

City Observes September 3 as ‘Victory Day’

BAGUIO CITY - September 1 is observed as Charter Day in this mountain resort but September 3 unknown to many is of equal significance not only to the city but to the country.

This week, Mayor Mauricio Domogan issued memorandum 280 series of 2015 for all city officials and employees, government workers and barangay officials to commemorate the end of the war at 8 am September 3 at the US ambassador’s Residence in Camp John Hay.

Baguio Bags National Kabalikat Award

BAGUIO CITY – For its efforts in advancing technical-vocational education, Baguio City topped this year’s National Kabalikat Award in the Local Government Unity City Level category given by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

The city received the award during the 21st TESDA anniversary last Aug. 25 at the TESDA central office in Taguig City.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said the award is timely as the city is celebrating the 106th charter day anniversary on Sept. 1 with the theme, “Nurturing the Culture of Caring and Sharing towards Competitiveness” to stress on the need for sustained teamwork among the various sectors of the society to propel Baguio’s growth as a viable and competent city.

He said the award is a testimony of the teamwork between the city departments, TESDA and other sectors in strengthening tech-voc education to benefit more people.

The city was earlier adjudged as winner in the regional level of the awards program.

In bringing home the national award, the city bested other finalists including Santiago City of Region II, Iloilo City of Region VI, Dipolog of Region IX, Ozamis of Region X, Pasig of National Capital Region, Surigao of CARAGA and Masbate of Region V.

The city was nominated to the awards program by the TESDA Baguio-Benguet under director Angela Gabriel based on the data provided by the official of the city planning and development under officer Evelyn Cayat.

The city’s feat was based on its accomplishment of providing employment facilitation services to a total of 216,125

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COMELEC reminds voters, “No Bio, No Boto”

BONTOC, Mt. Prov. - The Commission on Election (COMELEC) reiterated its “No Bio, No Boto” policy in next year’s election as it also reminds qualified voters of the province of the October 31 deadline of the Biometrics registration.

Under Republic Act 10369 or the Mandatory Biometrics Voter Registration Act, those who fail to have their biometrics taken prior to the May 2016 elections shall be deactivated from the voters’ list and not be allowed to vote.

Biometrics registration refers to the process of taking the voter’s picture, fingerprints and signature specimens and encoded in a computer system.

COMELEC provincial office data show that as of July 20, 2015 there are still 11,173 registered voters without biometrics data while 53 have incomplete biometric data, out of the prov-

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September 3 marks the formal surrender of Lt. General Tomoyuki Yamashita at the United States Ambassadors Cottage in Camp John Hay.

On this special occasion, no other than his Excellency President Benigno Aquino III will be the guest of honor and speaker and will be spearheading the Wreath Laying Ceremonies to commemorate the end of war in the Philippines.

The United States of America will also be represented by his excellency US Ambassador to the Philippines Philip Goldberg.

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) Chair Maria Serena Diokno will also be present giving more meaning to the event including Department of National Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, other national and city officials, foreign allies and guests.



“CUT FLOWER NIGHT VENDORS” Association officers headed by its President Armando Romero takes their oath before Mayor Mauricio Domogan at the Mayor’s office Monday./Photo by Paul Rillorta

THE JUNCTIONPahayagang Palaban!!!

History shows General Yamashita was nicknamed the ‘Tiger of Malaya’ for his victorious attack on British and Commonwealth Forces in Malaya and Singapore and leading Japanese Forces into the country during the 2nd World War.

On September 2, 1945, Yamashita surrendered his troops in Kiangang, Ifugao after a fierce battle with US and Filipino forces.

He was transferred to Baguio City where his formal surrender to US Lt. General Jonathan Wainwright and British Lt. Gen. Arthur Percival was accepted at the US Ambassador’s residence on September 3, 1945 leading to the end of the Pacific war.

Domogan has always stressed the importance of September 3 marking it as an impressive occasion not only for the city but for the country to celebrate its victory day./Paul Rillorta

Aug. 29 - Sept. 4, 2015

THE JUNCTIONPahayagang Palaban!!!

MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Lawmaker Condemns Spate of Violence Against Media Workers

Senator Francis Escudero denounced the killing of a radio anchor in Ozamiz City and the strafing of the coffee shop owned by ABS-CBN broadcaster Anthony Taberna by still unidentified gunmen, as he called on authorities to go after the perpetrators of these latest violence against media workers.

“These latest attacks against media workers, in no uncertain terms, must be condemned. The government must do something to end the culture of impunity over crimes against the media,” Escudero said.

Last Thursday, the 48-year-old Cosme Diez Maestrado, anchor of a local radio station affiliated with Radio Mindanao Network, was reportedly shot 10 times by still unidentified men at around 10 a.m. in front of a shopping center in Ozamiz City,

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Inauguration of the newly constructed/opened Farm-to-Market (FMR) Road at Kias Barangay with Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Congressman Nicasion Aliping seen cutting the ceremonial ribbon./Photo by RG

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BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



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Aliping Urges Residents to Keep Momentum Going

BAGUIO CITY – Rep. Nicasio M. Aliping Jr. has encouraged Baguio residents to continue the momentum that the city has achieved in the competitive rating of cities in the Philippines as the city is set to celebrate its 106th founding anniversary on September 1.

Aliping said that in the 2014 competitiveness survey, Baguio City climbed two ranks from 15 to 13 showing that the programs being instituted by city officials are achieving their desired result. “This two rank climb of the city in the compet-

itiveness survey only goes to show that our city officials are working very hard to make our city the best in the country in terms of business,” Rep. Aliping stressed.

He added the rise in ranking will ultimately be felt by residents in terms of more jobs as well as better quality of life.

“This happened because we continue to address the needs of businessmen so that they can set up their businesses in Baguio knowing that they can rely on government to

Volunteer Marshals to Augment POSD Personnel

BAGUIO CITY – Baguio mayor Mauricio Domogan disclosed in his weekly Ugnayan last Wednesday that officers of the different association in the night market livelihood program at Harrison Road have volunteered to police the operation of the night market.

At present, there are only ten POSD personnel assigned to man the whole stretch of Harrison Road and implement the rules and regulations of night market. Considering that around one thousand stalls are being monitored by the POSD personnel, additional manpower is needed, thus, the different association in the night market initiated to augment manpower by providing volunteer marshals.

A number of willful vendors have been observed violating rules and regulations in the operation of night market despite constant reminding and warning them of their violations



ALIPING

provide quality service,” Aliping said.

The city is experiencing a rapid growth in the Business Process Outsourcing industry as more and more BPOs set up shop in Baguio.

The major reasons indicated for this is the high level of English proficiency of Baguio residents as well as lower cost of doing business in Baguio./Carl C. Taawan

Domogan will be giving the volunteer marshals the authority to implement the rules and regulations of night market along with the POSD personnel.

“The volunteer marshals are of great help to the city government in implementing the rules and regulations and at the same time in controlling peace and order in the said area,” stressed Domogan.

For the meantime, while there is still no final lists of volunteers marshals, POSD chief Paul Cambod urged

the officials of the night market association and some volunteer marshals to police their own rank and submit a report to his office for any violation committed by the vendors which will be used as basis for any proper action of the city./Jho Aranz

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Minimal Typhoon Ineng Damage in City

BAGUIO CITY – Typhoon “Ineng” left minimal damage in the city despite the abnormal rainfall and strong winds that battered the city starting Thursday.

“We are thankful that despite the rainfall that exceeded the normal level and the strong winds, our city sustained minimal damage,” Mayor Mauricio Domogan said on Wednesday.

The mayor commiserated with Benguet and other provinces that incurred casualties and huge damages because of the monsoon rains triggered by the howler.

The City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (CDRRMC) disaster operations center under city administrator Carlos Canilao said a total of 25 families were evacuated due to landslides and fallen trees or boulders. Most of them were in barangays Kias, Lower Cabinet Hill and Happy Hollow.

The CDRRMC

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of the city from Friday to Saturday.

Kennon Road was closed to traffic immediately last August 21 due to a huge landslide at Camp 7 while Marcos Highway and Naguilian Road remained open.

Domogan as early as Wednesday activated the CDRRMC disaster operations center to facilitate coordination and dissemination of advisories.

Canilao said all agencies engaged in disaster and emergency

response were activated in full force to respond to concerns and ensure the general welfare and safety of the public.

Barangay disaster brigades were also urged to convene and man their respective operation centers in their barangays and to advise their constituents especially those living within identified high risk areas to be on alert and to undertake pre-emptive evacuation when necessary.

The center mobilized all operatives and trained volunteers and responded to reported incidents./A Refuerzo

will be expected by the people at the burnham park in the evening of Sept. 1.

There is also a search for lucky Baguio Day baby at the Baguio General Hospital.

Mr. Baguio “Nick Domalsin Cup” will be conducted at the Baguio Convention Center on Sept. 4.

The religious groups will have Good News Worldwide Mission Inc. “Pray Baguio” and Good News Community Church anniversary on Sept. 5 and Goddess of the North on Sept. 7 to be conducted at the Baguio Convention Center.

Sports enthusiasts can take part in the different sports activities lined up like the duckpin bowling tournament (Sept. 4) and fireworks display

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“PHILIPPINE POWER PLAN MUST BE REVISED TO DOVETAIL WITH UN GOAL OF LOWER GHG EMISSIONS” – ALVAREZ

The Philippine power development plan for 2009 to 2030 must be significantly revised in mid-stream to allow the submission of a credible “intended nationally determined contributions”(INDCs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change conference in Paris next December.

This was stressed by Climate Change Commissioner Heherson T. Alvarez who said that under the existing plan, there is no way that the Philippines will be able to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to conform with the UN mandate since coal-fired power and diesel plants dominate the country’s energy sector.

“Unless we act forcefully, the trajectory of the Philippine plan will lead us to embrace the highest share of coal dependency in Asia by as much as 75 percent of our generation mix by 2030, doubling greenhouse gas emissions between 2014 and 2025 ” he pointed out.

Philippine coal-fired power capacity has been increased by 25 percent in the last three years, and some 25 new coal plants with a gross capacity of 12,200 megawatts are in the pipeline, Alvarez said.

At the same time Alvarez, a former senator and environment secretary, called for a drastic re-orientation of Philippine power policymakers to bring them into the mainstream of the global trend toward cleaner alternative energy sources.

Philippine energy policymakers must start a shift now to a low-carbon future by introducing the right policies and long-term framework, including an

COMELEC Reminds Voters... from page 10

ince’s 98,058 total registered voters. The municipality of Natonin has the most number of registered voters without or incomplete biometrics data at 18.83 percent, followed by Paracelis at 15.70%, Besao – 14.82%, Sagada – 10.84%, Bontoc – 10.83%, Bauko – 10.10%, Sadanga – 8.30%, Barlig – 7.93%, Tadian – 7.42% and Sabangan – 7.31%.

Natonin Municipal Election Officer Wagner Chugsayan encourages voters with incomplete or no biometrics data to submit themselves to their respective municipal COMELEC offices for registrations and validations. He added that those qualified voters without or incomplete biometric data will automatically be deactivated from the voters list at the end of the biometrics registration on October 31, 2015 and will not be allowed to vote in next year’s national and local elections./JDP/ ABD- PIA CAR, Mountain Province



effective price on carbon and a re-definition of “least-cost generating system.”

Traditionally, Alvarez said, coal-fired plants have been seen as the least-cost generating system since policymakers failed to take into account its externalities -- the social and economic costs of its environmental destruction, of the pollution that undermines public health, and the incalculable damages to agriculture and ecosystems.

When these externalities are factored in the price of carbon, coal would be far costlier than renewable energy sources, he said.

Citing a U.S. study, Alvarez said health costs from mortality and morbidity impacts due to coal emissions will rise to an estimated US\$18 billion by 2030.

“The INDC process — in which countries determine their contributions in the context of their national priorities, circumstances and capabilities — is key to the global framework that drives collective action toward a low-carbon, climate-resilient future,” he stressed.

UN member nations have agreed to publicly outline what post-2020 climate actions they intend to take under a new

Lawmaker decries bullying of OFWs by BoC

“Big-time smugglers at hindi OFWs ang dapat tutukan ng BoC. Instead of bullying our modern-day heroes, it should exhaust more effort in catching the big fish who continue to evade justice.”

This was the sentiment expressed by Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano after filing his resolution asking for an inquiry into government policies that impose unwarranted additional burden to OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers).

He specifically recommended that Bureau of Customs (BoC) Commissioner Alberto Lina be invited to

international agreement that will determine whether the UN can curb global warming by stopping global temperature rising more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Alvarez noted that by 2030, the country’s energy sale is projected to increase from 55,417 GWh in 2008 to 149,067 GWh by 2030. For the 2009-2030 period, around 17 GW of new capacities are needed to meet the demand and reserve requirements for electrical power. Of these, 1,338 MW will come from committed power projects.

To date, private sector initiated and committed power projects total some 1,338 MW which will be generated mostly by coal-fired plants in Luzon and the Visayas.

The good news lies in Mindanao, according to Alvarez. “Mindanao will be a brilliant exception since some

100.5 MW total committed projects are all renewable” / Climate Change Commission Office of Comm. Heherson T. Alvarez

a scheduled Senate hearing regarding the agency’s earlier directive to randomly open migrant workers’ balikbayan boxes.

“The focus of Commissioner Lina is misplaced. Bakit pinag-iinitan ang balikbayan boxes ng ating OFWs, while the primary source of big-time smuggling in the country, ang mas malalakang container vans, ay hindi nababantayan nang mabuti?” the senator lamented.

“Bakit ang daming proposals kung paano hihigpitan at sisilipin ang laman ng balikbayan boxes, pero pagdating sa container vans, wala tayong naririnig?”

Cayetano said although he is one with government in its intensified campaign against smugglers and illegal importers, he said the Customs bureau is barking up the wrong tree by focusing on OFWs’ packages instead of the larger container vans, where large-scale smuggling is happening.

A study conducted by the Federation of Philippine Industries revealed that large-scale smuggling through the country’s ports has cost the Philippine government more than P1 trillion worth of foregone revenue form 2002-2011. This is far more alarming than the alleged P600 million losses attributed to the smuggling of goods through balikbayan boxes, Cayetano noted.

The senator clarified that balikbayan boxes may still be opened, but only if a pre-inspection would prove that something suspicious is hidden inside the boxes. And instead of randomly opening boxes, he urged the agency to maximize the use of X-ray machines and engage K-9 inspection units for better searches./ Office of Senator Chiz Escudero

RDC invites business sector for forum on autonomy

BAGUIO CITY-- In continuing efforts to inform and educate all sectors about the pursuit for regional autonomy in the

Cordillera, the Regional Development Council (RDC) invites the members of the business sector to attend the businessmen’s forum on autonomy scheduled on Tuesday, August 25, at the Ating Tahanan Training Center located at South Drive here.

Among the issues to be discussed are the principles of Cordillera Regional Autonomy to be presented by Baguio City Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan; Salient features of House Bill 4649 relative to business by Atty. Delmar Carino; and the 3 core messages of regional autonomy by National Economic and Development Authority Regional Director Mila Rimando.

Interested participants are advised to contact the RDC Secretariat c/o NEDA at 442-3232 local 160, email at nedaspcar@gmail.com for confirmation and further details of the activity.

Registration starts at 11AM, followed by opening program at 12NN. No registration fee will be collected./JDP/ MAWC –PIA CAR

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TACIA M.
DESSAIX,
Mortgagee-
Petitioner,
-versus-
SPOUSES DIVI-
NO LARANANG
and GLENDA M.
LARANANG,
Mortgagor-
Respondent.

FORECLOSURE
CASE No. 15-
590-S
EXTRA-JUDI-
CIAL FORECLO-
SURE
OF REAL ESTATE
MORTGAGE
X-----X

SHERIFF’S
NOTICE OF
SALE

Upon extra-ju-
dicial petition for
the sale under Act 3135
as amended filed by
TACIA M. DESSAIX,
hereinafter referred to
as MORTGAGEE, as
against Spouses DIVI-
NO LARANANG and
GLENDA M. LAR-
ANANG, hereinafter
referred to as MORT-
GAGORS, to satisfy
the mortgage indebt-
edness which as of
July 31, 2015 amounts
to P850,000.00, as
principal obligation
excluding 5% interest
per month and other
charges incidental to
the foreclosure pro-
ceedings, the Clerk
of Court/Ex-Officio
Sheriff thru her Depu-
ty, will SELL at public
auction on the 8th day
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morning or soon there-
after at Justice Hall
Lobby, Baguio City, to
the highest bidder for
CASH and in Philip-
pine Currency, the real
property more particu-
larly described as fol-
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A residential

building (Property
Index No. 102-01-
006 -02-L113-N001)
, KIND: Residential
Land ACTUAL USE:
Residential; UNIT
VALUE : 520.00;
MARKET VALUE:
151,840.00; ASSESSED
VALUE 12,754.56; on
the NORTH; by ASS.
LOT NO. 102; on the
SOUTH; by Paraan
St.; On the EAST: by
ASS. LOT NO. 112 and
on the WEST: by ASS.
LOT NO. 102 con-
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Prospective buy-
ers/bidders are hereby
enjoined to investi-
gate for themselves the
property and its en-
cumbrances thereon, if
any there be.

Baguio City, Phil-
ippines, 12 August
2015.

(SGD) ATTY. LINDA
MONTES-LOLOY

Clerk of Court
VI-Ex-Officio Sheriff

(SGD) MARANI S.
BACOLOD
Sheriff IV

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Lawmaker Condemns... from page 1

Misamis Oriental. While Taberna’s newly opened coffee shop in Quezon City was strafed by armed men at around 2 a.m. on Friday.

Both Maestrado and Taberna are known for their fearless and hard-hitting commentaries. Escudero said authorities should

solved and those responsible punished.

“Law enforcers and state prosecutors send a message to criminals that the culture of impunity continues by failing to address previous attacks on media workers. Such thing can only motivate these offenders,” Escudero said.

According to reports, Maestrado could be the 29th media worker killed under the Aquino administration.

“T h e administration needs to do more to protect media workers and ensure a free press,” Escudero pointed out.

On August 18, Davao del Norte Press and Radio-TV Club president Gregorio “Loloy” Ybañez was

Cont. on page 7

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING
AND REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City
Alejandro Abenoja -Vendor
Ruben P. Abenoja - Vendee
Applicants
Case No: 97-BC-902/2015-CAR-477
NOTICE OF HEARING
This is an application for Sale and Transfer with Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA- CRYSTAL CAVE and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.
Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on September 16, 2015 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paodal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.
At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant/s shall publish the NOTICE once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.
Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so desire, appear during the hearing.
This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.
WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER - Regional Director this 19th day of August 2015.
(SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR
Hearing Officer

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING
AND REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City
Marvin Catawe
Applicant
Case No: 2011-CAR-473
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This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA- HOLY GHOST and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.
Notos is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on September 16, 2015 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paodal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.
At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant/s shall publish the NOTICE once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.
Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so desire, appear during the hearing.
This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.
WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER - Regional Director this 26th day of August 2015.
(SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR
Hearing Officer

Speakers Say Autonomy to Clear Stumbling Blocks to Cordillera Dev’t

The constitutional provision for the establishment of an autonomous region in the Cordillera and in Muslim Mindanao is a tacit admission by the national government that these two regions have been neglected and need self-rule to spur their development.

This is the point of autonomy, Baguio city mayor Mauricio Domogan noted, explaining that self-rule would empower the national government to pour into the two regions development support that can not be had under the present set-up.

“This is the point of self-rule, not the grossly mistaken fear and rumor that autonomy would result in the imposition of taxes on chickens and other domestic animals to sustain the budget of the autonomous region,” Domogan told a forum on regional autonomy for Cordillera businessmen last Tuesday at the Ating Tahan-an here.

Autonomy, Domogan stressed, would empower the national government to provide the region fund support over and above what it is presently receiving to speed up its development and make it at par with the other regions of the country.

The mayor took the cue from the earlier report of regional director Milagros Rimando of the National Economic and Development Authority that, under the present set-up, the Cordillera can hardly compare with the other regions in terms of development fund shares.

Rimando pointed out that the Cordillera ranks lowest at 17th with an allocation of P32.20 billion allocation of expenditure in the national budget while the ARMM was ranked 14th with a P45.06 outlay.

While the state of roads in the Cordillera improved in the last three years, this mountain region still has the lowest-paved

Residents, groups to launch ‘People’s Statement’ on changes they want in Baguio

Several Baguio City residents and organizations will launch a document detailing their hopes and goals for the city at an event to be held on Monday, August 31.

“Pushing for the Baguio We Want” (PBWW), to be held at Bulwagang Juan Luna in the University of the Philippines-Baguio, will launch the People’s Statement, crafted during a recent summit on several issues affecting the city.

The People’s Summit

In February, more than 500 Baguio residents gathered to share their hopes and ideas for the city’s future, and to discuss what they want to happen to achieve these hopes. The event, called the People’s Summit, was convened by Bishop Carlito Cenzon with the support of the Baguio Diocese and several organizations: the Baguio Heritage Foundation, the Baguio Citizens’ No Waste Initiative, the Maryknoll Ecological Sanctuary, the Pine Cone Movement, Save 182, and Tongtongan ti Umili.

The discussions covered seven topics: the environment (waste management, trees and water, and air pollution); land use; community participation; governance and legislation; well-being and mobility; local businesses and tourism; and heritage.

Coming out of the summit is the People’s Statement, which “puts forward commitments that we must make so we can all participate in improving local governance and in making this city a better place,” the participants said in a release.

“We the people of Baguio want a city where residents’ well-being is paramount, where governance is built on genuine consultation with, and active and continuous participation of, the people,” the statement begins.

“We want a city where our duly elected leaders sustain engagement with the people and where that engagement results in the passing and implementation of laws and policies that will benefit the city.

“We want a city where people from all levels have strong community spirit and where we all have the ability to bring about change in our own neighborhoods,” it continues, before setting out the goals set forth for each of the seven issues discussed.

August 31 event

Monday’s event will begin at 9:00 a.m. Admission is free and the event is open to all residents. “Baguio boys and girls of all ages, students, and registered voters are strongly encouraged to participate,” the organizers said in a statement.

Cenzon is once again the convenor. PBWW will also have three workshops: “The Electoral Process and the Government Leaders We Want in 2016”, “How to Engage the Government and Participate in Governance,” and “Increasing Support and Participation for the Baguio We Want.” / *BM, GMA News*



BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY CONCERNS - John Shaefer and Tessie Uhl of US State Department’s Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) brief Mayor Mauricio Domogan, Soroptimist International district governor and former Councilor Philian Weygan Allan and City Health Officer Rowena Galpo on the proposed vent for regulation as well as the concept of the Philippine Biosafety Association (PhBBA) and DTRA Cooperative Biological Engagement Program. The PhBBA and DTRA will collaborate in promoting the transparency of the risks of scientific misuse in ethical practices, accountability and communication for the purpose of nationwide code of practice./ By Bong Cayabyab

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Philippine massacre trial hearings to finish by year-end: top judge

Trial hearings of defendants accused of the massacre of 58 people in the Philippines will finish by the end of the year, the country’s chief justice vowed Thursday.

Prosecution and defense lawyers will finish presenting evidence by the end of 2015, after which the judge has 90 days to issue a verdict, Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno told reporters.

“It is excruciatingly slow for the victims’ families. That is not debatable, it is painful, there must be closure,” Sereno said.

The trial involves members of the influential Ampatuan clan which allegedly ordered the slaughter of 58 people, including 32 journalists, in the conflict-wracked province of Maguindanao in November 2009 in an attempt to crush a rival clan’s election challenge.

The brutal massacre, one of the world’s deadliest attacks against media workers, saw some shot in their genitals before they were buried in a hilltop grave using an excavator.

The slow pace of the trial has angered the families of the victims and frustrated President Benigno Aquino, who has promised a verdict before he steps down from office in mid-2016.

Widows of victims spoke out last month after one of the principal accused, Andal Ampatuan Snr, died of liver cancer while under hospital guard.

Sereno said the court has resolved most of the bail petitions that caused much of the delays in the six-year long proceedings.

Two sons of Andal Ampatuan Sr, Andal Jr, and Zaldy, are among 100 people on trial for one of the world’s most shocking mass murders.

The Ampatuans ruled Maguindanao for over a decade under the patronage of then-president Gloria Arroyo, who had tolerated the clan’s private army as a buffer against Muslim separatist rebels.

Widow Merly Perante, whose journalist husband Ronnie was among those slain, said she was cheered by Sereno’s announcement but stressed that getting justice was still her priority.

“I accept that the process can be lengthy, as long as we are not disappointed with the result, as long as they get convicted and get the right punishment,” she told AFP.

Court cases in the Philippines sometimes take decades to finish, weighed down by a shortage of judges and courthouses and legal technicalities that can be used to delay a case./ AFP News

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

PNoy should learn from Ninoy

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO

LIFE’S INSPIRATIONS: “...Train the child in the way that he should go and he will not depart from it even when he grows old...” (Proverbs 22:6, the Holy Bible).

WHERE WILL THE MONEY FROM EDUCATION BUDGET CUTS GO? So, where will the Aquino government use the money that will result from the budget cuts and greatly decreased allocations for some 59 state universities and colleges in 2016?

I loath to think President Aquino and his loyal lieutenants in Congress, Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and Senate President Frank Drilon, would instead be using the money from the budget cuts for the 2016 elections to ensure the victory of their candidates, but, is there any other way to view their having greatly reduced the budget for the education of the Filipino youth?

As it is, many poor youngsters are already incapable of going even to government educational institutions, because of extreme poverty and unfavorable economic conditions. With the budget cuts for state colleges and universities ordered by Aquino and his cohorts, we could be sure there will be more out-of-school youths who will tread the path of despair, vice, and criminality, in 2016 and beyond.

PNOY SHOULD LEARN FROM NINOY: Pardon me for using my own experience when I was struggling to get an education from the University of the Philippines in the early 1970s as an example, but, I could not have completed my AB Journalism course back then if I was not allowed to obtain student loans from UP’s Student Loan Board to pay for my tuition fees.

I do remember the fact that, semester after semester, I would invariably find myself at the Student Loan Board offices at the Wenceslao Vinzon’s Hall then, applying for a student loan, backed up by the unrelenting letter of guarantee from compassionate Prof. Tito Eustaquio, a province-mate from Tarlac who happened to have been the brother of the second wife of an uncle of mine.

President Aquino should perhaps be reminded that the setting up of the Student Loan Board at the University of the Philippines System was the result of the untiring efforts of his own father, the late Sen. Benigno Ninoy Aquino Jr. Because of this student loan system, many students from the provinces, the “promdis” like me, managed to complete their education.

BUDGET CUTS VIOLATE THE BIBLE’S ADMONITION ON EDUCATING THE YOUTH: What is more, the slashing by President Aquino and his men of the 2016 budgets of state colleges and universities glaringly violate the Biblical injunction that we should ensure the education of our children, found in Proverbs 22:6, which says “train the child in the way that he should go, and he will never depart from it when he grows old.”

How can we ever hope to effectively train our children in the way that they should go when the very government that is supposed to uphold their education seems to be working hard to deprive them of that education, by making it hard for them to enter higher institutions of learning?

Maybe we should start acting in unison to remind our government leaders that it is the responsibility of the State, more than the responsibility of the family,

Cont. on page 5

Lawmaker Dares DSWD: Charge People Exploiting Yolanda Victims

Senator Francis Escudero challenged the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to investigate and file appropriate charges against unscrupulous individuals who prey on victims of Super Typhoon “Yolanda” who are supposed to receive the government’s Emergency Shelter Assistance (ESA) program.

Escudero said the DSWD should seriously look into reports that some Yolanda survivors who have yet to receive housing aid were forced to sign documents indicating that they have availed of the shelter assistance, while others were victimized by loan sharks who connive with dishonest employees of the agency.

“If you are to ask these Yolanda survivors how they feel, they will surely say they’ve been victimized twice: first by the super typhoon and later by opportunists who take advantage of their situation,” Escudero said.

“These immoral and corrupt opportunists, who take advantage of a natural disaster to fill their pockets with mon-

City Commemorates... from page 2

1), Baguio Day amateur golf tournament at the Baguio Country Club (Sept. 5), Baguio darts tournaments (Sept. 4-5), 1st Baguio day badminton tourney 2015, Shin Shin Karatedo Inc. “Sports against drug abuse” (Sept. 6), 160th Baguio day arnis championship and national arnis tournament on Sept. 11 until13, and bowling tournament (Sept. 13).

There will be a Baguio day poster, essay, oratorical and extemporaneous contest on Sept. 17 at the Sangguniang Panlungsod session hall and Baguio City multi-purpose hall. There will be work room media “jamming sessions” on Sept. 18, the Little

Lawmaker Condemns... from page 8

also gunned down while on his way home in Tagum City.

Two days later, on August 20, 59-year-old Teodoro Escanilla, broadcaster at local radio station dzMS, was shot dead by two unidentified assailants inside his residence in Sorsogon.

In 2013, the London-based International News Safety Institute named the Philippines as the third most dangerous country in the world for journalists.

A total 14 journalists died in the Philippines that year, placing the country behind Syria—also the deadliest country for media workers in 2012—and Iraq.

The Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility said that as of June 2014, a total of 145 media workers were killed in the line of duty in the country since 1986, including at least 33 in the Ampatuan massacre of November 2009./chizescudero.com; FB senchizescudero; Twitter @saychiz @chiznewsalert

beneficiaries themselves that they only received P10,000 even if their homes were totally damaged, and that some of funds went to “fake” or “ghost” beneficiaries.

A number of ESA beneficiaries also complained how loan sharks, in cahoots with unscrupulous DSWD employees, took advantage of them.

These loan sharks would lend cash with 16 percent interest to a potential ESA recipient. The DSWD would then release the shelter assistance not to the beneficiary, but directly to the “financier,” according to reports./chizescudero.com; FBsenchizescudero; Twitter @saychiz @chiznewsalert

the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center Dialysis Patients and Partners Association Inc. will be benefitting from the Baguio Day Run./Jho Arranz

Speakers Say... from page 3

pointed out the unfairness of the Roxas Law (R.A. 7880) on fair and equitable allocation of the schools capital outlay using the 45:1 student-classroom ratio.

Because of the region’s mountainous terrain, a ratio of 45 pupils can hardly be obtained as basis for the construction of a classroom.

The clearing of these obstacles to development are enough reasons for the push towards autonomy, Rimando said.

Lawyer Delmar Carino, a member of the speaker’s bureau for autonomy, said self-rule would stimulate the business opportunities in the region./Ramon Dacawi

1st women leader’s award launched

BAGUIO CITY – the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) is encouraging Local Government Units (LGU’s) to nominate awardees for the 1st Sonia R. Lorenzo (SRL) Awards here.

DILG-CAR City Director Evelyn Trinidad said the SRL award is a nationwide search for women in leadership and good governance launched by the University of Santo Tomas and Kaya Natin Movement, a civil society organization that promotes genuine and lasting

change in government. Memorandum Circular 2015-92 was issued by DILG Secretary Mar Roxas to this effect in order to encourage local chief executives to send any nomination for said awards. As per minimum qualifications, a nominee must be a former or current local government official, Governor down to Barangay Captain and must have a total of five years in government service.

She must not

Fun Run for Dialysis Patients Set Sept. 26

The second edition of “:Straight into Baguio’s Heart”, a fun run to draw community support to the city’s growing number of hemodialysis patients, will fire off on September 26, city sports officer Gaudencio Gonzales announced this week.

The run, bracketed into the 3K, 5K and 10K events, keeps alive the city’s centennial theme “Fostering A Culture of Caring” and keeps alive the spirit of sharing that city mayor Mauricio Domogan introduced a year ago to spice up the city’s founding anniversary celebration.

As in last year’s run, proceeds from the three-bracket footrace will go to a fund from which the growing number of kidney patients here who are undergoing expensive twice or thrice a week dialysis can draw support for their lifetime treatment. The city has teamed up anew with the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center Dialysis

Patients and Partners Association headed by social worker Nora Mangusan for the run-for-a-cause that mayor Domogan hoped would again be supported by businessmen and the public as a public-private partnership effort. “The number of patients undergoing hemodialysis is growing at an alarming rate, reason enough for the city to include this humanitarian thrust in its founding anniversary observance,” the mayor said.

Last year’s initial run netted P312,935.63 out of registration fees and donations that went to partially payment of the change of fistula at P6,000 each for 27 patients, confinement fund support of P3,000 each to 45 patients, and another fund support of P2,000 each to five severe cases, with a balance of P1,129.29 from bank interest remaining. Those covered by support to their fistula change were Ferdinand Tuzon of

Baguio Bags... from page 10

beneficiaries that led to the employment of 134,408 beneficiaries from 2012 to 2014. It also conducted training and assessment to 5,665 beneficiaries through TESDA and 220,788 beneficiaries through the city social welfare and development office, Alternative Learning System Dept. of Education, Baguio City Police Office and Bureau of Jail Management and the Gender and Development Council.

to students of UST. Application or nomination forms may be downloaded from srlaward.jimbo.com where instructions for submission of nominations are provided. Deadline for the submission of entries is on September 11, 2015./Paul Rillorta

Baguio, Angelo Natividad of Asingan, Pangasinan; Jonathon Bulwuyan of Baguio City, Harry Pagnas of La Union, Gregorio Capones of La Trinidad, David Apil (Tuba, Benguet), Emilda Bustarde (Pacdal, Baguio), Liezel Kinakin (Baguio), Juliet Pascual (Burgos, La Union) Fely Galon (Baguio), Nancy Bugnay (La Trinidad, Benguet), Armndo Siano (La Trinidad, Benguet), Teresa Rullan (Baguio), Marclon Tercero (Itogon), Joseph Lansuyan (Bakun, Benguet), Fe Domingo (Baguio), Vicente Ekwey (Camp 3 Knnon Rd.), Fryla de la Pena (Kapangan, Benguet), Amor Orpilla (Baguio), Leonard Nalos (Baguio), Sharon Dalida (La Trinidad), Cristina Saingan (Tuba), Ramon Dacawi (baguio) Euddncia Canlas (Baguio City), Virgilio Clementa (Baguio), David Puguon (baguio), Lucio Briones (Natividad, Pangasinan)/Ramon Dacawi.

The city allocated a total of P49,716,985 to the different departments to implement these programs.

The Kabalikataw is one of TESDA’s reward mechanisms to recognize its partners in the promotion of TVET.

The nominees were judged according to the following criteria: number of persons benefited in terms of training and assessment, investment to Technical Education and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), number of TVET graduates provided employment facilitation services, continuous support to TVET, provision of employment opportunities in the locality, compliance with TESDA requirements and scope of funding support./A Refuerzo

City celebrates 100 years of history of Dominican Retreat House

BAGUIO CITY – the 100-year-old Dominican Retreat House which housed the pioneering Dominican priests in the country is the latest addition to the roster of National Historical sites in the country.

A simple program to commemorate this event will be staged at the Dominican Hill and Retreat House on September 2 which will be spearheaded by the City government thru the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO).

It can be recalled that the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and the City Government September 1 last year unveiled the historical marker declaring the Dominican Hill and Retreat House as a protected historical property.

The historical marker was placed at the right side of the door of the structures main entrance showing the name of the structure, the year it was built and a description of its history.

he unveiling of the marker spruced-up the celebration of the 105th Baguio Charter Anniversary and this year, it strengthens the city governments resolve to preserve and protect its historical buildings and structures.

Last year, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the city government spearheaded by Mayor Mauricio Domogan and NHCP Deputy Executive Director Carminda Arevalo signed the turn-over and transfer of the historical marker and the responsibility to protect the structure as a national historical site to the city government.

Before its declaration as a National Historical Site and structure, the Dominican Retreat House passed thorough validation by the NHCP following the strict guidelines set by the Commission.

The structure was validated and verified by elements of the NHCP, its historical background and significance going through a lengthy and thorough research.

The Dominican Retreat House was first conceptualized in 1911 after the Dominican Order in the Philippines voted for the construction of a rest and recreation house for Dominican Priests in their 17-hectare property in Baguio City which they acquired from the American authorities.

It was in 1913 under the leadership and design of Fr. Roque Ruano, OP, a Dominican priest that the construction of the building began.

The retreat house was finished after two years and was inaugurated on May 23, 1915.

To take advantage of tax exemptions, a school was established and opened in 1915 named ‘Colegio del Santissimo Rosario.’

Soon thereafter or within a span of just two years, the school closed (1917) due to a very small number of enrollees and was reverted back to its original rest and vacation house.

It served as refuge of Dominican priests and Filipino Families during the Japanese Invasion in 1942.

It was bombed by the Japanese Imperial Forces and incurred heavy damage. After years of disrepair, reconstruction started in 1947 and was finished in 1948.

In 1973, Diplomat Hotels Incorporated acquired ownership of the building remodelling the interior into a 33 bedroom hotel but retained its unique and distinct personality.

However, the hotel ceased operations in 1987. The city government acquired ownership of the property in 2005.

The Dominican Hill and Retreat House is one of the oldest structures in the country which boasts of Dominican Architecture and design withstanding the test of time/*Paul Rillorta*



Baguio City launches health fair

BAGUIO CITY – the city government thru the City Health Services Office conducted a Health Fair in this mountain resort to benefit indigent clients.

The event which is a free medical mission and health education campaign is part of the celebration of the 106th Baguio Charter Day celebrations.

More than 500 people including students and children attended the whole day affair to avail of free health services.

The health fair is dubbed “Hatid namin, Kalusugan ng Pamilya” where 13 health booths were installed at the Baguio Convention Center.

The event was attended by City Officials spearheaded by Mayor Mauricio Domogan, Councilor Elmer Datuin, Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda, City Health Officer Rowena Galpo and health workers.

The health fair was conceptualized to bring basic health care and education to indigent residents.

Booth 1 is for registration, Booth 2 for risk assessment, booth 3 for infectious diseases, booth 4 for Non Communicable Diseases, booth 5 for Adolescent health, booth 6 for Ophthalmology, booth 7 for child health and safety, booth 8 for men and women’s health, booth 9 for nutrition, booth 10 for dental health, booth 11 for alternative medicine and booth 12 for diabetes.

500 indigent families were also given

free health kits in booth 13 with medicines, hygiene kit and first aid.

Free screenings include dental checks, high blood pressure and stroke risk, cholesterol, checks for sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS, teenage pregnancy risk, Non-communicable diseases and more.

Domogan said, “the provision for the health fair is to bring not only free health services to indigent residents but also to educate them on health issues.”

“This is an opportunity for us to provide even basic health services to our people especially to our indigent constituents who cannot afford to go to the doctor, it’s a chance to treat them and help them stay in good health”, he said.

The chief executive also stressed proper diet and exercise is also needed to stay fit and healthy at the same time avoiding excessive drinking of alcoholic beverages and smoking.

Other services were also offered such as Digital Rectal Scan, health counselling sessions and education on rabies, measles, tuberculosis, food poisoning, hepatitis, diabetes and other health risks.

Health center representatives were also available with information about other health issues and concerns while Medical Technologist Interns provided live entertainment./*Paul Rillorta*

Six Women Chosen as City’s Outstanding Citizens

BAGUIO CITY – Six women who rendered exemplary service in their fields were chosen as this year’s outstanding citizens of Baguio.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan on Wednesday announced the selection of the following to the 106th Baguio Day honor roll: Basiliisa Cachero-Pimentel for arts and culture; Dona Digna Salvador Rosario, professional/community service; Lilia Ronquillo Bautista, business; Dr. Leonarda Romasanta-Aguinalde, community service; Epifania Cabanban-Dao-ey, community service; and Maria Nela Bascos-Florendo, professional/arts and culture.

They will be awarded during the Baguio Day program on Sept. 1 8:30 a.m. at the Baguio Convention Center by the Society of Outstanding Citizens of Baguio (SO-COB) headed by Dr. Priscilla Macasantos.

Pimentel was selected for her contributions in field of music having served as supervisor in the said field of study for many years. She encouraged schools to form choral groups and to join competitions resulting to numerous awards and honors. Pimentel composed the official Baguio March entitled “Beautiful Baguio” and other hymns being used by several institutions.

Rosario, directress of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Montessori and NLAB School for the Blind, was extolled for her accomplishments in the field of education and

community service. She initiated various social projects that benefited the poor and the visually impaired. She remained active in educational, religious and civic organizations.

Businesswoman Bautista was selected for her entrepreneurial achievements which she shared through academic scholarships, livelihood programs and assistance for the needy.

Aguinalde was cited for her public service initiatives which she pursued side by side with her profession as an educator. She is currently the vice president for administration of the University of the Cordilleras and head of the UC’s community arm known as the UC-Project H.E.L.E.N.

Dao-ey’s pioneering work to uplift the condition of women and her engagement in various community works earned her a spot in the roll of honorees. Even while managing the Easter Weaving, she was able to allot time and resources for her other civic affiliations.

Florendo, a history professor at the University of the Philippines Baguio, was lauded for her dedication to her craft honing of future historians. She was credited for her contributions in the writing of the history of Baguio City and the Cordilleras as well as the history of the city’s
Cont. on page 5

DIMENSIONAL ROAD

It is Crucial to Expedite Typhoon-related Bills for Public Welfare

BY: MARVIN WACNAG LIDAWAN



“At the end of the day, the goals are simple: safety and security.” Jodi Rell

Geography tells that the Philippines is an archipelago located on the Western rim of the Pacific Ocean, an area naturally visited by cyclones in the planet affecting the country’s weather exposing it to multiple typhoon’s occurrences. In conjunction with this natural phenomenon, the current and the fast-approaching months will be a calamity time in most areas of the Philippines. Over the years, we have been extremely experiencing tough typhoons that yielded devastation to human lives, property and livelihood resulting to multiple social and economic instabilities. The typhoon-yielding calamities needed to be addressed as Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago vigilantly perceives its urgency for over-all public security. And to solve these unceasingly stirring problems, she has been passing relevant bills to be urgently mandated by the country’s law-making bodies for their swift implementations.

Senator Santiago urged her colleagues in the senate to pass the bills she has authored as early as this month which primarily focus on enhancing typhoon management and how disaster risk-reduction are to be handled.

She expressed that most of the typhoon-related laws she wrote are still pending at the senate not to mention the previously approved bills she personally wrote and the bills she co-authored with other law-makers pertaining to youth involvement on their readiness when typhoon disasters occur. According to her, “three of her bills have been lingering at the committee since year 2013 which included Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 394, or the so-called the Flood Recovery Fund (FRF) bill; S.B. No. 1576, known as the National Flood and Research Education (NFRE) bill; and S.B. No. 1724, which is the Culvert Safety bill.”

The FRFB bill filed in July 2013, supports the poor victims for speedy financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans from the grant the proposed law will be able to form.

The NFRE bill, filed in September 2013, focused on creating an Office of Flood Research and Policy (OFRP) to develop best practices for predicting and preventing flood and its effects.

Aside from the other pending bills since September 2013 is the senator’s Culvert Safety (CS) bill, which seeks to ensure that culverts or open sewers are suitably covered with warning signs to prevent people from accidents during the flood.

It also worthy to recall that in September 2014, Santiago filed S.B. No. 2376, aimed at mandating the Department of Education to include basic swimming as physical education subjects in elementary and secondary school curricula. According to the senator who is a swimming champion herself says that, “This bill aims to prepare children against floods,” She mentioned a study conducted by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) which reported that drowning is the second leading cause of death among Filipino children aged 14 years and below, and the fourth leading cause of death with injury in the country.

While the senator is asking the community to back-up her flood-related bills for the senate committees for immediate approval, Santiago saluted the endorsement of her bill during the third and final reading called the Youth Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (YPCDRRM) bill or the Senate bill (S.B.) No. 2789.

In a press release published on June 14, 2015 in her website, it reported that in January 2015, she filed Senate Bill No. 2561, or “the National Flood Insurance bill, which is for the purpose of augmenting state-funded disaster assistance and meeting the escalating costs of repairing damage to residential and other buildings and their contents. If this will be approved, this bill would be able to frame National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which will enable people living in flood-exposed areas to acquire insurance against loss caused by physical damages or the loss of real or personal properties resulted by any flood-related calamity.” As of May 14, 2015, the senator has filed almost a total of 1,249 bills and resolutions since the 16th Congress that started in June 2013.

The senate should spend most of their time deliberating these crucial bills to ensure the safety and welfare of the Filipi-

FEATURE

Capital flight under Aquino bigger than during Marcos regime

In his last SONA, President Benigno Aquino III boasted: “(Under my administration) and for the first time in history, we are unanimously deemed investment grade by the most prominent credit rating agencies.”

The agencies’ hosannas aren’t really unexpected, what with the nearly P2 billion Aquino’s government has paid them to do these assessments — eight of them.

Only Aquino and his officials really believe in the rosy picture these rating agencies have painted. (Name one really big foreign investment in the past five years.) Foreign and even local businessmen aren’t plunking their money here, but elsewhere, if we go by hard, comprehensive data and not wishful thinking based on anecdotal evidence.

According to official Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas data, the net foreign exchange (“dollar”) outflow — or the excess of money flowing out of the country over money coming in — in 2014 totaled \$2.9 billion.

This amount, just for one year, is nearly as big as the \$3 billion in capital flight for the two years of 1982 and 1983 under Marcos’ watch, during the country’s worst economic crisis triggered by the Ninoy Aquino assassination and our default on the payment of our foreign debts.

Massive capital flight under Daang Matuwid regime

It is also nearly as large as the \$3.3 billion capital flight in 1997 when foreign capital swiftly left Asia in the wake of the Asian Financial Crisis.

According to the BSP itself, the net outflow — reported as the country’s balance of payments

Kakampi Mo Ang Batas from page 4

to ensure that opportunities exist in our country for the education of our young. If we do not educate the youth properly, then they would cease becoming the hope of the Fatherland. Rather, they would become, as they have become by now, the despair of our countrymen.

PLEASE LISTEN: “Ang Tanging Daan” (The Sole Way), a Bible study and prayer session on radio, airs Mondays to Fridays, 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at DWAD 1098 kHz on the AM band. For replays, go to www.facebook.com/angtangingdaan or www.facebook.com/ANDKNK and scroll for “Ang Tanging Daan” broadcasts. Phone: 0922 833 43 96, 0918 574 0193, 0917 984 24 68. Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com.

no community instead of exaggerated participation on issues that temporarily and worthlessly publicize their senatorial moves which squander valuable time. It is sad to note that public officers who have sturdy concern regarding public welfare are stricken by ailments like the case of Senator Defensor while others are unexpectedly removed from public offices. Most of the remaining officers for public trust greedily and steadily occupy their “thrones” without sensible manifested concern to resolve the increasing country’s dilemma which constantly confront Filipino society./ *marvinwacnaglidawan@gmail.com*.

position — is the result of Filipinos bringing their huge amounts of money out of the country to invest them abroad, foreigners withdrawing or slowing down their investments in the stock market and other short-term investments here, and overseas firms slowing down their equity inflows into the country.

The BSP of course wouldn’t draw attention to the foreign exchange hemorrhage in 2014. It had still had to report it, though only in dry technical language: “The financial account registered net outflows amounting to US\$10.1 billion in 2014, more than fourfold the US\$2.2 billion net outflows registered a year ago. This was on account of the substantial increase in the net outflows in other investments and the reversal to net outflows in portfolio and direct investments,” said the BSP to explain the \$2.6 billion BOP deficit.

The rich here have virtually rushed out of the door to bring their money elsewhere starting 2012, when their investments abroad totaled \$3.8 billion, growing from just \$593 million in 2011. These increased to \$6.3 billion in 2013 and then rocketed to \$16 billion in 2014.

The moneyed here and elsewhere of course think the same, so they’ve also moved out. Contrary to Aquino’s boast that foreign investments’ level in 2014 are the highest in history, the BSP reported for 2014: “The direct investment account reversed to net outflows of US\$789 million in 2014 from net inflows of US\$90 million a year ago.”

Even a number of local corporations, according to BSP data, chose to invest in enterprises abroad rather than here, with their direct investments jumping to \$7 billion in 2014 from just \$3.6 billion the previous year.

It is the same fall in confidence in terms of foreign portfolio investments, or those put in the stock market and other passive venues by firms overseas. “The portfolio investment account recorded net outflows of \$2.5 billion in 2014, a reversal of the previous net inflows of \$2.5 billion,” the BSP report said.

The flow of investment funds from the country was so huge that even the increase in remittances form Filipino workers overseas weren’t enough to cover them.

Again, belying Aquino’s SONA claim that things here have been so good that OFWs are returning home, their remittances — because of more deployments rather than due to increases in their wages — grew from \$17.6 billion in 2010 to \$22.6 billion in 2014.

And Aquino boasts that under him the country has become “Asia’s Rising Tiger”?

We really wish so. But the data just doesn’t show so./*tiglaomanilatimes@gmail.com/FB: Bobi Tiglao*

Six Women Chosenh... from page 6

barangays.

The outstanding citizens will be joined by two special honorees Valledo, California expatriate Dinah Villanueva and multi-awarded ultramarathon runner Marcelo Bautista.

Villanueva was instrumental in the establishment of the sisterhood relationship between Baguio and Valledo while Bautista’s string of victories in his sport earned him the special plaudit.

The judging committee is headed by the mayor with Dr. Julie Cabato, Lenora Fe Brawner, Helen Tibaldo, Judge Clarita Tabin, Engr. Felino Lagman and Bishop Oscar Magallanes.

The screening committee is composed of former Baguio Day awardees namely Mercedes Carino, Dr. Marcelino Dizon Jr., Arch. Rafael Chan, Marlene De Castro, Gloria Leal and Ellen Badi-val./ *A Refuerzo*