

THE JUNCTION WEEKEND

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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Pahayagang palaban!!! **Chiz calls for people's vigilance VS. ChaCha ploy**



Another successful operation by the members of the Traffic Management Highway Patrol Group headed by P/Supt. Romeo Cachola-Ver as they recovered a Honda CRV with Plate Number AHH 202 along Lake Drive Mansion House Baguio City.

Opposition Senator Chiz Escudero called for people's vigilance against move by administration lawmakers to push for a piece-meal change in the Constitution.

"Unless they specifically say what they want amended and how they want the Constitution amended we cannot and should not let our guards down," Escudero said in a statement from Washington.

The senator, who is the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendment, Revision of Codes and Laws, said any amendment in any part of the Constitution at this moment might just be a flimsy justification to wade their way through term extension.

"Even if chacha proponents say okay we'll con-

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*Puros kayo ChaCha
naghihirap ang buong
sambayanan habang sarili
nyo lang ang iniisip ninyo*



**LG KOMENTARYO,
ISANG PALAISIPAN**

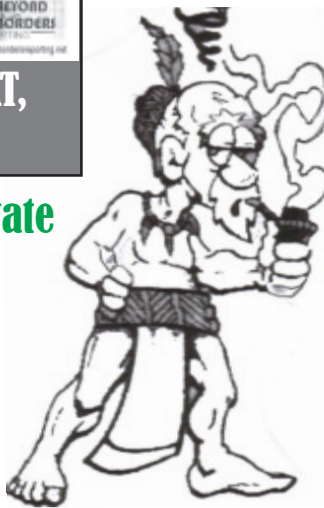


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MAGING MAYAMAN O MAHIRAP!!!**

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*Occupation troops
masquerading as non-
combatants*

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



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DIRETSAHAN

*Emil Reyes ng POSD-Buwagin
ang mga Buwishit!!!
Dra. Florence Reyes?
GISHING!!!*

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Chiz to dig deeper into WB blacklist mess; sets committee hearing on Feb. 17

MANILA — Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero said Thursday he will dig deeper into the alleged collusion among Filipino contractors in a World Bank road project when he begins hearings to tighten safeguards in the government’s procurement system.

In a statement sent from Washington, Escudero said

as chair of the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision on Codes and Laws he has scheduled the committee’s first hearing on Feb. 17.

“The controversy over the alleged rigging of bids for the World Bank’s road projects shows us what the investigations into the ZTE deal and Cyber Education has led us to – that we need

to have more transparency and accountability in the government procurement system. Only an open system will allow that,” he said.

Escudero said the WB report of irregularities in the bidding of road projects in the country shows serious flaws in Republic Act (RA) 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act.

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State of trust funds unknown, Chiz blasts SEC, BSP

Senator Chiz Escudero on Monday bewailed the failure of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to monitor the current state of the trust funds intended to cover the needs of pre-need planholders.

“SEC has been given the ample power of regulation among pre-need firms. It is there to watch over these trust funds. But they seem to do nothing to protect the investing public. They simply watch as these trust

funds dissolve into thin air just like the incestuous relationship of the Legacy Group and its bank subsidiaries,” Escudero, chair of the Senate Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions, and Currencies, told reporters.

He said the SEC showed its incompetence when they could not give categorical answers as to how much will Legacy plan holders get out of its trust fund.

“This is absurd and disconcerting. We put

SEC there to preserve and strengthen the investor’s interest but they look like they protect more pre-need companies’ interest which is to earn,” Escudero said.

The senator suggested that the SEC knew about the brewing problems in the Legacy Group since 2004.

“We are asking SEC to furnish us a copy of the minutes of their business forum to check if the boiling pre-need problems then were already part of their discussed agenda,” said

Cont. on page 10

Chiz vows to block charter change moves by Arroyo men

As the House revs up its charter change move today, opposition Senator Chiz Escudero vowed once more to block any move to pursue charter change in the Senate for as long as he is the Chair of the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

“I will not touch that even at an arm’s length while I am the head of the committee,” he said in a statement on Wednesday. “Why are they insisting on pushing for this now? Why not at the start of her term? This administration cannot play it sleek and smooth, its propensity to burnish its ambition beyond its term limit is so gross,” Escudero said.

Escudero said the administration’s move to continue to pursue charter change reeks of self-serving reasons, especially because the Arroyo administration’s term ends in less than 18 months.

Last year, Escudero refused to entertain an inter-

chamber dialogue on charter-change after the House leadership suggested that the lower chamber can go at it alone in changing the Constitution.

“I still maintain my position that any move to revise or amend the Constitution will require a separate vote by both chambers,” he emphasized.

“Any bill, however mundane, necessitates the endurance and satisfaction of the processes and requisites mandated by the Constitution, which says that the Senate and the Congress vote separately. It works the same for a big and delicate move such as amending the constitution.”

For those who push for cha-cha, Escudero challenged them to exactly define exactly what they want changed in the charter. Chiz vows to block charter change moves by

Arroyo men

“Will they please write what they specifically want to change in the constitution? Not on vague and general terms like economic provision, parliamentary form or federal form of government. Details have to be combed because even periods, commas or hyphenations in the Constitution matter,” he said.

Escudero said he is not totally averse to charter change. “If and when we need to amend the Constitution, we should do it at the start of a new administration to dispel any doubts about personal motives and agendas,” he stressed.

He said as chairman of the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendments, he will not negotiate and compromise the powers and prerogatives of the Senate as an institution.

“Those who push cha-cha in the House seem oblivious to the present predicament of the people. The people want to hear and see from their representatives what they are doing to cushion the impact of economic woes currently besetting every Filipino family,” Escudero said. / Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero



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The Junction- OIC



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Baguio braces for court battle vs. NPC

BAGUIO CITY – After failed attempts at reaching a compromise over a land swap deal brokered between the City Government and National Power Corporation (NPC) 34-years ago, the age-old deadlock has finally been submitted for judicial determination.

The object of the tug-of-war: a parcel of land owned by NPC situated in North Sanitary Camp where the city's Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) now stands.

Apparently brow-beaten, NPC in its complaint dated September 17, 2008 raised, "Since 1974 and up to

the present, the city government has consistently failed living up to its promise to provide NPC with suitable replacement for the construction of its office."

NPC claimed there were several talks and offers between the parties but these were not consummated and "unceremoniously delayed at no fault on the side of NPC."

NPC claimed, the city never paid a single centavo since the time it occupied the property.

Not to be outdone, the city gov-

ernment represented by legal officer Melchor Rabanes in an answer dated February 4 claimed while it is true that erstwhile mayor Luis Lardizabal requested for use of the property for purposes of constructing an STP in 1974, Baguio actually occupied said lot only in May 1994.

He added, "The land-swap deal failed not because of the city's fault but due to several factor among which is the rejection of the city gov-

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BLESSED, INDEED... Members of the Blessed Association of Retired Persons, Foundation, Inc. (BARP) holds their 1st General Assembly at the Baguio Athletic Bowl where 16-beneficiaries of deceased members received financial assistance totaling P1.7-million. Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr. and BARP president Federico Balanag led the awarding ceremonies, January 31./Monch David

Pb 2009 activities

BAGUIO CITY-Panagbenga 2009 opened last Sunday with children in colorful costumes, flower-designed headgear and accessories, dancing in coordinated steps to the Benguet Bendian-inspired theme song.

Elementary schools' flower-embellished drum and lyre groups, provided music for contingents as they marched from upper Session road down to the Athletic Bowl where field demonstrations were performed, and nine finalists out of 12 contestants chosen for the grand street dancing parade on Feb. 28.

As of date, twelve (12) high schools and about ten (10) out-of-town contingents have signified their intention to join the street parade while less than ten floats are seen to join the parade on March

1. The market encounter landscaping contest at Burnham Park has also opened and goes on until March 8.

With the theme, "Our Festival... Yours Too!" the centennial and 14th version of the Baguio Flower Festival boasts of innovative, old and revived activities.

Among the new activities are the Windows in Bloom where lessors or building owners along Ses-

sion road and selected roads are encouraged to groom their window with rooted blooming ornamental plants; to be judged at the close of Panagbenga 2009.

A fluvial parade with excerpts from the opera performance, "Phantom on the Lake" and "La divas" also goes on at Valentine's day at Burnham Lake, and the mosaic painting at Melvin Jones, Burnham Park on Feb. 13 are relatively new activities.

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BAGUIO CITY – The city council last Monday allowed the Benguet Electric Cooperative Inc. (BENECO) to manage the city's unmetered streetlights on an experimental basis for three to six months to prove the power firm's contention that it can do a better job in maintaining the lighting system.

BENECO earlier offered the trial maintenance at no cost to the city to support its bid to take over the management of the city's streetlights from the city government.

During the trial

period, the power firm is expected to maintain the unmetered streetlights at the present billing basis of ten burning hours. It will also replace busted bulbs and photo switches at no cost to the city. Facilities with damaged fixtures will not be included in the deal.

In another move, the body also approved the conduct of a joint study on the cost benefit analysis

on the present energy consumption by the city and BENECO within two months effective February 2.

The result would also help the city decide on the whether to allow BENECO to manage the streetlights on a permanent basis.

BENECO offered to take over the operation of the streetlights from the city engineer's office

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Send us an email at info@hlurb.net or text/call **0917-5069123** and we will post the information at www.hlurb.net.

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

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

Reluctant Balikbayans

The most volatile problem, in the year ahead, won't erupt in Malacanang, Congress and other traditional centers of power. It will surface in 81 provinces.

That's where families receive shrunken remittance packets, from Filipino overseas workers, squeezed by the worldwide economic crunch. Today's first trickle back of laid off workers is only the beginning.

OFW padalas enable thousands of families to tuck in three square meals, send kids to school, maybe even buy a tv. Some family blacksheep splurge on beer, cockpit and mistresses.

Filipino workers are scattered in 190 countries. In 2008, they sent home over \$16 billion, up from \$14.7 billion the year before. As in Bangladesh, Burma or Sri Lanka, remittances help keep the economy's head above water. For Latin American countries, like

Honduras and Jamaica, send-home-packets account for a fifth of their GDPs.

EDITORIAL

But shrinking US, European Union and other major economies have punched holes into this financial lifeboat. It now leaks.

Spain hosts over 70,000 Filipino OFWs. Among Asian migrants, Filipinos are second to the Chinese. But Madrid's industrial output slumped by a fifth in just a month. Some 2.5 Spaniards are jobless. Pressure is building to crack down on migrants.

In Britain, workers protested against imports of Portuguese laborers. "Buddhist" Thailand came up with a ghastly un-Buddhist cropper: Thai military loaded about 1,000 Rohingyas—a Muslim minority group from Myanmar—in a rickety boat. They were towed out to sea and cast adrift. Hundreds drowned. Some 650 survivors washed up in Indonesia and India. The UN refugee agency is looking for another 126 Rohingyas who may also have been dumped at sea.

Like Mexicans, Filipinos depend heavily on the US for bulk of remittances and 80% of exports. In the U.S., eight of the 10 largest Philippine banks have remittance services catering to Pinoy OFWs. Last year, three banks opened remittances branches: two in San Francisco's the Bay Area and one in Miami.

Their once-lucrative business is now hurting. There's little indication the US financial crunch will ease soon. US padalas and import demand will contract more. Can domestic economies take up the slack quickly?

Mexico's GDP will slide into the red column this year. "The Philippines posted a 4.5-percent growth in the fourth quarter of 2008, making it one of the best performers in Asia," Hong Kong Shanghai Bank notes. That will dwindle as the American economy sputters.

In fact, remittance inflows to the Philippines and other labor-exporting countries, started to slump last year, World Bank noted. "The global recession will deepen in 2009, it's "Migration and Development Brief" forecasts. "The impact on remittances will be more pronounced."

How pronounced is "pronounced"?

Given some luck, remittances may contract by 0.9%, the Bank says. The cash flow could plummet by a hefty 6% in its worse case scenario. Mang Jose here, Pa Sumono in Indonesia and Khun Wirasak in Thailand will have less to spend for medicine or bus fare this year—and even in 2010.

Padalas from overseas Filipinos may be whittled down by an unprecedented one-fifth this year, Hong Kong Shanghai Bank estimates. UP economist Benjamin Diokno thinks a \$2 billion cut is possible.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo spoke of her administration having "firewalled" the economy from such battering. International Monetary Fund (IMF) Dominique Strauss-Kahn does not share the lady's optimism.

"There's no reason why emerging Asia would avoid unemployment as consequence of slow growth," he said. "Loss of jobs by migrants would "become the main concern in 2009".

Chinese leaders already lose sleep over 20 million migrant workers—roughly a fourth of Philippine population. They lost their jobs

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DIRETSAHAN

Emil Reyes ng POSD-Buwagin ang mga Buwishit!!!

Dra. Florence Reyes? GISIIING!!!

By RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Nauuso na yata ngayon ang batuhan, batuhan ng sisi, batuhan ng dumi at baho etsetera. Pero ang nakakatuwa sa lahat ay itong batuhan ng sapatos.

Una ng binato ng sapatos si dating Presidente ng "Merika" na si George W. Bush at kamakailan ay ito namang Prime Minister ng Tsina.

Bakit kaya hindi na lang isama sa Olympic games ang batuhan ng sapatos? Sigurado ko, maraming misis ang mag-aaplay na trainer at coach, eksperto kasi sila sa pagbato ng sapatos sa kanilang mister.

O kaya ay mag-import na lang sila ng players, coach at trainers dito sa 'pinas dahil maraming magagaling ditong magbato ng sisi, dumi, baho at kasalanan. Kaya nga kadalasan ay marami ang nakakalusot at nadidiin dahil sa batuhan. Nakakalusot kung magaling kang mambato pero nadidiin pag hindi. He!he! katunayan, tampok ngayon ang larong batuhan sa Malakanyang, senado, kongreso, DOJ, PDEA, etsetera.

Ang isang matinding bato na anumang oras ay maraming matatamaan ay ang batong ipinukol ng World Bank sa 'pinas. Tingnan nga natin kung anong palusot naman ang gagawin ng mga anak ng huweteng, este anak ng mga kontratista para hindi sila matamaan.

Teka muna, sapatos ang pinag-uusapan, bakit napunta sa bato? Eh kasi mas matinding ibato ang bato sa sapatos. Ang sapatos, marami diyan sa wagwagan. Ang "bato" itinatago at ibinebenta ng mahal kahit ilegal. Dahil nga sa "bato" kaya marami ngayon ang nagbabatuhan ng akusasyon. Kumbaga, dahil sa "bato" marami ngayon ang nagiging kontrabida, este kontobersyal. Pero bilib din naman ako sa si Raul'o na matandang ulyaning ito na kahit anong ibato sa kanya ay hindi niya pinapansin. Sobrang "kapalmuks" (bato-bato sa langit ang tamaan siraulo at siguradong "bagok", Pweh!)

ooOoo

Ayon sa aking "bubuwit", may ibinulong daw sa kanya ang isang mapagkakatiwalaan umanong drayber ng taksi dito sa lungsod ng Baguio na ito raw King and I Taksi na may humigit kumulang na 6 hanggang 8 units na pag-aari umano ng isang Robert Uy ay may mga kolorum at tampered na metro. Alam daw ito ng isang alyas Dr. J sa may L.T.O.

Atensyon Marvin Flores, Hepe ng L.T.O. Baguio City. Totoo po ba itong ibinulong ng aking bubuwit, sir? Me alam ka ba dito? Kung wala, aba eh, paki aksyunan mo naman ito kung totoo ang sumbong. Pakibusisi nga rin po Apo Direktor Federico (Bong) Mandapat ng DOTC-LTRFB,CAR?!! Ser?

ooOoo

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

Occupation troops masquerading as non-combatants

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



The Associated Press (AP) reports that United States President Barack Obama is considering at least 2 withdrawal plans for Iraq. One of the two plans preserves Obama's pledge to get combat brigades out within 16 months but the other prolongs the stay of combat troops up to 23 months. There is also a middle option of 19 months but the first two are the ones being seriously considered.

In all options being considered, however, the United States would leave behind several brigades that are multi-purse troops providing training and advising for Iraqi security forces. The brigades would be considered noncombat units. This would reportedly run contrary to a deal signed last year that all US troops and not merely combat units would leave Iraq by the end of 2011.

Hence, there are ominous signs that the occupation of Iraq would continue even under the popular Barack Obama who has been considered by many Americans as a beacon of peace and hope. Obama is even reported by news reports to have said that his Iraq policy will include leaving behind a residual U.S. military force to conduct counter-terrorist missions against the Al-Qaeda in Iraq and protect the American diplomatic and civilian personnel. In effect, this is continuation of American occupation of Iraq in spite of an Obama.

While Obama has said that the United States will not build permanent bases in Iraq but will continue training and supporting the Iraqi military, there are two things that must be stressed. First of all, the weapons of war that the United States possesses do not require the use of permanent military bases. Military bases can be in ships and missiles can be launched even from the U.S. mainland. Military bases can be mobile in the era of the 21st century.

Secondly, Obama's promise is conditional: he will do away with permanent US military bases IF and only IF Iraqi leaders behave in accordance with American interests. Of course, the words used are not that explicit. The words used are something like this: US will move out of Iraq if Iraqi leaders move away from sectarianism.

In a nutshell, this is Obama's policy of responsibly leaving Iraq: Iraqi's must be responsible enough to accommodate US "advise" on Iraqi troops and political leaders must behave consistent with US interests. This shouldn't be too unfamiliar because the same tactic has been used by the United States in Vietnam. It was also used in the Philippines.

In Vietnam, US troops wore engineering and road construction clothes. In the Philippines, laws such as the Bell Trade Act were imposed on the Filipino people before sham independence was granted.

The Peace Combatant acknowledges that the Obama Presidency has the potential of signaling the end of a racial divide in America. Further, the Peace Combatant also acknowledges that Obama's win can also signal America's greater role in the fight against global warming and climate change (for America's economic interests, of course). Unfortunately, however, the Peace Combatant remains skeptical whether Obama's win can lead to greater world peace given that his so-called policy of a responsible ending to the US occupation of Iraq is nothing more than an irresponsible continuation of occupation of Iraq.

Like the Obama policy of never distancing itself from Israel (that in the mind of The Peace Combatant encouraged Israel's adventurism into Gaza), Obama's policy of "responsible ending to the Iraq war" is a sham because it does not constitute a genuine advancement of world peace.

Related to the above, one interpretation of history is that World War II was a way for the US to move out of the crisis of the great depression of the 1930s (this may or may not valid view), the fact that the US is also in a great depression today makes the realization of world peace under Obama, a serious concern of our time.

(The author maintains a website at www.geocities.com/arturoboquiren and can be contacted through artboquiren2040@yahoo.com and 0927-536-8431)

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Corruption goes on unabated at the BIR

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



UNABATED CORRUPTION GOES ON AT THE BIR: Finance Secretary Gary Teves must do something about the unabated rotten corruption at the Bureau of International Revenue (BIR), lest his award as Asia's best finance secretary is withdrawn from him.

The other day, a businessman from Marikina called up my office and submitted a complaint against a BIR examiner, in the Filipino language yet.

The complaint: "I wish to ask a question Atty. Batas. I want to know what can my friend do, in connection with a BIR examiner who wants to mulct or extort from him regarding a lot transaction. What can we do?"

-000-

SPIRITUAL DIMENSIONS FOR THE COALITION FOR THE DESERVING: The Coalition for the Deserving took off on an auspicious start last February 3, 2009, in simple yet dignified launching ceremonies presided over by spokesman Perfecto Yasay Jr., formerly the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and participated in by the leaders of the parties who formed the coalition.

I wish the parties well—Aksiyon Demokratiko, Reforma, Kilusang Bagong Lipunan ang Bigkis Pinoy—even as I pray to God that their leaders should be able to attain their lofty objective: choosing the deserving leaders of the country come 2010, without regard to party affiliations or economic conditions.

I am excited by the fact that we managed to inject some spiritual dimension in the choice of the qualities that would make a candidate "deserving" of the coalition's support, in that this candidate must be, among others, compassionate and righteous—capable of truly loving his fellow human beings, even as he sincerely obeys God's commands, laws and decrees.

My conviction is that, this is what sets the Coalition for the Deserving apart: while all other political movements in the Philippines are saying that the country needs morally upright leaders, what the Coalition is saying is that our leaders must have the fear and love of God in their hearts.

Indeed, if our leaders have the fear and love of God in their hearts, they will not fail to observe the admonitions of Jesus Christ for leaders found in Mark 10:43 to 45: "...Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all..."

-000-

WORLD BANK WITNESS VS. FG ARROYO, UNFAIR: The World Bank announcement that they have the statement of a Japanese contractor implicating First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to the rigging of public works projects funded by the bank is totally unfair.

For one, it looks like it is a demolition job against Mr. Arroyo, a demolition job whose objective is not only to discredit his person, but to assail the integrity of the entire Arroyo government where his wife is the leader.

The question here is: if there was really an incriminating accusation against the First Gentleman, why did not the World Bank ask him to answer the charges first before making a media event out of it?

Assuming, without conceding, that there is really a Japanese contractor who fingered Mr. Arroyo with accusations of rigging public works projects in the Philippines,

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PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

BAGUIO- JUETENG CAPITAL OF CORDILLERA

ATTN: RD- E. Martin, CD- Wilfredo Franco, Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr.

BY: ODELL "BOMBITO" AQUINO

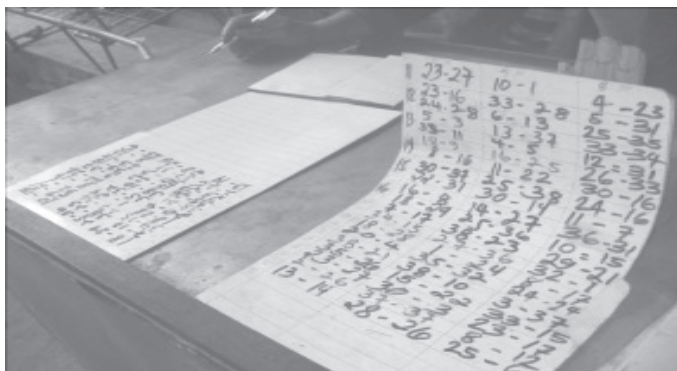


Email: aquino_odell@yahoo.com

Eto na mga dear readers ang sagot sa mga pang-iinis, patutya, at pang-aasar na mga text na aking natanggap nitong nakaraang dalawang linggo hinggil sa mga nakaraang kong expose sa impormasyon mula sa ating DPA about Jueteng kung saan ibinunyag natin ang nakaraang pag-papataas ng **PATONG** ng mga nakaraang opisyal habang binawasan ang tanggap o **PATONG** nila Juan de la Cruz na nakikinabang sa grasya at katas ng Jueteng. Marahil ay **SOBRA** na talaga ang **KAPAL NG MUKHA** at pagka **MANHID** ng mga kinaukulang opisyal - **PNP Regional Director Eugene Martin, PNP City Director Wilfredo Franco at Baguio City Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr.** Op cors wala silang isasagawang aksyon para patigilin ang salot na operasyon ng Jueteng sa Baguio!!! Ayon pa sa pa-ulit ulit na nag-tetext sa akin na patunayan ko raw na mayroon laman na operasyon ng Jueteng sa Baguio City, marahil ay isa kang **BULAG** at **BINGI** kaya ang mga larawan sa kolum na ito ay para sa iyo! At ikaw naman talaga Mayor **RAB**, isipin mo rin sana paminsan-minsan na dala-dala mo ang pangalan ni Reinaldo Bautista Sr. May maganda, may-ayos at kagalang-galang na pangalan, imahe at reputasyon ng iyong erpat lalo na sa business world at ni minsan ay hindi na involve sa ano mang hindi kanais-nais, hindi ba Meyer -SER????

####

Kayo ang humusga mga dear readers, aking pinakuhanan ng litrato ang mga lugar kung saan nakapaskil pa ang mga resulta/labas mula sa Jueteng. **THE JUETENG** - the favorite game of the nag-bubulag-bulagang public officials.



Above Photo taken at Vicinity of Dangwa station



Above Photo taken at Rajah Matanda St.

On borrowed time: two social workers battling big "C" finds therapy in compassion

It takes a rare kind of woman to be able to extend the genuine sympathy of a friend; the caring hands of a mother to strangers who ask them for counsel, aid, food, or as little as rags to cover some kids' bare backs with.

It takes an even special kind of woman to submit herself to emotional torment five days a week, hearing stories of how expensive it is to be poor; or, how eating once a day is a luxury for some; and emphatically refer to such ordeal as "job."

But it takes an extraordinary kind of a woman, a "gem lost in the sea," to do such a special woman's job while undergoing "trial by ordeal" - far greater than what she has previously encountered.

The dimly-lit corners of the City Social Welfare and Development Of-

fice (CSWDO) shimmer with two of them rare gems. Jane and Letty are battling cancer yet continue to give service to the underprivileged.

THE STORY OF JANE

50-year old Jane Concepcion is one of 'em special women, a social worker at the CSWDO for 25-years now, taking an almost daily dose of emotional stress.

She related, "I was deeply concerned when my doctor told me I had stage three breast cancer sometime in the summer of 2008."

She added, "My life seemed to come to a sudden stand-still after being diagnosed with the 'big C'... I suppose it is natural that my thoughts may turn to thoughts of dying, possibly a little more often than would the thoughts of most

others."

"Then I realized anyone's time on this earth could only be a matter of minutes as we live in borrowed time, borrowed life. How are we to know?"

"Well, there is no way we can know... it is just a fact of nature we must accept."

It was only after two months that Jane finally accepted dying is one and only thing every single person has in common. But she said, "Maybe I am even luckier than some who are younger than me because I'm still here doing what I love to do."

With the kindness of smiles that made her "hero" in the eyes of those she refers to as clients she said, "The Lord drives me. There must be a greater plan why I was hit by a ball in the same area in my high school days; or why I accidentally hit by a swinging door on

Cont. on page 11



Above Photo taken at Meat section, public market



Editorial

..... from page 4

before the Lunar New Year. "This will affect social stability", the Chinese Communist Party's office on rural policy says.

Smaller countries have little elbow room, the Economist Intelligence Unit notes. "Sharp reduction in remittances could result in rising poverty levels." Unemployment will mount. These fan social discontent."

This incendiary tinderbox may crop up here. A crucial election year looms ahead. Up to now, migration offered a safety-valve for pressures from local joblessness. About 3,752 Filipinos migrated daily, last year, to seek jobs abroad. Few signed up with communist rebels, handcuffed by an obsolete creed, periodic pogroms, and simple extortion. Would a reverse flood of jobless migrants seal that safety valve?

On the US-Mexico border, "there is no empirical evidence as yet such a reverse migration," the Economist observes. In the Philippines, there have been spotty reports of reluctant balikbayans. "210 OFWS back in Cebu jobless" reported Sun Star.

What appears "buoyant" remittances, in early January, could be illusory. Laid off migrants forced to return home, repatriate their savings. Reluctant balikbayans, thus, give a temporary boost to remittance totals.

"This is scant consolation," the Economist says. Filipinos say: consuelo de bobo. Until the world economy structural problems are fixed, we should all prepare to tighten our belts/J.L. Mercado

Diretsahan.....

..... from page 4

Hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa naaakasyunan ang sumbong na aking isinulat sa nakaraan kong kolum hinggil sa mabahong puwesto o tindahan ng mga manok sa may panulukan ng Hanger street at Lower Magsaysay Avenue. Ayon sa iba, dinadaan lamang daw ito ng mga POSD (totoo po ba ito Tsip Greg Delijero?) o, baka totoo ang bali-balita na malakas daw ito sa itaas as in "Untouchable"?!!! ano sey nyu, Meyor Peter Rey Bautista, Cristio Lagyop at Dra. Florence Reyes? GISIIING!!!

ooOoo

Mukha yatang nakaganda sa ating palengke ng Baguio ang pagbabalik sa POSD ni katotong Emil Reyes. Si Ginoong Reyes ay dating hepe ng POSD sa panahon ng Administrasyon ni dating Baguio City Mayor Braulio Yaranon at OIC Peter Rey Bautista Jr.

Sa pagbabalik niyang ito bilang hepe ng anti-peddling task force ng POSD eh medyo pinabilib tayo nitong si Reyes. Maayos at malinis ngayon ang kapaligiran ng palengke partikular sa Hilltop, 2nd at 3rd Kayang at Zandueta. Saludo ang diretsahan sa iyo apo Emil Reyes at sana ay hindi lamang ito "ningas kugon"!

IPAGPATULOY MO SIR!

ooOoo

Kung meron man mga public Servant o opisyal ng lokal na gobyerno dito sa Baguio City na dapat purihin at bigyan ng komendasyon, walang iba kundi sina Dra. Celia

Brillantes ng Baguio City Health Department at si Kernel Juanito Palaroan, hepe ng Baguio City Fire Department. Kumbakit? Malalaman nyu pa yan mga suki sa susunod na isyu ng aking kolum sito sa pahayagang palaban.

At sa mga pikon naman na mukhang nanggagalaite sa galit sa inyong lingkod, abah, magbago na kayo para mapuri ko naman kayo, katulad na lang itong hinayupak na sinisiraan ako sa NBI. Hoy, kung sino ka mang ungas ka hindi uubra yang demolisyon mo laban sa akin. Hindi ganon Katanga ang mga taga NBI para mapaniwala mo! Istayl mo bulok, Pweh ka!

Batas

.... from page 5

would it not have been a lot better if the World Bank presented the accusations before Philippine courts to enable him to answer the charges against him?

Why the haste in crucifying the First Gentleman even if he has not been proven guilty yet?

-ooo-

VISIT OF MARY TO ELIZABETH CONFIRMS BLESSINGS TO MARY: "Visitation" is what Roman Catholic Christians call the second mystery in the Mysteries of Joy (or Joyful Mysteries) of the Holy Rosary, and it is an account of Mary, the Virgin Mother of Jesus, visiting her ageing but pregnant cousin Elizabeth, wife of Zechariah, just after Mary had an encounter with Gabriel, the Angel of God.

The account of the "Visitation" is narrated in Luke 1:39 to 45 of the Bible, and there we will see that upon Mary's arrival at the house of Elizabeth and Zechariah, the baby which was in the womb of Elizabeth leaped inside her, with the Holy Spirit coming down upon mother and baby.

In a loud voice, Elizabeth exclaimed to Mary: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear", confirming Mary's status as someone blessed by God, as well as the holy status of her child.

Significantly, these words of Elizabeth are now enshrined in the Holy Rosary where the faithful intone: "Hail Mary, full of grace, blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus."

What is more, the greeting in that prayer, "hail Mary, full of grace", is the very same greeting that Mary got from Gabriel, the Angel of God, when it was announced to her that she will be with a child who will be called Jesus (Luke 1:28).

Elizabeth then confirmed the blessings that would come to anyone who believes in God, when she said to Mary: "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished..."

-ooo-

BATAS PARTY LIST: Interested parties can now become members of the BATAS Party List, or the Bagong Alyansang Tagapagtaguyod ng Adhikaing Sambayanan. Please send your names and complete addresses to us, through text, at 0919-609-64-89, or you can call (02) 433-75-49, (02) 433-75-53, or send an email to www.batasnews.com, or at batasmauricio@yahoo.com, or you can write us at 18 D Mahiyain corner Mapagkawanggawa, Teachers Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

Mayor creates task force against red tape

BAGUIO

CITY – Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. last week created Task Force CURE (Comprehensive and Unified Response to Eliminate Red Tape) in the city.

In Administrative Order No. 15, the mayor named himself as chair of the task force with Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas as vice chair and accreditation officer.

The task force will have the following tasks:

*Determine which processes or transactions constitute frontline services;

*Undertake re-engineering of transaction systems and procedures, including time and motion studies including review of the steps in providing the service, forms used, requirements, processing time, fees and charges, loca-

tion of the office and directional signs to facilitate the transactions; and

*Set up service standards to be known as the Citizen's Charter.

The move, according to the mayor, is based on Republic Act No. 9458 or the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007 to improve efficiency in the delivery of government service to the public by reducing bureaucratic red tape and preventing graft and corruption.

The members of the task force are Civil Service Commission city director Adela Esteban, Dept. of Interior and Local Government acting city director Evelyn Trinidad, city building and architecture office head Engr. Oscar Flores, city engineer Leo Bernardez, city human resource management officer Jose Dacawi, city treasurer Thelma Manaois and city auditor Augustus Medina./aileen p. refuerzo

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL
TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION OFFICE
OF THE CLERK
OF COURT & EX-
OFFICIO SHERIFF
Baguio City

RURAL BANK OF
LINGAYEN, INC.,
Mortgagee,

-versus -

JOSEPH P. CALSE
and
BENITA A.
RESUELLO,
Mortgagors.

X----- X

FORECLOSURE

CASE No. 09-98-S

EXTRA-JUDI-
CIAL FORECLO-
SURE
OF REAL ESTATE
MORTGAGE
UNDER ACT
3135, As
Amended

SHERIFF'S
NOTICE OF
SALE

Upon extra judi-
cial petition for
sale under Act 3135,
as amended, filed
by RURAL BANK
OF LINGAYEN,
INC., hereinafter
referred to as
MORTGAGEE,
against JOSEPH P.
CALSE and
BENITA A.

RESUELLO, hereinafter referred to as the MORTGAGORS, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of the filing of the petition amounts to P580,466.66, Philippine Currency, including interest and penalty but excluding attorney's fees and expenses incidental to the foreclosure proceedings, the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Sheriff: thru her deputy, hereby announces that on March 3, 2009, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippine cur-

rency, at the lobby (fronting the main entrance) of the Hall of Justice Building, Baguio City, the following properties more particularly describes as follows:

Untitled Lot
Covered by ARP No.
01-06001-36212

"A parcel of residential lot situated at Interior 40 meters from Military Cut-off road, Military Cut-off, Baguio City. Bounded on the NORTH by ASS. LOT N0. 027; on the EAST by ASS. lot No. 055 (ROAD), on the SOUTH by ASS. LOT No. 049 & 055 (ROAD) and on the WEST by SECTION

01. Boundaries are, bounded by visible monuments. Containing an area of TWO HUNDRED THIRTY FOUR (2341) square meters more or less."

BUILDING COVERED BY ARP No.
01-06001-79966

"A one (1) Storey residential building made of CHB and wood with G.I roofing. The said house has an approximately floor area of 27.25 sqm. more or less with a unit value of P3,330.00 and market value of P 90,740.00 assessed value Including all improvements

thereon.

Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real estate properties and the encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

Baguio City,
Philippines, this
3rd day of February, 2009.

By
(SGD) REMEDIOS
BALDERAS-REYES
Clerk of Court VI
& Ex-Officio
Sheriff

By (SGD) RUBEN
L. ATIJERA Sheriff-
in-Charge
Feb 8 - 15 &
22, 2009

Kids, drivers help family bury kid; baby needs help

It's too expensive to be poor that the sudden loss of a child can spell double whammy for family in mourning and surviving almost on empty.

Hours before eight-year old Jessica Tampol, a second-grader at the Rizal Elementary School, was to be buried early last Wednesday afternoon, surviving family members were at a loss on how to settle the funeral costs.

The day before, they felt a bit of relief when told grave diggers finally found, late in the afternoon, a pauper's patch for her at the over-crowded city cemetery.

The memorial chapel had billed them P15,000 for the wake ending last Wednesday. After deducting the amount for the grave diggers, they counted the donations and found

they were still P6,000 short.

Postponing the burial to Thursday might have given them time to figure that out. Still, what they could raise might not even be enough for the cost of an extended wake. They had already asked the funeral parlor to have an afternoon burial, for the time needed to dig the plot.

Jessica, youngest in a brood of four, succumbed to complications of diabetes last Sunday. The kid and the family just didn't know she had the disease. Not until last Christmas, when she complained of chest pains and was hospitalized. By then, it must have been too late.

On Christmas Eve, a couple visited the girl in the hospital. The pair did not identify themselves and just handed P3,000 to

Melina, Jessica's 38-year old mother.

"They said it was their wedding anniversary and wanted to celebrate it by reaching out to a patient," Melina said in Pilipino. "We were lucky they chanced upon my daughter, as she then needed all the help she could get."

When they learned of Jessica's passing, her schoolmates and teachers at Rizal pooled and delivered P1,738. Members of the Beckel Jeepney Association, whose staging area at the Happy Glen Loop was where Melina sold foodstuff she cooked to help make ends meet, contributed P800.

Two hours before the burial, the family again found relief. Shoshin, a humanitarian foundation based in southern Germany, shouldered the P6,000 shortfall. The amount was taken from a P66,000 fund the foundation ear-

lier set aside for the needs of three orphans in Ifugao.

Foundation chair Julian Chees, an Igorot from Bontoc, Mt. Province and former world traditional karate champion, said he will replenish the amount diverted so the girl could be buried.

After the burial, Melina and husband Pablito, a 42-year old off-and-gardener, were back to figuring out how to feed, clothe and raise their three other children: James, 8; Angelita, 15; and Jason, 17.

Jason quit high school to help earn as a barker for jeepneys plying the route to Pacdal. His father is looking for a job, while his mother is figuring out how to resume her cooking for the jeepney drivers waiting for their turn at Happy Glen Loop.

People able to help pull the family back to its feet may call 09202383342, the cellphone number of Pacing, the sister of Pablito. They can visit the family, which

has no cellphone, at its makeshift abode at 42 Happy Glen.

Samaritans may also want to support Lyka Cadaweng Masgay, a seven-month old toddler who was back at the SLU Hospital of the Sacred Heart last week for a complicated congenital heart defect. Her case was diagnosed as transposition of the great arteries, with ventricular septal defect and patent foramen ovale.

"My daughter wants to live; we can see it in her eyes,"

wrote Lyka's father, Eduardo.

The baby's grandmother, a worker in Israel, was able to work out her surgery there as a charity case; The family, however, has to work out a medical travel grant for her, her mother and an accompanying cardiologist.

Eduardo said it would be more costly to have the corrective surgery done in Metro-Manila. Samaritans can ring up 09202973570, Eduardo's cellphone number./Ramon Dacawi.

Notice of hereby given that the estate of the late ERNESTO FLORES SARMIENTO

who died at, Baguio City, on February 7, 1993 has been settled by his heirs

through an extrajudicial settlement with simultaneous waiver of rights, dated

February 2, 2009 and recorded in the national registry at Atty. Melita Amylesha

D. Macaraeg as Doc. No. 101 on Page No. 21 Book No. 1, Series of 2009.

Feb 8 - 15 & 22, 2009

Chiz to dig.....**..... from page 2**

"To avoid the practice of what the World Bank has already called a major cartel, discretion of procurement agencies should be lessened and observers should be invited to participate in the bidding process," he said.

The WB blacklisted four Filipino contractors which bidded for contracts under Phase One of the National Roads Improvement and Management Program, known as NRIMP 1, last year.

Of the four firms, E.C. de Luna Construction Corp. and its owner, Eduardo de Luna, were permanently barred from doing business with the multilateral institution.

The Bank said that it stopped the disbursement of US\$33 million to the sanctioned firms after "suspicions of collusion were raised" following an internal probe early last year.

Escudero is scheduled to speak Friday evening before the World Bank Group/International Monetary Fund Filipino Staff Association at the IMF auditorium in Washington D.C.

During the two-hour meeting, the opposition senator will touch on the "Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on the Philippines: Practical Solutions to Weather the Storm."

The senator is in Washington to attend the 57th National Prayer Breakfast which will have US President Barack Obama as its main speaker. He will return to Manila on February 9./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

State of trust.....**..... from page 2**

Escudero.

He also expressed concern about the allegations of extortion raised by Celso delos Angeles against the Bangko Sentral, saying that this is a very serious charge that the BSP should squarely address.

"If there is no truth to it, BSP should categorically express so, but if this is true, they should address it head on and sack those who need to be sacked," Escudero stressed.

As co-chairman of the senate inquiry on the problems of pre-need companies, he vowed to look deeper, with dispatch, into the manner by which the prevailing rules on the registration and sale of pre-need plans under the securities regulation code are implemented.

"We will address the problems responsible for the closure and mess in pre-need companies. We need to take a closer look at our regulating bodies and see if rules are executed for the protection of the investing public. It's high time that the laws of securities are properly implemented in this country," Escudero said./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Baguio braces.....**..... from page 3**

tion of NPC of a number of lands identified and offered by the city."

Further, Rabanes said there is no basis for rentals now claimed by NPC since there were no contracts ever entered into by the parties.

The NPC complaint alleged that in November 26, 1974, Lardizabal wrote NPC seeking authority for the use of 10-parcels of land covering 6, 332-square meters for use as STP.

Earlier, NPC demanded accrued rentals amounting to P17.3-million and for the city to vacate said property. It now prays the court an award of P500-thousand by way of litigation expenses against the city.

The city however claimed, "The request of Lardizabal did not cover the whole 10-parcels of land."

"Of the total area owned by NPC, the city occupied merely a fraction of the same amounting to 2,596-square meters," Rabanes in the city's pleading said.

NPC complained that due to the accommodation of the Lardizabal request and failure of the city to swap lands, it was forced to rent office space. The city claims however that the lot where the STP now lies, is right-of-way for NPC's power lines and therefore "not suitable as office site."

The case now falls under the jurisdiction of Regional Trial Court Branch 5. Until said court conducts a pre-trial conference and a full-blown trial is had, hope in settling the issue via a compromise agreement is still an option./ISL

PB 2009 activities.....**..... from page 3**

"Let A Thousand Flowers Bloom," a participative painting activity at Melvin Jones on Feb. 22, and The Pony Boys' day at Burnham Park on March 7, were revived activities, missing out on last's year's line-up.

Games on horseback, Gymkhana, shall be played by contingents from Pacdal, Mines View, John Hay, La Trinidad's "Los Cabaleros," interspersed with fancy racing during pony boys' day.

A Vintage Car show goes on until Feb. 8, while Munay: Music of the Andes is performed Feb. 8; Blooms and Brews, an open-air flavored coffee experience with acoustic nights opens Feb. 9 up to March 8; Flower up your hat competition on Feb. 9 to March 8; Camerawalls Band Mall Tour on Feb. 13; Valentine Duets and Serenades on Feb. 14; Panagbenga Princess search on Feb. 15; all events to be done at SM city Baguio.

Sining Kultura presentations hosted by the Department of Education and Local Government of Baguio, shall go on Feb. 11 and 12 at the Baguio Convention Center after the parade on Feb. 10 from Session road up to Teacher's Camp Centennial Park.

Sail on...Currahea Tour goes on at the Baguio Convention Center on Feb. 15. Other activities are also on-going at other venues./juliegfianza

Dads allow.....**..... from page 3**

but the offer would increase the number of hours being billed from ten to 12 burning hours. The power firm however assured this will benefit the city in terms of efficient and effective service.

Some city officials particularly members of the city local finance committee have expressed reservations on the proposed take-over and sought more time to study the proposal vis-à-vis the city's original plan to pursue the metering system.

During the council session, BENECO general manager Gerardo Verzosa however said the metering system "is not that ideal" in terms of operation and maintenance.

City budget officer Leticia Clemente however maintained the local finance committee's stand that a more comprehensive study be done before the city council acts on the matter./ailen p. refuerzo

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

RAMON NGAYAAN**Applicant****Case No: 94 -01-224****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 and passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA - GUISAD and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on February 17, 2009 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 6th day of February 2009.

(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

ANTONIO JIMENEZ**Applicant****Case No: 2004-BAG-CAR-0098****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 February 17, 2009 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.

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

Chiz calls.....**..... from page 1**

vene just to amend the economic provision of the constitution, anybody can stand along the way and call for a move to amend the very rule which made them convene. They can now move to include term extension.”

“What they want us to do is close our eyes and allow what could later turn out to be the rape of the Constitution.”

Escudero said the President's party mates should stand down and let cha-cha begin in the next administration./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Tale of two.....**..... from page 12**

case outright over what appears to be a technical loophole on non-compliance over unpaid appeal fees.

In dismissing the election protest, Comelec said that the protestant failed to pay the appeal fee, prescribed under existing election rules and regulations. Particularly cited in the Comelec resolution dated January 21 (five days earlier) the election body dismissed the election protest (EAC No. A-48-2008) filed by one Armando Ramos against Rommel V. del Rosario after the former failed to comply with the required payment of appeal fee. In that particular ruling, Comelec said that it has no jurisdiction over the case. Ramos and del Rosario are protagonists in Balanga City (Bataan) 2007 local election.

In the case of Centena's election protest against Divinagracia, the protestant (Centena) likewise failed to pay the required appeal fees, which in effect disallows the election body to act on it.

Comelec has been consistent in its ruling to dismiss election protests even for that simple reason that the protestant failed to pay the required appeal fee, which is a must before the election body could even act on it. The election body has in fact invoked jurisprudence in resolving a long list of cases involving dismissals of election protest based on this ground, which COMELEC described as mandatory.

Citing Section 3 and 4 of Rule 40 of the COMELEC Rules of procedure, the election body provides for the payment of appeal fee, within the period the file the notice of appeal. Moreover, Section 9 (a), Rule 22 provides that failure to pay the correct appeal fee is a ground for the dismissal of the appeal.

Vice mayoralty candidate Centena, who ran and lost under the administration party failed to pay the corresponding appeal fee to defray the cost of the legal procedure. Divinagracia, on the hand was the vice mayoralty bet of the Liberal Party. Divinagracia became the local chief executive replacing Mayor Lao, who died even before he could finish his three-year mandate.

In what appears to be a similar election protest, candidate for Vice President, now Sen. Loren Legarda, was also ordered by the Presidential Election Tribunal to pay the corresponding appeal fee, “or they (PET) would have to junk the protest case he filed against Vice President Noli de Castro”./ PNS

City closing.....**..... from page 12**

deal with other local governments.

In the area, the city can develop a three-hectare site for the landfill facility and the mayor said this would not be a problem as a one-hectare area could take two to four years to fill.

The mayor said the area could also be expanded as the site is surrounded by alienable lots that the city could later possibly acquire.

Apart from the Sto. Tomas property, the open pit mine site in Antamok as a special case as it was offered for the city's free use by the Benguet Corporation, albeit it will require the highest cost.

While the landfill site selection is still in the pipeline, the city will continue to rely on hauling activities for its waste management for the next three to four months.

The mayor said the city will also pursue its other waste management projects particularly the setting up of materials recovery facilities in the different barangay districts and the purchase of dump trucks and other machineries that will help reduce wastes./aileen p. refuerzo

On borrowed**..... from page 6**

my way out of the lavatory in work one day.”

“I appreciate even the smallest things now, my relationships with friends, offcemates and even the most casual acquaintances that I make.”

Most especially, while not having been blessed with a child, she said she appreciates how the lightest touch of her husband becomes more than a million words that mean only one thing – love.

A GRANDMA'S ODE

When her doctor told her she had “stage four” aggressive carcinoma in her throat, Letty's (*full name withheld upon request*) motherly instinct almost instantly shrouded her being. She was alone when she got the news.

She recalled, “It almost seemed the thought of dying was almost beyond comprehension... I walked going to the market from the clinic with a blank stare; got my cellphone and asked my family to come home early; then went to market to buy them something to eat.”

“At that time I was not sure, is it that the thought of dying is almost like an abstract thought of something far, far in the future.” she added.

Letty has been a special woman since 1980. She became a rare gem in 2007.

She recalled, “When I told my family about my situation, my daughter told me, ‘you have so much more to live for, so many more to help. If you could just submit yourself to medication and to the Lord, you can do it... you can beat cancer.’”

“I felt very comfortable then,” she

said adding, “I wasn't just a number, my family and now my offcemates made me realize I was a person.”

She said, “I am not unique in any way so I can only imagine that as these thoughts plague me, so must they for many others.”

“That same week, I realized that maybe my ordeal is simply the Lord's way of making me realize things I neglected during my younger days.”

In 2007, Letty was advised to undergo operation by her doctors but fear got the better of her. She never pushed through with it. Worse, she was rushed to the hospital sometime after because of heart irregularities, probably triggered by depression.

Researching her own condition in the net, she said she knew she was living on borrowed time. But with uncanny resoluteness, she said she'll slug it out so she could help more clients.

“If the Lord will get me now,” she mused, “At least, I don't have to convince myself that I enjoyed my life and my family who now provides me with strength. More than that, I enjoyed the hugs and kisses from my grandchild.”

“I drop everything when I hear little footsteps coming through the front door,” she added.

THE HELPING CONTINUES...

As both extraordinary women sat side by side in the conference room of the CSWDO, their mutual admiration for each other was simply overwhelming.

Because they have similar experiences, both of them agree that they appreciate each precious moment now, more than ever.

“Our conditions can't stop us from doing our jobs, from helping more,” Letty said.

She added, “With our exposure to different sorts of problems, it's a no brainer that we should show our clients we are indeed, a lot stronger.”

Both however admitted the cost of treatments has become the greater burden – even greater than the illness itself. On the other hand, their being extraordinary still finds its way through their worries.

In an earlier conversation, CSWD chief Betty Fangasan acknowledged Jane and Letty to be extraordinary people during an extraordinary time.

“Maybe,” Fangasan said, “We can knock on the hearts of those who care for CSWDO clients by helping our social workers achieve their purpose – to help more.”

Donors may call up the CSWDO at landline numbers 446-2718, 442-7893, or 442-3842.

The two social workers have each received nominations for City Hall's outstanding employees citation with none actually bagging the plum. But to the hearts of many, their excellence transcends time and even humanity. **ISL

Number coding suspended for private vehicles up to may 4

BAGUIO CITY—Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr. through an administrative order issued January 30 has suspended the traffic number coding scheme for private vehicles until May 4.

This is due to the Panagbenga celebration which started last Sunday, Feb. 1, the city's academic community and Philippine Military Academy graduation in March, and the observance of holy week in April,

which would definitely draw visitors.

Guests and vacationers are thus expected to arrive in the city by means of private motor vehicles or hired public utility vehicles.

"There is a need to provide a comfortable and stress-free journey to our city guests...by affording them the convenience and

freedom of touring and exploring the various tourist attractions of the city in the comfort of their personal vehicles," the mayor stated in Administrative Order 22.

The active participation of the local community to said festivities, was also considered in the issuance of the order.

In addition, hired or rented public utility vehicles of visitors, tourists and vacationers are exempted from the number coding scheme; provided appropriate documents such as contract or receipt of hiring or renting out of the vehicle, is presented, the AO read./juliegfianza

City closing in on landfill site selection

BAGUIO CITY—The city government is now down to five choices in its bid to find a suitable location for its engineered sanitary landfill.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. Thursday said that the City Solid Waste Management Board (CSWMB) which he heads last approved on Wednesday the report of the inter-agency Technical Working Group recommending five sites from which to select the final landfill area.

Four of the five sites are located in Benguet province particularly Palali in Sablan town, Poyopoy in Tuba; and Virac and Antamok in Itogon. A sole site located in the city particularly in Sto. Tomas barangay was also included in the list.

The five recommended sites were culled from a pool of 42 proposed locations

after months of thorough study by the TWG. They were selected based on results of the assessments done by the TWG which included engineering considerations and a cost-benefit analysis.

Bautista said the recommendation will be forwarded to the city council for final action.

In the Ugnayan Panlungsod media briefing, the mayor said that if he will have his way, he would prefer that the city develop the Sto. Tomas site considering its proximity and less cost required.

Results of the cost analysis showed that Sto. Tomas would require a total cost of P61 million while the Palali site

would need P77 million. Poyopoy would need P147million; Virac, P164 million while Antamok would cost the most at P186 million.

The cost assessment includes the development of access road and initial landfill development. Antamok's cost was highest because it included the restoration of an old riverbed.

The mayor said the Sto. Tomas site is the most viable as it will require less cost and would not require the city to

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THE WEEKEND JUNCTION



GOLDEN AIM. The be-medaled Baguio Archery Team inaugurates their new home at the Baguio Athletic Bowl by pulling 'em strings hoping their first bulls-eyes give them luck in time for the Cordillera Administrative Region Athletic Association meet hosted by the City. Members of the team led by coach John Hongitan earlier helped out in clearing the area making the Athletic Bowl improvement a community effort./Monch David

Tale of two Comelec rulings

CALINOG, Iloilo — A cloud of doubt shrouds a ruling issued by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) over a case involving a protest filed by a losing candidate during the May 2007 local election.

In an en banc resolution, dock-

eted as EAC No. A-10-2008, promulgated last January 26, the Commission on Election reversed a decision of a lower court that dismissed an election protest filed by former vice mayoralty candidate Alex Centena against Salvador

Divinagracia Jr., the vice mayor who rose to become the town local chief executive when the mayor died early in his term of office.

Interestingly, another election protest promulgated January 21 was dismissed. The Comelec junked the

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