

# THE WEEKEND JUNCTION



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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

## **Pahayagang palaban!!!** **NCIP, DENR asked to stop accepting, processing ancestral land applications**



**BOMB HOAX** - A security guard and a trained bomb sniffing K-9 sweep the whole area of city hall after a prankster called one of the offices of the city council warning of a bomb blast. The police authorities are now tracing the origin of the caller for appropriate legal action./ **By Bong Cayabyab**

**BAGUIO CITY** – The city council last Monday urged the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to stop accepting applications for ancestral land claims and to suspend processing of pending applications until the Supreme Court issue a definite ruling on whether Baguio City is covered by the Indigenous

People's Rights Act (IPRA).

The body said a status quo must be maintained on said lot applications to prevent complications should the court issue a ruling on the city's IPRA coverage.

NCIP-CAR regional director Amado Batay-an who was invited by the body to its session to clarify ancestral land claim issues said Baguio's unclear IPRA status has in-

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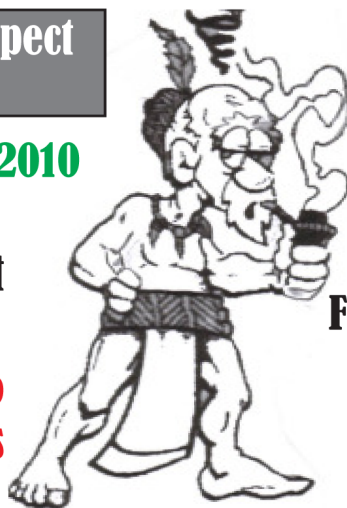
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**CORDI NAWI**

*The Final Warning  
(3rd of 4 parts)*

**BY: EMILIO LIWANEN**



## Lawmaker Backs Probe Into Corruption Allegations Vs Arroyo

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero says he will support an investigation into the corruption allegations against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and her family if he becomes president.

"When I was minority leader in the House of Representatives, we tried twice to hold President Arroyo accountable for allegations raised in the impeachment complaints," he said during the ANC Leadership Forum last Monday.

"My position then was the people must know the truth and that the wheels of

justice should spare no one, not even the President," said Escudero who was among five presidential candidates who accepted the invitation to the forum.

The 39-year old lawyer-politician, a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), has said he will announce his decision to run for the presidency when he turns 40 on October 10/Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Asked what he thought was Arroyo's positive contribution to the country, Escudero described her as a

negative example for she aroused the people's love of country because of the flagrant violations of the law and the abuses of her administration.

"She has so angered Filipinos that they are now seriously looking at whom to choose as our next leader, and to actively participate in the coming elections," he said.

Escudero has surged in ratings in the latest SWS and Pulse Asia surveys, securing a virtual tie for the top spot with Vice President Noli de Castro, Senator Manny Villar, and Senator Loren Legarda.

## Gov't Should Face Unemployment Problem Squarely

The Arroyo administration should address the unemployment problem squarely instead of using as an excuse the semantics of the definition of unemployment as recently reported by the Social Weather Stations (SWS), opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero said yesterday.

"Unemployment, by any other name, is still joblessness, and it speaks loudly of the failure of government to put

up adequate policies to address to the problem. The reality is that there is widespread and increasing unemployment," he said.

The SWS, in its 2009 First Quarter Survey, said unemployment in the country reached a record high of 34.2 percent in February. This means an estimated 14 million Filipinos are now out of work, the SWS said.

Escudero said the government must

work harder to address this problem and ease the plight of our workforce. This, he said, can best be done if government is able to attract investments by adopting stable, predictable, and conducive policies.

"The government has to improve market and raw material access through infrastructure. It also needs to improve human capital skill levels which can be addressed by solving the education mis-

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## Spending A Billion Pesos For The Presidency In 2010 Is Illegal

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero said yesterday that any presidential candidate who says he or she will spend at least P1 billion in 2010 is planning to violate the law.

"Philippine election law says a presidential candidate can spend up to P10 per voter. If there are 40 million voters, then one needs P400 million," he stressed during the ANC Leadership Forum on Monday night.

The Comelec said recently that the voting population by May 2010 will reach at least 50 million, including new registrants.

He noted that the law also stipulates that a presidential candidate's po-

litical party can contribute an additional five pesos per voter. "That would mean an additional P200 million for a total of P600 million."

Pressed further on how much he spent during his campaign in the 2007 senatorial election where he received the second highest number of votes, Escudero said his spending reached P64.9 million and that this came from 60-100 people. "The Comelec has a list of all of them," he added.

Questioned on who the biggest contributor was to his campaign, he answered it was his political party, the Nationalist People's

Coalition (NPC).

"The NPC contributed not cash but in kind in the form of advertisements."

He stressed that while there were other contributors most of them were known to him.

"I do not accept contributions from people I do not know and neither am I also beholden to any contributor."

When asked hypothetically how his presidential campaign would be financed, given his most recent Statement of Assets and Liabilities declaration of P7.4 million, he cited a line from the movie *'Field of Dreams.'* "I believe that 'if you build it, they will come.'"/Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

## People's Nightmare Is Failure Of 2010 Polls

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday said failure of elections will be our people's worst nightmare if the Comelec does not get its act together in

implementing the automation of the 2010 polls.

"Now even Chairman Melo has doubts about how this rush to automation will end. Now he warns us about the specter of revolution. If the bidding pro-

cess is above board, then he should be able to sleep well," he said in a statement.

"If he knows that the Comelec is prepared to ensure a failsafe implementation of the automation process then there

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Odell "Bombito" Aquino - OIC

Atty. Thomas Tayengco-Legal Adviser

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Danilo B. Javier  
Gerry P. Binwagan  
John T. Bagayan  
Orwen Trazo

#### Regular Columnists:

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



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## DENR asked to form team to inspect trees

**BAGUIO CITY** – The city council last Monday urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the City Environment Management Office (CEMO) to create a team that would inspect and monitor trees in the city to prevent life-threatening

accidents caused by dead trees.

The body approved a resolution authored by Councilor Erdolfo Balajadia for this purpose.

In the resolution, the need for said body was stressed to protect the public from accidents caused by falling trees.

Balajadia recalled an incident when one family met an accident when a big dead pine tree fell on their car while they were driving along Leonard Wood Road. This brought extensive damage to the car and put the lives of the entire family in danger.

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## Dads want city water system checked

**BAGUIO CITY** – The city's water system must be subjected to comprehensive tests to determine its condition in face of the waste problem being experienced in the city.

The city council last Monday approved a resolution directing the Baguio City Health Department and the City Environment Management Office (CEMO)

to conduct a "comprehensive assessment, evaluation and study on the current condition of the water systems particularly the creeks, rivers, rivulets and other natural waterways within the city."

Councilor Rocky Thomas Balisong who authored the resolution noted that the safety of the

city's water system is now suspect in view of the garbage problem experienced in the city that forced many residents to dump their wastes along the waterways.

"Not only along city streets and barangay roads are household refuse, waste materials and garbage are dumped

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## Batching plants to be closed

**BAGUIO CITY** – Due to the absence of business permits and other clearances, City Treasurer Thelma Manaois informed the public that the much-complained-about Camp 7 batching plants should be closed.

The city treasurer categorically stated this during a meeting called for by Acting City Mayor Daniel Farinas last week with representatives of one of the batching plants.

Taking cognizance of the health hazards by the continuing operation of the batching plants, and as to the complaints of the house-

holds affected, the acting mayor also called for Engineer Greg Deligero of the Public Order and Safety Division (POSD). The plants were also labeled as nuisance in the immediate community, it was learned.

The meeting was also called for, to clarify matters as

to allegations that despite repeated warnings of closure, the batching plants continued to operate. Allegedly, favors from the operators were extended to some personnel of the POSD, but was emphatically denied by Deligero.

Deligero said

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**ACE'S OATH** - Acting city mayor Daniel Farinas swears into office the newly elected officers of the Association of City Employees (ACE) headed by Board Chairman and president Bonifacio de Vera of the general services Office during simple rites at city hall grounds. Also in photo (L-R) vice-chairman and vice president Gaudencio Gonzales and Board of Directors Roger Laolawi, Charito Bueno, Raymond Roaro, Mercedes Pel-ey and Gloria Evangelista and Eufrosina Pulmano as ACE secretary./By **Bong Cayabyab**

## Comedienne declared "persona non grata"

Councilor Fred Bagbagen states.

The resolution was supported by a letter from Sheryl Phoebe Comiles Duque who witnessed what the comedienne yelled as introduction for the show, "akala nyo Igorot ako, hindi ako Igorot, tao po ako!"

Accordingly, when her statement was received by the audience with silence, she repeated what she

said.

Upon hearing those words, Ms. Duque then showed displeasure and confronted the production manager for the show.

In the resolution it was stated that, the incident was an "unmindful, insensitive, sarcastic, careless and irresponsible issuance of any statement of the same nature."

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## 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!!**

## RESEARCH & STATISTICS

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**We believe that the Golden Rule applies to animals, too. We don't accept the prevailing notion that "people come first" or that "people are more important than animals." Animals feel pain and suffer just as we do, and it is almost always humans making animals suffer and not the other way around. Yet in spite of how cruelly people behave towards animals – not to mention human cruelty to other humans- we are supposed to believe that humans are superior to other animals. If people want to fancy themselves as being of greater moral worth than the other creatures on this earth, we should begin behaving better than they do, and not worse. Let's start treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves.**

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno

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

## Timeline

Mimicking Davao's 814 summary executions, Cebu City finds itself necklaced with an unsought legacy: 183 "murders with a wink" "The timeline is instructive."

Davao's death squad killings have spilled into Cebu, UN special rapporteur Philip Alston wrote. His follow-up report to the UN Human Rights Council also pinpoints killing fields in General Santos, Digos and Tagum.

Killings by *esquadrões de la muerte*, in Davao, bolted from 116 in 2007 to 269 in 2008," he said. Mayor Rodrigo Duterte hasn't solved a single case.

"As a result, death squad members operate with complete impunity," he added. "Killing for hire is on the rise as death squad members become bold enough to sell their services. A killing costs about P5,000 (roughly US\$100)."

This results in "impunity." Although killings take place in broad

## EDITORIAL

daylight, "witnesses are not prepared to testify." (Impunity). encouraged death squad killings to sprout in other cities beyond Davao."

Cebu City mayor Osmena enthusiastically embraced the Davao example. In December 2004, he whipped up a so-called "Hunters' Team". He announced cash-for-scalp bounties: P20,000 for cops who'd "permanently disable" any criminal.

Taking of life, whether by an abortionist or vigilante, is evil, Cardinal Ricardo Vidal bluntly said. Utos ni mayor dislodges the Constitution with its guarantees of life and due process, the Integrated Bar cautioned.

"Will Mayor Osmena copy-cat the Davao's death squads operating with impunity?, asked Viewpoint "The 1980 communist insurgency may have embedded a vigilante mindset in Davao. But Cebu never had a tradition of *esquadrões de la muerte*. If Osmena goes down this path, blood will stain his already-checked legacy."

Osmena swears by Osmena. Yes-men clog his council. Did they assent to murder by cowed silence? In any case, Osmena parroted Duterte's tough-guy talk.

"Here in Davao, you can't go out alive," Mayor Duterte said of a notorious Manila drug lord's release. "You can go out, but inside a coffin. Is that what you call extrajudicial killing? Then, I'll will bring a drug lord to a judge and kill him there. That will no longer be extrajudicial. Such statements suggest "he is, in fact, supportive" of the slayings, Alston noted.

"Experience should teach us to be most on guard when government's purposes are beneficent," Justice Louis Brandeis once warned.

Osmena claims his purposes are Brandeis pure. "We'll respect human rights", he said. "We'll go to the law's limit and whack them. I'm more interested in protecting citizens." Wink. Wink.

He couldn't be bothered with checking if rules of engagement were kept. "Such sentiments launched serial killings. They now blot a legacy that Cebuanos never sought.

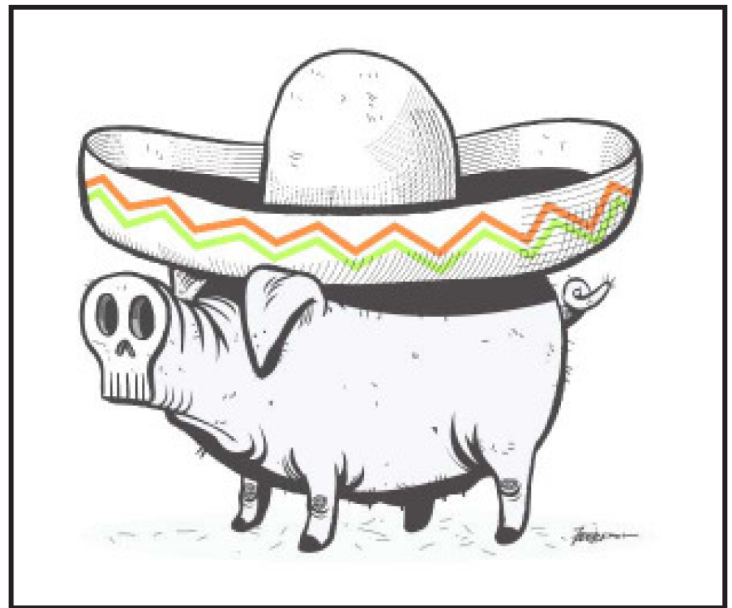
"It's been a year now since His Honor launched his 'murder with a wink' policy," Cebu Daily News wrote in February 2006. "What has he to show for bonneted killers who salvage with impunity in a city primping for the Asean Summit.

"Some 117 unsolved rubouts later, Cebu has been tagged 'Murder Capital', "the daily noted. "The virus infects Digos, Tangub and General Santos. That metastasis is noted by the US State Department in its human rights annual report. It foreshadows last week's Alston statement.

Like Davao, vigilante victims in Cebu were petty criminals. Others did time in jail. Some started rebuilding lives in honest businesses. Most were unarmed when snuffed out. "A wink denied them a second chance."

"Drug lords aren't scared. Corrupt officials carry on. No big fish has been landed." Crime rates slump only when Manny Pacquiao climbs into the ring.

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## DIRETSAHAN

*DALAWANG KONSEHAL NA PRO-JADEWELL?!*

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Hanep din itong artistang si Candy Pangilinan sa wari'y pagyurak ng pagkatao sa mga kapatid nating igorot... akala siguro nitong si Kendi napakasikat na nya para laitin lang nya ang mga taga Baguio... sayang itong si Kendi ... imbes na Kending masarap at matamis... Kending mapakla at mabaho ang bunganga!! Pweh... Dapat dapat sa mga Kending ganito durugin at itapon sa lawa ng Burnham,

Ano pa ang hinihintay ninyo mga bosing na opisyaes... ideklara nyu na si Kendi Pangilinan na "Persona non Grata" dito sa Baguio, Period!

oOo

At sino naman kaya itong alyas Peter na bata raw ni Ex-Abra Meyor Elveña ang nanutok umano ng baril sa dalawang babae noong Mayo uno sa may Daluyen Compound, Ambiong Aurora Hill alas siyete ng gabi?

Ayon sa aking "bubuwit" nagreklamo daw itong dalawang babaeng natutukan sa station 6 ng BCPO pero iblinater lang daw ito ng mga pulis at ni hindi man lang dinampot ang suspek ng naaayon sa kagustuhan ng naturang mga biktima. Aba, ano kayang klase ang mga pulis natin diyan sa station 6? Porke ba walang masyadong kaalaman ang 2 eh isasampay na lang basta ang reklamo? Hay yay yay, pakitignan nyu nga poi to Apo PNP-CAR Director Heneral Pestaño. At mukhang hindi kaaya aya ang pinagagawa ng iba ninyung tauhan!

oOo

Basura! Basura! Hay naku, kelan pa kaya mareresolba ang probelma natin sa basura at nagsitambakan na naman ang mga basura na hindi na naman nakokolekta sa tabi tabi... he he talaga kayang matindi ang problema kaya nahihirapan ang mga opisyal natin na hanapan ito ng solusyo'n, o baka naman may solusyon na kaya lamang ang ibang mga opisyal ang may problema, bahkeet kaya, ha? Paki eksplika nga ha? Ha? Mga Bwisheet!

oOo

Tuwing umaga ay matindi ang trapik sa kahabaan ng Kennon Road mula sa rotunda ng BGH hanggang camp-7, at ni wala man lang akong nakikitang TMG pulis trapiko o trapik aide. Atensyon TMG at BCPO Traffic Division, pakituunan nyu naman ito ng pansin, plis!

oOo

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## THE PEACE COMBATANT

*Is there a conditioning for no elections and massive cheating?*

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



The statements attributed to Commission on Elections (COMELEC) Chairman Jose Melo that express fear of a NO ELECTIONS or NOEL sounds more as conditioning the public for a NO ELECTIONS or massive cheating. Of course, the other possibility is that Melo is simply unfit for the Office of the Chairman of the COMELEC.

Instead of expressing a strength of will, determination, and capacity to ensure that the elections will push through and that the COMELEC will mobilize its resources and the people for a clean elections, Melo is instead expressing defeat, resignation, and high probability that the elections will not push through.

The Filipino deserve a better handling of the problems of the elections than those exhibited by the Honorable COMELEC Chairperson. We do not need soldiers that do not have a will to fight. Similarly, we do not need a COMELEC Chair that does not demonstrate a will to overcome the odds.

If the COMELEC Chair sees that there are forces seeking to frustrate the realization of elections or the fulfillment of clean and honest elections, then the COMELEC Chair should instead call on the government and the people to vigilance. Instead the COMELEC Chair is expressing defeat and high probability that elections will not push through.

Thus, this column cannot help but think instead that there can be a conditioning for either a no elections as the Plan B or massive cheating for the Plan A. So the unsolicited advice of this column to the COMELEC Chair: straight up or shut up!

Mobilize the government and the people instead towards free elections rather than express pessimism, defeat, or despair. The COMELEC is a leader rather than just one of the so-and-sos in the elections. People expect the COMELEC to lead in the realization of clean and honest elections. At the rate that the COMELEC is managing the coming elections, it is projecting itself to be a part of the problem rather than a part of the solution.

What problems are causing worries for the COMELEC Chairperson? According to Melo, one of such problems is that an anomaly case can be filed against the COMELEC's P11.3 billion automation contract for the next year's election. He said that this would be sabotage and a no-election scenario.

Valid? Hardly. Mobilize the country to go manual instead in the scenario oppositors succeed in getting a restraining order from the courts. In the first place, the legal risks could have been avoided if the COMELEC has handled their responsibilities better. Why push immediately for automation when there are anomalies? This is pure black-mail.

The nation wants automation but the need for automation must not be used to cover up anomalies. Instead Melo says that when there are complaints against the anomalies then a restraining order issued sometime February to April will not allow us to go manual. So does Melo means that we should allow alleged anomalies to be unquestioned instead?

A film on YouTube appears to show that documents are improperly being signed in the COMELEC toilet. Melo defended instead that the COMELEC official shown signing documents in the toilet could be signing documents not related to bids on the automation of the elections. Further, he says that it is unclear what the documents being signed in the toilet are. He said that the documents might be related to the other businesses of the COMELEC official involved. So does this mean that other documents are properly being signed in a COMELEC toilet?

Like it or not, Melo's explanations are incredible and indeed there are valid grounds to question whether anomalies happened in the bids related to the automation of elections.

(The author maintains a website at [www.geocities.com/arturoboquiren](http://www.geocities.com/arturoboquiren) and can be contacted through [arturoboquiren2040@yahoo.com](mailto:arturoboquiren2040@yahoo.com), Facebook, and 0927-536-8431)

## KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

*Nibiru and the end of the world: Biblical and scientific coincidences?*

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



Have you heard of Nibiru? Do you even know what it means? I came to hear of it for the first time only this week, from noted inventor Glenn Castillo when I visited him at his Quezon City office last Monday evening (May 11, 2009) for a possible business tie-up.

What I heard about Nibiru from Glenn shocked me, not because they were portents of the forthcoming end of the world in the very near future, but because they immediately made me recall passages in the Bible, particularly its Matthew 24 and Mark 13, concerning the predictions of the Lord Jesus about the end of time.

Read Matthew 24 and Mark 13 very carefully, and you will find uniform passages where Jesus Himself describes how the world will end, supposedly in the following manner: "Immediately after the distress of those days `the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light..."

"...the stars will fall from the sky and the heavenly bodies will be shaken..."

-ooo-

Matthew 24 and Mark 13 tell us about Jesus trying to explain to his disciples how the end of time—or age—will come.

Let's get some of the account of Matthew so we can get a clearer picture of the entire scenario that led him to disclose about the sun being darkened, the moon not giving its light, and stars falling from the sky and the heavenly bodies being shaken when the end shall have come.

"As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. `Tell us,' they said, `when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?'"

"Jesus answered: `Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, `I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed...Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains."

"`Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me... And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come...."

-ooo-

Matthew's account continues: "...`For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened... See, I have told you ahead of time..."

"`Immediately after the distress of those days `the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'"

"`At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory."

"And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other..."

-ooo-

Now, what is the relation of Jesus' accounts of how the end will come, as written by Matthew and Mark, to Nibiru? A lot, if you ask me, especially if the Internet is searched to find out postings about it.

When I myself searched the Internet, I found that Nibiru is the name of the so-called (or supposed) tenth planet of our solar system, even if the original and prevailing thought is that there are only nine planets orbiting around the sun.

The Internet said Nibiru, which is now officially called Planet X, does not orbit around the sun in the way all the other planets circle around it, because it is going around the sun in an "oblongated"

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## CORDI NAWI

*The Final Warning  
(3rd of 4 parts)*

BY: EMILIO LIWANEN



In this time of persecution the faith of the Lord's servants will be tried. They have faithfully given the warning, looking to God and to His word alone. God's Spirit, moving upon their hearts, has constrained them to speak. Stimulated with holy zeal, and with the divine impulse strong upon them, they entered upon the performance of their duties without coldly calculating the consequences of speaking to the people the word which the Lord had given them. They have not consulted their temporal interests, nor sought to preserve their reputation or their lives. Yet when the storm of opposition and reproach bursts upon them, some, overwhelmed with condemnation, will be ready to exclaim: "Had we foreseen the consequences of our words, we would have held our peace." They are hedged in with difficulties. Satan assails them with fierce temptations. The work which they have undertaken seems far beyond their ability to accomplish. They are threatened with destruction. The enthusiasm which animated them is gone; yet they cannot turn back. Then, feeling their utter helplessness, they flee to the Mighty One for strength. They remember that the words which they have spoken were not theirs, but His who bade them give the warning. God put the truth into their hearts, and they could not forbear to proclaim it.

The same trials have been experienced by men of God in ages past. Wycliffe, Huss, Luther, Tyndale, Baxter, Wesley, urged that all doctrine be brought to the test of the Bible and declared that they would renounce everything which it condemned. Against these men persecution raged with relentless fury; yet they ceased not to declare the truth. Different periods in the history of the church have each been marked by the development of some special truth, adapted to the necessities of God's people at that time. Every new truth has made its way against hatred and opposition; those who were blessed with its light were tempted and tried. The Lord gives a special truth for the people in an emergency. Who dare refuse to publish it? He commands His servants to present the last invitation of mercy to the world. They cannot remain silent, except at the peril of their souls. Christ's ambassadors have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty and leave results with God.

As the opposition rises to a fiercer height, the servants of God are again perplexed; for it seems to them that they have brought the crisis. But conscience and the word of God assure them that their course is right; and although the trials continue, they are strengthened to bear them. The contests grow closer and sharper, but their faith and courage rise with the emergency. Their testimony is: "We dare not tamper with God's word, dividing His holy law; calling one portion essential and another nonessential, to gain the favor of the world. The Lord whom we serve is able to deliver us. Christ has conquered the powers of earth; and shall we be afraid of a world already conquered?"

Persecution in its varied forms is the development of a principle which will exist as long as Satan exists and Christianity has vital power. No man can serve God without enlisting against himself the opposition of the hosts of darkness. Evil angles will assail him, alarmed that his influence is taking the prey from their hands. Evil men, rebuked by his example, will unite with them in seeking to separate him from God by alluring temptations. When these do not succeed, then a compelling power is employed to force the conscience.

But so long as Jesus remains man's intercessor in the sanctuary above, the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit is felt by rulers and people. It still controls to some extent the laws of the land. Were it not for these laws, the condition of the world would be much worse than it now is. While many of our rulers are active agents of Satan, God also has His agents among the leading men of the nation. The enemy moves upon his servants to propose mea-

Cont. on page 8

## Voters registration in full blast

**BAGUIO CITY** — Registration of voters is now in full blast even there are still problems in the bidding of machines for the poll automation for the 2010 elections.

"In fact, the Commission on Election (COMELEC) Baguio City would conduct off-site registration qualified voters in the different districts here in Baguio starting May 15, 2009, and every week thereafter until all the districts are covered, COMELEC Regional Director Julius Torres said.

He also informed that the commission is currently conducting the "cleaning" of voters' master lists that involves deletion of names of dead voters as well as those who have transferred their

residency.

Although voter's registration has started in December, our office could not yet give the percentage of voters who had already registered, however, we predict a fluctuating number of voters that would be known possibly between December 2009 and January 2010, Torres explained.

Fluctuating number of voters is usually experienced due to several reasons including influx of new registrants, transfer of residences, people dying and voters being deactivated.

Meanwhile, Torres claimed poll automation is a welcome move because it would lessen time and efforts of teach-

ers who are tapped in every elections. Counting and canvassing of votes usually takes time in the manual system of elections, the poll automation would speed up the election process, he added.

COMELEC has targeted one machine for every five precincts. He hopes that the national government would be able to select a bidder as soon as possible so that the commission would have time to test the machines.

Deadline of registration is on October 31, 2009, and we expect to finalize the voters masterlist in the region by December this year or January 2009, Torres added. /fnm/PIA-CAR

## City Market Vendors reiterate their appeal for help to the city gov't

**BAGUIO CITY** - The members of city market vendors association reiterated their appeal for help to the city government two months after the fire incident at the Baguio City Public Market and restoration has yet to be started and it is now rainy season.

In a kapihan forum Thursday at the Café by the Ruins, market stakeholders presented their concerns to city officials led acting mayor Daniel Fariñas and councilor Elaine Sembrano.

"Hirap na hirap na po kami. Marami po kaming kawawa dito kung hindi maaayos ang market", market stakeholders aired during the forum.

There are about 250 stalls affected but only 56 stalls are members of the market organization BAMAPO.

Mr. Victor Calimlim, former president of the Baguio Market Vendors Association emphasized that the tents provided to some vendors were donated by a private organization, outside Baguio. He lamented that the city council had not done anything yet to bring back the city public market.

On the other hand, Acting Mayor Fariñas and Councilor Sembrano stressed that the city government is exerting efforts to help them, during and af-

ter the fire incident. They explained that temporary roofing was made while waiting for the restoration of the market. The restoration has a fund of 25M pesos of which P10M will be spent for the Rillera Building and P15M pesos for the other affected areas in the market.

"Hopefully, the restoration will start last week of May", Sembrano stated.

The market stakeholders and the city government representatives also agreed to meet again by the middle of June to discuss the city market concerns and the development in the restoration project. / Marjorie Padua/PIA intern



## BRM pushes for the implementation of demolition orders of illegal structures in Busol watershed.

The Baguio Re-greening Movement (BRM), in its meeting last week passed a resolution, requesting the city government to implement the demolition orders against some illegal structures inside the Busol Watershed.

Bishop Carlito Cenzon of the Diocese of Baguio-Benguet, pushed for the resolution, which was agreed to be sent to the mayor's office on a monthly basis, until the demolition orders are implemented.

The Supreme Court, in its recent decision regarding the issue, upheld the legality of the demolition orders, after the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples obtained a court Temporary Restraining Order against its implementation.

In a related issue, the BRM also agreed to call the attention of

utility service providers, such as BENECO and Baguio Water District (BWD), and to request them to have a "policy denial", with regards to electric, water and other utility services applications of structures or buildings inside watersheds, like the Busol Watershed.

The BRM is also pushing on the fencing of the Busol watershed. The Baguio Water District, which has allocated a P3 Million budget for such purpose, is set to prepare a project plan and an estimate, so that they can request for the appropriation of the said budget.

A guardhouse is also being constructed in the Busol watershed. The first stage of the construction is already

finished, and the second stage is set to begin once the project is awarded to a contractor. A composite team, that will be composed of representatives from BWD, DENR, PNP, LGU and BRM, will man the guardhouse.

In a related issue, councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda asked the BRM to spearhead a recycling fair in June, being Environment Month.

Councilor Galo Weygan, also agree with the idea saying this will encourage entrepreneurship, through the help of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). He suggested that event should incorporate solid waste management cooperatives, which are involved in recycling, composting and residual transformation./Lito Dar/PIA

## DENR presents jobs generated under the CLEEP

**BAGUIO CITY** - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources - CAR (DENR-CAR) reported that there were already a total of 3,712 jobs generated in the region under the Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (CLEEP) of the government in an effort to cushion the impact of the global economic crunch.

Forester Julius Cawilan of the DENR-CAR presented the CLEEP regional

consolidated report as of April 27, 2009 in a meeting of the Regional KALAHI Convergence Group held recently. Of the total 16,779 jobs to be generated, 3,712 were generated for the period involving a total budget allocation of some P448.26 million from various agencies of the Cordillera region.

The CLEEP is the government's effort to protect the most vulnerable sectors such as the poor, returning

overseas Filipino workers, workers in the export industry, and out-of-school youths due to the consequences of the global economic crunch by providing emergency employment.

To ensure and oversee the implementation of the CLEEP programs across regions, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo installed stewards composed of cabinet members.

Assigned to the Cordillera region are

## 40 farmers to take micro-entrep training

**T A B U K**, Kalinga - Forty farmers will take basic training on how to start a small business under the Rural Micro-Entrepreneur Promotion

Program (RuMEPP) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

RuMEPP Program Coordinator Aurora Sanet of DTI-Kalinga said the participants come from

Balawag Self-employment Association (BSEA) of Tabuk and Rizal Multi-purpose Cooperative (RMPC) of Rizal.

The training is part of the RuMEPP

**Cont. on page 11**

## Kalinga products to be displayed in North Luzon food caravan

**T A B U K**, Kalinga - Products locally produced in the province have been included in the list for display in the North Luzon Food Caravan sched-

uled May 15, June 15 and July 15 at Sunken Garden, Plaza Lawton and Taguig Food Terminal Inc, respectively.

Ma. Cecil Baral of Department of

Trade and Industry (DTI) provincial office said the activity is under the agency's regular marketing program this year for local producers.

Designed as

**Cont. on page 11**

## New hybrid rice variety gives farmers higher yield

**T A B U K**, Kalinga - Farmers in the last cropping harvested 20-25% higher than the usual average yield per hectare from the new hybrid rice M-7 that was tried on a 100-hectare demonstration farm, here. Farmers who attended the recent Field Day here made the announcement in their production report.

Provincial Agriculturist Gerry Jose said hybrid rice farmers who tried M-7 in the last cropping harvested an average of 210 cavans per hectare.

DENR Secretary Jose L. Atienza, Jr for CLEEP projects in Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga and Mountain Province and DSWD Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral for Apayao and Abra.

Among the projects and programs of the concerned agen-

The provincial agriculturist office has expanded its demonstration farm area from 50 hectares to 100 hectares on clustered farmer groups, under its improved organic farming technology. The clustered area is distributed in the four barangays of San Francisco, 30 hectares; San Juan, 30 hectares; Lacnog, 30 hectares and Magsaysay, 10 hectares.

Farmer beneficiaries under the project are taught rapid fungus technology used in production of organic fertilizer, varietal trials of new rice

seeds and on-hand farmers demonstration.

Government accelerates commercial rice production by introducing hybrid rice varieties supported by the use of organic technology that is proven to be effective in maintaining soil balance and cuts cost of production to farmers.

The project was launched in 2007 in Barangay San Francisco of this municipality on an initial 50-hectare experimental area and was expanded later to 100 hectares upon seeing its positive results to hybrid farmers./L.Lopez/PIA-Kalinga

cies under the CLEEP program are: DENR-CAR - Bantay-gubat, Upland Development Program (UDP), Hunger Mitigation Project under CARP Fund; DAR - microfinance for CARP beneficiaries; DA - DAR's microfinance for CARP beneficiaries; DILG - Ahon sa Kahirapan

support to barangay-based development program; DTI - provision of business consultancy/counseling services, skills and entrepreneurship trainings and access to financing; DOTC - hiring of utility workers; DPWH - hiring of laborers for road-

**Cont. on page 11**

## NCIP, DENR

..... from page 1

deed led to confusion in the processing of the applications, thus the need to really settle the city's status.

The confusion arose from conflicting provisions and interpretations of the IPRA law. Section 78 of the IPRA law provides that the city's lots are not covered by the law but other provisions state otherwise.

The move came after city register of deed Juanito Ampaguey reported that some portions of critical reservations like the Forbes Park reservation have already been titled, most of which are ancestral land claims.

The body was worried that the city will lose more of these reservations to ancestral claims if the practice continues.

During the session, the body also requested the NCIP and DENR to furnish the city council with the delineation and specifications of the areas covered by the original 48 claimants of ancestral lands.

Another move to suspend the approval of locational clearance, development permit and building permit to lands covered by ancestral land titles is now under study by the body.

For Forbes Park, the body approved the creation of a committee composed of the city legal officer, planning officer, city assessor and city engineer to conduct an investigate the lot 1 of Forbes Park to establish the metes and bounds of the area and those portions which have already been titled.

The said team was given 30 days to complete the task.

Results of the investigation will be used to in whatever legal action the city may take to protect its interest over these valuable properties./Aileen P. Refuerzo

## Cordi Nawi

..... from page 6

sure that would greatly impede the work of God; but statesmen who fear the Lord are influenced by holy angels to oppose such propositions with unanswerable arguments. Thus a few men will hold in check a powerful current of evil. The opposition of the enemies of truth will be restrained that the third angel's message may do its work. When the final warning shall be given, it will arrest the attention of these leading men through whom the Lord is now working, and some of them will accept it, and will stand with the people of God through the time of trouble.

The angle who unties in the proclamation of the third angel's message is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. The advent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first angle's message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angle.

To be continued....

## Batas

..... from page 5

manner, making it travel to very far distances, explaining why it is not visible as all the other nine planets.

There are claims that some 3,600 years ago, Nibiru's oblongated orbiting brought it very close to earth, making the waters rise to very high levels around the world, and inducing heavy rains worldwide. Many believe this event took place during Noah's time, when the "Great Flood" inundated the whole planet and killed almost all of creation.

-ooo-

Now, it is believed that after 3,600 years Nibiru is returning, once again, close to the other nine planets of the solar system, particularly near earth.

It is the belief of many that this time, however, it will not cause waters to rise and heavy rains to fall on earth, but it will bring big and fiery boulders and rocks in its path many of which, because of gravitational pull, will likely hit parts of the earth.

It is also thought that as it is passing through or near the planets, it will cause eclipses for it will block the sun and the moon, and will cause the planets to tremble violently because of strong gravitational pull, as what is reported to be happening now to Saturn and Pluto.

Falling stars, heavenly bodies shaking, the sun being darkened, the moon not giving its light? Coincidences between Internet information and the Bible? What do you think?

-ooo-

**REMINDERS:** Please watch Atty. Batas Mauricio give free legal advice at the Internet, through "YouTube", "metacafe" and "iGoogle", and listen to his radio programs: **DZRB RADYO NG BAYAN 738 khz.** in Luzon, Mondays to Fridays, at 5:30 in the morning (simulcast worldwide at [www.pbs.gov.ph](http://www.pbs.gov.ph)); **DZRM RADYO MAGASIN, 1278 Khz.** also in Luzon, Mondays to Fridays, 6:45 in the morning (also simulcast worldwide at [www.pbs.gov.ph](http://www.pbs.gov.ph)); **DYKA 801 khz.** in San Jose, Antique (simulcast over [www.kinaray-a.com](http://www.kinaray-a.com)), Mondays to Fridays, at 10 in the morning; and **DYMS Aksiyon Radyo** in Catbalogan City, Samar (simulcast at [www.samarnews.com](http://www.samarnews.com)), Mondays to Fridays, at 11 in the morning.

## Editorial....

..... from page 4

"I'm not exactly proud of that record," Osmena admitted. "But I'm not exactly sad that criminals were killed..." It's a question of dosage. Wink. Wink."

Has human life been stripped to calibrated doses? Who decides whose blood is to be a dosage? And who says stop? Or more, "Osmena prides himself as an honorable man," Viewpoint added. "At 20,000 per head, the 'pacified' 117 victims mean the mayor, in honoring his word, paid P2.34 million.

"It's taboo to use public funds for crime payrolls. Philanthropy, however, is not one of his strong suits. So, who provided the

shekels?. Friends? Businessmen? Did they claim these as "tax deductions"?"

Every unpunished murder takes away something from the security of every man's life," Daniel Webster said. Today's perversion of institutions is possible only if citizens acquiesce.

Salvaging is "a cheap price to pay for peace and order", some Cebuanos and Davaoenos say. They'll lay down the lives of others, not their own. Where their pocket-books begin, the right of "criminals" end.

Supreme Court initiatives like the writ of amparo to a beefed up human rights commission, help tamp down murders from 220 in 2006, to 64 in 2008. So did Alston's meticulous documentation and dogged candor, "Government 'deserves credit' for sending a strong message, although informal, to the military, he wrote. "Overall, the most important shortcoming has been the government's failure to institutionalize or implement reforms."

"Just ignore Alston, "Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales snorted. That tickles the ears of Mayors Duterte and Osmena, who returns from cancer surgery this month.

But the timeline sketches a Cain-like legacy of blood. Alston's work made audible the voice muffled by government: "The blood of your brother Abel calls out to Me from the earth."/J.L.Mercado

## Diretsahan

..... from page 4

Hanggang ngayon ay marami pa ring sasakyan ang nagbubuga ng maruming usok at mukhang dumarami pa yata, at nakakapagtaka naman dahil andaming mga ahensya na dapat ay tinitignan muna kung nakapasa sa pamantayan itong mga sasakyan bago pinapayagang makaarangkada sa mga kalsada, o baka naman me rason ang mga opisyal na ito ng LTO at LTRFB DOTC-CAR na maging bulag, pipi, at bingi, naging inutil kaya sila dahil sa nakakalasang usok mula sa tambutso o dahil sa nakakalulang presyo ng kanilang cash sunduan? He, he ano sa palagay ninyo mga suki...? at ano rin sey nyu mga konsehal, mayor at bise mayor ng Baguio? Tulog pa ba kayo? Gising!

oOo

Sino kaya itong dalawang konsehales ng Baguio na natiyempuhan kong kausap nila Mister Rogelio Tan at Misis Norma Tan ng Jadewell Parking Corp. bago ang council session? No wander na walang imik ang dalawa ng magkaroon ang deliberasyon hinggil sa Jadewell kunsaan ang isa ay nagpila ng mosyon para pag-aralan ng kumite ang mungkahing "aregluhan" ng Jadewell.

Sa aking pagkakaalam, nagsalita na ang mayorya sa Baguio na ayaw na nilang bumalik pa ang operasyon ng Jadewell dito at kung sakali naman na maging malambot uli ang ating mga opisyal para sa Jadewell, susmaryosep, papayag na naman ba tayo na bayaran natin ang pagparada sa kalsada na pag-aari naman natin? Op kors nat, ano sila hilo? Pweh!



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

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE  
JUDGE

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

ATTY. MARCOS A.  
BULYAT,  
*Petitioner*

NOTARY PUBLIC  
PROCEEDINGS  
CASE  
NO. 09-NC-0517

NOTICE OF  
HEARING

Notice is hereby  
given that a summary  
hearing on the peti-

tion for appointment  
as Notary Public filed  
by the above named  
petitioner shall be  
held on May 21, 2009  
at 10:30 a'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  
petition may file a  
verified written appo-

sition thereto on or  
before the date of the  
summary hearing.

Let this Notice of  
Hearing be published  
once (1) a week for  
two (2) consecutive  
weeks in the JUNC-  
TION, a newspaper of  
general circulation  
in Baguio City and  
Benguet Province,  
the first publication  
to be made not later  
than May 16, 2009.

SO ORDERED.

La Trinidad, Benguet,  
Philippines, this day  
of May, 2009.

By:  
SGD/MARYBELLE  
LAE DEMOT  
MARINAS  
Executive Judge

May 9 & 16,  
2009

## DOH enhances maternal and newborn care

**L A T R I N I D A D ,** Benguet - Efforts to reduce maternal mortality rate in the country are currently being undertaken through measures aggressively being implemented nationwide, according to Department of Health Undersecretary Jade del Mundo.

Del Mundo delivered his message during the launching of the Safe Motherhood Awareness Campaign held last week in line with the celebration of the Safe Motherhood Week from May 10 - 15, 2009 at

the Benguet General Hospital. The event was attended mostly by pregnant women, who are the focus of this year's theme - "Una sa lahat, ligtas sa Pangangalakal." *Magandang lamang sa Anak facility.*

Del Mundo said the Philippines is one of the countries in Southeast Asia having the highest maternal mortality rate at 162 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births such that there is a need for a paradigm shift to achieve MMR reduction in consonance with the Millennium Development Goal.

MDG Goal number 5 aims to bring down MMR to 75 percent or at 52.5 per 100,000 in 2015.

**D O H - C A R** Regional Director Myrna Cabotaje revealed that although the region has lower MMR at 70 per 100,000 live births or 24 maternal deaths compared to national figure, it is still alarming as the cases are increasing from 14 in 2005, 19 in 2007 to 24 in 2008.

Based on DOH data culled from the 2003 National Demographic Health Survey (NDHS), 62 percent of women gave birth outside a health

Cont. on page 11

## 10 cities in NL to join the Sabsabong Ti Mayo" during the city's 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Housing Festival on May 24 - 31.

**BAGUIO CITY** - The City will host the first Grand Housing Festival on May 24 up to the 31<sup>st</sup> at the Baguio Convention Center showcasing the real estate industry of the city, its unique products and native fibers and an eco-cultural tourism package dubbed Sabsabong ti Mayo.

This is a tri-sectoral endeavor of the city government through the City's tourism office, the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association Inc. (CREBA Baguio-Benguet) and the Baguio Community Volunteers Movement.

To launch the event, a Kapitan fu-

rum was held Tuesday which was attended by CREBA Baguio-Benguet officials led by its president Fely Ronquillo, Mr. Benedicto Albarra of the City Tourism Office, Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB-CAR) Director Rebecca Torres and Eric De Austin Pasi of the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA).

Among the line up activities are a motorcade on May 25; housing and tourism fair; a jobs fair; a housing and business conference; a signing of MOA on the launching of programs for retirees; a cultural fashion

show and an "Anido" (The bonfire).

Highlighting the festival is "Sabsabong Ti Mayo" or Flores De Mayo from May 24 to 31.

According to Leandro Yargot of CREBA, the May Flower festival will be a big boost for Baguio and Benguet, as participants from 10 other cities of Northern Luzon, namely, Alaminos, Unkeneta, San Carlos and Dagupan in Pangasinan; San Fernando in La Union; Candon in Ilocos Sur; Batac and Laoag in Ilocos Norte and Tabuk in Kalinga, are expected to join.

Cont. on page 11

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

**WILLIAM CALGO**

Applicant

Case No: 94-CAR-292

### NOTICE OF HEARING

There is application for the Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience, to operate a PU Service for the transportation and passengers and freight, on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA, CRYSTAL DRIVE and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on May 28, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. at the LTRB Office, Pocos, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall personally submit his/her evidence.

At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicants 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 to send them by e-mail, appear during the hearing.

This application shall be acted upon by the Board on the basis of the records and the documentary evidence submitted by the parties unless the Board deems necessary to receive additional documentary evidence.

WITNESSE, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANGAT, JR., REGIONAL DIRECTOR the 14th day of May 2009.

JOSOROSORIO R. RUTUA, JR.  
Hearing Officer

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

**GILBERT SIRAYAN**

Applicant

Case No: 2002-CAR-021

### NOTICE OF HEARING

There is application for the Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience, to operate a PU Service for the transportation and passengers and freight, on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA, JACUPAN and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on May 28, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. at the LTRB Office, Pocos, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall personally submit his/her evidence.

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JOSOROSORIO R. RUTUA, JR.  
Hearing Officer

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

**SPS. SAMELITO & EVA DURAN**

Applicant

Case No: 2004-BAG-CAR-1260

### NOTICE OF HEARING

There is application for the Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience, to operate a PU Service for the transportation and passengers and freight, on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA, TAM-ANAN, GILGON, and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on May 28, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. at the LTRB Office, Pocos, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall personally submit his/her evidence.

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WITNESSE, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANGAT, JR., REGIONAL DIRECTOR the 14th day of May 2009.

JOSOROSORIO R. RUTUA, JR.  
Hearing Officer

## People's nightmare

..... from page 2

should be no sleepless nights for him," said Escudero, who is chair of Senate oversight committee on poll automation.

The senator also said the courts cannot issue a temporary restraining order to stop the holding of elections should the losing bidders challenge the decision of the Comelec on the P11.3 billion automation project.

"Chairman Melo knows very well what happened to the Megapacific case. He should therefore have a plan B, otherwise he and his colleagues will have to answer to the people," Escudero said.

"What he should be afraid even more is the failure of elections if automation is carelessly done. That is a nightmare we may never wake up from," he warned.

The Comelec chair raised a possible no-election scenario if the losing bidders challenge its decision on the biggest, single contract for a government project.

The poll body has reconsidered the bids of four of the seven consortiums which had been disqualified for failure to submit some of the required documents. Melo said the Comelec will announce the result of the bidding this weekend./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

## Gov't should

..... from page 2

match problem," he said.

"On top of this, the government needs to practice good governance, particularly in rolling out a transparent, level playing field with clear rules. These are the key to creating meaningful and lasting jobs," Escudero added.

"It is convenient to claim as 'mere perception' the data on rising joblessness. It would do well for Malacanang to snap out of denial, buckle down to work, and find real solutions to the very real problem of unemployment," Escudero said.

He noted that the task of addressing unemployment becomes more urgent following reports that the number of overseas Filipinos who have lost their jobs is rising. These Filipinos are expected to come home in the coming months.

"The scenario here in the country is already dire. The projection becomes even bleaker when you factor in the unemployment numbers in countries where there are Filipino workers. We may come to a tipping point when our overseas workers start coming home. When that happens, can Malacanang still claim 'perception'?" Escudero said.

Major manufacturing companies recently laid off thousands of workers in the aftermath of the global economic meltdown.

Intel Corp. is shutting down its Philippine operations, affecting 3,000 workers. Panasonic announced plans to shut down one of its facilities here while Fujitsu and Amkor Technology have laid off almost 5,000 workers, and Accenture announced a 50-percent cut in its workforce.

The government estimates that 935,700 workers are at risk of losing their jobs both locally and abroad this year. Over 362,000 jobs in the export sector are under threat — 90 percent of those are in the electronics, garments and ignition wiring sub-sectors.

Data from various research groups also indicate that more than 500,000 overseas jobs are under threat. There are 129,000 temporary workers in recession-wracked US. Also in recession are South Korea and Taiwan, which, between them, employ 200,000 Filipino factory workers. Another 48,000 housemaids are employed in Hong Kong and Singapore, which are both contracting economically.

In addition, the government estimates that 130,000 seamen on cruise ships are facing layoffs. Japanese ship owners, according to Agence France Presse, have notified the government that more than 40,000 crew members on car carriers, bulk carriers and container ships will be laid off as world trade continues to slow./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

## DENR asks

..... from page 3

He said monitoring the trees would "prevent a repeat of the mentioned incident with the added purpose of insulating the city of Baguio from any kind of legal suit from similar accidents in the future."

Balajadia stressed that the monitoring and inspecting of trees must be done regularly specially during the rainy season.

The resolution requires the DENR and CEMO to make a monthly report on the inventory of all the trees and their status to be submitted to the city council for information and appropriate action./Aileen P. Refuerzo

## Comedienne

..... from page 3

"It is believed that the statement of Candy Pangilinan that Igorots are not members of the homo sapiens displays an unmitigated bigotry and her total ignorance of the ethno-linguistic groups of her native country which is discriminatory and unpatriotic and should be condemned by peace-loving Filipinos," the resolution also states.

There are also some ignorant persons who do not know that Igorots are also made in God's image and treat them condescendingly as second class citizens, it was further stated.

A copy of the resolution shall be furnished to the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), ABS-CBN, Kapisanan ng mga Artista ng Pelikulang Pilipino (KAPP) and SM-Baguio.

During the council session, there were also suggestions that shows or movies in which Pangilinan participates in, be boycotted.

As of press time, however, it was learned that Pangilinan has tearfully apologized earlier in her TV shows.

The resolution was approved during a special session last Friday morning purposely for garbage matters in the city./juliegfianza

## Dads want

..... from page 3

but also along waterways within the city," Balisong said.

"Natural waterways such as creeks, rivulets, rivers and canals have become the drainage tributary/systems for sewage and animal refuse."

He said the dumping of waste materials and the draining of sewer and animal waste to waterways "may result to water and air pollution and clogging of the waterways and eventually will affect the health and sanitation of the community."

He said the wastes also clog the waterways and the stagnant water could become breeding grounds of disease-carrying insects like the mosquitoes.

"Executive and legislative action is imperative to prevent and/or minimize the possible spread of diseases in the city due to improper use, abuse, and disregard of our waterways including the indiscriminate disposal of household refuse, waste materials and garbage along these waterways, streets and barangay roads," Balisong said.

He said the study should be conducted to check this problem.

The offices concerned were also directed to submit an evaluation report as basis for appropriate legislative action./Aileen P. Refuerzo

## Batching plants

..... from page 3

they are only complying with orders from the mayor, as it was their office assigned to assist in the closure. There have been no confiscations done, as it was not specified in the mayor's directive, he added. Appropriate complaints as to allegations of favoritism in closing the plants could be filed in the courts, if any, he said.

The City Legal Office shall also undertake proper legal remedies to "protect the community's health and concerns," it was learned.

There shall also action done to amend ordinances and resolutions as to batching plants, to include penalties and fines to violators, the acting mayor emphasized. Our actions should be strengthened, he added, "more teeth should be put into our laws."

According to national laws and local zoning regulations, batching plants and similar industrial units deemed as nuisance and hazardous to health are mandated to be outside of urban centers, such as Baguio, acting mayor Farinas said

Representatives of Marcon Builders, one of the batching plants in question, agreed to put in writing their intention to gradually close shop after a short while. They also said that they are no longer operating on a big scale.

No representative of the other batching plant, said to be owned by a William Tan, Jr. was present during the meeting./juliegfianza



**Palace affirms****..... from page 12**

Quezon City Police District; PO3 Perlito Obligacion and PO1 Garvin Mendi, Joseph Tedd Leonor, Arnel Templa and Gerald Lagos of the Southern Police District; and PO2 Dennis Adan, Noe Abedo and Moises Ramos and PO1 Jay Angeles from the Manila Police District.

The Comprehensive Drugs Act of 2001 provides that, criminal charges must also be filed against policemen for their failure to appear in court.

PNP spokesman Chief Supt. Nicanor Bartolome said 23 other police officers currently face similar charges for the same offense.

"The PNP is confident that the designated disciplinary authorities can resolve the other pending cases in the soonest possible time," Bartolome said.

The PNP initially reported that some 100 police officers failed to attend court hearings over a period of two years./PIA

**DOH****..... from page 8**

facility and 40 percent of women gave birth without the assistance of a skilled birth attendant.

The call for a paradigm shift according to del Mundo is to encourage the delivery of pregnant women in health centers or hospitals as birth delivery in the home or outside a health facility is commonly practiced especially in the far-flung areas. Hence, this gives rise to complications such as bleeding, hypertension, among others. He stressed the importance of advocating birth delivery in health centers or hospitals where basic facilities can be found and the causes of complications can be remedied.

In response to the paradigm shift is the establishment of a basic emergency obstetrics care (BEMOC) and comprehensive emergency obstetric care (CEMOC) which have to be equipped and manned with trained personnel, according to del Mundo.

Cabotaje also stressed the need to shift from the traditional "hilot" to skilled birth attendants adding that no matter how trained they are, they still need the necessary skills as birth complications are unpredictable.

Del Mundo also said that pregnant mothers should be reminded to undergo natal, prenatal and post natal services for proper management and address whatever problems that may arise. It is the aim of DOH that every mother and child will be assured of good health and safe delivery.

Other highlights of the Safe Motherhood Awareness Campaign were free pre-natal check up of participating mothers and distribution of Buntis kits./S.C. Aro/PIA

**10 cities****..... from page 8**

City Tourism Officer Benny Alhambra explained that the Sabsabong Ti Mayo, goes beyond the usual "Santacrusan" as Baguio with its cool climate, beautiful scenery, friendly people, a rich and diverse culture, showcases its treasures in the week-long Sabsabong promote the city as an urban power and as a tourism hub in the North

Vice President Noli De Castro, PRA chair retired General Aglipay and Senator Manny Villar are invited to grace the event.

Meanwhile, CREBA Baguio-Benguet is still accepting applicants for the 1st Grand Housing Festival Booths. For more information, you can contact them thru e-mail [bbcrebahousingfestival2009@gmail.com](mailto:bbcrebahousingfestival2009@gmail.com) or contact Rose Ann Tabora at Jesnor - Bldg#4 Otek corner Cariño street, with tel no. 442-65-81 or 448-57-72./Lito Dar/PIA

**40 Farmers****..... from page 7**

program in developing farmers become entrepreneurs as government's initiative in providing them extra source of income.

Participants are taught principles in preparing business plan that includes marketing and financial plans as tools in opening small business projects. They are led to what business opportunities they can venture into based on looming business trend, making use of resources available in their areas.

For BSEA participants, they will be trained on coffee processing projects, since most of them are coffee farmers, while those from RMPC will take corn and peanut processing.

The training also provides participants with added skills based on the kind of business they open to assure sustainability and self-reliance.

Sanet explained that for those who can not provide their own seed capital, DTI can assist and make referrals to existing finance institutions in the province.

We appeal to finance institutions if they can soften their loan policies, since most applicants under this program belong to the poor, who could not afford to present collaterals, Sanet said. But we are hastening our representation to the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. (SBGFC), the sister-agency of DTI in-charge of funding assistance for the accommodation of our micro-business applicants in the province.

Sanet said their office now assists small business groups that earlier applied funding help with the SBGFC complete the requirements, though seen to be a long process yet.

She informed that no applicant so far from the RuMEPP provinces of Abra, Ifugao and Kalinga has met the requirements prescribed by the SBGFC under its loan program./L.Lopez/PIA-Kalinga

**Kalinga products****..... from page 7**

government's response to the global financial crisis, products brought to the caravan find wide promotion, opening new market opportunities for small traders.

Baral said although the activity is set as food caravan, products displayed are not limited to food commodities but is open to other agri-based goods. This way, small producers would gain new market outlets adding to their income at this time of the crisis, she explained.

Speaking of market opportunity, Baral said even if the display period only lasts for a day, products promoted will gain marketability in future trade fairs.

The initial product worth listed from Kalinga amounts to P70,000 coming from the sectors on loom weaving, coffee, Unoy rice and other agri-products.

Transportation expense in the caravan shall be shouldered by the government, through the DTI, as incentive to producers.

The Kalinga booth to the caravan will be manned by staff from DTI provincial office, assisted by two others from the traders group, Baral said./L.Lopez/PIA-Kalinga

**DENR presents****..... from page 7**

side maintenance program; DSWD - livelihood and cash for work projects; DOLE - Tulung Panghanapbuhay sa ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD); DOT - Grassroots Entrepreneurs for Ecotourism (GREET); Department of Health - Botika ng Barangay; and OWWA - Filipino Expatriate Livelihood Support (FELSF).

One of the issues raised during the RKCG meeting is the source of the funding of CLEEP projects. NEDA Regional Director Juan Ngalob said there were projects already implemented in 2008. There are also expanded CLEEP projects for this year under the approved Economic Resilience Package (ERP) but how exactly the budget will be distributed across regions was not disclosed, according to Ngalob.

Some agencies claimed that budget used for CLEEP projects were sourced out from their regular funds. To clear the air and avoid confusion, Ngalob suggested that it is the responsibility of each agency involved in the program to ask their respective central offices where the source of funds came from.

Presidential Assistant Thomas Killip suggested that a meeting will be held to consolidate reports of CLEEP projects under the DENR and the DSWD indicating their respective fund sources./S.C. Aro/PIA

## Food inspection request

**BAGUIO CITY** – The city council last Monday approved a resolution authored by Councilor Perlita Rondez requesting the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) under the Department of Health to inspect food products sold at the city market, groceries and sari-sari stores as a safeguard against salmonella bacterium.

Rondez' measure was triggered by the

alarm caused by an outbreak of salmonella food poisoning associated with peanut butter in the United States early this year.

The incident prompted the recall of selected brands of imported peanut butter and other products that are being sold at the local market.

This also made even local brands of

homemade peanut butter products suspicious and further tests confirmed that some brands were indeed contaminated.

Salmonella can be contracted by ingesting contaminated food that are not properly cooked or has been contaminated after preparation.

"There is a need therefore for the government agency to inspect, monitor and test all food items that may be contaminated with salmonella," the resolution noted. / aileen p. refuerzo

## Council wants stone ruins of old market preserved

**BAGUIO CITY** – The city council sought the preservation of the ruins of the original stone structure of the city public market which was exposed by the fire that gutted the vegetable and tobacco sections of the trading center last March 2.

In a resolution authored by Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda, the body recommended the retention of the stone facade and columns, all remnants of the old market building in any restoration or development works being planned for the area.

Mayor Reynaldo Bautista Jr. earlier announced plans to build a temporary structure in the fire-affected area to provide a decent vending space for the 238 stallholders

affected by the fire while the large-scale development plan remains in the works.

The body said it is important that in any development plan for the market, the retention of the stone structure erected in the 1900's by the early settlers with the use of heritage stones then abundantly available in the area and the ingenuity of the native workers, should be considered.

Tabanda, in the resolution, noted that the heritage stones that made up the original structure withstood the fire reflecting "the strength of its builders and brings to memory the old Baguio with all its luster and glory engraved in the hearts of its people."

Thus, preserving

the structure would be a tribute to this memory.

In approving the resolution, the body strongly recommended the retention of the structure in any restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction of the building.

It will also require the prospective developer for said restoration projects to closely coordinate with the city buildings and architecture office and other concerned offices before proceeding with the work. / aileen p. refuerzo

## THE JUNCTION WEEKEND

## Palace affirms dismissal of 2 cops for non-appearance in drug litigations

Malacanang has affirmed the dismissal by Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Jesus Versoza of two policemen for repeated failures to attend court hearings of drug cases, resulting in the dismissal of the charges.

A third policeman implicated in a similar offense was exonerated.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita identified the two dismissed policemen as Police Offices 2 (PO2) Marlon Fernandez and Alfred Pastor Jr.

Exonerated was PO2 Josemarie Goduco, whose non-appearance in the court hearings on the drug case was deemed not to be his fault nor tainted with bad faith.

Ermita said Malacanang has also directed the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the PNP to fast-track the resolution of all pending against policemen for failure to attend court hearings of illegal drug charges.

The Presidential Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) had bewailed the dismissal of many drug cases it filed in court due to the failure of concerned police officers to appear in court during trial of the cases.

Ermita said he has also asked the PNP to furnish Malacanang regular updates on police delinquency in drug-related cases which has been

identified as the primary reason why no big-time drug traffickers are convicted.

The PNP recently fired 13 of its officers for their failure to attend court hearings of drug cases, their absence in which reportedly led to the dismissal of the charges against the suspects.

The policemen — all based in Metro Manila — were ordered dismissed late last month by Versoza after an investigation showed they habitually failed to show up and testify in court in connection with several drug-related cases.

Dismissed earlier from the service were Police Officers 3 Joel Sanchez, Leonardo Ramos and Teresita Reyes and PO2 Rommel Bulanon, all from the

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