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THE WEEKEND JUNCTION

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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!! BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Pahayagang palaban!!!

Let Us Work Together in the Advocacy VS. HIV/AIDS – HIV Patient

BAGUIO CITY – 'Be part of the healing process, we don't ask for sympathy, we want love to die with dignity'.

This was the message of Robin, a 35 year old male HIV patient, during his testimony at the World Aids Day celebration hosted by the Baguio Aids Watch Council (AWAC) at the Baguio Convention Center last December 3.

Speaking before the AWAC members and the entertainers from the different bars and nightspots workers in Baguio City, Robin

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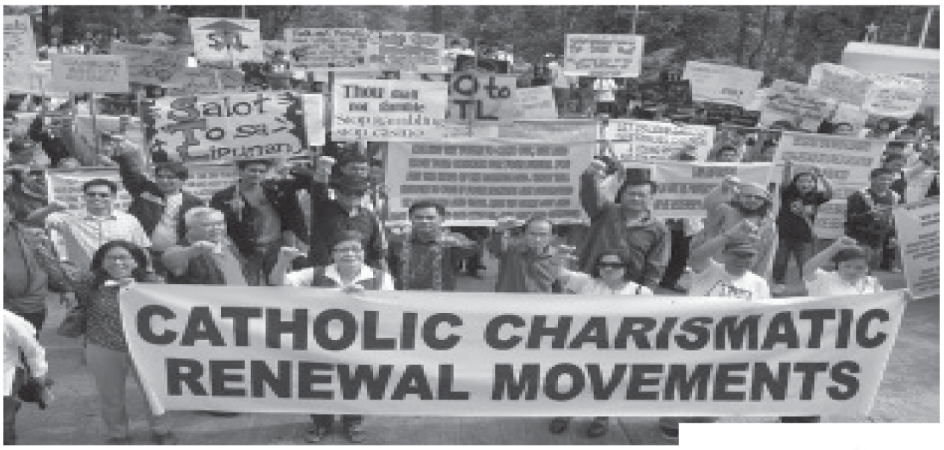

NO TO ALL FORMS OF GAMBLING - Christian and Muslim religious leaders backed by students and various sectors of the society stage a rally infront of city hall demanding the city government officials not to allow any forms of gambling in the city during the City Council's Regular Session last Monday./By Bong Cayabyab *(See related story at Page 7)*

Mag-ingat parati. Practice safe sex !!!

CHR Reports Increase in HR Violations, Cases Successfully Investigated

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Palpak Snow Show! Brgy. Captains unite against Timpuyog?!

BY GRACE BANDOY

Alangsab retains ABC post

Baguio City – City Camp Central Punong Barangay Joel Alangsab retained his post as Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) President and Chairman of the City Councils Committee on Barangay Affairs.

At least 71 Barangay Captains supported his re-election beating his closest opponent Lourdes Extension PB Benjamin Macadangdang who garnered 37 votes, Happy Homes-Old Lucban PB Eva Fianza and Gabriela Silang PB Mabini Maskay.

Alangsab was thereafter proclaimed and sworn into office by City Mayor Mauricio Domogan along with GEFA PB Rocky Aliping as the Associations Vice President, Lopez Jaena PB Carlos Asiatico as Auditor and members of the Board of Directors.

The ABC Board of Directors are Mines View PB Antero Buswilan Jr., Upper General Luna PB Julita Sagun, West Quirino Hill PB Peter Busaing, AZCKO PB Vicente Pinlac, Burnham-Legarda PB Alberto Buyawe, Brookspoint PB David Puguon, SLU-SVP PB Jose Galinato and Engineers Hill PB Jerry Sales.

During the Ugnayan presser Thursday, Domogan admitted not endorsing anyone and has remained neutral.

It is a unanimous decision of the group not to endorse anybody, he said but now that the elections is over, let us work together.

Let us work as a team, he added and stressed there is a lot to do for the benefit of the city more particularly in the fight to eradicate all forms of illegal gambling.

The ABC elections was conducted afternoon of December 7 at the City Council's Session Hall with the 128 Punong Barangays in attendance.

The elections was generally peaceful./paul rillorta

Gift-Bearers Can Target the City's Poorest Of The Poor

Groups and individuals planning to flesh out the yuletide spirit by sharing their bounty with the most needy can now get a validated listing of Baguio's poorest of the poor for their choice of gift beneficiaries.

The regional and city social welfare and development offices have furnished the city's barangay councils the lists of the most needy households within their jurisdictions. The lists were the results of two surveys conducted since last year to pinpoint targets in the national poverty reduction program.

City social welfare and development officer Betty Fangasan said charitable organizations and persons can use the listings in coordination with barangay officials to determine their target gift recipients.

"Barangay officials and residents are helping validate such listings and having them as guides would prevent overlapping of sharing efforts and result in better distribution of gift packages," Fangasan said. "A group can target the first 10 households in the list while the second group may take on the next 10, and so forth."

And what would be practical to put into the gift packages?

"Rice, milk and other basic food items," Fangasan said. "The volume and items may vary, depending on the needs, number and ages of members of a house-

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Lawmaker Cautions Palace Legal Team Against Sweeping statements on SC Vote Against E.O. No. 1

Senator Chiz Escudero today cautioned President Noynoy Aquino's legal team to refrain from issuing sweeping statements against the Supreme Court for striking down the creation of the Truth Commission.

Escudero reacted following the statements separately issued by Solicitor General Jose Anselmo Cadiz and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima after the High Tribunal ruled unconstitutional the creation of the Truth Commission.

Cadiz had told a press conference that the High Court's decision was a payment of gratitude to former President and now Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who appointed 14 of 15 sitting justices.

De Lima, on the other hand, said the High Tribunal's ruling on Executive Order No. 1 creating the Truth Commission showed characteristics of a political decision.

"While I also personally disagree with the decision of the court in striking down the creation of the Truth Commission, I don't think it is right to brand the decision as political

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CHR Reports Increase in HR Violations, Cases Successfully Investigated

BAGUIO CITY - The Commission on Human Rights reported an increase of human rights violations in the Cordillera region this year.

CHR Regional Director Harold Kub-aron, in the Kapihan sa Baguio forum said that there are 114 cases of human rights violations in the region since January of this year. It has a slight increase compared to the 95 cases in 2009.

Kub-aron said 25 cases of the reported 114 HR violations have enough cause for stringent investigation while the rest were given appropriate legal and non-legal assistance.

Baguio city has the highest number with 13 followed by Benguet - 5; Abra- 3; Kalinga-2 and Apayao and Mt. Province with one case each.

The CHR highlighted incidents that violate the right to life such as summary executions, torture and other acts that aim or result in the deprivation of life.

Kub-aron said that the CHR has successfully investigated the killing of Kalinga-based journalist Jose Daguio where their findings showed that the victim's previous profession as a broadcaster is not linked with his death.

CHR found out that Daguio was killed to silence him

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THE JUNCTION

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JUETENG

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(SGD) Odell P. Aquino
The Junction- OIC

ERS Machines Arrive

BAGUIO CITY – Things started to pick up for the new waste management scheme of the city government with the arrival last Dec. 8 of the two imported Environment Recycling System (ERS) waste composting machines that can process a big chunk of the city's biodegradable wastes and thereby ease its garbage misery.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan last Thursday said the machines are expected to be fully operational on or before Dec. 18 set to process 48 of the 66 tons of biodegradable wastes daily even as the Manila-based Pro Tech Machinery Corporation, the authorized representative of the Japanese company Shimizu and Company Ltd. from whom the machines were purchased, will begin hauling out the city's residual and recyclable discards starting this week.

The mayor expressed confidence that the city can fully stop hauling out wastes to Tarlac in six months' time.

"By May 31 next year, we expected to totally stop hauling but we are confident that we can attain this goal even before that, hopefully by February," he said.

He said the city did not allot any budget for tipping fee to the Tarlac facility which costs P 2,100 per ton, expecting that no large-scale hauling will be required when the machines begin operating and the company undertakes hauling of residual wastes at no cost to the city.

The mayor expressed hopes that everything will turn out as planned for the ERS machines

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SMOKE FREE-BAGUIO : An interpretative dance number on the dangers of cigarrete smoking affects the human body while lead agencies and non-government organizations vow for the strict implementation of Comprehensive Anti smoking Ordinace and Clean Air Act during the launching of Environmentally Sustainable Healthy Urban Transport with its themed "Usok Ng Sigarilyo't Sasakyan, Salot sa Kalusugan"./By Bong Cayabyab

"Smoking Ban" pushed Citywide

BAGUIO CITY – City Officials launched Monday the Environmentally Sustainable Healthy Urban Transport Program (ESHUT) and the 100% Smoke Free Baguio which is was spearheaded by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Health Services Office (HSO).

The program aims to strengthen the implementation of Republic Act 9211 (Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003) and Republic Act 8749 or the Clean Air Act to achieve 100% smoke free environment.

Among the highlights which will be implemented citywide is the "no smoking" in all public places except in designated smoking areas.

These include private workplaces(enclosed) which is open to the general public except in separate open space designated as smoking area with proper ventilation.

A ten thousand fine is awaiting violators including revocation of permits of business, company or building.

Government

Cont. on page 11

City Raid Team, Cock Legal Guns on Malcolm Square bocap, et al. Over 'Bingo'

BAGUIO CITY – "We have no other recourse but to file counter charges."

Thus said mayor Mauricio Domogan adding, "[Concerned] employees of our Public Order and Safety Division (POSD) are now preparing counter-affidavits against officials of Malcolm Square barangay [for violation of Presidential Decree No. 1602 – the anti-illegal gambling law]."

This, following a sequence of events arising from a joint POSD-Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) raid of a suspected gambling lair at 22 Jacinto St. , Barangay Malcolm Square , November 29.

During the Ugnayan presser hosted by DZEQ 'Radio ng Bayan' last week he revealed Atty. George Dumawing, Jr. will represent POSD officers against whom Punong Barangay William Domoguen filed multiple charges against.

"City Legal Officer (CLO) Melchor Carlos Rabanes on the other hand shall be representing them [a propos] the contempt charge," he added.

In a complaint dated December 1, Domoguen accused POSD chief Fernando Moyaen, executive assistant III Policarpio Cambod, and their police complement of illegal arrest, grave coercion, robbery, extortion, and usurpation of authority.

Domoguen maintained the raided activity - 'Pamaskong Handog Super Bingo sa Barangay' – is legal by virtue of barangay resolution No. 15-2010 authorizing the conduct thereof.

He likewise cited a decision penned by Regional Trial Court Branch V judge Antonio Estevez, November 30, 2006, declaring barangay councils are vested with authority under the Local Government Code to hold bingo sa barangay to raise funds.

More, he cited an April 18, 2006 order of the same court granting the prayer of the Association of Barangay Councils for a "[t]wenty day restraining order" from date of the said court diktat.

Unruffled, the mayor expressed confidence the city's anti-gambling stance will prevail saying the

Cont. on page 10

Mayor to Study Firecracker Resol

BAGUIO CITY – Considering the hazards of having firecrackers exploding in one's hand, or even accidentally setting into fire flammable materials nearby, Mayor Mauricio Domogan last week said that he would look closely into the council resolution approving the selling of firecrackers.

He was earlier hoping that the use of firecrackers would be totally banned due to its being hazardous; pollution from smoke and toxic materials being released into the environment. In addition, the mayor said there is no quality control; some are poisonous just like "watusi" as evidenced by those who have accidentally ingested or were infected through open wounds.

A "careful study" should be done with the documents, he said during the regular Ugnayan with media personalities last Thursday.

He is also urging the public to refrain from buying or using firecrackers in celebrating Christmas and New Year's eve. Though he admitted that this is difficult considering

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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

Multi-Tiered Racket?

"Over my dead body." Senator-turned-fugitive Panfilo Lacson bristled at suggestions that he face trial for murder of publicist Salvador Dacer and his driver. "I'm innocent", he said. He'd burrow deeper underground to ignore Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 18's arrest order.

The Court of Appeals shredded Lacson's petition for a temporary restraining order. Justice Secretary Leila de Lima refused to exercise "plenary power" by ordering a reinvestigation. The ball is with the courts, she said. "We know where De Lima is coming from," Lacson scoffed.

These are "sound-bytes". Sometimes, they wedge into evening newscasts. But they don't address gut issues.

Like how can a senator pick which judicial process to comply with or ignore, griped Carina Dacer, daughter of the murdered PR man...Lacson pledged to tell Dacer siblings all he knew about the rubout. "That never happened," she told Radyo Inquirer.

EDITORIAL

Thus, Carina, Sabina, Amparo and Emily filed a $20 million civil suit against Lacson, deposed President Joseph Estrada, and four others before a U.S.District Court in California for salvaging of their father.

The US-based sisters sought a jury trial. Aside from Estrada and Lacson, co-defendants are :Reynaldo Tenorio,former Pagcor CEO; businessman Dante Tan, key figure in the Best World Resources stock manipulation and former cops: Vicente Arnado, Glenn Dumlao and Michael Ray Aquino---now serving time in a US federal prison for espionage.

"So, where is Lacson coming from"? His biodata is spelt out in the "Red Notice" list that International Criminal Police Organization sent out on February 11 to 188 member countries. With "safe havens" abroad curbed, Lacson sneaked back in.

"What's past is prologue", Shakespeare wrote in "The Tempest.". How did a bright Philippine Military Academy graduate (Class '71) morph into a lawman who thrived on alleged law-breaking?.

"In the Philippines, institutions often seem the sum of personal ties," noted the book "Closer Than Brothers". (Yale University) A year and a half after graduation, Class '71 "became the mail fist of the dictatorship."

Aside from Lacson, were Gringo Honasan (world record holder for failed coups), Vic Batac, Red Kapunan – key figures in the "God Save the Queen" golpes against Corazon Aquino.

Some Class '71 graduates, a decade later, emerged "in a Philippine gulag of safe houses where members of the Armed Forces had been responsible for acts of unusual brutality," Amnesty International reported.

Lacson joined the Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group--Marcos' "favored instrument for torture. MISG produced some of the.fearsome and brutal cops in memory…They were the ultimate creatures of martial law…".

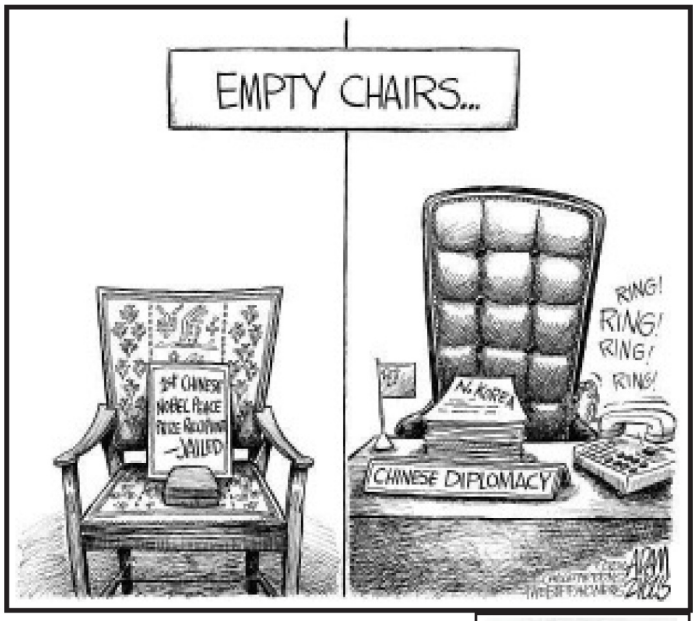
"Lacson rose through MISG's ranks for the next 15 years on a fast track to national police power," Prof. Alfred McCoy told the Ateneo-Wisconsin University conference on "Memory, Truth-Telling and the Pursuit of Justice. "Roland Abadilla (PMA'65) and two close comrades Roberto Oretga and Lacson sowed terror.

"Over time, martial law transformed these top police into an empowered elite. (They) engaged in systematic human rights abuses, syndicated gambling,drugs or smuggling.

"Under Marcos, military murder was the apex of a pyramid of terror, (There) were 3,257 killed, an estimated 35,000 tortured and some 70,000 arrested. To subdue the population with terror, some 2,520…were salvaged…with scarred remains dumped for display", states Geneva Commission on Human Rights Testimonies.

Years later, Lacson found himself enmeshed in exchanges with Senator Jinggoy Estrada, proxy of his former commander in chief.

Erap creamed jueteng and monthly baksheesh for PNP chiefs, Lacson charged. He wrung PLDT shares from industrialist Alfonso Yuchengco to favor Manny Pangilinan. A Cont. on page 9



DIRETSAHAN

Jadz Esteves Father of Bingo-teng !?!?

By Rudy "Bantay Siyasat" Garcia

Unconstitutional!!!... Ito ang desisyon ng korte suprema sa pagbuo ng Malakanyang sa truth commission!!!...Ibig bang sabihin na ang ibang nabuo na fact finding committee eh unconstitutional din? Pwe! Mag-kaganun nga, di unsconstitutional o walang saysay as in illegal ang mga desisyon na inilabas ng mga justice department ng gobyerno na ibinase sa rekomendasyon ng mga fact-finding committees?, katulad ng mga desisyon ng SANDIGANBAYAN, etcetera?... siguro gusto ng korte suprema eh, palitan ang TRUTH COMMISSION at gawin na lamang FALSE COMMISSION para ika nga, walang katotohanan ang lalabas, kundi puros kasinungalingan,… Haaay kawawang PINOY… pinagkakaitan ng TRUTH….. kaya ang 'pinas me sakit na TRUTH DECAY…. BUWISHEEEET!!!!

ooOoo

Sari-saring reaksyon ang aking natanggap sa PAGHATAW ko hinggil sa napasong kontrata ng GANZA at SOLIBAO restoran sa Burnham Park na pag-aari ng mag asawang Cating, kung tutuusin ay matagal ng "Paso" o expired" na ang kontrata ng Baguio City Government sa Ganza at SOLIBAO kaya nararapat lamang na bawiin na ito ng local na pamahalaan at magsagawa na ng "public bidding". Ang kaso, ayon sa dokumento na aming nakalap, 3 opisyal ang hindi pumirma sa 12 na opisyal ng Burnham Park management authority o "board members" sa resolusyon na inihain para sana sa "public bidding"! Hindi maliwanag ang rason ng hindi pagpirma ng tatlong "unggoy" na ito!

Me nagsasabi na ituloy ko raw ang paghataw ko sa isyung ito, samantalang marami ang nagsasabing sayang lamang daw ang pagaod ko dahil malakas daw ang mga may-ari sa itaas! Ooows? Totoo kaya ito? Malalaman natin ito kapag naipasok na sa city council, dib a apo kunsilor ELMER DATUIN na tserman ng kumite on parks and turisem?

ooOOoo

And da winnah is barangay kapten JOEL ALANGSAB ng Barangay city Camp Bilang ABC President…. At pangalawang termino na ito ni apo Alangsab sa pag-upo bilang pinuno ng liga sa Barangay sa Baguio "en op kors" anader term sa pagiging kunsilor ng lungsod. Ano kaya ang magiging posisyon ni onorabel Joel Alangsab sa isyu ng bingoteng? Suportado ba nya ito o sususplado sya dito? Sigurado nasa usapan na iyan kung magiging maganda o hindi diba apo Alangsasabit,…este Alangsab??? Eniwey kongrats apo,…may you have more bingoteng…err ay min bingo sa barangay to come so dat

THE PEACE COMBATANT

Baguio's competitiveness as tourist destination

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN

We may no longer be the summer capital of the Philippines. We are also not the Christmas capital of the country. This is the only explanation for the artificial snow that we have been experiencing lately. Baguio City is trying to outdo the artificial ice skating rinks and artificial winters in Manila.

We used to be the only summer capital but Tagaytay had already caught up with us. We now have several malls in the city but other cities also have their malls. Most likely, other cities will be in a better position to put up better malls because they can exploit their wide flatlands while Baguio City has to contend with its steep slopes.

Baguio City, therefore, has to change its strategy in attracting tourists to the city. The city should rely more on its natural strengths rather than relying on artificial snows on which the city can never be competitive. We cannot be competitive on these because snows do no not belong to the city's natural ecology and we are not the best sites for artificial snows and ice skating rinks that require wide flatlands.

Thus, if we summarize things: Baguio City cannot probably have better malls because of its steep and narrow areas. It cannot be very good in putting up artificial snows or artificial snow skating rinks because other areas can have better skating rinks and artificial snow areas because they have larger flatlands.

In short, we cannot be the best competitor in malls, snow skating rinks and artificial snows because our best endowment is not in our flatlands. In contrast, our best endowments are in mountains, rock formations, ridges, hot springs, and cool climate. Thus, the way to make ourselves competitive as a tourist destination is to rely on natural endowments.

We must therefore invest on our natural environment to be competitive as a tourist destination. We must plant more trees in our mountains and steep slopes. We must convert our rock formations as natural vistas for tourists.

We must convert many of our ridge areas as natural view desks as natural sites for picnic areas and parks. Burnham park must be redesigned in a revolutionary way. The city government has practically reduced the park as a space for sidewalks vendors precisely because the city has, in the past, allowed trade fairs to be conducted in the park

Perhaps, the way to develop the park is to develop it something that is more in synergy with the Baguio City orchidarium. The park can be large garden of natural flora as well as flora that thrive on a cold environment.

To be competitive as a city, we must transform Baguio into a green city. Towards this, we must invest in trees, vistas, flowers, and natural view decks. At the same time, this must not be misinterpreted as a return to backwardness because we can maintain Baguio as an educational center while being a green city at the same time. Perhaps, in a few decades, it is even possible to convert the city not only as an educational center but as a financial and training center like Singapore.

Probably, we also have to revolutionize how we think and plan city development not in terms of Baguio City alone but in term of Metro Baguio. To build Baguio city as a green city, we have to disperse the concentration of population over a small area. By doing so, we will be improving not only our competitiveness of our city as a tourist destination but we will also improving our quality of life.

We must plan development such that we have several growth poles rather than a singular growth pole represented by the Session-Harrison-Abanao-Bonificio area. School campuses must be located not only in Baguio City but many of them must be relocated or expanded in Metro Bagnio that is outside Baguio City.

More importantly, we must not forget the poor of our city. They must be considered as the target beneficiaries of development rather than as a sector that must be relocated elsewhere and be deprived of benefits.

(The author can be contacted through artboquiren2040@yahoo.com, 0927-536-8431, and Facebook)

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Media must bring Pinoys back to God

BY: BATAS MAURICIO

PRESS FREEDOM FOR EMPOWERING PEOPLE: Dakak Park, Zamboanga del Norte—Press freedom and freedom of speech are no longer just the freedom to write and talk about anything without the usual restrictions imposed by libel laws and other existing rules on prior restraint.

Under current circumstances, these Constitutional guarantees have become necessary and indispensable tools instead to empower our people to live a life that is blessed, protected and guided, and free from debilitating poverty arising from the curses occasioned by godlessness and absence of spiritual direction.

Consequently, mediamen across the country, whether from print or broadcast or even from non-traditional platforms should now endeavor to use their articles, columns, and any other media output to achieve this empowering of our people by instilling godliness and renewed spiritual re-awakening among them, so they could turn around their lives for the better.

-ooo-

15TH NATIONAL PRESS CONGRESS AT DAKAK PARK: This is the gist of the 30-minute presentation which I gave Monday, December 6, 2010, to the 250 or so publishers, editors, columnists and reporters from different mainstream and community media who have been attending the 15th National Press Congress at the Dakak Park, Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte since Sunday, December 5, 2010.

I spoke upon the invitation of veteran newsman Johnny Dayang, the president of the Publishers Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PAPI), under whose direction the congress is being held with the theme "Media Re-engineering towards Climate Change Adaption and Tourism Development."

PAPI has been spearheading the congress which, by law, is to be held every December of every year, after its declaration as the "the Philippines' National Press Congress Month and the Month of the Community Press in the Service of the Nation."

-ooo-

MEDIAMEN MUST NOW HELP BRING BACK PINOYS TO GOD: In my speech, I took note of the fact that almost all of the problems that our countrymen have been encountering and reeling from are problems which God warned, in many passages of the Bible (especially Deuteronomy 28:15-68), would be visited upon mankind as a result of man's collective refusal to read His Word and obey His commands and decrees.

I pointed out that the problems of poverty, corruption, marital infidelity, our overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) suffering abroad, aliens dominating us, defeat and failures, and climate change and global warming, the subject of the congress in Dakak, are specifically mentioned in the book of Deuteronomy.

Hurling a challenge to the members of PAPI and all other mediamen attending the congress, I said the time has come to use our collective license and freedom to write and broadcast so that Filipinos could be brought back to God by reading the Bible and obeying Him, and redeeming themselves form the Biblical curses that are now upon us.

Gift - Bearers can Target .... from page 2

hold, and these can be validated with the help of the barangay council."

This means that some packages can be personalized or focused , to address the wishes of some household members who are special. Say a toy airplane for a kid dreaming of one day becoming a pilot, and a doll for his sister.

Or a month's insulin or tablet maintenance dose for a child diabetic. An old, unused wheelchair for a grandmother. A pair of crutches or a walker for a household member who had lost a limb or recovering from a stroke.

Distribution may be through or in tandem with the barangay council and monitored by the city social welfare and development office. It can be done

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MOSH PIT

Palpak Snow Show! Brgy. Captains unite against Timpuyog?!

BY GRACE BANDOY

Alangsab winning the ABC presidency shows hindi hawak ng Timpuyog ang mga kapitan natin, this has elated me almost orgasmically because I think this is some ray of light and hope na ang mga kapitans po natin in the city ay hindi po marunong magpagamit and magpadikta kahit kanino.

Alam naman po nating lahat kung gaano kaimportante at kamahal ang pirma ng isang councilor sa City Council natin. Si Gng. Alangsab po ay uupo ulit bilang isang konsehal sa ating city.

And of course alam din po natin na kung gusto pa hong manalo ng isang candidate sa next na elections eh kelangan po talagang hawak niya ang majority ng Barangay Captains of our city kaya napaka super important po ang recent ABC elections po na naganap.

But well, ang boto po ni Ginoong Alangsab na 71 laban sa boto po ng allegedly ay manok ng Timpuyog na si Ginoong Macadangdang na 37 eh patunay po siguro na sinuway ng mga kapitans ang utos ng Timpuyog na i-vote ang pet nila di po ba?! Or ang vote po ni Maskay, na allegedly ay pinatakbo rin po ng Timpuyog, na hindi man lang umabot ng 20 votes.

Here is my simple ode to our dear kapitans who were courageous enough to vote out of their own free will hehehehe…

Alangsab ABC President na naman po!
Ang (mga) tuta ng Timpuyog natalo?!
Victory ito para sa ating mga taga Baguio!
Coz mga Kapitan natin may sariling isip at prinsipyo po!
Di sila magpa pa dikta kahit kanino!!
Maligaya na po ang Pasko ko dahil dito!
May snow man o wala po!!!!
Mga kapitans ng Baguio mabuhay kayo!!!!

****

SNOW!SNOW! SNOW!
Magtaas ng kamay lahat ng nalokow!
Sa next na snowfall, ilaglag na rin Datuin & partner niyang si
Hirow!
Ating hanapin where's the fuck*ng snow yo?!
Pati x'mas lights sa Session, Blue Christmas ba tayow?!
People dito dapat malaman MILYONES ang budget ng mga itow!
Sama sama tayo bago lahat maglahow!
Bawiin natin binabasurang pera ng Baguiow!
Ang pangit din nagkalat na trade fair dun & trade fair ditow!!
Utang na loob magsawa na tayong nagpapaloko sa mga kurakot
na ibinotow!!

The people speak out..on the Snow Show

Yvonne, English Teacher - - ".. to think that there was almost a stampede!! I really pity the kids who were there.. sobra pangloloko!... pati ilaw sa burnham nawala.. that day! naglakad kami to get a ride sa kisad! shokoy na bakla at ang dilim ng burnham!!! as in!! salamat sa fireworks ng SM at medyo nailawan daan namin!!.. sigarilyo nga nakasindi, makitam ngem di mo makita dyay tao!! that was how dark burnham was at that time!!"

Geraldine, housewife - - .." ang daming nadismaya talaga, may mga taga manila pang pumunta lng d2 para makita lng ang snow show kuno, kasama ko pa anak ko para ma witness ang snow na yan, nakipagsiksikan lang para makita, pero wala naman snow. Sooooo disappointing....."

Donahue, tourist - - .." walang kwenta!"

Rizza, IT expert - - .." tourist attraction koma a ngem imbabain da sa met karkaro ti Baguio City!....."

Yanah, 5-year-old child - - "..niloko lang nila tayo."

CCT Benefits 16,110 Poor Families in Cordillera

BAGUIO CITY – The government's Conditional Cash Transfer program - Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps benefitted 16,110 poor families in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and) P128,904,110 is already distributed to the beneficiaries as of third quarter.

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD-CAR) 4Ps Program Coordinator Maryann Buclao, in a radio interview said the CCT program has 5,249 beneficiaries in Abra, 3,661 in Apayao, 2,563 in Kalinga and 1,537 in Mt. Province, 996 in Ifugao and 2,104 in Baguio and Benguet.

Buclao explained that the release of fund for the beneficiaries were done quarterly and as of the third quarter, DSWD has already released P50,120,600 to the program beneficiaries in Abra, for Apayao – P28,643,200; Kalinga – P25,572,210; Mountain Province – P14,497,800; Benguet P3,294,800 and Baguio City – P6,775,500.

Releasing of funds are done either on site directly to the beneficiaries or through cash cards that beneficiaries can withdraw through Land Bank ATMs.

The government's CCT programs provides up to a maximum of P1,400 per family beneficiary per month and this includes P500 for the health/ nutritional need of the family and a P300 educational assistance for every (14 years old and below) school children of the family, for a maximum of three children.

According to Buclao, the CCT program as per their impact assessment, has established a trend of improvement as far as education and health is concerned. It resulted to an increase in the attendance (no. of school days attended by the children) and to the increase in availment of health services of the beneficiaries.

Monitoring is done through complementation or in partnership with the local government units and the beneficiaries.

On the issue that some well- to- do or undeserving beneficiaries are included in the CCT program, Buclao admitted that there may have some leakage or inclusion error as far as the CCT beneficiaries are concerned. But she assured that this is being balanced now through other systems.

"Patuloy pa din namin na sinasala ang mga benepisyaryo ng programa. Patuloy ang ginagawang reassessment n gaming grievance committee sa mga natatanggap naming reklamo,' Buclao said.She assured that transparency is being maintained in the program./Lito Dar/PIA

Cong. Vergara supports Condom use but not RH Bill.

Baguio City Congressman Bernardo Vergara supports the use of condom as a contraceptive and as a preventive measure against HIV/AIDS but not the controversial Reproductive Health Bill.

Vergara said that with the recent report of the Department of Health that HIV and AIDS cases is alarmingly increasing in the country, he sees condom use as a way to prevent the further spread of the diseases.

Even in Baguio City, City Health Office - Reproductive Health and Wellness Center Head Dr. Celia Brillantes reported HIV/ AIDS cases are increasing each year. She said they are monitoring several HIV cases from Overseas Filipino Workers and night entertainers.

Vergara explained that his support to condom use is also because of the recent announcement of Pope Benedict XVI that condom use can be justified despite the policy of the Roman Catholic Church against contraceptives.

Roman Catholic Church teaching has long opposed condoms because they are a form of artificial contraception although it has never released an explicit policy about condoms and HIV. The Vatican has been harshly criticized for its opposition.

Vergara also

Cont. on page 10

DOH Urges Public to Practice Healthy Lifestyle to the Max

BAGUIO CITY - With the days and nights getting colder and colder as the Christmas holidays near, health authorities are warning the public to take care of their physical conditions and stay in top shape.

Department of Health (DOH) - Center for Health Development Cordillera Regional Director Myrna Cabotaje said that common sickness acquired during the holiday period are cough, colds and flu-like symptoms.

The effect of cold weather will bring high risk of having fever with body aches and the incident of arthritis and asthma, Cabotaje said.

If you are sick with flu or any respiratory diseases, please observe cough ethics by covering you mouth. Stay at home and do not spread the virus, Cabotaje advised.

Meanwhile, Cabotaje is reminding the public of DOH's advocacy for a healthy lifestyle to the max especially this Christmas season where a lot of parties are expected.

The doctor is cautioning everyone to go easy on over eating and watch out for proper hygiene.

Hypertension is due to eating fatty and high cholesterol foods like "lechon" and drinking too much alcohol, Cabotaje stressed.

Eat foods rich in vitamin C and nutritious food , observe proper sanitation and excise is a must, she reiterated.

For the holiday festivities, the health department is promoting total ban of any form of firecrackers with this year's theme "Ilayo sa

DOST Assists In Enhancing Product Quality, Labeling

TABUK, Kalinga – Quality of products produced here is becoming competitive in the market after the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) continuously poured in assistance to procure new equipments and improve product labeling.

DOST Provincial Officer Alfonso Berto informed that three micro-enterprises were recently given zero-interest loan assistance to procure equipments that will accelerate their production, improve packaging and product label in order to keep public patronage.

He said the Salidummay Woven Products owned and managed by Virginia Buliyat was granted P100,000.00 to procure sewing machine, loom and display cabinet. On the other hand, Gloria Wayet, proprietress of Mayta's Meat processing was given P50,000.00 to buy a new meat processing equipment.

Berto also bared that the Memorandum of Agreement on the P200,000.00 assistance to Grump Bakery was just signed last week.

He said the grants are payable in three years and repayment will start six months after delivery of equipments.

"Equipments to be bought are under bidding process while product labels are evaluated before the initial printing of the first label copies," Berto said. DOST handles the label designing and printing of initial copies while the business owner shoulders mass production of its label, he added.

Several other businesses were earlier given the same financial assistance to procure equipments like Nancy's Food and Wine products – P200,000 for wine processing particularly Bugnay wine; Nessaj Kalinga Weaving owned by Jocelyn Dumatog – P50,000 for three units sewing machine; P150,000 for Sheila Romero's Amazing Bounty on homemade food products and Kalinga Food Treat managed by Iluminada Calbuyao received P400,000 to commercialize rice noodle making and fruit wine.

Labels of these products are on going improvement to make them more competitive and attractive, he said.

Berto said a business seeking financial assistance from DOST must be operational, has business permit and DTI registration.

Berto admitted that some are not regularly paying back their loan, hence he is calleing on those delinquents to pay so that the revolving capital fund allocated to small, medium, micro enterprises by the government for this purpose will be passed on to other applicants./PIA

Multi-sectoral group holds prayer rally vs. Gambling

BAGUIO CITY – Around 200 people from multi-sectoral groups, schools and religious groups held a protest parade and peace rally against illegal gambling operations in the city Monday afternoon.

The protest parade started from the top of Session Road up to the City Hall grounds where they held a prayer rally before the 2:00pm City Council Session, wherein the operation of Small Town Lottery (STL) in the city was one of the agenda.

The prayer rally was led by Bishop Carlito Cenzon of the Catholic Church Baguio-Benguet Vicariate, Pastor Simplicio Dangawa, head of the United Church of Chrsitian in the Phillippines (UCCP-Baguio), Imam Bedejim Abdullah of the City Muslim Community, former city Mayor Braulio Yaranon and former councilor Galo Weygan.

In a statement of unity read by Bishop Cenzon, it says, 'We, the people of Baguio and La Trinidad, do not want Lotto, STL, Jai-Alai, Bingo, Jueteng, tong-it etc. What we want is Peace, Progress and Unity in the home, schools and government. Not gambling and vices that causes poverty, separation, delinquency and corruption.'

'Let there be peace and joy for all. The triumph of gambling and vices is for good people to fold their hands and do nothing. Rise up and overwhelm the forces of the devil that makes the poor, poorer,' the statement said.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan pledged before the crowd his full support in the fight against any form of gambling. He also advised the people of Baguio and La Trinidad to stop patronizing gambling such as the jai-alai (which is legal in La Trinidad) and the operations of Bingoteng in some barangays.

Last week, the City's Public Order and Safety Division (POSD) and the Baguio City Police Office raided a Bingoteng operation which they believed is a front forjJueteng operations. About five more barangay's in the city are also being monitored for bingoteng./ Lito Dar/PIA

PRC sets nurses Licensure Examination on Dec. 19-20

BAGUIO CITY - The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Baguio Regional Office (BRO) will conduct the Nurses Licensure Examination on December 19 and 20, 2010 to 12,524 examinees in five testing centers.

According to BRO Director –in-Charge Evangeline Marilyn V.C. Vergara, 4,561 examinees will be taking the test in Baguio City, 3,591 in Dagupan City, and 1,163 examinees in San Fernando City,La Union.

Vergara said they have added two venues for this exam - in Cabanatuan City with 1,592 examinees and in Vigan City with 1,617 examinees.

For Baguio City, the test centers are National University, Pines City Colleges, Pines City National High School, University of Baguio and the University of the Cordilleras.

There are four test centers in Dagupan namely Lyceum Northwestern University, University of Pangasinan, University of Luzon and Colegio de Dagupan.

Test centers in La Union are Lorma Colleges and Union Christian College.

In Cabanatuan City, there are two test centers - College of the Immaculate Conception and Good Samaritan Colleges.

Vigan has only one test center at the University of the Northern Philippines.

Examinees are advised to check their room assignments now posted at the BRO website http://prcbaguio.blogspot.com.

Vergara also informed that updated list of non-programmable calculators allowed to be used in the licensure examinations is likewise posted in the said website.

For examinees whose names have been misspelled in the List of Examinees, Vergara said they call Mr. Marlon Aquino at telephone no. (074) 304-3180 to effect the necessary corrections in the data base./PIA

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, BRANCH 9
[FAMILY COURT FOR BENGUET]
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
La Trinidad, Benguet

IN THE MATER OF THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF THE MINOR RHEA MAE MENTIN,

SPOUSES RENATO B. MENTINAND MARIETA PADSING
Petitioners,

X——X

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS
CASE NO. 10-A-0968

ORDER

Petitioner Spouses Renato B. Mentin and Marieta Padsing, through counsel filed this verified petition for Adoption praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, the subject of adoption minor RHEA MAE MENTIN be declared free from all obligations with respect to his parents and vice versa, be declared for all legal intents and purposes as the adopted child of petitioners and for them to acquire the reciprocal rights and obligations arising from parents –child relationship, including the right of said child to use the surname of petitioners and change of her name, henceforth, she will be known as RHEA MAE P. MENTIN and direct the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet to effect said adoption in her birth certificate .

Considering that a Child and Home Study Report of the Court Social Worker is an essential requisite in adoption cases, said report should be submitted to the Court before the initial hearing on March 3, 2011 at 9;00 o'clock in the morning.

WHEREFORE, the Court Social Worker, Ms. Jacqueline Dontogan is directed to conduct a Home and Child Study Report in this case, incorporating therein her recommendation and to submit the same to the Court, furnishing a copy thereof to the trial prosecutor deputized to represent the State.

The petitioners are directed to meet with the said Social Worker, for purposes of the Home and Child Study Report.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners in the Junction, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province, once a week for three [3] consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made not later then November 28, 2010. All persons interested may come to Court and show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted.

Furnish copies hereof together with a copy of the petition and its annexes to the Office of the Solicitor General ; the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet, the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet; the Court Social Worker; the Junction Newspaper; the petitioners and counsel.

SO ORDERED.

This 24th day of November 2010 at La Trinidad, Benguet.

By: (SDG)FRANCIS A. BULIYAT Sr.
Presiding Judge

Publication Dates: November 27, December 4 and 11, 2020

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

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND),
Mortgagee'

-versus-

JULIETA T. TAGWAY,
Mortgagors.

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. 10-ExF-1462

FOR:

EXTRAJUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED.

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for extra-judicial foreclosure of real mortgage,under Act 3135 as amended, filed by HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND or Pag-IBIG Fund, with principal place of business at Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters, Atrium of Makati City, Metro Manila, and Baguio Branch office at G/F Insular Life Building, Abanao Street cor. Legarda Road, Baguio City, herein referred as the Mortgagee for the satisfaction of the obligation of JULIETA T. TAGAWAY, with residence address at AD-109-E Windy Hills, Buyagan, La Trinidad, Benguet, herein referred as the mortgagors, in real estate mortgage duly executed on May 16, 2002.

That as of 28 October 2010, the above-named mortgagor, JULIETA T. TAGWAY, indebted to the mortgagee in the amount of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY NINE PESOS AND 37/100 (P271,339.37), Philippine Currency, inclusive interest, penalty charges, attorney's fee which is equivalent to TEN (10%) percent of the total indebtedness plus the expenses of the foreclosure proceedings.

That the undersigned Sheriff announces that he will sell at Public Auction on 10 JANUARY 2011 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in front of the Bulwagan ng Katarungan (Benguet Justice Hall), Justice Hill. La Trinidad, Benguet, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the mortgage real property including all pavements erected thereon to the following described properties to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-45602

REGISTRY OF DEEDS OF PROVINCE OF BENGUET

"A parcel of land (Lot 7-C-3, of the subdivision plan (LRA) Psd-356020, approved as a subdivision project, being a portion of Lot 7-C, Psd-131110-002931, L.R.C. Rec. No. N-35498), situated in the Barrio of Buyagan, Municipality of La Trinidad, Province of Benguet, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the NE, points 4 to 1 by Lot 7-C-9 (Alley); on the SE., points 1 to 2 by Lot 7-C-4, both of the subdivision plan; on the SW., points 2 to 3 by Lot 5, (LRC) Psd-250978; and on the NW., points 3 to 4 by Lot 7-C-2 of the subdivision plan. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being 5.87 deg. 18'W., 420.12m. from " La Trinidad" La Trinidad, Benguet; thence:

S. 59 deg. 58'W., 18.32m. to point 2; N. 26 deg. 55'W., 11.00m. to point 3 N. 57 deg. 49'E., 17.6m to point 4; S. 33 deg. 21'E, 11.65m to point of beginning: containing an area of TWO HUNDRED (200) SQUARE METERS, more or less.xxxxxxxx.

Interest/ Prospective bidders/buyers of this Notice of Public Auction Sale be published at the JUNCTION NEWSPAPER, a newspaper of general circulation. Likewise, let a copy of the same be posted in three (3) conspicuous places one each in the bulletin boards of the Brgy. Hall, Poblacion, La Trinidad, Benguet. Municipal Hall and Post Office La Trinidad, and Benguet, Regional Trial Court- Office of the Clerk of Court, all at the Trinidad, Benguet. In the event that the said auction sale in the state date, time, and place shall not proceed, it shall be held on 30 January 2011 without need of further notice.

La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines, this 8th day of DECEMBER 2010.

FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHERIFF
EX-OFFICIO OF BENGUET
By:
JOSELITO F. SALES
SHERIFF IV

Cc: HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
JULIETA T. TAGWAY

Publication Dates: December 11, 18 and 25, 2002

Gift - Bearers can Target

... from page 5

anonymously, with the designated presenter in Santa outfit led by a barangay councilman or tanod to an indigent family's door one evening.

Baguio's poor stand at 2,102 households, as per the survey under the "National Household Targeting System for Poverty Alleviation" conducted this year by the Cordillera regional social welfare office and being validated with the city office and the barangay.

Fangasan said another 663 households from another survey last year were added for a total of 2,6765 households.

Expectedly, Irisan, the city's biggest and most populous barangays, topped the list with 249 households under the "number of identified poor" column of this year's survey result.

Others reflecting three figures were Asin Road with 124 and Fairbiew with 108. They were trailed by San Luis Village – 86, Pinget – 70, Sto. Tomas Proper – 61, Bakakeng Central – 59, East Quirino Hill – 53, Dominican-Mirador – 50, Camp 7 – 45, Dontogan – 43, and Loakan Apugan 41.

Thirteen barangays, mostly those within or near the central business district, had no listing as of last week as no resident had filled up the on-demand application form.

The filled-up household assessment form used reflects each household roster of members, number of nuclear families in each household, number of bed/sleeping rooms, make and status of house and lot occupied, type of toilet facility, water and electricity connections, types of appliances, disability among members, educational attainment and occupations of members, dependence on member working abroad, displacement of members and types of support programs received from government and non-government organizations.

Fangasan expressed hope that agencies, groups and individuals who haven't reached out to the city's poorest of the poor may yet find the time to do so this yuletide./Ramon Dacawi.

Social Workers Train on Case Management of Former Combatants

TABUK, Kalinga – Municipal social workers in the province recently underwent a seminar on Case Management of Former Combatants to enhance their capabilities in handling former rebels referred to them through the Social Integration Program [SIP].

Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office SIP Coordinator Eusebia Haddac said that the SIP focal persons from the eight local government units (LGU) needed to undergo the training to competently and effectively work to bring their clients socially prepared to the mainstream of society.

She said that as of this year, social workers in the province are assisting more than a thousand former rebels.

"The program may be processing only a few cases every month but for social workers the job is never done after clients are accepted back to the fold of the law since we have to sustain post-conflict interventions such as counseling to ensure that they will not go back to the mountains," she said.

Under the SIP, social workers play a very important role in the long term goal of sustaining social and economic re-integration of former rebels into a peaceful society. Many of the clients have been processed before but they continue to come back because of their difficulty in dealing with civil communities, Haddac said.

"To achieve our goal of lasting peace, it is very important that social workers are equipped with the needed skills to know, assess and evaluate the actual needs of their clients and introduce doable solutions to address these needs," she said.

In a message, PSWD Officer Digna Dalutag emphasized on the importance of "commitment and accountability" among social workers.

Being on the field, social workers play a vital role in the development of government programs like SIP. It is essential to asses and sustain the gains from the process keeping on record findings and recommendations which are critical to the development of theory in social work, she added.

To achieve this, it is important that social workers should undergo professional growth through educational enhancement through seminars and should also consider academic enhancement like taking master and doctorate courses.

Through Administrative Order No. 172 the National Committee on Social Integration (NCSI) under the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process was created to implement the Social Integration Program for rebel groups.

This involves interventions former rebels and their dependent to help them in their transition to civilian life with the short term goal to restoration of peace and security and a long term goal to sustain the social and economic re-integration of former rebels into a peaceful society./*gigi dumallig/PIA-Kalinga*

Editorial ..... from page 4

video of Erap playing high stakes baccarat surfaced and casino worker Edgar Bentain was rubbed out.

Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force officials were linked to murder of publicist Salvador Dacer–who stashed documents on the Palace in the Best World-stock scam.

Senator Jinggoy Estrada, in retort, pinned on Lacson the Kuratong Baleleng massacre, rub out of a Western Manila police officer, etc. A 20 year old woman and an eight-year-old girl were-shoved from a helicopter into waters off Corregidor.The Dacer-Corbito murders were laid on Lacson's in-tray.

Basis for this charge were eyewitness testimonies, says the new book "Policing the American Empire."(Wisconsin University Press, 2010) Among other things, the study notes: "In a dawn raid on March 28, NBI agents arrested two farmers at Indang, Cavite. "(They) admitted to watching as three PAOCTF officers strangled Dacer and his driver with an electrical cord and then burned their bodies on a gasoline drenchd pyre.

"Confronted with this eye witness evidence, four of the arrest officers soon cracked…. The Arroyo administration, meanwhile,revived the Dacer murder case to derail the candidacy of it's nemesis in the 210 elections...Lacson was on the defensive in his decade long vendetta with the Arroyos..."

"Both camps have the goods on each other", wrote Inquirer columnist Solita Collas-Monsod then."Together for so long…(they) were "a crooked duo".

What lies ahead?

A corrupt police is set within "a complex set of predatory mechanisms for private exploitation…mediated by constant electoral competition," analyst John Sidel once said That reduces " the state into a multi-tiered racket,"

That system tossed up a Lacson,among others. It is one where Filipinos find "the past is strapped on our backs". Can Pnoy begin to reverse that perverse legacy?/J.L.Mercado

Abra Celebrates Week For Peace 2010

BANGUED, Abra – "If we want peace, we have to start with ourselves and stop blaming others for the absence of peace. Even simply thinking of peace is a good step to start working for peace."

Thus advised Msgr. Nilo S. Peig, Vicar-General of the Diocese of Bangued, in his homily during the liturgical celebration of the Abra Week for Peace (AWP) celebration last December 5 at the Provincial Capitol Atrium in Bangued.

The theme for this year's AWP celebration is the same as last year, *Abrenioak, linak ken talna kalikagumak"* (I am an Abrenio, I desire for peace and order).

Provincial Governor Eustaquio P. Bersamin suggested the same theme shall be carried until peace shall have been achieved in Abra.

Msgr. Peig suggested that the next step would be to take the next theme as *"Abrenioak, linak ken talna ti ipangpangrunak nga ipagna ken ikagumaak nga ipakat"* (I am an Abrenio, I will push and work for peace and order).

The week-long celebration from December 4 – 10 lined up daily activities towards peace-building. The kick-off ceremony was a fun run 6:00 AM starting from Brgy. Mudeng, La Paz to the Bangued Town Plaza where the opening program was held. This was followed by the opening of the Christmas Bazaar where indigenous products of the province are on sale during the duration of the AWP celebration.

Every afternoon, a basketball tournament is held at the Bangued Town Plaza. This is a simple friendship game for the various agencies in Abra simple to lighten the week-long celebrations.

Dec. 5 was devoted to a liturgical celebration and a motorcade around the town proper for public awareness.

December 6 brought all the agencies to an outreach project in Bucloc. Medical, dental and veterinary services were rendered and distribution of relief goods and vegetable seeds were also undertaken. Residents from the municipalities of Boliney and Daguioman were also invited in Bucloc for the outreach activity there.

The governor also led the people in planting bamboo seedlings along the Bucloc River after which a dialogue between the government agencies and the community people was made to further listen to the issues and concerns of the people for the agencies to respond according to their mandates and capacities to act on said concerns.

The Ancestral Domain Summit is set on December 7 and 8. Regional Director Juan Ngalob of the National Economic and Development Authority- Cordillera (NEDA-CAR) was also invited to speak on the prospects of regional autonomy and development.

The elders resolved that the problem of boundary disputes have to be settled first as embodied in the provisions of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) if we want real and lasting peace between and among tribes in Abra.

It can be noted that of the 10 major sub-tribes of the Tingguian communities in Abra, only Penarrubia had been granted their Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) despite efforts of the various tribes to work for the issuance of their respective CADT since local officials have not been cooperative enough for fear that their share in the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) which is the primary source of the income of the local government units (LGUs) would be affected with the modification of the boundaries should the tribal boundaries be established.

A forum on the Criminal Justice System is set on December 9 and the celebration will culminate on Dec. 10 with a Provincial Peace and Order Council meeting./Maritess Benas/PIA-Abra

Let Us Work Together in the Advocacy VS. HIV/AIDS – HIV Patient .....from page 1

shared his life experience. He formerly worked in an international escort service that caters to both foreign and local tourists but in 2003, he has been diagnosed as HIV positive.

'What the country needs now are sustainable programs to support patients like me and for everybody to help in the advocacy against HIV/AIDS. Magsama-sama tayo para sa advocacy, the disease is already there and there is no known cure yet,' Robin stressed.

Carrying the same advocacy, Anne, a mother of four, and an HIV positive patient also shared her testimonial. According to Anne, her husband, a very good civil engineer and a pastor in their church worked as an Overseas Filipino Worker. However, in 1993 he failed his medical examination so he did not go back abroad.

According to Anne, her husband never told her that the reason why he failed his medical examination was because he was diagnosed as HIV positive. 'Noong malapit na siyang mamatay sa lang niya sinabi na may HIV siya. By 1999 na siya ring taon na mamatay siya, ubos na ang lahat ng kabuhayan namin dahil sa mahal ang gamot. Doon ako nagsimulang pasukin ng depression, economic, mental,and spiritual. Hindi ko na alam paano ko umpisahan alagaan ang apat naming anak. Pasalamat na din ako at walang nahawa ni isa sa kanila,' Anne said.

Anne hopes that the Anti Retro-viral (ARV) drug that are given to them for free would continue beyond 2012. The ARV drug being provided by the World Health Organization may only last up to that year.

Both Robin and Anne are members of the Pinoy Plus Association which is helping in the advocacy against HIV/AIDS in coordination with the Department of Health.

There are now a total of 5,729 HIV positive cases in the country. This represents less than one percent of the total population which means that the country is still on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal target of halting the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015.

But the DOH is consistent in warning against complacency and in reminding the public of the ABC against HIV/AIDS - A for Abstinence, B for Be faithful to one's partner and C for the use of condom.

As part of the local commemoration of World AIDs Day, the AWAC, through the City's Reproductive Health and Wellness Center (RHWC) headed by Dr. Celiaflor Brillantes held the fifth annual HIV/AIDS Conference entitled "Moving Towards Change…Towards a Clean Entertainment."

According to Brillantes, the City Health Services Office in coordination with the Baguio City HIV Surveillance Team and the Bars and Restaurants Association of Baguio City (BARS) have been doing a good job in maintaining a healthy environment for the city's registered night entertainment establishments.

Based on City AWAC data, since surveillance started in 1992, a total of 41 HIV/AIDS cases were recorded in the city including 17 deaths. 28 of the 41 cases were male and age ranges from 17 to 45 years old.

Of the total HIV/AIDS cases, 19 of them were Overseas Contract Workers, two were sexually active female, three wives of person with HIV, two foreigners, three were blood donors, 11 MSM (Men having Sex with Men) and one sexually active male./Lito Dar/PIA

City Raid Team, Cock Legal .... from page 3

council, August 2007, sent Small Town Lottery and other forms of gambling to the gallows.

He likewise said the court's injunction in the 2006 case being cited by Domoguen is on appeal and there are yet any permanent injunctions issued by the court against government curbing gambling operations.

Domogan added, "Our men maintain what they saw was not bingo; it is jueteng [in disguise]."

He reiterated anti-gambling stance reminding newly-installed barangay officials of their sworn duty to uphold the law.

He said, "We cannot guard everybody's activities day and night," as he called on barangay officials and the city's constituents to be vigilant in curbing illegal gambling activities and coordinating knowledge of the same with his office.

For his part Moyaen quipped, "If it truly were bingo socials, why didn't we find any 'socials' and bingo cards in the area?"

"By all indications," he added, "they were doing something illegal as they were operating clandestinely."

He pointed out while indeed Letter of Instruction (LI) 816 issued by then president Ferdinand Marcos excluded bingo from the operation of PD 1602 *(Anti-Gambling Law)*."

However, LI 816 likewise provided bingo may be allowed only if it is played as *parlor game* or for *home entertainment.* LI 816 further warns bingo may be allowed only if the betting is not disguised to defeat the intent of PD 1602.

He guaranteed, "We're bent on preventing any illegal gambling activities while we have the mayor's confidence; the case filed by Domoguen will not deter us from doing our job."

In a related development, the Baguio Inter-Denominational Council (BIDC) headed by Baguio prelate Carlito Cenzon and erstwhile councilor and pastor Galo Weygan led hordes of anti-gambling protesters in front of City Hall, December 6.

The group maintained Bingoteng is a derivative of jueteng, the illegal numbers game described by church leaders as "an evil as persistent as the devil himself."

Addressing the group, Domogan urged them to join the anti-gambling fight by not placing bets and coordinating knowledge about gambling dens with his office so apprehensions may be made./*isl*

Lawmaker Cautions Palace .... from page 2

in a sweeping manner because statements such as these affect the vote of each justice, disregarding their individual opinion," Escudero said.

Escudero, the Senate representative to the Judicial and Bar Council, said statement branding the Supreme Court's ruling as politically-motivated was uncalled for especially coming from the highest legal officials of the Palace.

"As officers of the court and members of the official legal team, more respect should be accorded to the High Tribunal whether the decision penned is favorable or not to any party. I hope the President's legal team will be more circumspect when issuing statements or personal opinions that may undermine some entities who actually did their job right, like in the case of this EO No. 1 decision," he added.

The senator said the decision to declare the Truth Commission as unconstitutional may be a political function for some, but to say that the entire deliberation was political may not be semantically accurate.

"When said in that context, it unfairly reflects the votes of those who dissented against the decision. Our legal officials should conduct themselves in a more diplomatic way when faced with odds in the exercise of their duties," Escudero said.

Escudero also said that should Malacanang decide to amend the executive order based on the opinion of the Supreme Court, the legal team could just add the letter "s" to the phrase "past administration" in order to widen the scope of the investigation by the Truth Commission and not be misconstrued as a class legislation.

"Since the SC majority upheld the power of the President to create such commission, the legal team can even explain in their motion for reconsideration that the intent of the commission is indeed not only focused on the Arroyo administration but it includes other past administrations before it as well," he said./ Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Cong. Vergara Supports .... from page 6

stressed that condoms are very economical and very accessible for people compared to other means of contraceptives.

Meanwhile, about 70 percent of the members of the Lower House is in favor of the RH bill but the Congressman Vergara is holding on to his commitment to Bishop Carlito Cenzon of the Baguio-Benguet Vicariate that he will not support the pending RH bill.

The solon clarified that he is not disapproving the totality of the controversial RH bill. In fact, he is supporting several provisions of the RH bill.

Meanwhile, Brillantes is encouraging the public visit the RHWC at the Baguio Health Department to avail of their free services and free condoms./Redjie Cawis/ PIA

Former President and her son

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doubtedly put shark populations in peril. These fishers have also endangered swimmers and surfers by throwing bait into the water to draw sharks closer to the shore.

The Philippines is known to export shark fins to countries where it is illegal to hunt these sea creatures. Many compassionate Filipinos are concerned that Sorsogon, home to many endangered sharks, is fast becoming notorious for the mass slaughter of these animals. Photos of this massacre are already all over the Internet. Such cruelty would no doubt dampen the Department of Tourism's recently launched plans to pitch the Philippines as a country of beauty and natural splendor.

"While sharks aren't particularly cuddly, they need our protection too," says PETA Asia Vice President of International Operations Jason Baker. "The former president and her son are setting an example for all by asserting that there is simply no justification for pulling sharks out of the water, cutting off their fins, and then throwing them mercilessly back into the sea."

Of course, shark fin fishing is only one of the problems associated with today's fishing industry. Commercial fishing nets often scoop up everything in their path, destroying precious coral reefs and damaging ecosystems. Overfishing is also one of the top causes of fish depletion. Studies indicate that by 2048, the world's oceans will be virtually fish-free. Fish flesh can contain toxic chemicals, including cadmium, mercury, lead, chromium, and arsenic. These contaminants can cause health problems ranging from kidney damage and impaired mental development to cancer. The best thing that anyone can do for fish, the environment, and their health is to adopt a vegetarian diet.

For more information, please visit PETAAsiaPacific.com.

CHR Reports Increase

.... from page 3

for knowing various illegal activities of suspects who were members of a robbery gang. Daguio's case resulted to the extrajudicial killing of Rolando Vilog, tagged as a suspect in the murder of the former broadcast journalist.

Investigation revealed Vilog was kidnapped by alleged members of the police in front of his wife and children in Saguday, Quirino province. Vilog's dead body was found along Malalao Road in Tabuk, Kalinga several hundred meters from a police checkpoint.

CHR is also probing on the killing of Punong Barangay Freddie Martinez of Barangay Collago in Lagayan, Abra as some members of the military are being pinpointed as perpetrators Kub-aron said.

As to the killings that happened in Baguio City and nearby municipalities, Kub-aron said that at first they saw it to be ordinary police matters until most recently when a would-be victim of the same modus escaped and sought help from the CHR.

Allegation of the victim show that he was abducted at broad daylight on August 11, 2010 along Jacinto Street, corner Magsaysay Avenue by one alias Mat-an and a male companion. The victim was then brought to a house where he was tortured purposely to admit participation in the death of an allegedly salvaged victim in La Trinidad.

"What was alarming and shocking was that it appeared the failed summary execution of the victim was tainted with police participation," Kub-aron said.

"The alleged salvaging that happened in Baguio City and nearby municipalities in Benguet were found that they were all linked to each other," he added.

The CHR is also investigating cases filed against operatives of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency for illegal searches and seizures committed in one of their operations in Kibungan, Benguet where in they allegedly entered some houses and seized marijuana plants from some residents of Barangay Badeo.

While we all support the total eradication of illegal drugs, rules must be followed and rights must be respected, Kub-aron said.

"The violation of human rights is many times repugnant when the very body vested with the duty to protect and promote human rights is the same body that is suspected of committing these atrocities, Kuba-ron said./ Redjie Cawis/PIA

"Smoking Ban"

.... from page 3

property which covers all indoor, shaded, enclosed or confined areas of government agency premises, buildings or grounds except in open space designated for smoking.

Also included in the list are public transport terminals public buses, taxis and jeepneys, schools and centers of youth activity, restaurants, malls and other public places.

City health Officer Dr. Florence Reyes said the ESHUT launching will not just be ceremonial but will push for the effective implementation and sustainability of the anti-smoking ordinance.

The campaign is expected to have "more teeth" this time that the city government is serious in its effort to enforce the law.

Dr. Reyes said apart from Mayor Domogan's all out support for the program, a massive information campaign discussing the hazards of smoking is also key for its success.

The Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) tasked in apprehending violators have also pledged full support of the program but due to shortage of manpower admitted that their staff is not enough to monitor all parts of the city.

They however rallied citizens to report violators and impose citizens arrests if warranted which they say is an effective way in helping local police in the campaign.

Authorities say intensified monitoring and apprehensions will be expected for smoking in public and smoke belching./ paul rillorta

Mayor to Study Firecracker

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the belief that exploding firecrackers would drive away unpleasant spirits, he cited hospital records during the holidays which show accidents happening involving exploding firecrackers. These, he said, could cause burns, missing fingers or whole limbs, blindness and worse, death.

There are other ways of joyfully celebrating Christmas and welcoming the new year, he added.

Accordingly, the firecracker resolution states that firecracker vendors will have to comply with directives from the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) and Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). The venue is at the old city auditorium./juliegfianza

Lawmaker Wants

.... from page 12

us and the receiving countries to protect them in those foreign lands. If we can't give them some kind of protection outside the country, we must accord them the service and benefit due them in their own land," Escudero said.

Aside from disallowing collection of excessive fees, the bill also bars advance collection of placement fee before job availability, non-issuance of receipts for any fees collected from the worker, non-return of placement fee collected when deployment does not materialize, forced issuance of post-dated checks to guarantee payment of placement fee and forcing an applicant to borrow money only from designated lending institutions to cover placement fee.

Under Escudero's bill, recruiters who commit these acts will face a prison term of six years or a fine of P100,000 to P500,000, or both, depending the court decision.

The senator said passage of the bill is important to prove that the government is the driving force in promoting migrant workers' rights./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Taxi Operation to Petition P30

.... from page 12

TESDA, CEPMO and the PETCs, as well the media must be involved.

According to Itliong, they have already done a simultaneous or parallel testing between the CEPMO and a PETC emission testing machine and it really shows some discrepancies in its reading.

Elmer Mendoza Jr. of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC-CAR) explained that there are many permits and certification from various government agencies that are needed before a PETC could operate and even if only one of such documents is not met, it would mean an automatic disqualification from operation.

Mendoza also stressed that sometimes the problem arise from the PETC's who do not do their work by heart and by their commitment, those who are just thinking only of business and profit. Though the government is strictly monitoring such operations from PETCs, Mendoza also advised the public especially those in the transport sector to be vigilant and not to fall or connive in such illegal activities./Lito Dar/PIA

Lawmaker Wants To Put Cap on OFW Placement Fee

Senator Chiz Escudero wants a jail term and a fine of up to P500,000 against recruitment agencies that will collect excessive placement fees from prospective overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) as a way of protecting applicants seeking jobs abroad.

In Senate Bill No. 2601, Escudero said recruiters continue to bleed job seekers by asking fees way above the ceiling set by the government, as determined by the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA).

To cover the cost of processing the application, placement agencies are only allowed to collect fees equivalent to one-month salary of the applicant.

Very few agencies, however, comply with the prescribed standard for placement fees, and Escudero wanted to cap the fees collected from applicants.

"Some collect as much as four times the monthly salary of an applicant which could go as high as P100,000 or even more. Most get mired in debts even before getting hired. Sometimes, applicants back out from the recruitment process altogether because they cannot produce the steep fee," Escudero said.

He said that since the country is heavily dependent on OFW remittances to keep the economy afloat, a pro-active policy should be in place to protect the labor export.

In 2009 alone, an estimated 1.5 million OFWs were deployed for jobs abroad, or about 4,000 Filipinos per day.

"Our OFWs keep our economy stable, and there is no bilateral agreement whatsoever between

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"LANDSCAPE" !!! - Re- electionist Association of Barangay Council president Joel Alangsab casts his vote during the ABC elections December 7 where the latter won by a big margin over his rivals where some barangay officials jokingly said it was a "LANDSCAPE" victory for Re-elected ABC president and Copuncilor Joel Alangsab./ By Bong Cayabyab

Taxi Operators to Petition P30 Taxi Flag Down Rate

BAGUIO CITY – Public Transport Affair Office head confirmed that taxi operators in the city are set to file a petition for a P30 taxi flag down rate or an increase of P5 peso from the current rate.

Perfecto 'Jun' Itliong, in a press conference launching the City Health Services Office and the Department of Health advocacy campaign for the Environmentally Sustainable Healthy Urban Transport (ESHUT) and the 100% Smoke-free Baguio City, said the continuous increase in vehicle spare parts and fuel prices are becoming a burden for the city's transport sector.

'We are just waiting for the five taxi associations in the city to sign the petition. Initially, the petition will ask for the taxi flag down rate to be increase to P30 like in the Metro Manila rate then we will see from there if will be enough,' Itliong said.

Itliong explained that the petition for increase is a decision of the associations arising from the various complaints being mulled by their members. 'Being with the transport affairs office, all we can do for them is to endorse their petition,' he added.

Meanwhile, Itliong affirmed that there are also growing complaints on the issue of discrepancy between the Private (smoke) Emission Testing Centers (PETCs) and the emission testing being run by the government under the Joint Task Force of the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) and the City Environment and Parks management Office (CEPMO).

'There were complaints from the members of the transport sector about failing the emission testing of the composite group of the government, despite the fact that they have passed the same test from private emission testing centers,' Itliong said.

Thus the transport sector, according to Itliong is calling for a muti-sectoral effort in looking to this issue, wherein all concerned government agencies such as the DOTC,

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Former President and her son Honored For Proposing Shark Fin Ban

PETA Asia Sends Flowers to Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Her Son for Taking a Stand Against Cruelty

Manila — People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) Asia has sent flowers to former President and current Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her son, Rep. Diosdado Macapagal-Arroyo, to commend them for recently coauthoring and filing House Bill 174, which, if passed, would ban the sale of shark and stingray parts throughout the country. The ban would also make the purchase, possession, and transport of any byproducts of these endangered species illegal. The proposed bill even has provisions that would make accidental killing or injury of the animals illegal as well as require that all animals who are caught accidentally be released immediately into the sea unharmed.

Humans kill nearly 100 million sharks and billions of other sea animals each year. Overfishing by "sport" and commercial fishers seeking shark fins and cartilage has un-

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