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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

## CJHDevco Declared Dividends While Claiming Losses - BCDA



**KNOW YOUR PROSECUTORS** - Prosecutor II Elmer Sagsago presents the City's Prosecutors headed by Gloria Agunos during city hall's rasing ceremony.— By Bong Cayabyab

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) dared yesterday the Sobrepena-led Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevco) to open its books to show good faith in claiming it suffered financial losses, yet unbelievably declared dividends for its stockholders.

BCDA president and chief executive Arnel Casanova raised the challenge following findings that the Camp John Hay lessee's financial statements indicated that it declared dividends for three consecutive years ending in 2000, but at the same time defaulted in settling its financial obligations because of

alleged losses.

"As stewards of state property, we cannot let such kind of duplicity come to pass without taking appropriate actions to protect public interest in this issue," Casanova stressed.

Audited financial state- **Cont. on page 9**

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## Estafa case Triggers a Barrage of Reports Of CJHDevco's Questionable Business Practices

Numerous calls have flooded the offices of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) as investors and unit owners of hotels and cottages in Camp John Hay gave reports of questionable business practices by Sobrepena-led Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevco).

The inquiries were triggered by a notice issued by BCDA to unit owners about an estafa case filed by the state agency against CJHDevco for the double sale of a property in John Hay. The lessee has also been entering into sub-lease contracts beyond its 25-year lease of the John Hay Special Economic Zone (JHSEZ).

BCDA president and chief executive Arnel Casanova said they discovered CJHDevco's fraudulent practices when a unit owner approached BCDA regarding the public bidding of Log Home #9, a property that CJHDevco gave to BCDA as *dacion en pago* – or payment-in-kind – to settle part of its P3 billion debt.

The owner complained that he already owned the Log Home that was up for bidding. He presented an official receipt issued by CJHDevco indicating that he paid P20 million for the said property.

"CJHDevco has committed fraud by selling units that are already owned by someone else," Casanova pointed out, underscoring the fact that CJHDevco paid the government a property that it cannot liquidate since there is a claimant.

BCDA then filed a criminal case of estafa against CJHDevco chairman Robert John Sobrepena and other officers for the double sale of Log Home #9.

"As stewards of public property, BCDA will always uphold the public interest and hold any private partner accountable for violating the rights of individuals and entities that have invested in Camp John Hay," Casanova said.

There are also reports that CJHDevco has entered into contracts with sub-lessees beyond its 25-year lease agreement. Contrary to CJHDevco's statements, BCDA has a contractual right to terminate the contract any time in case of breach. Afterwards, all the properties will be turned over to the government.

Casanova said "No lessee can dictate the lease terms to its lessor, particularly if such a lessee has not even been paying its rent for 15 years now."

Even the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) reprimanded CJHDevco last March 2012 for selling units at Camp John Hay Suites and included other real estate property in its sales advertisements without securing the required permits.

BCDA continues to encourage the unit owners, buyers and lessees to call BCDA offices to avoid being defrauded, and show proof of ownership or leasehold right as well as supporting documents such as receipts, original copies of limited warranty deeds.

## Mayor Seeking Feedbacks on Plastic Bags Ban

Mayor Mauricio Domogan last Wednesday called on residents and business establishments to shift to re-usable and biodegradable bags to give substance to Ordinance 26, passed five years ago but takes effect only this year and aimed at weaning the city from the use of biodegradable or hard-to-decompose

plastic.

Admitting that the ordinance, passed by the city council in June, 2007, needs refinement, the mayor also asked the public to submit suggestions and recommendations to improve and make the ordinance realistically enforceable.

The ordinance requires "supermarkets, groceries and retail outlets and stores in the commercial zone of the city...

to use paper bags, buri bags or other biodegradable materials as containers or bags for all dry goods and groceries instead of plastic bags".

"Biodegradable" refers to a matter capable of being decomposed by biological agents such as bacteria. Plastic, as it was perceived when the ordinance was passed, takes years to decompose. **Cont. on page 10**

## Kids to Join Heroes in Marking Baguio's Liberation

Baguio will mark its liberation from the Japanese forces to the day 67 years ago on April 27. Still, the significance of the event seems not to resonate. It seems felt only among the dwindling ranks of veterans and elderly civilians who fought for liberation and survived the horrors of a war too remote to be recalled.

To help them understand and appreciate the freedom and peace that their families now enjoy, children of this city will read from the accounts and recollections of some of the heroes who liberated Baguio at rites on Friday morning at the Veterans Park along Harrison Road.

As did kids read from the accounts of heroes who were at

the "Fall of Bataan" and the infamous "Death March" immediately following, in memorial rites in the same sacred grounds last April 9, before a few surviving veterans who had inched their way to the park to remember.

The kids read from the memoir of Sgt. Florencio Esteban, an Ibaloi hero who was there at the "fall" and who **Cont. on page 10**

## IGO Consultation Dwells on Cordillera Resource as Key to Regional Development

Speakers and delegates of the 9<sup>th</sup> Igorot International Consultation here took turns calling for greater control by the Cordillera of its natural resources for its own development and the preservation and promotion of the eroding cultural heritage of this highland region.

Local Govern-

ment Secretary Jesse Robredo set the patrimonial tone of the three-day biennial forum by admitting that he himself had embraced the issue of enhancing cultural heritage and promoting trust among communities and the government when he was still mayor of Naga City.

"It's not something on my checklist," he said of such

facets of governance. "It's something in my heart and constantly on my mind."

The way towards good governance and development of the Cordillera, Baguio mayor Mauricio Domogan later stressed, is for the region to embrace autonomy as offered and provided for in the Phil-

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The Junction is printed and published by Farco Trimedia Ventures, Inc. (FTV, Inc.) every weekend, with office address at Sitio Maroo, Itogon Benguet, and c/o Linis Gobyerno, Ground Floor PCEC Bldg., Happy Homes, Campo Sico, Baguio City, Mobile Phone Nos.: (0917)5069123; 442 - 3583  
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Entered as Second Class Mail at the Baguio City Central Post Office PCC-CAR 01-04-99



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Website: www.junctionnews.com  
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## City Conducts Seminar to Strengthen Coops

BAGUIO CITY – a two-day seminar on Basic Cooperative Course was sponsored by the City government here to guide cooperatives towards attaining their goals.

The course is in compliance with memorandum Circular No. 2011-27 of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) for the implementation of training requirements for cooperative officers.

Being a strong advocate of empowering cooperatives, Mayor Mauricio Domogan said 'what is important in running a cooperative is attitude'.

He further said, 'managing a cooperative is a selfless act, thinking of the majority of members and not just one's self'.

This he said will ensure the success and continued existence of the cooperative.

The activity was held at the City's multi-purpose hall last April 10 and 11 where at least 27 cooperatives from the city attended.

The participants were introduced to three sets of lectures and were updated on the fundamentals of cooperatives, its legal underpinnings, plans, programs and policies of cooperatives.

Domogan said, 'helping officers of these cooperatives and increasing their knowledge on new circulars will redound to the benefit of their members'.

The training provided a venue for cooperative officers to air their concerns and inform the city government on the assistance they need in running a cooperative./paul rillorta

## City to Submit Position Paper on Charter Change Bill

BAGUIO CITY – The city will submit its position paper on House Bill No. 3759 or An Act Revising the Charter of the City of Baguio.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said the position paper will be considered by the Senate committee on local government chaired by Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. before the bill can be submitted for plenary debates and amendments in the Senate.

The mayor said the technical working group of the Senate committee met city officials last week and requested that the position paper be submitted before the end of the week.

City departments were expected to submit their comments and concerns relative to the proposed provisions last Thursday for consolidation by the city legal office.

"Senator Marcos will look into our position to see if the bill needs further study. Otherwise, he can report it for plenary discussion," the mayor said.

The mayor said Marcos expressed confidence that the passage of the bill will not be overtaken by the upcoming elections if the grey areas can be resolved on time.

The committee has zeroed in on resolving the conflict between the implementation of the Free Patent Law and the city's Townsite Sales Application mode of titling.

The committee is also considering the mayor's request for the deletion of the provision that seeks to treat legitimate ancestral lands as inalienable or with the same status as private lots.

The mayor said the city's position will delve on the salient amendments particularly on the implementation of the direct disposal and award of alienable public lands and the revisions in the functions of city departments.

"The passage of the said bill is very much needed as it shall help resolve serious problems of the city such as finally settle the boundary dispute between the city and the municipality of Tuba; address the problems and speed up the disposal and awarding of alienable and disposable public lands to qualified beneficiaries; improve the human resource of the city; and improve the revenue of the city," the mayor said.

The city council recently passed a resolution endorsing the passage of the bill.

The city's charter has remained unchanged since it was written by Justice George Malcolm in 1909. The Charter even pre-dates the 1935 Constitution and has not yet been revised since its enactment so that almost all of its provisions have become obsolete and irrelevant.

Domogan who authored the original bill during his term in Congress described his bill as a "mixed marriage of provision of Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 and the provisions of the 1909 City Charter, as amended by the Revised Administrative Code of 1917 and of Presidential Proclamations."/A Refuerzo



**OPERATION TULI** – a member of the Philippine College of Surgeons (Dr. Quirino Jr.) performs circumcision on a 10-year old boy at the Cobalt Building of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) while a volunteer student nurse looks on last April 14. /photo by paul rillorta

## Time Limit for Disco Operation Reiterated

BAGUIO CITY – a proposed resolution of Councilor Philian Louise Weygan-Allan has been approved by the City council Monday here bringing to the front erring nightclubs and bars not complying with city ordinances.

City ordinance No. 88 series of 2009 which amended the Liquor ordinance of the city limits the operation of establishments and amusement centers in the city.

To strengthen its implementation, Councilor Weygan-Allan filed a resolution requesting the city's permits and licensing division to issue notices and warnings to every establishment for the non-compliance of said ordinance.

Said notices and warnings will also be furnished to the city council for monitoring.

Allan said, 'earlier reports which have reached her office reveal that some KTV bars and nightclubs are operating 24 hours which is in violation of the said city ordinance'.

'The list also shows other establishments operating without a business permit', she said.

City Ordinance 88, s2009 primarily section 9 provides the time of operation of this night establishments which states that establishments with dancing are to operate until 2 am only.

These establishments include night clubs and day clubs, cocktail lounges, beer gardens and houses, bars, duly-accredited tourist-oriented hotel with restaurant, bar or disco, cabaret, dance hall and disco pubs.

Establishments without dancing will operate until 12 midnight only.

Included are ordinary beer gardens, cocktail lounges, bars, folk house, dens, restaurants, coffee shops, internet cafes.

Retail liquor dealers and liquor stores are allowed to operate till 9 pm.

Owners, operators, proprietors, managers or persons in charge of any establishment violating said ordinance will be meted with a P2,000 fine for the first offense, P4,000 for the second offense with closure of establishment and revocation of business permit and P5,000 for the third and subsequent offenses with permanent closure of establishment with imprisonment.

Allan said, the measure is for the general welfare of the city and its constituents./paul rillorta

## Block IV Hopefuls Warned: no Palakasan in Award of Stalls

BAGUIO CITY – Only legitimate vendors who will pass the criteria set by the city government will be awarded stalls at the soon to be completed Block IV section of the city market. and "palakasan" tactics to land a space at the newly refurbished section that unless they qualify in the list of priority set by the city, they will not be allowed any slot.

"We do not wish to give false hopes to our vendors. Those who will not fall under the list of priority will not be accommodated in Block IV," the mayor said.

The mayor said the city will adopt the criteria it used in selecting vendors who were awarded stalls and spaces at the Block III to ensure smooth award of the stalls upon the

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## Mandarin Anyone?

How are your Chinese lessons?" we asked granddaughter Kristin, 8. "So, so," replied this International School second grader. "Why?" You'll need the Mandarin kid," we said. "So, will Kathie." Katarina, 5, is in kindergarten. Both grapple with Swedish, their mother's language. Playmates and their nanny speak Cebuano.

China will irresistibly shape our future, writes Martin Jacques. His Observer op-ed, updates, his 2009 book "When China Rules the World". Beijing's economy would overtake that of the US in size by 2027. This proved an underestimate. China will overtake America in 2018, Economist projections assert. No, the Guardian disagrees. International Monetary Fund's world economic outlook database of April imply 2016.

This crystal-bowling will continue. But there are hard

## EDITORIAL

facts. China, for example, dislodged Japan as the world's second-biggest economy in 2010. Flush with cash, housewives made China's grocery shopping the world's largest. China's surge started 1978. The economy then was a 20th that of the US. Beijing's global impact was minuscule. Not anymore. At 21st century's start, China had tucked, under it's belt, years of "growing in the region of 9-10% annually". Overall size rose to a quarter of America's economy.

China chipped away at US dominant global power status. Trade is the most dramatic expression. In 1990, no country had China as main trading partner. By 2000, you counted a few on your fingers. Most clustered in east Asia. A decade later, the list grew to include: Japan, Africa, Australia, Chile, Brazil, India, Pakistan, the US and Egypt In 2011, Beijing emerged as the world's largest producer of manufactured goods. America yield a standard it bore for 110 years.

These are tectonic shifts. "The global effect is of an entirely different order," adds Observer "The world is tilting on its axis in even more dramatic style" than when Europe ruled the roost —until dislodged by an upstart colony of then 13 states.

"We no longer have any alternative but to abandon our western parochialism," Jacques argues. "(We must) seek to understand China on its own terms. But the shift in mindset that faces us is colossal...."

During the 19th and 20th centuries, every non-western country was compelled to understand the west in its own terms. "Now, it is now our turn to make sense of a country so different from our own. It will be a Herculean task. We always look west, hardly ever east. The result is we "insist on living in a world that was rather than is. We are so far behind the curve." Why? Does part of this hang-up stem from a question of ill-fitting prisms?

Ascendancy bred, first in Europe, then the US, a western-centric mentality. The west is the fount of all wisdom. The only universal model of modernization that worked was westernization "Our sense of superiority closed our minds". Few entertained the idea that a backward China, shorn of democracy and bereft of Enlightenment principles, would flourish.

"We were not even curious," Jacques recalls. We insisted "on seeing China through a western prism. We refused to understand China in its own terms. Our arrogance bred ignorance": Few heard of China Development Bank and China Exim Bank. Yet, they lent more to the developing world than the World Bank in 2009 and 2010, "just as the Rothschilds funded much of Europe's industrialization in the 19th century.

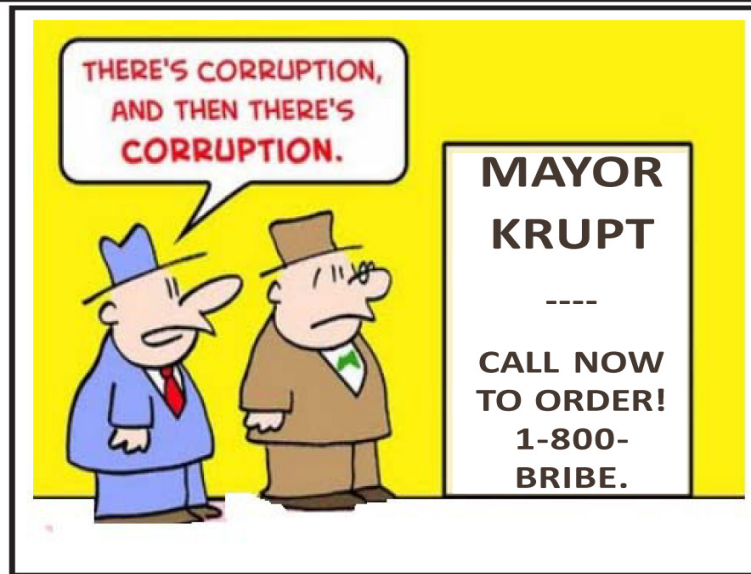
China began making the renminbi available for settlement of trade. Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corporation foresees half of China's trade, with the developing world, will be paid for in renminbi by 2015." Is this first stage in a process where the renminbi could dislodge the dollar as the world's dominant currency?"

Overall figures can mislead though. China's huge population base whittles down per capita income. Well-being is reflected better in modern human development indices. These factor in education, health, justice, etc. Other equity measures include political freedoms and human rights.

Norway tops 169 countries in human development ranking, gauged by UN. The next four are: Australia, New Zealand, the US and Ireland. China is in slot No. 89. Given the massive poverty, Beijing's unlikely to break into the magic circle of 42 countries with very high human development anytime soon.

In the Philippines, we're wedged

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1st-APLUMA!

*All's In The Family*

**BY: ISMAEL AMIGO SR**



MANILA – Betchabygolly...wow!

Excuse the pun but the 2013 mid-term elections is fast shaping up to be a "family affair" up in the Upper House or the Senate if you may!

Yes, Virginia, correct, this after some of the country's most influential political clans has allegedly confirmed family members to throw their hats into the 2013 midterm elections senatorial derby.

Don't look now but correct, if plans and strategies won't fail them, chances are the 16th Congress (2013 to 2016) would end up with a new set of siblings and a lot more.

Add to that a not-so-distant possibility of a father-and-son tandem based on the names of 2013 senatorial pretenders who intentionally leaked their plans to members of the press.

Take a look at the possible lineup of the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) of Vice President Jejomar Binay.

Whether we like or not it could include Juan Ponce "Jack" Enrile Jr., San Juan Rep. Jose Victor Ejercito, and reelectionist Senator Alan Peter Cayetano.

VP Binay's daughter Nancy is also being groomed as a possible senatorial candidate under UNA in '13.

In case you don't know it yet, Jack Enrile is no other than the son of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile while JV Ejercito, also a former mayor of San Juan, is the half-brother of Senator Jose "Jinggo" Estrada.

Sen. Jinggo Estrada is Senate President Pro Tempore at this point.

Oh...well, my mind's swirling right now for there are so many other names other than the senatoriables we mentioned above.

Let's try it some more. Allan Peter Cayetano is right now the Senate minority leader and is the younger brother of Senator Pia Cayetano who, like Enrile and Estrada, is also on her second and final term.

Sen. Edgardo Angara and Sen. Manuel Villar are also nearing completion of their respective terms but don't look now as similar surnames could be in your candidate information sheet come 2013.

Whew, it's because Angara's son in Aurora Representative Juan Edgardo Angara as well as Villar's wife in Las Piñas Representative Cynthia Villar, are also rumored to be eyeing respectively, Senate seats next year in May 2013.

They may not be in good terms right now but Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III and Senator Francis Pangilinan are related too with Pangilinan's wife Sharon Cuneta being the niece of Sotto though Sotto's wife, Helen Gamboa, although they had an open misunderstanding on some issues recently.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer reported Friday that Estrada "acknowledged the possibility of having relatives in the same chamber during the same term, but said there was nothing necessarily wrong with the arrangement. Having a family member in the Senate had the "advantage" of having a "unified position" on issues or advocacies."

If you remember, Jinggo Estrada

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## ADVOCACY MINDANOW

*Pnoy style?*

**BY: JESUS DUREZA**



I was in Bukidnon meeting with the lumads and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) last Friday so I caught up with the Mindanao Power Summit only on the finishing portion of the TV re-play that evening.

My few comments. One, that was a good worthwhile exercise with Pres. Aquino no less handling such important matter and taking a personal shot at it. And the Mindanao Development Authority under Sec. Lu Antonino and the staff should be commended for making it happen. Finally, MinDa which had been "sidelined" for sometime now is now back in its elements as Mindanao's premier focal agency. Let's keep it that way!

I was a bit uncomfortable though watching the President tackle the issues. I may be a bit presumptuous here but the way he engaged the open forum part, I tend to suspect that there was not enough prior staff work in preparing him. (But yes, I stand to be corrected since I was not privy. ) Indeed, he had some strategic answers with some data off the cuff but from my own experience with former presidents, I tend to pity him for being put in such a situation (checking data, pausing to verify, tentative, unsure etc.). Pardon me for saying, but his public appearance there had some "un-presidential moments". And this was not his fault. His cabinet advisers should have done better.

For instance, I wonder if prior to his being handed the output of the morning session, he was given enough time, before he spoke, to meet with his advisers close door and then tackle together the issues at hand for strategic responses. Normally, the staff provides written inputs to the President in advance so he can choose which to tackle and those that are tentative to him, he can just shelve. This is on the time-honored principle that when the president opens his mouth and speaks, rightly or wrongly, it is policy. In the Friday event, the president was tentative or unsure in some matters. And he verbalized them. Those definitely are not matters of national policy! On second thoughts though, I may be judgmental here. Maybe, this is really Pnoy's style of handling things. Then so be it.

Now, what matter most are the next steps and the action plan. After the talking, we need the lights back ASAP!

**PEACE TALKS** — When I wrote last time about the crucial April peace talks with the MILF (set during the last week of this month) and I then suggested that President Aquino should soften up on his no-constitutional amendment position, I also now suggest that the MILF should also soften up on its "no to autonomy" position. Then the "stalemate" is breached. Of course, we can continue using the phrase "sub-state" if that is a fixation to some.

**AIRLINES' BRAIN DRAIN** — Although air travelers compose a very minuscule part of the bigger non-traveling public, we who regularly fly are now subjected to the agony of delayed flights in almost all airlines. Blame this on an already congested Manila airport where all flights somehow converge. Planes now circle Manila area and remain airborne for a long time before landing or the plane sits waiting for its turn to take off for unusually long periods. All because the Manila runways are clogged. Then we are told that we are also losing our fine, experienced Filipino pilots to good-paying foreign airlines. Including our air controllers, a Face book blogger, "Davao Tower" even hurriedly added in his blog to me. What worries many is that not-too-experienced young foreign pilots, who will settle for lower pays and perks but who enjoy the exotic sights and sounds of the country, are the ones replacing Pinoy pilots in this "brain drain"

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### AIRLINE TIDBITS

@@@ Why is it that Cebu Pacific still does not use, in most of its flights, the modern passenger tubes just to save on costs? Passengers have to needlessly walk through the tarmac. This modern facility is for the convenience of the paying passengers. Also, when government built those modern airports on foreign loans, they have factored in all flights using these facilities to pay back those loans.

@@@ Why does PAL continue to play in-flight the recording of local dialects spoken by non-locals. For example, the English expression "Thank you for making Philippine Airlines a part of your day" is translated literally and awkwardly (even funny!) by a non-Cebuano speaker

@@@ When I wrote about the joys of kite flying last time, one airline blogger agreed but cautioned **Cont. on page 9**

## KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

*Christian Educators Set Region 11 Meet*

**BY: BATAS MAURICIO**



**LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS:** "... Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts..." (Colossian 3:16, the Holy Bible).

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**ASCEP REGION 11 SETS MAY 3 CONVENTION:** About 100 owners, teachers and academic and non-academic staff of schools owned and operated by Christian churches in Region 11—Compostela Valley, Davao Del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental and Davao City—are meeting on May 3, 2012 in Davao City to hold the "Association of Christian Educators of the Philippines (ASCEP) Region 11 Convention".

In a text message sent to me by Robert T. Rivera, a good friend of mine who is my *compadre* as well and the current secretary general of ASCEP, I learned that the convention will be held at the International Bible Baptist Church along Km. 8, BUDA (Bukidnon-Davao) Road, Ulas, Davao City.

Rivera said he and ASCEP President Benjamin G. Tayabas (a well-known Christian educator who once headed the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila) will be the convention's keynote speakers, and are expected to deal with the current state of Christian schools in the Philippines, particularly their growing relevance in the light of the grave problems confronting Philippine education.

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**A CHILD'S FREEDOM OF CHURCH SCHOOL BASIC EDUCATION?** On the other hand, I talked to Dr. Felix Saligon, Jr., the convention organizer, and I learned that the convention's theme will be "A Child's Freedom of Church School Basic Education". Dr. Saligon said a certificate of attendance will be given to all attendees.

Saligon confirmed that only P500.00 is going to be charged as registration fee, and this will already cover free lunch and snacks, together with the materials that ASCEP Region 11 will distribute. Saligon is asking all Christian churches which own and are operating schools in Region 11—and in other areas of Mindanao as well—to attend the convention. Call him at 09388275376, email him at [saligonjr@yahoo.com](mailto:saligonjr@yahoo.com).

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**CHRISTIAN CHURCHES MUST UP THEIR SCHOOLS:** If you ask me, attendance in the convention should be a must, not only for Christian churches which operate their own schools, but even for those which do not have schools at the moment. My point is that all Christian churches must, of necessity, be able to put up their own schools through which their youngsters will be educated.

This is in line with what the Bible in several of its passages require. In Proverbs 22:6, we are told: "Train the child in the way that he should go, and when he grows old, he will not depart from it". Then, in Ephesians 6:5, the admonition is: "... bring up (our children) in the training and instruction of the Lord..."

In Deuteronomy 6:4-7: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children..."

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**GROWING UP WITH THE WORD OF GOD:** Right now, these kinds of teaching are no longer being given to the Filipino youth, with the system of government education that is in place. So many are growing up without the Word of God, and therefore without God (John 1:1). We need Christian schools to educate our children in the training and instruction of the Lord, and that is the reason why ASCEP should hurry up with its work.

## Notice To The Public

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## FPOP Baguio-Benguet Reiterates Advocacy for the Passage of RH Law

BAGUIO CITY - The Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP) Baguio-Benguet chapter, in their general assembly Saturday, reiterates their call for the passage of a reproductive health law.

FPOP National and Baguio-Benguet chapter president and City Council Committee for Social Services, Women and Urban poor chair Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda, in a statement, stressed that in line with their advocacy and support for a passage of an RH law, is their adoption of their overarching slogan, "No woman should die giving life."

According to Tabanda, FPOP is a human rights-based organization and does not impose family planning on couples, as they also respect their rights to decide for their own family.

She explained that the RH Bill pending proposal in Congress also respects human life and does not provide for abortion, as our constitution already prohibits abortion in the country.

She also clarified that the proposed RH bill also does not provide a limit to the number of children for each couple, though she also reminds couples about responsible parenthood so as for them to decide on the number of their children based on their capability - financially, emotionally and capacity to provide physical care for children.

FPOP is a nationwide, multi-sectoral organization of volunteers, whose vision is to have a world where every woman, man and young person has access to sexuality and reproductive health information and services they need and sexuality is seen as a natural and precious part of human life and a fundamental human right.

FPOP champion sexuality and reproductive health right through advocacy and provision of services especially to the poor, marginalized, socially-excluded and undeserved (PMSEU), including the young people.

Here in Baguio-Benguet area, in 2011, FPOP, through its various program and services, has served 5,225 clients, of whom 4,750 belong to the PMSEU sector.

FPOP's goal focuses on 5As -access in information and services; adolescent and young people; AIDS; Abortion, prevention of and management of its complications and Advocacy. As for medical services, they provide Family Planning, Maternal Health, child Health, laboratory tests, reproductive health and medical consultations.

For other programs, Tabanda also disclosed that they have provision of Pap smear for mothers and offers discount on their services for young mothers, on top of their CHOICES, MISP and Cervical Cancer Screening and Testing programs.

As a special project, FPOP also has the Rhapsody Project, wherein in partnership with the Family Planning Association of China, they provide health services with minimal amount to OFWs in Hongkong./CCD/PIA CAR

## Benguet barangays Benefit from Low-Cost and Safe Watsan Projects

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - Five barangays of Kapangan municipality are recipients of the Community-Managed Potable Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (CPWASH) project which promotes safe water supply and sanitation technologies.

Managed by the Department of Agriculture and implemented by the Philippine Center for Water and Sanitation (PCWS), the CPWASH project involves a low-cost, culturally acceptable and appropriate water supply and improved sanitation technologies through the installation of biogas reactors, and better hygiene.

A total of 156 barangays in Taba-ao, Balakbak, Pudong, Pongayan and Sagubo in Kapangan will benefit from the P600,000 worth project, according to Leticia Laoagan of DAR-Benguet. The project is initially implemented in Taba-ao, said Laoagan.

Water from the source will pass through filters eliminating the water's iron content peculiar in water sources and other contaminants, said Laoagan.

The project also involves a biogas digester. The technology entails the conversion of human, animal and other biodegradable wastes into biogas. Components of the project include a concrete tank, biosand filter, iron removal filter and spring box for the water supply and biogas digester to produce cooking gas.

Structures will be built utilizing indigenous materials and ferrocement for the concrete tanks and biodigester used in constructing boats.

Laogan said two sets of the water supply project and biogas digester will be accorded for each barangay.

PCWS consultant Engr. Apolonio Jimenez trained a foreman, Juniper Pilay of Tuel, Tublay, who will oversee the implementation of the rest of the projects with labor counterpart from the communities./JDP/SCA- PIA CAR,Benguet

## PRC-Baguio Accepting Online Application for June Nursing Licensure Exam

BAGUIO CITY - The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Baguio Regional Office is now accepting registration for the June Online Application System(OAS).

According to PRC-Baguio Regional Director Teofilo Gaus Sison Jr. nursing board re-takers can register on-line until April 19 while first time board takers may apply through the OAS starting April 21. It is initially implemented to Baguio, Cabanatuan, Dagupan and Laoag examinees.

The Ilocos Region Satellite Office in San Fernando City, La Union it will continue to process NLE applications manually, Sison announced.

Sison bared that for the June 30 NLE, they are expecting about 13,000 applicants and that so far they have already processed about 4,000 applications.

To apply via the OAS, applicants need to log-on to the internet and visit [www.prc.gov.ph](http://www.prc.gov.ph) and 'click' the Online Application System link. For the instructions, applicants can also get or read it at [www.prcbaguio.blogspot.com.ph](http://www.prcbaguio.blogspot.com.ph)

Once applicants have log-on to the OAS, basically they just need to correctly encode their examination-related information thru the Data Entry Form and then click 'SAVE' and 'OK', if done to submit your examination request.

"They will just have to wait for the Appointment Notice that will be sent to their e-mail, before they go to PRC Baguio to continue their application process", Sison said.

Sison explained that the OAS, which is part of the commission's computerization thrust, is being pilot-tested at PRC-Baguio. It was initially and successfully tested earlier this year with March Criminologists licensure examinees from the University of Baguio and the University of Cordilleras.

Meantime, Sison also announced that they are also continuously going around the various parts of Cordillera, Region I and Region III for its outreach program whose services include: Initial Registration for Licensure Examination passers; Renewal of Professional ID/License; Release of Professional ID Card and Board Certificate (per prior request by the professional and subject to availability); Issuance (upon request) of Certification of Good Standing; and Application for licensure examinations.

Schedules of PRC-Baguio's Outreach Program can be seen on [www.prcbaguio.blogspot.com./JDP/CCD-PIA CAR](http://www.prcbaguio.blogspot.com./JDP/CCD-PIA CAR)

## Public Transport Affairs Office Assures City PUVs' Readiness to Provide Quality Service this Summer

BAGUIO CITY - The City Public Transport Affairs Office (PTAO) assures Baguio visitors that all the city's public utility vehicles, especially, the 18 bus companies are ready to provide them quality service for the duration of the summer vacation.

PTAO Head Perfecto 'Jun' Itliong, in a kapihan media forum here, Tuesday announced that preparations and adjustments have already been made for the transfer of the bus terminal in Governor Pack Road to the Convention Center because of the on-going road repair in Gov. Pack by the Department of Public Works and Highways.

"Through the support of the City Government, all the needed facilities and amenities for the convenience of passengers which include lights, safety and restrooms, are all put into place and in order" Itliong stressed.

Itliong assured that taxi cabs and Public Utility Jeepneys (PUJs) are also very supportive and ready to provide quality service to the riding public.

He likewise disclosed that Mayor Mauricio Domogan's administrative Order regarding PUV drivers' uniform system, wearing of IDs and proper grooming, is already in with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Central Office for approval and conversion into a Memorandum Circular for mandatory implementation in the city.

Meantime, for the plight of our public transport sector, Itliong is also hoping for the immediate implementation here in the city of the fifty provisional fare hike approved by the LTFRB for other areas to at least help in easing the burden brought by the increasing price of fuel products.

The said provisional fare hike increase will bring the minimum fare for PUJs to P9.00 from the previous P8.50.

In addition, Itliong also discloses that the city transport sector is also in the process of preparing a separate fare hike increase, which from their initial plan is to ask for a P2.00 increase for the first four kilometers (minimum) and P0.50 increase for the succeeding kilometers./CCD/CA/PIA CAR



## P46.4 M Allotted for DSWD Cordillera's Core Shelter Project

BAGUIO CITY —The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Cordillera had allocated under its Core Shelter Assistance Program (CSAP) a total of P46.4 million so far for the construction of 801 core shelter units for the homeless victims of typhoons Emong, Juan and Pepeng.

According to the DSWD regional director Leonardo C. Reynoso, that 232 units have been completed and handed over to beneficiaries while 266 units are on-going construction and 303 units are for implementation.

The breakdown of shelter units from affected areas in the region as follows: Apayao-81, Benguet-51, Ifugao-47, Kalinga-115, and Mt. Province-507.

CSAP is a rehabilitation program which aims to provide structurally strong shelter units that can withstand 180-220 kph wind velocity to families whose houses were totally destroyed by natural and man-made calamities and who have no capacity to build or construct their own units.

The project aims to reduce the number of homeless families every year by providing a structurally strong indigenous shelter develop and promote the value of self-reliance among the beneficiaries and the community.

The core shelter unit is designed and constructed within a 60-80 square meter area with two bed rooms, a rest room and a kitchen.

The core shelter is put up in cooperation with the local government units, community, concerned line agencies and the counterpart of the family beneficiaries.

The "bayanihan" system is also being practiced by the people in the community to fast track the building of houses, Reynoso explained./JBZ PIA-CAR

## Tabuk Mayor Orders Stop of Illegal dumping of Wastes Near Chico River Tributary

TABUK CITY, Kalinga – City Mayor Ferdinand B. Tubban ordered the investigation and stop of the reported illegal dumping of wastes near the tributary of the Chico River here, which could be prime source of pollution.

The move was prompted by mounting complaints by residents of Barangay Jose Anniban, who pass through said illegal dumping area. The increasing wastes, reports said, come from unscrupulous individuals from other parts of the city. These are reportedly being unloaded from private trucks before going for a car-wash at nearby tributary of the Chico River.

The same site has been used as illegal dumping area several years ago but was cleared by the City Environment and Natural Resources Office.

There is a declared land fill for the city situated at Barangay Dilag on a spreading vast open area far enough from residences.

Barangay officials of Jose Anniban brought the issue to city officials asking them to also ban the washing of trucks along the tributary, where traces of oil start to be seen and if the practice continues, would harm marine life on the river./LL-PIA CAR, Kalinga

## TTMC Meets for Traffic Matters

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the Transport and Traffic Management meeting last week requested that a detailed study be done on a proposed traffic scheme as to its effect on the environment and motorists' convenience before experimentation and further implementation.

The scheme as presented plans to put back two-way

vehicular routes in roads once deemed one-way areas was presented to the Transport and Traffic Management Committee (TTMC) last Thursday. Planned to ease traffic to and from the Central Business District and the University of the Philippines loop area, the scheme was contradicted as it was seen to increase traffic build-ups in adjoining roads and cause

more vehicular fume emission, thus the mayor's call for a study.

The TTMC also tackled a request for permanent space for parking, loading and unloading of an out-of-town jeepney line at Harrison road, due to displacement at Governor Pack road. Said request was given a temporary status until the completion of road repairs.

Cont. on page 10

## DILG-NCIP Issues Guidelines on Mandatory Representation of IPs/ICCs in Local Sanggunians

BANGUED, Abra — The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) had issued joint circular providing for the guidelines for the determination of minimum threshold of Indigenous Peoples/Indigenous Cultural Communities (IPs/ICCs) who will be entitled to a seat in the local sanggunian.

The said Circular is issued pursuant to Republic Act 8371, otherwise known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997 which recognizes, protects and promotes the rights of ICC/IPs. It also aims to clarify issues and ensures uniform policy interpretation. It shall apply to IPs/ICCs especially those who have identified and/or delineated their ancestral domain/land areas and have determined that they are within the jurisdiction of the LGUs. he joint circular.

The determination of the threshold is computed by dividing the total population of an LGU by the number of sanggunian members as prescribed in the Local Government Code, and the quotient thereof shall serve as the minimum number to be met by an IP/ICC population to qualify for an IP mandatory representative for a seat in the sanggunian.

In the event that an IP/ICC does not meet the minimum number as computed based on the total population, the IP/ICC land area shall be computed at five percent of the total land area of the LGU. However, if the threshold of IP/ICC population in a given LGU as determined based on the total population and the land area of the LGU are not met, this means that there will be no IP sectoral representation in the sanggunian.

The IPRA is an embodiment of the rights and aspirations of indigenous peoples as regards their right to ancestral domains, right to self-governance and empowerment social justice and human rights and cultural integrity./MTBB/PIA-Abra

## DOH Advocates Cancer in Children Awareness Month

BAGUIO CITY - Children, even new born, are also prone to cancer but generally curable if detected and treated early.

Thus, explained Department of Health (DOH) in a recent media forum, for the promotion of health events and advocacy this April, which includes Cancer in Children Awareness Month.

Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) Pediatric Surgeon and Chief Training Officer, Dr. Alfred Igama, genetically children including new born can have solid tumors that can develop into cancer if not detected and treated early. He also disclosed that the most common type of such is the Wilms' Tumor, which appears in the kidney of children from three months to one year or up to three years.

Igama also explained that though it is common for children, the number is not alarming. BGHMC, he said, only encounters about less than five cases a year and that it is generally curable through surgery.

Meantime, BGHMC Department of Pediatrics chief Dr. Alma Soriano, in the same forum, also disclosed that as far as blood cancer is concerned, leukemia has the most number of cases they receive among children and not only from Baguio City, but also those coming from Region I, particularly Pangasinan and Ilocos Sur. In 2011 alone, they recorded 537 leukemia consultations.

Soriano also explained that if leukemia is detected between two to five years old children, it has a good prognosis though if detected on children below one year old or over 10 years old, it will have a poor prognosis.

BGHMC Cancer Center head, Dr. Jasmin Igama supported Soriano's statement. According to Igama, leukemia comprises about 13 percent of the cancer cases in the country and about 65 percent of leukemia patients are children, which is why the DOH has a program on this, which in the case of Baguio is through the BGHMC.

Of the recorded 537 cases in BGHMC for 2011, Igama also stressed that it does not reflect the real number of cases they see, though she also affirmed that such follow-up and consultations in BGHMC is increasing because of the free medicines given under the DOH program and the capability of the hospital in terms of experts and their capacity to handle such cases.

She reiterated to the public that cancer is generally curable in children as long as it is detected and treated in its early stage./CCD/NT/PIA CAR



## 250 Qualify for Stude Summer Job Program

BAGUIO CITY – A total of 250 students qualified for this year's Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES) of the city government.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan the student-grantees will begin reporting to their jobs at the various departments of the city government beginning April 23 until May 28.

PESO labor and employment officer Romelda Frances Escano said the number of admitted student-workers had dropped from the usual 300 to 250 in view of the implementation of salary adjustments as per the directive from the Dept. of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

The DOLE imposed an increase in the wages of the student-grantees after ten years of status quo to help the grantees cope with rising tuition and school fees.

Each grantee will now receive over P8,000 in wages as compared to the previous years' rate of P6,000. Sixty percent of said amount will be paid by the city government while the DOLE will shoulder the remaining 40 percent through education vouchers.

Escano said the city decided to adjust the number of the grantees to enable the students to avail of the full wage.

She said that the PESO will revert to hiring 300 students next year after the corresponding budget allocation for the program has been increased.

The city government has for many years now been allocating a regular budget to cover the salaries of the SPES grantees.

Students who applied for the program underwent the screening process based on a set of criteria set for the purpose. The applicants also underwent pre-qualifying examinations and orientation of both the applicants and their parents.

The program designed to help poor students and out-of-school youth support their education caters to high school and college students with the following qualifications: 15-25 years old, residents of Baguio, of good academic standing and in need of financial assistance.

The SPES is based on Republic Act No. 7323 or an Act to Help Poor but Deserving Students Pursue their Education by Encouraging their Employment during Summer and/or Christmas Vacations, through Incentives Granted to Employers, Allowing them to Pay only Sixty per Centum of their Salaries or Wages and the Forty per Centum through Education Vouchers to be paid by the Government, Prohibiting and Penalizing the Filing of Fraudulent or Fictitious claims and for other purposes./A Refuerzo

## More heads benefit in 'operation tuli'

BAGUIO CITY - The Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC), Cobalt building was overflowing with young boys ages 15 down to go under the knife last April 14 here.

As a yearly program of the city government, 'Operation Tuli' or free circumcision for young

boys is done every summer to take advantage of the long vacation in time for school this June.

At least three hundred thirty three boys were brave enough to undergo the once in a lifetime procedure, OIC, Special Services Division of the Mayor's office Noel Mabutas said.

The program has

been supervised by Dr. Romeo Concepcion, head of the Department of Surgery of BGHMC and Dr. Israel Yasay, president of the Philippine College of Surgeons-Baguio Chapter.

The young boys were operated upon by nineteen doctors assisted by forty six (46) stu-

dent nurses from the University of the Cordilleras.

The doctors only took about 10 to fifteen minutes for every boy to be circumcised which gave them enough time to cater to more patients.

Last year, the program served one hundred sixty seven boys.

Cont. on page 10

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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 www.linisgobyerno.org

Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Transportation and Communications  
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING  
AND REGULATORY BOARD  
Cordillera Administrative Region  
Baguio City

VICTORIA OFICIAR  
Applicants  
Case 2011-CAR-135

### NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the Line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on on May 2, 2012 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant/s shall publish the NOTICE once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so desire, appear during the hearing.

This application shall be acted upon by the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER-Regional Director on this 12th day of April 2012. (SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR Attorney IV

### Walter William's Journalist's Creed

This creed was written by Walter Williams (1864-1935), the man who founded the world's first school of journalism at the University of Missouri and perhaps contributed more toward the promotion of professional journalism than any other person of his time.

I believe in the profession of Journalism.

I believe that the public journal is a public trust; that all connected with it are, to the full measure of responsibility, trustees for the public; that acceptance of lesser service than the public service is a betrayal of this trust.

I believe that clear thinking, clear statement, accuracy and fairness are fundamental to good journalism.

I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true. I believe that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.

I believe that no one should write as a journalist what he would not say as a gentleman; that bribery by one's own pocket book is as much to be avoided as bribery by the pocketbook of another; that individual responsibility may not be escaped by pleading another's instructions or another's dividends.

I believe that advertising, news and editorial columns should alike serve the best interests of readers; that a single standard of helpful truth and cleanness should prevail for all; that supreme test of good journalism is the measure of its public service.

I believe that the journalism which succeeds the best and best deserves success-fears God and honors man; is stoutly independent; unmoved by pride of opinion or greed of power; constructive, tolerant but never careless, self-controlled, patient, always respectful of its readers but always unafraid, is quickly indignant at injustice; is unswayed by the appeal of the privilege or the clamor of the mob; seeks to give every man a chance, and as far as law, an honest wage and recognition of human brotherhood can make it so, an equal chance; is profoundly patriotic while sincerely promoting international good will and cementing world-comradship, is a journalism of humanity, of and for today's world. /http://www.nationalpressclub.org.ph

### RESEARCH & STATISTICS

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REGIONAL TRIAL  
COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL  
REGION  
**Branch 8**  
La Trinidad,  
Benguet

MARK HAILEY C.  
BERNARDEZ, Mi-  
nor, assisted by  
her mother,  
TIMMY LIZA  
C A T A L I N O -  
BERNARDEZ,  
*Petitioner,*

-versus-

THE MUNICIPAL  
CIVIL REGISTRAR  
OF LA TRINIDAD,  
BENGUET  
AND THE NA-  
TIONAL STATIS-  
TICS OFFICE  
[NSO]  
*Respondents.*

*Respondents.*

SPEC. PROC.  
CASE

NO. 12-C-1735

X—————X

ORDER

**P e t i t i o n e r**  
through counsel  
filed this Petition  
praying that after  
due notice and hear-  
ing, this court is-  
sues an Order di-  
recting the Local  
Civil Registrar of La  
Trinidad, Benguet  
and the National  
Statistics Office to  
correct the entry on

her gender in her  
birth certificate  
from "Male" to "  
FEMALE".

**W E R E F O R E**,  
finding the petition  
to be sufficient in  
form and substance,  
the court sets it for  
hearing on June 6,  
2012 at 8:30 o'clock  
in the morning in  
the courtroom of  
this court, Room  
202, 2nd Floor, Jus-  
tice Hall, Justice  
Hill, La Trinidad,  
Benguet.

All persons in-  
terested may appear  
and show cause, if  
any why this peti-  
tion should not be  
granted.

Let this ORDER  
be published at the  
expense of the peti-  
tioner in The Junc-  
tion Newspaper, a  
newspaper of gen-  
eral circulation in  
Baguio City and  
Benguet Province,  
once a week, for  
three [3] consecutive  
weeks, the first pub-  
lication to be made  
not later than April  
8, 2012.

Furnish copies  
hereof together with  
a copy of the Peti-  
tion and its annexes  
to the Office of the  
Solicitor General,  
Makati City; Na-  
tional Statistics Of-  
fice, Quezon City;

the Provincial Pros-  
ecutor of Benguet  
Province, Justice  
Hill, La Trinidad,  
Benguet; the Local  
Civil Registrar of La  
Trinidad, Benguet;  
The Junction News-  
paper; the petitioner  
and her counsel.

**SO ORDERED.**

La Trinidad,  
Benguet, this 30<sup>th</sup>  
day of March 2012.

MARYBELLE L.  
DEMOT MARINAS  
Presiding Judge

Publication Dates :  
April 7, 14 and 21,  
2012

## CJHDevco Declared Dividends While Claiming Losses - BCDA.....from page 1

ments reportedly released by CJHDevco showed that in 1998, the lessee declared a total of P378 million in dividends to its stockholders, P350 million in 1999 and P200 million in 2000.

On the other hand, CJHDevco continued to ignore BCDA efforts to collect lease payments from the private property developer, the amount of which has since ballooned to P3 billion as of end-2011.

At the same time, the BCDA chief welcomed a move by the House Committee on Bases Conversion to subpoena CJHDevco's books of accounts, saying it would once and for all establish the John Hay lessee's actual financial conditions.

Casanova asserted that CJHDevco has violated several laws while operating in the JHSEZ, including the non-filing of audited financial statements with the SEC since 2002.

"It is a good thing that the House Committee on Bases Conversion has resolved to subpoena the books of CJHDevco to compel its officials to show the firm's financial records to the government," Casanova said.

CJHDevco stopped paying its lease to BCDA as early as 1997, the second year of its stay in the JHSEZ, claiming that it was experiencing operational losses.

CJHDevco is chaired by Robert John Sobrepena, who owns Fil-Estate Corporation. The Sobrepena group also owned and managed the College Assurance Plan (CAP) and the Metro Rail Transit Development Corporation (MRTDevco). CAP has failed to give the educational benefits to its hundreds of thousands of planholders who had invested in the company for the college education of their children. MRTDevco, on the other hand, owes more than P1

billion to the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC).

CJHDevco has also allegedly stopped submitting its audited financial statements to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in 2002, when BCDA discovered that the company has been declaring dividends to its stockholders. "This is inconsistent with their claims of losses," Casanova pointed out, adding "we have records to show that they have been earning while operating in the JHSEZ."

Casanova pointed out that these violations of government regulations are the main reasons the lessee has not been able to acquire permits for operating in the JHSEZ.

"BCDA is a government agency so we require all our private partners to comply with government laws," Casanova said, adding "We cannot grant permits to a lessee which has not been filing its income tax returns and has a string of violations to government laws."

## Advocacy Mindanow

.....from page 5

about flying kites near airport areas. Including the flying of the latest craze, sky lanterns.

@@@ There is pilferage in check-in luggages, domestic or international as well. I was a victim several times when I failed to padlock my luggage. When your luggages are checked in, they are at the mercy of groping personnel who handle their loading in or out of the plane to the conveyor belts. Just last week, in my age-old forgetfulness, I failed to retrieve a plastic bag that I was to hand carry at the Davao airport while waiting for my flight. Either some passenger picked it up or some airport personnel thought some free "chicherias" were good to take home.

**DIVINE MERCY** — Last Sunday was the feast of the Divine Mercy for the Catholic faithful worldwide. We celebrated it at our family shrine with our neighbors and the community in Sulop, Davao del Sur "For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and the whole world". AMEN.

The souls that go to confession and communion on the FEAST OF THE DIVINE MERCY will obtain a complete remission of sin & punishment. (OUR LORD JESUS TO BL.FAUSTINA KOWALSKA)/

## 1st - Apluma

.....from page 4

served alongside his mother before in Senator Luisa "Loi" Ejercito in the 13th Congress or from 2004 to 2007.

Sen. "Loi" made it into the august chamber 2001 but only months followed that her husband in former President Joseph Estrada was removed from office.

But yes, we're not talking here about political dynasty it would still be the people who could make things happen as they are.

Email 1<sup>st</sup> APLUMA at esns03@yahoo.com.1st-APLUMA (1st-Alliance of Provincial Newspaper Publishers)

## Editorial

..... from page 4

between Paraguay and Botswana at Slot 97. Like China, we huddle with 46 other countries with middling "medium human development."

The west has primarily been shaped by its experience of nation, the analysis claims. In contrast, China is not even primarily a nation state. It is a civilization state. China has been moulded by its sense of civilization. "Unlike Europe, China never sought to acquire overseas colonies. Instead, Beijing established a tribute system in east Asia..."

The Chinese state bears a fundamentally different relationship to society compared with any western state....(This) lies at the heart of the Chinese psyche.

The Bo Xilai scandal rocks a China set for a leadership change November. Tibet rash of immolations continue. Asean countries are edgy Chinese claims that butt into their exclusive economic zones US stationed troops in Australia November for a"region has some of the busiest sea lanes in the world," President Obama said.

Learn Mandarin, we tell Kristin and Kathie. As a Chinese proverb says: "When the sea is wide, the mountains are high — and the emperor is far away, my heart is at rest."/Juan L. Mercado



## Mayor Seeking Feedbacks

.....from page 2

and therefore non-biodegradable.

However, in their meeting with the mayor Wednesday to discuss how to implement the ordinance, some businessmen showed samples of plastic bags which were branded by their producers as biodegradable.

To help prevent non-biodegradable plastic bags being passed off otherwise, the mayor said producers and sellers must obtain a certification from government regulatory agencies on the biodegradable quality of such items. This requirement, he said should be considered among the amendments to Ordinance 26, series of 2007.

Grocer Alex Aquino suggested that establishment owners can initially support the city's campaign by giving discounts to customers who shop with ready biodegradable or re-usable bags made of buri or recycled paper.

Aquino said the biodegradable plastic bags being introduced are more costly than the non-biodegradable ones, but the prices of these will later drop as more producers compete for a slice of the market.

This also means, the mayor said, that the ordinance will have to be amended to qualify that what it prohibits is non-biodegradable plastic.

Over at the city council, vice-mayor Daniel Farinas has directed a team led by local legislative staff officer IV Dan Ricky Ong is making the rounds seeking suggestions and recommendations on how to improve the ordinance and its implementation.

Feedbacks may also be coursed through the public information division of the city mayor's office, according to mayor Domogan.

The ordinance was originally proposed by then city councilor Faustino Olowan. Following its adoption, it was submitted for approval by then mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr.

Bautista, however, returned it unsigned, suggesting the creation of a task force to promulgate the implanting rules and regulations and for the city council to indicate in the measure the reckoning date for the imposition of its penal provisions./ Ramon Dacawi.

## Kids to Join Heroes.....

.....from page 2

survived the Death March. They will read again from his notes on the 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Baguio's liberation this Friday.

"The story of the liberation of Baguio city has been told and retold – an old record played over and over again," Esteban had written. "Yet, it should be one of the stories that should be ingrained in the minds of every Baguioite."

"Why?," he asked and went on to answer why.

"We always commemorate June 12<sup>th</sup>, July 4; April 9<sup>th</sup>; and lately, the EDSA Revolution of 1986. In the same manner, April 27<sup>th</sup> should be a red-letter day for Baguio City because of the significance that the event carries."

He asked: "If we cannot forget the Killer Quake of July 16<sup>th</sup> (1990) that destroyed properties, closed our roads, resulted in the loss of lives, how can you forget the liberation campaign which had the same effects as the....earthquake?."

From his account and those of other

heroes, kids will re-tell the three-pronged attack of combined Filipino and American forces who came up to liberate Baguio via the Kennon Road, Taloy Road (now Marcos Highway) and Naguilian Road (now Quirino Highway).

Kids will recall how, during the advance of the Allied Forces, then Lt. Francisco Paraan, reacted upon seeing his war-torn city from where the Naguilian police checkpoint now stands.

"I knelt and kissed the ground," Paraan recounted in his message at the "Fall of Bataan" rites at the Veterans Park in 2008.

"We were home," he recalled, fighting back tears. He was then 91.

His words triggered a sudden and powerful reconnection among his fellow veterans. The message of being home resounded through the park that the city fenced recently, if only to ward off boys practicing with their skateboards and drunks lobbing their finished gin bottles on the wall roster of heroes belonging to the famed d66th Infantry.

After the war, Paraan served Baguio as chief of police. Following the 1986 EDSA Revolution, he was appointed city mayor.

Sometimes it takes a hero to recognize and honor another. So as head of the Baguio Jaycees in the mid-50s, he initiated and supervised the construction of the Rizal Monument beside the Burnham Park.

This Friday, kids will also retell the account of the late Baguio newsman Willy Cacdac of that time he and the late Lt. Eugene Pucay Sr. made a stop-over and stood on a promontory overlooking the Loo Valley in Buguias, Benguet.

"We lost many men here," Cacdac heard the old man murmur.

"I looked at Dad Pucay and he was silent, as if in prayer, with tears rolling down his cheeks," Cacdac recalled.

Despite his diminutive frame, Pucay, an Ibaloi patriarch and philanthropist of Guisad Valley, was the best base stealer at the baseball games in Burnham Park before the war. Later, he became a pillar in the building of the YMCA of Baguio, the local boy scout council, the Masons, Baguio Central University and other community institutions. He also served as city councilor.

These and other anecdotes will spice up the Liberation Day program chaired by city councilor Peter Fianza who also headed the rites last April 9.

Tuba town, Baguio's neighbor to the south, will celebrate its own Liberation Day on April 26. The observance brings to mind the heroism of Sgt. Adriano Carantes and two other men of the famed 66<sup>th</sup> Infantry who, near Ansangan on their way to liberate Tuba and Baguio, knocked out two machine gun emplacements of the Japanese./ Ramon Dacawi.

## Block IV Hopefuls.....

.....from page 3

project's completion.

The criteria lists the following order of priorities: first priority will be given to vendors who were included in the census of actual occupants with permits conducted by the Baguio City Market Authority (BCMA); second priority will be those who were in the census but paid their dues only until December 2011; third, vendors who were in the census but were not paying rent; and fourth, new applicants.

Block IV's floor plan initially provides for a total of 412 stalls.

The development project was funded

with P18 million and was the latest in the string of market development projects after the tobacco and sari-sari and Block III sections.

The mayor said the city is presently implementing additional programs of work to provide parking amenities and other additional features.

He expressed confidence that the project will be completed ahead of schedule./ A Refuerzo

## More Heads Benefits

.....from page 8

The Rotary Club of Baguio-Sunrise headed by their president Cristy Bersola is also a constant partner of the city during such events pitching in club members for logistics.

The boys were also given words of encouragement from the father of the city Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Congressman Bernardo Vergara before the operation started.

Mabutas said, 'the operation was successful thanks to the untiring support of partners who devote their time and resources to help in bringing free services to the people'./ paul rillorta

From the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), is an announcement that Chanum street, Upper Kayang extension and M. Roxas streets shall be closed for repairs. Traffic signs shall be installed by the City Engineers Office (CEO), for the public's information, it was learned.

Requests for exemption from the coding scheme from motorcycle food services were also denied as with additional on-street parking. Institutions should provide parking areas for their personnel and clients, it was made known.

The TTMC headed by Mayor Domogan also endorsed to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) requests for lines, provided that the subject lines meet: conditions set: the need for said transport route and that a private parking area is provided.

So as to lessen vehicle volume on the roads, operator-driver organizations are encouraged to arrange their schedules on the road; as done by the Trancoville jeepney lines.

And as to the vendors insisting on their right to stay at General Luna road, a dialogue is reset between them, Punong Barangay officials, Saint Louis Center Parents Advisory as to its status and use of the area. Earlier, the space was maintained as a portion of the school and later said to be part of the city road. School officials later insisted no permit was given to the vendors and the space is now needed as loading and unloading area for school service vehicles. The matter is expected to be resolved before the next school year starts./ juliegfianza



## IGO Consultation

.....from page 2

ippine Constitution.

Domogan pointed out that an autonomous set-up would allow the region to have a greater say on the exploitation and use of its natural resources, not only for national progress but also to speed up the Cordillera's own development.

He noted that while the region's mineral wealth such as gold and water resources substantially contribute to national progress, it continues to lag behind economically compared to the other regions because it has no power, under an administrative set-up, to plow back these benefits for its own development.

Domogan dispelled doubts on the third push for self-rule by enumerating five principles which, he said, guided the committee he headed in drafting the third autonomy charter now pending in Congress.

These principles, he said, are: 1) establishment of regional identity but full retention of the autonomy of the provinces, towns, cities and barangays under an autonomy-within-autonomy policy; non-diminution of existing benefits and powers of the region and its local government units being enjoyed under an administrative region; continuous national budgetary allocation for all national line agencies in the region; and 2) sustained national annual subsidy from the national government, and; sustained national budgetary allocation for the region.

Domogan explained that the region's rejection of the first autonomy charter was partly due to mangling by Congress of the organic act drafted by the Cordillera Regional Consultative Commission.

The second, he said, was also rejected partly due to lack of time to pursue a grassroots information campaign that was overtaken and overshadowed by the election campaign in 1998.

Autonomy, he also stressed, would be difficult to achieve if "we can not unite and fight for it as a people and as a region."

Domogan earlier said that the national government may not be as keen on autonomy as it would mean its losing grip on the allocation of the region's resources for other regions such as Metro-Manila which benefits from energy being generated and taxes from the gold being mined in the Cordillera.

Robredo also touched on this point in his speech, saying that the adoption of laws does not guarantee the enjoyment of benefits unless the people assert their rights.

The topical presentations and outputs from the workshops likewise focused on strengthening public-private partnership in governance and development, preservation of the integrity of culture and the environment against the onslaught of commercialization.

Former Energy Undersecretary Rufino Bumas-ang urged Cordillerans to establish their own cooperatives and corporations for the development of the region's natural resources, in tandem with investors, saying "many of us (from the region) are professionals".

Texas-based Prof. Andrew Bacdayan advocated government-private partnership he termed "communitization" in the development of and management of the region's water resources.

From the sidelines, Cordilleran David Tauli, now serving the power industry in Mindanao, noted that outside investors and

developers of hydroelectric power resources in the Cordillera should not forever own the facilities they build up here. He said the region should adopted the build-operate-transfer scheme so that developers would turn over such facilities to the village or host local government after 25 or 30 years of operation.

Taui said it's unfair for developers to permanently own these facilities while giving the host communities only a token share from the profits and extending help that may be deducted from their taxes.

Capping the presentations, Ifugao congressman Teddy Baguilat Jr. rallied the delegates to help preserve and pass on the cultural heritage and values of the Cordillera.

IGO-International president Cesar Castro and IGO-Philippines chief Manuel Ano led over a hundred delegates, mostly expatriate Cordillerans, who attended the consultation last April 12-13 at the Baguio Country Club.

Delegates ushered in the biennial consultation with the launching of "Igorot by Heart", a book compilation of the key presentations in the eight previous forums, together with a trade fair, at the Country Club.

They ended with a cultural fare hosted by London-based lawyer and businessman Richard Stone Pooten and his wife Conchita at the couple's home in Asin, Tuba Benguet.

Washington-based Mia Abeya who earlier presented the scholarship program of the Igorot Global Organization (IGO) for students in the Cordillera, headed the new set of elected IGO Council of Elders who were inducted by mayor Domogan.

The next consultation in 2014 will be hosted by IGO-Austria./Ramon Dacawi.

## Hope Dim

.....from page 12

them sit together have failed. I think at this point, it is best to leave the matter to the courts," the mayor said on Wednesday.

The mayor rued the city's predicament as a result of the standoff between the parties.

"Unfortunately, the city is caught in the middle of this dispute being a party in interest (in the Camp John Hay development deal). We will definitely suffer. Lugi tayong lahat (we will all be at the losing end)," the mayor bewailed.

The city stands to collect 25 percent share of the arrears unofficially placed at P3.024 pursuant to the 19-conditionalities under Resolution No. 362, series of 1994./A Refuerzo

## Club Finalization

.....from page 12

taken by the city planning and development office under officer-in-charge Evelyn Cayat which serves as CDC secretariat.

The mayor earlier expressed reception to the recommendations as there are entries in the draft that need to be changed for practical reasons like the limit on the number of stories recommended for buildings in the city.

The city council committee on urban planning, lands and housing recently wrapped up the consultations with the various sectors on the draft updated CLUP and Zoning Ordinance and is readying recommendations to the city council based on the inputs gathered.

Cosalan said extensive inputs were

collated from the series of consultations conducted among which is the situation on the ground of certain reservations and lands classified as unbuildable, hazardous areas and buffer zones.

"While there are proclaimed or identified for certain purposes, it is a glaring reality that portions thereof are occupied/settled for so long a time presumably with government consent. Also, discrepancies in certain presented data that may affect the consistency of the whole plan were noted. With these observations, questions of ambiguity of the proposed updated CLUP as presented are certain," Cosalan noted.

The committee proposed numerous considerations in the draft among which:

\*The need to look deeper into the overall direction of the development plans. As expressed in the "Vision" and repeatedly underscored in the "Mission, Goals, Strategy, and Overall Policies", ecological balance, through sustainable enhancement and preservation of the environment to stabilize bio-diversity, takes center stage. The physical land use plan, however, says otherwise. For the next ten or more years, the plan would be taking away more than 119 from the 566.21 hectares of "vacant forested areas" or 21 percent of the existing forest land supposed to be for greening purposes. Add this to the already occupied portions of forest/water reservations, roads and creek/river easements and the city will end up with barely a space to breathe;

\*The need to translate into clear, defined and purposeful plan the proposed and adopted Multi-nodal form of spatial development strategy where the particular field of specialization for the particular cluster is expressly articulated to serve as investment and development guides; and the

\*The consideration of at least a 15-year period effectivity for the Baguio City Comprehensive Land Use Plan to provide ample time for the realization of the vision-mission-goal statements.

They will also push for the adoption of the observations and recommendations forwarded by the various sectors consulted namely the National Economic and Development Authority Cordillera; the academe; the BLISTT; trade and industry; tourism; education; public safety and protection; social welfare services; health; infrastructure and utilities; housing and indigenous groups.

The CLUP serves as the City's "blueprint for our City's physical and economic development toward a safer and healthier environment," according to the mayor.

The plan is highlighted by four "major spatial strategies" namely the decongestion of the Central Business District through the provision of growth nodes along strategic locations in the City, the designation of additional areas for institutional purposes that support the city's role as an education center north of Manila, the preservation of existing watersheds, forest reservations, parks and other areas supported by Presidential Proclamations and other laws and setting of Environment Development Controls.

The new CLUP's updates center on the allowed uses within the different zones, building heights and the provision of a land use map which specifies the land use allocation of the various zones namely residential, commercial, industrial, institutional and utilities zones./A Refuerzo



## Mayor Answers Critics on SM Issue

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan on Wednesday said he will not be cowed by any display of force into supporting a cause especially if such is not consistent with the law.

The mayor was reacting to criticisms hurled against him by supporters and members of the Save 182 Movement over his failure to stop SM's earth-balling of 41 trees the other week.

"They call me inutile but then anybody who does not support their line of thinking is inutile to them," the mayor told the Ugnayang Panlungsod press briefing last week.

"We will not be pressured by mere shouting and noise into doing something that is not within the ambit of our powers," the mayor said.

"I hope those (supporting the preservation of the trees at SM) can understand that it's not that we don't like to support (their cause) but we know the limit of our power," he said.

The mayor expressed hope that SM and the opposition could still arrive at a compromise after the dialogue brokered by the Dept. of Interior and Local Government (DILG) last week where the protagonists presented their positions and sentiments.

Members of the Save 182 Movement which is leading the protest against the removal of trees at SM, however, decried the outcome of the dialogue which they claimed did not yield any agreement or compromise to guarantee the preservation of the trees.

The protesters earlier scored a victory after the Regional Trial Court (RTC) extended the term of the Temporary Environmental Protection Order (TEPO) earlier issued to stop SM from touching the trees until the resolution of the case which the group filed against SM.

But Domogan said that as per the court order, SM will be allowed to earth ball 28 trees in addition to the 41 earlier moved.

At the city council, the body still has to act on the council committee on health, sanitation and environment's recommendations on the SM issue as committee chair Councilor Erdolfo Balajadia attended by DILG dialogue in Manila.

The committee recommendation said the city council has no authority to stop SM's plan to earthball 182 trees for its expansion project and instead suggested the creation of a multi-sectoral committee to monitor the implementation of the SM expansion project and ensure that it is complying with the company's development commitments.

The committee also asked SM Baguio to consider redesigning its expansion project to reduce the number of trees to be affected by the project./A Refuerzo

## Hopes Dim for BCDA-CJHDEVCO Amicable Settlement

BAGUIO CITY – Hopes continued to dim for an out-of-court settlement between the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and the Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevCo) over lease rental issues for Camp John Hay.

No less that Mayor Mauricio

Domogan who just last week vowed not give up in convincing the two parties to go to the negotiating table showed signs of resignation.

"Sad to say that all our efforts to make

## Clup Finalization on

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan Wednesday pushed for the approval of the proposed updated Baguio City Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and Zoning Ordinance by the city council.

The mayor said he will reconvene the City Development Council (CDC) which drafted the updated CLUP and will move for the return of the draft to the august body for action.

The city council recently returned

the draft to the CDC for incorporation of the recommendations and inputs gathered from the multi-sectoral consultations conducted by the council committee on urban planning, lands and housing headed by Councilor Isabelo Cosalan Jr.

The revisions and adjustments are now being under-  
**Cont. on page 11**

# The JUNCTION

Pahayagang Palaban!!!



**FOR FUTURE GENERATION** -Congressman Bernardo Vergara, PRO-COR deputy for administration General Elmer Soria flanked by Baguio Commercial Photographers Guild Inc. president Carlos Cabillan and Street Urban Working Children Parent's Association president Maria Victoria Marcelino under the City Social Welfare and Development Office headed by Betty Fangasan join hands in planting an African Tulps, bamboos, and pine tree seedlings marking their 1st Anniversary as partners in clean-up, tree tending and planting activities for the "Love of Baguio to bring back its pristine beauty. More than 150 volunteers joined the clean-up at Burnham Park, Kisad and Harrison Roads and, tree tending and tree planting activities at the back of Llon's Club Building April 18./By Bong Cayabyab

## Teacher in Second Bout Against Cancer

In-between making the rounds in search of Samaritans, public high school teacher Adonis Togana would look up, tossing to the sky questions he had asked a hundred times before.

They're the same questions now and then asked by patients who, like him, are battling cancer or any other serious and debilitating illness. Like many of them, he hasn't found the answers.

He thought the answers were at hand last year, when his doctors, after a series of radiation, chemotherapy and skin grafting sessions, declared he was on remission from squamous cell carcinoma.

In the social case study report she wrote, social worker Ronalyn Paleng said Togana was diagnosed for skin and tissue cancer in 2008. Adonis narrated that his left leg sustained burns in 1978 that perhaps triggered the growth of cancer cells.

Adonis lost his wife and fellow, during childbirth, together with her baby, in 2005. She left him their two elder kids – son Trojan, now 15 and to be in senior high school, and daughter Jezrelle, 13, and due for second year this coming June.

He taught at the Benguet National High School from 1993 to 1999 and transferred to the the Pines City National High School in 2000. Eight years, the cancer surfaced, forcing him to take a leave and make the rounds to complete his therapy.

Knocking on doors does dent a teacher's dignity. With two kids to raise, he had no choice. Samaritans among acquaintances and strangers responded and he made a list so he and his kids won't forget their kindness.

With the relapse, confirmed through a biopsy last month, he was back to square one.

He admits it's a more constricted, smaller square than the first one. Samaritans can only give so much that it would be more difficult to make another round.

As of last Thursday, Adonis' donors had pooled P23,000. He needs to raise P40,000 as soon as possible so he could go back to the Philippine General Hospital in Manila to start his daily radio therapy sessions continuously for 24 days.

Adonis, who hails from Asin Road, Baguio and now resides at Tabangaoen, La Trinidad, Benguet turned 45 last February 18.

Those who can help him find the answers may ring up Togana's cellphone number: 09291577446./Ramon Dacawi.

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