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

Insider Drags DND Chief Into 'Anomalous' Chopper Deal

A whistleblower tells senators that Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin was promised P84M in commission to give the chopper deal to Rice Aircraft Services

MANILA, Philippines – Corruption in the defense department goes all the way to the top, according to a former agent of a United States-Canadian joint venture that won the allegedly anomalous P1.2-billion deal to supply the Philippine Air Force with 21 refurbished combat choppers.

Secretary of National Defense (SND) Voltaire Gazmin was allegedly promised a 7% kickback – about P84 million – while Defense Undersecretry for Finance Fernando Manalo got another 5% of the total project cost to cover his and his men's commissions, according to agent-turned-whistleblower Rhodora Alvarez in an affidavit submitted to the Senate blue ribbon committee last week.

On Tuesday, June 9, Gazmin did not attend the continuation of the Senate committee hearing, but sent a letter denying Cont. on page 8

WHISTLEBLOWER- Former BIR employee Rhodora Alvarez gives a detailed narration of alleged corruption in the procurement of military assets./ Photo by Alecs Ongcal/ Rappler

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Why this Businessman Spent Nearly P12-M to Bolster the Philippines' UN Case vs China

The Philippine government will be submitting to the United Nations Tribunal on the Law of the Sea in The Hague this week an almost 300-year-old map of the Philippines showing the disputed Scarborough Shoal being part of Philippine territory as far back as three centuries ago.

The map debunks the so-called nine-dash-line China has been using as proof of its claim over the South China Sea. It also locates Scarborough shoal, then known as "Panacot," also called "Panatag" by Filipinos, off the shores of Luzon, then known as Nueva Castilla. Scarborough shoal has been a source of conflict between the Philippines and China.

The Jesuit priest Pedro Murillo Velarde had the map published in Manila in 1734. It surfaced in 2012 among the possessions of a British lord, who put it up for auction at Sotheby's in London, where Filipino businessman Mel Velarde bid and got it for £170,500 ($266,869.46 or P12,014,463.09).

The first certified true copy of the map has been reserved for Malacañang. Velarde will personally present it to President Aquino on June 12, the anniversary of Philippine independence.

How Velarde, president and chief executive officer of Information Technology-based Now Corporation, acquired the map that had lain among the treasures of one of England's most prominent families for more than 200 years is like something out of the movies. In fact, the wizard Harry Potter even makes a cameo appearance in the story.

Velarde has yet to find out if he is related to the Jesuit priest, although a possible connection was one of the motives for his pursuit of the artifact.

Velarde said Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio, a long time friend, suggested to him sometime in October last year to bid for the Murillo Velarde map. Velarde said Carpio's convincing line was: "You know, man, you're a Velarde."

Carpio, who has been conducting lectures debunking China's claim of almost the entire South China Sea, calls the Murillo Velarde map the "Mother of all Philippine maps."

Local public and private museums declined to take part in the Sotheby's bid. The National Museum was interested but didn't have the money, so the plan was for Velarde to buy the map and sell it later to the National Museum.

The Murillo Velarde map measures 1,120 by 1,200 mm. The Sotheby's catalog carried a description of the map by Filipino historian and biographer Carlos Quirino: "Murillo Velarde's map of the Philippines is a landmark in the depiction of the islands, and the first scientific map of the Philippines. It is flanked by two pasted-on side-panels

Cont. on page 9

Pag-ibig Inks MOA with City Paid Informal Employees

BAGUIO CITY – the city government here entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with home Development Mutual Fund(Pag-ibig Fund) on the coverage of its informal or 'Job Order" employees.

The MOA was signed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan representing the City government of Baguio and Pag-Ibig Fund Ilocos Region Area Head Lilia Anguluan last June 10 at the Mayor's office with Pag-Ibig Baguio Branch Head Ma. Teresa Salem and head marketing Lilian Nievera.

As per the MOA, Pag-Ibig Fund desires to extend its membership to self-employed or the job orders employed with the city government with informal monthly income.

The Job orders manifested their desire and willingness to register as Pag-Ibig Fund members and has given authority to the city government to deduct from their salary the membership dues.

The city government on the other will facilitate their membership by submitting to Pag-Ibig Fund the list of Job Orders in-

Cont. on page 9

Jail Chief Thanks City for Support

BAGUIO CITY – despite the scarcity of resources, our innovative projects for the city jail was sustained thru the resolute support of the city government.

This was the message of City Jail Warden Elvis Danglose during Mondays regular flag raising ceremony here where he happily reported to City Officials spearheaded by Mayor Mauricio Domogan updates on the city's jail facility.

Danglose pointed to several jail improvements such as the renovation of the entire alleyway of the cells and the replacement of concrete walls with steel grills to provide adequate ventilation inside the jail for the benefit of the occupants.

The multi-purpose hall was also completely tiled and repainted to hold the various activities of inmates.

A heavy duty exhaust fan was also installed and now utilized by residents for better air circulation while a generator in case of brown-outs was also procured.

Offices within the city jail facility male dorm were also provided with 7 computer sets including 2 sets of computers donated by Baguio's Sister City Gongju, Korea and the continuous provision of office supplies and cleaning materials.

Eight sets of bulletproof vests and helmets were also procured.

Aside from supplies and equipment, the city also provided funds for personnel training such as GAD Educational tour, Firearm Proficiency Training, Food Handling Seminar for inmates and personnel and Construction and Painting Training for inmates.

Presently, the City Jail Male Dorm has 381 inmates while the female dorm has 63 inmates or residents.

Theft cases still remain highest in crimes against property with a total of 51 cases, Robbery with 49 cases and Estafa with 10 cases.

Cont. on page 8

Mayor Hopeful for PCUP Ok on BIBAK Lot Demolition

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan on Wednesday expressed hopes that the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) will no longer question the City Government's plan to demolish the more than 50 illegal structures at the Benguet-Ifugao-Bontoc-Apayao-Kalinga (BIBAK) lot along Harrison Road.

The mayor said two commissioners of the PCUP arrived here last week to investigate and see the real situation in the area.

"I am sure that they saw for themselves that the site is occupied not by members of the urban poor but by unscrupulous individuals profiting from a government property," the mayor said.

He expressed hopes that the commissioners will render a favorable report for the City to push through with the demolition.

"I hope there will be no more legal obstacle for the City to pursue the demolition," he said.

The City's bid to clear the lot received a boost from former leaders of the BIBAK Student Dormitories Inc. who committed to support the City's move.

Domogan said the association members sought him out recently asking how the group can help the City and promised to back the City's plan to eject the squatters and clear the area.

The group reportedly served intention to reclaim the lot which was originally reserved for the housing needs of students from the BIBAK areas but which is now occupied by private individuals and being used for business purposes.

PCUP chair Hernani Panganiban earlier Domogan to defer the implementation of the planned demolition of the structures pointing out the need to observe proper procedures and to ensure that the rights of

Cont. on page 8

City Seeks to Lift NCCA's Cease and Desist Order

BAGUIO CITY - Mayor Mauricio Domogan disclosed in his weekly forum last Wednesday that the city will file a motion for reconsideration to the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) to lift the cease and desist order issued to the city last June 3.

Domogan pointed out that the cease and desist order issued by the NCCA has no basis.

He pointed out that in the cease and desist order of NCCA, it was stated that "Baguio City Hall is a built heritage/marked structure classified as a considered/presumed Important Cultural Property (PICP), pursuant to section 5(e) of Republic Act 10066, otherwise known as the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, and categorized as Grade III Cultural Property pursuant to section 7.1 of the implementing rules and regulations of RA 10066."

Thus, the NCCA acknowledged that it is only the city hall building that was marked, thus, the improvement of the city hall ground is outside the marked heritage site, stressed the mayor.

Moreover, in response to the contention of the NCCA citing section 48(b) of the RA 10066, Domogan emphasized that the improvement of the city hall grounds project will not in any way cause obstruction on the view of the government building, but, instead, the city is beautifying, enhancing, protecting and securing the city hall as well as ensuring the architectural in-

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THE JUNCTION

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Mass Consultation on Tax Increase Set for June 30

BAGUIO CITY – The planned mass consultation on the proposed tax increase will push through on June 30, 9am-12pm at the Baguio Convention Center.

Vice Mayor and council committee on ways and means cluster B chair Edison Bilog sent out invitations to all the barangays, the business and realty sectors, real property owners and all taxpayers to attend the hearing which aims to get the sentiment of the public on the proposed adjustments to the business and real property taxes.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan last year sought a speedy consultation for the city and the people to "strike an agreement on what is reasonable to both the city and the taxpayers."

He said the city is now obliged to implement the increase after years of stalling to update the old rates and make them compliant with the requirements of the law.

The city is eyeing a 10 percent increase in business taxes under Tax Ordinance No. 2000-01 including city market rental and fees and garbage charges which were last adjusted in 2001 or 13 years ago.

The city also needs to update its schedule of fair market values of real properties which remained unchanged since 1996 making the city non-compliant with the New Local Government Code or the Republic Act No. 7160 provision mandating local government units to undertake a general revision of real property tax valuation every three years.

It was assured that a minimal assessment level will be recommended to temper the expected huge increase in the market value as a result of the city's passing up on several revision terms since 1996.

At present, the city's assessment levels are pegged at 12 percent for residential and 35 percent for commercial properties./ *A Refuerzo*

City Commends Quirino Hill for Anti-illegal Drugs Stance

BAGUIO CITY – the City Council here thru a resolution commended the Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) of Lower Quirino Hill Barangay for helping authorities stop the proliferation of the drug menace.

City Officials spearheaded by Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Vice Mayor Edison Billog personally handed the recognition Monday to Officials of Quirino Hill Barangay headed by Punong Barangay Van Oliver Dicang for their successful discovery and dismantling of a drug den in the said barangay in close coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

It can be recalled that a raid was successfully conducted last March 30 by Anti-Narcotics agents of PDEA in Lower Quirino Hill barangay thru the efforts of the Quirino Hill BADAC which resulted to the confiscation of illegal drugs and the arrest of notorious drug personalities.

The resolution introduced by Councilor Faustino Olowan reads, the BADAC displayed utmost courage and will to negate such illegal activities in the barangay in order to protect its constituents and maintain peace and order, hence deserves appreciation.

The resolution also congratulated and commended the PDEA –CAR for the success of the operation and bringing to the fore the fight against illegal drugs.

Domogan said, "the cooperation of barangay residents is very vital in the fight against illegal activities."

"We need teamwork in the fight against the drug menace, the city government, law enforcement agencies, Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council and barangay officials have to do their share as frontliners to make the campaign against illegal drugs a success," he said.

Domogan also stressed," the campaign against illegal drugs by the barangays is a huge help as they are knowledgeable in the identification, regular monitoring and reporting of those involved in illegal drug activities in their respective barangays. "/*Paul Rillorta*

MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION - Mayor Mauricio Domogan reacted with dismay on the cease and desist order issued by the National Commission on Culture and the Art for no basis while coming out with the filing for a motion for a reconsideration because the NCCA never gave any verbal or written complaint to the city, Domogan earlier vowed to ensure and protect the architectural integrity of the city hall building for the improvement of city hall grounds. Listening intently at left is Vice Mayor Edison Bilog./By Bong Cayabyab

Congressman to Meet with StuFAP on June 21

BAGUIO Rep. Nicasio M. Aliping Jr. is set to meet with 1,188 college students who he endorsed to the Department of Education (DepEd) to become grantees of the Student Financial Assistance Program (StuFAP).

The simple get together, set on June 21 at the Baguio Convention Center (BCC), and will determine the exact number of grantees Rep. Aliping has endorsed and their current status in school.

StuFAP is one of government's grant-in-aid programs which assists financially hard-pressed students complete a college education. The grant gives a maximum of P12,000 a year to grantees to help defray the cost of their tuition.

"Education is getting expensive every year, and through this program we hope we can help students finish college and become productive members of our society," Rep. Aliping said.

The gathering of StuFAP grantees will primarily be to validate the papers of existing grantees of Rep. Aliping. "They have to validate their papers so that we can know who among them are still interested in the program, who are in need of more assistance, and how many slots we can offer this coming semester," said program lead coordinator Ron Perez of the Baguio Congressman's Office.

Perez added that Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) Regional Director Romulo Malvar will orient the grantees on the guidelines of the StuFAP during the event as well as present the expectations from each grantee.

The StuFAP coordinators in each of the colleges and universities in Baguio and Benguet will also be presented so the grantees know who to contact should there be any problem which would arise concerning their grants.

Rep. Aliping will then give a short inspirational message to the students where he is expected to present other programs he has in line for the grantees.

"We will discuss with the student-grantees on how we can better the program and what other forms of assistance the government can give to them," Rep. Aliping added.

After the open forum, the students will determine who will be their school coordinators so these future benefits can be communicated directly to them, Perez also said.

Perez advised grantees to come early to the general assembly so the program can end early and for the grantees to enjoy the rest of the Sunday with their families./*Carl C. Taawan, Office of Congressman Nicasio Aliping*

City Undertakes Hazard Mapping

BAGUIO CITY – A hazard mapping is underway to pinpoint structures erected on top of sinkholes in critical areas in the city.

City planning and development officer Evelyn Cayat said the mapping project currently being undertaken by the City Government in coordination with other agencies is pursuant to a city council resolution calling for the determination of danger zones in the city for mitigation.

Cayat said the city has an existing hazard map but this particular project intends to identify the exact structures sitting on danger zones.

When completed, the results will be collated and disseminated primarily to the affected structure owners to undertake mitigating measures or to evacuate the properties if necessary.

The inspections are conducted by the technical working group composed of the city engineering office, the Dept. of Public Works and Highways, the Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau of the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources Cordillera, the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the Bureau of Fire Protection and the city planning office.

In the hazard map, 14 barangays were identified to be prone to sinkholes: Irisan, City Camp Central, Lower Rock Quarry, Pinget, Bakakeng Central, Dontogan, Sto. Tomas Proper, Asin, Dominican Mirador, Lourdes Subd. Ext., San Roque Village, Middle Quezon Hill, Quezon Hill Proper and Upper Quezon Hill.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan has been discouraging residents from building their houses and structures on these sinkhole-prone sites. He said those whose buildings sit on these zones should be wary of the condition of their lots and should undertake remedial measures or vacate the place especially during the typhoon season.

The city is considered as one of the places in the country that are susceptible to sinkholes.

A blog report last April quoting the MGB-DENR said, "Sinkholes are quite common in Baguio City, which also has at least seven known faults and numerous areas vulnerable to landslides. Landslides could be triggered by an earthquake or continuous rainfall, which can also cause sinkholes to wreak havoc. Because Baguio has one Cont. on page 6

Why We are so Corrupt

At lunch the other day, the cultural activist and stage star Joy Virata asked two very important questions. I have mulled over them for so long, I think I have some of the answers, most of which are based on our history, our nature as Filipinos and our economic system. I am only too aware, of course, of the Marxist injunction that this economic system itself determines our culture.

I'm pushing on to 90 — Ms. Virata must have considered this when she asked, is there any difference between politics of yesteryear and today? And the other more telling question is, why we have declined morally, why we are so corrupt.

Being this ancient, I must be forgiven for my nostalgia and tenacious clinging to a past that has been enhanced by a little knowledge of history. I remember what the historian William Henry Scott told me — how he came across an inventory in the 1896 revolution listing down broken pens, battered chairs, the trivia put down by outgoing bureaucrats illustrating their honesty. In the Thirties, politicians spent their own money for their election campaign. Many of them were impoverished by their aspiration to be town mayor, congressman or governor. Not now — politicians make money at the very beginning when they campaign. How did they go about then? I fondly remember the former Secretary of Health, Dr. Juan Salcedo, going to Pangasinan in a non-airconditioned Pantranco bus, Cabinet Secretaries Conrado Estrella and Emmanuel Pelaez travelling without any escort, Senator Juan Flavier using public transport. Not the officials today — from the simple city mayor who goes around with a fleet of security vehicles. Look at the composition of the Senate in the Fifties — they were intellectuals, writers, Recto, Tanada, Pelaez, Manglapus and so on. Yes, there was one movie star — Rogelio dela Rosa but he was circumspect, competent enough to be ambassador, too.

EDITORIAL

Look at Senators today, and weep.

Yes, indeed, how can any Filipino today escape this plague that has drained us of courage to fight it, that has rendered us apathetic and submissive?

Corruption now pervades our very lives. We see it in the conduct of our highest elected officials, our police officers, in the justice system that is in shambles. After all that pork barrel noise in Congress, why is no one in jail? The Ampatuan massacre — why, after four years, there is no court verdict? The daily murders —many of them are unreported. And the public apathy and cynicism.

I have an explanation, which I know is incomplete for there are iron realities that aggravate the Filipino metastasis — the poverty which has forced so many to steal, the hypocrisy inherent in Filipino relationships, our pakikisama, wherein we don't ostracize the corrupt but instead greet them with handshakes and smiles. Our cowardice even — all these basically obstruct the creation of a just society.

But first, the trauma of history.

It is quite correct to ascribe so many evils in our society as accruements of a colonial past. We must bear in mind though that the colonialists are gone, that though vestiges of colonialism remain, as the Spanish writer Salvador de Madariaga stated, a country need not be colonized by a foreign power — it can well be a colony of its own elites and leaders. And this is what we have become.

The past hundred years or so have sorely tested us as a people aspiring to be a nation. In 1896 after the execution of Jose Rizal by the Spaniards, the revolution broke out only to be sold out by a weakened leadership in the Pact of Biak na Bato. That struggle was resuscitated when the Americans came in 1898. We fought them, too, but the ragtag revolutionary Army was beaten and we became an American colony.

In both wars, our patriotism, our unity as a people were tested on the battlefield, our morale succumbed but far more demeaning was the moral decay.

In that period when Filipino leadership was under siege, Apolinario Mabini provided it with a stern moral leadership. This was his singular role, but his voice was not heeded by no less than the president, General Emilio Aguinaldo, who was surrounded by the rich ilustrados. They wanted Mabini's influence totally banished, so that they could enrich themselves and negotiate with the new imperialists.

We see then from the very beginning of the Malolos Republic this fatal virus that afflicts us — the acceptance of collaboration with the enemy for personal gain.

It was the same when the second trauma ravaged us — the Japanese invasion in 1942 and the brutal three-year occupation. So many Filipinos collaborated with them, some out of sincere belief that they would relieve Asia from Western colonialism, but most, simply to preserve their privileged status and profit from collaboration.

How was collaboration with the Nazis in Europe in World War II resolved? The Danes started killing the collaborators even before the Cont. on page 6

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

POWER SCRAMBLE!

By: Jesus Dureza

I read reports saying that Mindanao is well and "ok" on power needs due to the many new power plants being put up. True? Not really!

Mark my words. In a year or so, there will be another acute power shortage in Mindanao. This will trigger a mad rush among power coops where to get power on a stop gap basis. They will be scrambling and stumbling all over the place to see where to get power while the new power plants are not yet in operation. That's a gap window of about four to five years or so.

NOT ROSY — The rosy picture being painted today by the energy sector about sufficient generating capacities on a long term in Mindanao may be accurate but if we look closely, the challenge is how to address the situation on a short term before these new power plants start operating. Yes, there are big coal-fired plants being built but they will not give us electric power earlier than four or five years from today. In the meantime, where do we get the power that we need to sustain our incremental growth? Take note that even in today's power situation, Mindanao is already having a power shortage or a deficit in its demand and supply data. Hence the intermittent brownouts now occurring.

COOPS UNEASY — The power coops are sitting uneasy today. For example several coops, or more than 20 of the 33 electric coops all across Mindanao had early on signed up for their power needs with Ayala's GN Power to cover their future power need projections. Such power sales agreement in 2010 was a breakthrough when the Mindanao coops aggregated to leverage a better price deal. Well and good! But a reality check is that GN Power's planned 540MW plant in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte has just started breaking ground. The coops are now becoming restless, knowing that the original targeted start of operations in 2018 or two (3) years from now as earlier projected, is too tight given its current accomplishment which, based on latest DOE report, was less than 20 percent and still at earthwork stage. Several of these coops are no longer pinning totally their hopes solely on their supply contracts with GN Coal Power. In fact, several of them have started reducing, withdrawing or reconsidering and looking for power somewhere else. Why? Simply because the contracted power they are expecting within the next three years or so will NOT be available by then. Besides GN Power, the consuming public needed to be apprised of status of other ongoing big-ticket coal-fired power plants such as Filinvest 405MW in Misamis Oriental, Alsons Coal 200MW in Sarangani, 600MW San Miguel in Malita, Davao del Sur and the still to be constructed San Ramon 100MW in Zamboanga.

REALITY CHECK — Their reality check is coming from the lessons of Aboitiz-owned new 300 MW Thermal South Inc. now completed in the outskirts of Davao City. Although the construction is completed, it is not yet giving us power up now. Although the Therma South Unit 2 with 150MW is expected to come online this month, the other Unit 1 with 150MW was pushed back for about 10 months due to some technical glitches not of its own making. The famous "Easter Sunday Blackout" that darkened almost the whole of Mindanao caused by a rotting machine part falling and throwing a virtual monkey wrench that stopped the power Cont. on page 7

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Food Products with Worms: What Else is New?

By: Batas Mauricio

LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: ***"... Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry..." (Colossians 3:5, the Holy Bible).***

-ooo-

REMOVING GALL STONES WITH OPERATION? Here is a Facebook post about gall stones, so read on (I translated it from Filipino to English): "Gall stones, the natural way to dissolve them: Avoid eating oily foods. This is one reason why gall stones grow. My relatives obeyed this admonition, and they successfully removed their gall stones through urination and bowel movement.

"Women are most frequently afflicted with gall stones, whether they are possessed with healthy-looking bodies or not, and those who are thin. Women who take hormonal drugs or those who are currently in their reproductive ages. But men can also have gall stones.

"All of us have gall stones, and they can be small or big in size, and they maybe few or plentiful. One sign that we have gall stones is the sensation that we are like a balloon after eating much, and have a feeling that the food we ate cannot be digested. When this becomes serious, one will feel extreme pain in the region where the liver is located in the body.

-ooo-

PROCESS OF REMOVING GALL STONES NATURALLLY EXPLAINED: "A doctor who believes in natural methods to heal this disease gave the following advice on natural removal of gall stones: First, for five days, an interested person should drink four glasses of apple juice, or eat five apples. Apple softens the gall stones.

"On the sixth day, do not have dinner. At 6 in the evening on that day, drink one glass of lukewarm water which is laced with Epson salt (or magnesium sulfate). At 8 p.m., repeat this process, for magnesium opens up the gallbladder ducts.

"At 10 in the evening, thoroughly mix one-half cup of olive oil (or sesame oil) with one-half cup of fresh lemon juice and then drink it. Olive oil makes the gallstones quite slippery, enabling them to get out more easily. In the morning, one will see green stones in his stool." I wonder what my doctor-friends will say about this. Anyway, there is no harm in trying, right? Especially if there is no money for operating on the gallstones.

-ooo-

FOOD PRODUCTS WITH WORMS: WHAT ELSE IS NEW? Have you seen the Facebook post which shows a can of a tuna flakes containing many white-colored worms? Many expressed disgust at the company that is said to have manufactured the tuna flakes, but then, I know things like this can happen. In my life as a lawyer helping the poor who have no money to hire lawyers, I came face to face with products containing live worms.

In fact, I have been suspended from my practice of law for three years simply because of my refusal (according to the Supreme Court) to keep quiet about the food products that contained live worms that were even eaten by those who were enticed to buy the canned food because of its very low price.

Indeed, how can someone like me keep quiet about a threat to public health Cont. on page 8

DIMENSIONAL ROAD

Prejudice on Job Applicants' Higher Education Institution: An Alarming Social Cancer

By : Marvin Wacnag Lidawan

Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity. **Martin Luther King, Jr.**

How rational are these manpower hiring malpractices when any organization absorbs the applicants by virtue of the colleges or universities' exclusiveness these candidates have attained their degrees? Were the applicants successfully recruited by virtue of fair ranking based on viable or standardized performance indicators like degree relevance, grades or marks manifested in their calculated GPA, industry-related workshop attendance, related experiences, publications, eligibility, conference presentation, community alliance, graduate studies as forms of continuing education? If not, digesting the points raised concludes an overwhelming truth that job search discriminations in the country don't only relate to age, ethnicity and gender among others but also to how exclusive or impressive the educational institutions applicants have obtained learning.

It is tantamount to agonizingly being aware that some Human Resource Development Officers (HRDO)'s organizational practices for manpower hiring evade the standards of recruitment themselves not to mention some prevailing influential factors from other officers in the company under their jurisdictions despite applicants' satisfactory performances in undergoing the procedures that include document preparations, interviews, job examination and skills or trade tests which are their basic steps as instructed by the management, to mention a few. These are prevalent misconducts towards job applicants that silently thrive behind the knowledge of the law.

According to the article published by President Ruben Anlacan, Jr of the Business Coach, Inc. at the Manila Bulletin entitled: School discrimination in job application - is it real? He was able to obtain information from a recruitment officer who declared the company's process of hiring applicants. "He prepares three receptacles for the applicants. The first is for the graduates of the University of the Philippines (UP), Ateneo de Manila University (AMU), La Salle University (LSU), and University of Santo Thomas (UST). The second is for the graduates of other exclusive schools. While the third container will hold the applicants coming from "the other schools." Anlacan reports that the human resource officer "scans first the documents coming from the first receptacle, and if nobody qualifies, that is when she would browse on the second container." According to her, no way would she ever dare touch the applications from the third receptacle." This information made him recall that this practice exercised by this organization is contrary to how he did manpower recruitment as a hiring staff in 1987.

As a current President of Coach Trainor Inc., trainees were able to express their sentiments regarding discriminatory facts in the hiring scenes. Anlacan continued, "Our on-the-job trainees narrated her experience when she was looking for a job in a well-known business district. She prepared all her requirements and made sure she dressed up on the day she submitted her application. When she got in the office, there were several other applicants with her. A receptionist scanned her documents then told her to just leave them with her. She will be called if her qualifications will match their needs. However, she got dismayed, when she found out that all the other applicants coming from exclusive schools were requested to stay." Anlacan's reported accounts from individuals further showed forms of discriminatory factors. "Some hiring officers ask the following questions during interview: Do you own a car? Do you have outstanding loans? Do you own or rent a residence? How can these questions help in deciphering whether an applicant is qualified or not?" Anlacan's point of view boils down to a single central thesis that these are evidence of prevalent beliefs of recruitment officers that graduates of exclusive schools perform better than those coming from the other schools. To him, this is plausibly true, but perhaps certainly not for all cases. A graduate from a less prominent school could just hope that this should not be the basis for denial of employment. Human Resource theories and practices in the academe do not exhibit these practices. Matters which Hiring officers should be aware of if only they underwent formal studies as recruitment personnel.

Anlacan went on to show that there is a job selection discrimination in the country which is defined by the fact that most of the high paying jobs are usually taken by graduates of exclusive schools. While the rank and file positions are reserved for their non-exclusive counterparts which mostly occur in the non-government sectors.

Contrary to the hiring practices in other countries, regarding Filipinos. Foreign employers in the earlier times perceived the ability of applicants through their academic performance coupled with related skills: soft or hard skills. They don't consider the school to determine qualifications. Now, they are being influenced with the kind of hiring practices in the country of our educational origin. If we tolerate these malpractices, graduates from non-exclusive higher education institutions will not successfully land better paying jobs even overseas.

To continue, discrimination is coupled with unprofessionalism and humiliation in government and private organizations. In an organization, a manager criticizes the job of one for errors committed. He blames the educational institutions where the employee has garnered a degree even with the presence of other personnel or even before visiting clients adding that employees' human rights are often violated by most authorities in an office every now and then which remained to be ignored and excused due to their influential authority in the system. Employees' fear of losing a job mutes one, the right to complain against the administrators despite the existence of laws governing the protection of human rights in workplaces. It is crucial to mention that courage to bring out these concerns among the employees are barred due to job competitions where everyone is aware that there are lots of competent graduates who can replace anybody who attempts to protest. Complaining will not give justice to the victims. The situation could be twisted where the victims become the culprits and the accused could be the victims. These have been taking place long time ago and could reoccur due to an organizations' grounded system where fair play is not the name of the game for it is replaced by workplace authorities' wickedly- knitted connivance.

Not all instances of discriminations are recorded. There could be more discriminatingly humiliating - incidents in public and private organizations associated with the articulated incidents which speak for absolute prejudice.

All these forms of incidents elucidate a discriminating persona. It is an endemic form of social cancer to be dejected that calls for lawful resolutions expected to emerge from the local government offices to be urgently mandated up to the national government for swift implementations.

Others in the country use the colleges or universities they have gradu- Cont. on page 6

DIMENSIONAL ROAD

...from page 5

ated for superiority complex in workplaces. This attitude implies that majority of professionals haven't achieved the degree of professionalism. It happens to people from undergraduate, graduate, or post graduate levels. They may come in varied hiring companies who do not understand that the (Commission on Higher Education) CHED covers all colleges and universities where similar protocol of these schools have underwent to qualify for status regulations approved to academically operate.

Real Learning doesn't depend on the school itself but the individual who acquires and undergoes the pedagogical process. Being a graduate from any prestigious colleges and universities is not a status quo but the accumulated knowledge are. All educational institutions are places of legitimate learning having their course offerings approved by the (CHED) which boils down to only one track- educational direction through the technical- academic knowledge obtained. Philippine higher education graduates are centralized in terms of obtaining illegibility that will allow every graduate to function. The Philippine Regulatory Commission (PRC) is not a government agency that divides the graduates in terms of degree licensing to practice professions but it caters to all graduates of the republic where these exclusive schools are covered just as the country's Civil Service Commission (CSC) provides civil service professional examinations to all Filipino college graduates under two levels depending on the educational qualification they have. As one prominent statement from Getreal Philippines.com says "Until Filipinos learn to celebrate their diversity, and while they continue to divide themselves over it, they will continue to struggle as a nation." /*marvinwacnag lidawan.com*

EDITORIAL

...from page 4

collapse of Nazi Germany. The French hounded them, jailed them.

In the Philippines, many of them even proclaimed themselves patriots. They were granted amnesty. As a political issue, therefore, collaboration with the Japanese was settled but it continues to fester today as a moral issue.

Were the collaborators ever bothered? Hardly, I think, because they know we are not bound by moral scruples.

Then martial law. So many of us knew it was coming and some even welcomed it. As for the very poor, the masa — it was not their real concern. As one put it, he didn't care if it was the devil himself who ruled as long as food was cheap.

Again, many Filipinos accepted the edict; they even worked gladly for Marcos, legitimized his regime and willfully contributed to the violence, the death, imprisonment and torture of thousands.

In all these three traumatic events in our history, the collaborators with our exploiters were never really punished. They ended up rich, and successfully masqueraded as heroes. The evil that imperialists and Marcos did was soon forgotten. We see now the Marcoses and so many of their hirelings back in power, sneering at our credulity.

What then does history tell us?

In these man-made disasters that wrought havoc on otherwise stable and just societies, the rules of conduct, of ethics were thrown out of the window as the powerful dictator, king, bureaucrat, imperial agent exploited the people and the land. Each individual must survive; he becomes an animal in the jungle; he gets used to the violence, the corruption, the lying and the cheating as normal human traits; he adapts to them, even exploits them if he can. Forget truth, God, the wrath of the heavens — there is only he and his family.

In this decadent atmosphere, it is difficult to recover virtue. And if the disaster strikes again after it is surmounted, the individual is immersed deeper into the slime so that eventually, he is totally submerged in it, he no longer knows what it feels to breathe the fresh air, to appreciate green living things, to know God and the infinite splendor of creation. He knows only the fetid darkness.

Today, for all hosannas evoked by the seeming development in the economy, we need to think not of the future, but of the past which impacts on today.

There is one great failing of government, from Cory's to her son's which is not lost on the national consciousness — and this is the resolution of the assassination of Ninoy Aquino. No one seriously believes that those soldiers who were imprisoned for the crime were the real perpetrators. Someone upstairs, powerful and well connected masterminded it all, as well as the cover-up murders of several people who were supposed to be in the know.

What our leaders do not realize is the gravity of the murder of Ninoy Aquino, not so much because of the man's political ambition, but the perception today that murder has become so common — a daily occurrence as blatantly evidenced in the newspapers but that this government — the whole justice system — is so rotten it cannot even resolve such a high profile murder case wherein it should not be difficult to target the perpetrator.

Such a crime — without being fully resolved — contributes to the apathy of people, their acceptance of crime as the last nail in the coffin of the Filipino dream.

The assassination of Ninoy is not just a domestic crime — it is known all over the world, it is blot on the image of the Filipino nation as it illustrates to the whole world the rottenness of the Filipino justice system. If there is no justice for Ninoy Aquino, how can there be justice for poor, anonymous Juan?

If President PNoy knows, he does not say — which is, of course, the most damning of all because he is the son.

What aggravates our moral decay is our very nature, our sociability and hypocrisy. Although we are familiar with the crimes of our leaders, we continue to fete them, invite them in social functions, often bonded as they are with us not just by social ties but by gratitude for what these politicians must have done for us.

Then, of course, there is this economic system which is propelled by consumerism and untrammeled greed.

The last question: Is there no hope for Filipinos then?

The answer is with our youth. I always tell them, our heroes who wrote our history with their blood were all very young, in their twenties and thirties. For sure, many of the ilustrados joined the revolution for themselves. But Rizal, Mabini, Bonifacio and so many others did not.

And we are a talented people, as illustrated no less by Rizal. No country in Asia has ever produced a man like him. When we celebrate his birthday next week, just remember, he was a novelist, a sculptor, a medical doctor, a scholar, a teacher and a martyr at 35 when the Spaniards executed him./ HINDSIGHT By F Sionil Jose (The Philippine Star)

City Undertakes...

from page 3

of the 10 highest daily rainfall records in the world and is visited by an average of five cyclones in a three-year period, landslides and sinkhole-related mishaps are givens."

The perils of sinkholes in the city have been highlighted in the city in the aftermath of the July 16, 1990 earthquake and typhoon Feria in 2001./*A Refuerzo*

MAGKASANGGA TAYO

Sino ang nagsasabi ng totoo, si Vergara o si Acosta? Kayo ang maghusga! (Reprint)

By: Nestor "Paken" Castro

Umiinit mga dear readers ang bakbakan nila Worthey Acosta ang whistleblower-accuser na nag aakusa kina Margarita Ting-ting Cojuangco, Bernardo Vergara, Ferdie Balanag et.al..., ng pagnanakaw at pag tampera ng mga used ballots nung nakaraang halalan. Nitong nakaraang linggo ay nag pa prescon si Apo Vergara sa kanilang restawran na Dads at kanilang ipinakita na walang nangyaring tampering of the ballots or the ballot box. Sa nasabing prescon ay dinaluhan ng mga miyembro ng Comelec –CAR at ng mga ibat – ibang medyas este media at mga abogago este abogado ng mga akusado at nang whistleblower . Ang nakakatawa ay kung bakit ang Sunstar Baguio na pagmamay-ari ni Peter Rey Bautista (X-Baguio City Mayor Bautista) ay iginawang headline banner na si Vergara ay na iclear na raw ng COMELEC. Ano kayang comelec ang ibig sabihin ng Sunstar, commission on elections kaya o commission on electioneering o baka commission on lecturing? Sigurado naman na walang kinalaman itong si Peter Rey Bautista sa ganitong mga headlines sapagkat si dating Mayor Bautista ay involved lamang sa management bilang General Manager at ang direktang involved ay ang sumulat na si Giovani Joy Fontanilla at siyempre inaprubahan ng Editor-In-Chief na si Mary Ann Cacdac . Tsk! Tsk! Tsk! , ayokong gamitin ang salitang koryente sapagkat, hindi ko maisip kung paano sila makokoryente samantalang malinaw naman na walang ano man dokumento na ibinigay nuong presscon na dinaluhan ng isa natin consultant na si Bombito "MR. M" Aquino, na nag sasabing dismiss na ang reklamo sa Comelec, eh di saan nakuha ni Ms. Fontanilla ang kanyang nasabing na clear na si Vergara at kung bakit pinalusot ni Editor Cacdac ang isang baseless claim, magkano kaya, magkano kaya, magkano kaya ang iginastos sa presscon??? Hi! HI! Hi! (AGA AMO TAYON) !!! Panawagn ko kay kagalang-galang ginoong Bautista, Apo Peter Rey, sa aking palagay dapat na ma sanction ang Editor at Writer ng iyong pahayagan para ng sa ganoon ay hindi magmukhang nabayaran ang Sunstar na maglabas ng isang impormasyon na walang basehan . Hingil naman sa kaso ng theft and tampering ng mga used ballots , kung sa nakaraan katulad ng akin idineklara sa aking nakaraang kolum hingil sa isyu na hati na ako ay hati (50-50) pag dating sa isyu na ito, sa ngayon ay naging 70-30 na ang aking pananaw. 70% in favor of the whistleblower and 30% in favor of the vergara camp. Bakit kaninyo, katulad din ng aking idineklara sa nakaraang kolum ay madali naman patunayan na nagsisinungaling si whistleblower accosta kung bubuksan ang ballot box at makikitang walang kulang na balota eh di ibig sabihin ay walng nanakaw na balota, eh ngayon na binuksan ang ballot box ay lumalabas na mayroon ngang mga kulang na balota. Aba, eh possible ngang nagsasabi ng katotohanan itong si ginoong whistleblower Acosta!!! Kayo ang humusga mga dear readers, bastat maka aasa kayo na sa pahayangang ito at sa UPLAND News online systems ay inyong mababasa ang buong katotohanan hingil sa ballot theft and tampering issue na ito. **MABUHAY PO KAYONG MGA INDEPENDENT MINDED KONG READERS NA HINDI BASTA BASTA NAGPAPADALA SA MGA SULAT-SULAT O SABISABI NG MGA IBANG MGA TRYING HARD NA MGA MEDYAS ESTE MEDIA !!!**

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 7
BAGUIO CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE CANELLATION AND/OR CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF MINORS IRISH JEWEL E. GAVIRAN, CHRISTIAN LUIS E. GAVIRAN AND ALLIYAH TIFFANY E. GAVIRAN.

MINORS IRISH JEWEL E. GAVIRAN, CHRISTIAN LUIS E. HO GAVIRAN, and ALLIYAH TIFFANY E. GAVIRAN, represented by SPS. ROMMEL B. GAVIRAN and EVELYN ESPIJON-GAVIRAN,
Petitioners,

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF BAGUIO CITY,
Respondents,

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASE NO. 2454-R

ORDER

Before this Court is a petition filed by Irish Jewel E. Gaviran, Christian Luis E. Gaviran and Alliyah Tiffany E. Gaviran, represented by their parents, Spouses Rommel B. Gaviran and Evelyn Espijon-Gaviran through Atty. Louella Xylee T. Apilado praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, an Order be rendered directing the cancellation and correction of entry in the Certificates of Live Birth of petitioners Irish Jewel E. Gaviran, Christian Luis E. Gaviran and Alliyah Tiffany E. Gaviran as follows: "Date and Place of Marriage of Parents: October 8, 2001, Jaro Iloilo" to "Febuary 17, 2014 – Office of the City Mayor, Baguio City".

Briefly stated, the petitioners alleged, in support of the reliefs prayed for, that they are all minors and are in the custody of their parents, herein spouses Rommel B. Gaviran (Rommel), and Evelyn Espijon-Gaviran (Evelyn and that they are all Filipino citizens and residents of No. 161 Lower Pinget, Baguio City; that their parents met each other, fell in love and eventually lived together as husband and wife without the benefit of marriage at Lower Pinget, Baguio City; that out of wedlock, their mother Evelyn eventually conceived and gave birth to petitioner Irish Jewel on September 13, 2002 at Baguio General Hospital Medical Center, Baguio City; that out of that fear that said petitioner would carry the stigma of illegitimacy, their father, with the knowledge and consent of their mother, supplied erroneous information as regards the date and place of their marriage, i.e. October 8, 2001, Jaro, IloIlo in "Entry No. 18" of the e Certificate of Live Birth of Iris Jewel E. Gaviran; that two years after the birth of Irish Jewel, Evelyn again conceived and gave birth to petitioners Christian Luis E. Gaviran on June 11, 2004 and Alliyah Tiffany E. Gaviran on November 3, 2005, both at Baguio General Hospital Medical Center, Baguio City; that consistent with Entry No. 18 in the Certificate of Live Birth of Irish Jewel, the same was likewise erroneously, stated in the Certificate of Live Birth of the other petitioners; that petitioners parents eventually celebrated their marriage on February 17, 2014, in a civil ceremony solemnized by the Honorable City Mayor of Baguio, Mayor Mauricia G. Domogan as shown by a Certificate of Marriage attached to the petition as Annex "D"; that their parents had only good intentions, keeping in mind the welfare of their three children, herein petitioners in misrepresenting in their application for the registration of birth of petitioners that they were married on October 8, 2001 at Jaro, Iloilo, when the truth of the matter is that they had not been married at time of birth of the petitioners.

WHEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the same be set for hearing before this court located at Room 313, 3rd Floor of the Justice Hall, Baguio City on August 13, 2015 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at which place, date and time, the petitioners shall be allowed to substantiate their petition, and any interested person may show cause, if there be any, why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order, together with a copy of the petition and its annexes, be served upon the Honorable Solicitor General, City Prosecutor of Baguio City and the respondent Local Civil Registrar of Baguio City. Also, furnish copies of this notice to the Civil Registrar General, National Statistics Office, the Office of the Clerk for Court for publication and to the petitioners through their counsel.

Pursuant to Sec. 4, Rule 108 of the Rules of Court, let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Baguio and the whole Cordillera Region, the last publication of which shall not be later than August 13, 2015.

The Process Server is hereby directed to post copies of this notice on the bulletin boards of this Court, the Justice Hall, the City Market and the Post Office, all of Baguio City.

SO ORDERED.

DONE IN CHAMBERS, this 18th day of May, 2015 at Baguio City, Philippines.

(SGD)
MONA LISA V. TIONSAN-TABORA
Presiding Judge

Publication Dates: June 13, 20 and 27, 2015

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

...from page 4

transmissions was totally unexpected. Therma South Unit 1 is still behind schedule. (And still counting.) Hence, the speculation that within 3 or 4 years there may be a power gap that must be bridged , is now a reality. This is why a mad scramble among the coops where to get power during the interim is my projection into the near term.

STOP GAP — This brings us now to a situation where power coops will have to scout around for temporary arrangements to bridge this power gap. The way forward is to install small to medium power generating capacities that are embedded or exclusively intended for specific coops for their own localities, like diesel or bunker fired modular generators. They may be a bit expensive in terms of consumer price. But past experience taught us that it's far better to have a bit more reasonably expensive power than having "no power" at all! There are other options like installation of solar powered or small hydro or biomass plants. Whatever the option is, there must be ways done to insulate and protect communities from a serious deficit in the whole grid — an eventuality that now appears inevitable.

DASURECO — I am a native of Davao del Sur so I am proud to cite my province as an example of this forward looking remedial and preemptive measure. Look at what the Davao Del Sur Electric Cooperative, Inc. (DASURECO) in Digos, Davao del Sur has done. It installed early last year modular gensets with a 15MW standby capacity in partnership with Alson's Mapalad Power Company. General Manager Godofredo Guya and his board of directors took the right , decisive steps. I understand DASURECO reduced its contracted supply contract which it earlier signed with GN Power.

BALUT ISLAND — Here's another example of the same power coop's strategic move. Last week, DASURECO paved the way for the putting up of a small embedded power plant in Balut Island by signing a "waiver agreement" with PowerSource Phil. Inc., Being four (4) hours away from General Santos City by boat and not connected to the Mindanao power grid, the planned new power capacity will boost the island economy which serves as our frontier with neighboring Indonesia. The island is not easily accessible but a hidden jewel at the southern tip with a forward-looking chief executive, Mayor Virgie Cawa in tandem with husband, Vice Mayor Gerry Cawa. It is one of the towns of the Municipality of Sarangani (not to be mixed up with Province of Sarangani in South Cotabato.) Balut is now part of the newly created province of Davao Occidental, carved out of Davao del Sur, but still within DASURECO's franchise area. Am I glad PowerSource Phils, Inc. agreed to take care of power generation, operation and distribution in Balut Island. This is part of my own personal Mindanao advocacy in the private sector.

CHEAP NO MORE — Soon, Mindanao will no longer enjoy its comparative advantage over Luzon and Visayas . The regime of low "blended price", which is a mix of cheap hydro and fossil (coal, bunker, diesel) power is about to come to an end. This is inevitable with the privatization of power generation mandated by the EPIRA law. Hydropower (from Agus river and Lake Lanao) will no longer be a key player that will give a price blend that will keep cost of power cheap, especially when government starts transitioning to a regime where the private sector will have to step into its shoes as mandated by the EPIRA law.

DELAYS — One critical area that also needs radical reforms is the unmitigated and unreasonable delay in getting permits and approvals . Private investors had been complaining about unnecessary and institutional delays that contribute to the mess the power sector is now facing.

FUTURE — One important final point. There are still sticky issues about Mindanao power generation in relation to the prospective emergence of the Bangsamoro governance as a consequence of the peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), given that Lake Lanao, the main source of hydro power in the island region is within the territory. We need to resolve these issues with clarity./(jessdureza@gmail.com)/ADVOCACY MINDANoW FOUNDATION, INC. (AMFI)/ Follow us at Twitter: AMFI_Mindanow/ Email us: info@advocacymindanow.org/ Visit us: www.advocacymindanow.org

City Seeks..

from page 2

tegrity of the city hall building.

Also, the city hall building was only marked historical site in 2009 but it was not formally declared and classified/ identified as historical site. What was marked and declared as historical site in the city of Baguio is the Mansion House, added the mayor.

Domogan is wondering why the NCCA issued the said order considering that there was never any verbal or written complaint received by the city coming from the NCCA.

The construction work and beautification of the city hall premises has stopped last week because of the cease and desist order.

Domogan is hopeful that the NCCA will take into consideration the lifting of the cease and desist order so as the project of the city in improving the city hall grounds will resume./*Jho Arranz*

Insider Drags DND...

from page 1

the allegations.

Both Gazmin and Manalo have denied before the investigating Senate body. Alvarez admitted she had not dealt with Gazmin himself but said she's confident that Manalo couldn't make those commitments without his knowledge.

Alvarez said she was also supposed to get 3% or about P36 million. This means a total of P180 million or 15% of the total project cost was meant to pay grease money to ensure that the joint venture of US-based Rice Aircraft Services Incorporated (RASI) and Canada-based Eagle Copters Ltd won the contract.

Gazmin's denial

In response, Gazmin submitted to the Senate committee a letter to deny the claims of Alvarez.

"I categorically state that I have given strict instructions to all Department of National Defense (DND) officials to avoid acts of impropriety in all their dealings. I have never issued any instructions to seek favors from any entity or manipulate transactions that would violate the public trust and result in a disadvantage to the government," said Gazmin, who did not attend the continuation of the Senate hearing on Tuesday, June 9.

Gazmin is a father figure to President Benigno Aquino III. Ascommander of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) of his mother, the late President Corazon Aquino, he protected her administration from several coup attempts, including the bloodiest in December 1989 that wounded now President Aquino.

In the Senate hearing, Alvarez provided detailed narration of her supposed meetings with Manalo and Alvarez to make sure the only RASI could win the project.

Senators have raised red flags on the chopper deal – delayed delivery of choppers and engine defects in 4 of the only 7 choppers it was able to deliver.

Senator Francis Escudero also questioned why RASI, which failed the 3 public biddings for the project, still won the contract during the negotiated bid.

"To my mind, after two failed biddings, you should have learned your lesson already," Escudero said.

Defense Undersecretary Pio Lorenzo Batino said the defense department is now investigating the contract.

"We regret that we have not yet formed conclusions to the facts we received. We are collating everything to make a definitive conclusion on all of these matters," he said.

Air Force chief's concerns

Alvarez said RASI's choppers were only good as search and rescue choppers, not for combat mission. She said this is why the choppers were not used by the Philippine Air Force during the "all-out war" against the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters earlier this year.

Senator Joseph Victor Estrada said that Air Force pilots he talked to admitted to him that they are afraid to fly those choppers.

It turned out Air Force chief Lieutenant General Jeffrey Delgado had refused to accept the choppers last year because RASI wanted to deliver them without the necessary gun mounts. But the DND supposedly amended the terms of the contract to allow separate delivery of the choppers and the gun mounts.

"I have a memorandum signed by commanding general Lieutenant General Jeffrey Delgado to Secretary of National Defense, saying that the request of Rice Aircraft is not acceptable," Alvarez told the Senate hearing.

Alvarez said the defense department repeatedly amended the contract to allow RASI's request.

Alvarez said the Air Force eventually received 21 gun mounts and most of them may be useless because the defense department has terminated the rest of the contract with RICE. The US firm is appealing the ruling, however.

The defense officials, military officers, and representatives of the winning bidders were encouraged to respond to allegations made by Alvarez in her affidavit.

Manalo earlier confirmed that Alvarez used to be an agent of the US firm RASI. He said she's only making up the allegations to extort money from the supplier.

The allegations of Alvarez, however, have mostly targetted at Gazmin, Manalo, and Assistant Secretary Patrick Velez and particular Air Force officers who were supposed to scrutinize the qualifications of the bidder and the inspected the choppers upon delivery.

She also accused Manalo, a former Air Force general, of being an former agent of RASI. She said this explains why he would supposedly favor the company. – *Rappler.com*

Mayor Hopeful...

from page 2

the owners will not be violated taking into consideration the settlers' claim that they are members of the marginalized sector and have been occupying the BIBAK compound since 1982 and thus are qualified to stay in the area or be granted relocation privileges under Republic Act 7279 or the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992.

The City however said the lot needs to be cleared as it was intended for BIBAK housing needs and that the present occupants are private individuals who entered the property without permission and are now utilizing the area for profit.

The demolition of the structures has been endorsed by the Regional Development Council and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Cordillera (DENR-CAR).

The RDC In a resolution passed in 2013 supported the city's plan to immediately demolish the illegal constructions in the area stressing the need to establish dormitories for the BIBAK constituents.

Last year, DENR-CAR OIC regional director Paquito Moreno also supported the city's demolition plan in the area as he turned down the petition of the OCT No. 1 settlers to own the lots they are occupying.

Moreno said the DENR being the administrator of the lots under OCT 1 has advocated of the "best use" of the property and a demolition to be executed by the city mayor's office will help the department enforce its mandate.

The said lot measuring about 5,000 square meters was segregated from Original Certificate Title No. 01 in favor of the BIBAK Dormitories Inc. in 1961 and thus "was slated to cater to the housing needs of the students coming from the BIBAK areas."/*A Refuerzo*

Jail Chief...

from page 2

For crimes against persons, Rape remains high with 32 cases, murder with 31 cases and homicide with 18 cases.

Kidnapping has 8 cases, threats and coercion with 2 cases.

Violation of Republic Act 9165 or the Dangerous Drugs Act has 108 cases, however there is a notable decrease comparing with the same period last year with 135 cases.

Danglose also said, "out of the 381 residents in the male dorm, there are at least 323 who were validated by the Commission on elections (COMELEC) during Offsite registration inside the facility last May 29 to be eligible to vote for the upcoming 2016 national and local elections."/ *Paul Rillorta*

KAKAMPI MO...

...from page 5

such as this? What is more important, the reputation and business of the manufacturer whose product was found with worms, or the health of the people, particularly the poor Filipinos who will grab at products with low prices out of necessity?

-ooo-

A MILLION AND ONE REASONS TO BE SILENT: I am amazed that things like these continue to proliferate even up to now. This could only mean poor manufacturing processes, or inefficient government officials tasked to regulate the food processing and manufacturing industries. Or, perhaps, some government functionaries have been maintaining a code of silence for a million and one reasons, never mind if the health of the nation suffers?

Why this Businessman...

from page 2

with twelve engravings, eight depicting native costumed figures, a map of Guajam (Guam) and three city or harbour maps, notably Manila."

The map was among 80 heirlooms that the current Duke of Northumberland, Ralph George Algernon Percy, decided to auction off after a devastating flood hit Northumberland County in April 2012.

Newspaper reports said heavy rains had "caused a culvert on the Duke of Northumberland's land to collapse. Many residents were evacuated and some homes demolished after the foundations were damaged."

Although the Duke's estate did not own all the affected homes, he provided urgent help for his neighbors. The flood left him with a £12 million bill for repairs, hence the need to auction off his family's collection.

As a bit of trivia, the Duke owns the vast Alnwick Castle, which has been featured as Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry in the first two Harry Potter films.

Sotheby held the first auction on July 9, 2014 and the second on Nov. 4, 2014, both in London.

It was in the November auction that the Murillo Velarde map, called Carta Hydrographia y chorogphica de las Ylas Filipinas, Manila 1734, was included under Lot 183.

The Murillo Velarde map names two Filipinos as responsible for the map—Francisco Suarez who drew it and Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay who engraved it.

Historian Ambeth Ocampo wrote in his column in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, "The Murillo Velarde map of 1734 is quite rare, with less than 50 known copies to exist in the entire universe."

Velarde registered to participate in the auction through an agent. He had participated in auctions in person before but his acquisition of the map last November was his first bid by phone.

The Sotheby's auction took place at 9 p.m, Manila time while Velarde was in a Resorts World steakhouse for his mother's 78th birthday dinner.

Velarde described the bidding, which lasted only for three to four minutes, as "furious."

He was on the phone before Sotheby's put Lot 183 on the auction block, and noted that in other lots, it was over after two to three bids.

Bidding for the map started at £30,000. He started to bid through his agent, thinking that he could go as high as £80,000.

Velarde said he could hear "30,000 pounds,… 40,000 pounds… 50,000 pounds. Fifty-five, sixty." He said, "It seemed like so many were bidding."

When the bidding reached £80,000, Velarde said he paused for a few seconds to decide whether or not to stop. The exchange rate was P68 to £1. He knew that the National Museum could allot only P5 million to buy rare items.

Then images of the Chinese occupying the contested islands in the Spratlys came to mind, he said, and he decided to proceed.

"Pansariling away na, nagiging personal na sa akin (It became a personal crusade)," he said. He eventually paid more than double the amount he thought he was willing to part with: £170,500.

When you buy a car, Velarde said, you have something to compare it with. Not in the case of an old map. But Velarde also thought of the possible implications later, knowing that there is a pending case before the U.N. International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea against China. "You need some evidence," he said.

Velarde said he is thankful the auction was not held in Shanghai or Macau, where the map could have attracted Chinese bidders and the price would have been much higher.

Now that Velarde owns the map, the National Museum has informed him it has no funds to buy the map this year, and that there was some uncertainty about funds next year. Velarde decided to donate the map instead.

Why is he doing it?

"In a true-to-life movie, there's a part for everybody. There's a bully in the neighborhood. He already took over our land. We have soldiers in the Spratlys. Naka-standby lang sila (They're just on standby there)," Velarde said.

Then, this map is owned by a Duke in a Harry Potter castle. It's like you wanting to play your part in the movie," he added.

Velarde said he hopes to meet with the Duke of Northumberland someday. His children want to come along, not really for the Duke, who comes from a 700-year-old English aristocracy and is the fourth largest landowner in the United Kingdom. They are excited to see the room where Harry Potter had his first flying lessons./*JST, GMA News/ By ELLEN T. TORDESILLAS, VERA*

BSU Mentor...

from page 10

even single bee specie from an ecosystem has serious effects on plant reproduction

"In the Cordillera region, wild various flowers blanketed the roadsides, creeks, and mountain cliffs because of the existence of honey bees." Prof. Untalan said.

Noting that Cordilllera region is a tourist hub, Professor Untalan mentioned that local government units can also adopt api-tourism - an approach to attract tourists or visitors through beekeeping.

"The purpose is to let the public be aware on the importance of bees to the environment and to the people." Untalan said, "Activities involved on api-tourism are workshop on honey bee care and maintenances, and knowing the by- products derived from honey bees".

"Individuals also can raise bee colonies for honey production ", Untalan added.

Bees also played vital role to farmers for their crop production. Bee pollination on crops increases production by 30 percent.

A private company named Ilog Maria in Cavite province allows their bee colonies rented purposely for crop pollination./*Danny Killip*

Double Whammy...

from page 10

raised P80,000 during a concert in tandem punong barangay Thomas Dumalti of Irisan here, half of which went to four other dialysis patients.

Earlier, a man who declined to be identified contributed P15,000 . Pradeep Lalwani coursed P11,000 through retired city prosecutor Gloria Agunos and the Quijencio family added P1,000.

People who can help Quakelyn hurdle the two surgeries may coursed their support through Bank of the Philippine Islands-Harrison (Baguio Branch) account number 0563845279.

The account was opened jointly last January by Agunos, Dumalti, regional director Helen Reyes-Tibaldo of the Philippine Information Agency and city social welfare and development officer Bketty Fangasan.

The eldest of three siblings whose father died of kidney ailment, Quakelyn was so named for the fact that she was born shortly after the July 16, 1990 earthquake that hit Baguio and Northern Luzon.

The girl served for three years as volunteer rescuer under the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and then as job-order worker for two years until her ailment was diagnosed./*Ramon Dacawi*

Chinese Consul...

from page 10

ner in the city government, let us continue to improve and sustain this team work and partnership because this is the key to progress," he said.

The chief executive also said the city will continuously improve the botanical Garden which now houses the testaments of Sister City Relationships it has with other cities worldwide.

"We are willing to declare this area as a Historical Site in the city pursuant to an Ordinance but not in accordance with what the NCCA and NHCP are doing because instead of partnering with us to improve and develop our city, they are acting as if we are their enemies and not partners in development," he said.

"I'm sorry to say this but that is what's happening in the city," he said.

Domogan finally said, "the Chinese community has always been sources of inspiration for the youth and he hopes that the dispute between the Philippines and China will be settled thru diplomatic channels amicably."

Domogan also reiterated his request for the establishment of a Chinese Consular Office in the city which will cater to serve the Filipino-Chinese community in the Cordilleras and the adjoining regions./*Paul Rillorta*

Dad Calls...

from page 10

will need at least 30,000 classrooms and almost 40,000 teachers for the opening of Grade 11 in 2016 which are still not available as funding therefor is dependent on whether or not Congress will appropriate budget, on top of the Department's backlogs for the previous years," Yangot said.

"Aside from the above requirements of the K to 12 Program the funding provision of which is still uncertain, the Department of Education does not have enough classrooms and teachers to meet present needs, such that in certain areas of the country, grades are combined or two shifts of shortened classes per grade are held."

He said that even the Commission on Audit, in an audit report released recently brought up lapses in planning and lack of foresight in implementing the K to 12 program which deprive students of their access to quality education;

He said that at present many colleges and universities are taking advantage of the program to violate the security of tenure of employees as shown by Saint Louis University's plan to retrench 180 employees and dismiss around 400 contractual faculty instead of working on measures to protect its employees or mitigate the adverse effects of the Program.

"While there are no safety nets or protective measures in place to ensure the full protection of labor, university and college teachers and other employees will be vulnerable to massive displacement and violation of their rights, exacerbating the acute unemployment in the country," Yangot stressed.

The program which added two years to high school education, with the roll-out of Grade 7 under Department of Education Order No. 31, s. 2012 was implemented in June 2012.

On May 15, 2013, Pres. Benigno S. Aquino signed Republic Act 10533 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act, statutorily institutionalizing the K to 12 Program applying for the first time to children who enrolled in kindergarten during the academic year 2013.

Yangot's proposal was referred to the council committee on education for study./*A Refuerzo*

Pag-ibig Inks...

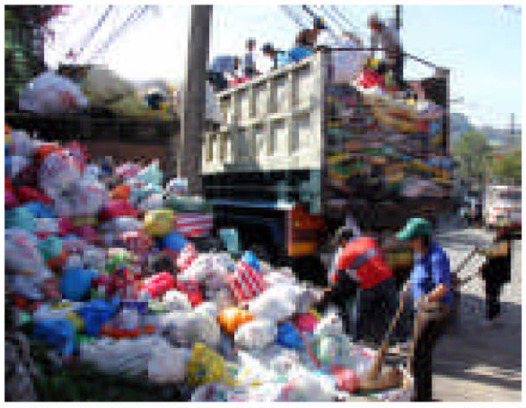
from page 2

cluding their monthly income and their duly accomplished Pag-Ibig Fund members data form.

Job orders who will register with the fund will have a monthly Pag-ibig membership contribution equivalent to two percent of their gross income, however a member can contribute more than two percent if he desires.

The monthly Pag-Ibig membership contributions will be collected by the city government and remitted to Pag-Ibig Fund.

Interested job orders who will be registering with the fund will be eligible for the Pag-Ibig Multi-Purpose Loan (MPL) and Housing Loan which is being availed by regular members./*Paul Rillorta*



STRICTLY ENFORCED - Pinsao Pilot Barangay officials, senior citizens and streetsweepers join forces in strictly enforcing waste segregation during collection time to maintain cleanliness and sanitation in the community. - By Bong Cayabyab

Double Whammy Hits Ailing 24-Year Old Baguio Girl

Just when Quakelyn Lisayen, a 24 year old kidney patient, was winding up her laboratory tests towards an organ transplant, doctors at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute in Quezon City found she had been hit by a double whammy.

It was the last test, after a series of procedures to determine her medical capability to receive a kidney from her younger brother, 20-year old Jason. Probability for a transplant loomed large after the siblings passed the tissue matching with flying colors.

Hopes for medical deliverance, however, dimmed when doctors focused on her heart and found an artery had been clogged. They advised angioplasty, an expensive surgical procedure involving the insertion of a small wire mesh to prop the artery open to allow regular blood flow, similar to water re-piping.

"The medics told me I have to undergo angioplasty first before I can even think of receiving a new kidney," Quakelyn texted after the medical finding. "I cried a river when I learned, as many people had already sacrificed to raise the amount for my kidney transplant."

She had gone that far in her fight for a new lease on life, thanks to support from Baguio Rep. Nick Aliping Jr. folksingers and ordinary folks who pooled P278,000 and $1,400 for the surgery.

The girl, however, had to use the P200,000 allotted from the Priority Development Assistance Fund of Rep. Aliping for the battery of laboratory tests and procedures and P30,000 from the fund for her travel to and from the NKTI while she is undergoing twice-a-week-hemodialysis treatment.

The $1,300 came from Rep Aliping's brother Bob who raised the sum by going around San Diego delivering copies of "Boba Songs", a CD compilation of his original folk and country compositions, to fellow expatriates from the Cordillera.

Through former assistant city prosecutor Evelyn Tagudar, Marivic Naicy of Texas added $100. Local folk musicians led by lawyer Jose "Bubut" Olarte

Cont. on page 9

BSU Mentor Makes Pitch for Beekeeping

To help save the endangered local biodiversity, a professor from Benguet State University (BSU) urged the public to support the beekeeping industry.

Speaking during the recently held beekeeping seminar at BSU, Professor Pax Untalan of the Cordillera Regional Apiculture Center-BSU said that wild and cultivated plants in the region are fast declining in numbers and one of the ways to reverse the trend is to raise honey bees.

According to Prof. Untalan, most plants are dependent on insect or bee pollination for productivity. Without pollination, plants might become extinct.

Pollination is the transfer of pollen from one plant to another and in the process seeds will soon immerge for reproduction

A study published by the Nature Magazine concluded that a loss of just one pollinator specie harms plants. Removing

Cont. on page 9

Dad Calls for Suspension of K-12

BAGUIO CITY – Councilor Leandro Yangot Jr. called for the suspension of the K to 12 program implementation pending the resolution of cases questioning its constitutionality.

In his proposed resolution, Yangot said there are grey areas that need to be cleared first before the program can be effectively implemented.

He said there are now four cases filed before the Supreme Court assailing the program's constitutionality.

Yangot noted loopholes in the program like its "lack of legal foundation as applied to children who were subjected to the K to 12 Program prior to the passage of Rep. Act No. 10533 in 2013" as articulated by Department of Education Secretary Armin Luistro himself in his report to the Senate where he stated that the K to 12 Program will produce two kinds of graduates: a) the real graduates of the K to 12 Program whose first batch will graduate in 2024 under Rep. Act No. 10533; and b) the other graduates of the K to 12 Program whose first batch will graduate from secondary school in 2018 under Department of Education Order No. 31.

"In the same report to the Senate, Sec. Luistro admitted that the government

Cont. on page 9

The JUNCTION
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Chinese Consul Attends Celebration of Fil-Chinese Relations in City

BAGUIO CITY – despite tensions between the Philippines and China due to territorial disputes, Consul and Head of Post, Consulate of the People's Republic of China in Laoag Zhao Qiaoliang attended the 14th Philippine-China Friendship Day celebrations here.

The event was organized by the Baguio Filipino Chinese Community Executive Committee under its present chairman Dennis Sy and the City Government of Baguio in cooperation with the Philippine-Chinese Education Research Center, Philippine Sisterhood and Twinning Association, City Environment and Parks Management Office, City Social Welfare and Development Office and Baguio City Library.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Consul Zhao Qiaoliang with city officials and the Baguio Filipino-Chinese Community Organizations also unveiled the Historical Marker which marks the lasting friendship of Baguio and its Sister City Hangzhou.

Qiaoliang said, "the strong ties between the Chinese Community and the Filipino Community in the city show that there is hope that the dispute between the two countries can be solved thru peaceful means."

"I have a duty to promote good bilateral relationship," he said.

The event was held at the Baguio Botanical and Centennial Park last June 9.

Domogan said, "the unveiling of the marker further concretizes the relationship between the two countries most especially the relationship between Baguio and Hangzhou."

"This monument gives due recognition to the Filipino-Chinese Communities contribution to the development of the city," he said.

"We are proud of you as our part-

Cont. on page 9

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