

THE WEEKEND JUNCTION

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

Pahayagang palaban!!! **Contractors furnished more detailed report *Lawmaker to subpoena documents from the 3 banned contractors***



VALENTINE RUSH... personnel from the city government are doing the final touches of the stage at the center of the Burnham lake which would be used come valentines' day as part of the Panagbenga activities./MONCH DAVID

Senator Chiz Escudero on Monday said that the World Bank had furnished the three contractors who figured in the alleged bid-rigging activities on road contracts a "more detailed" report of the investigation into the collusion.

"Everything is there," Escudero said of the report given to the contractors, saying that he would ask the Senate Committee on Economic Affairs to subpoena the documents when it resumes hearing on the controversy this Thursday.

Escudero said that WB procurement officials in Washington told him that what were given to the contractors were more detailed than what was released to the Department of Finance. **Cont. on page 8**

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BY: BATAS MAURICIO



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Closure orders ni Meyor pinagkakaperahan!

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Chiz: BSP can't use non-passing of charter bill as excuse for failure to act on rural bank woes

Opposition Senator Chiz Escudero today said the current Central Bank Act (RA7653) is more than sufficient for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to exercise its supervisory functions and monetary policy over illiquid banks, like those rural banks owned by the Legacy Group of Companies.

Escudero

chided the BSP for rushing Congress to pass the BSP Charter Bill to strengthen its supervision over distressed banks.

The BSP on Thursday said the bill has been pending in the legislature which they claim has delayed their actions to move faster in rehabilitating ailing banks.

The senator said the BSP cannot use the non-passage of the bill as a smokescreen for their

incompetence in immediately addressing the problems of the rural banks which threatens to affect confidence in other rural banks all over the country.

"BSP cannot and should not pass the buck to Congress in their inability to do their job. They have been given unhampered powers of supervision and examination that the courts cannot even enjoin, unless bond is filed in

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Chiz tells Cha-Cha proponents in congress 'wait for next administration'

Senator Chiz Escudero on Friday called on partymates of President Arroyo in Congress to stand down and let talks on amending the Constitution be deferred until the next administration.

Escudero made the call as he urged the people to be vigilant against moves by allies of the President in the House of Representatives to push for a "piecemeal" change in the Charter.

The senator issued the statement as House Speaker Prospero Nograles continued to push for the approval of resolution calling for amendments to the economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution.

"Unless they specifically say what they want amended and how they want the Constitution amended, we cannot and should not let our guards down,"

Escudero, chair of the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws, said.

He said any amendment in any part of the Charter at this moment could very well be a ploy to worm their way through term extensions.

"Even if Cha-Cha proponents say they are just rooting for amendments to the economic provisions of the Constitution,

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Law maker urges swift BSP action on pepcoalition complaint vs. RCBC

Senator Chiz Escudero on Tuesday called on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to move with urgency in acting on the complaint filed by a coalition of parents against the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) for the alleged misuse of the trust fund of Pacific Plans, Inc. (PPI).

PEP Coalition president Philip Piccio said the group filed the complaint last Thursday against the RCBC for "gross violation of the General Banking Law of 2000 and other BSP regulations" with the Bangko Sentral. The group said when PPI, a sister company

of RCBC, allegedly placed the funds of the planholders in the bank which later on invested it in another company owned by the Yuchengcos, it constituted "a prohibited transaction."

The group also alleged that the trust funds were misused to the extent that only the interests of the YGC Group of Companies were protected.

"BSP should act with dispatch, as the parents belonging to this coalition continue to suffer up from the failure of PPI to make good its promise to pay for the education of their children up to this day," Escudero said.

The senator said that banks, because of the fiduciary relationship it has with the public, should be strictly regulated by the government in order to protect the interest of depositors.

"If the charges of the PEP Coalition have basis, then BSP should look into them and commence the necessary corrective actions against RCBC. The BSP exercises quasi-judicial powers over banks, and the allegations against RCBC are very serious in nature that merits an intensive investigation," Escudero explained. / Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Pia lauds World Bank commitment to submit corruption report

Senate opposition member Pia S. Cayetano today welcomed the commitment relayed by a World Bank official to the Senate to submit a redacted copy of its report on the alleged rigging of contracts for road projects under the WB-funded National Roads Improvement and Management Program (NRIMP).

"The decision of the World Bank to submit an official

copy is most welcome. This would dispel the lame defense being put up by those implicated in the report that the accusations are nothing but hearsay, just because the Senate could not produce an official copy that identifies the suspects and their respective involvement," said Cayetano, reacting to reports that WB country director for East Asia and Pacific Region Bert

Hoffman had agreed to provide an official copy to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

"This also neutralizes the non-cooperation of Malacañang which, for reasons only known to it, refuses to volunteer its official copy of the report to the Senate like it is hiding something, or protecting someone," she added.

"Ideally the conduct of the Senate probe should be to start from the recommendations of the of-

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THE JUNCTION

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(SGD) Odell P. Aquino
The Junction- OIC

Tramline for main roads, solar lights for park, proposed - mayor

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr., during the regular media Ugnayan at city hall last week made it known an intention to install a tramline, at no cost to the city, along major routes in the city.

From the front of Baguio Patriotic School, the two-kilometer one-lane upward tramline loop is envisioned to pass along Maharlika building, Session road, SM, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) bldg, University of the Philippines (UP), Baguio Convention Center

(BCC) and back to Harrison road.

Four cars are proposed to continuously service the public with a 70-passenger capacity, with about 48 persons seated at a time.

The idea came from being able to provide mass transport while having cleaner air along the main thoroughfare, the mayor said. The cars are patterned after that of San Francisco, USA which the mayor has observed during his travels.

It may also turn out to be a local at-

traction, as this would be the first in the country, the mayor added.

Other options as to the economic investment aspect are still being studied.

The group, Advena, which proposed the tramline has worked with US and European countries for several endeavors, the mayor also intimated.

During the same forum, the mayor also announced the experimental solarization
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Bibak members overseas reach out to baby, family in grief

Expatriates from Baguio and the Cordillera have responded to pleas for support to Lyka Cadaweng Masgay, a seven-month old baby with a complicated congenital heart defect and to the family of a young girl who recently died.

From his post in California, bibaknets administrator Harry Basingat e-mailed that members of the

website have pooled \$400 for Lyka who has been in and out of the hospital for a month now.

“I will try to hit the 500 mark before I leave for the Philippines,” Basingat said.

Lyka’s maternal grandmother earlier appealed for support through bibaknets. The baby, first and only child of Edward and Agustina Masgay, was born with TGA (transpo-

sition of the great arteries), VSD (ventricular septal defect) and PFO (patent foramen ovale).

Lyka’s grandmother had applied for charity surgery in Israel where she works, but her parents were still working out a medical plane travel grant for the mother and child and an accompanying cardiologist.

Edward said the costs would be
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Mayor ‘shares’ powers with ‘ninongs’ to speed up dev’t. plans

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr. last week revealed his office and the District Field Office of the Department of Interior and Local Government’s (DILG-DO) plan to “spread out blessings more equally among barangays” finally took giant leap with approval of an innovative planning framework by the City Development Council (CDC).

During the weekly “Ugnayan” hosted by DZEQ, February 12, he said members of the CDC have agreed to the sharing of “some executive powers among city councilors who shall be made care-takers he referred to as “ninongs” of 129-barangays divided into 20-districts.”

Bautista said the

plan, a first in the country, is geared towards bringing services closer to the constituents of the city.

He said, “Normally, a chief executive would try to hold on to as much power as he can... but not in our city and under our administration.”

“With the framework in place,” he explained, “our councilors can easily assess and address various concerns of their respective

districts via needed legislation and possibly, through direct consultation with our office who is tasked under RA 7160 to prepare the annual city budget.”

Bautista admitted the executive branch cannot go it alone in trying to address the minutest concerns of barangays.

“With this innovation, I am sure that aside from addressing barangay needs, we shall

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Slaughter house as terminal for northbound pujs

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr. last week issued Administrative Order 27 of 2009, as to the use of slaughterhouse as terminal, and prohibiting the entry of Public Utility Vehicles (PUVs) in the Central Business District (CBD).

As to the AO, there is a need to limit the number of vehicles from CBD from Magsaysay Avenue to Bonifacio st intersection, due to “extreme traffic congestion.”

Thus, all northbound jeepneys from La Trinidad, including those from Atok, Kapangan, Kibungan, Tublay, etc., all of Benguet, be “prohibited from using any area in Baguio city except the Slaughter house Compound as their staging area; to load and unload at major thoroughfares, especially at Magsaysay Av-

enue, Buhagan road (formerly Bokawan road) and Shuntug Street (formerly Chuntug Street).

A free ferrying or shuttling service without extra cost to passengers is to be devised by offices concerned; Traffic and Transport Management Committee and the Traffic Management Branch of the Baguio City Police Office. The
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PROBLEMA Sa Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB-CAR)?

Send us an email at info@hlurb.net or text/call **0917-5069123** and we will post the information at www.hlurb.net.

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

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

Judas' Chromosomes

Wall Street executives ladled themselves \$18.4 billion in bonuses as they fired staff and cadged taxpayer bailouts to stave off bankruptcy. Blame their genes, some shrinks suggest, a Reuters dispatch says.

"Leaders of a Fortune 500 company have all kinds of toadies tell them what geniuses they are" notes New York University psychoanalyst Charles Goodstein, the Reuters article said. That buttresses arrogance and narcissism, intertwined in their makeup.

Responsibility that flows from acceptance of accountability is the earmark of a mature democracy. It rests on a bedrock principle: Man must account even for the last idle word he utters.

So, were Judas Iscariot's chromosomes to blame for the 30 pieces-of-silver swap? Even Judas himself didn't think so. "I sinned in betraying an innocent man, "he wailed".

EDITORIAL

Grand larceny, like all other crimes, has consequences. Those bonuses

could have whittled down malaria deaths, by 80 percent, in just one country: Eritrea. Reclaim the loot, insists Senator Christopher Dodd who heads the Senate Banking Committee.

Put recovered funds instead into the Global Fund which battles TB, malaria and Aids, suggests Jeffrey Sachs, director of Columbia University's Earth Institute Merrill Lynch executive perks alone would cover the gap in US contributions to the Fund.

Former Salomon Brothers Inc. Chairman John Gutfreund, however, dismissed Dodd's "claw back" proposal. "Political posturing" he scoffed "They are not going to repay all their bonuses." Doesn't that echo the high priest's rebuff to Judas? "What is that to us? That's your concern."

These self-feeding frenzies were "the height of irresponsibility," President Barack Obama snapped. "It is shameful." The English word, however, does not have the zing of the Filipino kapal-muks ("thick-faced") or acid in the Spanish sin verguenza ("shameless").

The Stoic philosopher, Seneca, would have appreciated the US President's disgust. "Shame may restrain what law does not prohibit", he wrote. But even in Seneca's lifetime, (3 BC to 65 AD) rulers and cronies colluded.

Today, they continue to do so here. Only many of have grown adept at brazening it out. "One is never so dangerous than one who has grown too old to blush "warned Maquis de Sade."

Did President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo blush when she apologized for the "Garcia tapes"? She reddened, though, when Secretary Jesus Dureza, whose piety dwarfed good sense, prayed publicly : "Bless the President, so she (can) lead this nation up to 2010 —and perhaps who knows even beyond."

The Supreme Court and Senate found massive sleaze in the P1.4 billion Mega Pacific election computer sale. Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez ruled, however, no one was liable. She thereby elevated a fraud into "the perfect crime", Inquirer noted. Did Ms Gutierrez blush? We'll never know. She ruled while burrowed in a meeting abroad.

Joseph Estrada didn't blush when he denied knowing any "Jose Velarde". Years later, he confided in ABS-CBN interview, "Jose Velarde was yours truly" —confirmed by the Anti-Graft court's decision nailing him for plunder.

Ex-undersecretary Joc-Joc Bolante and his shabby court on overpriced fertilizers don't blanch. Neither did Benjamin Abalos when Rodolfo "Jun" Lozada played back his comment to Secretary Romulo Neri: "May 200 ka diyan Sec.

"Oh shame, where is your blush?", wondered the Prince of Denmark (a.k.a. Hamlet) Don't ask Representatives Roger Mercado (Southern Leyte) Milagros Magsaysay (Zambales) Elpidio Barzaga (Cavite) and other members of the house public works committee. Without blushing, they whitewashed local firms blacklisted by the World Bank for rigging bids in a \$33 million road improvement project.

After a two year probe, the bank found four Chinese companies and three Filipino firms —E.C. de Luna Construction Corp.,

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DIRETSAHAN

Closure orders ni Meyor pinagkakaperahan!

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Tinaguriang fixer ni "Joc-joc" Bolante na si Jimmy Paule, kulong sa Pasay City Jail... dahil umano sa pagsisinungaling na wari ay pambabastos niya sa senado. Pero ang bosing niya na diumano ay arkitekto sa pagnanakaw ng daan daang libong piso sa kaban ng pinoy ay nasa haws at pakuya kuyakoy lang. dapat sa mga ito eh ideretso na sa munti.

Ayon naman kaya Senador Ping Lacson, duda siya na moro moro lamang ang nangyari sa nagdaang sesyon ng senado hinggil sa imbestigasyon dito sa WB report, kaya hiniling na dapat pang magkaroon ng malalimang imbestigasyon sa naturang report ng World Bank.

Kung totoo ang duda ni Senador Lacson, sino kaya ang Direktor at ang nasa likod nito at sinu-sino rin ang mga istariray dito. Op kors, isa na rito ang mataray pero biglang nag-iba ng kulay, magkano kaya? Ay min, magkano kaya ang nalugi sa kaban ni Juan dahil sa kolusyon daw ng mga kontratista at mga opisyal ng gobyerno? Ang masaklap, pilit pang itinatago ang baho na obyus ay umaalingasaw na ng todo..Pweek! biruin niyo mga suki, ang World Bank pa ngayon ang lumalabas na dapat imbestigahan, mga Buwishiit!!

ooOoo

Dito sa kordilyera, hindi maitatago ang proyekto na "Sub-standard" dahil sa korapsyon, ang mga kalsada hindi nagtatagal. Aayusin pero ganun din, masisira kaagad tapos aayusin na naman. Mas maraming ayos, mas maraming "ayusan" tama ba o hindi mga bosing diyan sa DPWH? Tama o hindi Mr. Governor, Congressman, Meyor, Councilor at Mr. Bocap? Tama rin ba ang impormasyon na doon pa lamang sa pre-bidding ay nagkakaroon na ng lutuan? Gaano rin katotoo na ang mga bidders ay alam na kung sino ang mananalo? At magkano naman kaya ang napupuntang porsiyento sa mga kunwari'y matatalong bidders? At magkano rin sa mga "Observers" kuno na kasali sa bulag, pipi at bingi. He!He! bah isang pirma lang yata sa sertipikasyon eh me porsiyento na? wow, kaya pala merong mga NGO's na gustong kasali bilang observer? Tama kaya ito o tsismis lang?Bwa!ha!ha! siguradong deny to death na naman ang mga mokong.

ooOoo

Napanood sa telebisyon ang pagbomba ng tubig sa mga magsasaka ng Negros na nagrarily sa Mendiola noong huwebes, pebrero a dose. Nakababahalang ganitong klase ng polisiya o pamamaraan ng otoridad para itaboy na parang hayop ang mga pobrang magsasaka na inihahayag lamang sa mapayapang pamamaraan ang kanilang mga hinaing. No won-

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THE PEACE COMBATANT*Occupation troops masquerading as non-combatants***BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN***(This is a Re-Print of last issues Column)*

The Associated Press (AP) reports that United States President Barack Obama is considering at least 2 withdrawal plans for Iraq. One of the two plans preserves Obama's pledge to get combat brigades out within 16 months but the other prolongs the stay of combat troops up to 23 months. There is also a middle option of 19 months but the first two are the ones being seriously considered.

In all options being considered, however, the United States would leave behind several brigades that are multi-purse troops providing training and advising for Iraqi security forces. The brigades would be considered noncombat units. This would reportedly run contrary to a deal signed last year that all US troops and not merely combat units would leave Iraq by the end of 2011.

Hence, there are ominous signs that the occupation of Iraq would continue even under the popular Barack Obama who has been considered by many Americans as a beacon of peace and hope. Obama is even reported by news reports to have said that his Iraq policy will include leaving behind a residual U.S. military force to conduct counter-terrorist missions against the Al-Qaeda in Iraq and protect the American diplomatic and civilian personnel. In effect, this is continuation of American occupation of Iraq in spite of an Obama.

While Obama has said that the United States will not build permanent bases in Iraq but will continue training and supporting the Iraqi military, there are two things that must be stressed. First of all, the weapons of war that the United States possesses do not require the use of permanent military bases. Military bases can be in ships and missiles can be launched even from the U.S. mainland. Military bases can be mobile in the era of the 21st century.

Secondly, Obama's promise is conditional: he will do away with permanent US military bases IF and only IF Iraqi leaders behave in accordance with American interests. Of course, the words used are not that explicit. The words used are something like this: US will move out of Iraq if Iraqi leaders move away from sectarianism.

In a nutshell, this is Obama's policy of responsibly leaving Iraq: Iraqi's must be responsible enough to accommodate US "advise" on Iraqi troops and political leaders must behave consistent with US interests. This shouldn't be too unfamiliar because the same tactic has been used by the United States in Vietnam. It was also used in the Philippines.

In Vietnam, US troops wore engineering and road construction clothes. In the Philippines, laws such as the Bell Trade Act were imposed on the Filipino people before sham independence was granted.

The Peace Combatant acknowledges that the Obama Presidency has the potential of signaling the end of a racial divide in America. Further, the Peace Combatant also acknowledges that Obama's win can also signal America's greater role in the fight against global warming and climate change (for America's economic interests, of course). Unfortunately, however, the Peace Combatant remains skeptical whether Obama's win can lead to greater world peace given that his so-called policy of a responsible ending to the US occupation of Iraq is nothing more than an irresponsible continuation of occupation of Iraq.

Like the Obama policy of never distancing itself from Israel (that in the mind of The Peace Combatant encouraged Israel's adventurism into Gaza), Obama's policy of "responsible ending to the Iraq war" is a sham because it does not constitute a genuine advancement of world peace.

Related to the above, one interpretation of history is that World War II was a way for the US to move out of the crisis of the great depression of the 1930s (this may or may not valid view), the fact that the US is also in a great depression today makes the realization of world peace under Obama, a serious concern of our time.

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

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS*Antique rape-slay creates uproar in the Internet***BY: BATAS MAURICIO****ANTIQUÉ RAPE SLAY: WHY THE SNAIL-PACED PROBE?**

And so, why are the authorities in Antique moving like snails to solve the rape and murder of a third-year high school pretty cheerleader from the Antique National High School that happened on January 30, 2009 yet?

In case they think no one is interested, the authorities should be told that the whole Internet world, in the Philippines and around the globe, are now up in arms over the perceived cover-up in their investigation of the case.

And rightly so, especially if one considers the brutality and heinousness of the crime—perpetrated by 15 or so malefactors near a place called "Kampo" (a military camp?) which is just adjacent to a police headquarters, with the girl being mutilated as well.

An account of the incident now posted in the Internet, written by an irate Antiqueno who calls himself (or herself?) "Antiqueno Sumakwel", is so revolting that any reader would want the rapists immediately strangled. Here is that account, read it and see what I mean:

-000-

GIRL BEATEN UP, ORGAN SLASHED AND STUFFED WITH SAND, PLASTICS AND PIECES OF WOOD:

"According to the report from DYKA, a local radio station in San Jose, the girl, an only daughter, from the prominent Pagtanac family was riding on a motorcycle with her boyfriend along the road of Barangay Dalipe that evening, when a group of men hit them with a wooden club.

"The boy lost consciousness and the men grab the girl and brought her to 'Kampo', an area adjacent to the police HQ. The men took turns in raping the girl. The girl's cellphone rang, one of the men answered the phone, it was the girl's mother on the other line asking for the girl's whereabouts.

"The man who answered mockingly told the mother that her daughter is 'ga-iyot iyot' (being fornicated).

"The following day the girl was found dead in the said area, her head bearing the marks of having been hit with clubs, her face unrecognizable due to lacerated wounds on her cheeks inflicted by a sharp weapon, her body bearing all the signs of a violent beating, her organ slashed and stuffed with sand, plastics and pieces of wood.

-000-

GIRL'S FATHER, UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE NEWS, DIES OF STROKE:

"The father, upon learning what had happened to her daughter, suffered a stroke and died also.

"Fortunately, the girl's boyfriend recovered and made his way home to tell what happened to them in Bgy. Dalipe but didn't know where they took the girl and what had happened to her afterwards.

"As of this writing, one of the suspects has surrendered, an 18-year old man. The initial report stated that nine (9) men participated in the crime, now there are reports that as many as fifteen (15) men could have been involved..."

-000-

MEDIA, SILENT ON THE GIRL'S RAPE-SLAY: "For a week we have been watching the evening news in major networks in Metro Manila and scanning the pages of major national newspapers and tabloids.

"But none of them reported or picked up that incident, not even (name of the tv news program in a major Manila network deleted by me) considering that it was reported on the program (name of the program deleted by me) a daily news program by (name of the TV network, deleted by me).

"The death of Apl d' Ap's (Black-Eyed Peas) brother in Pampanga was prominently reported last week not because of the nature of the death but because the victim happens to have a well-known brother.

"But here in Antique, we have a heinous crime, the degree of brutality of which is comparable only with, if not more brutal than the

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PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

BAGUIO- JUETENG CAPITAL OF CORDILLERA
ATTN: RD- E. Martin, CD- Wilfredo Franco, Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr.
BY: ODELL "BOMBITO" AQUINO



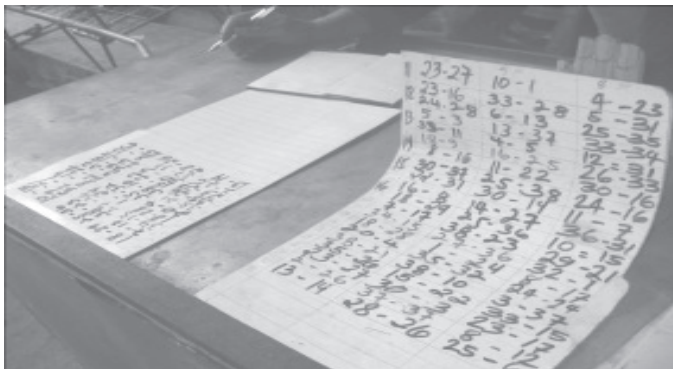
(This is a Re-Print of last issues Column)

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Eto na mga dear readers ang sagot sa mga pang-iinis, patutya, at pang-aasar na mga text na aking natanggap nitong nakaraang dalawang linggo hinggil sa mga nakaraan kong expose sa impormasyon mula sa ating DPA about Jueteng kung saan ibinunyag natin ang nakaraang pag-papataas ng PATONG ng mga nakaraang opisyaales habang binawasan ang tanggap o PATONG nila Juan de la Cruz na nakikinabang sa grasya at katas ng Jueteng. Marahil ay SOBRA na talaga ang **KAPAL NG MUKHA** at pagka **MANHID** ng mga kinaukulang opisyaales – **PNP Regional Director Eugene Martin , PNP City Director Wilfredo Franco at Baguio City Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr.** Op cors wala silang isasagawang aksyon para patigilin ang salot na operasyon ng Jueteng sa Baguio!!! Ayon pa sa pa-ulit ulit na nag tetext sa akin na patunayan ko raw na mayroon laganap na operasyon ng Jueteng sa Baguio City, marahil ay isa kang BULAG at BINGI kaya ang mga larawan sa kolum na ito ay para sa iyo! At ikaw naman talaga Mayor RAB, isipin mo rin sana paminsan-minsan na dala-dala mo ang pangalan ni Reinaldo Bautista Sr. May maganda, mayayos at kagalang-galang na pangalan, imahe at reputasyon ng iyong erpat lalo na sa business world at ni minsan ay hindi na involve sa ano mang hindi kanais-nais, hindi ba Meyer –SER???

####

Kayo ang humusga mga dear readers, aking pinakuhanan ng litrato ang mga lugar kung saan nakapaskil pa ang mga resulta/labas mula sa Jueteng. THE JUETENG - the favorite game of the nag-bubulag-bulagang public officials.



Above Photo taken at Vicinity of Dangwa station



Above Photo taken at Rajah Matanda St.

Mayor confident drop in peza share will not affect budget

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. Thursday expressed optimism that the drop in the remittance of the Philippine Export Zone Authority (PEZA) as the city's tax share from its operations will not adversely affect the city's budget this year.

In his weekly Ugnayan ng Panlungsod media briefing, the mayor expressed belief that the decrease in the PEZA remittance would only be "temporary" as the PEZA operations remained sound.

He said the cut in the PEZA remittance was not an effect of the economic slowdown being felt worldwide but because of the tax holidays and incentives being given by the national government to the PEZA concessionaires.

To counter any possibility of a budget deficit, he said the city must adopt a "realistic" or conservative budget this year.

He then appealed to the city council to do away with its plan to increase the budget to P1 billion and instead stick to the proposed P950 million budget to avoid any problem.

Members of the local finance committee also said that the city should settle with a conservative budget this year in view of the decrease in the PEZA remittance.

PEZA contributed only P7 million for its operations for the third quarter of last year, which is a far cry from the multi-million amount it has contributed to the city coffers for the past years.

The finance team pegged the PEZA contribution conservatively at P60 million for this year as against the previous years' estimates of more than P100 million.

But if the trend of low remittances continues,

it is doubtful that even this year's conservative estimate can be realized.

The city council will begin deliberating on the proposed budget to beat the deadline in March.

The city is now working on an reenacted budget while the new budget remains pending.

The mayor submitted an executive budget of P950,140,000 for 2009 which is an increase of P50 million from the current budget of P900,000,000.

As proposed, the estimated income will come from the beginning balance of P100,000,000; local taxes amounting to P257,800,000; permits and licenses – P14,800,000; service income – P40,150,000; business income – P59,890,000; other income of P154,500,00 and Internal Revenue Allotment – P323,000,000. /

aileen p. refuerzo



Above Photo taken at Meat section, public market

DOT Promotes Various Festivals around Cordillera

BAGUIO CITY – The Department of Tourism (DOT-CAR) hosted a kapihan forum, Wednesday, to promote various festivals and events around the region, to boost domestic tourism amid the global financial crisis.

According to DOT Cordillera Director Pura Molintas, “we have to continue to campaign and promote various festivals and events around the region, because whenever there is an international crisis, everything is expected to become more expensive, therefore, the shift now leans towards domestic tourism and even the livelihood component is also strengthened through domestic tourism.”

For the province of Kalinga, there is the “Ullalim” festival on February 14-16, coinciding with the 14th founding anniversary of the province.

According to Noryn Bagano of DTI Kalinga, activities for the three-day event includes: an Agro-industrial fair featuring local products; cultural festival wherein each of the municipalities will have a cultural presentation and a local version of Panagbenga’s street and float parade.

A highlight of the Ullalim is the “Laga” festival wherein there will be forum, exhibits and shows – involving native

costumes and weaving designs. This is in partnership with the National Commission of Culture and Arts (NCCA), Bagano added.

Still in the province of Kalinga, the municipality of Balbalan, will be holding a “Manchatchatong Festival” on March 5-6 in celebration of its centenary.

According to Balbalan Municipal Info Officer Regie Wacas, lined-up activities for the festival includes street dancing, indigenous parlor games and performance of the seven rituals of Balbalan, assigned to each sub-tribe. The rituals are: death,

Cont. on page 11

Concern over fate of pre-need plan holders

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said the problems besetting the pre-need industry would need the President’s priority attention when she arrives from her trip abroad.

“Malacanang will do everything possible to help the distressed pre-need plan-holders,” Remonde assured especially that this involves the future of children whose education rested solely on the viability of their parents’ investments in pre-need plans.

He said that the lost investments in the pre-need plans were the “sweat and blood” of people upon whose hopes of sending their children

to school depended.

Officers of the pre-need firms have been undergoing intense grilling at the Senate over the alleged anomalous business practices in the beleaguered industry.

Officials of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) have also been denounced in the Senate hearings for their failure to check the anomalous practices of the pre-need firms.

The government entity that supervises the operations of pre-need companies, SEC has been accused of failing to protect the plan-holders from the illegal practices of the pre-need firms.

SEC officials, however, said the government agency has limited powers over the operations of the pre-need firms. “In fairness to SEC chair (Fe) Barin, they have articulated that SEC has limited “regulatory powers over pre-need companies,” Remonde said.

Remonde stressed that the results of the initial investigations of both the Senate and House of Representatives on the scandal will be used as basis.

The PEP (Parents Empowering Parents) coalition initially went after the Yuchengco

Cont. on page 9

Skills-retooling program going to where OFWs are

T h e government’s skills-retooling program for Filipino expatriate workers is going where the Filipino workers in foreign countries are.

P r e s i d e n t

G l o r i a Macapagal-Arroyo announced the new government scheme to upgrade the skills of Filipino workers on Tuesday during her meeting with the Filipino community in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

“We are holding professional licensure examinations for Filipino in selected countries like Qatar, Hong Kong and now, Saudi Arabia, to prepare (them) for skilled jobs that com-

Cont. on page 9

“Help Desks” for Economically Displaced Overseas and Local Workers created

BAGUIO CITY – Labor and Employment Secretary Marianito D. Roque announced last Friday, January 30, that Help Desks shall be set up in the regions to facilitate the delivery of assistance and services of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to workers at the regional and community level, displaced by the global economic crisis.

He said the Help Desks shall serve as a one-stop center bringing the delivery of DOLE programs and services closer to both local and overseas Filipino workers

(OFWs) who have been adversely affected by the global crisis.

For Cordillera, DOLE-CAR Technical Support Division Emelita Ferrer said, their office, and their attached regional agencies like the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Philippine Overseas Employment Agency and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, each set-up a “help desk”, to provide various assistances to economically displaced workers in the region.

According to Ferrer, displaced workers will undergo profiling and will be

given counseling, to determine if they want re-employment – locally or abroad; start a livelihood project or a business; or to have an enhancement-training. DOLE could also provide legal assistance to displaced workers, she added.

DOLE also had the Bureau of Local Employment or BLE under its wing, which can give referral service for local employment.

For economically displaced overseas workers, OWWA Cordillera Welfare Office Program Services Division chief Evelyn Laranang encourages them to register at their

Cont. on page 11

Labor Secretary issued advisory on “Flexible Work Arrangements”

BAGUIO CITY - Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Marianito Roque issued an advisory Friday, January 30, on the adoption of flexible work arrangements to guide employers and workers in the private sector in implementing mutually acceptable work schedules as a measure against the adverse impact of the global financial crisis.

T h e advisory

provides for the guidelines on the adoption of various flexible work arrangements for labor and management wanting to implement such arrangements as a coping mechanism and remedial measure in mitigating the impact of the financial crisis on their business operations and the entire economy.

Flexible work arrangements that the advisory suggests – for labor and management to adopt are:

C o m p r e s s e d

Work week wherein the normal workweek is reduced to less than six days but the total number of work hours of 48 hours per week shall remain.

Reduction of Workdays wherein the normal workdays per week are reduced but should not last for more than six months.

Rotation of Workers wherein the employees are rotated or alternately provided work within the workweek.

Cont. on page 9

Contractors.....**..... from page 1**

"Washington World Bank verbally confirmed to me that prior to the banning of these contractors, they were each given a detailed list of allegations and accusations," he said.

The three Filipino firms included in the report were E.C. De Luna Construction Corp., Cavite Ideal International Construction and Development Corp. and the CM Pancho Construction Inc. – all named and banned by the WB for alleged collusion in securing foreign-funded road contracts.

During his meeting with the WB officials in Washington, Escudero said he made a direct appeal in his capacity as a Senator for the bank to release an official copy of the report to the Philippine Senate.

He met with Shaun Moss, Regional Procurement Manager for East Asia and the Pacific, Ben Gericke, Senior Transport Engineer and Steve Charles Burgess, Senior Operations Officer.

"I told them that it is a matter of public interest to the Filipino people. They first released the report to the Department of Finance, which was supposed to transmit it to the Office of the Ombudsman for investigation. But nothing has been accomplished. I told them (WB officials) to give it to the Senate, so something can be done," the senator said.

Escudero also said that contrary to what the contractors say, all of them have been afforded due process by the WB before they were imposed sanctions for alleged collusion.

The WB's Department of Institutional Integrity said it gave the Department of Finance a copy of the report in November 2007. The contractors, as part of the ensuing process, were given notice of sanctions proceedings in May 2008 containing all alleged wrongdoing.

They were given 90 days to respond in their defense, but all three failed to submit their rebuttal to the allegations in the report.

"It's a simple logic, if one accuses you of being a thief and you know very well it's not true, won't you defend yourself and your honor? Why the silence from these contractors?"/Office of Senator Chiz Escudero

Editorial**..... from page 4**

Cavite Ideal International Co. Ltd. and CM Pancho Construction Inc. —set bid prices at "artificial, noncompetitive levels." The bank scrubbed funding for the project. It also permanently barred E.C. de Luna from bidding in any World Bank projects. The six other firms were suspended for varying periods.

"No evidence of collusion" insisted the lavandera brigade in a hurried probe. The three blackballed Filipino firms were "the most reliable contractors in the country", Undersecretary Manuel Bonoan murmured. Rep. Magsaysay dismissed findings of the bank's integrity board as "the account of an anonymous person".

A computer click away, the World Bank website carries a package of data: from a list of blackballed firms to project appraisal document and information on the sanction process. The official report has long gathered dust on desk of the Ombudsman and Public Works secretary

– who did nothing.

The result is a house "white list". It stands in stark contrast to the World Bank's black list. The bank found sleaze. That is integrity the congressmen insist. The bank took swift corrective action. The solons want more of the same. This Orwellian spectacle is a "comic opera" Senator Miriam Santiago scoffed. No, the farce is in "aid of legislation", the congressmen.

"The incitement to guilt is the hope of sinning with impunity," Cicero once said. That's Judas chromosomes running amuck."/ J.L. Mercado

Diretsahan.....**..... from page 4**

der na marami ang idinadaan na lamang sa marahas na pamamaraan ang knilang mga paghahayag dahil na din sa kawalan ng pag-asang mapakinggan. Kumbaga, dahas na lang sa dahas. Atensyon, Chairperson ng Commision on Human rights. Sampolan mo ang mga ungas na nambomba ng tubig! Bombahin mo rin sila! Peryod!

ooOoo

Dapat tignan ng mga imbestigador na humahawak sa kaso ng napaslang na isang babae sa loob ng isang motel sa Magsaysay Avenue, Baguio City, na posibleng paghihiganti ang motibo ng salarin.

Base sa report, sinaksak ang babae sa loob mismo ng kuwarta na tinuluyan nila ng partner niyang lalaki at saka isiniksik sa ilalim ng kama. Kung iisipin, mukhang matindi ang galit ng pumatay batay na rin sa tinamong saksak ng biktima. At kung totoo nga ang ibinulong sa akin ng aking bubuwit na ang biktima ay kasali sa isang grupong "Magsaysay Express Girls" as in "Prosti" at tulak ng ipinagbabawal na gamot, aba eh hindi malayong naging kostumer noon ng biktima ang salarin at maaring atraso ang dahilan ng pamamaslang.

Ilang beses ko ng tinawagan ng pansin ang mga konsernadong otoridad na dapat nilang paigtingin ang pagbabantay sa mga aktibidad na nangyayari sa may Lower Magsaysay Avenue partikular sa mga Magsaysay Express Girls na umano'y kasabwat ng mga masasamang elemento katulad ng mga isnatser, holdaper, salisi at iba pa pero mukhang tinulugan lamang ito. Ngayon, sino and dapat sisihin sa nangyaring insidente na ito? Sagoooot!!!

ooOoo

Bakit kaya hindi Makita kita ni Baguio City Mayor Peter Rey Bautista Jr. na ang mga pinipirmahan niyang mga klosyur order sa mga establisimento ay hindi naipapatupad ng parehas? Meron kasing mga klosyur order na naipapatupad kaagad pero yung iba ay iniipit lamang sa folder ng ibang ahensya? O baka naman tama ang ibinulong na pinagkakaperahan ng mga timawa ang mga "closure order" ni Meyor! Pakibusisi nga po Apo RAB! Busisiin!

ooOoo

Isa diumanong miyembro ng Baguio POSD anti-peddling Task Force ang nambalalabas sa isang Fitness gym kamakailan. Ayon sa may-ari ng gym, isang nanggangalang "Vidal Mark" na isang POSD

daw ang nakiusap na maglaro muna sa kanyang gym at saka lamang bayaran, pero pagkalipas daw ng medyo mahabang panahon ay hindi na naglaro itong si Mr. Balasubas ng POSD at hindi na rin binayaran ang kanyang utang kaya naman kinausap umano siya ng may-ari na bayaran ang utang pero siya pa raw ang nagmalaki.

Hanep din talaga itong si Mr. POSD oo, imbes na makiusap eh, hoy Mr. Bodybuilder na anti-peddler, kung nagpapalaki ka ng katawan, huwag mo namang isabay ang ulo mo. Ayaw ko kasing isipin na kung kaya mong gawin ito sa isang gym ay puwede mo ring gawin ito sa isang pipitsuging vendor, tama ba ako o hindi? Bukas ang kolumn na ito para ibigay ang iyong panig!! HAPPY VALENTINE!

Batas**.... from page 5**

VIZCONDE MASSACRE and the CHIONG SISTERS' RAPE-SLAY in Cebu.

"In my 39 years I have never known a crime more brutal that had ever happened in Antique since the murder of Governor Evelio Javier in 1986. Only people with sick and unstable minds or drug-crazed persons could have perpetrated such a horrendous crime..."

-ooo-

LAST SUPPER AND THE INSTITUTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST: The fifth and last mystery in the Mysteries of Light (or the Luminous Mysteries) of the Holy Rosary of Roman Catholic Christians is the "Institution of the Holy Eucharist through the Last Supper", an event which is now being used as basis for the Catholics' claim that Jesus Christ is present in all Catholic masses around the world.

Found in Matthew 26:17-29, Mark 14:12-25 and Luke 22:7-20, the story about the Last Supper contains an order from Jesus, which is significant as it is unique: "do this in remembrance of me".

The question of course is: why would Jesus tell his disciples, who were having the Last Supper with Him, to break bread and drink wine "in remembrance of me" or "in memory of me"?

There could only be one answer and here lies the significance and the uniqueness of the Last Supper: Jesus wanted all those who believe in Him to remember Him every time they partook of food and drinks, to remember that all the grace and blessings that come to them who eat and drink actually come from the benevolence of God.

And since everything comes from the benevolence of God, we should always be thankful to Him, and recognize that without Him, we are nothing and we have nothing, and that whatever we are eating and drinking represents Jesus, so that Jesus actually is with us all the time.

Finally, the order of Jesus to break bread and drink wine "in remembrance of me" actually asks all of us to remember that Jesus allowed His body and blood to be offered for the forgiveness of our sins, thereby confirming that He is not only God, but our Savior.

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION OFFICE
OF THE CLERK OF COURT & EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF
Baguio City

CASE No. 09-98-S
EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE
OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, As Amended

RURAL BANK OF LINGAYEN, INC.,
Mortgagee,

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF SALE

-versus -

JOSEPH P. CALSE and BENITA A. RESUELLO,
Mortgagors.

Upon extra judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended, filed by RURAL BANK OF LINGAYEN, INC., hereinafter referred to as MORTGAGEE, against JOSEPH P. CALSE and BENITA A.

x----- x

FORECLOSURE

RESUELLO, hereinafter referred to as the MORTGAGORS, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of the filing of the petition amounts to P580,466.66, Philippine Currency, including interest and penalty but excluding attorney's fees and expenses incidental to the foreclosure proceedings, the Clerk of Court and Ex-Oficio Sheriff: thru her deputy, hereby announces that on March 3, 2009, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, w711 sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippine cur-

rency, at the lobby (fronting the main entrance) of the Hall of Justice Building, Baguio City, the following properties more particularly describes as follows:

Untitled Lot Covered by ARP No. 01-06001-36212

"A parcel of residential lot situated at Interior 40 meters .from Military Cut-off road, Military Cut-off, Baguio City. Bounded on the NORTH by ASS. LOT N0. 027; on the EAST by ASS. lot No. 055 (ROAD), on the SOUTH by ASS.LOT No. 049 & 055 (ROAD) and on the WEST by SECTION

01. Boundaries are, bounded by visible monuments. Containing an area of TWO HUNDRED THIRTY FOUR (2341) square meters more or less."

BUILDING COVERED BY ARP No. 01-06001-79966

"A one (1) Storey residential building made of CHB and wood with G.I roofing. The .said house has an approximately floor area of 27.25 sqm. more or less with a unit value o f P3, 330. 00 and market value of P 90,740. 00 assessed value Including all improvements

thereon. Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real estate properties and the encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

Baguio City, Philippines, this 3rd day of February, 2009.

By (SGD)REMEDIOS BALDERAS-REYES Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Oficio Sheriff

By(SGD)RUBEN L.ATIJERA Sheriff-in-Charge
Feb 8 - 15 & 22, 2009

Concern

.... from page 7

group, former owner of the Pacific Plans Inc., and filed the first of a series of charges.

The plan holders group also asked the President to implement reforms at the SEC and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The PEP coalition also urged the President to sack SEC and BSP officials who would be found responsible for the mess.

Remonde said Malacanang has taken preliminary steps to assist distraught plan holders by putting up an assistance desk at the SEC building.

Labor secretary

.... from page 7

Forced Leave wherein the employees are required to go on leave for several days or weeks utilizing their leave credits if there are any.

Broken-time schedule wherein the work schedule is not continuous but the work hours within the day or week remain.

Flexi-holidays schedule wherein the employees agree to avail the holidays at some other days provided there is no diminution of existing benefits as a result of such arrangement.

Roque said the adoption of flexible arrangements should be anchored on voluntary basis, and, thus, must have the consent of both labor and management. He, nonetheless, urged employers and workers to consider adopting such arrangements as a better alternative rather than outright termination of the workers' services and total closure of their establishment.

He stressed, however, that prior to implementation, the employer should notify the DOLE Regional Office which has jurisdiction over the workplace, of the adoption of any flexible work arrangements.

Meantime, Labor lawyer and former

DOLE-Cordillera Assistant Regional Director Atty. Greg Abalos stressed, during an interview in a local radio, Tuesday, he personally recommends the advisory of the government on flexible working arrangements between an employer and its workers, rather than going to an option of having to layoff workers or to close their business.

According to Abalos, the effect of the global financial crisis may be over in a few months and everything could return back to normal, therefore it is better for both employer and workers, to have a better compromise agreement. "The key here is a thorough and effective negotiation or talk between the management and the workers", he added.

In the same interview, Abalos also warns employers not to take advantage on the issue of global financial crisis just to layoff some workers, as they could be held liable under the present labor laws, as the government through DOLE have ways to know if a company or business are really affected by the crisis or not.

****Lito Dar/PIA**

Skills-retooling

.... from page 7

mand higher salaries," she said during a meeting with members of the Filipino community in Riyadh on Monday.

The objective is to sustain the upgrading of the capabilities of Filipino workers — already the employees of choice in various countries for their honesty, industry, reliability and capability to easily learn new skills.

She explained that under the government's retraining program, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) will conduct licensure examinations for Filipino professionals, who have yet to take the exams re-

quired for their profession, right in the country where they are working.

The idea is to enable the Filipinos professionals still without license to take the licensure tests without having to return to the Philippines for the examination.

"In that way, professionals who pass the licensure exams will have better chances for promotion and getting higher salary, not to mention job security," the President said.

She told the OFWs that back home, the government is pushing its skills-retraining program side-by-side with the creation of more jobs.

She cited the ongoing retraining program for call center agents, welders, bakers and chefs for OFWs who have been displaced or those who would lose their jobs in the midst of the current global economic downturn.

The government has also earmarked P1 billion for the Filipino Expatriate Livelihood Support Fund (FELSF), one of the safety nets for OFWs displaced in the current global economic crisis.

The FELSF, which is being administered by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), is supported by government lending institutions like the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) and Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP).

The FELSF may be used as capital for livelihood projects of displaced Filipino expatriate workers as well as for skills-retooling program.

Chiz: BSP.....**..... from page 2**

the court where the case is pending," said Escudero, who is chair of the committee on banks, financial institutions, and currencies.

The Central Bank has already closed 13 rural banks of the Legacy Group since 2008 and these have been placed under receivership.

BSP said it was hampered to close down these banks even when they were already on the verge of insolvency and bankruptcy early in 2008 because the troubled banks secured a temporary restraining order from a Manila Regional Trial Court.

"That may be a factor why the BSP was not able to act swiftly on these banks to protect the public, but definitely not the law or the absence of the proposed amendatory bill," Escudero said.

The senator said BSP should stop blaming other parties for their failure to implement their mandate to protect the public.

He said Sections 29 and 30 of the RA 7653 allows the BSP to appoint a conservator and consequently cause receivership and liquidation if upon examination a bank is already having liquidity problem./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Chiz: Tells.....**..... from page 2**

anybody can stand along the way and call for a move to amend the very rule which made them convene. They can move to include term extension during the deliberations," Escudero explained.

"What they want us to do is close our eyes and allow what could later turn out to be the rape of the Constitution," Escudero stated./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Pia lauds.....**..... from page 2**

ficial report, so it could summon the resource persons and subpoena all necessary documents. Malacañang's obstructionism has disrupted this legislative process, but it won't stop the Senate from pursuing the investigation."

Cayetano also expressed disappointment over the refusal of the camp of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to have his client subjected to a written or oral deposition, citing his health condition.

"According to his counsel, FG is healthy enough to play golf outdoors, but not fit enough to execute an oral or even a written deposition which can be conducted indoors under controlled and comfortable conditions. How convenient! The Senate should send its own team of doctors to examine Mr. Arroyo, just like we did in the case of Joc-joc Bolante."

"This is truly deplorable. FG's refusal to testify and the government's refusal to produce the World Bank report clearly show a concerted effort to prevent the truth from coming out."

"The corruption issue has become a

matter of national development and security. Major donor countries and multilateral institutions are already considering cutting foreign aid because of widespread corruption, which is being traced to the highest levels of this government. If Malacañang really cares about the long-term effects of reduced foreign aid to the country and future generations, then it must make itself accountable," she concluded./Office Of Senator Pia Cayetano

Tramline.....**..... from page 3**

project of the USAID, as lighting for Burnham Park. The project may also be extended for the heating of the swimming pool, and lighting of the Athletic Bowl Track Oval. Said endeavors would deem the use of facilities for practice, even at night time, the mayor said.

Solar energy cells would be used for the project, and guaranteed for a lifetime. Though very expensive, the solar cells would be provided at "no cost to the city." Solar panels would be used to collect solar energy, and would generate light energy to be used after, the mayor explained.

Trial lighting and signing would be on March 1, after the grand float parade, with Ambassador to the US Christie Kenney present, the mayor also said./juliegfianza

Bibak members**..... from page 3**

more if the baby would be kept in Metro-Manila, estimated about P500,000.

From Vancouver, Canada, another member of BIBAK (the organization of those who trace their roots to Baguio and the Cordillera region) wrote that he and a friend in Australia are offering a two-pronged support to the family of eight-year old Jessica Tampol who was buried the other week.

The two friends (who will be identified when they agree to have their names mentioned) offered to provide a no-interest loan, to enable Jessica's mother Melina to cook and sell food again to jeepney drivers plying the route to Beckel, La Trinidad at their Happy Glen Loop staging area. They offered to help 17-year old Jayson, the eldest of the three surviving Tampol children, return to and finish high school.

"I am willing to pay for his tuition fees and minimal stipend to help him secure what he needs in school," the e-mail sender said, adding he may be able to support him in college if "he has the focus and determination to achieve a career".

Jayson quit high school to earn as a barker for jeepneys plying the route to Pacdal. His father is an unemployed gardener and his mother quit serving food to the jeepney drivers when Jessica complained of chest pain and was hospitalized last December.

The girl was diagnosed for diabetes and later succumbed to complications. While trying to cope with her loss, the family also worried where to and how to bury her.

Shoshin, a Germany based foundation headed by former world traditional karate

champion Julian Chees, shouldered a P6,000 shortfall of the costs of funeral pegged at P15,000.

Jessica's schoolmates and teachers at the Rizal Elementary School pooled P1,738 for her burial while the Beckel Drivers delivered P800 during the wake.

Samaritans can get in touch with the Tampols by calling 09202383342, the cellphone number of Pacing, the sister of Pablito, or visit them at their shack at 42 Happy Glen Loop.

Those giving support to Lyka may ring up Edward's cellphone number 09202973570./Ramon Dacawi.

Slaughter house.....**..... from page 3**

TMB-BCPO and Public Order and Safety Division (POSD) of the City Mayor's Office are also directed to enforce said order while assistance from the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) is requested through modification of entry and exit routes of PUJs as to their Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC).

However, the administrative order is set to be implemented "upon completion of public works at the Slaughterhouse compound as Northbound Terminal."

The order, the mayor asserted, "is issued in the interest of public service and shall take effect immediately."

Copies of the order shall be furnished to all concerned departments and agencies. / juliegfianza

Mayors' shares'.....**..... from page 3**

likewise be instituting a tight-neighborhood local government," he added.

"On top of these, we can now appropriate equal amounts per district to ensure each barangay would have an equal share of blessings from the city government," he added.

During the initial CDC meeting February 9, some councilors expressed fears their assignment to various districts may result into *ultra vires* acts or those beyond their mandated powers which may lead to administrative sanctions.

Trinidad, in a much earlier interview however said the division of 129-barangays into districts is "not political in nature as what Congressional districts are."

"As thus," she said, "it will not go against established provisions of the RA 7160, particularly in non-delegation of powers further delegated by Congress to the local chief executive."

"In fact," she explained, "our local legislators are being tapped to lead some city special projects which is permitted under the code which is why we have councilors taking care of some special events or some ad hoc committees under the office of the mayor."*/ISL

City adopts

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The framework was formulated by the members of the core team recently created by Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. to update the city's major development plans.

It was presented during the joint CDC-executive-legislative meeting last Tuesday (January 10) where it was jointly adopted by the executive and legislative departments and by the CDC in the presence of the barangay officials.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said the adoption of the framework is a plus factor in setting the direction of the city's development thrust.

Engr. Evelyn Cayat of the city planning office said the framework would assure that the plans would be accomplished according to the deadline set for the purpose which means that there will be no more delays for the completion of the plans particularly the AIP which is required every year to approve the budget.

The mayor earlier sought a "synchronized planning, investment programming, budgeting and expenditure management and revenue administration for local governments to achieve a more efficient and effective service delivery and optimum utilization of funds."

He tasked the following to comprise the core team for the updating of the plans: DILG acting city director Evelyn Trinidad; city budget officer Leticia Clemente; city human resource management officer Jose Dacawi; city parks management officer Cordelia Lacsamana; city planning officer Arturo Orig; and secretary to the mayor Ronald Perez. **/aileen p. refuerzo**

Tax amnesty

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a city council ordinance and was made effective within three months beginning January this year.

Taxpayers can file their application for amnesty with the Office of the City Treasurer using an applicable form with an affidavit stating the reason for non-payment such as "acts of man such as hold up and financial crisis; and fortuitous event."

"Any taxpayer who avails of amnesty under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be exempted from any civil, criminal and administrative liability arising from the violation of the Real Property Tax Code and the Revised Revenue Code of Baguio City.

Councilor Nicasio Aliping who authored the measure said allowing taxpayers to settle their obligations without the burden of surcharges will help ease their financial woes in this time of economic crisis faced by the country. **/aileen p. refuerzo**

Search

..... from page 12

during the Women's Day program on March 10 at the Baguio Convention Center is part of the activities lined up for the Women's Month celebration.

Nominations may be made by any private individual, organization, group or the nominee herself.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the City Social Welfare and Development Office, the Dept. of Interior and Local Government city office, the Baguio Center for Young Adults and the Civil Service Commission Cordillera office.

Deadline for the submission of the nomination will be on February 16.

Apart from the search, other meaningful activities have been scheduled to mark the women's month celebration in line with the centennial festivities.

The nationwide celebration will focus on the theme, "Babae, Yaman ka ng Bayan." For the centennial, the city adopted a local theme, "Baguio Centennial: Women as Co-Builders of the City."

Among the activities lined up are grand parade and women's day program, showcase of programs and services of agencies, women's summit, recycling fair, centennial tree planting and launching of the centennial women's park and kapihan with the media on March 4 at the Sangguniang Panlungsod session hall.

The Women's Month celebration is spearheaded by the city government in cooperation with various government and non-government agencies and organizations like the Office of the City Mayor, Office of the City Social Welfare and Development under Betty Fangasan, Office of Councilor Tabanda as chairman of the city council committee on women, the Population Commission under the City Health Office, the Dept. of Interior and Local Government city office, Civil Service Commission and others. **/aileen p. refuerzo**

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ERNESTO FLORES SARMIENTO who died at, Baguio City, on February 7, 1993 has been settled by his heirs through an extrajudicial settlement with simultaneous waiver of rights, dated February 2, 2009 and recorded in the notarial registry at Atty. Melita Amylesha D. Macaraeg as Doc. No. 101 on Page No. 21 Book No. 1, Series of 2009.

Feb 8, 15 & 22, 2009

"Help desks"

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"help desk". After assessment, OWWA will offer them services through OWWA programs such as scholarships, trainings and livelihood assistance or they will be given referrals to appropriate government agencies.

So far, there are already 17 displaced overseas workers that registered at the Cordillera Welfare Office and some of them are already undergoing free computer training, through OWWA's Community Technology Learning Center (CTLC), Laranang added.

Meanwhile, POEA Cordillera Director Delfina Camarillo explained that their "help desk" offers to displaced OFWs legal services and referral service for immediate redeployment abroad, or for jobs suitable to their skills.

If an overseas worker wishes to re-tool or upgrade their skills, they will be immersed for a re-training at TESDA, through their scholarship programs. For a livelihood or business assistance, they will be referred to the DTI, DOLE or OWWA, Camarillo added.

****Lito Dar/PIA**

DOT promoters

..... from page 7

healing, marriage, birth, agricultural, hunting and bodong.

In Abra, the Abrenian-Kawayan" festival will be held on March 6-9. Abra provincial tourism officer Monique Bernardez explained that the celebration, which coincides with the province's 92nd founding anniversary, will feature products made from the bamboo, the one town one product of the province.

Also featured during the festival are Abra's best which includes culture and arts, cuisine and some potential tourist destination in the province.

For Mountain Province, the municipality of Tadian will be holding its "Ayyoweng Di Lambak Ed Tadian" on March 5 to 8.

According to Dick Turtem, of the mayor's office, it will be the first time that their usual town fiesta will be celebrated as a festival. It will also be a way of enhancing the socio-economic development of Tadian and the production of its local products.

Lined-up activities include chants and rituals performance, chant competition, exhibits, cultural presentations, indigenous games, field demonstrations, and an indigenous street parade which will be participated by the 19 barangays of Tadian.

In the same forum, Molintas also promoted other upcoming events around the region, such as the First Mt. Tabayok Trudge in the municipality of Kabayan, Benguet on February 14 to 15, the 61st Foundation Day of Barangay Tinongdan, Itogon on February 13 - 15 and the "Anitap Festival Ed Kapangan" on March 14 to 18. ****Lito Dar/PIA**

City adopts planning framework

BAGUIO CITY – The planning process of the city government is expected to improve with the adoption of the development planning framework by the city’s executive and legislative departments and the City Development

Council. The framework spells out the strategies, direction and time frame of the planning process for the city development strategy to make it more effective and efficient.

It covers the planning processes for the formulation of crucial development plans for the city particularly the Annual Investment Plan, the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), the Medium-term Development Plan (MTDP) and the Local Development Investment Plan (LDIP).

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Tax amnesty on real property only up to march 2

BAGUIO CITY – Real property owners with unpaid taxes have only until March 2 to avail of the amnesty on penalties on arrears.

M a y o r Reynaldo Bautista Jr. encouraged taxpayers to avail of this privilege which grants a

“general amnesty” to real property taxpayers who are delinquent in the payment of real property taxes as of December 31, 2007.

The mayor Thursday also bared plans to effect a moratorium on increases in tax

rates for real property to avoid giving more burden to taxpayers in view of the economic problem being experienced worldwide.

The mayor however said he is still keen on pursuing an increase in the schedule of garbage and market fees as these are now outdated.

The amnesty on real property surcharges was granted by virtue of

Cont. on page 11

Search on for centennial women leaders

BAGUIO CITY – The search is on for centennial women leaders in the city.

Unlike in the previous years, when the search was open to female Baguio residents of legal ages, this year’s quest will focus on women achievers who are at least 70 years old.

This is in line with the celebration of the city’s centennial anniversary this year.

“Having aligned this year’s celebration with the centennial year of Baguio,

the search is thus focused on elderly women leaders from various sectors who have made an impact in the city’s history particularly in terms of their significant involvement and contribution towards its development,” the steering committee for the Women’s Month Celebration headed by Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda announced.

A nominee

must still be living residing either in the city or abroad. She must be recognized as a symbol do woman leader in her specific field of work (can be in any sector such as education, business and



TIME TO CONSERVE - ABC president and Councilor Joel Alangsab calls on his colleagues to support the national efficiency and conservation program and help conduct community-wide level information and dissemination activities with the advocacy and practice of oil energy, electric efficiency and conservation for the city during the monthly meeting of the city’s Punong Barangays last Feb. 6./By Bong Cayabyab

trade, culture and arts, medical, environmental, legal service, media, entertainment, public service, socio-civic, sports and humanitarian or

charity work); must have played a significant role in the promotion of the general welfare and development of the city; must not have been

found guilty and convicted of any administrative or criminal offense.

The search program which will culminate with the awarding program

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