

THE WEEKEND JUNCTION



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

Pahayagang palaban!!! **Climate Change And Agriculture**



HAPPY CENTENNIAL BAGUIO - Baguioites with colorful costumes join the Street Dancing and float parade marking the 100th Baguio Charter day anniversary./By Bong Cayabyab

Just like any other serious socio-economic problems in the world, climate change is one of the current alarming global concerns of all countries considering its effect to the present and future human existence.

If we look back at the ancient religious history, the Holy Bible reveals that God created the world perfect, putting in place a well balanced eco-system where each creature perfectly depend from each other in order to sustain their existence. However, various researchers revealed that even in less populated and forested areas, there are

various extinct as well as endangered plants and animal species. This may be attributed to Charles Darwin's theory on the Survival of the Fittest. But the extinction of many plant and animal species can be due to the unfavourable impacts of climate change. It should be noted that the extinction of one living organism will affect the sustainable survival of the other.

Basically, climate change started from man's clearing the forest with the goal of helping improve his own life from his tradi-

Cont. on page 10

Comelec Should Extend Deadline For New Voters To December.....P2

City Hopeful For A Smooth Deal With Barricaders For Use Of Dumpsite....P2

Senate ratifies anti-torture bill....P2

Fees For Real Estate Constructions Proposed.....P3



Smoke Belching Group Nets 711, 61% Fail Tests...P3

Master Dev't Plans For Burnham, Botanical Parks Up.....P12

DIRETSAHAN

Ms. Teen Baguio PESTE HIYOSO Mga opisyaleng ng Salud Mitra NAMEMERSONAL BA???

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



on page 4

THE PEACE COMBATANT

Like it or not, Noynoy Aquino can become RP President

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



on page 5

Senate ratifies anti-torture bill

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday lauded the Senate ratification of the reconciled version of the anti-torture bill, saying it is a landmark piece of legislation that will alleviate the deplorable state of human rights in the country.

"This is victory against human rights violators. Torture is to be abhorred. Torturers should be put away for life," said the 39-year old lawmaker who steered the passage of the measure in the Senate as chair of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights.

"I urge our House colleagues to do the same. This is one measure which all of us can be proud of," Escudero said.

Last week, the Senate-House Bicameral Conference Committee reconciled the

two versions of the anti-torture bill, which seeks to penalize perpetrators of the act, particularly persons in authority or those acting on their behalf.

It penalizes all forms of torture, be it physical, mental, psychological and pharmacological, which is done through the administration of drugs.

Aside from criminalizing torture, Escudero said the bill prohibits the use of "secret detention centers" by state authorities.

If passed into law, State authorities such as the police and the military are required to submit to the Commission on Human Rights a list of all their detention centers on a monthly basis.

"No more secret or clandestine hide-

outs or holding areas where torture is most of the time performed," he said.

The senator added that perpetrators of torture including their superiors face a maximum penalty of reclusion perpetua or life imprisonment. Other penalties range from a minimum of 6 months to a maximum of 12 years depending on the gravity of the offense.

The bill also includes provisions for the protection of complainants and witnesses and persons involved in the prosecution, and the establishment of a rehabilitation program for victims.

Under the bill, no justification can be offered to justify torture and other inhuman punishments, which will be declared as criminal acts./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

City Hopeful For A Smooth Deal With Barricaders For Use Of Dumpsite

BAGUIOCITY—The city government remained hopeful that barricaders opposing the reopening of the dumpsite for dumping will relent and allow the city to freely undertake its plans and projects at the disposal facility.

City administra-

tor Peter Fianza, head of the city environment management office, said they are bent on convincing the residents that the city's plans are all intended for the welfare of the community.

Residents for the fourth time put up barricades last

Tuesday to stop the city's plan of dumping wastes anew in the area.

The residents who belong to the Barangay Irisan, Asin Tadiangan Association wrote Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. last August 27 warning of barricading the

Cont. on page 10

Comelec Should Extend Deadline For New Voters To December

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday urged the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to extend the registration of new voters up to December give more of the youth the opportunity to vote in the May 2010 elections.

"The youth is not apathetic as some would want to portray them, because it is they who will inherit this country," the 39-year-old senator said at a student forum held at the University of the East.

"If some of them are apathetic, then it is government that has failed to inspire them to register and vote," Escudero added.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has reported that only 800,000 new voters have registered, with the deadline set on October 31.

While the Comelec has targeted the registration of three million new voters this year, there may be as many as five million who could qualify if the deadline is moved to December.

Escudero, who is chairman of the Senate electoral reforms committee, said the low turnout so far should also convince the Comelec to establish more registration centers in schools, barangay halls and other public facilities.

He also lamented the low turnout among new overseas absentee voters, even as he called on the Comelec to step up information campaigns as well set up mobile registration units in countries where there are huge Filipino expatriate populations.

Data from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) indicated that only about 175,000 Filipinos abroad have registered for next year's polls. This was way below the DFA target of at least one million by the end of August./ Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Lawmaker Pushes For Bill Waiving Bank Secrecy For Public Officials

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday pushed for early Senate approval of a bill requiring all public officials and regular government employees to sign a waiver that will allow the Ombudsman and other agen-

cies to look into their bank deposits.

"This will plug loopholes in our anti-graft laws and discourage thieves from plying their trade in the corridors of power," he said.

"If passed into law, no government

official or employee can hide behind the cloak of bank secrecy laws to protect their ill-gotten wealth," Escudero said.

Escudero, chair of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights, said the mea-

Cont. on page 11



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Bible Centennial Week

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr. last week signed the approved council resolution declaring October 12 to 17 as Ilocano Bible Centennial Week in the city.

The occasion focuses on the translation of the Holy Bible from Greek/Hebrew/English to the Ilocano vernacular here in the city in 1909 by different religious denominations; Catholics, Protestants and Methodists. Experts in the Ilocano tongue worked for the conversion, and later, revisions of the Bible verses for the use and comprehension of the general public. This is according to Good News Community Church/Academy, Pastor Oscar Magallanes.

The celebration coincides with the city's centennial, thus, there are activities coordinated with the Baguio Centennial Commission. As decided by the leaders of the different religious affiliations, an assembly of Ilocano religious leaders from the city, Ilocos region and La Union on the given dates.

Local tourists from the religious congregations are expected, the resolution states.

The resolution was approved unanimously in the city council earlier./juliegfianza



FOR THE CHILDREN - A little girls watches on as Saint Louis School Drum and Lyre band, city officials and Baguio centennial commissioners lead the parade during the formal reopening of the Children's Playground at Burnham Park last Sept. 2/ Bong Cayabyab

Fees For Real Estate Constructions Proposed

BAGUIOCITY – Councilor Isabelo Cosalan Jr. has proposed an ordinance standardizing the fees for subdivision developments and other related real estate constructions in the city.

In his proposed ordinance, Cosalan said this is one way of defining "parameters for a uniformed and smooth implementation of government policies relative to subdivision development and other related real estate constructions in the city of Baguio" to promote the general welfare of the public and to establish order in the real estate and construction sector."

It intends to cover all kinds of subdivision development projects subject to Presidential Decree 957, Batasang Pambansa 220 and other laws including structure and/or building construction projects required by law to secure the

appropriate clearances prior to the issuance of the necessary building, excavation and other permits.

The proposed schedule of fees is as follows:

*** Z O N I N G / L O C A T I O N A L CLEARANCE FEES:**

A. Single Residential Structure attached/detached with Project Cost: 1. P200,000 and below – P300; 2. P201,000-P500,000 – P500; 3. Over P 500,000 – P700.

B. Apartments/ Townhouses with Project Cost: 1. P500,000 and below – P1,500; 2. P501,000-P2,000,000 – P2,500; 3. Over P2,000,000 – P3,500.00 plus 1/10 of

1% of cost in excess of P2,000,000.

regardless of the number of doors.

C. Dormitories with Project Cost: 1. P2,000,000 and below – P3,000; 2. Over P2,000,000 – P3,500.00 plus 1/10 of 1% of cost in excess of P 2,000,000 regardless of the number of doors.

D. Institutional with Project Cost: 1. P2,000,000 and below – P2,500; 2. Over P2,000,000 – P3,500 plus 1/10 of 1% of cost in excess of P 2,000,000.

E. Commercial and Industrial with Project Cost: 1. P500,000 and below – P2,000; 2. P501,000-P1,000,000 – P3,000; 3.

Cont. on page 11

Smoke Belching Group Nets 711, 61% Fail Tests

BAGUIOCITY – After the Roadside Inspection, Testing and Monitoring Team's (RITMT) intermittent operations along the city's roads from June 29 up to the present, 711 vehicles were flagged down for testing, with 61% failing the smoke-belching testing machine readings.

As to data from the RITMT, of the 711, 434 or 61% failed the readings with 277 passing the tests. The vehicles were tested along Harrison road, upper Session road, Gov. Pack road, Marcos Highway, Loakan road, Naguilian road,

Magsaysay Avenue, Near Botanical Garden, and Leonard Wood road.

The operations were done all in the morning, with document processing and release of confiscated licenses or plates in the afternoon. As of the middle of August, 292 licenses were released after payment of fees at the City Treasurer's Office and acquisition of the required Validation Emission Certificate (VEC) from the RITMT, Clean Air Monitoring Unit (CAMU) of the City Parks and Management Office (CPMO).

The vehicle in question undergoes proper maintenance procedures by an accredited shop, is tested properly and if it passes, would be granted the VEC to claim the confiscated license or plate.

As agreed upon, not even government vehicles are exempt from being tested.

Not even the vehicle of Councilor

Erdolfo Balajadia's wife was spared after it was caught with black smoke, during one of the operations along Loakan road. The vehicle was used on the road again after being properly maintained.

Councilor Balajadia is the prime author of the Clean Air Ordinance of the city.

The RITMT operates on the roads with a leader, flagger, spotter, education officer, vehicle plate remover and keeper, accredited smoke emission technician, recorder and toolkeeper, in coordination with the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO), environmentalists, and volunteers; including several senior citizens. Representatives from concerned public transport groups, the Public Order and Safety Division (POSD) of the City Mayor's Office, and the City Legal Office are also included in the operation.

Cont. on page 9

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

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno

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Tap Roots

Today's emerging surge to draft Senator Benigno Aquino III for president has tap roots in an administration that dug its heels against reforms. And clearance of the President and First Gentleman, in the botched ZTE" broadband scam, by what once was a graft-busting Ombudsman, demonstrates how it sowed the wind. The whirlwind is just ahead.

The Palace was "elated but not surprised" with the Ombudsman's absolute, Press Secretary Cerge Remonde exalted. Sleaze allegations never leached on to Mr. Mike Arroyo, he stressed.

Mr. Arroyo has de-facto immunity. He ignored a Blue Ribbon committee invitation for a final "ZTE" session. That'd rehash already-answered questions, the Palace scoffed.

EDITORIAL But unanswered questions dog this regime, from the overpriced Macapagal Boulevard, travel splurges, desparecidos to hunger. A hostaged Ombudsman can't hand out credible "fig leafs". And its checked history shows why.

Marcos' kleptocracy stunned drafters of the 1987 Constitution. To bar a repeat, they adopted the Scandinavian innovation of a public interests defender. An Ombudsman's work and life must radiate moral authority. Corazon Aquino and King Bhumibol of Thailand wielded such force. People are desperate to see that force in Noynoy Aquino.

The scandal-marred tenure of Ombudsman Aniano smashed hopes. As military prosecutor, Desierto hounded Senators Benigno Aquino II, Jose Diokno and others. Up to his death, Senator Lorenzo Tanada refused to address Desierto directly.

The Commission on Appointment ignored Desierto's messy record in its April 1996 hearings. We've paid dearly for that dereliction. Desierto, for example, ignored "vital evidence" and dismissed the multi-billion Bataan nuclear plant graft case, the Solicitor General found.

"Ombudsman Desierto will devote a considerable amount of official time protecting his hide," Ateneo University's Joaquin Bernas S.J. predicted. "His image is shattered...and it is impossible for him to function effectively...How the controversy... plays out will say a lot about the future of corruption."

Thirteen years after Fr. Bernas' forecast, Desierto's legacy roils the country. The August 31 Inquirer editorial "Ombuscams 2" shows how.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, in 2002, crafted charges in the Chingko tax credit scam. They were bobby-trapped to fail. Then-Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, said the charges were "destined for dismissal by design."

The Ombudsman could fake the same dive in the ZTE scam. It charged ex-Comelec chairman Benjamin Abalos and former Neda chair Romulo Neri. But the indictments are "curiously weak", Inquirer notes.

"A fine reading [of the resolution] shows the decision... was more on impropriety of playing golf and dinner," Secretary Remonde explained. At worst, you face minor legal inconveniences. The Ombudsman tells two fall guys: "Golf and dinner with crooks—when, under this administration, was that ever a crime?"

It is not a felony to be the First Gentleman's school-mate. But is Ms Gutierrez an Aniano Desierto in skirts?

"In an Ombudsman overseen by Mercedes Gutierrez, cases just lie there," says Philippine Human Development Report 2009. "And they die there."

There were 9,826 criminal cases lodged with the Ombudsman, over 12 years. Over half (58 percent) were unresolved. Of 9,033 administrative cases, over 61 percent mouldered. World Bank completed a two-year investigation

Cont. on page 9



DIRETSAHAN

Ms. Teen Baguio- PESTE HIYOSO
Mga opisyal ng Salud Mitra
NAMEMERSONAL BA???

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



"THE DIRTIEST PAGEANT" sa Baguio ba ang ginanap na MS. TEEN BAGUIO 2009 noong Agosto 30, 2009 sa convention center? Sa mga nakapanood at nakasaksi, maaring sabihin nila OO, pero sa mga namahala at nagorganisa siguradong ang sagot nila ay HINDI!!!

Nagsimula ang palabas mga alas 9 ng gabi imbes na alas syete. Pinoy kasi tayo kaya sinunod nila ang "oras pinoy". Oki pa sa "entrada" pero, nang nasa kalagitnaan dun na nagkalintek lintek. Iyong ibang emcee na walang ginawa kundi magpapogi at magdaddock ng walang "sense" hayon, nagkamali mali tuloy ng nababasa.

Eto pa, bago ang awarding, nag walk out umano ang isang babae na hurado sa patimpalak. Hindi nya siguro masikmura ang mga nangyayari, kung ano ang mga iyon, itanong nyo sa kanya. Nang magbigayan na ng mga award at ianunsyo na ang mga nagwagi ay dun na nagkaletse-letse. Mantakin mong matapos mabigyan ng award ang 3rd and 2nd runner-up ay biglang kambiyo at sabihin na hindi sila? At sa mismong "stage"? Napakalaking kapalpakan ito, pweh!, kaya hindi masisi ang ibang "pariyentes" na "ipull-out" nila ang kanilang kandidata mula sa tanghalan. Sino naman ang hindi maiimbyerna sa ganitong klase ng "beauty pageant"? Kung sinuman ang mga "organizers" nito, hoy, mahiya naman kayo, imbes na PRESTEHIYOSO ang ganitong patimpalak, ginawa ninyong PESTE-HIYOSO, pweh! at sa mga taong nasa likod ng karumaldumal na kapalpakang ito, mga peste kayong mga hinayupak! Gayunpaman, gusto kong batiin ang mga nanalo dahil talaga naman pong "deserving" ang kanilang pagkapanalo. Ang mga namahala at nagpatakbo lang nitong MISS TEEN BAGUIO 2009 ang buwisheet!! Sa susunod, dapat siguradong magdaos na lang tayo ng MISS TINOLA, MISS TEEN-NAPA, MISS TEEN -NAPAY etsetera, di ba kabagis ABET QUILALA? Bwa,ha!ha!

Bakit kaya ang ibang opisyal ng barangay dito sa Baguio, napakahilig mamersonal? Katulad na lamang itong mga onsehal...este konsehal at kupitana...este kapitana ng SALUD MITRA? Kundi ba naman kakenkoyon itong ginawa nilang resolusyon na ipinapademoish nila ang isang sari-sari store na ayon sa kanila ay isa raw "right-of-way"! hanep! Duling kaya ang mga ito at karamihan sa kanilang nasasakupang pati ang kanilang opisina ay nasa right of way din aba, kung ipapademoish itong sari-sari store dapat ipademoish na rin lahat ng mga apektado roon, at kung ang isa pa nilang rason ay dahil raw ala itong building permit, he he, itanong nga natin sa CBAO kung me building permit itong mga gusali na tabing at nasa right of way rin, gusto ko nga ring itanong dito kay apo kupitana...este

Cont. on page 9