

# THE WEEKEND JUNCTION



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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

## *Pahayagang palaban!!!* PGMA billboards on INFRA sites hit, Should instead be replaced with tax audit



Instead of having the president pose as a billboard model in Malacanang's "Ramdam ang Kaunlaran" billboards in public works construction sites, opposition Senator Chiz Escudero today proposed that it be replaced with those that list down the approved budget of a project, the construction period and the name of the winning bidder.

Escudero said the palace should haul all these billboards down and put that yardage of tarpaulin which government

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**PRESERVING THE HERITAGE OF BURNHAM** - Adopt-A-Fence advocates with the representative of the clans of Augusto and Crispina Matib and Lt. US Navy retired Sal and Lou Aragon, Jr. and the president of the Rotary Club of Baguio pose for posterity with Baguio Centennial Park Committee headed by Bishop Carlito Cenzone during the unveiling of their respective adopted portions of the Burnham Park Fence, Children's Playground. /By Bong Cayabyab

*Hay naku si pangulong  
GMA puos luho na  
wala sa lugar*



**LG KOMENTARYO,  
ISANG PALAISIPAN**



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CAPITAL OF CORDILLERA  
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*Mining in the Philippines*

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



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**DIRETSAHAN**

*Mga lintik na ipokrto at  
ipokrta!!! Bingohan sa AZCKO  
sarado na - ay salamat!!!*

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



## No financial privacy for public servants

**Chiz: Gov't officials should not hide behind banking secrecy laws**

Senator Chiz Escudero on Thursday called on his colleagues in Congress to work for the passage of a bill he filed which, if approved, would enable the government to examine the bank accounts and investments of civil servants.

Escudero said that had Senate Bill No. 1476 been passed into law, government officials like

State Prosecutor John Resado and former Agriculture Secretary Joc-joc Bolante may not be able to evade questions in any hearing about their financial standing, especially in congressional inquiries.

The bill, which puts in place a mechanism that allows the government to audit the finances of a civil servant, was among the those filed by the senator during his first year as a member of the Philippine Senate.

"To ensure that the civil servant does not use his position to enrich himself, there must be transparency in the financial standing of the civil servants. Once passed, this bill will serve as deterrent to graft and corruption," he said.

Escudero explained that once passed into law, the bill requires public officials and employees to submit a written permission or waiver in favor of the

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## Plan'll -conceived' Chiz rejects CHED's 5-year college proposal

Senator Chiz Escudero today brushed aside a proposal to convert the present educational system into a 5-year college system, describing it as "ill-timed" and "poorly conceived."

Escudero said the plan, proffered by the Commission on

Higher Education's (CHED), does not even merit the benefit of discussion especially during these times when an economic crisis looms over the roof of every Filipino family.

"This is one of CHED's plans that don't bode well for

the Filipino parents who are already feeling and bearing the economic crunch. Then we have those parents who unwittingly lost their educational savings for their children with the collapse of the pre-ned industry," he said.

The senator said that instead of saddling the Filipino parents with an additional cross to carry, CHED should hold their hands through these hard times.

Escudero stated that in lieu of the additional year in college, CHED should work within the existing four years and

improve the educational standards without increasing cost on the part of the students and the parents.

"The government cannot pass the buck to the people when there's a need to improve and work on a deficiency and inadequacy in the way they do things in the government. If coming at par with the rest of the world is what CHED and the Palace want for our students, they should start introspecting," he explained.

Malacañang said it is allowing CHED to revise the country's education

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## Pia: P1.415-T budget a 'missed opportunity' to help public health workers

Opposition Senator Pia S. Cayetano today said the P1.415-trillion proposed budget for 2009 that was approved by Congress last week missed the chance to realign much-needed funds for two long-pending laws that would have benefited thousands of health workers in the public health system.

According to Cayetano, the bicameral conference committee bungled a "golden opportunity" to reallocate funds slashed from debt servicing for the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers of 1992 (RA No.7305) and the Philippine Nurses Act of 2002 (RA No.9173). The P35-billion cut in debt interest payments was instead diverted to questionable items such as additional pork barrel funds for lawmakers and the so-called "economic stimulus" fund.

"I welcome the move to slash debt servicing by P35 billion, but I have a big problem with how they redistributed this to questionable and apparently self-serving items when they could have easily provided funds for the Magna Carta of Health Workers and the Nurses Act, two landmark laws that have remained unfunded for several years already."

"They wasted a golden opportunity to make a difference on behalf of our health workers, who have been toiling for meager pay and benefits, and under harsh employment conditions," she lamented.

Cayetano, a member of the Senate minority panel to the bicameral conference committee had lobbied on the Senate Committee on Finance for the inclusion in the 2009 budget of P1.011 billion for

the implementation of the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers. The amount would have covered the following: P523.7 million for the P1,500-monthly subsistence allowance and P487.8 million hazard pay of 29,087 public health personnel as mandated under said law.

The lady senator had also lobbied for an additional P586.4 million for the creation of 12,120 nursing positions under the national government and 1,079 in specialty hospitals as mandated under the Philippine Nursing Act.

Taken together, the realignments would have amounted to P1.6 billion, which is only less than five percent of the P35-billion slashed from debt servicing. Both requests were not included in the bicameral version of the budget, however.

"Given the exodus of our health workers, we need to provide them with additional benefits to encourage them to re-

**Cont. on page 10**



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THE  
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## Three toddlers cry out for help

Between shuttling from home to hospital, parents of three ailing kids make the rounds, hoping to stumble on help to repair the failing hearts of two of them and for another to undergo tests to evaluate the extent of his illness.

Stephanie Cupido Pagnas, who will turn three on April 5, managed to pose with legs akimbo for the camera. She looked like any normal kid who had just dipped her hands into a bowl of black berries and munched them.

She's a blue

baby. Her fingernails and lips are blue, a sign of congenital heart disease that doctors diagnosed as DTGA w/ VSD w/ PAH when she was three months old. It means, medically speaking, Dextro, transposition of great arteries with ventricular septal defect with pulmonary arterial hypertension.

Doctors at the Philippine Heart Center advised surgery as soon as possible, according to Delia, her 32-year old mother. "We were told it's

estimated at P500,000," Marlon, her 33-year old father, said.

Marlon is a farmer at Lamut, Beckel, La Trinidad, Benguet while Delia takes care of their two kids, including Shanna Mae, now over four years old.

The couple can be reached at cell phone numbers 09205709507 and 09195098811.

The other heart patient, a seven-year old baby girl, was back at the St. Louis

**Cont. on page 8**

## City asks metro clark facility for extension to dump wastes

BAGUIO CITY – The city government last week requested Metro Clark Waste Management Corporation (MCWMC) president and general manager Armando Garcia to continue accepting the city's wastes in its sanitary landfill in Capas, Tarlac pending formalization of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) for the disposal of the wastes between the city government and the landfill firm.

City administrator Peter Fianza, who was authorized by Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. to negotiate for the continuation of the waste hauling activities expressed hope that the city council will confirm the MOA after issues are clarified with the presence of the firm's top

executive himself in the body's regular session tomorrow (Monday).

The body last Monday decided to invite Garcia to its session to shed light on issues and concerns relative to the proposed formalization of the MOA.

"Hoping that the concern of your facility will be finally resolved in the regular session of the council on February 2, 2009, may we request that manifested ac-

tion to stop the city's disposal in your facility be deferred accordingly. We are sure that with your help the council will be clarified on all matters and have the (MOA) confirmed," Fianza told Garcia.

Mayor Bautista also assured that the city will do everything in its power to maintain the smooth garbage collection activities.

He said the city will continue

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**NO LET-UP** - Elements of the Public Order and Safety Division headed by Greg Deligero document an assortment of stalls and pushcarts of illegal vendors./Bong Cayabyab

## RAB tips treasury: "collect tax now; ask questions later"

BAGUIO CITY – Gone were the days when businessmen were literally required to "pray first before paying" to be issued business licenses.

In another move giving sunshine to local businessmen amidst an overcast world economy, mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr., January 30, issued Executive Order 02-2009, ordering issuance of business permits to booze-serving establishments sans required prior inspection by the Permits and Licensing Division, Treasurer's Office.

Bautista said,

"We need to fast-track collection of taxes in order to fund our projects... there is not better way to boost tax collection but by cutting the waiting line for our tax-conscious businessmen."

"These businessmen were responsible for upping our tax collection by more than 40-percent since our administration took over government reins... from a budget bordering P600-million, we are now

looking at close to a billion for 2009," he added.

Last year, the requisite "character seminar" which mandated liquor dispensary owners to learn how to seek salvation while selling booze was scrapped.

For 2009, EO 2-2009 would be the third executive issuance geared towards making paying taxes easier for the taxpayers.

Administrative Order (AO) 5-2008 issued January 10 dropped the sewer-

**Cont. on page 9**

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

Send us an email at [info@hlurb.net](mailto:info@hlurb.net) or text/call 0917-5069123 and we will post the information at [www.hlurb.net](http://www.hlurb.net).

**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

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## Fanning A Firestorm

Would you name a forger as Central Bank governor?" The President did just that, Senator Aquilino Pimentel claims, when Ms. Arroyo chose Vice Admiral Tirso Danga to head the National Printing Office. Among other things, NPO prints ballots for all elections.

The ex-intelligence service chief's nomination triggered a firestorm. The National Movement for Free Elections and Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting flayed Danga's selection, saying: his fingerprints were on the "Hello Garci" scandal.

The new NPO chief "was involved in questionable issues in the 2004 elections," noted Ambassador Henrietta de Villa. She chairs Namfrel and PPCRV. "This appointment does not augur well for transparency in the 2010 elections."

The last thing this country needs is another brawl. The

administration is already, up to its neck, in muck: from the ZTE broadband

## EDITORIAL

scam, Joc-Joc's fertilizer racket to road construction fleecing

Yet, Ms Arroyo's appointees stoke fury. She'd shove, into the Dangerous Drugs Board, ex-general Jovito Palaparan. Religious leaders have documented Palaparan's massive infractions of human rights. The Melo Commission urged charges be filed against Palaparan.

Now, comes Danga. If Pimentel is right, its tracks go back to the unsolved murder of Ensign Philip: Pestano, in 1995, abroad the RPS Bacolod. The 24-year old cargomaster refused to allow shipments of 14,000 board feet of illegal logs, weapons, and drugs. "Kawawa ang bayan," he told his parents after phone threats.

Pestaño committed suicide, the Navy said without investigation. Naval intelligence commander then was a captain known as Tirso Danga. He defended the suicide claim, at the joint probe by the Senate Committees on Human Rights and National Defense (May 5 to Sept. 3, 1997).

That inquiry found that Pestano had been murdered, Senate President and former Supreme Court chief justice Marcelo Fernan reported. Systematic tampering of evidence and evasions were pinpointed by veteran investigator: then senator, now Manila mayor, Alfredo Lim. Pestano's alleged suicide note was shown to be a forgery. Lim flayed Lt (jg) Joselito Calico for wiping the murder weapon. Calico promptly disappeared.

"Identify the persons who participated in the deliberate attempt to make it appear that Pestano killed himself inside his stateroom," senate directed the Military Ombudsman in January 1998. Eleven years later, the Ombudsman hasn't budged beyond "preliminary investigation". Four of seven charged, by Pestano's parents have vanished.

The case festers. GMA News & Public Affairs launched, last week, a new program titled: "Case Unclosed". Hosted by Kara David, it zeroes on crimes left unresolved by cupidity and short memories. The first program featured the Pestano case.

GMA program went on air as Pimentel asserted: "Danga was implicated in the cover-up of ensign Philip Pestano's murder." These and Danga's appointment uncorked a slew of questions. These include:

\*Whatever happened to the RPS Bacolod's radio operator? PO2 Fidel Tagaytay agreed to brief the Provost Marshall about two gunmen, one who was sneaked aboard RPS Bacolod. He never showed up.

The Navy declared Tagaytay "missing". Who had the motive –and capacity– to tap his calls to the Provost Marshall? Is he still alive? Or was he rubbed out?

\* PO2 Zosimo Villanueva tipped off Pestaño on the drugs and arms being loaded. As a result, Pestano refused to sign clearances for the illicit cargo. Now, Villanueva is dead too. How did that happen? Dead men tell no tales?

\*Danga's trusted aide PO2 Carlito Amoroso "retired". He never answered what he was doing aboard RPA Bacolod on the day Pestano was killed. Was Danga there too? If so, what for?

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## DIRETSAHAN

*Mga lintik na ipokrito at ipokrita!!!  
Bingohan sa AZCKO sarado na – ay  
salamat!!!*

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Mukhang paboritong paborito ngayon ng ating mga opisyal ng gobyerno ay ang mga estudyante, una nang ikinasa ang sapilitang random drug test sa mga ito at ngayon naman ay iminumungkahi na gawing 5-6 na taon ang mga 4 na taong kurso. Susmaryosep, baka sa susunod, kelangan pareho ang kurso ng 2 estudyanteng balak ng mag-asawa.

Wala kayang plano ang ating gobyerno na magbukas ng kurso para sa mga bobo? Kung meron man marami sa kanila ang magiging iskolar... he,he, wala po akong pinatatamaan!

ooOoo

Binaligtad naman ni Barack Obama ang mga polisiyang pangkalikasan ni dating pangulong George W. Bush ng "merika"! Kung makakabuti ito sa pangkalahatan, wel en gud, pero kung makakasama... sumpain nawa

Dito naman sa pilipinas itinalaga ni pangulong arroyo ang sarili bilang environment CZAR!!

Noong Una, Anti-Drug CZAR, baka naman sa susunod itilaga na rin nya ang sarili bilang Anti-Smuggling, Anti-Gambling, Anti-Kidnapping, Anti-Riot, Anti-Jaywalking, Etcetera?

Dapat kasi pagsisipain na nya ang mga mala-inutil nyang mga opisyal at palitan na ng mas karapatdapat, para kasing pinapasakan lang nya ang mga butas na nililikha ng mga bata nya, eh hindi naman sya super-glue, este super glo na pwedeng panakip sa lahat ng butas.

Saan ka naman nakakita ng presidente na pwedeng bansagang super anti-cesar? Onli in da pilipins? Napakasakit kuya Cesar!

ooOoo

Hindi pa natatapos ang batuhan ng baho sa pagitan ng prosekyutor ng DOJ na si Rekado, este Resado at ang PDEA agent na si Marcelino at PDEA lawyer na si Atty. Lazaro, eto at mukhang umaalagwa naman ang napipintong bangayan nina Senadora Miriam Defensor Santiago at ilang mga kongresista sa isyu ng pagtataray ng nabanggit na Senadora sa mga kontratista na blacklisted sa World Bank

Ano naman kaya ang susunod na magbabangayan? Baka naman ang partidong lakas at kampi... kung sakali kanino kaya kakampi si pangulong GMA? Sa mga ka-kamping ma-lakas o sa ma-lakas na ka-kampi? Sigurado ko pagnagkataon, papagitna sya at sabay sigaw BREAKKK!! MERGE! MERGE! MERGE! Hu! Hu! Hu! Hu!

ooOoo

Isang Korean School sa may Marcos Hi-way ng Baguio City ang nabangkarote hindi dahil sa Global Crisis kundi sa kagagawan ng isang pinay na pinagkatiwalaang mamahala sa naturang eskwelahan.

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## THE PEACE COMBATANT

*Mining in the Philippines*

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



This 4 February 2009, a book launching will take place in the University of the Philippines-Diliman. Dr. Robert Goodland and Clive Wicks wrote the book. Dr. Robert Goodland is an environmental scientist specializing in economic development. He has been advising the World Bank Group since 1978. He was the technical director to Dr. Emil Salim's independent Extractive Industry Review of the World Bank Group's portfolio of oil, gas, and mining projects.

Goodland was president of the International Association of Impact Assessment, and Metropolitan Chair of the Ecological Society of America. Just last year (2008), he was awarded the World Conservation Union's Coolidge medal in October.

Clive Wicks has 48 years of experience of working in engineering, agriculture and environment, specializing in the impact of extractive industries on the environment. He chairs the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. He chairs the IUCN's Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, and co-chairs IUCN's Working Group on Social and Environmental Accountability of the Private Sector.

Wicks worked in the international environmental movement for the last 24 years, mainly with the World Wildlife Fund-United Kingdom. He headed WWF UK's African, Asian and Latin American programmes, and represented WWF at the G8, World Bank, International Finance Corporation, United Nations Environmental Program and United Nations Development Program meetings on extractive industries. He is considered by some non-government personalities as one of the most hated by the most oppressive mining companies that operate worldwide.

The two were commissioned by Minister of Parliament Clare Short of the United Kingdom to do a study on Philippine mining. The study was co-sponsored by the United Kingdom's Working Group on Mining in the Philippines, Columban Faith and Justice, The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility, Paul K. Feyerabend Foundation, National University of Ireland, Irish Center for Human Rights, German Catholic Agency MISEREOR, Piplinks, and PAFID. UK Minister of Parliament Clare Short commissioned the study as a follow-up to her work in 2006. In 2006, the good minister led a United Kingdom Factfinding Mission on mining in the Philippines and was shocked by the negative impact of mining.

Key findings of the Goodland and Wicks Report:

1. Declare a moratorium on mining. In particular, they said that no mining should take place in areas visited by them: Zamboanga, Cotabato, Davao, Negros, and Mindoro.
2. Stop the expansion of mining areas and enforce international standards and best practice in existing ones.
3. Prioritize food production and de-prioritize mining.
4. Revoke the 1995 Philippine Mining Act or Republic Act 7942.
5. Stabilize the livelihoods of people through reforestation.
6. Enforce the polluter-pay principle.
7. Ensure water quality and prevent acid mine drainage.
8. Enforce regulations on cyanide use and consider banning the chemical.
9. Compel mining companies to prepare a budget for mine closure when applying for permits.
10. Require mining firms not to dispose tailings in rivers nor at sea.
11. Identify and implement "No Go" zones for mining.
12. The World Bank group should be required not to support the expansion of mining areas in the Philippines.

Goodman and Wicks tapped The Peace Combatant to write a small section of the Goodman and Wicks report. The Peace Combatant stressed in the report that contrary to government claims, mining is the wrong engine for growth.

(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) and 0927-536-8431)

## KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

*Samar State U prexy ouster sought*

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



**TARPAULIN SIGNS ON EDSA DOS WILL BRING GOD'S WRATH AND PUNISHMENT TO FILIPINOS:** Whoever put up the huge tarpaulin signs in strategic locations in Metro Manila proclaiming that "we are not sorry for EDSA Dos, let the spirit of EDSA live on" do not know what they were doing.

While the signs are obviously meant to spite former President Cory Aquino, whose picture in the tarpaulin signs is shown torn away to one side to symbolize a break from her over her statement that she was sorry for having led EDSA Dos, they also reiterate the Filipinos' propensity to fight and oust their leaders and authorities in government.

Now, whether those who put up the signs knew it or not, the statements in those signs represent a mockery and gross violation of God's commands, laws and decrees, particularly Romans 13:1, which says: "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God..."

And, since those signs show that we continue to be a nation which has no qualms about violating God's commands and decrees, we will continue receiving the wrath and curses of God, for it is written in Romans 13:2 that "...he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves..."

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**2010 PRESIDENTIABLES CHALLENGE: PLAN OF SPIRITUALITY:** I hope Ms. Dahli Aspillera, a columnist of Malaya, already received my email answering her concerns on a press statement I issued, on behalf of the newly-formed "Alyansa ng Mananampalataya" (or Alliance of Believers), which challenged 2010 presidentiables to come up with their respective "Plans of Spirituality" for the Filipino nation.

For purposes of record, I am reproducing here, in installment, that answer of mine to Ms. Aspillera's concerns. Here is the first installment:

"Dear Ms. Aspillera...Here are my answers, points of clarification and emphasis: First. The Alyansa was born as a result of the perception of its members, particularly the group I organized and called 'Anak ng Diyos', that the Philippines and the Filipino people are now engulfed by curses which God promised to a people who no longer listen to Him and follow His commands, laws and decrees.

"Second. With utmost humility, I am convinced that God's curses are already upon us because almost all the problems, sufferings and difficulties that our country and our people are now experiencing are the same curses that God promised in the Bible, particularly in Deuteronomy 28:16 to 68..."

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**SAMAR STATE U PREXY OUSTER SOUGHT:** The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is being asked to remove the president of the Samar State University, Dr. Simon Babalcon Jr., whose term of office was extended to 2011 by CHED authorities themselves.

In a letter-complaint to CHED Chairman Emmanuel Y. Angeles, seven members of the Samar State University Faculty and Employees Association —Dr. Azucena A. Tabajonda, Dr. Ernesto Longasa, and Professors Leah F. Longasa, Anita P. Legatub, Erlinda E. Uy, Nimfa Y. Dela Cruz and Eliza C. Porcil— said Babalcon "is doing more harm than good to the employees and students" of SSU.

"...the attainment of the SSU vision, mission, goals and objectives cannot anymore be realized (if Babalcon continues

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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**

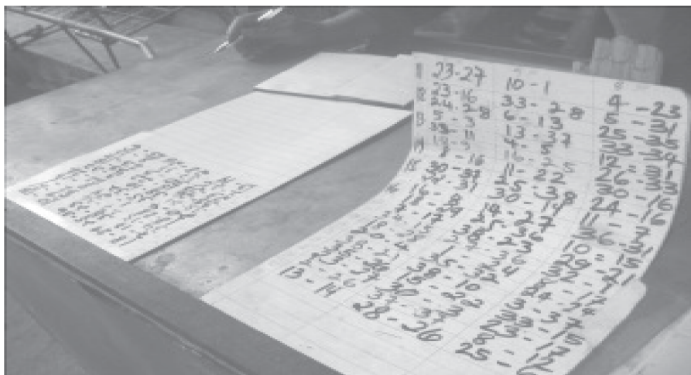


Email: [aquino\\_odell@yahoo.com](mailto:aquino_odell@yahoo.com)

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 opisyaes 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 opisyaes – **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 laganap 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, mayos 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 Meyor –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.

## Batas

to be president)," the complaints added.

President Arroyo was furnished a copy of the letter-complaint, as well as of the attachments supporting the allegations against Babalcon.

Starting tomorrow, God willing, I shall be reproducing here the entirety of that letter, so, for all interested parties, stay tuned!

**DOH LAUNCHES P100 PER PACK MEDICINE PROJECT:** Poor and marginalized Filipinos all over the country are now benefiting from the "P100 per pack" medicine project of the Department of Health, after it was launched last month in time for the Christmas season.

The P100 per pack medicine project, which offers common drugs and medicine used for hypertension, diabetes, infection, asthma, hypercholesterolemia, arthritis and others for the price of only P100 per pack, is official known as "Cheaper And Quality Medicines are Coming to Town."

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the project was launched at the East Avenue Medical Center, CTSI Philippines Distribution Centers, Region 1 Medical Center, Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital, Western Visayas Medical Center, Zamboanga City Medical Center and Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital.

The medicine packages will be available in pilot government hospitals, including, but not limited to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center, Cagayan Valley Medical Center, Bicol Medical Center, South Cotabato Provincial Hospital, and Ifugao Provincial Hospital.

The project, Secretary Duque explained, is in response to the DOH's mandate, under Republic Act 9502 (otherwise known as the "Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act of 2008"), and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, where the state is mandated to promote and ensure access to quality drugs.

-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](http://www.batasnews.com), or at [batasmauricio@yahoo.com](mailto:batasmauricio@yahoo.com), or you can write us at 18 D Mahiyain corner Mapagkawanggawa, Teachers Village, Diliman, Quezon City.



Above Photo taken at Meat section, public market





## Iligal na pagputol ng kahoy at puno, dapat ng tigilan.



Kamakailan lamang ang Linis Gobyerno at Beyond Borders Reporting (BBR International) ay lumagda ng isang kasunduan (Memorandum of Agreement) para sa monitoring activities on illegal logging and similar forest destruction and related environmental degradation activities na pangungunahan ng BBR Philippines. Ang magiging masusing partisipasyon ng Linis Gobyerno (LG) ay ang paghain ng reklamo at kinaukulang kaso sa mga maglalabag sa PD 705 or the Revised Forestry Code Of The Philippines at Executive Order 277. Hinggil dito ang BBR ay nag deploy ng mga monitoring teams sa iba't ibang rehiyon sa Pilipinas. Sa dakong ito ay nais manawagan ang Linis Gobyerno sa publiko na maaari ninyong iparating sa aming tanggapan (Email address: [info@linisgobyerno.org](mailto:info@linisgobyerno.org) or [info@beyondbordersreporting.net](mailto:info@beyondbordersreporting.net) or text/call- (0917) 506-9123 ang ano mang impormasyon hinggil sa mga iligal na pagputol ng puno at kahoy.

### The Philippines should show strong political will in addressing destructive logging in its own backyard.

Manila, PHILIPPINES (Dec. 2005) - The Philippine experience on illegal logging and the resulting catastrophic effects of severe deforestation should serve as a lesson to other countries in the enforcement of measures to stop forest destruction, particularly illegal logging and associated illegal timber trade, Greenpeace said today at the conclusion of the East Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Customs Law Enforcement Workshop.

The Philippine experience on illegal logging and the resulting catastrophic effects of severe deforestation should serve as a lesson to other countries in the enforcement of measures to stop forest destruction, particularly illegal logging and associated illegal timber trade, Greenpeace said today at the conclusion of the East Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Customs Law Enforcement Workshop.

"Destructive logging in the country has been the cause of extremely devastating catastrophes such as the tragic Ormoc, Aurora and Quezon disasters," said Greenpeace Southeast Asia Campaign Director Von Hernandez, "It is ironic that the Philippines, who is Chair of the FLEG Task Force, and thus lead agent in its mission to address violations of forest laws and commission of forest crimes, is itself currently unable to act on the problems that the FLEG process aims to eradicate. Moreover, recent moves by the DENR to open remaining intact forests to large-scale logging shows that the government itself is not serious in reversing forest destruction."

"The government's schizophrenic approach to forest protection cannot continue," added Hernandez.

Greenpeace, an observer at the FLEG Customs Law Enforcement Workshop hosted by the DENR, also stressed that the Philippine government, as FLEG Task Force Chair, should take the lead in adopting measures at the national and local government levels, in order to combat destructive logging.

The FLEG is a process that seeks to involve international collaboration to combat forest crimes. In East Asia, the FLEG Process emerged out of a series of multi-stakeholder consultations in 2001 prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("WSSD") Ministerial preparatory meetings



in Bali, Indonesia. The FLEG Task Force and Advisory Group regularly conduct meetings to review progress on actions to implement the commitments of participating countries and to assess and determine current challenges of the forestry sector. The Philippines is hosting the next meeting February next year.

"As Chair of the Task Force, we appeal to the Philippine government to push the FLEG process forward in the East Asian Region, also to safeguard forest areas in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea, which are now suffering from the highest rates of deforestation in the world today, explained Hapsoro, Greenpeace Southeast Asia Forest Campaigner based in Indonesia.

"Time is running out for our forests. Strong measures to check forest destruction and illegal timber trade, as well as an ambitious timeline for their implementation, is crucial," he added.

Greenpeace is an independent campaigning organization that uses non-violent creative confrontation to expose global environmental problems to force solutions that are essential to a green and peaceful future.



## Editorial

## ..... from page 4

And how did he leave the ship?

\*Pestano was an honor student, both at Ateneo and Philippine Military Academy. He was no candidate for suicide. In fact, he was engaged to marry in four months. Yet, an affidavit surfaced that he was a drug user. Like the bogus suicide note, who was behind this farce?

\*Seven of Pestano's Philippine Military Academy classmates meticulously examined the cabin after his death. They were jolted when the video, taken by the navy public information office and cameraman PO1 Baroy, showed empty slugs and a bullet hole in the wall that were not there before. Who ordered that splicing. And why?

\*RPS Bacolod left Sangley for Manila at 7:18am. That trip normally takes 45 minutes. Instead it took all of one hour and a half as the ship meandered all over the place before docking at Roxas Boulevard. By then, Pestano was dead.

Pestano's parents gave up on knocking at Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez's door. "She has not agreed to see us." The venerable Jesuit, Fr James Reuter, meanwhile, started an e-mail campaign to get people to "knock on God's door" in prayer to secure justice for Pestano.

"Corruption is the curse of this nation," Fr Reuter writes. "When it takes root in the heart of our Armed Forces, they threaten our existence as an independent democratic country."

Admiral (or is it now National Printing Office head) Tirso Dunga will, I am sure, agree. So, will his Palace benefactress. Why, they may even say a prayer too./J.L.Mercado

## Diretsahan.....

## ..... from page 4

Dahil sa sobrang tiwala, hindi inakala ng may-aring koreano na iwawaldas ng pinay ang kinikita ng iskul, ang resulta sa iskul ni koreano? Iskul bukol!

Ang siste, mga kapwa pinoy at pinay na empleyado ang naapektuhan sa kagagawan nitong mapagsamantalang pinay. Hindi tuloy sila nasuwelduhan at ang iba'y napilitan na lamang umiskyerda kaysa mamatay sa gutom

Hay, kawawang koreano na pinagsamantalahan ng isang Pilipino. Ilan pa kaya ang katulad nila! Mga kalahi, mahiya naman kayo! PWEH!

ooOoo

Naipasara na rin sa wakas ang matagal ng inirereklamang bingguhan sa may tabi ng igorot park ng Baguio City. Ang bingguhang ito ay isang fund raising activity ng Azcko Barangay na ayon sa ibang kritiko ay isa raw itong illegal, pero nakakapagtaka naman na hindi nila napapansin ang ibang mga nakatagong ilegal na pasugalan. Kunsabagay, hindi ako magtataka na ang ibang ilegal tulad ng hueteng at bingoteng ay lantaran ang kubrahan pero patuloy na nagbubulag bulagan at nagbibingi bingihin ang mga lintek na ipokrito at ipokrito na Anti kuno, baka antay-grasya, bato bato sa langit, ang tamaan wag magalit!/#%#

ooOoo

Ibinulong sa akin ng aking "bubuwit"ang inirereklamang ilang mga nagdaraan at mga

kalapit na pwesto sa umano'y mabahong amoy sa isang tindahan ng mga buhay na manok sa ibabang bahagi ng moning cosme bldg, new market alley, panulukan ng lower magsaysay at hanger St. Baguio City.

Ayon daw sa mga nagrereklamo, sobra daw ang amoy na umaalingasaw sa naturang tindahan at kahit gaano raw ang gawing paglilinis ay hindi maalis alis ang amoy. Nadimolis na daw ito minsan pero nakabalik din kinalaunan dahil malakas daw ang may-ari ng bldg. sa city hall, ayon pa, wala raw kaukulang permit ang tindahan at ang ginagamit na permit ay permit daw ng bldg. Totoo po ba itong naibulong sakín mga bosing diyan sa city hall? Ano sey nyo dyan sa mayors opis, permits and licensing division, administration at POSD? Ano rin sey ninyo dyan sa sanitary division ng Baguio Health Department? AKSYUNAN NA!

ooOoo

Gaano kaya kaigting ang pagtutok ng local na National Telecommunications Division sa mga tindahan ng mga second hand na cellphones? Nakakabahala kasi ang balita na may sabwatan daw ang ibang may-ari ng tindahan at mga isnatser o kawatan ng mga cellphone. Hindi ba't meron tayong batas hinggil dito na kung tawagin ay Anti-Fencing Law?; kung saan ay bawal ang bumili o magsangla ng mga nakaw o iyong tinatawag na "Hot-items" nagtataka kasi ako kumbakit bihira yata ang nakakasuhan ng ganito, o baka naman nakakaligtan ko lang na masino ang mga ito sa Baguio Justice Hall, tama ba mga onorabel?

At sa mga bosing diyan sa NTC pakituunan nyo naman ng pansin ang isyung ito, Period!

ooOoo

Malapit ng idaos ang halos isang buwang selebrasyon ang panagbenga 2009 sa lungsod ng Baguio. Gaano kaya kahanda ang pamunuan nito at ang mga opisyal ng lungsod partikular ang kapulisan.

Sigurado kasi na magdadagsaan ang maraming bisita at ang magiging isang problema ay ang trapiko, at syempre andyan din ang pananamantala ng mga kawatan, pero alam ko na kayang kaya ito ng hepe ng Baguio City, tama ba tsip Wilfredo Franco, Ser?

## Three toddlers.....

## ..... from page 3

University Hospital of the Sacred Heart last week, barely a week after she was released from confinement. Like Stephanie, she was diagnosed for transposition of the great arteries, with ventricular septal defect. The difference is the third defect – patent foremen ovale.

Her grandmother, an overseas worker in Israel, was able to apply the baby's case for corrective surgery there, but this has to wait until a medical travel grant is arranged and she is fit enough for the trip.

Her mother has just undergone first-aid training as part of the travel requirements, only to be back with her husband on hospital watch and worrying over the mounting medical bills.

The baby's name will be published as

soon as her parents allow that would enable Samaritans to reach them.

Third patient is eight-year old Mark Kevin Clarito, son of a laborer at 48 Paredes St., Middle Quezon Hill. His complicated condition is diagnosed as Langerhan's cell histiocytosis, central diabetes, insipidus, infected seborrheic dermatitis and malnutrition.

"Our big problem now is how to raise over P10,000 for an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging needed to enable doctors to evaluate his condition)," his father Ferdinand said in a hand-written letter-appeal in Filipino.

Samaritans can call the family in distress at 09106915816, the cellphone number of Nieves, the boy's mother.

Kind souls who have construction materials to spare may ask for Anabel Lampaz, a mother of eight children, at 005-B Sampaguita, San Luis Barangay.

The family is actually homeless and badly needs support to build an abode. City social welfare and development officer Betty Fangasan said a concerned resident of San Luis has offered a lot where a shanty can be constructed, if only the family could get hold of materials./ Ramon Dacawi.

## City asks.....

## ..... from page 3

8to tap the Clark facility as it is the only one accepting albeit he said negotiations with the facility in San Fernando City in La Union continues.

Garcia earlier informed the city through Fianza that the city is given only until January 31 to use the Capas facility if the MOA will not be formalized.

Fianza then wrote the city council to work out the confirmation to allow the city to make use of the facility until March or April.

He said that despite the informal agreement, MCWMC "has been generous enough to accommodate dumping of garbage from our city."

"We understand that while the Sangguniang Panlungsod would like to stop the spending, works for the establishment of an alternative suitable disposal system in the city have yet to be completed. Waste reduction measures are nonetheless in place and being improved upon, affording the city substantial reduction of garbage haul-out to the Capas facility," Fianza explained to the body.

Fianza said that as of now, the average garbage haul-out of the city is 80-90 tons a day which is a significant reduction from the original average of 150 tons a day.

Fianza said the reduction of wastes afforded the city some savings from the P70 million allocation made by the council until December 31, 2008. The savings will be used for the hauling until March or April.

"Hopefully, no further allocation shall be made for further hauling (in the future)," he said./ aileen p. refuerzo



Republic of the  
Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL  
COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL  
REGION  
La Trinidad,  
Benguet

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE  
JUDGE

IN RE: PETITION  
FOR  
RE COMMISSION  
AS  
NOTARY PUBLIC,

ATTY. JOYCE P.  
DULNUAN,  
*Petitioner.*

x——x  
PROCEEDINGS  
CASE  
NO. 09-NC-0144

IN RE: PETITION  
FOR  
RE  
APPOINTMENT  
AS  
NOTARY PUBLIC

ATTY. MARY  
INGLA Y  
CAPUYAN  
-FOKNO  
*Petitioner.*

x——x  
PROCEEDINGS  
CASE  
NO. 09-NC-0146

CASE  
NO. 09-NC-0145

IN RE: RENEWAL  
OF COMMISSION  
AS NOTARY  
PUBLIC IN LA  
TRINIDAD,  
BENGUET AND IN  
THE  
IN PROVINCE OF  
BENGUET

ATTY. RONALD T.  
LAOYAN,  
*Petitioner.*

x——x  
PROCEEDINGS  
CASE  
NO. 09-NC-0146

IN THE MATTER OF  
THE PETITION  
FOR COMMISSION  
AS NOTARY  
PUBLIC FOR AND IN  
THE PROVINCE  
OF BENGUET.

ATTY. EDGAR LING-  
OEDIONG,

*Petitioner.*  
x——x

PROCEEDINGS  
CASE  
NO. 09-NC-0147

Notice of Hearing  
Notarial Commission

NOTICE OF  
HEARING

Notice is hereby  
given that a summary  
hearing on the peti-  
tions of renewal of  
notarial commission  
filled by the above-  
named petitioners  
shall be held on Feb-  
ruary 12, 2009 at  
10:30 o'clock in the  
morning before the  
Executive Judge of  
the Regional Trial  
Court, La Trinidad,  
Benguet. Any person  
who has any cause or  
reason to object to  
the grant of the peti-  
tions may file a  
verify written opposi-  
tion there to on or  
before the date of the  
summary hearing.

Let this Notice  
of Hearing be pub-

lished once(1) a  
week or two(2) con-  
secutive weeks in the  
JUNCTION, a news-  
paper of general cir-  
culation in Baguio  
City and Benguet  
Province, the first  
publication to be  
made not later than  
January 25, 2009.

SO ORDERED.

La Trinidad,  
Benguet, Philip-  
pines this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of  
January, 2009.

By:  
(SGD) MARYBELLE  
LEEDEMOT  
MARIÒAS  
January 25 &  
Feb 1, 2009

REPUBLIC OF  
THE  
PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL  
TRIAL COURT  
OF BAGUIO  
FIRST  
JUDICIAL  
REGION  
BRANCH 59

(Additional  
Family Court of  
Baguio)

IN RE:  
PETITION FOR  
ADOPTION OF  
MINOR DARYL  
AVERY BINUYA

SPOUSES BRIG.  
GEN. PEDRO J.  
BINUYA  
and CECILIA B.  
BINUYA

*Petitioners,*

-versus-

LOCAL CIVIL  
REGISTRAR OF  
S A N  
FERNANDO  
CITY, LA  
UNION,

*Respondent,*

SPL. PRO.  
CASE NO. 329-  
A

x——x

ORDER

The petition-  
ers spouses  
PEDRO J. BINUYA  
and CECILIA B.  
BINUYA filed this  
verified petition  
praying that  
upon due notice  
and hearing,  
judgment be ren-  
dered adjudging  
that the minor  
Daryl Avery  
Binuya be freed  
from all legal ob-  
ligations and main-  
tenance with re-  
spect to the natu-  
ral parents and  
that she be  
declared to all le-  
gal intents and  
purposes the  
child of herein  
petitioners and  
her surname be  
changed to that of  
the petitioners.

Finding the  
petition to be  
sufficient in  
form and sub-  
stance, let the  
same be heard  
before the Re-  
gional Trial  
Court, Branch  
59, Baguio City  
on June 9, 2009  
at 10:00 o'clock  
in the morning,  
at which place  
and date and  
time, the peti-  
tioners shall  
prove their case.  
Any person in-  
terested may ap-  
pear 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 The Junction  
newspaper, a  
newspaper of  
general circula-  
tion in the City  
of Baguio and in  
Benguet Prov-  
ince once a week  
for three(3) con-  
secutive weeks.

The petition-  
ers are directed  
to make an ap-  
pointment with  
the Court Social  
Worker for the  
purpose of con-  
ducting the re-  
quired case  
study on the mi-  
nor Daryl Avery  
Binuya. The  
Court Social  
Worker is re-  
quired to submit  
to the court the  
case study not  
later than June  
5, 2009.

SO ORDERED

DONE IN CHAM-  
BERS, this 7<sup>th</sup> day  
of January, 2009,  
Baguio City,  
Philippines.

By (SGD)  
ILUMINADA P.  
CABATO  
Judge

January 18 -  
25 Feb 1, 2009

**RAB tips.....**

age inspection, fire  
safety compliance,  
and building safety  
certificates as pre-  
requisites in the is-  
sue of business  
licenses.

AO 11-20087  
meanwhile provided  
clearances from the  
Bureau of Internal  
Revenue (BIR), So-  
cial Security System  
(SSS), and Phil-  
Health may now be  
secured after the biz  
licenses are issued.

Bautista  
however warned,  
"After the permits  
are issued and the  
establishments were  
found to have failed  
in securing the nec-  
essary certificates  
or reports, their li-  
censes to conduct  
business shall auto-  
matically be re-  
voked."

To ensure  
prompt action on  
the part of business-  
men in securing  
other requisite docu-  
ments for their re-  
spective trades, the  
mayor enlisted the  
Public Order and  
Safety Division  
(POSD) to beef up  
the treasury's man-  
power in inspecting  
post-permit compli-

..... from page 3

ance of the required documents.

Treasurer Thelma Manaois meanwhile  
lauded Bautista's move saying her office  
expects more "early birds" to pour in  
money to the city's coffers.

She added, "The city's strict imple-  
mentation of prior compliance with requi-  
site documents has been hampering effi-  
cient collection."

"We have been backwards in expedit-  
ing collection and processing of permits,  
which has kept us way behind in the list  
of top performing cities in the country."

"With the innovations that the mayor  
introduced," she added, "we are confi-  
dent of reaching our target collections vis-  
à-vis the proposed 2009 budget."

The proposed city budget for the city  
stands at P9.5-Million./ISL

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

**FERNANDO DULAY, JR.**

**Applicant**

**Case No: 94-01-518**

**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 10, 2009 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTFRB Office, Pacdal,  
Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/  
her evidences.

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

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. -  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 26th day of January 2009.

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

## PGMA.....

..... from page 1

buys in bulk to better use. Escudero aired this proposal as a way of ensuring transparency in government projects.

"If the palace cannot help claiming ownership of projects which they owe the people in the first place, they can use these spaces to better use by putting up billboards which list down the vital statistics of a project".

"I think that serves a public purpose more than having the President pose as a billboard model," he said.

The senator was referring to PIA-ordered tarpaulins featuring the said slogan and a photo of President Arroyo and which are erected near where infrastructures are being built.

Escudero said these are announcements short on project details but profuse in thanking Malacacang as if it is the one and not the taxpayers who are footing the bill.

He proposed a return to the old practice of "itemizing the details of a project in a billboard which is put up where a road or a schools is being built."

He said the rule requiring the announcement of the "vital statistics" of a project based on details submitted to the Commission on Audit has not yet been repealed.

"By announcing the baseline information of a project, the citizens will be encouraged to monitor its construction so it can be finished on time, on the budget, and according to plan," he said.

These billboards are important, Escudero stressed, because data on a project which otherwise could have been kept from the people are now revealed for their scrutiny.

"An overprice can also be detected. For example, people can make comparison. Kung ang isang eskwelahan sa isang barrio ay nagkakahalaga ng dalawang milyon bakit ang kapareho nito na ginagawa sa kabilang

barrio ay isang milyon lang ang gastos?" he said.

Earlier last week, Escudero bared that the government racked up a total of 33 billion pesos in overprice of 21 ODA-related projects.

The senator said from being eyesores, government billboards can be an eye opener to the public if they will inform them as a matter of courtesy of how their taxes are spent./ Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

## No financial.....

..... from page 2

anti-graft body, Office of the Ombudsman, to look into all deposits of whatever nature with banks or banking institutions.

This will effectively put a certain class of people, in this case civil servants and high government officials, beyond the protective mantle of banking secrecy laws, which are often times being used as shield in investigations involving corruption.

Escudero said people like Resado and Bolante are emboldened by the cloak of the bank secrecy law, which also leaves lawmakers' hands tied from further digging into their questionable finances.

"This covers both those within and outside the Philippines including investment bonds issued by the government" Escudero added.

The waiver, he said, should be contained in the SAL (statement of assets and liabilities) of all government officials and employees.

The senator said the passage of this bill is timely as it will not only plug loopholes in the graft and corruption efforts of the government, assuming that they have some, but it will also aid the government to recover ill-gotten funds./ Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

## Pia: P1,415-T.....

..... from page 2

main in our country and serve the needs of our countrymen, especially in the rural areas. Statistics have shown that the ideal ratio of patient-health worker in the rural areas is not currently achieved and that in fact, there are healthcare facilities in the far-flung areas that are not manned by the required healthcare professionals," she explained./ Office Of Senator Pia Cayetano

## Plan'll -conceived'...

..... from page 2

tional system, specifically for nurses and other allied health medical courses so that our graduates will remain the most in demand and the most competitive in the world.

"Well, the Palace can start infusing enough resources to our educational system from early education to tertiary to create the education standard required to fulfill the educational needs and to take advantage of the full potentials of the students".

Escudero is an early childhood education proponent, authoring RA No. 8980 in Congress which calls for a comprehensive policy and a national system for early childhood care and development.

CHED, for its part can also start reviewing the curriculum of those courses they want the 5 year system to start with, Escudero said.

"They should revisit the curricula in the universities and begin to exact more accountability to those schools that do not deliver. Why burden the students by tightening financial constraints with an additional tuition-paying year?"

Escudero called on Malacacang to nix the proposal as it will add more inequalities to access to education.

"The government has yet to bring education close and accessible to the people and here is this proposal, jeopardizing equality of access yet again. This should receive the palace's thumbs down"/ Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

## Public service.....

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gards to the plan pertaining to the replacement and repair of existing streetlight fixtures, this was already addressed by the proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) long submitted to the City for their appropriate study and action.

In the MOA where the City shall be billed at 12-burning hours, it is stated that BENECO shall shoulder the cost of replacement and repair of busted bulbs, defective photo switches and dilapidated streetlight fixtures including labor cost.

BENECO shall likewise always seek approval from the City prior to installation of any new additional streetlight fixture, the cost of which will be free provided that the City pays for the consumption.

3. Since the City appropriates a budget for the procurement of bulbs, photo switches and streetlight fixtures, including district/block metering of unmetered streetlights, may we inquire how much budget is appropriated annually, including the actual costs incurred in the maintenance of streetlights especially the actual cost likewise of the district/block metering installations at 98 different locations.

**B.** "... However there are certain things that should be considered in making a crucial decision to turn over management of our streetlights which we feel need further study. Some of the issues that have to be resolved are outlined below, as follows:

1. "How many lights will be installed by BENECO over the plan period? It should be pointed out that our annual budget only considered existing consumption with minimal expansion. We might be incurring consumption that we cannot pay for the budget year."

**Reaction:**

We believe this is fully addressed by the BENECO proposal because BENECO will not install additional new streetlight fixtures without the express approval of the City. At no cost to the City, BENECO is willing to install as many additional new fixtures for additional new locations provided that the City pays for the consumption.

2. "Will BENECO agree to installing 70 watts high powered sodium vapor bulbs in the expansion program and likewise to replace existing ones of the same wattage? This is now being undertaken by the City Engineering Office in response to the energy conservation plan of the City. As pointed out by Engr. Leo Bernardez, our 70 watts yields only about 72.3 watts of electric usage as per their testing, thus, generating power savings by almost half. Our 150 watts yields 151 watts. However,

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**Public service.....****..... from page 10**

***BENECO bills the City 121 watts for the 70 watts, and 240 watts for the 150 watts, thus, power consumption is raised by half for unmetered streetlights. Why the huge variance which is not based on the actual test results.***

**Reaction:**

1. BENECO is willing to install streetlight fixtures with 70 watts high power sodium vapor bulbs and photo switches either for expansion/additional areas as well as to replace dilapidated existing streetlight fixtures at no cost to the City provided that the 12 burning hours is utilized.

2. With regards to the correct computation of 70 watts, 150 watts, and 250 watts bulbs in terms of kilowatt-hour (KWH) consumption, we wish to emphasize that the computation of BENECO is based on industry practice approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) and also based on accurate and sound electrical engineering practices and principles. Nonetheless, BENECO strongly suggests that Engr. Leo Bernardez, together perhaps with the City Electrical Engineer (Engr. Petronillo Balleca, PEE) be tasked to illustrate to BENECO what they believe is the correct manner of computing the KWH consumption per unit per month of unmetered streetlights. BENECO is willing to adjust the KWH consumption for the unmetered streetlight fixtures provided Engr. Bernardez and Engr. Balleca can show proof about what they believe is the correct computation.

3. ***"Are we going to forego with the planned metering of our streetlights? This is the accurate way of measuring our electrical consumption and the City has to invest for the block metering. We will be able to come up with policies on energy conservation using accurate data. In this way, there is no need to guess or project the burning hours of streetlights because it will be metered, and busted streetlights incur no consumption unlike now."***

**Reaction:**

1. We fully agree that the most ideal manner to establish electric consumption is through the installation of a kwh meter. However, in view of the actual experience of the City in the installation of ninety eight (98) kwh meters for its district/block metering system, perhaps the City might just consider it most appropriate to review the actual cost incurred for the existing ninety eight (98) block/district metering installations implemented by the City Engineer's Office which would be used as one of the bases for the City to decide whether or not to install kwh meters for all the unmetered streetlights. Did this result to better efficiency and lesser complaints from the City residents? Were there problems encountered like, electric wires being stolen? If so, what was the cost for the repair and replacement? How long will it take the City to install the block metering for the almost 6,000 unmetered streetlight fixtures?

2. In addition, given the existing almost 6,000 unmetered streetlight fixtures, how many kwh meter installations will be required and at what cost? Is the district/block metering system, in the opinion of the CEO, the correct solution to the numerous and escalating complaints of the residents of the City regarding non-functioning streetlight fixtures in particular?

4. ***"...in relation to our power consumption, there is also a need to simultaneously study the power generation of our Asin Hydro which is supplying BENECO. It may be recalled that one purpose of taking over the Asin Hydro is for the City to avail the power generated by the facility where the City will not spend for its electric consumption. As it is, we are not getting the full potential of the Asin Hydro because BENECO can only buy so much power from the City. Thus, we are only generating power from the Hydros less than its rated capacity. What a waste, when we can maximize its full potential and avail of its benefits such as free power and more income to the City."***

**Reaction:**

We fully agree that the City should have studied a long time ago how to maximize the value it can derive from the Asin Mini Hydro.

With all due respect, we humbly believe that the reason why the City is not enjoying the full potential of the Asin Mini Hydro is certainly not because of BENECO's unwillingness to buy whatever power the Asin Mini Hydros might be able to generate. In fact, ever since the City assumed the management and operation of the Asin Mini Hydros, BENECO always bought all the power that the Asin Mini Hydros generated. BENECO therefore was never an obstacle in maximizing the power generation of the Asin Mini Hydros.

We believe that the biggest constraint at the moment with regards to possibly maximizing the hydro generation is the present very poor physical and technical condition/state of the existing facilities which most likely have become dilapidated and obsolete.

At this juncture, we respectfully remind the City that BENECO even contributed to the successful operation of the Asin Mini Hydros by allowing the City to rent three (3) units of brand new Automatic Circuit Reclosers (ACR) at a very reasonable rental rate. These modern protective and measuring devices installed by BENECO allowed the Asin Mini Hydros to generate as much power as it can. Without these equipments, the Asin Mini Hydro, the City and the BENECO consumers could have been subjected and exposed to over-voltages, over frequency (Hz), power interruption and damages, as well as reduced power generation. We are very confident that the City Administrator, Atty. Peter Fianza and City Electrical Engineer, Engr. Petronilo Balleca, are fully aware of the role and contribution of BENECO in helping the City successfully operate the Asin Mini

Hydros.

The matters raised by the Local Finance Committee are mere rehash of issues already explained in previous appearances of BENECO representatives in the City Council. The proposal to change the number of hours billed from 10 to 12 burning hours for unmetered streetlight does not mean additional cost to the city. The allocated cost for maintenance and repair of the streetlights and cost of electrical fixtures will only be re-aligned to pay for the additional two (2) burning hours. As per analysis of the budget for the city, the computed cost of 12 burning hours is almost equal to the total of the allocated payment of consumption of 10-burning hours, cost of streetlight fixtures and cost of repair and maintenance.

We are one with the City in their advocacy to save on cost of electricity. However, efficiency should never be sacrificed at the expense of the public that we both serve. Instead, both should opt on a methodology that would rather maximize the cost of money spent where the people will get their money's worth and not short-changed with inefficient service.

Nonetheless, if by chance, Atty. Leticia O. Clemente, Ms. Thelma B. Manaois, Engr. Arturo L. Orig, Mr. Anontonio L. Tabin and Mr. Augustus Medina, would want to discuss further any and all matters regarding the management and operation of the City streetlights, including the Asin Mini Hydros, we are more than willing to sit down with them at their most convenient time, at their chosen venue, so as to avoid raising up matters that muddle, rather than clarify the issues.

We sincerely hope that we avoid political grandstanding for our own personal agenda. BENECO should not be viewed as a competitor of any project, the operation of the Asin Mini Hydro or the like. Rather, both the City Government of Baguio and BENECO are partners in their common goal to make our beloved City beautiful, peaceful, and prosperous for the good of all.

We look forward to meeting with the Local Finance Committee. For confirmation, please do not hesitate to contact the personnel-in-charge:

**MR. ALEJANDRO DELOS SANTOS, JR.**

Manager, Corporate Services Department  
BENECO, Alapang, La Trinidad, Benguet  
Tel. No. (074) 422-2969

Thank you very much and more power.

Truly yours,

**GERARDO P. VERZOSA**

General Manager

cc. Hon. Cong. Mauricio Domogan,  
Hon. Mayor Peter Rey Bautista, All  
City Department Heads  
BENECO BOARD, All Depts, Corplan,  
Internal Audit,  
File – Finance Committee Report re  
STL



## Public Service Feature-BENECO responds

23 January 2009

HON. DANIEL FARINAS

Vice Mayor  
CITY OF BAGUIOAttention: THE  
HONORABLE  
MEMBERS  
City Council

## Your Honors:

This has reference to the comments of the Local Finance Committee of Baguio City on the proposal of BENECO for the management and maintenance of the streetlights of Baguio City as contained in item 20 of the agenda of the January 19, 2009 of the Honorable Members of the City Council, contained in their letter likewise dated 19 January 2009.

May we please convey our reactions to the comments?

A. "From the documents we have gathered, BENECO has not submitted vital information necessary to come out with a sound decision. For instance, a basic document which is the comprehensive streetlight plan that indicates among other things, the existing streetlights and expansion program over the plan period including the replacement and repair package in conjunction with energy conservation plan has not been presented nor, suffi-

ciently established. We are not opposed to any program of lighting the entire City, in fact, we have been appropriating in our Annual budgets for the procurement of fixtures, bulbs including district metering of our streetlights with the aim of lighting the entire City over a period of 3 years. Of course, it is for us to prioritize our needs considering that resources are not limitless."

## Reaction:

1. With all due respect, the "basic document which is the comprehensive streetlight plan" that the Local Finance Committee mentioned in their letter should emanate from the City. It is for the City to decide which strategic locations it deems appropriate to install streetlights and at what wattages. It is also for the City to decide which locations it deems appropriate to install new additional streetlights. BENECO is not privy to the so-called "energy conservation plan" of the City. BENECO can only provide information that the City can use to make the appropriate

study and eventually make an intelligent decision.

The City has a map indicating the locations and the individual wattage of all streetlight fixtures, including the locations of all billing meters of the so-called "district metering" system implemented by the City. Also, the City and BENECO conducted a joint inventory of streetlights, the results of which was already furnished by BENECO to the City. We humbly believe that these data are necessary in coming up with the comprehensive streetlight plan as these are the bases in "coming out with a sound decision" in terms of the existing streetlights and the expansion program. The most basic document related to the streetlight is the joint inventory report which is why the same is issued by BENECO as the basis of computing the monthly energy consumption of the unmetered streetlights. We do not understand what additional data the Local Finance Committee needs which are not readily available to them.

BENECO, with due deference to the entire leadership of the City Government of Baguio, has no intention

THE WEEKEND JUNCTION



**FREEDOM OF SPEECH?** Iloilo City Policemen led by retired policeman Dionisio Duco (right), chief security of Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, forcibly drag international photojournalist Joe Hareh Tanodra out of the Judging Area No. 1 in front of the Iloilo Freedom Grandstand a public area during the staging of the Dinagyang Festival, for the simple reason that his accreditation indicates that he should be in Judging Area No. 2. Freedom Grandstand was a project of the former Philippine Senator Rodolfo Ganzon for Iloilo residents to use this facility to practice their freedom of speech. JERRY CARUAL/ PNS

of indiscriminately installing streetlights as the Local Finance Committee would want to portray, as evidenced by the streetlight inven-

tory conducted jointly by the City and BENECO, and the inclusion of the provision in the proposed MOA that

BENECO shall only install additional streetlight with the express approval of the City.

2. With re-

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