

THE WEEKEND JUNCTION

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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Pahayagang palabanan!!!

Dads suspend payment of computerization contract



LINIS HANGIN SA BAGUIO - University of the Cordilleras president and former Dep-Ed Secretary Dr. Edilberto de Jesus, USAID Energy and Clean Air Project deputy chief Arlene Donaire and UC-ECAP Area Coordinator Edna Tabanda turn over a Pacimeter smoke test machine to city officials headed by Mayor Reinaldo Bautista and Baguio Regreening Movement chair and councilor Erdolfo Balajadia during simple rites last June 11. The stateof the art smoke testing machine was given as grant by the United States Aid for International Development in support to the city's Anti-Smoke Belching Program./ By BongCayabyab

BAGUIO CITY – The city council suspended the payment of any amount to the COMFAC Corporation which undertook the computerization of the city's real property tax administration and collection system.

The move was made during the body's last session in view of a report that COMFAC might be trying to collect payment for the project that costs P5 million even while the city council is still studying a pending proposal for the annulment of the contract with the firm for its failure to complete the project on time.

Councilor Richard Carino who made the move said the city has to withhold payment "pending determination of what is really payable based on the contract and pending the inventory of the equipment purportedly delivered by the company."

The body earlier tasked its committee on laws which Carino heads to review the documents of the contract and conduct an accounting of the

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Computerization na naman?
Gasgas na 'yan.!

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

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(reprint)

BY ARTURO BOQUIREN



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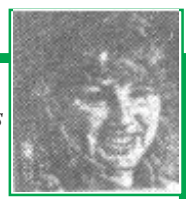
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AFTERSHOCKS

The Perks Of Being a Congressman In The Philippines
PART 2

BY: ANNABELLE PEDRONIO



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City commiserates with late Prosecutor's family

BAGUIO CITY- Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr., last week approved the council resolution expressing deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the family of retired Prosecutor Estrellita Panajon-Bernabe for her demise last May 5.

The late Prosecutor Panajon-Bernabe served as legal officer, legal researcher, deputy clerk of court, special counsel, 3rd assistant city fiscal, and an assistant city prosecutor; in courts here in Baguio City, La

Trinidad, Benguet and La Union, from January 1975 up to her retirement in 2007.

She is a graduate of Manuel L. Quezon University, Manila in 1962; and a Bachelor of Laws degree holder from the Saint Louis University in 1969. She hurdled the bar on the same year.

The late prosecutor is a recipient of the Outstanding Provincial Officials/ Employees of the Province of La Union in 1982 and a

certificate of merit from her Alma mater Saint Louis University in 1981.

The council unanimously approved the resolution which states: "Her service and endeavors had contributed much to the city of Baguio and her performance in office is well creditable because she unselfishly showed her exemplary devotion and commitment to it. Surely her advocacies shall live on forever."

She is survived by her mother, husband, brothers and sisters; a daughter, two sons and grandchildren./Julieg Fianza

Abra Town Mayor Sues Political Foes For Wife's Murder

La Trinidad, Benguet – Continuing the never-ending saga in Abra, Tineg mayor Edwin Crisologo has filed murder charges against his long-standing political foes purportedly to obtain justice for the murder of his wife inside the canvassing booths during the May 2007 polls.

Three members of the Benwarens – Lenin, Pedro and Tony—and five others – Henry Lee Tan, Nober Calubing, Jonathan Libuen, Jinky Gavino and

Myra Acosta Baldo allegedly conspired to murder Crisologo's wife – Brenda—on May 17, 2007, despite tight guarding by policemen.

The gunman, Tony Buyao, was killed by policemen in a shootout.

The mayor's wife died at the St. Lukes Hospital in Quezon City a month after the shooting. Mayor Crisologo's counsel, Atty. Estelita Cordero, said Crisologo's affidavit complaint was filed on June 5,

2008, with the case docketed as IS No. 2008-F-182 by the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor in Bangued, Abra. We had to conduct our own investigation into the shooting, the lady lawyer said, after the local police declared the case closed as the gunman himself was killed during the attack.

They had sought witnesses, eventually eliciting evidence about an alleged conspiracy to murder Brenda, Cordero said.

"Conspiracy"

Crucial to the case against the Benwarens, Cordero said, were the

Cont. on page 10

Denr urged to conduct massive info drive on City's disaster susceptibility, preventive measures

BAGUIOCITY – The city government is urging the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office (DENR-CAR) here to conduct a comprehensive information-education drive at the barangay level on the city's disaster risks and on the mitigating measures that can be adopted.

In Resolution No. 227 series of 2008 which was signed by Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr., the city said an information campaign is necessary particularly on the department's Hazards Mapping Assessment for Effective Community-based Disaster Risk Management also known as the READY Project to make the people aware of the extent of the city's susceptibility

to disasters and of the preventive measures that can be taken to avoid said dangers.

Resolution authors Councilors Isabelo Cosalan Jr., Erdolfo Balajadia and Galo Weygan recalled that in the seminar conducted by the department on the results of landslide hazard mapping last April 29 at City Hall, it was bared that most areas in the city fall within the three risk classifications: the high landslide susceptible, critical areas; and moderately high landslide susceptible.

"With the facts and figures provided, the city government cannot afford to ignore nor disregard the issue knowing that the magnitude and impact of devastation to the city and its residents can be extensive should a calamitous natural incident strike," the resolution noted.

"Given the geographical and geologi-

cal characteristics of the city coupled with the presence of areas susceptible to ground subsidence, many barangays in the City of Baguio are at risk anytime to calamities resulting from natural occurrences such as earthquakes, monsoon rains and tropical storms."

They said "it is imperative that every household in the city be adequately informed of all these studies and circumstances, including the preventive and mitigating measures by the proper authorities and the City Government to avoid unnecessary loss of lives and properties."

They said the information is also vital for those in charge of disaster management operations.

"There is a dire urgency in the conduct of the information drive as we are at the onset of the rainy and typhoon seasons,"

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THE JUNCTION

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The Junction- OIC

Dads revive opposition to loakan airport closure

BAGUIO CITY – Two councilors proposed a resolution seeking to drum up anew opposition to the revived plan to close the Loakan airport here.

Councilors Galo Weygan and Perlita Rondez, in a resolution, maintained that the airport remains to be an important support system to the city's tourism industry and therefore should be retained as such.

They sought to reiterate city council Resolution No. 157 approved by the body last year which expressed the residents' "desire for the continued operation of the airport... and to make known the opposition to any planned closure and/or conversion to an extension area of the Baguio City Economic Zone."

The aldermen said they learned from Rep. Mauricio Domogan of the re-

vived plan of the national government to pursue the closure of the airport to give way for the expansion of the Philippine Economic Zone."

Domogan himself was vocal in opposing the plan saying that access to the city must instead be continually improved with it being a tourist destination.

The congressman said authorities should instead be working on the improvement of the airport rather than totally stop its operations to help the city's tourism industry.

Weygan and Rondez said the airport's benefits to the city cannot be discounted.

They said the problem on the safety of residents traversing the run-way to get to their barangays could be addressed by constructing an alternate passageway for the people's use.

President Gloria Arroyo last year reportedly announced plan to shut down the airport for conversion "an extension area of the Baguio City Economic Zone, which hosts top performing exporter Texas Instruments Inc. (Tipti)..."

Rondez said the Baguio Tourism Council opposed the plan and even appealed to the city government and stakeholders to mount a campaign to stop the plan.

She said there certainly are negative sociological, financial, cultural and environmental impacts of the airport's closure.

Resolution No. 157 series of 2007 cited numerous resolutions adopted in the past that support the continued operation of the airport.

The council also held a public hearing on the matter last year where many groups including the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Baguio (HRAB), the Baguio-Benguet Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BBCCI), the Baguio Association of Hotels and Inns (BAHAI) and the Baguio Conventions and Visitors Bureau Baired opposition to the closure plan./ Aileen P. Refuerzo



FOR PUBLIC SAFETY- Members of the Public Order and Safety led by Team Leader Ronald Deligero receive 18 pieces of "Stop" signages donated by the Bishop's Cup Organization represented by Vic Agcaoili during simple rites last June 10. The POSD traffic assistance team will be fielded to various elementary schools within the city's district area to assist traffic enforcement and ensure the safety of pupils./By Bong Cayabyab

thority, Department of Education and all other parties with approved plans or titles within OCT No. 01.

In the resolution, it was noted that OCT No. 01 in the name of the Insular Government of the Philippines has no approved plan on file with the DENR but as per the certified copy of the title issued by the City Register of Deeds, there is no indication that OCT No. 01 has been cancelled.

"In a plan prepared by the Engr. Bernardo L. Bagano of the Office of the City Assessor and that of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), there are several Survey Work Orders issued for the subdivision of some portions of OCT No. 01, some of which were already approved by the DENR," the resolution further noted.

The resolution also said that there are proclaimed areas for various public purposes as well as portions with individual original certificate of titles issued within OCT No. 01.

Furthermore, the resolution said that according to the Office of the City Assessor there exist

53 Tax Declarations on their record covering several subdivided lots within the said titled government property in the names of either government agencies or private entities who are either owners or beneficial users.

Because of these seemingly voluminous and mud-
Cont. on page 10

City seeks formal verification survey over prime lot

BAGUIO CITY – The city government is requesting the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources to conduct a formal verification survey of an expansive prime lot covered by Original Certificate of Title No. 1 straddling Governor Pack,

Harrison Road and the Government Center to formally establish the lot's metes and bounds.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. has approved city council Resolution No. 232 for this purpose.

Authored by Councilors Isabelo Cosalan Jr., Rocky Thomas Balisong, Betty Lourdes Tabanda and Nicasio M. Aliping Jr., the measure

calls for the conduct of said survey on OCT No. 01 by the DENR in coordination with the City Government of Baguio, the Department of Public Works and Highways and with the presence of the representatives of SM Investment Corporation, University of the Cordilleras, Philippine Tourism Au-

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

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

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

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

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno

www.linisgobyerno.org

No Ears?

"It is difficult to speak to the belly," the Stoic philosopher Cato warned his fellow Romans. "It has no ears."

Unnerved by food prices that bolted 53%, in just months, 191 nations gathered in Cato's city Tuesday for a "Summit on World Food Security". Convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization, the gathering gropes for ways to leash runaway food bills before more join the 825 million who barely get enough to eat.

FAO general director Jacques Diouf called the crisis a "predictable catastrophe". But "I foresaw this problem," Malacanang spokesmen quoted President Arroyo as saying earlier. She did?

Not Summit delegates though. They fretted over price spikes from cereals, oil seeds to meat, and fish. Collapse of the Haiti

EDITORIAL

government, plus street protests, anchor their question: What will

be the political spillover if the price crunch persists? "Hunger knows no friend but it's feeder," the old proverb says.

In Asian countries, concern focuses on rice. "Mindanao, the country's food basket, is going hungry," the Inquirer reported. "Polished rice is retailed at more than twice the government-subsidized rice that is not available to most consumers" Corn grits prices have soared.

About 26 percent of the population earn P67 or less a day. They've been hardest hit by high food and fuel bills. Asian Development Bank economist. Hyun Son estimates about 2.3 million more Filipinos would skid into poverty for every 10-percent increase in food price.

FAO's "Food Outlook", for June 2008, provides context. Bad weather and export curbs jacked up rice prices "by an extraordinary 71 percent between January and April 2008". Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar spurred "international price quotations to leap by 10 percent in one week. By early May 2008, prices were more than double their May 2007 level".

Even small exporting nations, Brazil, Ecuador, Cambodia and Ecuador, curbed sales. This came when rice-short countries, notably the Philippines (whose President foresaw the problem?) and Bangladesh, shopped for sizeable volumes abroad. This "propelled international prices skyward".

Despite tapering supplies, Thailand kept its export window open. So did the US. "These are among the few sources of supplies that remain open." Prices of Thai white rice 100% B, often representative of world prices, more than doubled. This strengthened prices in Vietnam and Pakistan.

There's both good and bad news, FAO says. The good news: the 2008 harvests will top record levels. Stocks should tamp down prices. But not overnight. October-November is when bulk of 2008 paddy will be sold. Until then, "world rice quotations are likely to remain extremely strong."

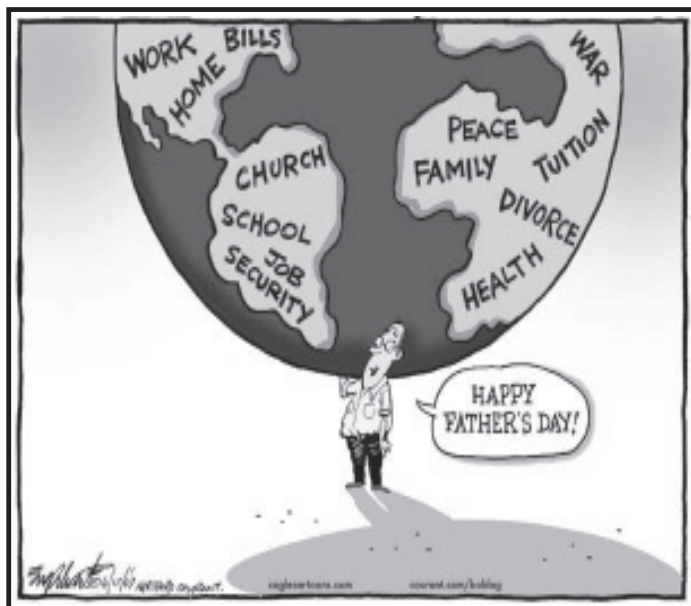
The bad news: Higher prices are here to stay. "World (and domestic) prices are unlikely to fall back to pre-2007 levels." Several countries will restock their granaries. Arable land is short. Production have costs soared.

A "Summit" synthesis study, for example, assumed oil prices will roller-coaster to a peak of \$104 a barrel by 2017 today, crude is already well above \$134. And some think that could climb to \$200 a barrel.

That'd bloat food production costs, specially for small farmers in poorer countries. Fertilizer is oil-based. It takes fuel to move crops from farms to tables. And careless neglect of agriculture, over the decades, has come home to roost.

"Food is not produced in a vacuum," then FAO Regional Representative Ubaidullah Khan wrote. "Warm bodies must plow, sow and reap. But agriculture is increasingly the career of last choice for the best and brightest of our youth. Feminization of farming has gone hand in hand with the feminization of poverty...specially in ecologically-brittle uplands."

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DIRETSAHAN

Mga bugok na pulis ng Compac IV BCPO station 7 "BODABIL" at MORO-MORO hulian ng kobrador

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon mga suki ay mayroon na namang maipagmamalaki ang lungsod ng baguio kaalinsabay ng pagdiriwang sa araw ng kalayaan noong huwebes, hunyo a dose.

Una ang pagwagayway sa pinakamalaking bandila ng pinas sa buong asya.hindi birong hirap at panahon ang ginugol para lamang ito mabuo na halos boung erya ng obal sa athletic bowl ay sinakop na dahil sa sobra nitong laki. Saludo pa ako sa mga nakaisip na gawin ito.

Pangalawa ay ang pinakalumang bandila ng pinas na dito sa lungsod ng pino matatagpuan at ito ay itinago at inalagaan sa baguio city museum. Saludo na naman tayo dito!

At dahil dito, ipinagmamalaki ko ang lungsod na aking sinilangan. Ipagmalaki po natin na tayo ay katutubo ng lungod! MABUHAY ANG BAGUIO! HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

ooOOoo

Hanep at talaga yatang "untouchable" ang mga inuman at bilyaran sa may synita Bldg. , tabora park, dating rabbit sinkhole ng lower Magsaysay. Nakailang beses na kasi nating kinukutingting ang mga tenga ng mga opesyal sa city hall pero mukhang BINGI at DEDMA ang mga bossing!

Kundi ba naman eh, hangang ngayon halos beinte kwatro oras pa ring nag-ooperey ang mga bidyukihan at bilyaran sa naturang lugar at paborito pa ring tambayan ng masasamang elemento katulad ng mga isnatser, mandurukot, holdaper, mandurugas, basagulero, etcetera!paano kasi, bukod sa magagandang weytress ay wala pa itong "curfew" kaya hindi bitin ang tropa na kahit magdamagan ang tomahan ay oki lang! at take note na karamihan umano sa mga establisimentong ito ay walang mga kaukulang lisensya at may mga trabahador daw na wala ring lisensya at ang iba ay menor de edad pati mga pulis at opisyal ng barangay ay nagreklamo na dahil sawang sawa na raw sila sa kareresponde sa naturang lugar.

Ayoko sanang isipin na may mga opisyal na nagsisilbing protektor pero mukhang tama yata ang "tsismis" na malakas ang mga naturang establisimento sa "itaas" rason kaya hindi ito nabubulabog! Tama po ba itong tsismis Meyor Bautista at City Administrator Peter Flanza? Kung tama, alam nyu bang kung sino o sino-sino ang may patong?kung hindi naman, aba eh, NAKAKAPAGTAKA!

ooOOoo

"BODABIL" at MORO-MORO lamang daw ang nangyaring hulihan sa mga kubrador ng huweteng sa may brookside noong isang linggo ng

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

*Walkable Baguio is pre requisite
for walk-to-work campaigns to
succeed*

(reprint)

BY ARTURO BOQUIREN



My tirades against the inefficiency and lack of commitment to public service of the Baguio Water District management have not yet ended. I will continue next week the peaceful combat against their attempt to exacerbate their inefficiency and put the citizens of Baguio City into deeper jeopardy.

Today I will focus a bit on Baguio's walk-to-work campaign. The City of Baguio started with something positive this environment month by initiating a walk-to-work campaign. Unfortunately, the initiative will not be sustainable if the city government will not complement the initiative by building a walkable Baguio.

Imagine ourselves living in Aurora Hill, Crystal Cave, San Carlos Heights, Dominican Hill, Quirino Hill, Bakakeng, or even Mines View. How on earth can you be able to walk to work when the air is full of smog, precipitation or rain is frequent, and sidewalks are almost non-existent?

Will you be willing to risk being sideswiped by fast-moving vehicle, become wet in the rain, inhale smog for several kilometers, and become vulnerable as well to muggers, snatchers, holdup-men, and bullies? Will you also be willing to walk into the night to your home after work?

Indeed a walkable Baguio City can be our answer to global warming, pollution, and climate change. However, for the walk-to-work campaign to work, Baguio City must be walkable. The air must be relatively clean and free of smog. Otherwise, we will have a vicious cycle here: the air is dirty, we do not walk, and when we do not walk, the air becomes dirtier.

Thus, government must have the political will to implement the anti-smoke belching laws AND government must seriously consider controlling the number of vehicles plying within the City. There must be a limit to the volume of both public and private vehicles. We must go beyond number coding because the rich simply buys two, three, four, five, six, and even seven vehicles to beat the law. Unwittingly, the coding system may have stimulated an exponential increase in the number of vehicles plying our cities.

Instead of a fetish for roads, the emphasis must be on covered sidewalks: spacious, well-lighted, safe and patrolled by policemen, and several kilometers long. The covered sidewalks can converge in the city's work areas from the residential areas of Aurora Hill, Bakakeng, Dominican Hill, Quirino Hill, and the like. Of course, this will take time but we must do this so we can make our city more attractive not only for our tourists but also for ourselves. Incidentally, analyze this: in the mind of tourists, why would he or she go to Baguio? Baguio is associated with mountains, trees, and forests. If the tourist is simply interested in a cool weather then the aircon rooms and Tagaytay suffice. It should clear that tourists go to Baguio with an expectation that the air here is unpolluted and they will be able to jog, run, and the like. However, this is no longer the case.

The corrupt need not worry that walkable city would imply less infrastructure. On the contrary, it would require tremendous but cost-effective infrastructure. A walkable city has many opportunities for corruption. Of course, **The Weekly Junction** and **The Peace Combatant** will be on the watch. The citizens must also be on the watch.

Make our city not only walker-friendly but butterfly and bird-friendly as well. Note that the bird flu virus is never associated with bird-friendly localities and this provides a basis why we can make our city butterfly and bird-friendly as well. The birds and the butterflies can be our indicators that our air is really clean: good for joggers and those wanting to be reinvigorated from the fresh air. The butterflies and birds can be our monitoring and advertising tools.

Finally, another important ingredient for a walkable city to materialize is safety. The city must be safe from muggers, thieves, and gangsters. Police visibility must be high. Police patrols must be frequent. There must a general feeling of safety for a walkable city to work.

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

AFTERSHOCKS

*The Perks Of Being a
Congressman In The Philippines
PART 2*

BY: ANNABELLE PEDRONIO



Data from the PCIJ book, The Rulemakers, show that the annual upkeep of each congressman had almost doubled from P2.83 million in 1994 to P5.16 million in 2002. Latest data culled from the published expenses of the 13th House point to a continuing trend, with the annual upkeep pegged at P5.7 million each congressman in 2005, or P480,880.36 a month — the highest to date.

COSTLY CONGRESSMEN - 2 Annual and Monthly Upkeep of Each Member of the House of Representatives

YEAR	ANNUAL UPKEEP	MONTHLY UPKEEP
1994	2,830,608.48	235,884.04
1995	2,588,929.44	215,744.12
1996	3,235,886.71	269,657.23
1997	3,496,225.83	291,352.15
1998	2,827,975.56	235,664.63
1999	4,537,482.57	378,123.55
2000	4,562,446.31	380,203.86
2001	3,917,321.63	326,443.47
2002	5,155,221.54	429,601.79
2004	4,112,520.42	342,710.04
2005	5,770,564.32	480,880.36

Source: Commission on Audit

While there has not been any increase in their basic salary since 1999, and most of the other entitlements have remained at their 2001 levels, each House member's district staff allocation has been increased to P650,000 annually. MOE also ballooned to P600,000 in 2005 from the previous year's P411,000. Meanwhile, expenses on consultative local travel and central office staff were at their highest in the same year at over P788,000 and close to P2 million, respectively, per congressman.

Foreign travel expenses in 2005 also was double the 2004 amount at an average of P221,000 each House member. The total bill paid for by the government for the overseas trips of 170 congressmen was P59,413,412.82.

COSTLY CONGRESSMEN - 3 Annual Average Amounts Paid to Foreign Travel of Members of the House of Representatives

YEAR	AMOUNT
1994	98,444.80
1995	89,948.98
1996	187,176.33
1997	184,458.69
1998	156,475.83
1999	372,988.06
2000	432,950.16
2001	254,395.86
2002	316,201.67
2004	110,129.44
2005	220,867.70

Source: Commission on Audit

THE HOUSE JETSET* Top 10 Spenders on Foreign Travel Among Members of the House of Representatives in 2005

CONGRESSMAN	EXPENSES
Antonio Cuenco	1,294,058.05
Roque Ablan Jr.	1,014,006.90
Monico Puenteveilla	960,789.66
Emilio Espinosa Jr.	806,904.43
Ernesto Nieva	795,350.89
Juan Miguel Zubiri	787,582.99
Abdullah Dimaporo	777,886.88
Hermilando Mandanas	741,172.72
Arnulfo Fuentesbella	733,777.65
Reylina Nicolas	731,196.5

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RP to start producing 10% of its oil need

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes announced that the development of the Galoc oil field in northern Palawan has been completed and that this additional output would raise local oil production to more than 30,000 barrels per day which is equivalent to some 10 percent of local demand.

Reyes said the Philippines would earn some US\$1.4 billion in two years with the additional production of 20,000 barrels of oil per day.

"We anticipate production rate of 17,000 to 20,000 barrels of oil per day. Galoc, together with the current oil production, will be over 30,000 barrels per

day. And this will account for almost 10 percent of local demand," he said.

Reyes said the Galoc Oil field development is a \$120-million investment in the energy infrastructure of the Philippines.

Reyes said the high quality oil found in the Galoc field is light, non-waxy and has medium sulphur content.

"So, it is premium oil and could be refined in local refineries here," he said.

With domestic refineries given priority, Reyes said the Philippines would also earn from the sale of crude oil which will be benchmarked at international prices.

Reyes said the Philippines could have a foreign exchange savings of

some \$1.4 billion if Galoc oil field's estimated 20-million barrel fuel reserve is extracted in two years, based on the current price of \$135 per barrel.

"You are looking at US\$1.4 billion, if you are able to extract the entire 20 million barrels over the expected span of two years at the current rate of US\$35 per barrel. So, that is the foreign exchange savings."

Increasing the country's oil and gas reserve and finding other renewable sources of energy are part of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's energy independence reform agenda.

Reyes said further exploration works are still being done to find additional reserves in the Galoc oil field area. / PIA CAR

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Bishop Bert Mercado for President sa 2010?

BY. BATAS MAURICIO



KUNG sawa na kayo na napapanood sa telebisyon o napapakinggan sa radyo ang maraming mga nagbabalak ng kumandidatong pangulo ng Pilipinas sa 2010, maaaring maging interesado kayong malaman na may deklaradong kandidato na palang ang pangalan ay "Norberto Lasierna Mercado".

Si Norberto Lasierna Mercado ay "Bishop Bert" kung tawagin ng kanyang mga kamag-anak, kaibigan at kakilala mula sa kanyang alma mater na University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, dahil sa kanyang pagiging pinuno ng isang grupo ng mga Born-Again Christians na ang pangalan ay Council of Overseers for the Nation's Evangelization.

Si Bishop Bert ay graduate ng UP at ng National Defense College of the Philippines. Siya ay naging manunulat ng mga nobelang tumatalakay sa kalagayan ng mga overseas Filipino workers.

Pinuno siya sa kasalukuyan ng International Communicators Open University Foundation, Inc. at UP System Christian Alumni Association, mga non-governmental organizations na abala sa pagpapalaganap ng Salita ng Diyos sa Pilipinas at sa buong mundo.

Bagamat hindi siya kasama sa anumang mga malalaking partido politikal sa ngayon, itinayo naman niya ang partidong ang pangalan ay "Alliance for Progress", na ang layunin ay magsimula ng mga pagbabagong magbibigay ng mas magandang buhay sa maraming mga Pilipino.

At bagamat halos wala siyang pera upang makapangampanya ng kagaya ng ginagawa ng mga presidentiables ng mga major political parties sa ngayon, naniniwala siyang tanging ang Diyos lamang ang kanyang kailangan upang manalo sa 2010, kagaya ng naipakita na ng isang dating obispo ng Simbahang Katoliko ng Paraguay.

Naniniwala si Bishop Bert na dahil ang kanyang layunin ay upang maitanghal ang kadakilaan ng Diyos upang mabago ng lubos ang Pilipinas at mabigyan ng mas mabuting buhay ang mga Pilipinong naghihirap, gagabayan siya ng Panginoon sa laban niyang ito.

Ano ang isa sa mga pinakamahalagang nais gawin ni Bishop Bert kung siya ay nanalo na bilang pangulo ng Pilipinas?

Ayon sa kanya, aalisin niya ang pagbabayad ng anumang uri ng income tax ng lahat ng Pilipino, mayaman man o mahirap.

Naniniwala kasi siyang kung mawawala ang income tax na binabayaran sa gobyerno, magagamit ito ng ating mga kababayan upang makapagnegosyo o makapagtatag ng kani-kanilang hanapbuhay, kahit na maliit lamang.

Sa mga nagnanais na makilalang lalo si Bishop Bert, puntahan ang kanyang website, sa www.mercadoforpresident.tk, at basahin din ang kanyang mga plano sa pagpapatakbo ng Pilipinas sa www.batasnews.com, sa kanyang kolum na "The Next President."

Kung ako ang inyong tatanungin, maganda ang layunin ni Bishop Bert, sapagkat umaayon ito sa sinasabi ng Bibliya sa Mateo 25:31-36: anuman ang ginawa ninyo para sa mga maliliit at mahihirap na tao, yan ay ginawa na din ninyo kay Kristo.

ooo-

TANONG: itatanong ku po kung meron b kame 13month sa SSS at iba pa yung s trabaho. nerdie ng pasig cty (639063720534).

Cont. on page

In Loving Memory of Rodolfo O. Gueco

Jan. 18, 1951 - June 9, 2008

We, the bereaved family, would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to relatives, friends, neighbors and acquaintances who condoled with us, gave prayers, hope, encouragement, and aid during our time of grief.



From wife Perlita; mother Rosita; mother-in-law Florenda; children Alex and Edna, Regency and Jonathan, Regina and John Marc; grandchildren Raya, Riyana, RSean, Migs, Trisha and Tristan.

Psalms 119: 41

"Let thy mercies come also unto me, O Lord, even thy salvation, according to thy word."

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
Community Service Center, NCIP-Baguio City
Rm. 410, Lyman Ogilby Centrum, Mag. Ave. Baguio City

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF ANCESTRAL LAND CLAIMS

Pursuant to section 53(e) R.A. 8371 in relation to Sec. 7(dq), part 1, Rule VIII NCIP Administrative order no. 1 series of 1999, notice is hereby made for the following Petitions for the Identification, Delineation and Recognition of ancestral lands situated in Res. Sec. , "J" Baguio City filed by **heirs of Lamis Quecoy represented by Anton Baday and heirs of Saguilit Sacay Et. Al. represented by Timoteo L. Dapnisan** as their ancestral lands more particularly described as follows:

1. Heirs of Quecy Lamsis

A parcel of land Lot 1, Psu-223654 Situated at Res. Sec. "J" of the City of Baguio Island of Luzon. Bounded on the north, by Lot 2, Psu-223654 (Lamsis Quecoy); bounded on the west along lines 6-7 and 1-2 by Public land, and along line 7-1 by Psu-209865 (Juanito Lardizabal); bounded on the south and west along lines 2-3-4-5, by Baguio Balatoc road. Beginning at point marked 1 on plan being S 49-32 W 3689.61 m. from BLLM no. 1, Baguio City; S 16-40 W 33.55 m. to point 2; N 81-31 W 48.01 m. to point 3; S 69-59 W 46.29 m. to point 4; N 27-42 W 104.55 m. to point 5; S 86-19 E 157.86 m. to point 6; DUE SOUTH 22.21 m. to point 7; S 17-55 W 20.22 m. to point of beginning, containing an area of **TEN THOUSAND (10,000)** sq. m. more or less. All points referred to are marked on the ground by P.S Cyl. Conc. Mons. 15 x 60 cms.

A parcel of land Lot 2, Psu-223654 Situated at Res. Sec. "J" of the City of Baguio Island of Luzon. Bounded on the northwest along lines 15-16-17 by lot 3 and along line 17-18 by lot 4 of Psu-223654 and along line 18-19 by lot 1, psu-223655; bounded on the northeast along lines 19-20-1-2-3-4 by public land; bounded on the southwest along line 4-5 by lot 1, Psu-223654 and along lines 5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15 by Baguio Balatoc Road 20.00 m. wide. Beginning at point marked 1 on plan being S 57-44 W 3619.90 m. from BLLM no. 1, Baguio City; S 80-40 E 198.40 m. to point 2; S 17-03 E 219.54 m. to point 3; DUE SOUTH 177.79 m. to point 4; N 86-19 W 157.86 m. to point 5; N 44-56 W 6.69 m. to point 6; N 70-38 W 48.31 m. to point 7; S 52-03 W 73.15 m. to point 8; N 70-15 W 141.80 m. to point 9; N 70-43 W 18.72 m. to point 10; N 58-07 W 19.26 m. to point 11; N 29-01 W 28.34 m. to point 12; N 06-10 W 65.03 m. to point 13; N 62-04 W 148.91 m. to point 14; N 54-04 W 19.85 m. to point 15; N 54-48 E 47.03 m. to point 16; N 15-49 W 50.14 m. to point 17; N 24-48 W 75.00 m. to point 18; N 54-48 E 215.10 m. to point 19; DUE EAST 125.00 m. to point 20; S 34-31 E 83.21 m. to point of beginning, containing an area of **TWO HUNDRED SIXTY SIX THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY THREE (216,453)** sq. m. more or less. All points referred are marked on the ground by old P.S cyl. Conc. Mons. 15 X 60 cm.

A parcel of land Lot 3, Psu-223654 Situated at Res. Sec. "J" of the City of Baguio Island of Luzon. Bounded on the northeast and southeast by lot 2 Psu-223654; bounded on the southwest by Baguio Balatoc Road 20.00m. wide and bounded on the northwest by lot 4, Psu-223654. Beginning at point marked 1 being S 58-36 W 4033.30 m. from BLLM no. 1, Baguio City; N 54-48 E 79.48 m. to point 2; S 15-49 E 50.14 m. to point 3; S 54-48 W 47.03 m. to point 4; N 54-04 W 50.00 m. to of beginning, containing an area of **THREE THOUSAND (3000)** sq. m. more or less.

A parcel of land Lot 4, Psu-223654 Situated at Res. Sec. "J" of the City of Baguio Island of Luzon. Bounded on the northwest by lot 1, Psu-223655; bounded on the southwest by baguio Balatoc Road 20.00 m. wide and bounded on the northeast and southeast by lot 2 and lot 3, Psu-223654 respectively. beginning at point marked 1 on plan being S 58-36 W 4033.30 m. from BLLM no. 1, Baguio City; N 52-40 W 46.57 m. to point 2; N 21-06 W 30.25 m. to point 3; N 54-48 E 100.00 m. to point 4; S 24-48 E 75.00 m. to point 5; S 54-48 W 79.84 m. to point of beginning, containing an area of **SEVEN THOUSAND (7000)** sq. m. more or less.

2. HEIRS OF SAGUILIT SACAY ET. AL.

A parcel of ancestral land claim located at Res. Sec. "J" City of Baguio Island of Luzon. Bounded on the northeast by Psu-1-001347; bounded on the southeast by property claimed by Wakat Suello; bounded on the southwest by property claimed by Tunged and bounded on the northwest by property claimed by heirs of Sioco Carinio, lot 3, Psu-44214 Amd. Beginning at point marked "1" on plan being N 70-20 E 780.45 m. from BLLM no. 1, Tuba Benguet; S 49-31 W 295.52 m. to point 2; N 58-29 W 1010.34 m. to point 3; N 19-53 W 99.04 m. to point 4; S 69-01 E 1198.88 m. to point of beginning, containing an area of **ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY THREE (186,873)** sq. m. more or less.

Any protest or opposition thereto must be filed within fifteen days from the last date of publication and addressed to the Baguio Service Center, Room 410, Lyman Ogilby Centrum, Magsaysay Ave. Baguio City

(SGD) NIEVES L. AQUINO
CDO III
NCIP Baguio Service Center

June 8 and 15, 2008

Aftershocks....

.... from page 5

Source: Commission on Audit

* List does not declare the foreign travel expenses of House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Because maintenance, operating, and other expenses of House members are consolidated with their basic salary in the payroll and classified as 'outright expenses,' these are no longer subject to liquidation, which means that congressmen do not have to account for these funds.

What's more, as reported in The Rulemakers:

They are not expected to submit a payroll

of their district staff or report their function, salaries and withholding taxes. No one starts asking if they do not produce a report on the research their offices should supposedly undertake. There is no demand for them to produce the list of consultants they have hired, as well as the contracts they draw up for those whose services they need. As far as the current (lack of) rules go, how the legislators spend their public affairs fund is their business and business alone.

The generous perks do not end there. The House Speaker is himself a source of funds with a vast discretionary largesse at his disposal. From this are mostly drawn the representatives' monthly allowances (which can

range from P50,000 to P100,000), Christmas bonuses (P100,000 to 200,000), as well as the 'payoffs' for votes during speakership contests and 'appearance fees' (P50,000 as minimum) for attending plenary sessions to vote on crucial national bills.

Under de Venecia, who has won an unprecedented fifth term as Speaker, the 14th House is not likely to veer away from the usual practice. Isn't it high time that the public demanded greater financial accountability from their representatives?

Source: <http://pagodkanaba.blogspot.com/2008/01/perks-of-being-congressman-in.html>

Batas.....**.... from page 6**

SAGOT: Nerdie of Pasig City, thank you for this question.

Ayon po sa Social Security System, may 13th month pay po ang mga pensiyonado.

Ayon kay Ms. Lilibeth Suralvo, isang administrative assistant ng SSS, ikinakalat nila ang mga 13th month pay na ito in time para sa kapaskuhan ng

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
OFFICE OF THE
CITY SHERIFF
Baguio City

SUMMIT BANK
(RURAL BANK OF
TUBLAY
(BENGUET), INC.,
Mortgagee,

(P2,003,342.17) PE-SOS, and other expenses of foreclosure proceeding, the undersigned Sheriff, will sell at public auction on June 30, 2008 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the Hall of Justice Lobby, Baguio City, and all the improvement existing thereon and more particularly described as follows

TRANSFER
CERTIFICATE OF
TITLE NO. T-42695

-versus-

SPOUSES
RICARDO and
CECILIANAYAL,
Mortgagors.

X————X

FORE. CASE NO:
08-30-S

SHERIFF'S
NOTICE OF
AUCTION SALE

Upon petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act. 4148 filed by SUMMIT BANK (RURAL BANK OF TUBLAY (BENGUET), INC. hereinafter referred to as the MORTGAGEE, executed on April 18, 2005 by SPOUSES RICARDO and CECILIA NAYAL both of 60 Bonifacio St/5 Mavar St., Aurora Hill, Baguio City, hereinafter referred to as the MORTGAGORS, to secure their mortgage obligation which as of date, amounts to TWO MILLION THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY TWO & 17/100

“Beginning at a point marked “1” of Lot 16, Blk-3, on plan Bes -2032-D. being S-89-49"E., 1218.84 m. from Triangulation Station “Skylin”, Baguio Townsite, Thence N. 55-32"W., 8.80 m. to point 2; N. 55-32"W., 4.18 m. to point 3; N. 34- 56"E., 24.53 m. to point 4; S. 54-15"E., 13.30 m. to point 5; S.35-15"W., 24.25 m. to point 1, point of beginning. Containing an area of THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY ONE (321) SQUARE METERS.xxxxxxxxxx”

Prospective bidders may investigate the Title, rights and improvements of the property with regards encumbrances, if any there be.

Baguio City,
Philippines, this 27th
day of May, 2008.

By: (SGD)
REMEDIOS
BALDERAS – REYES
Ex- Officio Sheriff
RTC, Baguio City

June 7, 14, & 21,
2008

bawat taon.

Batay sa ulat ni Ms. Suralvo sa atin, tinanggap na ng karamihang pensiyonado ng SSS ang mga ito sa Pebrero 2006 pa.

Sa isyu naman ng mga kasalukuyan pa lamang mga kasapi ng SSS, walang batas na nagbibigay karapatan sa inyo na makatanggap ng 13th month pay mula sa SSS.

-000-

BATAS PARTY LIST: Maaari na po kayong maging kasapi ng BATAS Party List, o ang Bagong Alyansang Tagapagtugayod ng Adhikaing Sambayanan. Ipadala po ang inyong mga pangalan at kumpletong address sa text 0917-984-24-68, o tawag sa (02) 433-74-49, (02) 433-73-53, o sa email sa batasmauricio@yahoo.com, at sa sulat sa 18 D Mahiyain corner Mapagkawanggawa, Teachers Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

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

ROGEL CANAO
Applicant

Case No. 2000-01-2253

NOTICE OF HEARING

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

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on June 24, 2008 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.

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

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 12th day of June 2008.

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

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

ARIEL A. AMINO
Applicant

Case No. 98-BC-1481

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

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on June 24, 2008 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.

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

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 12th day of June 2008.

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

NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

An Extra Judicial Settlement of Estate was entered into this 21st day of May 2008 at Baguio City by and between the heirs of the deceased PHOEBE FLORESCA Y MENDOZA who died intestate on September 26, 2003 at Baguio City. Entered into the Notarial Registry of Atty. Nicasio Aliping on the 21st day of May 2008 with Doc. No. 500; Page No. 101; Book No. 500; Series of 2008.

May 31, & June 7, 14, 2008

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

SALVADOR AMBATCAN - Vendor
CEASAR E. AMBATCAN - Vendee
Applicant

Case No. 98-BC-077 /

NOTICE OF HEARING

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

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on July 1, 2008 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.

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

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 12th day of June 2008.

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

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

MOISES ANGEL
Applicant

Case No. 98-01-1230

NOTICE OF HEARING

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

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on June 24, 2008 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.

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

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 12th day of June 2008.

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

Tabuk City braces for Guinness Book record

TABUK CITY, KALINGA – This newly created city of the Cordillera Region is eyeing for a title in the Guinness Book of World records by its Longest Hybrid Rice Linudag to be shown on its first foundation day anniversary, June 24.

The Longest Hybrid Rice Linudag will be set on the 7-kilometer thoroughfare entrance of the city stretching from Barangay Bulanao to the poblacion.

Linudag is the Kalinga indigenous way of cooking rice in bamboo tubes.

Organizers of the show wanted to ask the formal handing down of the title to Tabuk City as the Hybrid Rice Capital of the Philippines, having been informally alluded to in past several occasions.

Since the introduction of hybrid rice technology by the Department of Agriculture (DA) sometime in the

early ninety's, then to a group of rice farmers here, hybrid rice production in the province spread like contagious disease among farmers.

Today, hybrid rice farming is a major industry in the city and has reached commercial level, with Tabuk City once winning a national award as Top Hybrid Rice Seeds Producer of the country.

That was the time when Tabuk became a top supplier of hybrid rice seeds to other provinces like Ilocos Norte, Nueva Ecija, Isabela and Pangasinan.

Earlier study conducted by the PhilRice confirmed that the city is conducive to production of hybrid rice and other certified rice varieties because of its naturally blended climatic and soil conditions.

Because of the booming hybrid rice industry, DA has

identified the province one of its areas for hybrid rice commercialization program.

Because of this, DA is pouring down package of support to the program like provision of pre and post-harvest facilities, additional hybrid and certified rice seeds subsidies and more farm interventions.

Among the latest support facilities delivered to the province by DA includes 23 units flatbed dryers, multi-purpose drying pavements (MPDPs), seed laboratory and Bio-N laboratory.

Government through the DA is now introducing a farming technology to help farmers cut the cost of their inputs, under the Modified Rapid Composting Program (MRCP), making use of farm "waste materials" in the production of organic compost fertilizer./L.Lopez/PIA-Kalinga

NFA to sell US-Thailand rice

BONTOC, Mt. Province - The National Food Authority (NFA) here will start selling this week the upgraded US-Thailand rice even as it doubled the rice allocations of its various accredited rice retailers to ensure that the cheap but quality government rice will always be available to the rice consuming public.

This, as President Gloria Arroyo assured the people that the government is focused on doing whatever is possible to address the rice and prices issues facing the country.

NFA Provincial Manager Celedonio Mendoza, in a consultation-meeting with the members of the Confederation of Grains Retailers, Mt. Province Chapter, said that to en-

sure access to supplies of rice at subsidized prices particularly to the vulnerable sectors in the province, NFA is increasing the weekly rice allocations of its various accredited rice outlets.

The weekly rice allocation of the 135 Tindahan Natin Outlets (TNO) which are located in the barangays are now increased to 20-25 cavans from the usual 10 cavans each while the allocations of the Institutionalized Bigasan ni Gloria sa Palengke (IBGP) located in public markets increased from 50 to 80 cavans each.

Mendoza also announced that NFA will start selling the upgraded US-Thailand rice at P25 per kilo which will be

sold only in the markets through the IBGP and at the TNO based at the NFA provincial office. The regular NFA well-milled rice is sold at 18.25 per kilo.

The NFA Manager also reminded the rice traders of their social responsibility even as he cautioned them to always abide with the existing rules and policies of the NFA. He disclosed that there are now many task forces created, aside from local officials, police and even the National Bureau of Investigation who are now tracking down the illegal activities of NFA rice retailers as well as their compliance with NFA rules and regulations./Andrew Doga-ong/PIA-Mt. Province.

President signs into law bill reorganizing Court of Tax Appeals

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law a bill reorganizing the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA), and raising the CTA to the same judicial level as that of the Court of Appeals (CA).

Republic Act (RA) No. 9503, which the President signed at the Supreme Court session hall last June 13, also raised the number of CTA justices from six to nine to speed up the reso-

lution of tax cases before it.

RA 0503, or "An Act Enlarging the Organizational Structure of the Court of Tax Appeals, Amending for the Purpose Certain Sections of the Law Creating the Court of Tax Appeals, and for other purposes," is the re-circled version of House Bill No. 1890 and Senate Bill No. 2009.

It states that CTA justices shall possess "all the inherent powers

of a court of justice, and shall consist of a presiding justice and eight associate justices."

Under RA 9503, the incumbent presiding judge and associate judges of the CTA shall continue in office and "bear the new titles of presiding justice and associate justices."

The CTA justices, "shall have the same qualifications, rank, category, salary, emoluments and

other privileges, be subject to the same disqualifications, and enjoy the same retirement and other benefits as those provided for under existing laws for the Presiding Justice and Associate Justices of the Court of Appeals."

Under RA 9503, the CTA presiding justice and the two most senior justices, all of whom are incumbent, shall serve as chairmen of the three divisions, while the three additional associate justices shall be appointed by the President.

The salaries of the CTA presiding justice and associates will also be increased whenever the salaries of the ap-

peals court presiding justice and associate justices are raised.

"The Presiding Justice and Associate Justices shall hold office during good behavior, until they reach the age of seventy (70), or become incapacitated to discharge the duties of their office, unless sooner removed for the same causes and in the same manner provided by law for members of the judiciary of equivalent rank," the new law said.

RA 9503 also sets aside P20 million to carry out the provisions of the Act. The allocation will be taken from "whatever source that are available in the National

Treasury based on a special supplemental budget to be submitted to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM)."

RA 9503 will take effect 15 days after its publication in at least two daily newspapers of general circulation.

Present during the signing ceremony were Vice President Noli De Castro, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Chief Justice Renato Puno, Supreme Court Associate Justice Adolfo Azcuna, Senate President Manuel Villar, House Speaker Prospero Nograles, Senators Edgardo Angara and Francis Pangilinan, among others./PIA CAR

Dads suspend....**.... from page 1**

equipment in consultation with the city legal office.

The committee is expected to come up with the report which will be the body's basis in acting on a pending resolution proposed by Councilors Galo Weygan and Perlita Rondez seeking to declare the COMFAC contract null and void because of the private firm's failure to complete the project despite the lapse of the agreed term of one year.

The contract was made on June 21, 2001 and was scheduled for completion after one year but it was only last May 9 this year that it was turned over to the city government.

COMFAC chief operating officer Juliet Capala admitted the delay but assured that this only involved a technical matter and was of no consequence to the effectiveness of the project itself.

The councilors however believed they need to further study the issued as the contractor evidently violated the contract term after it failed to turn over the project on time.

As this developed, the body, on motion of Councilor Antonio Tabora Jr. formally asked for a complete and detailed report on the multi-million peso appropriations made by the city over the years for the various Management Information System (MIS) projects.

Tabora cited appropriations made by the city since 2001 amounting to close to P23 million for the computerization project.

He said the council should be apprised on how these funds were disbursed.

City budget office Leticia Clemente earlier told the council that their office has submitted a list of these MIS projects funded from said appropriations. She said that apart from the computerization project, the MIS projects also include the installation of programs for interconnectivity of the offices, purchase of hardware and maintenance and improvement of servers.

She earlier supported COMFAC's bid for payment of the project saying the city benefited more than incurred losses from the project despite the delay of its completion. / Aileen P. Refuerzo

Dads suspend....**.... from page 2**

affidavits of those who saw the killer in the company of the Benwarens as they entered the compound where the canvassing of votes was being undertaken.

According to the affidavit of Jomie Cabrera, the plot to murder Mrs. Crisologo was hatched in February 2007 and Buyao was assigned to do the job a few days later.

Cabrera, who is being linked now with police in the murder of Tineg councilor Pedro Inon on May 19, also claimed that the Benwarens bailed out Buyao from a drug trafficking case and he eventually worked for them.

He also alleged that the cal. .45 pistol used in the shooting came from Lenin Benwarens,

who ran but lost to Crisologo in the mayoralty race.

Cabrera confirmed he was present when the conspiracy was firmed up by Lenin Benwarens, who was worried about the political role played by Brenda, "who was crafting the strategy and tactics of the electoral campaign and harnessing alliances needed to ensure her husband's victory," Atty. Cordero claimed.

At least eight witnesses will be presented by Crisologo to back up his case against the Benwarens and the five others, including the testimonies of a doctor in Bangued, a medical examiner of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Central Crime Laboratory in Quezon City, who was intrigued by the type of bullet used in the shooting, Sr. Insp. Joseph Bayongasan, Jomie Cabrera, Rosemarie Lumdang, Zenaida Inon, Rosalinda Tinong and Cleverosa Zapata.

The Benwarens cannot be reached for comment while Cordillera police director Chief Supt. Eugene Martin welcomed this development as he said "it is better for political foes in Abra to resort to the court about their disagreements and long standing feud that has taken toll on lives of their supporters".

Five years ago, then Tineg mayor Clarence Benwarens was killed by armed men while attending a wedding in Laguna.

The Benwarens blamed dirty politics in the assassination and point-blank blamed the Crisologos.

Cordillera police had blamed that the huge sum of the International Revenue Allotment in the town reaching at least P50 million yearly is the source of all evils why political clans there fight including with their own bloods if only to hold political power./Ace Alegre

DENR urged.....**.... from page 2**

the resolution noted.

The body in another move also urged the city planning and development office, the city engineering office and the city buildings and architecture office "to seriously consider the Detailed Landslide Hazard Map of Baguio City in the planning and updating of the City Land Use Plan as well as in the implementation of infrastructure projects such as drainage, slope protection, flood control facilities and other projects involving earth moving in critical areas."

In Resolution No. 225 authored by Councilor Cosalan, the body recalled previous resolutions that sought evaluation of the city land use plan of 2002-2008 for updating to conform with the present times and specifically with the geo-physical and land-use analysis of experts.

Resolution No. 254 series of 2007 also urged concerned offices to draw a map indicating area susceptible to landslide, flooding and subsidence due to "Karst development of Baguio" to purposes of instituting emergency measures and prevent loss of lives and properties.

Cosalan said the MGB-DENR-CAR supplied said map where critical and susceptible areas were identified and this should now be considered by said offices in the updating of the land use plan and in the implementation of said projects. Mayor Bautista has signed the said ordinance./Aileen P. Refuerzo

City seeks....**.... from page 3**

ding records, the city deemed it necessary that a formal verification survey be done to "establish its metes and bounds and that of all other approved plans embraced" in said lot title.

The said title is said cover lots of the Commission on Elections, University of the Cordilleras, Social Security System, Girl Scouts of the Philippines, Baguio City National High School, part of the University of the Philippines, the People's Support and the forested area near the Baguio Convention Center which SM is eyeing for its condotel project./Aileen P. Refuerzo

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

"The words of the Psalmist, therefore, haunts many of us," he added. "The days come when there is no fruit on the vine. The terraces produce no food. And the flocks disappear from the fold." So, is it pa-alam cheap food?

In "Curtains for Goldilocks", Viewpoint (PDI/ March 6) recalled that "an ancient myth claims Ifugaos built those towering mountain terraces in thanksgiving to heaven for the gift of rice. But soon this gift on our dinner tables may dwindle... We are seeing what BBC 'the breakdown of the 'Goldilocks' era': a time when food prices kept an even keel for three decades. This stability is ending and we are on the cusp of a new era of volatility and rising prices."

Sa gawa lamang makilala ang kamahalan, the old Pilipino farmers say. "By deeds is nobility known." The Summit's worth will be tested, not by its closing statement to be issued Thursday. Implementing what the UN Secretary General called "the hard decisions" is essential if food production is to double, by 2030, to meet demand.

These include: (a) providing emergency safety nets for the poorest; (b) calming turbulence in markets with coordinated trade policies; (c) overhauling biofuels policies that corrals cereals and jack up prices; and (d) investing in agriculture, specially small farmers and fishermen.

The task of producing food never rested with our politicians. Those who do this daunting job are sharecroppers, small farmers and fishermen, together with their womenfolk and children. Their productivity is locked into small slivers of land or coastal fishing strips. Ill-health, lack of schooling and tools sap their capacity.

Yet, it is on the backs of these frail men and women that the Summit will strap the job of a food security breakthrough. Our politicians, who've always sold these workers short, need to help—for once. "It is difficult to speak to the belly." They must remember. "it has no ears."/J.L. Mercado

Diretsahan.....

.... from page 4

mga bata ni Inspektor Pasiwen!

Hindi ko sinasabing tama o hindi ang mga espekulasyon pero pagkakataon na ito ng pulisya, eherutibo at hudikatura na patunayang mali ang mga espekulasyon na dapat ay walang "hilutan" at "lutuan" na mangyari mula umpisa hangang matapos ang prosesong legal sa isinampang kaso laban sa mga nahuling mga kubradores ng huweteng! At dapat ay hindi dito matatapos ang laban! Maliliit na isda lang kasi ang mga natiklo, eh paano naman ang mga malalaking isda at buwaya? At paano rin ung mga opisyal ng pulis at gobyerno at maging ang mga NGO's pari at media na tumatanggap?...anak ng huweteng Oo.. BWISHEEET!!!

ooOOOoo

"MAY DEMOLITION JOB" nga ba na ikinakasa laban sa bagong Hepe ng Baguio City Fire Department at pati ang kolumn na ito ay mukhang gustong gawin na instrumento para siraan si Tsiip Major Juanito Palaroan? At sino o sino-sino ang maaring nasa likod nito?

Nauna rito ay naibulong ng aking ng "BUBUWIT" na marami umano ang nagreklamo sa kanya partikular ang mga negosyanteng kumukuha ng business permit. Ayon daw sa mga nagreklamo, natutulog daw sa opisina ng fire department ang kanilang mga papeles dahil daw laging wala di umano sa kanyang opisina si Major Palaroan na siyang pipirma sa fire clearance ng kanilang mga papeles!

Dahil dito ay gumawa itong inyong lingkod ng sariling pagsisiyasat at napag alaman na paninira lamang ang mga naturan. Sa katunayan, simple ang pamumuhay ni hepe palaroan at ayaw niya ng katiwalian sa kanyang departamento. Istrikto ito at "no way" sa kanya ang "patong" o "suhol" na pwedeng dahilan kaya may mga taong gusto siyang maalas sa pwesto para Malaya silang makadiskarte, in other words "straight" at malinis ang record ni baguio city fire marshall chief Juanito Palaroan!

Sige Tsiip Palaroan, ipagpatuloy mo lang ang iyong simulain at nasa likod mo kami. Hayaan mo na lang ang mga taong gusto kang ilaglag! Hindi na kasi makadiskarte ang mga "kurakot" na iyan. Mga Pweh sila! SAMPOLAN MO SILA HEPE! PERYOD!

ooOOOoo

Mga bugok na pulis ng Compac IV BCPO station 7 dapat sa kangkungan! Alam kaya ni BCPO chief Moises Guevarra ang bulok na istayl ng iba iba niyang mga tauhan? Katulad nitong mga aroganteng pulis ng compac IV na nag iimplimenta ng curfew hours sa mga establisimentong inuman? Kapag may "gulo" hindi mo sila mahagilap pero pagdating sa "Cerfew" ang sisipag! Pero, mukhang may kinikilingan ang mga kumag sa pagpapatupad ng "Cerfew?" Bakit istrikto sila sa ibang bar pero maluwag naman sa iba? Hmmn! May naaamoy yata ako, He! He! Magkano kaya? Ay min magkano kaya ang presyo ng kape at tinapay syempre mas mahal ang espesyal na miryenda lalo na pag may

kasamang sobre? Diba inspector Engelbert Soriano ng Station 7? Pakitingnan mo naman mga bata mo tsiip at nakakarating na sa ilong ko ang kanilang mga amoy! PLIIIS!

ooOOOoo

TINATAWAGAN KO NG PANSIN si Tsiip inspector Samuel Bumangil ng BCPO Traffic Division na paki tingnan at aksyunan naman itong mga "double parking" na nangyayari sa T. Alonzo St. at kahabaan ng New Lucban Road. Marami na ang nagreklamo "apo"

At ano naman kaya ang ginagawa ng mga Opisyal ng mga Barangay T. Alonzo at New Lucban? Kumilos naman kayo mga "apo" opisyal!! KILOOOS!!

ooOOOoo

At dahil Father's Day, binabati ko ang aking sarili at naway malapit na akong maging grandmaster este grandfather para madagdagan ang promosyon! HAPI FATHER'S DAY

First week.....

.... from page 12

of Saddle, Sagpat, Kibungan Benguet for the crime of **Arson** with no recommended bail bond for his temporary liberty.

4. On or about 7:30 AM of June 3, 2008, personnel of La Trinidad MPS and 1603rd PPMG, Benguet PPO arrested one **Marilou Tacloy y Tuban**, 35 yrs old, married, native and a resident of Irisan, Baguio City for the crime of **Estafa**. A recommended bail bond amounting to twenty four thousand pesos (P24,000.00) is fixed for her temporary liberty.

5. On or about 10:30 PM of June 4, 2008 at Philex Mines Community, Padcal, Tuba, Benguet, personnel of Tuba MPS of Benguet PPO arrested one **Elvie Mendoza y De Guzman**, male, 52 years old, a resident of said place, native of Umingan, Pangasinan and a contractor at Philex Mines Corporation for the crime of **Frustrated Homicide**.

6. On or about 1:30 PM of June 8, 2008 at Sitio Pukitan, Brgy Paco, Mankayan, Benguet, a team from Mankayan MPS led by SPOI Marciano Ebbes arrested one **Juan Baguista y Wacangan**, 19 years old, single, a resident of said place for the Crime of **Robbery with Violence against or Intimidation of person**.

7. At about 3:40 PM of June 8, 2008 at Barangay Poblacion, Lapaz, Abra, joint personnel of Lapaz MPS and RIO-14 arrested **Emilio Labanan y Beronilla**, 28 years old, married, and a resident of So Manaois, Poblacion, Lapaz, Abra for the crime of **Murder**. Index and non-index crimes are treated with utmost importance because the PNP's crime prevention programs are implemented to ensure the safety and security of the people. It is for this reason that no crime will go unpunished. Law enforcers are always vigilant in crime prevention and suppression because the main objective of all these efforts is to save the public from becoming victims of ruthless individuals and groups. The arrest of these persons bars them from committing further misdemeanors to society./Elizabeth Cedo/PRO-COR

Largest pinoy.....

.... from page 12

Philippine flag in August 2006.

"Miraculously," said one Bishop Joey Gadaraza, "it only took a month, 2-artists, 32-assistants, and 6-tailors taking turns at 4-sewing machines to piece together 3.7-metric tons of taffeta nylon into 18,818-square meters of the country's national colors."

Meanwhile, Gadaraza echoed Gupana's message to the people of Baguio straight from Gaza Strip, Israel the same day, saying, "The unfurling of the flag symbolizes that the Philippines if for Christ."

In 2006, unveiling of the same flag suffered a huge setback when winds tore on its white triangle about halfway down to its base while being unfurled atop Mt. Inordinan, Nueva Vizcaya.

Gupana is likewise the brains and purse behind two Guinness World records for the world's largest flag and banner.

In November 25, 2007, a huge blue and white Israeli flag with a total measurement of 18,847 square meters and weighing 5.2 metric tons surpassed the record for the world's largest flag which was the 11,964 square meters made in the United States in 1996.

The total cost of the white and blue state symbol and the Philippine Flag was placed at US\$500,000, each.

A month later, a Gupana-engineered banner, the "777 Yahweh" measuring 54,451 square meters and comprising the flags of Israel, Philippines and North and South Korea and smaller flags representing the 180 nation-members of the United Nations (UN), likewise made it into the Guinness Book.

Magallanes revealed, "We are witnessing a very historic event... As our flag is being unfurled, the flag of Israel is likewise being unfolded along Gaza Strip in Israel as a declaration of God's victory in the war-laden land."

He cited June 12 is most opportune time for the twin events for its close proximity to June 14, the day of Hebrew Pentecost (*a Christian festival that commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles*).

Meantime, government Independence Day celebrations mimicked its "dressed-down" national version.

Dubbed, "Republic Service Tungo sa Ganap na Kalayaan at Kaunlaran," a multi-agency task force led by the Department of Education and Department of Tourism staged identical programs at the Rizal Monument and the Baguio Convention Center. Guest of honor Sec. Ray Anthony Chua III of the newly-formed Commission on Information and Communications Technology during his speech said the struggle against forceful inequality of the Philippines and other countries is over.

Rallying government employees to strive for better public service he added, "The [new] struggle is now about how to remain at par with the rest of the world in the age of globalization."

Magallanes earlier claimed June 12 would be a fair weather day as it was a day meant for praise. True enough, strong rains came only after dark, long after the ceremonies were concluded./ISL, APR, & JGF

First week of June yields to 7 arrests

The Philippine National Police's LOI Manhunt Bravo has significantly played a vital role in the suppression of crime by apprehending crime offenders. In the Cordillera Region, PROCOR personnel have continuously conducted operations against criminals who have been trying to evade arrest for some-time. Nevertheless, with the persistence and determination of police officers to capture lawless persons, significant accomplishments are now lined up during the first week of June 2008. The following persons were arrested on different occa-

sions for various offenses:

1. On or about 7:30 PM of June 2, 2008, Joint elements of RID, PRO-1 under the supervision of PCI Teodoro Santos, Chief ROSG together with elements of Precinct 9, Baguio City Police Office headed by PCI Bantag effected the arrest of one **Rico Base y Bradicina**, 38 yrs old, married, vendor by calling, resident of Brgy Anduyan, Tubao, La Union for the crime of **Murder** with no bail recommended.

2. On or about 9:30 AM of June 3, 2008, at Torrejos St,

Zone 5, Bangued, Abra personnel of Bangued MPS under PCI JOSEPH P BAYONGASAN arrested one **Jose Bayquen y Bicarne @ Santos**, 50 yrs old, married and a resident of Palao, Bangued, Abra for **using falsified documents** with recommended bail bond amounting to six thousand pesos (P6,000.00) and for **falsification of public document** with recommended bail bond amounting to twelve thousand pesos (P12,000.00) respectively.

3. On or about 11:30 AM of June 3, 2008, personnel of La Trinidad MPS and 1603rd PPMG, Benguet PPO arrested one **Andres Cayat y Ampaguey**, 76 yrs old, single, native and a resident

Cont. on page 11

THE WEEKEND JUNCTION



FLAG UNFURL – Government employees, students and volunteers unfurl the 3.8 ton Philippine Flag at the Baguio Athletic Bowl, Thursday. Thousands have witnessed the event which symbolized the country's greatness in independence and efforts towards nation building./ Dan Ricky Ong

Largest pinoy flag highlights Juan DL Cruz rally for unity in Baguio

BAGUIOCITY – It was beautiful; hair raising even... it was as if Manny Pacquiao won another belt against Floyd Mayweather, Jr.

For 2-hours, social classes were overshadowed by a proud race and faith, June 12, as a throng of Pinoys cheered on about 600-enlisted volunteers and about 200-additional onsite hands in unfurling the World's largest Philippine Flag at the Baguio Athletic Bowl.

It was 8:15am, Independence Day. There were neither politicians nor activists; no privileged nor underprivileged classes – just Filipinos.

Amidst the blur

of colors red, white, yellow and blue of miniature versions of the 2nd largest national banner in the world, a tapestry of nationalism was painted as "Filipino pride" was raised even further as the crowd sang with Juan Alberto Gaerlan's spine-tin-gling tenor to the tune of "Bayan Ko."

There were no dull repetitive speeches either, just prayers, songs and dances with a common theme, "Yes, a nation can change in one day with faith in [the Supreme Being]."

Bishop Oscar Magallanes of Good News Community Church led pastors

from the city's evangelical churches asking for blessings for the city of Baguio and the nation.

Magallanes said the

unfurling of the giant flag signified the country's "declaration of our freedom," and its "victory as a nation."

He added the activity is meant to, "Inculcate love for country and patriotism; and to ask God to grant the nation

his presence and mercy."

Filipino businesswoman Grace Gupana financed the making of the largest

Cont. on page 11

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