

# THE WEEKEND JUNCTION

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

## Pahayagang palaban!!!

# Mining Boom... But Environmental, Social Boon?



SO, WHICH IS WHICH? Conflicting signs at the top of Session Road continue to puzzle public utility vehicles as the local government continues to find solution to the city's worsening traffic woes./Monch David

BAGUIO CITY-Environmental groups on Tuesday frowned on government's mining boom figures claiming the massive invasion of foreign mining firms in the country would accordingly trigger a tidal wave of environmental and social catastrophes.

The DENR has declared the Philippines yearend investments in the Philippine mining industry have grown to over a billion dollars from 2004 to 2007. The boom comes from the exploration, mining operation, and construction and development activities of some 63 mining companies.

But the much-hailed "mining boom" is definitely no cause for celebration, said Clemente Bautista Jr., national coordinator of Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE).

They have planted and activated 63 environmental time bombs all over the Philippines in the form of mostly foreign-owned large-scale mining projects," he warned.

**Bakit ba kasi pinapayagan ang pagmimina na 'yan? May nakita na ba kayong mining community na umasenso? Wala!**

Mining permits, he claimed, have been approved left and right from 2004 to 2007, allegedly without regard for environmental protection and community consent.

"In the span of three years alone, the country was permitted to be turned into a literal and figurative mine field, a dangerous and barren landscape where all sorts of catastrophes and tragedies related to indiscriminate and large-scale mining operations could explode," Bautista explained.

"Unfortunately, the first casualties of this assault are not the government officials who approve mining permits nor the 10

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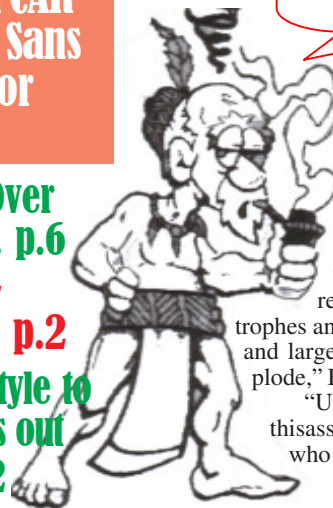
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### PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

MGA KUPITAN NA ABUSADO; BENEKO CAR PLAN MILYUN-MILYON

BY ODELL "BOMBITO" AQUINO

Email: aquino\_odell@yahoo.com/0910-5210317



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## Wanted Felons in CAR Now Behind Bars Sans Bocaps Hunted For Killings

La Trinidad, Benguet Several wanted felons in the Cordillera have been bagged by the Cordillera police.

Lamentably though, two wanted barangay chairmen being hunted for

sensational killings are yet to be sent to jail. On Sunday morning, Kalinga police collared 32 year old Bognell Brillantes in Brgy Bayaw, Pinukpuk town wanted by the law for frustrated murder. Also on that day, 24 year old Arnold Castaneda who is wanted for murder was also bagged in sitio Baybayatin, Brgy Collago, Lagayan town.

On Monday, Abra policemen also arrested 49 year old Alfredo Arriola who was hunted for multiple counts of robbery. Benguet policemen also nabbed 19 year old Raymund Dacquias for theft.

Again on Wednesday morning, Benguet policemen arrested 32 year old Joseph Junio in Tuba town, Benguet for various crimes including violence against women. Ifugao policemen also arrested 47 year old Delfin Pumihic

in Banaue town for swindling, while Baguio city police operatives

collared 38 year old Wagner Mingol also for theft also on Monday morning.

Again in the afternoon, Baguio police arrested 28 year old Noel Rosales also for theft.

Supt. Arni Dean Emock, Cordillera police spokesman said, everyday,

persons who have committed crime and various offenses are given

necessary penalties and it is up to the police to implement their warrants of arrest. He argued, it does not matter how long it takes or in what place it is served. What matters is that the person involved is apprehended. Two Scot-free Bocaps But two sitting barangay captains involved in grizzly murders are still scot-free. Considered though as armed and dangerous, Anonat barangay (of Paracelis town, Mountain Province) chairman Rommel Borbon Ambatali, is still frer.

Ambatali is wanted by the law for the Christmas Day ambush of Paracelis

mayor Ceasar Rafael.

Also the alleged leader of infamous Ambatali Criminal Syndicate notorious for kidnap-for-ransom, robbery-in-band, illegal possession of firearms, murder and cattle rustling in Nueva Vizcaya and Isabela, Ambatali reportedly brained Rafaels killing.

Mayor Rafael on board his Toyota Hilux pick-up truck was waylaid at

about 2 PM on Christmas Day while on his way home in sitio Sinigpit, Butigue, Paracelis. Around 60 empty shells of M16 rifles were found in the ambush site. It was the first assassination in the laidback mountainous province since that stunned residents as well as politicians in the province.

Ambatali and barangay kagawad Danny Agabao, and brothers Tony and Orland Gumbi are also being hunted down for getting paid a mere P5,000.00 for the hit. A month ago, two of Ambatalis paid hacks gave up and confessed to killing the former mayor.

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## Local Abra Folks Shuts Door To Mining

Banguet, Abra—Local folks in predominantly Itneg indigenous peoples in Licuan-Baay town here has completely shut down their doors to any mining activity.

Specifically even banning Olympus Pacific Minerals Inc. and any other

mining firm from doing any mining-related activities in the area, some 150 representatives of citizens groups who gathered in Poblacion Licuan

over the weekend formed the Baay-Licuan Takderan Omnu a Karbengan (Balitok), a multi-sectoral alliance wanting to preserve their ancestral domain.

Balitok is the local term for gold. Baay-Licuan is part of the ancestral domain of the Binongan indigenous peoples.

Canadian mining firm Olympus is aggressively pursuing its mining

interests in the town, said Abegail

Bengwayan, spokesperson of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance, a regional group of indigenous peoples helping the local groups set up self-help mechanisms for cultural and traditional survival. Accordingly, Olympus entered into an agreement with its Philippine partners Abra Mining and Industrial Corporation (AMIC) and Jabel

Corporation (Jabel) on November

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## Cordillera slates first-ever Donors' Forum

Determined to overcome challenges facing the region, key leaders and stakeholders across the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) present development imperatives and opportunities for progress when they staged March 12 a pioneering endeavor aimed at forging strategic partnerships and collaborations

with major donor agencies.

Dubbed as the "1st Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Donor's Forum" slated at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati City, the event seeks to converge nearly 100 participants, including some 21 representatives from major donor agencies for a one-day discussion of issues affect-

ing the region such as peace, conflict, poverty and welfare of the indigenous tribes, while at the same time draw up proposed initiatives which could be pursued with donor support.

Carrying the event title, "Exploring Partnership with the Cordillera Indigenous Communities in Pur-

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## DepEd reiterates call for simple graduation rites

BONTOC, Mt. Province – In line with the government’s austerity program, the Department of Education reiterates its policy on the conduct and collection of fees for graduation rites as contained in DepEd Order No. 8,s.2005

Under the DepEd’s Order, no non-academic project shall be imposed as a requirement for graduation and public schools are not allowed to collect any graduation fees or any kind of contribution for graduation rites.

Parents-Teachers Associations/ Parent, Teachers and Community Association (PTCA/ PTCAs) may solicit voluntary contributions from their members for graduation ceremonies and celebrations but teachers and principals should not be involved in the collection of these contributions. PTA/PTCA members should be informed about the use of any contribution for graduation.

The order also states that no extravagant special attire or extraordinary venue for the ceremonies should be required and contributions for the annual yearbook shall likewise be on a voluntary basis.

Secretary Jesli A. Lapus of the Department of Education issued a Memorandum addressed to all school authorities reminding them to observe the Department’s policy on the conduct of this year’s graduation rites which is scheduled any day between March 24 – 28.

He reiterated that the graduation rites should be conducted in an appropriate solemn ceremony befitting the graduating students and their parents and shall not be used as a venue for political forum.

Schools Division Superintendent Mary A. Lang-ayan also solicited during the Provincial Peace and Order council (PPOC) meeting the support of the council specially that some of the members are also members of the PTCA to help disseminate the call of DepEd Secretary Lapus for a simple, elegant and solemn graduation rites celebration./Juliet B. Saley/PIA-MP

## Cordillera Renegade Priest Widow Succumbs To Cardiac Arrest

**BAGUIO CITY** Corazon Cortel Balweg, widow of renegade SVD priest turned rebel Conrado Balweg, succumbed to cardiac arrest on Monday afternoon in Gamu town in Isabela.

Azon as she is fondly called by her comrades, 48, who was the Chief of Staff of the Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army (CPLA), the paramilitary group founded by his husband after they severed with the New Peoples Army in 1986, had just come from

Kalinga province reportedly to check on the progress of a government-sponsored livelihood project for former CPLA members when she complained of severe chest pains.

The rebel priest turned paramilitary leader was gunned down by New Peoples Army guerillas in his hometown in Malibcong town, in Abra in December 31, 1999.

Azon together with a joint CPLA-Armed Forces of the Philippines group were about to enter the gates of the 5th Infantry Division headquarters in Camp Melchor dela Cruz in Upi, Gamu town, in

Isabela on Monday afternoon when she started vomiting. After which she collapsed.

She was rushed to the hospital inside the camp but never recovered. Azon now lies in state at their house in barangay Ubbog, Bangued, Abras capital town, said CPLA chairman Mailed Molina, a former Abra town mayor, who laments of her death. Colorful Life After severing ties with the NPA in 1986 and surrendering to the Aquino government, Azon and his husband led a colorful life.

A bioflick Balweg, The Rebel

## RP eligible for the MCC compact

Government’s efforts to ensure sustainable economic development and fight poverty got a big boost with the Millennium Challenge Corporation’s (MCC) announcement that the Philippines is now eligible to apply for an MCC Compact.

The good news from the MCC, an official US government corporation designed to help developing countries like the Philippines fight poverty, douses cold water on a survey that the Philippines is the most corrupt nation in Asia since one of the major criteria for eligibility for an MCC Compact is transparency in policies and has made fighting corruption its highest priorities as it believes that corruption undermines every aspect of sustainable development.

“I am deeply honored and pleased that our efforts are paying off and have been recognized in Washington, D.C.,” President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said in a statement.

Priest — starred by Philip Salvador as Ka Ambo the rebel priests non de guerre, and Techie Agbayani as Azon was even done. In the movie, Balweg who during one of the worst battles with Philippine Army troops accidentally brushed elbows and eventually got smitten with Azon’s beauty. A love affair developed that the NPA leadership reportedly did not approve of because

The MCC Compact is a large-scale grant funding based on independent indicators that measure good governance, the country’s investments in its people and policies that encourage economic freedom.

The Chief Executive said the P1.227-trillion 2008 national budget which she signed into law Tuesday “dedicates itself to investing in our people and lifting up our poor,” which is in consonance with the primary goal of the MCC.

She added that the selection of the Philippines as eligible for the MCC Compact is “an opportunity that can bring hundreds of millions of dollars to our nation to lift our nation out of poverty.”

The war against poverty is the overarching goal of the Arroyo administration.

The MCC was established in January 2004, based on

the “principle that aid is most effective when it reinforces good governance, economic freedom and investments in people.” MCC’s mission is to reduce global poverty through the promotion of sustainable economic growth.

Countries that have demonstrated significant improvement in policy indicators but do not yet qualify for a compact grant may be eligible for a threshold program, a smaller grant designed to improve performance on specific indicators.

The Philippines was a recipient of some \$21-million (P1.1 billion) grant on July 26, 2006, through the Millennium Challenge Account in recognition of the bold steps taken by government to eradicate corruption and attract international investments through the Millennium Challenge Account Threshold Program (MCATP).

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### PROBLEMA Sa Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB-CAR)?

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Magsumbong at mag-ingay para mabawasan ang katiwalian sa Gobyerno!!!

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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](http://www.linisgobyerno.org)

## Curtains for Goldilocks

An ancient myth claims that Ifugaos built those towering mountain terraces in thanksgiving to heaven for the gift of rice. But soon this gift on our dinner tables may dwindle.

"We're still using our earlier cheap imports," Albay Governor (and economist) Joey Salceda told Inquirer. But "once we run out of stock," the reality of skyrocketing food prices will bite. Worldwide, rice prices surged 36 percent over the last three years, International Rice Research Institute notes. A Visayan and Northern Mindanao staple, corn prices today are 88 percent higher. Pan de sal comes from wheat which costs 200 percent more. Prices for milk, meat and fish more than doubled.

Food crises already afflict 36 countries, the Food and Agriculture Organization notes. "Price volatility" spilled over into 2008. This dunned UN's World Food Programme an extra \$505

## EDITORIAL

million it did not have The United States' AID is clipping food shipments for poorest countries. So, is Catholic Relief Services.

"This could be the breakdown of the 'Goldilocks' era" when food prices kept an even keel for three decades, notes BBC science correspondent Tom Feilden This stability is ending "And we are on the cusp of a new era of volatility and rising prices."

In Asia, governments can crumble when rice runs short. Tham bat bon mam, says a Vietnamese proverb. "Forget the food but seize the rice".

Poor families spend more than half their skimpy incomes for food. "These are people with the broken ploughs who bear the face of hunger: men, women and children for who it is almost too late..." The impact of high cereal prices can be devastating on them.

Doubled cost of tortillas erupted in Mexico City protests. A January Social Weather Station report found 2.9 million Filipino families, experiencing "involuntary hunger". That's lower than the nine year high of September but well over the average, in SWS quarterly surveys, since mid-1998. "Overall hunger declined in the balance of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, but increased in Metro Manila."

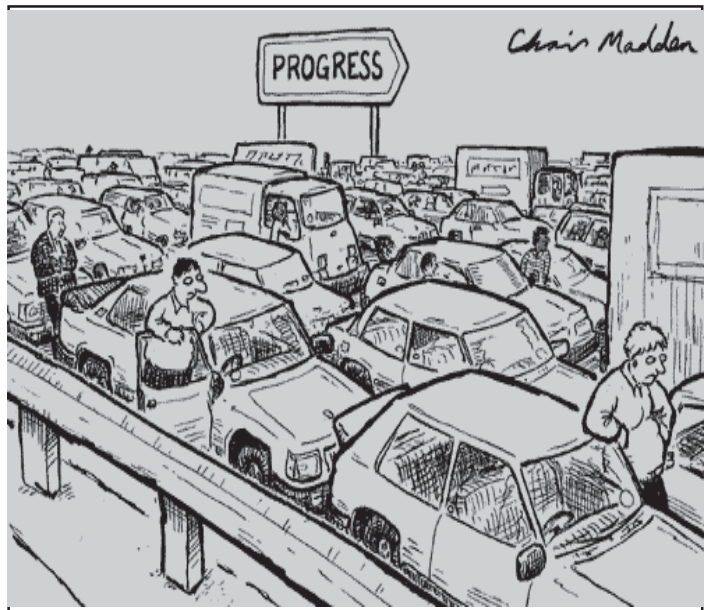
"Increased food prices and their threat –not only to people but also to political stability –have made it a matter of urgency to draw the attention it needs," World Bank president Robert Zoellick told the Davos economic forum January. "Hunger and malnutrition are (now) the forgotten Millennium Development Goal."

In a crunch, the affluent re-arrange their menus. But the poor must pull in their belts by yet another notch. Yet, this storm didn't blow up over night. The "broader upswing" in food prices started, almost unnoticed, in 2001. There's little mystery where those price spikes stem from.

Today, there are more mouths around the cooking pot. Final results of the delayed Philippine census haven't been released. But scientists already use 89 million for today's headcount - a far cry from 19 million in 1940. Global population could crest at nine billion by 2050. Changing diets of richer people, in countries like China and India, are generating a whole new tier of middle-class consumers. Their increased demand pushes against stressed fishing grounds and eroded land, even as migration paves over farms. "Asphalt is the last crop." Granaries haven't been restocked. Changing rainfall patterns, due to climate change, are altering harvests, Asian Development Bank notes.

Virgin Airlines ran a glitzy tv spiel on using bio-fuel for its 747 jets. Today about 11 percent of the world's maize is converted into biofuel. This jacks up food demand more. "Rarely has the world felt such widespread and commonly shared

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## DIRETSAHAN

PNP DANGWA SAGSD –  
MGA UNGAS!!!

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Kuwitis at hindi bomba ang ipinasabog ng surprise witness ni Senador Ping Lacson na si Leo San Miguel nang lumantad ito at magbigay ng kanyang testimonya sa Senado hinggil sa dinidinig na ZTE NBN Deal Scandal. Ayon sa kanya, wala raw itong alam na suhulan sa naturang kontrata na ikinagitla ni Lacson at ng iba pang senador, kumbaga, sila ang sinorpresa ng surprise witness.

Ikinatuwa naman ito ni Senador Juan Ponce Enrile na mukhang abot hanggang tenga ang halakhak sa naging pahayag ni San Miguel at siyempre parang nabunutan din ng tinik ang Malakanyang dahil save by the bell sila sa posibleng knockout punch na ititira sa kanila ng kanilang mga kalaban.

Ayon kay Senador Lacson, posible raw na ginapang ng Palasyo and kanyang testigo kayat nag-iba ito ng testimonya at itinaggi ang suhulan, na mariin namang itinaggi ng mga tagapagtanggol ni Pangulong Arroyo. Kinatigan naman ito ng ibang madlang miron na ayon ay pakana raw ito ng Palasyo para mapagtakpan ang katotohanan. Aprub ako diyan kung patuloy na dedma ang Palasyo partikular kay Pangulong GMA sa tawag ng paglantad sa katotohanan.

Kung walang itinatago ang Malakanyang dapat lang na kumbinsihin nila si Sekretari Romulo Neri na humarap sa Senado at ilantad ang lahat ng nalalaman tungkol sa ZTE Deal, at nararapat na ganito rin ang gawin ng mga sangkot pati na rin ang mag-asawang Arroyo. Bakit hindi na lang sila bigyan ng prebilibhiyo sa pamamagitan ng isang Privilege Speech at least patas ang labanan, di ba mga suki? at sa mga naiharap ng mga testigo sino kaya kila De Venecia III, Lozada, Madriaga at San Miguel ang sinungaling? He! He! Sa palagay ko iyong may pakpak pweh!

ooOoo

Binaril ng isang guwardiya ang 2 tinedyer na lalaki dahil lamang sa pamimitas ng caimito namatay sa tama ng bala sa shotgun ang dalawa habang nakatakas at nakaligtas ang iba nilang kasamahin. Nakatakas naman ang ungas na guwardiya kung saan kasalukuyan pa itong hinahanap ng pulisya! Dapat makonsensya na itong trigger happy na guwardiya at sumuko na! kuwag niyang hintayin na tamaan pa siya ng masaklap na karma!

At makailang beses ko na bang sinaltik sa aking kolum ang ibang mga guwardiya na hindi karapat dapat humawak ng armas, magsuot ng uniporme at higit sa lahat ang mabigyan ng lisensya. Sila yong mga tinatawag na iskalawag mga baligtad at kulang sa utak.

Ayon sa impo ang lisensya umano ng ibang guwardiya ay binayaran.

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## THE PEACE COMBATANT

*Satellite/aerial photos reveal state of degradation of environment*

BY ARTURO BOQUIREN



Satellite and aerial photos make it possible the study and monitoring of our environment. From the satellite photos, it is possible to identify deforested areas and geohazard risks. We can use the satellite photos to identify land areas that we should prioritize for reforestation and other efforts to protect our environment.

If only the naked eye is used, one can be duped into believing that a forest exists because tree cover can hide the assaults confronted by our trees and biodiversity in the middle of the forest. Satellite and aerial pictures can tell us within a certain level of accuracy the extent of forest degradation, the sites affected, and the land area covered. Satellite and aerial photos can be a very powerful tool for action to protect our environment.

An initial look (because there will be several looks from hereon) at satellite and aerial photos by this writer on behalf of his organizations (Linis Gobyerno and UP-Baguio biodiversity advocacy group) indicate that the following coordinates must be looked into as probable cases of degradation on the environment or environmental hazards:

16°21'29.04"N 120°33'34.60" E  
 16°23'59.71"N 120°33'34.81" E  
 16°24'03.13"N 120°39'30.87" E  
 16°23'50.21"N 120°39'47.13" E  
 16°23'45.98"N 120°40'44.42" E

As chairperson of the Linis Gobyerno on the environment and UP Baguio biodiversity group, I vow to mobilize human and other resources available and as allowed by my organizations to investigate and advocate conservation initiatives vis-a-vis the said sites of possible/probable environment degradation. The UP Baguio biodiversity advocacy group became less active lately because of the death of a member, severe illness, job transfers, and movement to greener pastures. However, as committee chairperson I produced important works related to environmental impact assessments and economic analysis of environmental damage. Nevertheless I will be reactivating the committee through recruitment and reinvigorated work. If reactivating and strengthening the committee are not immediately possible, I would concentrate my energies instead in the affairs of Linis Gobyerno. However, I prefer to do both knowing the synergies possible with the participation of other academics and the potentials of partnerships of nongovernment organizations and the academic community. Thus, my activities in one can magnify my efforts in the other.

Joint efforts by academics and nongovernment organizations can lead to work outputs greater than what can be possible if each pursues separate efforts. Similarly, joint work with government organizations (tripartite work) and with people's organizations (quadripartite) can lead to greater results as the talents, energies, skills, and manpower of each are tapped.

What are the next steps? Some of the next steps would involve verifying through ground data what the satellite and aerial photos suggest. This would involve the need for men and women power that would investigate what are on site. A multi-sectoral effort will be required and we are now working on this. Hopefully, help would come. The multi-sectoral group must assess satellite and aerial photos and ground data and come up with a program of action. Needless to say, the state of environmental degradation as revealed by satellite and aerial photographs must be documented. We are now working on these. We will be working to convene a multi-sectoral conference based on resources available.

(The author maintains a website at [www.geocities.com/arturoboquiren](http://www.geocities.com/arturoboquiren) and can be contacted through [artboquiren2040@yahoo.com](mailto:artboquiren2040@yahoo.com))

## PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

*MGA KUPITAN NA ABUSADO  
BENECO CAR PLAN MILYON-MILYON*

BY ODELL "BOMBITO" AQUINO

Email: [aquino\\_odell@yahoo.com/0910-5210317](mailto:aquino_odell@yahoo.com/0910-5210317)



**MGA UNGAS NA PUNONG BARANGAY** – Kagalang-galang pakinggan ang salitang punong barangay or barangay captain. Ang ibig sabihin niyo at ay ang siya ang pinakamataas na pinuno sa isang barangay or isang opisyal ng local government na siyang puwedeng lapitan at hingan ng tulong at itaguyod ang karapatan ng kanyang mga ka-barangay (constituents). Subalit nakalulungkot ang kasalukuyang sitwasyon hinggil sa ilang mga kupitan este kapitan ng barangay kung saan itong mga kupitan na ito ang sila mismo ang nangunguna sa kurakot at sa pag labag sa ating mga batas. Isang halimbawa nito ay itong isang Mrs. Kupitana na ito na nagbubulag-bulagan sa maraming mga anomalyang nangyayari sa kanyang barangay. May nagaganap na iligal na tong collection at marami pang mga iligal na squatting at sa halip na kampilan nitong si Mrs. Kupitana ang mga maralita at mga dukha na naaapi ay kanya pang kinakampihan ang mga may kayang mga naggagaling-galingan na pa-elitista kunwari, na trying hard, na nakatira sa isang subdivision. Ang isa namang Mr. Kupitan na ito ay dapat ay naging pulis patola o PNP na lamang sapagkat kanyang ginagampanan ang tungkulin ng mamang pulis at siya na mismo ang nag-sasagawa ng raid and apprehension of alleged illegal activities, ngunit ang tutuo ay oplan pakilala lang ang lakad nintong si Mr. Kupitan. At sino ang Mrs. KUPITANA at MR. KUPITAN na ito, at saan ang kanilang mga barangay? He he in due time mga dear readers ay ating ibubunyag ang kanilang pinaggagawa pagkatapos

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### Editorial.....

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concern about food price inflation," Food Outlook notes. Perhaps, that excludes those who jockey for the 2010 elections.

But inattention will not make this crisis go away. "The root causes—high energy and fertilizer prices, demand for food crops in biofuel production and low food stocks—are likely to prevail in the medium term", World Bank notes. Some of us may be dead by then. Here, death rates for kids, under five, here is 34 for every 1000 births. Compare that to Malaysia's 12.

National Food Authority is now scampering to buy 1.6 million tons of rice this year—to close the gap. But the bill will be much stiffer. And Mr. Salceda, meanwhile, talks of trimming duties on corn, soybeans, wheat subsidies for the poorest, etc. He even has a "Catch 22" proposal: Congress should pass the cheaper medicine bill.

Fine. But that's ad-hoc reaction for paying too little attention to long-need support for the men and women who raise the food for our dinner tables in credit, technology, research, extension. "Dependence on others brings a perpetual fast," an Asian proverb says.

Unnoticed, high food prices could interlock with an explosive but still barely-debated issue: the Philippines breaking ranks with Asean countries to allow China "concessions", including even exploring the Philippines continental shelf in the Sparty Islands. Was this in exchange for series of Chinese loans now marred by kickback controversies?

Was there a provision in the ZTE contract saying: Chinese courts would have exclusive jurisdiction over disputes; that it's decisions would be unappealable; and could be executed against Philippine properties anywhere? The ZTE contract disappeared the day after it was signed.

"Treason" is the new word that has crept into this issue. Hunger interlocking with treason in a country that still recoils from the Makapilis of World War II guarantees bitter controversy ahead. "Blast the man who owes his greatness to his country's ruin" remains good counsel. (Juan L. Mercado)

## FAIR AND SQUARE

*The Law of Supply and Demand In Public Transportation (Part 1)*

BY JAMES S. VALEROS



As early as in our high school classes we had been hearing from our teachers in Economics that one gospel of truth which the textbooks call: the Law of Supply and Demand. As construed by them, it simply meant that when the supply (of goods and services) is low, the demand (for them) is great. In the reverse, when the supply is great, the demand is low.

Later, as we tread along more distant path in our daily economics, we discover that the gospel generally applies in all activities and endeavors man, whether it be in the complex field of commerce or in the ordinary course of daily living. When the supply of galunggong, for instance, slips critically low due to prolonged typhoons or for other reason, we tend to burrow deep in our pockets to meet the high prices due to shortage in supply and made further higher by competing demands. But when the supply of the said fish is great due to fair weather or for other reasons, the demand for it necessarily slides down, to the consternation this time of the fisher folks and suppliers whose incomes are thereby reduced

In the field of public transportation, the nature and character of supply and demand at any one moment and place can similarly influence the economic activities of its people to the extent that it can even spell the difference of failure or success in the problems of its people.

Thus, all things being constant in the demography of a place (in the City of Baguio, for instance), shortage in the supply of public utility vehicles disrupting the efficient movement of people to and from their places of work and other destinations could capably cause a big slowdown in their commerce and other socio-economic activities. On the other hand, an over supply or saturation in the ideal number of public transport requirements could result in excessive traffic congestion as we do experience now, as well as, affect adversely the financial operations and investment of the service providers or operators.

In this sense, the law or principle of supply and demand, as applied in the business and service of public transportation, should necessarily strike and maintain an ideal balance constantly, no matter how difficult it would be, to be effectively usable. Short of or beyond its center of balance, the socio-economic activities of people relying and dependent on it, will start to show some sufferance and ultimately economic demise

In public transportation, therefore, in whose shoulder shall lie the duty to achieve and maintain that elusive balance? Obviously, under our administrative and legal structure, that function, duty and responsibility to balance supply and demand in public transportation operationally rests with the LTRFB. It is the sole agency vested and tasked by law to grant and regulate franchises or authorities to operate motorized land transport utilities in the country.

Question is: Has the LTRFB and that includes the DOTC-CAR, its regional extension or office in Baguio City, proved itself equal to the challenges of effectively balancing the supply and demand of public utility vehicles in the Cordilleras, in BLIST and in particular, in Baguio City?

(To be continued...)

## Flatbed dryers turned over to Kalinga irrigators

TABUK CITY, Kalinga – Irrigators associations of the province received another six units of flatbed dryers as part of the 23 unit grant from the Bureau of Post Harvest & Research Extension (BPRE) of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Provincial Agriculturist Gerry Jose said the project is a component of hybrid rice commercialization enhancement under the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) Rice program of government.

Under the project listing, a

unit of flatbed dryer costs P550,000 consisting of a bio-fuel fed drying machine, its accessories and a warehouse.

Fund for the project comes from consolidated tariffs on exported agricultural products of the country, accruing to the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF) of DA through the National Agriculture and Fisheries Council (NAFC).

The fund is distributed as grant to hybrid rice farmers in various parts of the country, as government support. Units for the project are designed by BPRE, patterned after a bio-fuel fed system, making

use of farm waste products like rice hulls to minimize cost of operation.

Of the 23 units allotted last year for Kalinga, the first seven units are now installed, all in Tabuk and ready for the April harvest, Jose said. The first irrigators association in the province to receive its unit is the Bulo irrigators.

Jose said all the other remaining units should be in placed before the end of April so that farmers can make use of them this coming harvest season. He said the project will tremendously help farmers with the problem on drying their produce, especially during rainy days. /L.Lopez/PIA Kalinga

## 150 indigents get Free Patent titles from Handog Titulo

RIZAL, Kalinga – One hundred fifty residents of Barangays Bulbul and Macutay, this town recently received their Free Patent land titles from the government's Handog Titulo program under the Land Registration Authority (LRA).

This is the second round of distribution made this year by the Registry of Deeds (ROD) of the province. Last February 6, 198 beneficiaries in Barangay Cudal of Tabuk City were distributed the same titles under the program.

Marcial Maga-ao of the ROD, who is a member of the distributing team, ex-

plained that Handog Titulo is part of government's project in providing land to the landless, through funds from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

As provided in the program, beneficiaries are able to register their titles with the ROD without payment of the P100 registration fee as it has been waived by the LRA, under this particular program.

Also, beneficiaries are issued land titles without being required to present tax clearances, which is required by law.

However, this provision of Handog Titulo does not exempt recipients from payment of back taxes on the land, if any and current taxes, as well.

Before a benefi-

ciary could qualify for a Free Patent, he should have actual occupancy of the particular lot and have introduced improvements on it.

Applicants can now file their applications with the Community Environment & Natural Resources Office (CENRO) and can wait for its approval from the PENRO, before they can register their titles with the ROD, in three months.

The processing of applications for Free Patent titles has been shortened, unlike before when approval comes from the regional level.

As provided in the conditions of the title, Free Patent titles are not negotiable for loans and sale for a period of five years, upon issuance. /L.Lopez/PIA Kalinga

## RESEARCH & STATISTICS

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## Tadian, Mt. Prov. gives primacy to education

TADIAN, Mt. Province – In support to DepEd’s program on “Brigada Eskwela,” the municipal government of Tadian passed last year an ordinance providing support to every public school within the municipality.

Every beginning of school year, public schools within the municipality pursue a program on gratis among Parents, Teachers and Community Association (PTCA) members in preparation for the start of classes.

Recognizing the noble acts of volunteerism and cooperation among the PTCA members, the municipal government shall provide support to each public school with an amount of not less than P2,000.00 to promote the “Brigada Eskwela Program” every start of the school year.

This ordinance which was recently approved by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan through a resolution shall start to take effect school 2008-2009.

Brigada Eskwela is the Department of Education’s National Schools Maintenance Week. It is a nationwide voluntary effort of teachers, parents, students, community members and other organizations to do minor repairs on their schools in preparation for the start of the school year.

Moreover, considering that education is one of the priorities of this municipality, the municipal government has also passed an ordinance that the continuous provision of annual appropriation for the aid to Cagubatan National High School, Am-am Annex and the Lubon elementary School, Bilig Campus be institutionalized.

The LGU has long been providing financial counterpart to the aid for municipal paid teachers based at Cagubatan NHS and Am-am Annex, and in 2006 and 2007, due to its exigency and to address the people’s clamor, an appropriation was allotted to supplement

the minimal remuneration of teachers to be assigned at the Lubon Elementary School, Bilig Campus.

The ordinance provides that the provision of funds for the aid to these schools be a top priority for budgetary consideration and shall not require further request. Should there be an extension position to be provided by the DepEd which also provides the necessary funding, the allotment shall be converted to other priorities of the local government.

The municipal government may also provide similar assistance, subject to availability of funds, to other schools within the municipality when there is an obvious need for an immediate attention as determined by the LGU in coordination with the DepEd

In other development, the barangays of Tadian are geographically clustered into three distinct locations and the clustering of the municipality’s barangays leads itself to ideal groupings for sports purposes.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan passed a resolution approving Municipal Ordinance No. 6, S.2007 of the municipality of Tadian. It is an ordinance dividing the municipality into three zones namely Zone I, Zone II and Zone III.

The ordinance also provides that should there be any support resources from the municipal government, each zone shall be given equal sharing.

Zone I is composed of barangays Tadian Poblacion, Kayan East, Kayan West, bunga, Balaoa, tue and any other barangay that maybe created within the same zone.

Barangays Lubon, Masla, sumadel, Bantey, batayan, duagan, Mabalite and any other barangay that maybe created within the area compose Zone II.

Zone III is composed of barangays Cagubatan, Pandayan, banaao, Lenga, Dacudac, Cadad-anan and any other barangay that maybe created within the same zone./Juliet B. Saley/PIA-MP

### NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Maria Kilang duly registered with the Registry of Deeds of the city of Baguio, covered by TCT No. T-24453 has been the subject of an extra-judicial settlement by her heirs on February 27, 2008 as evidenced by Doc. No. 205; Page No. 41; Book No. XXIV; Series of 2008 of National Registry of Atty. Jerome Selmo.

March 8, 15, 22, 2008

### NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Joseph Bacdai who died intestate on February 10, 2006 at Parapad, Ambiong, La Trinidad, Benguet was extra-judicially settled by the heirs on February 27, 2008 as evidenced by Doc. No. 203; Page No. 41; Book No. XXIV; Series of 2008 of the Notarial Registry of Atty. Jerome W. Selmo

March 8, 15, 22, 2008

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

**RODOLFO ESPINO**  
Applicant

Case No.98-01-163

### NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION - BAGUIO CITY and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on April 29, 2008 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, Baguio 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 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 11th day of March 2008.

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

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

**BERNABE VICTOR DANIEL, SR**  
Applicant

Case No.97-BC-443

### NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA - BADIWAN - TUBA and Vice Versa with the use of one (2) units.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on April 29, 2008 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, Baguio 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 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 05th day of March 2008.

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

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

**CHARLIE BALANGUE**  
Applicant

Case No. 88-01-1065

### NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA - SCOUT BARRIO and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on April 29, 2008 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, Baguio 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 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 11th day of March 2008.

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

Republic of the Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION  
BRANCH 59  
Baguio City

(Additional Family Court of Baguio)

IN RE: PETITION FOR CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF MINORS TRACY BALAG-EY BATOLLOG and TRICIA BALAG-EY BATTOLLOG and DECLARATION OF STATUS AS LEGITIMATED

TRACY BALAG-EY BATOLLOG and TRICIA BALAG-EY BATOLLOG, represented by their MOTHER MARLYN BALAG-EY-BATOLLOG

*Petitioner,*

-VERSUS-

THE CIVIL REGISTRAR OF BAGUIO CITY,

*Respondent.*

SPL PRO CASE NO. 1809-R

X-----X

**ORDER**

A verified petition filed by the petitioner through counsel alleged among others, that:

1. Sometime in the month of December 20, 1999 in Sagada Mountain Province, NESTOR BATOLLOG AND MARLYN BALAG-EY BATOLLOG (now MARI LYN WASEN BALAG-EY) married in accordance with the practices of Sagada Mountain Province called (MADAWAK) and thereafter lived as

husband and wife up to the present.  
2. Out of their love for each other, the two (2) petitioners were born at the Baguio General Hospital, Baguio City on the dates as follows:

1. TRACY BALAG-EY BATOLLOG- August 19, 2000

2. TRICIA BALAG-EY BATOLLOG - January 22, 2002

3. Believing that their native/tribal marriage earlier celebrated was sufficient to comply with the legal requirements of marriage, NESTOR BATOLLOG supplied December 20, 1999 as the date of marriage of the Petitioners' parents which data were entered in the Certificates of Live Birth of the Petitioners, photocopies of which are hereto attached as Annexes "A", "B" respectively and made part of this Petition;

4. At the time of the Petitioners' conception and birth, their parents did not have any legal impediment to get married;

5. After realizing that their earlier marriage does not meet the requirements of the Family Code of the Philippines, Petitioners' parents married in a civil wedding on February 7, 2005 before the Municipal Mayor of Sagada Mountain Province in accordance with the requirements of the law. A photocopy of the Certificate of Marriage is hereto attached as Annex "C" and made an integral part of this Petition;

6. As a result of said entry of date of marriage mentioned in Paragraph 4, it would appear that petitioners were legitimate children

using the Family Name of their natural father but pursuant to applicable laws. They were born illegitimate and thus their names should have been as follows:

TRACY BALAG-EY BATOLLOGAS  
TRACY WASWASEN BALAG-EY

TRICIA BALAG-EY BATTOLLOGAS  
TRICIA WASWASEN BALAG-EY

7. However, because of the subsequent marriage of Petitioners' parents which is valid and the fact that the said parents were legally capacitated to marry at the time of their conception and birth, Petitioners' have become "LEGITIMATED" and thus entitled to the rights of the legitimate child including the use of their father's surname;

8. To set records straight, Petitioners should be declared "LEGITIMATED" and the dates December 20, 1999 appearing on the Certificate of Live Birth of petitioner as the date of marriage of Petitioners' parent should be corrected to read February 7, 2005;

9. The Petition was filed not for the purpose of concealing, misleading or misrepresenting Petitioners' identities or to escape any obligation of whatever nature and kind but to cause the necessary correction and to apprise the public of their true, correct and lawful identities and status.

On the basis of the foregoing, the petitioners pray that after due notice, publication and hearing, the Court would grant the petition by ordering the Local Civil Registrar of Baguio City to do the Following:

A. To CORRECT the entries appearing under item # 18 in the Certificates of Live Birth of petitioners from December 20, 1999 to February 7, 2005;

B. To declare the status of the Petitioners as "LEGITIMATED" and thus entitled to the rights of a legitimate child including the use of their father's surname.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the same be heard before the Regional Trial Court, Branch 59, Baguio City on May 28, 2008 at 10:30 o'clock in the morning at which place, date and time, the petitioners shall prove their case. Any person interested may appear and show cause, if any there be, why the petition should not be granted. Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners in The JUNCTION, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Baguio and in Benguet province once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

Likewise, let a copy of this Order, together with a copy of the petition and its annexes be furnished the Honorable Solicitor General, Makati City, Metro Manila, the City Prosecutor of Baguio, and the

Local Civil Registrar of Baguio City.

SO ORDERED.

DONE IN CHAMBERS, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2008 at Baguio City Philippines.

(SGD.) ILUMINDA P. CABATO  
Judge  
March 1, 8, and 15, 2008

Republic of the Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH 9 (FAMILY COURT FOR BENGUET)  
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION  
La Trinidad, Benguet

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE ADOPTION OF

CLAUDINE BELALAY BENDADAN a.k.a. CLAUDINE BENDADAN YAG-O,

SPOUSES DINKER and JANET YAG-O,

*Petitioners.*

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASE 08-A-0927

X-----X

**ORDER**

Petitioner spouse Dinker and Janet Yag-o, Filipino citizens and residents of PD 56 Upper Gayasi, Wangal, La Trinidad Benguet, through counsel, filed this verified petition for Adoption praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, the subject of adoption minor CLOUDINE BILALAY BENDADAN be declared the legitimate child of the petitioners as she is their illegitimate child considering that she was born when the petitioner wife delivered her when she was 17 years old, hence she will be known as CLAUDINE BENDADAN YAG-O

and direct the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet to effect said adoption in her Certificate of Live Birth.

Considering that a child and Home Study Report of the Court Social Worker is an essential requisite in adoption cases, said report should be submitted to the Court before the initial hearing on September 10, 2008 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning.

WHEREFORE, the Court Social Worker, Ms. Jacqueline Dontogan is directed to conduct a Home and Child Study Report its this case, incorporating therein her recommendation and to submit the same to the Court, furnishing copy thereof' to the trial prosecutor deputized to represent the State.

The petitioner is directed to meet with the said Social Worker, for purposes of the Home and Child Study Report.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners in the JUNCTION, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made not later than March 9, 2008. All persons interested may come to Court and show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted-

Furnish copies hereof together with a copy of the petition and its annexes to the Office of the Solicitor General; the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet; the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet; the Court Social Worker; the Junction; the petitioner and counsel.

SO ORDERED

This 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2008 at La Trinidad, Benguet.

(SGD) FRANCISA. BULIYAT Sr.  
Presiding Judge  
March 8, 15, 22, 2008



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
La Trinidad, Benguet

SHIRLEY B. WADINGAN  
*Petitioner-Mortgagee,*

-versus-

BRANDO A. PETER,  
*Petitioner-Mortgagor.*

CASE NO. 08-EXF-1256

For:

Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgagee

Under Act 3135, As Amended

x-----x

**NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE**

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 filed by SHIRLEY B. WADINGAN, of legal age, married, Filipino and with residence at Km. 14, Caponga, Tublay, Benguet, herein referred to as the Petitioner-Mortgagee against BRANDO A. PETER of legal age, married to Agustina Peter, Filipino and with residence and postal address at Gayasi, Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines, herein referred to as the Respondent-Mortgagor to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of May 1, 2006 amounts to ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) PESOS, Philippine Currency, excluding the stipulated 10% monthly interests and penalties, charges, attorney's

fees; and expenses of foreclosure, the undersigned deputy sheriff will sell at public auction on March 25, 2008 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning soon thereafter in front of the Benguet Justice Hall (BULWAGAN NG KATARUNGAN), Justice Hill, La Trinidad, Benguet, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following described real property, to wit:

ASSESSMENT OF REAL PROPERTY NO. 99-016-00780

Property Index No. 009-03-016-08-102

OWNER: BRANDO A PETER and AGUSTINA PETER

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Gayasey, Wangal, La Trinidad Benguet

ASSESSOR'S LOT NO. 102

BOUNDARIES: North: Ass. Lot 103 South: Brgy. Bineng East: Ass. Lot 103 West: Lot 086

KIND: Veg. Land AREA: .0100 ha. CLASS: 1 ASSESSED VALUE: P250.00 MARKET VALUE: P630.00

Containing an area of .0100 HECTARES more or less.

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

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

In case of failure in the auction sale, the same is hereby rescheduled on April 21, 2008 at the same time and place mentioned above without need of republication.

Let the foregoing be published at THE WEEKEND JUNCTION, a newspaper of general circulation on March 1, 8 and 15, 2008. La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008.

FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHERIFF'S EX-OFFICIO OF BENGUET

BY: (SGD) JOHN MARIE O. OCASLA Sheriff IV

March 1, 8, and 15, 2008

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION  
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL SHERIFF  
La Trinidad, Benguet

SUMMIT BANK (RURAL BANK) OF TUBLAY (BENGUET), INC.,  
*Petitioner,*

-versus-

AURELIO GALANGCO,  
*Mortgagor.*

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. 08-ExF-1263

FOR-EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER

ACT 3135 AS AMENDED

x-----x

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended, filed by SUMMIT BANK (RU-

RAL OF TUBLAY (BENGUET), INC.), herein referred to as the Petitioner against AURELIO GALANGCO, of legal age, married, Filipino, and with residence and postal address at No. 18 Dominican Hill, Baguio City, herein referred to as the Mortgagor, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of the filing or the petition amount to FIVE HUNDRED SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SIXTY EIGHT and 83/100 (Php. 506,968.83) PESOS, Philippine Currency, excluding interest and penalties and other charges accruing thereon until fully paid, Attorney's fees amounting to Three Thousand Pesos (Php.3,000.00) and all cost and expenses of the foreclosure proceedings.

That the undersigned or any duly authorized sheriff will SELL at public auction on APRIL 8, 2008 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in front of the Benguet Justice Hall, (Bulwagan ng Katarungan), Justice Hill, La Trinidad, Benguet, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine currency, the hereunder described real property, together with all the buildings, improvements and/or accessions now existing thereon, or which may hereafter be constructed or placed thereon to wit:

Benguet, Island of Luzon, Bounded on the N., along line 1-2 by Lot 4 of the subd-plan; on the E, along line 2-3 by Public land; on the S., along line 3-4 by Elias Julio, Psu. 169194; on the W., along line 4-1 by Public land. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being N, 6 deg. 24' W., and 486.44 m. from triange. Sta. "EVELAND", Itogon, Benguet, thence N. 75 deg., 18' E, 244.46 m. to point 2; thence S. 21 deg., 27'E, 41.28 m. to point 3; thence S. 67 deg. 24' W. 272.22 m to point 4; thence N. 0 deg. 31' W., 80.86 m. to point of beginning; containing an area: of FIFTEEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETEEN (15,219) SQUARE METERS, more or less. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground as follows:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-39835 (Registry of Deeds - Province of Benguet)

"A parcel of land, lot 5, of the subdivision plan Psd-131106-005340, being a portion of Psd-169196 situated in the Barrio of Pungol, Municipality of Itogon, Province of

Benguet, Island of Luzon, Bounded on the N., along line 1-2 by Lot 4 of the subd-plan; on the E, along line 2-3 by Public land; on the S., along line 3-4 by Elias Julio, Psu. 169194; on the W., along line 4-1 by Public land. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being N, 6 deg. 24' W., and 486.44 m. from triange. Sta. "EVELAND", Itogon, Benguet, thence N. 75 deg., 18' E, 244.46 m. to point 2; thence S. 21 deg., 27'E, 41.28 m. to point 3; thence S. 67 deg. 24' W. 272.22 m to point 4; thence N. 0 deg. 31' W., 80.86 m. to point of beginning; containing an area: of FIFTEEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETEEN (15,219) SQUARE METERS, more or less. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground as follows:

All points are by PS Cyl. Conc.

Mons. 15 x 40 cms.; Bearings True; Date of Original Survey; 2 -11-58 and the subdivision survey was executed by Eng. Emmanuel Pacleb under the supervision of Engr. Antonio V. Abyado on Dec. 2-3, 1996 and was approved on 3/17/97.

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

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

La Trinidad, Benguet, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008.

FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHERIFF'S EX-OFFICIO OF BENGUET

BY: (SGD) GREGORIO G. TADEO Sheriff IV

March 16, 23, 30, 2008

**And this our life, exempt from public haunts, finds tongues in trees, books in running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in everything.**  
~ William Shakespeare

**NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL SELF ADJUDICATION OF THE ESTATE OF THE DECEASED FLOR CLARINO TIONGCO**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Flor C. Tiongco who died on April 24, 1996 at Baguio City and Herminio S. Tiongco who died on June 26, 1994 at Mandaluyong City ( With TCT Nos. T- 304500 & T -304501 is the subject of an Extra Judicial Self Adjudication of Estate by the only heir Francis Joseph Tiongco as evidenced by Doc No. 235; Page No. 47; Book No. XX, Series of 2006 of the Notarial Registry of Elmer O. Datuin

March 8, 15, 22, 2008

**Cordillera Slates...****from page 2**

suit of a Just and Lasting Peace," local leaders and key peace and development players from the region are hoping to collectively present the only land-locked region in the country as a viable area for donor assistance and investment.

After over two decades since its creation in 1986, CAR continues to face major challenges in realizing its goals for progress, while relentlessly pursuing efforts to establish an enduring peace and sustainable development in the region consisting of the provinces of Abra, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province and Apayao.

According to Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza, the CAR Donor's Forum is an important event for the region, noting the historic significance of presenting for the first time CAR as a major area of consideration for the international donor community.

Dureza cited that the signing in 1986 of the Mt. Data Peace Accord has seemed to concretized one important step in the region's emergence as one of the newest regions in the country, but stressed "much remains to be done to put forward development in the conflict-affected communities."

"We hope that this Forum will be able to take our donor agency partners to a level where there is strong realization of the region's vital role in our overall pursuit of lasting peace and sustainable development in the country," Dureza said.

Inspired by the commitment of the Local Government Units (LGUs), and the determination of areas previously affected by conflicts to rise above the challenges, the Regional Development Council (RDC), the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Cordillera Administrative Region and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), have collaboratively worked on the effort of endeavouring to access through a Donors' Forum, funding from Embassies, the ODA community and some NGOs for the region's various development projects./PIA-CAR

**Local Abra Folks...****from page 2**

23, 2006 for the 43-square kilometer Capcapo Project.

The firm reportedly started its drilling operations in February 2007 at Capcapo mountain where seven holes have already been drilled.

Local folks had opposed the drilling, thus stopping it. But representatives of Olympus held consultations in some barangays causing local residents alarm. Olympus has reportedly intersected significant gold and copper at Capcapo. and that the copper-gold system there is significant.

Olympus likens the profile to the Baguio-Mankayan Gold-Copper District, where since the early 1900's several mining firms have operated until now.

But local residents like 67 year old Flordeliza Sannadan said Olympus wants to mine our mountains and our lands what will

become of us if these are mined out?

Sannadan said, while questioning the purported improvement of the quality of life with the acceptance of mining in the community. After years and years of mining in Benguet, are there any improvement in the lives of the people there? she said.

Engr. Neoman dela Cruz, regional director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau had time again reiterated that mining firms must have the consent of the host community of any mining operation to commence, otherwise, they will be illegally operating./Artemio A. Dumlaio

**Mining Boom...****from page 1**

cutives of filthy-rich firms, but the people and communities on the ground: indigenous peoples displaced from their ancestral lands, upland settlers, farmers, fisherfolk whose livelihoods are endangered by mine wastes," Bautista stressed. DENR, Bautista said, conveniently forgot to note that this new wave of mining permits will make the Philippines more vulnerable to mining disasters, such as the Marcopper mining tragedy in Marinduque island last 1996 and the repeated mine tailings spills and fish kills hitting the Lafayette Mining project in Rapu-Rapu island, Albay, in 2005 and 2007. Any cost-benefit analysis will prove beyond reasonable doubt that the long-term effects of environmental degradation, community displacement, and plunder of our mineral reserves far outweigh and in fact cancel out any economic benefits that mining investments are purported to bring in," he added./Artemio A. Dumlaio

**RP Eligible ...****from page 3**

The MCATP, which ran for two years, funded programs aimed at reducing corruption by strengthening the Office of the Ombudsman, the government agency primarily responsible in prosecuting corrupt government officials, and intensify the enforcement of anti-graft programs of the Department of Finance (DOF), namely, the Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS), Run After Tax Evaders (RATE), and the Run After The Smugglers (RATS).

Under the MCATP, \$6.5 million or P338 million was allotted to the Office of the Ombudsman for the training of its employees, the establishment of an information management system and enhancement of its investigative and surveillance capabilities.

The RATE program received \$9.4 million (P489 million), RATS, \$3.1 million (P161 million), while RIPS was allocated \$1.4 million (P73 million).

Under the grant agreement, \$250,000 (P13 million) was utilized for the monitoring and evaluation of the MCATP to ensure that it conformed with MCC standards.

The MCC was established by US President George W. Bush at the turn of the millennium to "reward countries that govern well," the President said during the signing ceremony in 2006, adding thus far that only a handful of countries all over the world have qualified for the MCC grant./PIA-CAR

**Wanted Felons...****from page 2**

A third suspect was also nabbed.

We are focused on Ambatali and the others, vowed Sr. Supt. Pedro Ganir, director of the Mountain Province police. Earlier, Mountain Province police promised that February will not end until Ambatali and three remaining suspects will not be arrested.

In Riang, Pennarubia town (Abra) barangay chairman Revillo Valera Damasen, 52, who on February 19 mercilessly gunned down Police Officer 1 Albert Salvador inside an amusement carnival in the same town is also still free. Yet the most gruesome killing yet in the province this year, Abra police director Sr. Supt. Alexander Pumecha said policemen hunting Damasen down have went out of their way outside the province to look for the fugitive. We believe he is not anymore in Abra, Pumecha said earlier.

Damasen sprung from nowhere and gunned down Salvador who was playing drop ball at the carnival site the night of January 19. He fled on foot after the shooting./Artemio A. Dumlaio

**Cordillera Renegade...****from page 3**

of another relationship Balweg was into.

Since her husbands death in 1999, Azon took an important role in the CPLA with several other former rebel leaders including Molina.

Azon, a former SVD-Abra catechist who together with his husband joined the NPA in the late 70s, made untiring efforts to make sure that government commitments of livelihood programs to former CPLA members and leaders succeed, said a former CPLA leader.

In 1995, government integrated 264 CPLA commanders and members into the Philippine Army as regulars, while some 300 more turned into CAFGUs. Those who opted otherwise were offered livelihood programs to start anew a peaceful life. A piece of land in sitio Ileb, barangay Nambaran, Tabuk City was awarded by the government through the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) to some former CPLA members and their families to till and develop.

Coupled with her CPLA functions, she made sure that her husbands killers were meted with justice although not one of the NPA rebel including her husbands brother Jovencio alleged leader of the Abra-based Agustin Begnalen Command of the CPP-NPA were held by authorities except for some 14 church members and leaders from the Ilocos Region including clergymen and women who were charged, arrested and detained. The Abra court however freed them after dropping the charges because of insufficient evidences./Artemio A. Dumlaio

## Cordillera Reg. Coop Development Council wants to join RDC

BAGUIO CITY —The members of the Cordillera Regional Cooperative Development Council (CRCDC) is clamoring for the group's inclusion in the Regional Development Council (RDC).

This was revealed by CRCDC Chairman Emerita Fuerte during a meeting last week at the Baguio Central University (BCU). She said the CRCDC should form part of the RDC since it is also a council that looks into the welfare of the people of the Cordillera primarily on cooperatives. As an RDC member, the group will be able to contribute on the programs and projects that the RDC is implementing in the region. The council will also like to share the programs and projects done and to be implemented by the CRCDC that would be beneficial for the RDC in the formulation of the development plan for the region, Fuerte explained. The CRCDC was organized by virtue of Executive Order No. 95, series of 1993 signed by then President Fidel V. Ramos in coordination with the CDA-CEO.

Councils are organized from the national to the regional, provincial and municipal levels in order to provide the cooperative movement a system for consultation with regard to cooperative programs and projects.

The EO designated the CDA as the lead agency and also orders all government branches, instrumentalities, subdivisions, and agencies with programs and projects concerning cooperatives to coordinate such with the CDA in order to provide a comprehensive technical and financial program for cooperatives. Having a vision of a strong and dynamic council with a passion for a cooperative excellence and a mission to facilitate and coordinate development efforts in cooperatives, Cordillera would soon be at par with other regions that has number of successful cooperatives, Fuerte added. Meanwhile, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo hailed the country's cooperatives as vital partners of her administration in the implementation of poverty reduction programs. She said that at a time of great challenges, cooperatives have helped government in forging a strong economy by bringing in investments, cutting down the incidence of hunger and helping reduce the unemployment rate with the creation of seven million jobs in seven years.

"Cooperatives have a very strong role to play in the fight for a strong economy. Coops have helped bring positive and lasting change for the nation," the President said. With the help of cooperatives, a lot more can be done for the welfare of the Filipino such as the attainment of sustainable reforms and progress, the President added. /fnn/PIA-CAR

## Baguio's Strawberry Festival starts

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - Town officials, led by Municipal Mayor Artemio Galwan, Friday formally opened the "Strawberry Festival", an annual world-class agro-tourism fair from March 14-18, where an array of exportable products from Benguet Province are on exhibit for sale.

Galwan said that the main highlights of the annual unique festival will be on March 18 with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor and speaker.

On the said day, the president will also be the guest of honor and speaker of the 2008 graduation rites of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

The town's strawberry festival will not only treat local and foreign visitors to fresh and sweet strawberries, but other by-products such as jam, juice, wine and the newest like soap, lotion, body scrub, lip gloss and feminine wash.

According to the mayor, some of the visitors here have already visited the trade fair site, where apart from strawberries other fresh and processed fresh fruits and other root crops grown locally in Benguet are sold.

This festival will be highlighted with a cultural show and the baking of a giant strawberry cake. In 2002, this town's giant strawberry cake was placed in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Earlier, Benguet provincial governor Nestor Fongwan said that like in the past eight years, the local officials here expect some 50,000 visitors during the Strawberry Festival.

This town is the country's strawberry capital because it produces this fruit owing to its year-round cool weather.

## Pinupuna at Pinapansin from page 5

na natin silang sampahan ng reklamo sa office of the Ombudsman at sa DILG, PWEEEE!!! Pinagkatiwalaan kayo ng mga botante para maglingkod at manilbihan ng tapat at hindi para **MA NGORAPAT MAG KURAKOT**. Ang kakapal ninyo, mahiya naman kayo kung meron pa kayo nun!!!

oOo

**BENECO CAR PLAN** – Ayon sa isa nating impormante ay meron daw isang Car Plan para sa Beneco GM, Managers, Supervisors etc...., (pagkatapos bitiwang ng mga city councilors ang plano kayo naman ha!) for the maximum amount of P1.5M at ang sistema ay babayaran ng Beneco ang 70% pati interest na 8% per annum at mayroon pang libreng gasolina at maintenance na P20K per year. Anak ng tipaklong oo, napaka swerti talaga ng mga top officials ng Beneco kung tutuo ang timbre na ito ng isang nababanas na taga Beneco. Talagang itong mga opisyal na ito ang siyang mga anak ng Diyos. Kaya ganun na lang ang reklamo ng mga ilang simpleng empleyado ng Beneco. Kung totoo ito ay OK lang naman ito Mr. GM et al..., kung sana ay maayos ang inyong serbisyo sa publiko; eh sa kasalukuyan **NAPAKASAMA** ng inyong serbisyo na kaliwa't kanan ang brown out!! Talaga naman oo, dapat sana ay mahiya naman kayo. Panay sub-standard ang pinag-gagamit ninyong mga materyales kaya parating brown out (kung minsan black out pa, buong siyudad walang koryente) pagkatapos ay may kapal pa kayo na mag car plan. **PWEE!!!!** Tamaan nga kayo ng **HIYA** kung meron pa kayong natitirang hiya?!?! Toto ba itong info na ito GM Versoza?

## Diretsahan from page 4

Ang mga fixer umano ay ang mga security agency na may koneksyon sa Kampong Krame. Kung totoo ito hindi nakakapagtaka na maraming guwardiya ang lisensyado pero salat sa kaalaman at kuwalipikasyon. Pinabili lang yata sila ng suka sa tindahan eh naging guwardiya na! Tama ba ako mga bosing sa PNP? Magkano ba?...nagtatanong lang naman po?

ooOoo

Pangingidnap sa mga bata dito sa Baguio, totoo o tsismis lang? itanong nyo po yan sa aking bubuwit dahil ang bata na muntik ng madukot ay nakausap at ang ibang mga magulang na nawawalang ng mga anak. Kung totoo man ito o hindi, dapat ay hindi ito ipagwalang bahala ng ating Meyor at ng kapulisan. Mas maigi na ang mag-ingat at maging mapagbantay kaysa magsisihan sa huli. Di ba Meyor B at Tsip Guevarra? **BANTAYAN!**

ooOoo

May nagreklamong miyembro ng Balite Multi-purpose Association na mayroon umanong misteryo na nangyayari sa kanilang asosasyon. Ito ay hingging sa pagbili nila ng lupa para subdivide nila sa mga miyembro. 13 milyones umano and nakolekta sa kanila pero 400 thou lamang daw ang ibinayad sa may-aring nagbenta sa lupa. Samakatuwid, ay malaking halaga ang kinita ng kanilang Presidente na isa pa namang guro sa isang pampublikong paaralan, kung totoo nga ito naisumbong. Sa darating na mga araw ay amin pong bubusisin ang bagay na ito para managot ang taong nasa likod ng kabulastugang ito. Ano sey nyu kayo diyan sa BIR at REGISTRY OF DEEDS wala po ba kayong kinalaman dito? Nagtatanong lamang po!

La Trinidad has more than 74 hectares of strawberry fields with an average production of 14 metric tons per hectare. (PNA)

### NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Flora N. Buyocan, who died intestate on December 20, 2007 at Baguio City, has been settled by her heirs through a deed of extrajudicial settlement recorded in the Notarial Registry of Atty. Melita Amylesha D. Macaraeg as Doc. No. 068 on Page No. 14, Book No. V, Series of 2008.

March 15, 22, 29, 2008

## Local Balikatan-style Services-to-the-Barrios Flushes Out Rebels In Lair

**Lagangilang, Abra** - Balikatan like services to the barrios, government troopers in collaboration with local government agencies in Lagayan town, Abra flushed out rebel influence in their lair, Abra based military troopers beamed this Wednesday.

Shunning their barongs and uniforms and seeking where their services are needed most, Lagayan town government departments and agencies like the Municipal Health Office, Philippine National Police, Army Reserve Command, Agricultural and DENR offices met with local village folks in barangay Collago. Medical doctors from the Abra Provincial Hospital led by Dr Antonio Valera, student volunteers from Pinnacle Healthcare College, Inc (PHAVI), a dental team from the 503rd Brigade led by 1Lt Jayson Lorzano also provided free medical and dental services.

Lt. Eduardo Siaed, 41st Infantry Battalion spokesman said Wednesdays local Balikatan was very fruitful. Nearly a thousand residents from Brgy Collago and nearby villages queued for the free government services.

It was a program facilitated by the 41st Inf Bat as a culmination of its one and a

half month of special operations purportedly to remove the influence of the CPP/NPA/NDF. According to the military, Brgy Collago has been one of the lairs of the rebels especially by the group of Procopio Tauro alias Ka Pyro, a known CPP-NPA official.

Lt. Sia-ed said Ka Pyro and his group were able to fool the people of their propaganda and dirty tricks in the past years. Some became supporters or sympathizers of the communist movement, he added. The military claim that the whole LADALAGA complex (Lagayan, Lapaz, Danglas towns) and Langiden are now free of insurgents.

Sia-ed claimed that operations of government troops in the area has been very effective because they cleared the barangays from communist influence. The military also set up counter-organizations such as Barangay Defense Organizations to prevent the incursion of communist terrorists in the future.

Civilian Active Auxiliaries (formerly known as CAFGU) were also recruited. They will take the Internal Security Operations responsibility with the PNP in

place of the regular army forces when they shift operations.

Also earlier this month in Langiden town, sans big guns and armaments, government troopers engaged townfolks, also said to be a rebel stronghold in Abra province, with basic services.

Bringing in Iluko students from the University of Northern Philippines ala US soldiers led by Dr. Marciana de Vera, Langiden townfolks had their first seminar ever— On Reproductive, Maternal, Child Health and Birth Giving.

Some 651 residents can now smile happily with their newly cleaned teeth and already in the pink of their health from the free medical and

dental services./ Artemio A. Dumlaog

## LGUS, ISCAF pledge 546 summer jobs for students

**LAGAWE, Ifugao**- Five hundred forty six (546) summer jobs are up for grabs by students who want to work as the 10 municipalities, the provincial government and the Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Forestry (ISCAF) announced their pledges assuring employment opportunities.

This is carried out as mandated under Republic Act No. 7323 otherwise known as the Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES) to help poor but deserving students pursue their education by encouraging their employment during summer and/or Christmas vacations.

The SPES is a component of the President's Summer Youth Work Program along with the Summer Work Appreciation Program of DOLE.

The program is open to all qualified high school, college technology or vocational students or drop-outs who are 15-25 years old and who intend to go back to school and whose parents' combined net income after tax, including his own does not exceed P36,000 per annum. The students are paid salaries which are at least equal to the applicable minimum wage of which at least 60 percent will be paid by the employers in cash while the remaining 40 percent will be paid by DOLE in checks.

The 10 municipalities pledged a total of 316 jobs while the Province of Ifugao 110 and ISCAF 120 for a total of 546 that will start on April to May.

The nature of work available at ISCAF involves construction/improvement of the drainage system of the college, construction of habitat houses, fabrication of hollow blocks, excavation/improvement of firing range of the school and office assistants.

Interested qualified students may contact the DOLE Field Office in Lagawe or the Public Employment Services Office at the Provincial Capitol for more information./ \*Dan B. Codamon/PIA Ifugao

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