



THE WEEKEND JUNCTION

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

Pahayagang palaban!!! Frost Damage In Highlands Reach P8M But No Worry Yet



By Artemio A. Dumlao

La Trinidad, Benguet. Frost damages on vegetable farms in in northern Benguet, the country vegetable salad bowl and nearby Mountain Province towns have reached at the most P8 million.

Though officials insist there is nothing to worry because affected areas are isolated, agriculture department officials place the damage of frost bite at P8,152,037.00.

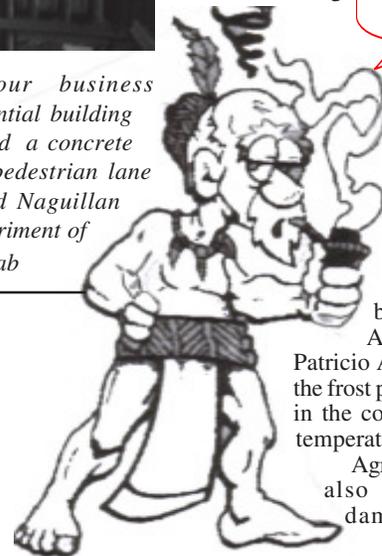
At least 614.08 metric tons, mostly potato tuber plants, were initially discovered to have been affected in Tublay, Atok and Buguias towns in Benguet and Bauko town in Mountain Province, said Department of Agriculture assistant regional director Gerry Baliang.

He however insists that frost in Atok town, which according

Nahihilig yata tayo sa P500-M na suhol ah!

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TOTAL INVASION. Four business establishment and a residential building encroached and constructed a concrete wall totally blocking the pedestrian lane along Bokawkan Road and Naguillan Road intersection to the detriment of the public.— Bong Cayabyab



to mayor Concepcion Balao has recorded a P1 million damage, has only affected barangays Cattubo and Paoay, the towns highest peaks and not the whole of the town.

DA-Cordillera Agri-business and Marketing Assistance Division chief Patricio Annanayo also said that the frost phenomenon will worsen in the coming days because the temperature had risen.

Agriculture officials in CAR also is complacent that damages might not rise

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DIRETSAHAN

Mga Kupitanes, SK, LTO at iba pa...

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



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THEPEACECOMBATANT

Reviving the anti-subversion law will worsen not stifle insurgency

BY ARTURO BOQUIREN



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Public school teachers feed the poorest of their kids

Public school teachers may not be comparatively well-paid, but that's not the reason they took on the noble profession. Still, they do subscribe to Mother Theresa's advice: If you can't feed a hundred, feed one.

They can't feed a thousand this yuletide so, last Wednesday, they fed 98 of the poorest of their kids in the elementary grades. More than double that figure, as - with the blessings and support of mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. and Rep. Mauricio Domogan - they invited the kids' parents, too.

"We're very honored and happy to be part of this program," the mayor told the teachers and the pupil-beneficiaries chosen for the city schools' "Tuloy ang Pasko ng mga Bata" at the division office.

"Instead of a party among themselves, they (teachers) decided to share it," Bautista said. "You've opened up your hearts to the children," he told the teachers. "Mabuti na lang marami kayong mother dito," he told the kids.

Guided by city schools superintendent, Dr. Ellen Donato, the teachers, through the Baguio City Association of Supervisors and School Heads headed by Dr. Elma Donaal, pooled some P15,000 for the annual project.

With the amount, they purchased groceries which they packed into 98 bags for the sharing session they began last year. Dr. Donato also made sure the snacks of the kids and their parents who came were enough.

Among the children who came was fifth grader Charmaine Biogan of the SPED Center who came with Grace, her widowed mother. The child, one of three young siblings, lost her father Elmer last April 27.

Elmer, a jeepney driver plying the route to Mines View, fought cancer for over a year. He went that far with support from expatriates Freddie de Guzman and Irwin Ilustre, both based in Canada, and a woman who survived cancer and is now raising her daughter in Kentucky.

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City taps bocaps in rationalizing vendors' x'mas exodus

Baguio City - City managers had their gray matter jog the extra mile last week solving the million dollar question: "How do you rationalize illegal vending in the Central Business District (CBD), notoriously known to be chaotic since time immemorial?"

After a series of meetings with CBD barangay chiefs, a team of city officials finally firmed up general plan, now Administrative Order

05, series of 2007, to snowball the city's anti-vending campaign in the CBD while keeping a "humanitarian dimension" in dealing with hawkers.

Preceding mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr.'s official pronouncement to ban hawkers in CBD's tourist-frequented areas last week, city administrator Peter Fianza and his "lean but mean" team firmed up plans for

the Yuletide vendors' unofficial fiesta.

The team especially tasked by Bautista to come up with an anti-vending strategy included Fianza, Public Order and Safety Division chief Gregorio Deligero and CBD police substation head P/C Insp. Englebert Soriano.

In a field where "mice far outnumber the cats a thousand to one," they suggested to call in the newly installed cavalry of reserves -

Barangay officials known as the "ABC from the CBD."

After the mayor's officially declared "war" against the oily hawkers' army, "heroes" willingly joined the team "without less for their own limbs." The battle: "bring back the unspoiled CBD that made Baguio popular to yuletide revelers."

The heroes group included

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Analysts cite OWWA fetters in protecting OFWs

MANILA (OFW Journalism Consortium)—TWO Filipino-American analysts cited imbalanced services and weak state capacity as some of the factors fettering the Philippine government's welfare fund in protecting the country's economic heroes.

"In the Philippines, where one in 12 people is a migrant and where everyone has a relationship to migration in one way or another, managing institutions like OWWA [Overseas Workers Welfare Administration] can be inherently

difficult," Dovelyn Rannveig Agunias and Neil G. Ruiz said in their paper

"Protecting Overseas Workers: Lessons and Cautions from the Philippines".

Agunias of the Washington, DC-based Migration Policy Institute and Ruiz of The Brookings

Institution would present their 32-paged paper this December 18.

Based on their interviews with "several high-level government officials and migrants' organizations, as well as on an analysis of several data sources on the welfare and protection services available to overseas

workers," Agunias and Ruiz said challenges remain in making a welfare fund like OWWA work.

"A welfare fund has to find the right balance of services, create meaningful partnerships, build strong state capacity, and actively involve

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SEE NO JUETENG, HEAR NO JUETENG, SPEAK NO JUETENG



THE JUNCTION

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JUETENG

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The Junction- OIC

Interview project triggers support to kid battling bone cancer

When assigned to do a videotape interview as a team project in research, three second year students of the University of Baguio Science High wanted to get an insight on the plight of two cancer patients.

So 14-year olds Matthew Pearson, Laica Pantaleon and Jillian Ang, all of II-Ecologists, asked Marivic Bugasto, head of Minda's Buddies, a cancer support group, to recommend who they could interview. Marivic suggested two, including Ericka Madriaga, a 10-year old girl stricken with bone cancer.

"I recommended Ericka as her prognosis was and remains good," Marivic, herself a cancer survivor, said of the kid from Loakan-Liwanag barangay.

With the interview set, the students met and formulated questions with sensitivity. They made sure these didn't sound intrusive yet would be able to draw out the thoughts and feelings of the patients about how the big C was impacting on their lives.

Soon, the film was rolling, with Matthew behind the

camera and Laica and Jillian fielding the queries.

They learned Ericka is the second of three kids of a seamstress from Loakan Liwanag Barangay. They learned she needed one more session to complete her six-cycle chemotherapy.

As they listened to Ericka, Matthew said, he saw his classmates losing their composure as interviewers. Laica and Jillian were starting to fight off tears as Ericka talked of her pain, fears and hopes.

"The girl said she can't walk, can't go to school and that

her family has been affected financially and emotionally by her ailment," Matthew recalled.

By the time the interview was over, the students felt they had to do something beyond accomplishing and submitting a class requirement. By the time they showed the interview clip, they were convinced it would spur their class - and the whole UBSHS - to action.

With the blessings of school principal Dionisio Nisperos, the students started collecting empty bottles and old newspapers which they turned into

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Glitter and glam, should be! The fanfare during Saturday's ceremonial lighting of the 60 year old natural Christmas Tree at the foot of Session Road was indeed shortlived. After several hours, On Sunday night, the lighted christmas tree's glimmer is nowhere seen by supposed Baguio promenaders.-- Artemio A. Dumlao

x'mas in baguio activities peak

BAGUIOCITY - "Christmas in Baguio," the city's calendar of Christmas activities peaks this week as the city joins the whole Christendom in heralding the birth of Jesus Christ.

Mayor Reynaldo Bautista Jr. said the traditional Simbang Gabi continues in the various churches here until the eve of Christmas. A midnight mass will be held at the Baguio Convention Center and in other churches in the city.

Also a continuing activity from Dec. 16-24 will be the Carolling Caravan. On Dec. 24, the Noche Buena Alay sa

Barangay will take place.

On Christmas Day, the annual Quest for Lucky Christmas Baby will again be launched.

A free film showing will be held at the various cinemas beginning on December 26.

On December 28, the Sarah Geronimo concert will be staged at 8 p.m. at the Baguio Country Club.

On December 29, the Albergo Hall Opening with a Romantic Musical Evening will be staged at 6 p.m..

The Baguio Lucky Balikbayan Day Specials will be held on December 30 with activities starting at 7 a.m.

On New Year's Eve, a mass will again be said at the Baguio

Convention Center to be followed by a New Year's Eve Dinner and Ball with fireworks.

The 111th celebration of Rizal Day on December 30 will be marked with a short but meaningful program at the Bantayog ni Rizal, Liwasang Burnham at 7 a.m with the theme, "Isaisip at Isapuso ang Paggunita ng Kabayanihan ni Rizal" with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as guest.

The program will have three parts: the giving of honors to the President; the flag-raising ceremonies and wreath offering; and the ceremonial exit of the President.

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Three guns a day seized by CIDG in Ilocos region

Camp Diego Silang, La Union . Imagine! Three guns a day being seized in Ilocos Region?

Scoring huge successes against loose firearms and private armed groups in the Ilocos provinces, accordingly the bastion of hired guns in the Northern provinces, operatives of the Ilocos region Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) beam of flying colors for year 2007.

An average of three firearms were seized daily in nononsense unrelenting 11-month operations

conducted in Bolabola, regional Pangasinan, La chief of the CIDG. Union, Ilocos Sur and Operatives of Ilocos Norte, said the elite police unit Senior Supt. Marvin Cont. on page 10

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

Broken Piggy Bank

Surprise! The P3,233,104,173.13, that the anti-graft court found stashed, in the notorious Jose Velarde account, after a five year trial, has dwindled to only P2,770.69.

Despite the court's finding, ousted President Joseph Estrada lawyers now say: "Sorry, we've already stashed away the P3.2 billion," Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio fumed. "But you're welcome to take the P2,000."

Opened with a one peso deposit, the "Jose Velarde" account ballooned to P3,233,104,173.13 in just a year. Estrada claimed Velarde was his crony Jaime Dichavez (who skipped town ahead of the cops without leaving a forwarding address.) Nonsense, said the court. The trial proved Estrada masqueraded as Jose Velarde. Thus, the P3.2 billion should be forfeited.

Many knowledgeable observers have long cautioned: Jose

EDITORIAL

Velarde (a.k.a. Joseph Estrada) would hurriedly

draw down that account, after the plunder trial followed impeachment. And so it came to pass.

"Erap and his over-extended family had all of May 1998 to October 2007 to launder that money, (and) anything else ill-gotten the Ombudsman had not uncovered (yet)," noted the New York blog: "My National Disaster: the Republic of the Philippines" ..

"Erap emptied those accounts long before conviction, and transferred them to...who knows?," blog author ex-PCCG commissioner Ruben Carranza wrote. "It could be any of five mistresses. Or the San Juan-sized community of children he sired. There (was) enough plundered money to go around."

Naisahan nanaman ang Pinoy. Are ordinary taxpayers, like us, stranded with an empty bag again? The Marcoses, for example, funneled funds to shell foundations in Lichtenstein, Bahamas, etc. Assets were secreted in the name of cronies, like Lucio Tan, claim Imee and Ferdinand Marcos Jr. The PCCG, under the late Haydee Yorac, tracked down \$846 million but the rest hasn't been recovered. Nonetheless, Imelda gushed in an Inquirer interview. "Why, we own practically all of the Philippines."

For short term political gains, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and minions unhooked Estrada, then twisting in the wind. "Noche Buena, at the Estradas, was always fun," chortled Interior Secretary Ronaldo Pono, as Malacañang rushed pardon papers.

Ignored were nitty-gritty items: settling of civil liabilities, time frames, etc. Nor was there careful study of consequences. Above all, prisioneros olvidados - those who lacked clout - were forgotten, Catholic Bishops Conference president Angel Lagdameo worried..

Estrada insists Malacañang gave absolute pardon. Yes, yes, yes, murmurs Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. Thus, he can launder what the court declared ill-gotten? But Malacañang and the Solicitor General hedge, claiming the pardon was conditional. So, what is this animal exactly?

The muddling does not change the stark fact of emptied bank accounts. "Bank documents show, without doubt, that the Boracay Mansion was purchased by money withdrawn from Jose Velarde's account in the amount of P142 million," the court said.

But Boracay Mansion, also ordered seized, has been cannibalized.

Kung sino ang nagmamadali, ay siyang naglululat," the Pilipino proverb says. "He who hurries is delayed." The murk, however, jacked up the gall of Erap's defense lawyers.

They castigated court and prosecutors. And why? For failing to prevent Erap from hiding stolen money, of all things. "Beforehand, they should have protected accounts subject to this case," defense counsel Jose Flaminiano pontificated. "They should have anticipated events like this."

But they did. Back in 2003, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo sought Urban Bank records of Jose Victor Ejercito. Sandiganbayan for example, found that from Urban Bank trust account number 858, Ejercito funneled P182 million into the Velarde account. Estrada's personal secretary, Lucena "Baby" Ortaliza deposited almost one billion pesos for a then shadowy Jose Velarde.



DIRETSAHAN

*Mga Kupitanes, SK,
LTO at iba pa...*

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Sa Disyembre disi sais ng madalng araw, gugulantangin na tayo mga suki ng kalampag ng kampana sa simbahan... at iduduyan tayo sa ipapatugtog na mga awiting pamasko sa mga simbahan... simula na kase ng SIMBANG GABI sa petsang nabanggit.

Sa simbahan, doon ay makakakita ng mga taong totoo at hindi... ay min yung mga taong nagdarasal at mga nagdadasal dasalan...

Siguradong marami na namang politiko ang ngpapaka santo santito... siguro ay nagdarasal kay Lord na patawarin sila sa kanilang pinagagawang kabalbalan sa bayan.. o humihingi ng dagdag na biyaya mula sa kaban ng bayan!!

Paalala lamang mga suki... konting ingat at marami na naman ang mapagsamantalang nga mandurukot at isnatser...

Huwag din kalilimutan na magsuot ng sweater o jacket... mahirap ng magkasakit at mahal ngayon ang gamot!!! MALIGAYANG PAGSISIMBANG GABI!!!

ooOoo

May "KABABALAGHAN" daw na nangyari sa nakaraang eleksyon ng Sangguniang Kabataan Federation sa Baguio. Tootoo kaya ito o kagagawan lamang ng mga naghihimutok na mga "TALUNAN"

Tig-isang Cellphone na may camera at P 6,000.00 "CASH" daw ang "DEAL" sa mga "SK" at kanilang nga "KUPITANES" este.. mga "KAPITANES" pala! Hanep at talaga rin namang "BIG DEAL!" "Nakakatempt" talaga!

Ang problema... puros lamang yata kiyaw kiyaw ang alegasyon... walang maipakitang pruwera sa publiko! O kaya ay magpila sila ng protesta o petisyon sa COMELEC, DILG o sa korte...

...At least, mayroong "TAPANG" at paninindigan ang nga batang nagsipagsigaw na may dayaang nangyari, kahit mabibilang mo lang sila sa daliri ay nagmartsa at nag rally para malaman ng publiko ang kanilang "HINAING"!

...Sana ay hindi sila diniktahan o inimpluwensyahan ang kani kanilang mga magulang ... at hindi "NAGHIHIMUTOK" lamang!

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

Reviving the anti-subversion law will worsen not stifle insurgency

BY ARTURO BOQUIREN



The Philippine press is reporting that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo seeks to revive the anti-subversion law. Whoever has been making the advice is doing a great disservice to the nation. Reviving the anti-subversion law will only worsen not stop insurgency. This is one lesson that can be learned from history: the more autocratic or undemocratic a government is, the more intense the opposition and the stronger the insurgency.

The fact is easy to see during the rule of former President Ferdinand Marcos. Marcos deprived the Filipinos of their civil liberties and moved to strengthen the implementation of the anti-subversion law but the act only worsened insurgency and the number of revolutionaries increased by so many times.

Under Corazon Aquino, the anti-subversion law was not repealed and yet the peace talks between the government and revolutionaries served as de facto relaxation of the anti-subversion law. **Insurgents decreased rather than increased** under the policy of the Aquino government to explore the possibilities for peace.

Although military hard-liners continued to bomb suspected revolutionary bases (simultaneously serving as a pressure on government to take a more hard-line stance on insurgents) during the Aquino government, **the overall effect of the Aquino government's policy of tolerance did not result to a stronger insurgent movement**. On the contrary, **the Aquino government's policy of tolerance effectively removed from a number of revolutionaries the perspective of sustaining their revolutionary and underground careers and paved the way for many of them to dropout from revolutionary organizations**.

Under the government of President Ramos, we also saw tolerance. In fact, President Ramos has this distinction that is not possessed by other Philippine presidents: in many instances, President Ramos faced and tried to hold dialogues with demonstrators even at the risk of being rained with tomatoes and other objects. Leftists call him fascists but President Ramos as a "fascist" had been very keen with dialoguing with the left (some prefer to call the dialogues as psyops or psychological operations). Did revolutionaries grow much during his policy of relative tolerance? Not much.

Sure, even if the revolutionary left is relatively small today, the sector can be a threat to government in the future. In the history of many countries, left groups had been small for some time but grew by several hundred-folds when a revolutionary situation emerge.

But why let a revolutionary situation emerge in the first place? Why not address some or many of the advocacies of revolutionaries? Many of them do not appear to be harmful anyway: land for the farmers, "nationalist" industrialization, and reforms in the educational system.

Having nothing of the anti-subversion law works better in reducing the number of "subversive" elements in the Philippines. But of course, addressing the roots of insurgency works best.

ooOoo

Last Friday, 14 December 2007, I had the privilege to be with Benguet Governor Nestor Fongwan and La Trinidad Mayor Artemio Galwan in a victory party at the Puguis Communal Forest. The victory party was held to express community jubilation on the Supreme Court decision that affirms the status of the Puguis Communal Forest as a communal forest. In the party, around sixty guests joined the Puguis Barangay in their celebration of victory. The guests joined the community in affirming their commitment to sustainable development as well as in the protection of the communal forest.

The Puguis Communal Forest had been declared as a communal forest in 1922 during the American occupation. However, in the last several decades, it has been a subject of competing claims until Barangay

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MOSH PIT

Vain Pinoys – the country's next generation

BY GRACE BANDOY



Five years from now, Filipinos will no longer look like typical *pinoys*. We will all look more Chinese or maybe Korean than Filipino, because five years from now, our brown/*morena* skin is a goner, majority of us will all be looking like Snowwhite— what with all the *punyetang* whitening products flooding our markets.

Whitening soap, facial cream, vitamins, lotion, astringents, whitening everything!...really, it's becoming vain and totally ridiculous. Why would we want whiter, fairer skin?! I don't get it. Whatever happened to being happy and content with your own skin? Appreciating what God has given us?

It seems we hate the brown skin gifted to us by the Almighty, we hate it so much that we will resort to all sorts of tricks to change the color of our skin.

And there's more to our newfound *pinoys* vanity – all the plastic surgeries readily available for those who can afford!

Nose lifts, laser surgeries to remove all the skin imperfections in our bodies, breast enhancements, liposuctions to strip off unsightly body fats, butt implants, fake eyelashes to enhance one's eyes, lip fatteners, botox to eliminate age lines in the face, hair colors – I can go on and on.

Pinoys of the future will all look like Barbie dolls and they will all look alike – they will all look perfect!!

But when they give birth to their sons and daughters, the REAL and *pinoys*-based genes will manifest in their children.

Just how do you explain it to your kid when he asks you why he's mud-skinned when his parents have white flawless skin?! Or why he has such a flat nose when his parents have long, perfect noses?!

Eh di napahiya kayo?!

We should not succumb to all these vanities that westerners are fond of, we're a third world country for Christ's sake?! Countries who are addicts of plastic surgeries include the world's richest nations – U.S., Japan, South Korea, some European countries and then the Philippines?! What the hell!

We should be more concerned with the task of fighting poverty and corruption in our country than making Vicky Belo fifty times richer that she already is!!

There are things worth wasting our time, money and thoughts for. Let's put our vanities to rest and be happy with how we TRULY look like because no matter what we do, we can never ever ever look like Paris Hilton or be as hot as Angelina Jolie.

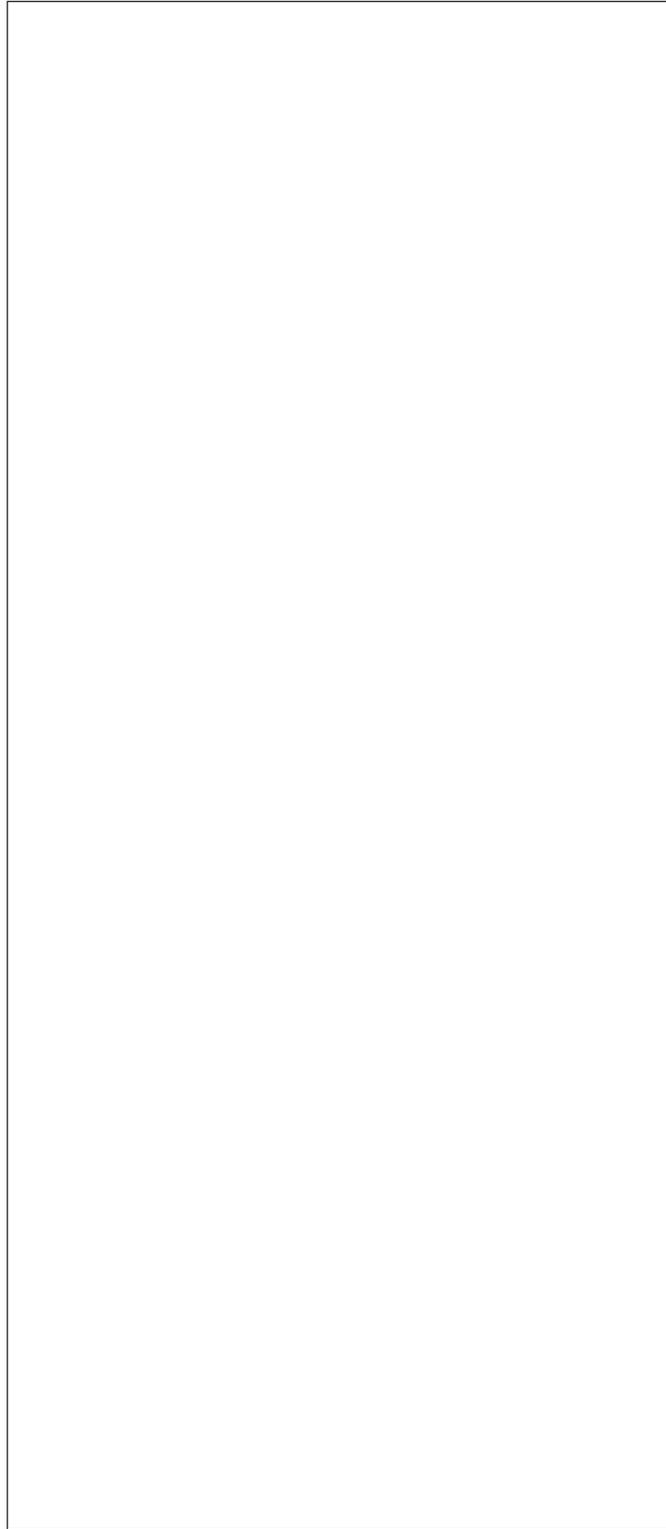
I know it has been said a trillion times already that inner beauty is what really matters than the superficial appearance of a person, BUT if you really think about it and take it to heart, you will live a happier and fuller life - because if you realize this, you will no longer waste your whole life desperately wanting and finding ways to look perfect on the outside.

I mean sure, looking like you just sprung out from a fashion magazine will probably give you unwarranted attention and some self-esteem and maybe loads of men or women swooning at your feet but are these the things that really matter the most?! If that is your ultimate goal in life – attract attention, build your ego and fish out as many admirers as you can then you should probably stop reading this now, but c'mon there must be something more significant in life than all this bullshit about looking gorgeous and being vain about it.

I may sound like some old grumpy old woman here but all these commercials telling us we don't matter if we don't have perfect flawless skin and if we were fat and if we look older than our age is really really making me so sick to my stomach I have reached maximum

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Dad wants waste segregation suspended

BAGUIO CITY – The city council has approved on first reading the proposed resolution of Councilor Isabelo Cosalan Jr. urging Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. to suspend the implementation of the ‘no segregation-no collection of garbage’ policy from December 19, 2007 to January 2, 2008.

“It is the clamor of the public to prioritize the cleanliness of the City especially during this yuletide season when the influx of tourists and visitors increases and the volume of garbage doubles,” Cosalan explained.

The alderman stressed that temporarily suspending the policy would avoid the unsightly heaps of garbage particularly within the central business district and tourism sites since all garbage would then be regularly collected.

He added that it is also the City’s responsibility to protect the public from health hazards that may arise due to the uncollected garbage during this peak season.

Once approved, the City Environment and Parks

Management Office would then be tasked to regularly collect all kinds of garbage during the suspension of the policy. Meanwhile, Vice Mayor Daniel Fariñas penned a proposal recommending the creation of a committee to study the possibility of privatizing the garbage collection in Baguio.

This stemmed from observations that despite the efforts of the local government together with various non-government and private organizations, the City is far from realizing the “zero-waste” vision due to several constraints.

“A privatized garbage collection would also allow the City to prepare for the full implementation of its 10-year solid waste management plan and the purchase of additional garbage trucks and material recovery facilities (MRFs),” Fariñas said.

Further, such undertaking would provide the City ample time to conduct massive information and education campaign on proper waste segregation./Dan Ricky Ong

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

JESUS C. BAYAWA, Mortgagee,

-versus-

SPS. PATRICIO COFOLAN, JR. and EDITH COFOLAN,

X-----X

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. 07-ExF-1238

FOR: EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended, filed by JESUS C. BAYAWA, herein referred to as the Mortgagee against SPS. PATRICIO COFOLAN, JR. and EDITH COFOLAN, both of legal age, Filipino citizens, and with residence and postal address at Kapunga, Tubay, Benguet, herein referred to as the Mortgagors. On October 13, 2004, respondents executed a Deed of Real Estate Mortgage over the property covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-51094 of the Office of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Benguet, together with all the improvements existing thereon, to secure a loan of THREE HUNDRED

SEVENTY THOUSAND (P370,000.00) PESOS, which was amended on January 30, 2007, with respondents executing a Renewal and Amendment of real Estate Mortgage to indicate the total indebtedness which as of the filing of the petition amount FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY FIVE THOUSAND (P555,000.00) PESOS, Philippine Currency, representing the principal obligation but excluding interest, penalties, attorney's fees and charges incidental to the foreclosure proceedings.

That the undersigned or any duly authorized sheriff will SELL at public auction on DECEMBER 27, 2007 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in front of the Benguet Justice Hall, (Bulwagan ng Katarungan), Justice Hill, La Trinidad, Benguet, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine currency, the hereunder described real property, including any and all improvements found therein.

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-51094 (Registry of Deeds-Province of Benguet)

"A parcel of land (Lot D -2-k of the subdivision plan (LRC) Psd-38763), being a portion of Lot D-2, LRC Psd-21407, LRC Record No. _____), situated in the Barrio of Kapunga, Municipality of Tublay, Sub-province of Benguet, Mt. Province, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the NE., points 1 to 2 by Lot C Psd- 16825; on the SE., points 2 to 3 by Lot D-2-J on the

SW., points 3 to 4 by Lot D-2-ZZ; and on the NW., points 4 to 1 by Lot D-2-L; all of the subdivision plan. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being S. 8 deg. W., 2119m. From B.L.B.M no. 1, Kapanga, Tublay, Benguet; Thence x x x x x containing an area of TWO HUNDRED FORTY (240) SQUARE METERS, more or less." (Pls. see complete technical description of TCT No. T-51094 of the Registry of Deeds of Benguet).

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

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

X-----X

La Trinidad, Benguet, This 26th day of November, 2007.

FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHERIFFS EX-OFFICIO OF BENGUET

BY: GREGORIO G. TADEO Sheriff IV

December 1, 8 and 15, 2007

Republic of the Philippines REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH 9 (FAMILY COURT FOR BENGUET) FIRST JUDICIAL REGION La Trinidad, Benguet

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR THE CORRECTION OF GENDER IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH AND

INCLUSION OF THE PLACE AND DATE OF THE MARRIAGE OF THE PARENTS OF JOAN M. PASIGON,

JOAN PASIGON, Petitioner,

-Versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF KIBUNGAN, BENGUET AND THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE Respondents.

SPECIAL PROCEEDING CASE 07-C-1447

X-----X

ORDER

Petitioner, through counsel, filed this verified petition praying that after the notice, publication and hearing, the court orders the Local Civil Registrar of Kibungan, Benguet to correct the following in her Certificate of Live Birth as follows:

GENDER: from MALE to FEMALE

PLACE AND DATE OF MARRIAGE OF PARENTS be entered as

P L A C E : K I B U N G A N , BENGUET DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 1981

WHEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the court sets it for hearing on March 26, 2008 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning before the Session Hall of this Court, Capitol, La Trinidad, Benguet and all persons interested may appear and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in the JUNCTION, a newspaper of general circulation in the Baguio City and Benguet Province, once a week, for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made not later than December 9, 2007.

Furnish copies hereof together with a copy of the petition and its annexes to the Office of the Solicitor General, Makati City, Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet; the Local Civil Registrar of Kibungan, Benguet; the Junction; the petitioner and her counsel.

SO ORDERED.

This 6th day of December 2007 at La Trinidad, Benguet

(sgd.) MARYBELLE DEMOT MARINAS Pairing Judge

December 8, 15 and 22, 2007

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF SHARE

That an Extra Judicial Settlement Of Estate With Waiver Of Share was entered into by Claudio R. Miranda, Vonczar V. Miranda, Vonalpha V. Miranda and Vonreza V. Miranda all of legal ages, Filipinos and Heirs of Azucena V. Miranda (deceased). Entered into the Notarial Registry of Atty. Jenry B. Salming this 26th day of November 2007 at Baguio City Philippines, with Doc. No. 14, Page No. 3, Book No. V, Series of 2007

December 15, 22 and 29, 2007.

Its a tug-o-war. from page 3

October 17 CE was consent election and not a Certification Election (CE). Its coordinator Roger

Balancio filed the protest at the labor department and was received by the office of Mediation Arbiter Sixto Rodriguez on November 21.

But Tulipa claimed that both unions agreed during the November 8 hearing at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to hold a CE. They (L R F E U - NAMA WU - ICEM) insist that it is a consent election to stop the CBA negotiations so they can file another petition for another CE. Even the Lepanto management conceded without the election result as it already scheduled the negotiations, Tulipa claimed.

LEU president Manuel Binhaon Jr. beamed however that the CE results showed the trust and support of the majority of Lepanto workers. The result of the election is the voice of the majority of Lepanto workers and it should be respected, he said.

Binhaon remains hopeful that the management will push through with the 24th CBA negotiations for the benefits and welfare of the mine workers./ Artemio A. Dumlaog

Onli in da filipins... from page 12

Ateneo is where all the nerds go. La Salle is where all the Chinese go.

College of St. Benilde is where all the non-intelligent Chinese go, and University of Asia and the Pacific is where all the irrelevantly rich people go.

Fast food is a diet meal.

Traffic signs are merely suggestions, not regulations.

Where being mugged is normal. It happens to everyone.

Rodents are normal house pets.

The definition of traffic is the 'non-movement' of vehicles.

Where the fighter planes of the 1940s are used for military engagements, and the new fighter planes are displayed in museums.

Where cigarettes and alcohol are a necessity, and where the lottery is a commodity.

Where soap operas tell the realities of life and where the news provides the drama.

Where actors make the rules and where politicians provide the entertainment.

People can get away with stealing trillions of pesos, but not a thousand.

Where being an hour late is still considered punctual.

("Grabe talaga 'to!" The following is plain ludicrous:) Where the squatters have more to complain (even if they do not pay their taxes) — than those employed and have their taxes automatically deducted from their

salaries.... and where everyone wants to leave the country!

F I L I P I N O
S I G N S O F W I T:

The sign in a flower shop in Diliman called Petal Attraction; a 24-hour restaurant called Doris Day & Night;

Barber shop called: Felix The Cut; a bakery named Bread Pitt and another, Anita Bakery; food place selling 'maruya' (banana fritters) called Maruya Carey.

Then, there are C h r i s t o p h e r Plumbing; a boutique called The Way We Wear; a video rental shop called Leon King Video Rental; a restaurant in the Cainta called Caintacky Fried Chicken; a local burger restaurant called Mang Donald's; a doughnut shop called MacDonuts; a shop selling 'lumpia' (egg roll) in Makati called Wrap and Roll; and two butcher shops called Meating Place and Meatropolis.

Smart travelers can decipher what may look like baffling signs to unaccustomed foreigners by simply sounding out the 'Taglish' (the Philippine version of English words spelled and pronounced with a heavy Filipino such as, at a restaurant menu in Cebu: 'We hab sopdrink in can an in batol' [translation: We have soft drinks in can and in bottle].

Then, there is a sewing accessories shop called: Bids And Pises [translation: Beads and Pieces — or— Bits and Pieces].

There are also many signs with either badly chosen or! misspelled words, but they are usually so entertaining that it would be a mistake to 'correct' them like.....

In a restaurant in Baguio City, the 'summer capital' of the Philippines:

'Wanted: Boy Waitress'; on a highway in Pampanga:

'We Make Modern Antique Furniture;' on the window of a photography shop in Cabanatuan: 'We Shoot You While You Wait'; and on the glass front of a cafe in Panay Avenue in Manila: 'Wanted: Waiter, Cashier, Washier.'

Some of the notices can even give a wrong impression, such as, a shoe store in Pangasinan which has a sign saying: 'We Sell Imported Robber Shoes' (these could be the 'sneakiest' Sneakers, eh!); and a rental property sign in Jaro, reads: 'House For Rent, Fully Furnaced' (it must really be hot inside)!

Occasionally, one could come across signs that are truly unique—if not altogether odd.

City in southern Philippines, which said: 'Adults: 1 peso; Child: 50 centavos; Cadavers: fare subject to negotiation.' European tourists may also be intrigued to discover two competing shops selling hopia (a Chinese pastry) called Holland Hopia and Poland Hopia, which are owned and operated by two local Chinese entrepreneurs, Mr. Ho and Mr. Po

Ifugao DepEd to reduce dropouts

L A G A W E , Ifugao-Considering education as a tool for a long term program to reduce poverty, the Department of Education (DEPED) here conducted a planning session to come up with alternatives to minimize or even eradicate school dropouts.

C a r o l i n e Ponhed, Teacher In Charge (TIC) of the Ayangan National High School (ANHS)-Annex in Barangay Caba here said that school heads both in the elementary and high school all over the province will participate in the Preparation School Drop Out Reduction Plan (PSDORP) to be conducted in three batches from December 10 – 19.

Dubbed as S e c o n d a r y S c h o o l i n g Alternative (SSA), the activity aims to draft a plan to address drop out cases. "The

participants will be trained to implement alternatives in order to reduce this predicament not only of teachers but also parents as well," Ponhed said.

Implemented in 2005 in six pilot schools where cases of drop outs are high, the program would like to find out the factors or causes of absences. The six pilot schools were Ayangan National High School - Annex, Hingyon NHS Main; Pinto NHS-Main; Haliap NHS-Annex B; Kiangan NHS; Tinoc NHS-main.

She also disclosed that after a year of implementation, four more schools, Pinto NHS - Annex; Aguinaldo NHS; Namillangan NHS and Hapid NHS, were included to the six original SSA schools.

Based on their records, the distance from the school to their homes are often the causes of said

dropouts. Poverty is also a reason. "The students were absent just to earn a living," she said.

Other reasons cited are peer influence, presence of recreational activities in the vicinity and television.

Having the highest dropouts which is 8% in 2005, Ponhed said that last year they have already 0 drop out because she involved all the stakeholders like the barangay tanods who strictly implemented barangay ordinances prohibiting recreation activities during school hours and for parents to help monitor the activities of their children.

If all stakeholders are supportive to this program then for sure it will be effective, Ponhed said./Vency D. Bulayungan/PIA-Ifugao

respectively — (believe it or not)!

Some folks also 'creatively' redesign English to be more efficient.

"The creative confusion between language and culture leads to more than just simple unintentional errors in syntax, but in the adoption of new words," says reader Robert Goodfellow, who came across a sign 'House Fersallarend' (house for sale or rent). Why use five words when two will do?!

According to M a n i l a b u s i n e s s m a n ,

Tonyboy Ongsiako, there is so much wit in the Philippines because '... we are a country where a good sense of humor is needed to survive. We have a 24-hour comedy show here called the government

and a huge reserve of comedians made up mostly of politicians and bad actors.

Now I ask you where else in the world would one want to live? n o m a r s d i v a d @ yahoo.com

MP tops... from page 11

achievement to the continued cooperation, partnership and commitment of the local officials and other stakeholders in pursuing programs that would further better the lives of children and women. The Chief Executive, however, said much still needs to be done to sustain the program and improve the concerns that were poorly rated.

Aside from Alipui, recognizing the child-friendly governance in the province is New Zealand Ambassador David Pine. The New Zealand government provides some funds for the CPC 6 in Mt. Province through UNICEF./Andrew Doga-ong/PIA-MP

Frost.. from page 1

any more because of the pattern of the weather as advised by PAGASA, though Atok town is asking the weather bureau to install a weather forecasting center in the town.

Government weather specialist from the PAGASA-Baguio Salvador Olinares also said that they do not think mercury levels will drop further in Baguio and the rest of the highlands including northern Benguet. Tumaas na temperature natin (to a minimum of 14-15 degree celcius), he said, comparing it to the December 1 drop to 10.4, the lowest so far since the chill was felt in Baguio and Benguet and the same days when frost was experienced in Atok, Mankayan, Kibungan towns, all in northern Benguet.

Friday temperature was recorded by PAGASA at 14.8 degrees. There is also a tendency that mercury levels will rise further but will definitely drop in January again, Olinares said.

Now, the temperature is ranging from 15-23 degrees in Baguio and Benguet with an average of 18 degrees daily.

Chillier in January

PAGASA believes that the chill is felt more in January because the Northeast monsoon (locally known as Amihan) is peaking because of the formation of snow in mainland China and Siberia. The breeze of the snow is brought by the NE monsoon to Northern Luzon, Olinares explained.

The government weatherman also said that the moderate La Niña (wet season) that will be experienced in the coming months may affect weather patterns and temperatures further beyond January.

A 9.0 degrees celcius drop was experienced in Baguio and at the most 5 in northern Benguet in January this year.

On January 18, 1963, Baguio experienced a biting low of 6.3 degrees celcius.

Interview.. from page 3

cash. Daily, they turned in fives and tens from their stipends.

"Laica and Jillian are not here because they're in an outreach project in San Luis Barangay," Matthew said when interviewed last Tuesday about what they did after meeting Ericka.

Matthew himself was in the gym, holding a lighted candle and practicing the carols of the season for UB's annual cantata last Friday evening.

"That was touching, the way these kids reached out to Ericka," Marivic said. "I'm not surprised, however, as their parents have been quietly reaching out to the needy."

Last month, Ericka had her fifth chemo, courtesy of a Baguio-Benguet woman who also survived cancer and now raising her own child in Kentucky, United States.

While the UBSHS students were piling up things for the junkshop,

Irwin Ilustre, a Baguio boy raising his two daughters in Canada, bankrolled Ericka's last chemotherapy last Dec. 6.

That same day, Marivic and volunteers from Minda's Buddies were sprucing up a room of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center where children cancer patients undergo chemotherapy.

"We called it Patch Adams Corner," she said. She was referring to the innovative American doctor who advocates humor in therapy and often comes in as a clown or in outlandish, funny clothes to cheer up his patients.

She got the support of the high school department (regular school) of the Monticello International College in enlivening the otherwise clinical atmosphere of the corner.

Five-year old Gio Retuya, Margaret Calinao

and sisters Anne Drew (7) and Joelle (6), the daughters of mayor Reinaldo and Joy Bautista Jr., parted with their own toys for the corner.

The mayor and his wife then provided the plastic bin and wire mesh stand for the toys.

Early this month, the UBSHS students counted what they had raised - P4,805 - and turned it over to Marivic.

Marivic rounded up the contribution of the students to P5,000, enough for a vial of GRSF, a hormone to stimulate the bone marrow to produce granulocytes and stem cells and speed up recovery from chemotherapy.

"The students' support came just when Ericka needed it," she said, aware one's never too young to make a difference.

Marivic's group was organized a few years back by the late Baguio newshen and artist Noney Padilla Marzan to offer comfort and support to cancer patients and their families.

She was assisted by Dr. Felina Masado-Adefuin, one of Baguio's leading cancer specialists who stood by Noney till the end.

For Noney, one's never too sick to be of help. While battling breast cancer, she spent the last three years of her life looking after children undergoing chemotherapy. She passed on Mother's Day three years ago./Ramon Dacawi.

Mountain.. from page 12

shift from marijuana to cut flowers specifically anthurium as their best yet alternative.

PDEA in collaboration with local government in other provinces are pushing alternatives for farmers and if these programs continue, in 5-10 years, Enmodias said, the marijuana problem is erased./Artemio A. Dumlaog

Public.. from page 2

In the thick of his fight against lymphoma, Charmaine begged off from joining the National Special Olympics early this year. Her teachers and SPED, however, made sure she was in the team. She repaid their investment by contributing three medals in athletics.

After Elmer died, his widow started raising a few pigs, one of which was used in a ritual to mark his passing. With six piglets now, Grace hopes to be able to free the family house of a P70,000 mortgage. And feed and raise her kids./Ramon Dacawi.

City.. from page 2

Punong Barangay Rodolfo Benites (ABCR), Virgilio Manzano (Lower Gen. Luna), Julita Cruz (Kayang-Hilltop), Helen Medina (Harrison-Carantes-Claudio), Zenaida Monteclaro (Session Rd. - Gov. Pack Rd.), William Domogen (Malcolm Square), Marleo Sabado (Rizal Monument), and Benjie Pinlac (AZCKO).

The AO directs concerned Barangay executives, the market superintendent and the City Environment and Parks

Management Office (CEPMO) to come up with vending regulation plans for approval of the committee.

It allows vending from December 20, 2007 up to January 6, 2007 only. Fianza in a separate interview said, "After that, the city will enforce its anti-vending campaign more stringently."

To effectively control vendors while not sacrificing city and barangay coffers, the draft order likewise provided for the payment of barangay clearances and

special permits. A "no permit, no vending" policy shall strictly be implemented.

For humanitarian reasons, vendors shall be allowed to pay permits in 2-installments with the second and final installment due December 28.

"This way," Fianza explained, "we are responding to their clamor for a little slack this yuletide season while providing an avenue for the city to monitor illegal vendors."

"If the submitted plans are

feasible, we could likewise maximize our otherwise inadequate manpower with the help of brangay officials in putting order to the otherwise disorganized vending activities within the CBD," he added.

The order cited Ordinance numbered 006-2001 and Resolutions numbered 353 and 244 as bases for setting up a permissive strategy in accommodating vendors in certain areas downtown.

However, the same order revealed

probable legislative lapses as the ordinance and resolutions allowing vending in certain areas in the CBD violate Article 424 of the Civil Code of the Philippines.

Article 424 lays down the basic principle that "properties of public dominion devoted to public use and made available to the public in general; are outside the commerce of man and cannot be disposed of or leased by the local government unit for private persons./ISL

Analysts.. from page 2

destinations countries," the authors said.

Based on OWWA data, the authors said the agency created in 1980 as Welfare Fund Administration "tilted more toward achieving fund stability" than providing services.

Based on the data the authors gathered, the bulk of OWWA spending last year was for repatriation of overseas Filipino workers and payment of insurance and burial benefits.

Repatriation expenditures formed nearly 14 percent of the agency's spending last year at nearly P170 million. Payment of insurance and for burial benefits formed the second-largest bulk of spending at 12 percent to P155 million.

The OWWA's revenue last year was pegged at P1.3 billion and had total 994,191 members.

However, the authors noted that the bulk of spending for repatriation last year benefited just above a percent or 10,834 OFWs of its total membership. On the other hand, spending for insurance and burial benefits went to less than a percent (1,122 OFWs' claims or 0.11 percent) of the total membership.

Spending

AGUNIAS and Ruiz said that two years ago, OWWA spent only three percent of its fund balance on services.

"This ratio may be interpreted positively or negatively. OWWA may be spending less on services now so more is available for future services to

future members. At the same time, however, it may also mean OWWA is simply under-investing in services," Agunias and Ruiz wrote.

Based on OWWA's latest audited financial statement that the authors used, 644,373 individuals were cited by OWWA as having benefited from their revenue spending.

In that report, OWWA should have provided services to a total 644,373 OFWs or members of their families. Some 2,177 of that are seafarers who were listed as having availed a training program.

The majority of these beneficiaries or 614,697 local and overseas workers were those that OWWA said was "assisted" by its 24-hour call center.

However, the OWWA didn't cite how much it spent or how much this service, as well as for 11,759 OFWs it "assisted" at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, cost.

The OWWA, the authors said, Financial Management System (FMS) "does not allow for itemizing the specific services spent on workers assistance."

Hence, OWWA's total spending of P446.5 million (US\$8.93 million at P50=US\$1) last year went to 29,676 individuals or at P15,044 each on the average.

Trust

AGUNIAS and Ruiz described the OWWA as "essentially a single trust fund pooled from the mandatory US\$25 membership

contributions of foreign employers, land-based and sea-based workers, investment and interest income on these funds, and income from other sources."

In the last five years, OWWA's income averaged P1.9 billion (US\$38 million) per year. Membership fees comprise the great majority of this income (73 percent) while the rest is from investments and other income, according to the authors.

For four years, the authors said OWWA spent more than half of its average annual spending of P0.9 billion to salaries of its employees and other administrative costs rather than on programs and projects.

Categorized as a quasigovernmental entity, it is entirely self-funded and receives no budget allocation from the national government, according to the authors.

"OWWA serves a population of 3.8 million, highly mobile temporary workers scattered in over 190 countries, as well as the families left behind - an enormous task that few governments have even attempted systematically," Agunias and Ruiz wrote.

Citing an interview with administrator Marianito D. Roque, the authors said that OWWA targets to reach a P10-billion income this year.

"Once OWWA surpasses that level, it will be able to spend more on services," the authors quoted Roque as saying.

They added that while such goal makes sense, it has "compromised OWWA's past and present ability to fund welfare services."

Talks

THE two authors would elaborate on their findings in a forum at the Coconut Palace in Manila on December 18, the International Day for the protection of the rights and welfare of migrant workers and their families, as designated by the United Nations.

Advocate and lawyer Ildefonso Bagasao said the authors are expected to help local groups come up with "at least a consensus on action steps regarding these issues that have tugged at us for quite a long while."

Agunias and Ruiz said that other labor-exporting countries should also cull lessons from the OWWA experience as the matter of protection would rear its head in government halls around the world as "temporary migration continues to grow worldwide."

"Temporary migration presents countries of origin with the dilemma of ensuring the protection of their workers abroad," Agunias and Ruiz said.

Cont. on page 9

Protests mar SK Baguio Rep first day in office

It may have been unfortunate that 15 year old Gloria Isabelle Vergara de Vera first day in office as Sangguniang Kabataan federation president and youth representative at the 14-member city council.

It is marred by protests, left and right. Before her formal takeover as city councilor, on Saturday a group of SK leaders in the city claiming Friday SK federation polls was rigged with vote buying and other election irregularities marched down Session Road denouncing what they branded as dirty and bribe-riden SK elections.

SK chairmen were promised P6,000 and cellular phone each if they vote for De Vera, grand daughter of former mayor Bernardo Vergara, protesters claim.

De Vera, daughter of former city councilor Gladys Vergara who also held the same SK post in the 80, snared 48 votes against Caren Salingbay, 27; Kathleen Bilog who only got 11, and Uriel Pangket and Brill Daupan with only two each.

Yet on Monday morning as de Vera formally took over from outgoing SK federation president Leonardo Bayan, policemen had to shoo away around 20 SK leaders-protesters brandishing their placards in front of the city hall where the turnover rites was being held.

De Vera belied there was vote buying. Puro paninira lang po yun, she told Phil. Star. As far as she is concerned, Friday elections was clean and she had a clean mandate.

DILG-Baguio officer-in-charge Evelyn Trinidad also belied allegations they entangled themselves into the SK elections held at the Venus Hotel to favor de Vera. We only supervised the elections, she explained. We only facilitated the nominations for the temporary presiding officers that later on conducted the elections, Trinidad said chiding accusers that they (DILG) together with policemen rigged the election results.

All 120 SK chairmen from Baguio City 129 barangays were billeted from Wednesday till Friday elections at the Venus Hotel along Kisad Road here.

According to Trinidad, the SK had a leadership training for two days

Cont. on page 9

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Mountain Province Police Stumbles Upon MJ Plantation

Bontoc, Mountain Province (December 12, 2007) — Policemen who were tipped by residents stumbled upon a marijuana plantation along a slope hidden in thick bushes in a hinterland sitio in Sagada town, once called the Cordillera region marijuana and hashish trading center.

Newly designated Mountain Province police director Sr. Supt. Joseph Adnol said Sagada town policemen were tipped off by villagers about the marijuana plantation covered in thick bushes in sitio Tid-eng.

On December 7, 2007 at around 10:30 AM, policemen were able to confirm the tip and immediately uprooted 34 marijuana plants measuring two feet tall.

Adnol said they are now investigating who is the cultivator of the plantation.

The tip, Adnol said, will lead us to start ridding the community of any illegal drugs including a bid to keep Mountain Province peaceful and free from any illegal contrabands.

Of late, the tourist town of Sagada, renowned all over the world for its idyllic mountain setting enamoured with the American lifestyle, vestiges of the Anglican church tradition, was tagged as a trading center of illegal drugs even involving foreigners reportedly masquerading as tourists.

No More MJ In 10 Years.

The Phil. Drug Enforcement Agency in the Cordillera vowed there would be no more

problems with marijuana in 10 years time in the Cordillera.

That is, Supt. Oliver Enmodias, chief of the PDEA-CAR said if the government wins in the war against poverty and employment.

These two social ills, the PDEA chief said, are pushing people into cultivating marijuana here. That is why a long term solution, other than the simple solution of just eradicating the various plantations in the Cordillera is making narcotic operatives busy these days, Enmodias said.

Government records still show Cordillera as the major source of marijuana in the country accounting to at least 80 percent of the supply of the multi-million illicit trade.

Various plantations still abound in remote areas in the mountain region, the PDEA said, especially those rarely visited by government and where the government is not felt forcing people to instead engage in the illegal trade to make money instead of agriculture.

Plantations in Tinglayan town, in Kalinga still abound in hectares,

Enmodias bared during last month's™ ceremonial burning at the Melvin

Jones Grandstand here of at least 6.8 million worth of seized marijuana leaves from various operations in Cordillera provinces since January this year. Alternatives

Seeing the marijuana problem as a socially-related ill needing a multi-dimensional solution, government has now engaged in thwarting the problem with alternative



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products for the planter, Enmodias said. There are already projects like encouraging former marijuana cultivators in the remote areas in Cordillera provinces to instead plant yacon (medicinal tuber) in their âœswidden farms rather than marijuana, he beamed.

The miracle of the yacon, being seen as a financially rewarding product for farmers, has inroads in Kapangan, once the hotbed of marijuana plantations.

Aside from yacon, Kapangan town officials have also helped farmers

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