

THE WEEKEND JUNCTION



P8.00
ISSN 0119-7487

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

Pahayagang palaban!!! **City Files Contempt Raps V.S. NCIP-CAR Hearing Officer**



BAGUIO CITY – The city government last Monday filed a petition before the Supreme Court to cite National Commission on Indigenous Peoples Cordillera (NCIP-CAR) hearing officer Brain Masweng for contempt for issuing temporary restraining orders in favor of the squatters that thwarted the city government’s bid to demolish illegal structures at the Busol watershed last July 28.

In the petition, the city represented by legal officer Melchor Carlos Rabanes said

Cont. on page 10

Public Hearing at the Baguio City Session Hall regarding PSR No. 1150 introduced by Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago on the “resolution directing the Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the reported urban decay and environmental degradation threatening to devastate the City of Pines” At the helm, is Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon, Chairman on Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement with city officials, department heads concerned, GO’s and NGO’s and the Baguio Centennial Commission./Photo by: Mon S. David

Hindi lang contempt, dapat kasuhan din ng abuse of authority yan!



LG KOMENTARYO, ISANG PALAISIPAN



MGA TAXI NA BULOK para sa isang tourist city na katulad ng Baguio?! Go to page 7

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Presidentiables with sagging popularities: time to re-strategize

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



FAIR AND SQUARE

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The Irregular and the Illegal Franchises: What Do We Do With Them (Part 2)

BY JAMES S. VALEROS



Poor Got Poorer, Gma Got Richer

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday said it was ironic that while the net worth of President Gloria rose substantially since she came to power her government has also maintained a seemingly insatiable desire to rack up more debts.

"The country's foreign debts creditors nearly doubled this year to P4.8 trillion from around P2.8 trillion in 2001. But at the same time, the net worth of Mrs. Arroyo increased during the same period by 114 percent from P66.8 million to P143.54 million!," Escudero said.

"In other words, the country grows poorer as she gets richer."

Escudero noted that P630 billion, or nearly half of this year's budget of P1.4 trillion, goes to debt payments alone.

And yet, he stressed, nothing has been done to address the P300 billion lost annually to inefficient collection on the part of the Bureau of Customs (P100 billion) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (P200 billion).

"This amount would have sufficed to double the budget for education," he noted.

In 2006, government used 32 percent of the national budget for debt payments, while from 2001-2005, it accrued P2.4

trillion in new debts for an average of P487 annually.

During the same period, the Arroyo administration incurred debts that far exceeded the borrowings of the past three governments.

The Aquino, Ramos and Estrada governments secured loans of P388 billion, P401 billion and P725 billion, respectively, for total combined borrowings of P1.46 trillion

"The next president should insist on lowering debt payments and review our debt policy, so that it can focus more on domestic spending," Escudero said./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Do A Recto, Lawmaker Chides Other Cabinet Members

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday called on the members of the Arroyo Cabinet who have plans of running in the May 2010 polls to take the lead of erstwhile National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Director-General Ralph Recto and resign as well.

"Cabinet members who have plans of running, especially those who have unequivocally stated their desire to do so, in the May 2010 polls should immediately resign so that they will not be accused of using taxpayers' money to fund their political ambitions," Escudero said.

The 39-year old senator said he is

supporting the move by Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago to hold hearings on the infomercials of some Cabinet members.

"I am supporting Sen. Santiago's call if only to determine whether government funds are indeed being used for political purposes. Should they really be in those infomercials to start with? Can those infomercials be produced and aired without the Cabinet members being in them? What benefits are their agencies getting from these infomercials?" he asked.

"At the end of the day, I would like to know who really benefits from these infomercials, the

people or the Cabinet members?," Escudero added.

Cabinet members have come out with infomercials include Vice President Noli de Castro, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, Interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, Public Works and Highways Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, PAGCOR Chairman Efraim Genuino, TESDA chief Augusto Syjoco, and MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando.

Recto resigned Tuesday purportedly to prepare for a run for a seat in the Senate in May 2010 polls./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Lawmaker asks for full disclosure On Arroyo SALN

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday asked for full disclosure on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN) of President Arroyo to erase doubts and end speculations that she had amassed ill-gotten wealth since she took power in 2001.

"The right thing to do for anyone in public office is to reveal all necessary

documents that will explain any seeming discrepancy relating to the SAL. Any stonewalling or hedging will only fuel speculations about the source of one's assets," he said.

Escudero said President Arroyo must set the example for all as he cited reports that token compliance with the requirements of RA 6713 (Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees) resulted in jail

terms, stiff fines, and dismissal or suspension from work of public officials.

The law requires all public officials and employees, except those who serve in an honorary capacity, laborers and casual or temporary workers, to file under oath their SALN and a Disclosure of Business Interests and Financial Connections and those of their spouses and unmarried children under

Cont. on page 10

Lawmaker Pushes Bill Waiving Bank Secrecy For Public Servants

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday called on his colleagues to pass a bill that requires government officials and employees to sign a waiver that will allow the Ombudsman to

look into their bank deposits.

"It is time for the Senate to expeditiously act on this measure. While it may not have a retroactive effect, it will deter and surely make it more

difficult for thieves in public office in the next administration to hide their ill-gotten wealth," the 39-year old lawmaker said.

"Had this bill been passed earlier Cont. on page 10



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The Junction- OIC



THE JUNCTION

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*Our articles and stories (news/features) are ready to go for printing without the involvement of the editor and publisher who happen to be on leave.

The Junction is printed and published by Farco Trimedia Ventures, Inc. (FTV, Inc.) every weekend, with office address at Ground Floor PCEC Bldg., Happy Homes, Campo Sioco, Baguio City, Mobile Phone Nos.: (0917)5069123; (0917)5069126; E-mail Address: thejunctionnews@yahoo.com Mailing Address P.O. Box 1588, 2600 Baguio City Entered as Second Class Mail at the Baguio City Central Post Office PCC-CAR 01-04-99



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Dads Call For Probe Into Resurging Gambling Games

BAGUIO CITY – The city council last Monday called anew for an investigation of the reported resurgence of Bingo sa Barangay, bingo-teng, jueteng and other illegal games in the city.

The body which approved a proposed resolution of Councilor Galo Weygan asked the public order and safety division of the mayor's office under Engr. Greg Deligero and the city police under acting police chief Nestor Bergonia to lead the probe.

"Gambling may

bring money to the operators, but it causes financial distress to the gamblers or bettors especially they belong to lower level of income who are housewives, wage earners including the middle level income of society," Weygan noted in his resolution he filed in response to reports on the proliferation of gambling activities in the barangays.

"If the gambling operators are barangay officials, they are causing or promoting poverty among their constituents," he

rueed.

"This Bingo sa Barangay and Bingo-teng has caused widespread doubts on the uprightness of barangay officials as to whether they are protecting their constituents from the effect of anti-social and anti-peace and anti-health activities to the people."

In approving the measure, the body called for the consideration of a court order which sanctioned the conduct of Bingo sa Barangay in the past.

Early this year, the city council ap-
Cont. on page 10



GUARDED CENTENNIAL TREASURE ? - Security guards look on as workers inside a makeshift structure in front of City Hall flag pole work on a Centennial Marker which will be unveiled this coming Baguio Centennial celebration on September 1./ *By Bong Cayabyab*

RITMT nets 50 smoke belchers in 3 days

BAGUIO CITY – After examining more than a hundred vehicles along city roads a few hours at a time within the last three weeks, fifty vehicles failed the smoke belchers test as conducted by the Roadside Inspection, Testing and Monitoring Team (RITMT) of the Clean Air Monitoring Unit (CAMU), from the City Environment Management Office (CEMO).

Some of the vehicles ply the roads for private use, while most are for the riding public; nonetheless were tested after being spotted with visible black exhaust

smoke.

As the machine would indicate if the vehicle exudes dangerous levels of carbon oxides, the driver or owner is advised to properly maintain the vehicle. As to records, some of the vehicles; both for light and heavy duty use were manufactured in 1991, while some are of the 2006 models.

During the regular Ugnayan with the local media last week, Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr. took the stand against smoke belching and strongly urged drivers and owners of said vehicles to comply with the anti-smoke belching law.

The law has to be complied with, the mayor emphasized, if the vehicles are to ply the city's streets with less air pollution.

Earlier, the RITMT flagged down 235 vehicles for testing and had 128 failed readings. Said vehicles were caught along Harrison road,

Magsaysay avenue, Upper Session road, Gov. Pack rd, Marcos Highway, Loakan road and Naguilian road. Other roads shall be included in future monitoring operations.

The team, composed of government environmental advocates, members of the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO), and volunteers; including several senior citizens, were earlier trained for the purpose. Preparations were done months before the implementation, including the allocation of funds for a new gas analyzer, since as of now, only diesel-fed vehicles could be tested.

Mayor Bautista, Jr., confirmed this, during the media Ugnayan. The city is serious about controlling all sources of pollution in the city, he said.

Spot checks are being done along city streets with the test-

Cont. on page 11

CJHDEVCO, BCDA Execs Asked To Shed Light On Cjh Rental Shares Payment

BAGUIO CITY – Executives of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and the Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevCo) are expected to shed light on the status of the lease rental payment and the city's unpaid share from said rental when the city council meets for its regular session tomorrow (August 17).

The city council last week invited BCDA chair Aloysius Santos and CJHDevCo chief operating officer Alfredo Yniguez III to clarify the issue following Yniguez' letter informing Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. and the city council that it is up to date with its lease rental

payments with the BCDA.

City treasurer Thelma Manaois and city legal officer Melchor Carlos Rabanes were also invited to the discussion.

The aldermen said clarifications had to be made on the matter especially since the city's share from the lease rental remained unsettled.

Earlier, Mayor Bautista announced that BCDA has offered to pay the bal-

looning share of the city in kind instead of in cash based on his talk with BCDA president and chief executive officer Narciso Abaya.

The mayor said that was the scheme offered by Abaya during the meeting also attended by city treasurer Thelma Manaois and city budget officer Leticia Clemente during the meeting.

Abaya, according to the mayor, ad-
Cont. on page 11

RESEARCH & STATISTICS

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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

Deciphering Signs

"For one brief shining moment/There was Camelot." The Broadway song lyric came to mind as kids twirled yellow ribbons at former president Corazon Aquino funeral. "Will (she) become another of Asia's political-widow syndrome, as in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka." wondered the Economist.

No, Columbia University's Shiela Coronel wrote in Wall Street Journal "Her ultimate political legacy will continue to be discussed... Even in death, it is likely Cory Aquino will remain the symbol of Filipinos' hopes.

Many who slammed Aquino, then and now, tucked tail before the dictator. "Filipinos expected miracles to happen during her presidency," Sociologist Randy David recalled "The poor expected instant relief from... poverty. The middle classes expected a renewed and functioning government...overnight.

EDITORIAL

the attendant responsibilities of citizenship."

So, where do we go from here?

Don't ask President Arroyo. She found herself diminished at private funeral rites for her towering predecessor. She's still deciphering what messages, if any, did those waves of people send in their fervent turnout for Cory."

"The world embraced Edsa 1 in 1986," the President cautioned at Libingan Ng Mga Bayani on February 22. "The world tolerated Edsa 2 in 2001. The world will not forgive an Edsa 3. Instead, (it'd) condemn the Philippines as a country whose political system is hopelessly unstable."

The torrent of gratitude and affection for Cory was not Edsa 3. Perhaps, an unplanned but nonetheless telling "referendum", Inquirer Columnist Rina Jimenez David suggested...

People Power is not just about dispatching dictators. It includes securing reforms peacefully. Mahatma Ghandi's 1930 march to the sea saw the oppressive salt tax scrubbed. People Power can celebrate a life poured out for others that "fragrance filled the whole house."

"How lucky we were it was a Cory who led the first post Marcos government (with) near-absolute governmental power," recalls UP professor Raul Pangalangan. She prevailed in Philippine politics without being deformed. "In her we saw a glimpse of our nobler selves and learned there are rare times, in our sad history, when the good guys finished first."

The Palace, meanwhile, struck a business-as-usual posture. In Pampanga, the President handed out P500 million for school repairs. She may bid for an elective post there, some say. If the constitution is keel-hauled before 2010, why she could become the Philippines' Indra Ghandi.

From the grave, Cory may have slammed that option shut. Aquino opposed tinkering with the Constitution -and possible extension of terms -before 2010. So do 63 percent of Filipinos, surveys show. "The popular sentiment is not to go against her wishes," noted Cavite Representative Elpidio Barzaga.

In the Lower House, Arroyo's sons rode shotgun over House Resolution 1109. That would have three-fourths of the House propose changes to the Charter, without the Senate. "Nobody wants to touch it anymore," Quezon City Rep. Matias Defensor said.

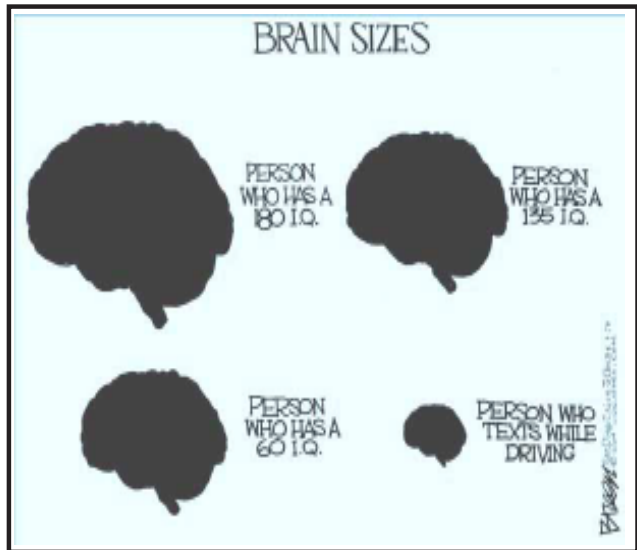
The human wave in yellow identified with Cory's legacy, Inquirer's Amando Doronila wrote. That includes regular and honest elections and limits to term of office. Read the crowds' lips, Doronila suggested: Tampering with the rules incurs the risk of people hitting the streets again, as in 1986.

Cory provided the example for the transfer of power according to constitutional rules. Indeed, mankind refuses to learn from any other school but example, Edmund Burke once said.

In the snap election, Aquino hammered on a simple theme: She'd be the exact opposite of Ferdinand Marcos. Even her plain dresses, the Economist noted, contrasted with "the stylish Imelda, who was still stuffing the boudoirs of the presidential palace with frocks and

After 21 years of oppression, Filipinos wanted freedom without

Cont. on page 9



KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Presidentiables with sagging popularities: time to re-strategize

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



PRESIDENTIABLES NEED TO RE-STRATEGIZE: The Social Weather Station survey commissioned by the Daily Tribune for June 2009 should prompt presidentiables wanting to run in 2010 to rethink their positions.

As well, their leaders should start figuring out alternative candidates to replace those with sagging popularities, or those who are not moving up, or not rating at all.

As Ambassador and San Miguel Corporation chief, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, once said, surveys are everything in politics, since they reflect the prevailing mood of electorates.

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LIBERALS COULD FIELD NOYNOY AQUINO AS THEIR STANDARD BEARER: The SWS-Daily Tribune survey showed President Joseph Estrada and Sen. Manuel Villar capturing commanding leads over their rivals, and prospective Liberal Party standard bearer and Sen. Mar Roxas sliding down to a measly fifth place with a paltry 9 percent of the respondents choosing him.

The results are highly surprising, considering that Mar has been relentlessly bombarding the public with his radio-TV commercials, from Luzon in the North to Mindanao in the South.

Perhaps, it is really time to re-strategize, especially for the Liberals, and the calls for Sen. Benigno Aquino III, who is enjoying an unprecedented popularity nowadays, to run as president instead of Mar, could do the trick this time.

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NEWSNETWORKS FEATURE NOYNOY'S FUTURE FIRST LADY: GMA Channel 7 and ABS CBN 2 jointly featured the other night a story about the woman who may yet turn out to be the wife of Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

This is interesting, for it is but proper and fitting that Noynoy should really have a first lady when he becomes president of the Republic of the Philippines.

But, modesty aside, this column already beat everyone to the draw on this item when, on October 17, 2008, I came up with a story about the romance between Noynoy and his prospective first lady, based on information given by members of the Aquino family.

And so, so the public may know once again, I would like to reproduce that article of mine today. Here goes...

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NOYNOY TYING THE KNOT? I hope our readers here won't mind. Cont. on page 9

Benguet Cold Chain opened opportunities to high end markets

L A TRINIDAD, Bengue - The cold chain project has a great impact to the vegetable industry in the province providing access to high end market and alleviating the problem of smuggling of temperate vegetables according to Benguet Governor Nestor Fongwan.

Fongwan said although the project is of little magnitude and the cost of the existing cold chain project is not that much compared to other nationally funded projects, it has improved the lot of farmers who adapted the technology.

Acknowledging the efforts of the administration, Fongwan recounted that it was at that time when the vegetable industry was hurting due to the rampant smuggling activities that cropped up during the early part of 2000 that the cold chain system was conceptualized.

The establishment of the Benguet Cold Chain project was an intervention by the national government enrolled under the State-of-the Nation Address (SONA) project to spur economic development in the region.

Funded under President's Social Fund and the Bureau of Post Harvest Research and Extension, the Benguet Cold

Chain Project costs P12 million with counterpart from the province.

Fongwan said in effect the cold chain technology has added value to the crop which translates to additional income for the farmers and consequently uplifting their way of life. Farmers supplying the high end markets truly benefited giving them opportunity to expand their market with globally competitive produce, he added.

Francis Ching, proprietor of the John Kenny Farms located in Cada, Mankayan and Sablan who adopted the technology, admitted that the project has opened marketing opportunities in the high end market such as Pizza Hut.

One of the pioneer users of the project, Ching said they have been making use of the facilities of the Benguet Cold Chain for four years now such as the modular cold storage chambers for storing excess supplies from the farm, the refrigerated or reefer vans which are used in transporting their produce and the crates as containers for vegetables.

Ching said the technology has truly benefited farmers by reducing post harvest losses, maintaining the quality and freshness and prolonging

shelf life of vegetables. He said in availing the services of the cold chain, recovery was almost a hundred percent. But prior to the use of the facilities, post harvest losses accounted only 50 percent.

Ching said the Benguet Cold Chain Project could no longer accommodate all its clients, hence there is a need to add more modular storage units and reefer vans.

With the increasing demand of other users of the reefer van, John Kenny farms purchased its own, "Hindi na ako nagdalawang isip bumili," he quipped...

John Kenny Farms is also making use of this town's P11 mil-

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

ERNESTO P. DULCE
 Applicant
 Case No:2006-CAR-0126

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 and 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 August 25, 2009 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paodal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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

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

This application shall be acted upon 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 FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 7th day of August, 2009.

(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
 Hearing Officer

lion worth Minimal Processing Plant supplying high value commercial crops to Dole Asia and Glory to God Forever Food Corporation.

Ching traced his humble beginnings of vegetable farming in Cada, Mankayan and has now expanded to Sablan.

In Mankayan, he established a one hectare greenhouse and an eight hectare open field. He grows variet-

Republic of the Philippines
 PROVINCE OF BENGUET
 La Trinidad
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
 Environment and Natural Resources Office

CERTIFICATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that based on records of this office, no small scale mining permit was issued to certain SVR Small Scale Miners Association, Inc. (SVRSSMAI)

This certification is issued upon the request of Mrs. Susan C. Valdez for whatever legal purposes it may serve.

Issued this 13th day of August, 2009 at the Provincial Capitol Building, La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

NESTOR B. FONGWAN
 Provincial Governor

Certification Fee : 20.00
 Under O.R No. 0413620
 Date Issued : August 13, 2009

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

GL/LIZARDO TRANSPORTATION CORP
 Applicant
 Case No:2007-CAR-0300

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience with Change Engine to operate a PUB Aircon Service for the transportation and passengers and freights on the line: SAGADA - BAGUIO CITY and Vice Versa with the use of five(5) units.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on Sept 8, 2009 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paodal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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

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

This application shall be acted upon 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 FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 15th day of August 2009.

(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
 Hearing Officer

ies of lettuce, strawberries and potatoes. In Sablan, he established a 4,000 square meter greenhouse for bell pepper.

As he has now established his market delivering competitive and good quality of vegetables, market demand is high. He now maintains a lock in price regardless of increase or decrease in supply in the market. / S.C. Aro/PIA-Benguet

FAIR AND SQUARE

The Irregular and the Illegal Franchises: What Do We Do With Them
(Part 2)

BY: JAMES S. VALEROS



III

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE IRREGULAR AND ILLEGAL FRANCHISES?

If the legitimate CPC holders in Baguio City who comprise about 50% of all PUV operators in the city will only be asked by the Board what they would do to these franchises, since they are the most affected and aggrieved party on this issue of proliferating irregular and illegal franchises anyway, we are certain that they will not hesitate to propose their outright cancellations. That's understandable for, as these franchises were being granted continuously from the backdoor by Regional Directors in circumvention of the moratorium, their operating and take home income through the years have unrelentingly slid down.

Of course, this solution will not augur well to the holders of these franchises, particularly, the CPC transferees who most of them are buyers in good faith. It will not also sit well to the riding public who arbitrarily claim lack of transport service notwithstanding traffic congestion and pollution already discomposing them. So, in all probability the Board will not adopt this recommendation of the legitimate operators unless, they truly would exercise political will.

On the other hand, however, by just letting the operation of these franchises go freely and operate unhampered, as what is happening, they will forever be a blot and a disgrace to the name of the LTFRB. They will also serve as a monument to remind us always of the corruption and the extensive fraud practiced in and tolerated by the Board. And probably worse, by doing nothing about it, it is bound to repeat itself as already shown in the past.

It will be remembered that when it begun in 1996, the Regional Board first learned to issue franchise in violation of the moratorium. It later on acquired the courage and the propensity to grant fraudulent and spurious franchises sometime in 1998. While all these questionable CPC issuances by the Regional Board were contested by the City and the cause oriented residents of Baguio, which included the filing of administrative cases with the Ombudsman, the irregular and illegal CPCs were nonetheless granted without let up by the Regional Board. The Board en banc then acting lethargically was of no help at all. Thus, it came to pass that the issuance of these franchises in the first instance became a precedent succeeding Regional Directors came to follow.

As it is now, it is really up to the Board en banc what it shall do to these franchises being questioned and investigated now by the DOTC-CAR, while at the same time sending query on what to do to the LTFRB en banc. It may even grant legalization and/or absolution to all these franchises which, to our opinion, is a solution better than and a preferred one over the iniquitous piecemeal investigation or hearing presently being conducted by the Board and/or the DOTC-CAR.

It is our honest view, however, that while legalization and absolution may be adopted as a policy for the irregular franchises, the same may not be proper and acceptable for the illegal, the fraudulent and spurious franchises. Although legalization was resorted to by the Board en banc on taxis before, it may no longer pass unnoticed and unchallenged now for, legalizing the fraudulent and spurious taxi franchises in 1999 by administrative fiat or Memorandum Circular by the Board en banc, even with the recommendation of the Baguio City Council, was a great mistake. Even the Supreme Court would not legalize fraud!

Hence, premised on the eventuality that the Board en banc will not adopt a policy of legalization and absolution, some

people call it "amnesty," and further, in our belief that a piecemeal approach to the disposition of these franchises is iniquitous and selectively unfair, we are submitting for whatever it is worth a set of recommendations, for the indulgence and consideration of the Board en banc,

IV

RECOMMENDATION

Assumptions.

It is to be assumed that in the investigation and disposition of these franchises, the Board en banc beforehand will:

1. assign a number of lawyers it deems necessary with a complement of administrative personnel, to attend to the job full time within a prescribed period that may be set by the Board;

2. require that the investigation / hearing of the cases be done chronologically starting from the oldest, giving priority nevertheless to the CPC applications filed and pending before the LTFRB-CAR;

3. suspends the filing of CPC applications for sale and transfer for a period coinciding with the total length of time of investigation, but allow all other applications;

4. adopt the policy of administrative investigation and hearing based on records, subject always, however to the observance of due process, to accelerate the disposition of the cases.

5. in the meanwhile, suspends the hearing or investigation being conducted by the DOTC-CAR pending the adoption of a policy by the Board en banc on what to do with these irregular and illegal franchises.

Disposition of Irregular Franchises.

1. Irregular CPCs as previously defined, whether still in the hands of the first grantees or transferees shall, as a policy based on legal, social and economic consideration, be given a total expiration life of ten (10) years reckoned from date of original issuance or transfer to the last vendees or assignees, as the case may be. However, all franchises found irregularly granted by the Board en banc or the Regional Boards before 2005 shall, after hearing, be considered ineffective or cancelled upon receipt by the CPC holders of the Order of Cancellation in their respective cases.

2. For purposes of investigation or hearing, summons to the CPC holders should inform / notify the respondents of the particular rules or policies of the DOTC and/or the Board en banc violated in the issuances of the franchises.

Disposition of Illegal Franchises.

1. Illegal CPCs as also defined previously that are still in the hands of the original grantees shall, as a policy likewise based on legal, social and economic considerations be given a total expiration life of five (5) years reckoned from date of issuance. Provided, however, that all such franchises found illegally granted by the Board en banc or Regional Boards before 2005 shall, after investigation or hearing, be deemed ineffective or revoked upon receipt by the CPC holders of the Order of Revocation in their respective cases.

2. On the other hand, CPCs still in the hands of the last vendees or transferees deemed illegally issued after investigation and hearing shall, based on like considerations as in the holders of irregular franchises, be given a total expiration life of ten (10) years from date of last transfer of such CPCs.

3. For purposes of investigation or hearing, summons to the CPC holders should inform / notify or apprise the respondents of the particular provision of laws violated in the issuances of the franchises concerned.

Post Disposition.

The disposition of the cases resulting in the revocation or cancellation of irregular and illegal franchises shall be without prejudice for the opening of new CPC applications as the need for transport utilities will dictate, in accordance with the RMC and other guidelines that the Board may duly prescribed.

(Note: All comments to this article may be sent to the writer at No. 27 Upper Engrs. Hill, Baguio City or through E-mail address glovaleros16@yahoo.com.



Lines Gobierno

MGA TAXI NA BULOK para sa isang tourist city na katulad ng Baguio?!

Isang luma na pam-pasaherong behikulo (taxi) mahigit trese anyos (13 years old) maaari palang mabigyan ng extension ng prankisa na parang panibagong prankisa basta't magpalit lamang ng chasis ng sasakyan? Ito ba ay totoo, ito ba ay ligal??? Good news sa mga may-ari ng mga lumang sasakyan, mag palit lang kayo ng chassis at OK na, hanap buhay na muli!!! Bad news para sa publiko, bulok at lumang mga taxi ang inyong masasakyan, enjoy your not so safe ride. Saan kayo papanig? Ating malalaman sa mga darating na araw kung ano ba talaga ang legal at tama hinggil sa isyu na ito.



Inyong mababasa sa kaliwang bahagi ang liham na ating pinadala sa DOTC-CAR nitong July 16, 2009 at sa kanang bahagi ng pahinang ito ang kasagutan ng DOTC-CAR Regional Director na si Atty. Federico Mandapat. Nais na sana nating himayin at komentohan ang nasabing kasagutan ngunit dahil sa kakulangan ng espasyo ay ipaliban na lang natin ang komentaryo hinggil sa isyung ito sa susunod na isyu ng pahayagang ito.

Liham ng LG kay Atty. Federico Mandapat.

July 15, 2009

ATTY. FEDERICO MANDAPAT JR.

Regional Director
DOTC -CAR / LTFRB -CAR
Post Office Loop, Baguio City

Subject: Request for clarification /verification on rebuilt units as use for Taxi/PUV

Dear Director Mandapat:

With all due respect, the undersigned **for and in behalf of the public interest** would like up to be clarified on the following:

1. Can a rebuilt unit, specifically a unit with change chassis that has already exceeded the thirteen (13) years date of manufacture be given an extension of taxi franchise contrary to DOTC Dept. Order No. 96-965? Please refer to the attached newspaper column of Atty. James Valeros published at the The Junction Newspaper, July 11, 2009 issue.
2. In your view as a lawyer and DOTC-CAR Regional Director is this granting an extension of franchise on a rebuilt unit that has exceeded the guidelines contained in DOTC Dept. Order No. 96-965 legal?
3. Since when have you known of this practice of granting extension of franchise on newly rebuilt unit more specifically on units with changed chassis?
4. There is talk that for a franchise extension of this nature to be extended an amount of at least Seventy Thousand Pesos (P 70,000.00) as grease/ bribe money goes to the fixer and other concerned DOTC staff, are you involved in this and/or are you aware of this?

Should your reply be ready for pick up, please text or call **0917-5069123** so that we can send over our representative to pick up your reply.

Thank you and more power to you and your office.

Sincerely,

Odell P. Aquino
Director For Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices

August 7, 2009

MR. ODELL P. AQUINO

Director for Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices

Lines Gobierno, Inc.

Dear Mr. Aquino:

In response to your letter dated July 15, 2009 and received by this office on July 16, 2009, allow me to narrate to you our office procedures for franchising and registration of public utility vehicles.

A Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) or franchise for short is issued to an applicant by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and is valid for FIVE (5) YEARS extendible for the same period upon application. This franchise could however be suspended or cancelled for violation of the terms and conditions thereof.

Registration of motor vehicles on the other hand is done by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) where the details of the vehicle are indicated such as the **year model**, chassis and engine numbers, color, make and such other matters to describe the vehicle are indicated.

The LTFRB relies on the year model of the vehicle as indicated in the Certificate of Registration (CR) issued by the LTO in determining whether or not the public utility vehicle (PUV) such as a taxicab, is still qualified for registration in line with the thirteen (13) years maximum period pursuant to Department Order (DO) No. 96-965 as amended by DOno.2004-12.

A franchise can exist even without a motor vehicle such as when the owner of the franchise files a Dropping or Substitution of the motor vehicle subject of the franchise for being either phased out due to the thirteen (13) year period or it becomes no longer road worthy before the expiration of the 13 year period. The LTFRB and LTO conducts an inspection of the motor vehicle if it is still road worthy prior to their approval of the application for substitution of a dropped unit and eventual registration.

There had been instances in the past where old model vehicles were given a current year model such as those imported second hand motor vehicles thru Subic bay, Cebu or Fort Irene in Cagayan province, are given the year model by the LTO on the same year they were first registered here in the Philippines and these vehicles are being substituted for phased out or dilapidated PUVs. So the year model as appearing in the CR issued by the LTO is controlling.

Atty. James Valeros should have identified the taxi unit he referred to in his column in the July 11-17, 2009 issue of the Junction in order that our investigation could focus on the very unit described to be dilapidated. As stated by Teodora D. Caguicla of the LT - Baguio City, the commentary may not be accurate. Edilberto B. Bungaoen, Acting CTDO of the LTFRB-CAR, averred that there is no transportation law or department order that prohibits the change of the chassis of PUVs. As a matter of fact, Valeros himself have filed/authored countless ap-

Cont. on page 9

Republic of the Philippines
First Judicial Region
Regional Trial Court
Branch 7
Bagulo City

IN THE MATTER OF CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF DARRYL OYAN

DARRYL M. OYAN,
Petitioner,

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASE No. 1944-R

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF BAGUIO CITY,
Respondent,

X——X

NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

Before this court is a petition filed by Darryl Oyan through Atty. Eric O. Estimada alleging as follows:

1. That he is of legal age, single, Filipino citizen and a resident of LC 118 Lubas, Rockside, Lubas, La Trinidad, Renguet where he may be served with summons and other court processes;

2. That respondent CIVIL Registrar of Bagulo City is impleaded as nominal party, it being the custodian of all personal arid civil records within the territorial boundaries of Bagulo City and may be served with summons and other court processes through the Office of the Local Civil Registrar (LCR) of Bagulo City;

3. That he was born on November 22, 1987 at Bagulo City in whose local civil registry the fact of his birth were duly

reported and registered;

4. That however, his Certificate of Live Birth contains erroneous entries which are:

a) Item number 2 of his Certificate of Live Birth, wherein it was stated that his gender is female when in truth and in fact he is a male.

The mistake in the gender of the petitioner probably occurred when the nurse who prepared the birth certificate had mistakenly believed that the child is a female as the given first name is "DARRYL" which is a universal name. Copies of petitioner's Certificate of live Birth arid Medical Certificate were attached to the petition and marked as Annexes "A" and "B", respectively;

b) Item number 12 of his Certificate of Live Birth wherein it was stated that his parents got married on June 28, 1987 at Divisoria, Cagayan De Oro City when in truth and in fact his parents got married on June 29, 1987 at La Trinidad, Benguet and was solemnized at the Office of the Municipal Mayor by the then OIC Mayor of La Trinidad, Benguet. The discrepancy in the date of marriage of his parents was brought about by the honest mistake of the informant who is his father that he got married on June 28, 1987 instead of June 29, 1987. Also, the discrepancy in the place of marriage of his parents occurred when his father thought that what the nurse asked was his own birthplace so his father supplied Divisoria, Cagayan De Oro City. The facts of his marriage of his parents were stated in their marriage contract, a copy of

which was attached to the petition and marked as Annex "C";

5. That the above mentioned entries are erroneous and incorrect and should be corrected so that the true and accurate facts would reflect in the Certificate of live Birth of the petitioner as well as to prevent confusion;

6. That the petition was filed to rectify the erroneous entries in the birth certificate of the petitioner which will redound to his benefit and advantage. Furthermore, the petition was filed only for the above lawful purposes and that no interest of any third person would be adversely affected by reason of the said petition.

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, Bagulo City on September 25, 2009 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning at which place, date and time, the petitioner shall be allowed to substantiate his petition. and any interested person may show cause, if there be any, why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Notice of Initial Hearing, together with a copy of the petition

and its annexes, be served upon the Honorable Solicitor General, Makati City, Metro

Manila, the City Prosecutor of Bagulo City and the Office of the respondent Local Civil

Registrar of Bagulo City, Also, furnish copies of this notice to the Civil Registrar General,

National Statistics Office, the Office of the Clerk of

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BAAGUIO CITY
OFFICE OF THE EX-OFICIO CITY SHERIFF

FERNANDO A. TINIPAC,
Mortgagee,

-versus-

SPS. JESILINE & GODOFREDO ASTUDILLO,
Mortgagors,

X——X

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. 09i39-S EXTRAJUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135 AS AMENDED

SHERIFFS NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Upon verified petition for Foreclosure and sale extra-judi-

Court for publication, the petitioner Darryl Oyan and his counsel

Also, let this Notice of Initial Hearing be published at the expense of the petitioner, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks at The Junction Newspaper, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Baguin and the whole Cordillera Region, the first publication of which that shall not be later than September 6, 2009.

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 Bagulo City.

SO ORDERED,

cially under Act 3135 as amended filed by FERNANDO A. TINIPAC, hereinafter referred to as the MORTGAGEE, for the satisfaction at the mortgage indebtedness of SPS. JESILINE & GODOFREDO ASTUDILLO, hereinafter referred to as the MORTGAGORS in the total amount of FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN PESOS and 50/100 (P 460,937.50) Philippine Currency, exclusive of filing fees, cost of foreclosure proceedings, miscellaneous expenses, registration fees and cost, the undersigned or any duly authorized sheriff will sell at public auction on August 26, 2009 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the lobby of the main entrance of the Justice Hall Bagulo City to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the real property more particularly described as follows:

ARP NO. 2007-01-001-79385 PROPERTY IN-

DONE IN CHAMBERS this 27th day of July, 2009 at Bagulo City, Philippines.

DEX NO. 102-01-001-16-LO78-N006
Office of The City Assessor, Bagulo City

"A residential building located at Interior 320M from San Carlos Heights Subd. Road, Irisan Brgy., Quzon Hill with a total Market value of P336,765.20 and a total assessed value of 50, 154.78 .

Prospective buyers/bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the property and the encumbrances thereon, if there be any .

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

Bagulo City ,Philippines , July 22, 2009

By: (SDG) REMEDIOS BALDERAS-REYES
Clerk of Court VI and Ex-Oficio Sheriff

EDGARDO F. ANCHETA
Sheriff IV

Publication Dates: Aug. 1, 8 and 15

MONA LISA V. TIONGSON-TABORA
Presiding Judge
Dates of Publication August 15, 22 and 29, 2009

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

RAQUELA BUSTAMANTE
Applicant
Case No:2004-BAG-CAR-1370

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 and 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 Sept. 8, 2009 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paocdal, Bagulo City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her 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 FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR., REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 13th day of August, 2009.

(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
Hearing Officer

Batas**..... from page 4**

but I wish to digress a little from the usual serious fare I write about in this space, to announce that the sound of distant wedding bells seem to be ringing now for a prominent member of the Philippine Senate, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Our friends from the Aquino Family of Tarlac told me that Sen. Noynoy, the only son of former President Cory Aquino and the late former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., is now romantically involved with a young, beautiful and brilliant woman who is also highly politically inclined, as she is at present the topnotcher councilor of the second district of Valenzuela City, Metro Manila.

The woman, Councilor (and soon to be congresswoman?) Lanie Soledad, is now regularly gracing the gatherings of the politically and economically powerful Aquino Family upon the invitation of Sen. Noynoy himself, our friends told me the other night.

I was told that Lanie, a former cohost of mine in a TV morning talk show, is "very much welcome" among members of Noynoy's family, especially President Cory and sister Kris, the popular movie TV host actress.

It appears that the good senator is not just simply introducing Lanie to his relatives now. He is even asking Lanie to kiss the hands of his elders, a gesture which family members are interpreting to mean there is something more than a passing fancy going on between the two.

Well, I guess this is destined to be a union written in the stars considering the fact that Noynoy and Lanie are both single and, therefore, "available", having set aside matters of the heart in the past largely because of their single-minded pursuit of their personal and political ambitions.

I wish them luck, not only because Lanie is a good friend, but more so because Sen. Noynoy comes from the same province where I grew up during my childhood and where the Aquino Family is looked up to, admired, and greatly idolized.

-000-

CONGRATSTOTAGUMCITYFORITS HOUSING PROJECT FOR ITS EMPLOYEES: Congratulations are in order for Mayor Rey T. Uy of Tagum City, Davao del Norte, for his single-minded pursuit of establishing a housing village intended for city government employees, evidenced by the groundbreaking ceremonies he led this week.

If you search the record of any other local government unit in Mindanao and, perhaps, in the whole country, it will not be difficult to see that Mayor Uy and Tagum City will stand out with respect to the putting up of affordable housing projects for city employees.

Tagum appears to be the only city which is doing this now, using its funds and facilities.

The wonder of it all is that there are other local government units in the Philippines which have the capacity—financial or otherwise—to venture into similar housing projects but are not doing so. Why?

Here's hoping and praying that Mayor Uy's housing project for his employees could be completed in the soonest time possible so that the faith of workers in government that there is some benefit working for the State would be proved true, at least in the case of Tagum City.

-000-

BATAS NG DIYOS: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).

REACTIONS? Please email them at batasmauricio@yahoo.com, or at www.batasmauricio.com.

Editorial**..... from page 4**

furs and shoes, shoes, shoes".

Like it or not, today's "presidentiables" sense that Filipinos take their measure against standards Cory set. Among them, do any feel threatened being the "exact opposite of Aquino?"

"Why should we feel threatened?," deputy presidential spokesperson Lorelei Fajardo scoffed. The massive turn out showed "people's love for the nation." Can motherhood statements tamp down fear?

"Those who feel threatened by the legacies of causes (Cory) left will try to minimize the meaning of her role in history," Columnist Randy David predicted. "In death, Cory will continue to be underestimated."

Aquino embodied "values that endure even after the sun burns out." "These gave her an enduring strength of character which Marcos, rebel colonels, and even at times the Filipino people underestimated", Coronel adds.. "

The paint on Aquino's headstone is still wet. Already, politicians bicker over what those "recurrent, widespread and deep" aspirations boiling from the streets mean. An answer may be found in "Theology on Signs of the Times", written by a young Jesuit in 1972.

"By searching out the great desires of men, we find out what is the movement of God's plan made manifest to us," wrote Fr. Catalino Arevalo who gave the homily at Cory's funeral. "It is through the aspirations of man that we come into living contact with the plan of God... (He) calls us, not only by instruction or command but by event, by what happens in history."

"You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky," the Master from Galilee once said, "Hypocrites. Why can you not interpret signs of the times."/J.L.Mercado

LG KOMENTARYO**..... from page 7**

plications for change chassis, copy of their reply to the memorandum issued by the undersigned for them to comment on your letter and the column of Atty. Valeros, are hereto attached as annexes "A" and "B".

Your claim about talks that there is grease/bribe money amounting to P70,000.00 for the approval of franchise extension and asked me if I am involved or aware of this, is totally unfair, baseless

and an unfounded accusation.

I have caused the renovation of our LTFRB office and was able to negotiate for the construction of a new LTO building at Pacdal, Baguio City which is nearing completion. I have ordered that all transactions in both the LTFRB and LTO must be done thru window transactions only and any violation would be dealt with drastically and the head of the office will be primarily answerable. I have likewise prohibited persons without any authority (fixers) to transact business with our offices.

For your information, I have already uncovered hundreds of irregularly or illegally issued franchises at the LTFRB-CAR and are now the subject of an extensive investigation where the grantees were issued show cause orders to explain why their franchises should not be cancelled or revoked.

For LTO, there are so many illegally up-graded year model units such that the year model of a taxicab will be altered for example, a 1995 year model unit is up-graded to 1998. I have and will be issuing the appropriate memorandum to require nine (9) LTO personnel to explain why no administrative case be filed against them for having been part of the illegal up-grading of the year model of these taxicabs. Consequently, the taxicab will be given three (3) years or more as the case may be, to operate beyond the thirteen (13) maximum number of years to operate. If I have any participation or knowledge of the anomalous practice you made mention of in your letter, it would be preposterous for me to be undertaking these investigations as the personnel involved would definitely point to me as a co-conspirator.

Hoping that this will clarify the issues you raised.

Very truly yours,

ATTY. FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR.

Regional Director

<p>Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation and Communications LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD Cordillera Administrative Region Baguio City</p> <p>ELPIDIO LITIL Applicant Case No:96-BC-250</p> <p>NOTICE OF HEARING</p> <p>This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI Service for the transportation and 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.</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on Sept. 8, 2009 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTFRB Office, Pacdal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 13th day of August 2009.</p> <p>(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR. Hearing Officer</p>

City files

... from page 1

Masweng's act is contemptuous and "a willful disregard, disobedience, defiance and resistance to the decision of the Supreme Court" giving due course to the city's bid to demolish illegal structures inside the forest reservation.

"It shows an obstinate refusal to recognize, conform and abide by the Decision of the Highest Court of the land.

The city also said that Masweng's act of "entertaining the second case of Injunction involving the same Demolition Order No. 33 series of 2005 involving the same issues over Busol Forest Reservation which have been adjudicated with finality by the Supreme Court, is tantamount to forum-shopping to prosper."

"By said acts, Masweng has also created in the mind of the public that the pronouncements of the Supreme Court over issues on the Busol Watershed which is a matter of public interest can just be ignored, flouted and rendered useless by the NCIP," the city said adding that said acts of Masweng "should therefore be sanctioned as contempt under section 1 and section 3(b) and (d) of the Revised Rules of Court.

The Supreme Court in a decision dated February 4, 2009 sustained the city government's bid to demolish structures within the Busol Watershed in 2006 by reversing an earlier decision of the Court of Appeals which upheld the jurisdiction of the NCIP to issue temporary restraining orders and later a preliminary injunction to stop the implementation of the three demolition orders issued by then Mayor Braulio Yaranon for the dismantling of the illegal structures constructed by Lazaro Bawas, Alexander Ampaguey Sr. and a certain Mr. Basatan.

Structure occupants Elvin Gumangan, Narciso Basatan and Lazaro Bawas filed a petition for injunction and restraining orders before the NCIP Cordillera claiming that the lots within the watershed are their ancestral lands and that their ownership of said lots "have been expressly recognized in Proclamation No. 15 dated April 27, 1922" which declared the areas as a forest reservation.

Masweng also then granted the petition which was later upheld by the Court of Appeals.

The city government through Rabanes elevated the case to the Supreme Court contending that the NCIP has no jurisdiction to issue the restraining orders and injunction and that the city is governed by its charter and "thus, (lot occupants) cannot claim their alleged ancestral lands under the provisions of the Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA)."

The court agreed and said Proclamation No. 15 "does not appear to be a definitive recognition of private respondents' ancestral land claim."

The city said that "despite the clear and categorical pronouncements of the Supreme Court over the (Busol) which (Masweng) is very much aware of... still, (Masweng) went on restraining the other demolition orders thus frustrating the efforts of (the City) to clear the (Busol) of squatters and illegal constructions,

protect the same from activities that degrade it, and ultimately preserve this vital and major reservation which the main source of water supply for (the city)."

Masweng last July 28 issued a 72-hour TRO and extended the same for 17 more days on July 31 maintaining that the city government has no power under the NIPAS Act of 1992 "to evict indigenous communities from their present occupancy nor resettle them to another area without their consent.

He also said the owners of the Busol structures "have a clear legal right to be protected against the summary demolition of their houses as the law provides that the Indigenous Cultural Communities and the Indigenous Peoples are presumed to be holders of native titles over their ancestral claims."

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. said that the city stands by its position that the Supreme Court decision remains supreme over any ruling from other entities.

He said that the demolition order on the Busol watershed illegal structures still stands despite a halt in the operations to sort out legal issues and give time for the city to improve its demolition strategy.

The mayor said the city government has expanded the demolition plan for Busol watershed illegal structures into a two-year comprehensive plan to ensure that it will be sustained even with a change in the administration of the city mayor's office.

The mayor said that new guidelines have been mapped out to ensure a more orderly and peaceful demolition undertaking and prevent scuffles that marred the operations the other week.

The guidelines include the appointment of city administrator Peter Fianza as crisis negotiator before demolition activities will be carried out./aileen p. refuerzo

Lawmaker pushes

... from page 2

on, then the government would have had no problems in examining the bank accounts and investments of former Agriculture Secretary Joc-joc Bolante, State Prosecutor John Resado, and even President Arroyo," Escudero said.

The senator made the call in the wake of speculations regarding the source of President Arroyo's assets which a report said grew significantly since she took power in 2001.

Escudero explained that Senate Bill No. 1476 (SBN 1476), which was among the bills he sponsored during his first year as senator, puts in place a mechanism which will allow the government to audit the finances of public officials.

He said the bill would require public officials and employees to submit a written permission or waiver in favor of the Ombudsman to look into all deposits of whatever nature with banks or banking institutions.

"This covers both those within and outside the Philippines including investment bonds issued by the government," he said.

The waiver is to be contained in the SALN (statement of assets and liabilities and net worth) of all government officials and

employees.

Escudero said his proposed law will not only plug loopholes in the anti-graft and corruption efforts of the government, but also aid the government recover ill-gotten funds and assets./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Lawmaker ask

... from page 2

eighteen (18) years of age living in their households.

The two documents should contain any real property, its improvements, acquisition costs, assessed value and current fair market value; personal property and acquisition cost; all other assets such as investments, cash on hand or in banks, stocks, bonds, and the like; liabilities, and all business interests and financial connections.

Escudero noted that there are many limitations set by law to discourage any President from taking advantage of the position to advance personal ends.

According to the PCIJ report, President Arroyo's declared net worth more than doubled (pegged only on the book or acquisition value of her assets), from P66.8 million in 2001 to P143.54 million in 2008. The increase of P76.74 million represents a growth rate of 114%.

If her statements of assets, liabilities, and net worth (SALNs) are plotted from 17 years ago when she first served as senator, Arroyo's declared wealth charts an exponential growth of 2,000%, it said.

"It looks like the increase in (President Arroyo's) wealth is higher than what one would ordinarily get from interest earned from bank deposits or the ordinary return on investment from any business," he said.

"The best thing to do now is full disclosure. If there is a reasonable explanation as they claim, then they should come out with it. The people deserve nothing less," Escudero said./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Dads call

... from page 3

proved a resolution "condemning in the strongest terms the resurgence of an illegal operation of Bingo sa Barangay in the city."

"Since there is no official endorsement from the ABC or the barangays, much less approval for the use of the nomenclature 'Bingo sa Barangay' from the corporation that owns the patent, the legality of this resurgent bingo sa barangay is put into question," Councilor Joel Alangsab then said.

Alangsab then explained that the Bingo sa Barangay was originally planned as a fund-raising activity for the barangays. As such, it was endorsed by the ABC through Resolution No. 10 series of 2008.

The said resolution was later recalled when majority of the ABC board of directors approved a resolution withdrawing support for the activity prompting Alangsab to stop the activity./aileen p. refuerzo

CJHDEVCO, BCDA**.... from page 3**

mitted that the private developer, the CJHDevCo does not have the ability to pay the arrears in cash and instead is offering to pay the city in kind particularly by offsetting through the cottages built within the facility and through golf shares to be transferred in the name of the city.

The city's share from the rentals amount to P425 million annually for the first five years starting in 1996 and P150 million annually thereafter.

As per the city treasurer's office's records, the city's share stands at P681,509,159.33 as of 2005./aileen.p.refuerzo

RITMT nets 50**.... from page 3**

ing machine, and passing vehicles are flagged down if black smoke is noticed from their exhaust. Apprehensions and testing is done in a few minutes, with the driver being given information on the effects of air pollution to the general public.

Accordingly, anti-smoke belching campaign shall go on continuously, to effectively clear the air of the city, as to COB 61, 2008, known as the Clean Air Ordinance of the City of Baguio, which was primarily crafted by Councilor Erdolfo Balajadia. The Philippine Clean Air Act should also be strictly implemented as well, it was agreed.

It was also earlier agreed that more smoke emission technicians be accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for the conduct of smoke-belching drives, specially on the outskirts of the city. Vehicles from the neighboring areas would then be included in the anti-smoke belching drive.

The anti-smoke belching campaign is among other environmental programs designed to clean the city of water, soil and air pollution./juliegfianza

Regulate**.... from page 12**

cases in the city, the mayor said.

Also alarming is the increase in gay bars, the mayor added.

The mayor also said that as a consequence of finding out that males far more outnumber the females in being infected with Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD), gay karaoke bars should be more strictly monitored and regulated.

Health certificates from the City Health Department are requirements for female night spot workers, and would soon be strictly required of male dancers and workers in gay bars.

Bars, Karaoke dens and similar nightspots are not exempt from complying with all requirements in acquiring business permits. Violations would then be grounds for the revocation of business permits, and eventually closure, Mayor Bautista, Jr., emphasized./juliegfianza

Poker Enthusiasts**.... from page 12**

family driver, and Kristina, got the attention of donors last month. They pooled P10,500 and \$200 through Renqato Valencia (P5,000), Glenn John of Bermuda (\$200), Erlinda Apolinario (P4,000), Lilli Luy (P1,000), and Federico Daiwey (P500). Felomena Camapan-Decusen added P1,100.

Kristina said she knew her boy's condition before he was born, diagnosed through ultrasound tests. He was also born with a bilateral clubfoot.

"She was shocked at first but learned to accept it when he was born," wrote city social welfare aide Janine Abalos in her social case study report.

Kristine said neurosurgeons couldn't advise implantation of a shunt to drain cerebrospinal fluid accumulating in Marcus Aurelius' brain because it was a delicate case.

Those who would like to help may visit the baby at 15-0 Calla Lily Compound, Sandico St. (behind the YMCA of Baguio) or call his parents' cellphone numbers 09054218260 and 09151195758.

Those signing up for the poker-for-a-cause may call Dominguez at 09159652638 or 09086467607./Ramon Dacawi.

Flag initiates**.... from page 12**

"Barangay Pag-asa", to inquire about their right of suffrage. Rondez wrote Sanidad.

Sanidad was thinking of the same thing, having worked out the papers of 22 detainees who were escorted out to cast their ballots several years back. He then asked the detainees to fill up forms to determine each one's eligibility to sign up for the exercise of their right

The other week, Sanidad conferred with election commissioner Rene Sarmiento and told him of the voters registration inside the city jail. Sarmiento agreed the pilot registration in Baguio can serve as the basis to expand the same to other jails in the country.

"I'll meet commissioner Sarmiento again next week so we can start firming up the expansion of the registration process to other prisons, using the city jail experience as guide," Sanidad said.

"They have the right to register as they are not yet convicted," Sanidad stressed when asked whether even those facing serious cases were also allowed to sign up.

He said the registration was a cooperative effort among various agencies, the jail officers and the inmates themselves.

This means candidates in next year's polls will find it crucial for them to be also in jail, as it may spell their victory or defeat, a newsman observed./Ramon Dacawi.

Igorot World**.... from page 12**

tubes..

The three patients, here, together with others in Maligcong, were the latest in a long list that Kinderhelfe, a foundation established by Chees and his martial arts students, reached out to over the years.

This time, the out-reach served as Julian's way of marking his promotion to fifth-dan blackbelt the other Friday, just before he traveled for home. Shihan Hideo Ochi, the 69-year old eighth-dan chief instructor of JKA-Europe, also based in Germany bestowed the rank.

Chees wore the fourth dan belt for nine years before taking the tough promotional examination, and only after Ochi hinted it with the subtlety of the language of masters last January. Last March, JKA-Germany president Bernd Hinschberger again told him it was time – and long overdue.

Students of traditional karate rarely pronounce their readiness to advance. Chees admitted his reluctance was also because his former teachers, Edgar Kapawen and Shihan Kunio Sasaki, never took their promotions. Kapawen, chief instructor of the Northern Luzon headquarters of JKA-Orient, is at fourth dan while, Sasaki, 71, who established JKA-Philippines in the early '60s, remains at sixth dan.

"My teachers' promotions are long overdue," Julian said, thanking them for what he had become.

"As his former teacher, I'm proud of him," Kapawen said. More so, he said, as his former student had completed a grueling five-day teaching task in a mass seminar just before his exams. "He had no rest and practice which his fellow examinees had before they came for the exams."

For his final kata in the promotional, Chees chose sochin, the same advance formal exercise expressive of strength and calm, and which served as his winning form in capturing his third world title in the 7th World Championships last June in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

His first world title came in 1993, when he topped the kata event in the World Shotokan Championships in Saarsbrucken, Germany, followed by his victory in the same event two years ago in the World Karate Confederation tournament in Bergamo, Italy.

An Igorot dreaming of becoming an army officer, Chees entered Germany as a civilian staff in a U.S. Army base. Soon, he was winning tournaments and caught the attention of the German national team. It drafted him, the first non-German to join the national pool.

The "kleine Philippino" (small Filipino) was unbeatable in international competitions in Europe. Among others, he topped the England International three times and Dutch International three times./Ramon Dacawi.



Regulate And Monitor Gay Bars -Mayor

BAGUIO CITY- Reports of increase in cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in the city has alarmed Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr., thus he has directed the Public Order and Safety Division (POSD) and Criminal Investigation Division Group (CIDG) to closely monitor and regulate

Karaoke dens, bars and other nighttime establishments, said to be the breeding grounds for said cases.

Coupled with this is the mayor's issuance of 256 closure orders for mostly nighttime businesses for various violations of the business code; including strict implementation of health certificate pro-

cedurement for workers.

According to the mayor, nine (9) out of ten (10) infected of AIDS in the city are males, one of them a 17-year old. No other details were released, thus it was unclear if the infected individuals are part of the commercial sex workforce.

There is a triple increase in AIDS **Cont. on page 11**

Igorot World Karate Champ Gets 5th Dan

Former world karate champion Julian Chees arrived here recently for an Igorot memorial in honor of his late mother, Emilia (Camfili), who died last year. Before traveling to his native village in Maligcong, Bontoc, Mt. Province for the traditional rites, he did a personal ritual that had marked his previous homecomings.

A day after he arrived, the newly promoted martial artist under the Japan Karate Association was at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center to arrange the measurements of a body brace badly needed by a 17-year old girl to prevent worsening of her scoliosis.

Just before coming home, Chees, now 49, read on the internet the

appeal of Rosanna Divino, a freshman architecture student at the University of the Cordilleras. Her doctors advised having her on a brace to check the progression of her spinal deformity

The second of four children of a carpenter, Rosanna admitted her family could not raise P17,000 for the brace, much less the estimated P400,000 for spinal surgery as permanent solution to disfiguring, painful ailment.

After setting her appointment with the brace maker, Chees shook hands with the patient, bidding her good luck. He explained he may not meet her again before his return to Germany where he heads over 50 shotokan or traditional martial arts schools under the Japan Karate Association.

From the brace

shop, Chees moved up to the pediatric ward to find three-year old cancer victim Edlyn Joy Dacanay asleep in her bed. Later, he set aside some funds for a humanitarian worker hospitalized for kidney ailment.

Like what Rosanna needs, Edlyn Joy had been fitted with a brace, also to prevent the onslaught of scoliosis. She needs to sit now and then, to prevent bedsores from eating up her back, so Edgar made a triangular seat out of inflated plastic IV **Cont. on page 11**

Poker Enthusiasts To Play For Ailing Toddler

Batch 2001 of SLU Boys High School is mounting a poker-for-a-cause on August 21, hoping to raise some amount for Marcus Aurelius Molina, an 11-month old baby born with hydrocephalus.

Earlier, youth musical bands teamed up for "Awit N'yo, Kaligtasan Ko", a concert that came up with P3,000,

while individual Samaritans delivered various amounts to keep on the toddler's fight.

The poker session will be hosted by Stephen Dominguez at his residence at Dizon Subdivision, starting at 4:00 p.m., in tandem with Scady Baliwan and Dos Mil Uno, as the Boys High batch call themselves.

The concert last Aug. 1 and 2 at

the Overtones Musical Gallery was organized by Seraph Productions, a humanitarian youth group led by sisters Annie, Julie and Marissa Herreria, whose expatriate uncle, Irwin Ilustre, has been reaching out to the sick through their mother.

Marcus Aurelius, the second of two kids of Joselito Molina, a **Cont. on page 11**

Flag Initiates Voters' Registration In Jail

Legal luminary Pablito Sanidad thinks like the inmates of the city jail when it comes to pushing their human rights.

So the former national chair of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), together with associate Joris Dacawi, was in jail last Wednesday morning, to witness the first mass registration

for detention prisoners in the country, in preparation for next year's national and local elections.

Jail warden, Supt. Rebecca Pawid said 167 prisoners, who are eligible to do so pending the resolution of their cases, signed in the day-long "off-site registration for

the barangays" personally supervised by acting regional election director Julius Torres and city election supervisor Elenita Tabangin.

On their own, the inmates earlier this year tasked Paul Rondez, a "kagawad" of what they call **Cont. on page 11**

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