

**OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE JUDGE**

IN RE: PETITION  
FOR  
RE COMMISSION  
AS  
NOTARY PUBLIC,

ATTY. JOYCE P.  
DULNUAN,

*Petitioner.*

x————x

PROCEEDINGS  
CASE  
NO. 09-NC-0144

IN RE: PETITION  
FOR  
R E  
APPOINTMENT  
AS  
NOTARY PUBLIC

ATTY. MARY  
I N G L A Y  
CAPUYAN  
-FOKNO

*Petitioner.*

PROCEEDINGS  
CASE  
NO. 09-NC-0145

IN RE: RENEWAL  
OF COMMISSION  
AS NOTARY  
PUBLIC IN LA  
T R I N I D A D,  
BENGUET AND IN  
THE  
IN PROVINCE OF  
BENGUET

ATTY. RONALD T.  
LAOYAN,  
*Petitioner.*

x————x

PROCEEDINGS  
CASE  
NO. 09-NC-0146

IN THE MATTER  
OF THE PETITION  
FOR COMMISSION  
AS NOTARY  
PUBLIC FOR AND  
IN THE PROVINCE  
OF BENGUET.

ATTY. EDGAR  
LING-OEDIONG,  
*Petitioner.*

x————x

PROCEEDINGS  
CASE  
NO. 09-NC-0147

Notice of Hearing  
Notarial Commission

**NOTICE OF  
HEARING**

Notice is hereby  
given that a sum-  
mary hearing on the  
petitions of renewal  
of notarial commis-  
sion filled by the  
above-named peti-  
tioners shall be held  
on February 12, 2009  
at 10:30 o'clock in  
the morning before  
the Executive Judge  
of the Regional Trial  
Court, La Trinidad,  
Benguet. Any person  
who has any cause or  
reason to object to  
the grant of the pe-  
titions may file a  
verify written oppo-  
sition there to on or  
before the date of the  
summary hearing.

Let this Notice  
of Hearing be pub-  
lished once(1) a

week or two(2) con-  
secutive weeks in  
the JUNCTION, a  
newspaper of gen-  
eral circulation in  
Baguio City and  
Benguet Province,  
the first publication  
to be made not later  
than January 25,  
2009.

**SO ORDERED.**

La Trinidad,  
Benguet, Philip-  
pines this 22<sup>nd</sup> day  
of January, 2009.

By:  
(SGD) MARYBELLE  
LEE DEMOT  
MARIOAS

January 25 &  
Feb 1, 2009

**Batas**

... from page 5

Rotary Community Corps and medical health  
volunteers.

The Health Center has various diag-  
nostic equipment, medical facilities and sup-  
plies which were augmented through the do-  
nations made by RID3780 Rotary clubs.

**PRA GENERATES P284 M IN 2007:** The  
Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) gen-  
erated some P284 million as gross income in  
2007, and paid around P60 million in taxes  
arising from its operations.

In a report to PRA Chairman Edgardo B.  
Aglipay, Col. Fernando Z. Francisco, PRA  
general manager, said that by virtue of poli-  
cies laid down at the agency since the as-  
sumption of Chairman Aglipay in 2006, ex-  
penses for operation have been reduced,  
thereby enabling the PRA to increase its rev-  
enues.

**Cont. on page 9**

**NOTICE OF EXTRA  
JUDICIAL  
SETTLEMENT**

Notice is hereby given that  
the estate of the late Felimon  
Holman Macario who died in-  
testate on July 25, 2008 at  
Baguio City, Philippines, has  
been settled by his heirs  
through a Deed of Extrajudi-  
cial Settlement dated Decem-  
ber 28, 2008 and docketed  
as Doc. No. 475; Page No.  
094; Book No. VIII; Series of  
2008, of the Notarial Registry  
of Atty. Melita Amylesha D.  
Macaraeg.

January 11, 18, and 25, 2009

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

**JOSEPH PACHECO**

**Applicant**

**Case No: 2000-01-2042**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate  
of Public Convenience with correction of Entry to operate a PUJ  
Service for the transportation and passengers and freights on the line:  
BAGUIO CITY - BUYAGAN and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the  
Board on February 3, 2009 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal,  
Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/  
her/their evidences.

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

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

This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its  
records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless  
the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral  
evidence.

WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. -  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 20th day of January 2009.

(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.  
Hearing Officer

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

**ABRAHAM CIRIACO**

**Applicant**

**Case No: 89-01-383**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

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

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the  
Board on February 3, 2009 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal,  
Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/  
her/their evidences.

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

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

This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its  
records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless  
the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral  
evidence.

WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. -  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 22th day of January 2009.

(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.  
Hearing Officer

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

**JOSEPH CULAN**

**Applicant**

**Case No: 2001-01-498**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

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

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the  
Board on February 3, 2009 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal,  
Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/  
her/their evidences.

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

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

This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its  
records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless  
the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral  
evidence.

WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. -  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 16th day of January 2009.

(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.  
Hearing Officer

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

**RITCHIE D. BOYAGAO**

**Applicant**

**Case No: 2006-CAR-0334**

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate  
of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation  
and passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO CITY - BUYAGAN  
and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the  
Board on February 3, 2009 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal,  
Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/  
her/their evidences.

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

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

This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its  
records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless  
the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral  
evidence.

WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. -  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 20th day of January 2009.

(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.  
Hearing Officer



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

GULF BANK  
(RURAL BANK  
OF LINGAYEN,  
INC.),

*Mortgagee,*

-versus-

SPS. RICHARD  
PAUL B.  
PILUDEN and  
ANNA L.  
PILUDEN,

*Mortgagors.*

FORCLOSURE  
CASE NO.  
08-EXF-1325

EXTRA -  
JUDICIAL FORE  
CLOSURE OF  
REAL ESTATE

REPUBLIC OF  
THE  
PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL  
TRIAL COURT  
OF BAGUIO  
FIRST  
JUDICIAL  
REGION  
BRANCH 59

(Additional  
Family Court of  
Baguio)

IN RE:  
PETITION FOR  
ADOPTIOIN OF  
MINOR DARYL  
AVERY BINUYA

SPOUSES BRIG.  
GEN. PEDRO J.  
BINUYA  
and CECILIA B.  
BINUYA

*Petitioners,*

-versus-

LOCAL CIVIL  
REGISTRAR OF  
S A N  
F E R N A N D O

MORTGAGE  
UNDER ACT  
3135, AS  
AMENDED

SHERIFF'S  
NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC AUCTION  
SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended, filed by GULF BANK (RURAL BANK OF LINGAYEN, INC.), thru its President/Chairman and CEO, MYRNA C. LOPEZ, here in referred to as the Mortgagee against SPS. RICHARD PAUL B. PILUDEN and ANNA L. PILUDEN, both of legal age, Filipino citizens, and with residence and postal address at JC 216 Km. 4, Pico, La Trinidad, Benguet, herein referred to as the Mortgagors, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of the filing of the petition

amount to ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED NINETY FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY FOUR PESOS AND 92/100 (Php 1,195,384.92), Philippine, on the note, including interest and penalty. That additionally, by reason of default, Attorney's fees is properly assessed in accordance with the promissory note equivalent to 10 percent of the amount due on the note, excluding other expenses from the prosecution of this petition for foreclosure and other incidental expenses incurred during foreclosure proceedings.

That the undersigned or any duly authorized sheriff will SELL at public auction on February 3, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in front of the

petitioners and her surname be changed to that of the petitioners.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the same be heard before the Regional Trial Court, Branch 59, Baguio City on June 9, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning, at which place and date and time, the petitioners shall prove their case. Any person interested may appear and show cause, if any there be why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners in the The Junction newa paper, a newspaper of general circulation in the City

Benguet Justice Hall, La Trinidad, Benguet, to the highest bidder for CASH in Philippine currency, the hereunder described real property, more particularly described as follows, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE  
NO. T-45299

A parcel of land (Lot 4-F, Psd-131110-005961 being a portion of Lot 4, Psd-1-010644) situated at Brgy. Lamtang Wangal, Mun. of La Trinidad, Prov. Of Luzon. Bounded on the NW., along line 1-2 by Lot 4-E of the subd. Plan; on the NE., along line 2-3 by public trail (10.00 m. wide); on the SE., along line 3-4 by Lot 3, Psd-1-010644; on the Absent sharp to light touch and vibratory sensation to the mid foot with the

foot with the SW., along line 4-1 by Lot 5, Psd-1-01644. Beginning at a point marked " " on plan being N. 53 deg. 30' W., 3,691.35 m. from Tri. Sta. "LIME-STONE" Baguio Townsite, thence: N. 47 deg. 30' E., 26.19 m. to point 2; S. 50 deg. 50' E., 29.15 m. to point 3; S. 50 deg. 41' W., 31.16 m. to point 4; N. 41 deg. 01' W., 27.12 m. to point of beginning containing

an area of EIGHT HUNDRED (800) SQUARE METERS, more or less. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground as follows: Points are all P.S. cyl. conc. Mons. 15 x 40 cms. bearings true; date of original survey on May 3-4, 1959 & Jan. 13, 1960, date of subd. survey on Sept. 6, 1997 executed by Engr.

Claver A. Alisto Jr. under the supervision of Engr. Glenn Dagesen and was approved on Nov. 17, 1997.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

Interested bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of said property and the encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

La Trinidad, Benguet, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2009

FOR THE  
PROVINCIAL  
SHERIFF'S  
EX-OFFICIO OF  
BENGUET

BY:  
(SGD) GREGORIO  
G. TADEO Sheriff  
IV

January 11, 18,  
and 25, 2009

## Batas

.... from page 5

The PRA also reported other achievements, such as: the enrolment of 1,331 new retirees to have joined its retirement program in 2007, the establishment of a one-stop shop for enrollee applicants, accrediting additional banks to join the PRA program.

The agency also managed to shorten the processing of applications for conversion of US Dollar Time Deposits to purchase condominium units by authorizing the PRA general manager to approve such transactions.

"Through the PRA's retirement program and its unwavering commitment to improve the country's retirement industry, it substantially contributes to the President's goals of job-creation and increasing foreign investment in the Philippines," Aglipay said.

-000-

**BATAS PARTY LIST:** Interested parties can now become members of the BATAS Party List, or the Bagong Alyansang Tagapagtaguyod ng Adhikaing Sambayanan. Please send your names and complete addresses to us, through text, at 0919-609-64-89, or you can call (02) 433-75-49, (02) 433-75-53, or send an email to [www.batasnews.com](http://www.batasnews.com), or at [batasmauricio@yahoo.com](mailto:batasmauricio@yahoo.com), or you can write us at 18 D Mahiyain corner Mapagkawanggawa, Teachers Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

SO ORDERED

DONE IN CHAMBERS, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2009, Baguio City, Philippines.

By (SGD)  
ILUMINADA P.  
CABATO

Judge  
January 18 -  
25 Feb 1, 2009

**Pulse asia....****.... from page 2**

Reynato Puno registered a 25% rate. He is closely followed by President Arroyo who gathered 24% rate while House Speaker Prospero Nograles tailed at 22%.

In the approval rating, Escudero was again followed by Legarda at 75%, Roxas at 72%,

Senator Kiko Pangilinan at 68% and Senator Alan Peter Cayetano at 67%.

At the time the survey was conducted, the burning issues of the day were the US financial crisis; the US presidential election; the filing of a new impeachment complaint against President Arroyo; the Supreme Court decision on the MOA-AD; and the controversial Russia trip of several police officials that involved the anomalous disbursement of a contingency fund of P6.9 million.

Decline of oil price hike in the world market, impending power rate increase of Meralco and the melamine scare also made the headlines during the survey period.

According to Pulse Asia, these issues partly contextualize the survey's findings as regards to the Filipinos' assessment of the performance of and public trust in government officials included in the survey./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

**Pia questions....****.... from page 2**

names herself czar or not of every endeavor under the sun, Mrs. Arroyo, as President, is ultimately responsible for the failure or success of any program initiated by her government."

"Being czar is therefore redundant. To date, she has failed to prove herself in the fight against corruption and illegal drugs, illegal gambling, criminality, poverty and upholding human rights, notwithstanding her strong pronouncements to prioritize these. Until she can prove she made a difference in those past efforts, the czar labeling only serves to give our people more illusions."

"I hope the President is not oblivious of the consequences should she also fail in this respect. The disastrous effects of climate change, particularly on agriculture, coastal areas and our different ecosystems have been fairly projected by experts."

Citing the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Cayetano said the Philippines is highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, being an archipelagic country located in the typhoon regions.

"Naming herself czar is getting to be a disturbing habit of Mrs. Arroyo. It's a trite way of showing to the public what her latest priorities are, but I doubt whether this will convince the people to rally behind her, when many of them have already grown tired and cynical of her governance."/Office Of Senator Pia Cayetano

**21 ODA....****.... from page 1**

Instead of the approved project costs serving as the unbreakable ceiling, which is what the law requires, these have been reduced into mere suggested contract prices".

Escudero, who formerly chaired the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on ODA said it is immoral to saddle Filipinos with higher debt, more so at a time when other things they need can't be met.

"To view it from another perspective, P33.5 billion is almost 14 times of what we will spend for new textbooks this year. It is P8 billion higher than the annual budget of the Department of Health".

Of the P33.5 billion ODA-funded projects cost overrun in 2007, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) accounted for the bulk of the increase. It posted a P13.3 billion cost overrun in five roads, one bridge and four flood control projects.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) followed with P6.8 billion for three airports and one feeder port project while Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) was third with its P6.5 billion overrun for the Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway.

Other agencies which posted overruns, based on National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) documents submitted to the Senate, were National Irrigation Administration (NIA), in the amount of P4.2 billion for four irrigation projects; Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), P1.6 billion for the Batangas port project; and the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) whose "Capacity Expansion Project" was P1.1 billion above the approved contract.

Major reasons cited for cost adjustment were acceptance of higher bids which amounted to P7.2 billion; increase in the prices of labor and materials (P9.7 billion) and design; and design and project scope changes (P8.2 billion).

Foreign exchange movement, on the other hand, accounted for P2 billion in budget overruns while the increases in consulting services and administrative supervision jacked up cost by P1.5 billion and P1.2 billion respectively.

While admitting that there are cost overruns justified and needed to complete the project, these must be vetted properly.

"Cost overruns should be reckoned against the detailed engineering plan of a project and against its feasibility study. Any request must not be processed until it is reviewed by the COA, by the various procurement transparency groups, and covered by a budget strategy paper that will address the fiscal impact of new obligation".

Escudero said any application for cost overrun should also be subjected to public hearings by agencies approving it./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

**Chiz committee....****.... from page 2**

ability of public officials by making public how BAC members decide and why. Any anomaly in the bidding may be traced to the responsible BAC member" he said.

Third, the bill puts under coverage of RA No. 9184 the procurement of infrastructure projects, goods and consulting services funded by loan or credit under the Official Development Act, RA 8182, as amended.

This proposed amendment is in the light of the interpretation that the procurement of certain infrastructure projects, goods and services can be made exempt from the Operation of RA 9184 on the basis of Section 4 of said law which mandates the observation of treaties or international executive agreements affecting procurement.

"Currently Section 1 of RA 8555 empowers the President of the Republic to waive application of any law in deference to the contracting of loan or credit with a lending institution" the senator said./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

**Smoke-belching....****.... from page 3**

polluter's fee which is P1,000 for the vehicle operator and warning for the driver for the first offense; P2,000 for operator and P100 for the driver on the second offense, and P3,000 for the operator and P200 for the driver on the third and subsequent offenses.

Suspension of driver's license would result if proper action; maintenance or repair of the vehicle has not been followed, the ordinance states.

Accordingly, RITMT members are from the CEMO, Baguio City Police Office, and accredited volunteers or those from non-government organizations (NGOs).

The RITMT is composed of the team leader, flagger, spotter, vehicle plate removers, ticketing officer, information and education officer, smoke emission technician, prober, recorder and tool keeper, and the testing team.

Procedures for the roadside inspection and monitoring should be consistent with Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Land Transportation Office (LTO), the ordinance further states.

The ordinance also cited a provision which grants power to the local government unit to "promote the general welfare by ensuring and supporting, among other things, promotion and safety and enhancement of the right of the people to a balanced ecology," thus the actions and the creation of the RITMT for the purpose.

Other specifics; such as procedures and provisions for the roadside monitoring are contained in the ordinance, which was approved by the council last year./juliegfianza



**Cadac anti-drug....****.... from page 3**

ties but this does not mean that Baguio is the main source of drugs that would make it a drug haven," Farinas said.

Acting Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Cordillera (PDEA-CAR) head Edgar Apalla said that based on PDEA-CAR's latest assessments, there are 30 moderately affected barangays in the city with one barangay set for downgrading of status as drug-cleared.

He said there are 58 suspected drug personalities from the city that are in the drug watch list and they are now the subject of case build-up and action.

He said marijuana remains to be the top-selling drug but shabu is the most commonly used.

CADAC has been at the forefront of the campaign focusing on the aspects of drug abuse prevention, arrest of violators, prosecution and trial and rehabilitation of victims in cooperation with the various sectors like the academe, religious, health, law enforcement among others.

The city's general plan of action against drug abuse includes the neutralization of the big personalities in the drug scene, eradication of marijuana plants in various areas in the region, dismantling of shabu laboratories if there are any. Support activities such as the continuing information drive, the reward system and enhanced monitoring are also in place ins support of the campaign./aileen p. refuerzo

**Juvenile law....****.... from page 3**

remained unanswered: "How do we apprehend youthful offenders to protect innocent students when said offenders, despite their miniscule numbers, are protected by the Juvenile Justice Welfare Code?"

Vice mayor and CADAC chair Daniel Fariñas meanwhile admitted the Alabang boys incident may very well characterized the use of minors in the narc trade.

The narcotics trade was brought in the limelight by the scandal-tainted case infamously known as the "Alabang boys" incident where three after-teens from affluent families were accosted in a PDEA buy-bust operation in Manila.

During the Ugnayan press conference hosted by Radio ng Bayan (DZEQ), Fariñas revealed, "Our only chance to save our city's kids from creeping self-destruction is to have RA 9344 amended to protect our innocent kids."

He explained that while the statue intends to increase protection of children in conflict with law, it deviously encouraged kids to commit crimes, instead.

"As a result" he said, "our local police are grasping for ways to address the worsening drug situation without placing themselves in jeopardy for violating certain rights the statute extended juvenile delinquents."

The law provides that kids 15 years of age and under at the time of the commission of an act or omission are generally exempt from

criminal liabilities.

"They are regarded as 'acting without discernment', even if they knew the consequences of their actions for as long as they are within the age of infancy provided by the statute," the vice mayor said.

With this, kids 15-year-old and below can commit a crime and walk away from possible prison terms otherwise provided in penal laws. Before passage of RA 9344, children over 9- but under 15-years of age can be held liable if found by the courts to have acted with discernment.

Meantime on the question of constitutionality in implementing random drug-testing in schools, Dr. Zorayda Clavio revealed that it is not the first time Baguio implemented the program. "In 2005," she said, "The same program was implemented without any protests."

The result of the random tests were however treated with utmost confidentiality even school administrators had inkling of the results.

Clavio added, "We believe the random testing is not unconstitutional because we test the kids using their urine, which can be gathered via the mechanical act of the subject."

Apalla and Fariñas confirmed Clavio's claim adding the method does not violate the constitutional right against self-incrimination as "the act of urinating does not include reflection or discretion on the part of the kids."

"Moreover," Fariñas said, "The kids have nothing to fear. If they evade the tests, at least authorities already know who to watch for. If they test negative, they'd be giving their parents a big sign of relief."

Meanwhile, DepEd national already announced random drug-testing shall begin February 2, although there are nil announcements when the undertaking shall take effect in Baguio./ISL

**Roads and parks....****.... from page 12**

road, Magsaysay Avenue, Harrison road is closed for the grand street parade; on March 1, the same route is closed for the float parade.

On March 1, at 12PM up to March 8 at 12 Midnight, Session road (from SM rotunda to Mercury Drug at People's Park) and other roads intersecting Session shall be closed for the Session road in Bloom.

On March 8, from 5 PM to 8 PM, Harrison road from the intersection of Veniz Hotel to the junction of Baguio Patriotic School shall be closed for the closing ceremonies and electric light parade.

Furthermore, the AO states that Victory Liner buses shall load and unload their passengers at the Baguio Convention Center to ensure the unobstructed use of Upper Session as assembly point of passengers for the different activities.

Signs and markers are expected to direct the riding public along the routes, while the Traffic Management Branch of the Baguio City Police Office is expected to come up with appropriate rerouting schemes and safety measures for changes in the schedule for the early information of the public./juliegfianza

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

**WILLIAM LUBU-OD****Applicant****Case No: 97-BC-353****NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation and passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA - CAMP 7 and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on February 3, 2009 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Poadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.

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

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

This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 20th day of January 2009.

(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.  
Hearing Officer

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

**AMOR IMPERIAL****Applicant****Case No: 93-CAR-1170****NOTICE OF HEARING**

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

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on February 3, 2009 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Poadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.

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

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

This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 20th day of January 2009.

(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.  
Hearing Officer

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

**JOSEPH CULAN****Applicant****Case No: 89-CAR-008****NOTICE OF HEARING**

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

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on February 3, 2009 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Poadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.

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

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

This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 16th day of January 2009.

(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.  
Hearing Officer

## Panagbenga 2009 activities

BAGUIO CITY - February opens with Panagbenga 2009's field demonstration which serves as elimination round for participants of the Grand Streetdancing parade on Feb. 28; coupled with the opening of the market encounter landscaping contest at Burnham Park which runs until March 8.

With the theme, "Our Festival... Yours Too!" the 14<sup>th</sup> version of the Baguio Flower Festival goes on with the new event, Windows in Bloom; the Fluvial Parade at the Burnham Lake on Feb. 14; "Let a Thousand Flowers Bloom," at the Melvin Jones on Feb. 22; The Grand Streetdancing Parade on Feb. 28; Floral Float Parade on Mar. 1; and "Session road in Bloom," from Mar. 2-8. The Pony boys' day is featured on March 5 and 6 with fun games, and exhibitions on horseback with contingents from Pacdal, Mines View, John Hay, and La Trinidad's "Los Caballeros."

The Windows in Bloom, is a contest where lessors/owners along Session road and selected roads would spruce up their windows with rooted blooming ornamental plants until the end of the flower festival.

Inspired by similar scenes abroad, the project is part of

the centennial celebration, and being carried through by a private entity in co-operation with the Panagbenga Secretariat based at the Baguio Convention Center.

A partial schedule of other events would be: Munay: Music of the Andes on Feb. 1 and 8; Vintage Car Show on Feb. 6 to 8; Fashionista presentation on Feb. 7; Blooms and Brews from Feb. 9 to March 8; Flower up your hat competition on Feb. 9 to March 8; Camera walls Band Mall Tour on Feb. 13; Valentine Duets and Serenades on Feb. 14; all events to be done at SM City Baguio.

Baguio in Bloom: Mosaic Painting, another Baguio Centennial Event, shall be done at Melvin Jones on Feb. 13; The Sail on... Currahea Tour goes on at the Baguio Convention Center on Feb. 15; The Panagbenga Princess search, SM City on the same date.

A Musical Presentation, "Joseph... The Dreamer," shall be performed at the Saint Louis University Center for

Culture and Arts on Feb. 16, 17 & 18; TheUp Dharma Down, and Kenyo Show on Feb. 20 and 21, both at the SM City, Baguio; Mr. and Ms. Panagbenga Muscle Showdown on Feb. 21 at the Baguio Convention Center; Skabeche, Lito Camo and Kalzada Band tours shall be featured on Feb. 22 at SM City.

For airsoft enthusiasts, an exhibit will go on at the Baguio Country Club on Feb. 26 to 28, and challenge in different venues on Feb. 28 and March 1; a Pop Fiesta at the Athletic Bowl on Feb. 27; and a Kapuso Mall Tour at SM City on Feb. 27.

John Lloyd Cruz shall be at SM city Baguio on Feb. 28, while on the same date at 6 PM, a Free concert, Free T-shirt is offered at the Melvin Jones Grandstand.

On March 1, a Kapamilya Karavan is scheduled; Baguio Music Fest, Side A Floriade street party on March 6 and 7, all at SM City; the Speed Ball Challenge goes on at the Athletic Bowl, closing ceremonies of the Baguio Flower Festival shall be on March 8 at the Athletic Bowl, while a combination of Hawaiian culture, the Luau and Fireworks display ends Panagbenga 2009 at SM City./juliegfianza

## THE JUNCTION WEEKEND

### Roads and parks closed for panagbenga

BAGUIO CITY - City Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr. last week issued two (2) Administrative Orders for the use of certain roads and parks for activities of the Baguio Flower Festival 2009.

In Administrative Order 9, Athletic Bowl, Melvin Jones Field and Grandstand shall be used for the opening parade and ceremonies on Feb. 1; Burnham Park and the lake shall be used for the "Promenade at the Lake," Fluvial Parade on Feb. 14; Melvin Jones, for the "Let a Thousand Flowers Bloom," activity on Feb. 22; and the Athletic Bowl for the Grand Street Parade and

Ceremonies on Feb. 28.

On March 1 up to March 3, the Athletic Bowl shall be used for the floats on parade and display afterwards; on March 7, Pony Boys take charge of the Melvin Jones Field and Grandstand with games on horseback, dubbed as "Gymkhana;" while the whole of Athletic Bowl and the Grandstand is reserved for the closing ceremonies and electric light parade on March 8.

As to Administrative Order 10, the mayor cited the Local Government Code as basis for the closure of some city streets for the celebration of

Panagbenga 2009.

On Feb. 1, 5 AM to 1 PM, roads from the Military Cut-off rotunda to Lower Session road, Session road and Harrison road shall be closed for the opening parade, while from the first of February until March 8, Lake Drive road shall be closed for the Market Encounter and Landscaping Contest.

On Feb. 23 to 25, Legarda road from Baguio Palace Hotel to Giligan's shall be closed for Legarda rocks, while on Feb. 26 to Feb. 28 from 5 PM to 12 Midnight, the road fronting Abanao Square is closed for Abanao Nights.

On Feb. 28, from 5AM to 1 PM, Military Cut-off rotunda to lower Session road, Session

Cont. on page 11

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