

MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

# 'End Impunity': 58 Trees Commemorate Victims of Ampatuan Bloodbath



*Congressman Bernardo Vergara listens to project contractor Annalyn Baoidan as to the progress of work of the L-Shape Overpass fronting City Hall, Baguio Central School and Insular Life Building during a surprise inspection. The L-Shape overpass is constructed to insure the safety of schoolchildren and pedestrians and to ease traffic woes through Vergara's congressional fund. (at Right Photo) BPC Builders general foreman assures Cong. Bernardo Vergara who initiated the project that Phase I of Rose garden construction will be finished on December 15 during a surprise inspection./By Bong Cayabyab*

BAGUIO CITY – A booming “No!” echoed at one of the remaining pine stands in the heart of Baguio City, November 23 as over a hundred ‘end impunity’ advocates commemorated wasted lives of 58-victims in a gross violence now known as the Maguindanao massacre.

The echoing negative was an answer to a question raised by a member of the Baguio Correspondents and Broadcasters Club (BCBC): “Would we allow this kind of violence and want of respect for human lives to ever happen again?”

It's “International Day to End Impunity.”

It was a cold morning when grade school kids, college students, civil society members, city government employees, and members of the 21<sup>st</sup> Philippine Air Force Group Reserve gathered at the Pine Patch at the Baguio Convention Center Compound

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*Ang Maguindanao Massacre ay resulta ng matinding Korapsyon at Kasakiman! Huwag na sanang umiral ang matinding korapsyon sa kasalukuyan paglilitis!!!*

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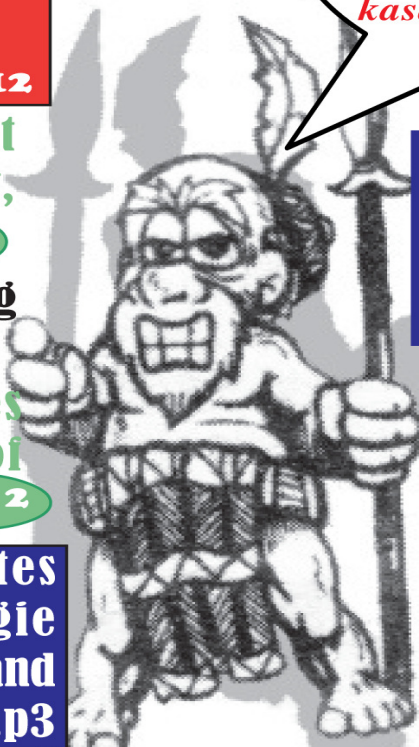
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THE PEACE COMBATANT

*Christmas Season: Chance to build peoples participation*

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

*PGMA kulong na. Mga BALIMBING at IPOKRITO nag labasan na !!*

BY: ODELL P. AQUINO



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## TESDA Scholarships Available

BAGUIO CITY – More than a thousand local scholarships are available for qualified students in the city, as allotted by the provincial office of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). This is stated in the letter of Benguet Provincial Director Angela Gabriel.

Interested individuals are enjoined to apply at Congressman Bernardo Vergara or the city mayor's office, both at city hall.

Limited number of scholarships in animation and 2d animation are offered at the Cordillera School of Digital Arts; while a finishing course for call center agents at the Global Tech school along Magsaysay Avenue has been allotted Three hundred Ninety-Seven (397) slots.

There are One Hundred (100) slots available for a slaughtering course at MMS, along Session Road; One Hundred and Seventy-five (175) slots for housekeeping NC2, and Three Hundred (300) slots for a finishing course in Medical Transcription at CTEISI. For the Medical Transcription course, it is pointed out that medically-trained students are preferred, due to medical terms being used in the lessons.

Accordingly, applicants must be at least 18 years old and for the time being, unemployed. His/her family should qualify under the Conditional Cash Transfer program and have not been under any Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP), from 2006 up to 2010.

It is also learned that application should be on a first come, first served basis.

The TWSP has been going on for the past years, with scholarships allotted through the local government unit.

Another program, as to Mayor Mauricio Domogan, is the forthcoming GM Advanced Technician Training Program for Automotive Mechanics/Technicians through a scholarship starting January next year.

Interested and qualified individuals are encouraged to apply through the Public Employment Services Office (PESO) at city hall starting next week.

Applicants should be between 24 to 40 years of age, with a minimum of 12 months Automotive Course, have more than 24 months experience as an all-around mechanic/technician and should pass an initial automotive theoretical test and interview. The applicant should also have a valid passport and in good medical and physical health.

The training offers free uniform, lodging, study guides, and a monthly stipend. A graduation bonus awaits deserving trainees upon completion of the program./juliegfianza

## Igorot Karate Champ Comes Home to Share "Formula of Success" in World Arena

BAGUIO CITY – If there's an "Englishman in New York" - Sting - who made a killing with his songs; there is an "Igorot Karate Champ in Germany" and his name is Julian

Chees who's made a living in the art of fighting... and he is coming home.

Followers of the shotokan (traditional karate) will be treated to a world class seminar to be conducted by Chees on December 3, 2011 at the La

Trinidad Municipal Hall in Benguet, capped by a tournament happening on the following day.

Chees holds a fifth dan (degree) blackbelt and is a product of Japan Karate Association (JKA) Shihan (Master) Kunio Sasaki –

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## P25 Million for Burnham Park fencing released by Pres. Aquino

BAGUIO CITY. Nov. (PIA). The Vicariate of Benguet and the City urged its involvement to the bidding process for the P25 million fencing of Burnham Park allocated by President Benigno S. Aquino III.

According to Bishop Carlito J. Cenzon, Apostolic Vicar of Baguio and Benguet,

the money for the fencing of the Burnham Park is already with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) – CAR.

"Every single centavo should be spent in the project (fencing) and there should be transparency during the bidding to contractors with good track record," Cenzon said.

"We want to maximize the coverage of the money to be expended. This is peoples' money and we will be supervising the implementation of the project until it is finished," he said.

Cenzon personally asked President Aquino the funding for the fencing of Burnham Park when he (Aquino) administered the ceremonial switch-on of the park's lighting system project of the Department of Energy (DOE) last August.

The initial fencing intended to keep the children safe while inside the park was initiated by the bishop with the help of the private sector and some civic leaders.

There are lined up plans for the development of Burnham Park like planting more trees and flowers to keep it beautiful for park goers to appreciate, Cenzon said.

"The lake needs a lot of improvement as well as Melvin Jones Football Field and we are encouraging everyone to help make Burnham Park a place for promenading," Cenzon added.

The Melvin Jones Football Field where concerts and major events also take place is adjacent Burnham Park. /SCA JJBZ/PIA-CAR

## City's Top Barangays in Drug Abuse Fight Feted

BAGUIO CITY- Top barangays, schools, organizations and individuals active in the fight against drug abuse were honored last Friday morning, Nov. 25, during the culminating ceremonies of Drug Prevention and Control Month of the City Anti-Drug Abuse Council (CADAC) at the city hall multi-purpose hall.

The awardees received trophies and certificates, while there were some who were given cash awards; with guests Department of Interior and Local Government repre-

sentative Euchols Manaciling, Baguio City Police Office Director David Lacadan, and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Director Gil Castro present.

Vice-Mayor Daniel Farinas who sits as CADAC action officer and Councilor Joel Alangsab, Association of Barangay Captains; were present during the awarding ceremonies.

Scout Barrio barangay headed by Kagawad Cecilia Dulay; MRR Queen of Peace with Punong Barangay Catherine Quino-

with PB Mohammad Camil Abdullah; City Camp Central with PB Joel Alangsab; Middle Rock Quarry with PB Murphy Bugtong; Fairview with PB Justina Andaya; Guisad Surong with PB Orlando Soriano; SLU-SVP with PB Jose Galinato; Loakan Proper with PB Jesusa Viscaya; Upper Quezon Hill with PB Lilia Farinas; Brookspoint with PB David Puguon; Lower QM with Kagawad John Andrada; Pinsao Pilot Project with PB Sotero Dulaycan; Imelda Village with PB Arturo Rapelo, Jr.; Hillside with PB

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THE JUNCTION

Bing Dawang - Editor (on leave)  
Odell "Bombito" Aquino - OIC (on leave)  
Freddie Farres - Consultant

### Support Staff:

Nelson Tuaño  
Danilo B. Javier  
Gerry P. Binwagan  
John T. Bagayan  
Orwen L. Trazo  
Annabelle Pedronio

### Regular Columnists:

Atty. James S. Valeros  
Atty. Batas Mauricio Arturo Boquiren  
Emilio Liwanen  
Grace Bando  
Odell "Bombito" Aquino

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E-mail Address: thejunctionnews@yahoo.com  
Mailing Address P.O. Box 1588, 2600 Baguio City  
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(SGD) Odell P. Aquino The Junction- OIC



## Firecrackers to be Banned in La Trinidad

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet — Mayor Gregorio Abalos is keen on saying no to firecrackers in the municipality.

Abalos, in an interview, said that he is keen on stopping the use and sale of firecrackers in this capital town after Baguio City Mayor Domogan has shown his seriousness to stop the sale and use of firecrackers in the city.

Just recently, Domogan disallowed the sale and use of firecrackers during the celebration of the holidays in the city but the businessmen from the firecracker industry appealed to sell only pyrotechnic and fireworks used for aerial viewing only.

La Trinidad is very near Baguio City and entrepreneurs may think of applying permits for them to sell their firecrackers in the municipality, and Abalos is committing not issue permits for them to sell their goods anywhere in town.

He added that the ban on sale of firecrackers has good intentions to prevent untoward incidents related to firecrackers during the yuletide and new year celebrations.

Meanwhile, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Esteban Piok is also supporting firecracker ban in the province of Benguet.

He said that they are strongly advocating the campaign of the Department of Health which is "Iwas Paputok" to prevent firecracker related incident which has been a problem especially among children./JDP/RC-PIA CAR



**TEST RUN - Nowhere to hide for misfits...as Baguio City Police director SSupt. David Lacdan monitors the exact location and activities of PNP-Patrol Cars through a TV monitoring system donated by Benguet Electric Cooperative (BENECO). The project was initiated by newly designated PRO-COR General Benjamin B. Magalong./By Bong Cayabyab**

## 1-Utak Party List Pushes for United Transport Sector Consumer Power Vs Fuel Hike

BAGUIO CITY - For transport sector groups to unite as one, exercise their consumer power and buy fuels - by volume, from one supplier or oil company. Such is the alternative solution the 1-UTAK Party List is pushing in its effort to address the concern on the continuing increase in the prices of fuel products that is besetting the sector.

This was stressed by 1-UTAK Party List National Chairman Atty. Vigor Mendoza II, in a press conference here Monday.

According to Mendoza, petitions for a fare hike increase is the last resort or solution they are looking into in addressing the concern of continuous oil price increase, which is why they are here in Baguio for the second stop of their scheduled 7-leg transport sector conference in various parts of the country.

"Our objective in meeting the transport sector stakeholders here in Northern Luzon, as well as in the other parts of the country, is simple. With the continuing increase on the price of fuel products, we want to know the situation in every area, if there is a need for a fare hike and what alternative solution that we can do, in lieu of a fare increase", Mendoza said.

He asserted that they are willing to support the transport sector all the way, in pushing for such alternative - encouraging transport groups to unite and exercise their consumer power by buying fuel from a single oil company and take advantage of volume sale.

According to Mendoza, similar talks are also already being undertaken by various transport groups in Metro Manila. After Mindanao and Northern Luzon, they will also advocate for such alternative project in the other parts of the country.

"Through this method, the oil companies will respond. We will test what they are calling a free market system. If there is true market competition in the ground there will be an oil company that will respond, if no company calls (the demand for volume buying) then it will be a clear and convincing evidence that there are collusion among oil companies, which will also be the evidence that we will present for the nullification of the Oil Deregulation Law, as we already have a pending petition for it at the Regional Trial Court of Bacolod," Mendoza disclosed.

"Whatever the result of such exercise, we can prove one thing - whether there is really an existing free market or true competition or if there is collusion among oil companies (in relation to the increase in fuel prices)", he added.

Meantime, Mendoza also affirmed that they have pending petition for a fare hike in Manila for a P2 increase in the first four kilometers and an increase from P1.40 to P1.75 per succeeding kilometers that will be imposed in the National Capital Region, and Regions III and IV.

According to Mendoza, similar fare hike petitions will also be filed here in Baguio/Cordillera soon if there will be no alternative solutions that can be made on the continuous increase in fuel prices.

Mendoza, also stressed that they are **Cont. on page 10**

## DA Advocates Organic Veggie Consumption and Farming

BAGUIO CITY - "Live simply, live healthy, live naturally, let us go organic."

This was the call made by Department of Agriculture (DA) Gawad Saka Awardee Pat Acosta, proprietor of Master Garden Organic Farm and founding member of the La Trinidad Organic Producers

(LaTOP) Multi Purpose Cooperative during the DA led Food and Organic Agriculture Investment Forum, Friday.

Acosta, in his presentation dubbed as, 'Organic Agriculture: A Response to Consumer's Health and Welfare', stressed that choosing between organically grown veg-

etables and the traditional ones, only boils down to a person's health consciousness or concern.

According to Acosta, studies show that organically produced vegetables are better source of minerals for a healthy body. Organic veggies are basically five times **Cont. on page 10**

## Environment Forum Held For Drivers, Commuters Along Benguet Roads

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - Motorists and travelers en route to Halsema Highway and the Baguio-Vizcaya Road yielded for a short briefing on proper solid waste management in an environment forum held simultaneously along the stretches of the two main thoroughfares recently.

The environment forum on the massive information campaign on Republic Act 9003 otherwise known as the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act is in line with the celebration of the 111<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the province thru Adivay.

Motorists and travelers passing

Halsema Highway and Benguet-Vizcaya road were stopped for a few minutes for a short briefing on their role and support in maintaining cleanliness along the highway through proper disposal of solid waste while drivers of private or public utilities were told to provide thrash containers to dump wastes in their respective vehicles.

Truck drivers were also told not to dump their 'ubak' or vegetable wastes and other forms of wastes along the thoroughfares.

According to Environment and Natural Resources Officer Julius Kollin, who chairs the Environment Forum, a total of 1,333 vehicles along Halsema High-

way and 737 along the Benguet-Vizcaya road were put to a halt and whose drivers and passengers were briefed by the members who were scattered in strategic locations in both thoroughfares.

The forum is a partnership among the provincial government, concerned line agencies, municipal, barangay, sangguniang kabataan officials, transport groups, health officials, religious and the private sector.

The first Environment Forum along the Halsema Highway held last year gathered positive feedback, inspiring the members to include the Baguio-Vizcaya road. **Cont. on page 11**



# Time Of Visitation Spurned

In his 1967 essay "Tyranny of the Urgent," Charles Hummel warned: "Our greatest danger is letting urgent things crowd out the important."

It was urgent that she seek medical treatment abroad, former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo told the Supreme Court. There were no pending court charges and she had a right to travel. Eight justices she had appointed scrambled to issue a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO).

A hasty TRO "could frustrate the Government's right to prosecute," cautioned Antonio Caprio, the best chief justice Filipinos never had. "This Court must hear first the Government in oral argument..."

"The Commission on Elections decided, by a 5-to-2 vote, to file poll sabotage charges against GMA. Across the road, the

## EDITORIAL

Solicitor General's motion to scrap the Arroyo's TRO. It ordered Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to explain why she should not be held in contempt of court for shrugging off the TRO. Palaam Gloria and Mike."

In October, the joint Department of Justice and Commission on Elections panel recommended that GMA and 35 others be probed, and charged if warranted, with 2007 election fraud. GMA lawyers walked out in protest.

Others tagged included former Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. and ex-commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer, former Justice Secretary Alberto Agra, supervisor Lintang Bedol and detained former Maguindanao governor Andal Ampatuan Sr.

Beyond the TRO and charges, by GMA camp of "railroading election sabotage charges", fester long range issues. These are tossed up by the clash between a President, who seeks to hold the corrupt accountable, and Supreme Court justices who say they seek the same end. Arroyo justices are hobbled by charges of subservience.

However, this TRO issue plays out, the issue of GMA's health will persist. That "crown o' thorns" that Arroyo wore, on her earlier aborted departure flight was, not a put on. This "Minerva Brace" should be worn for three months, St Luke Hospital doctors say.

Prognosis by her Filipino physicians state that barring complications, GMA should be fully recovered from spine surgery in six to eight months, Justice Lourdes Serreno notes. The metabolic bone disease needs lifetime maintenance treatment.

Arroyo's claims of life-threatening ailments fall short of "evidentiary requirements for a TRO. "The majority is completely bereft" of any explanation on for granting a premature TRO "in the face of untruthful statements, Justice Serreno adds.

Have TROs become a buy-one-take-one-drill? The completed Senate Blue Ribbon Committee report on dumping overpriced helicopters on the National Police, tags Mike Arroyo, among others. Yet, his separate request for a TRO had been stitched into his spouse's petition."

"Mike became free to leave by virtue of consolidation," Inquirer's Raul Pangalangan points out. "How did Mike get to benefit from Gloria's medical emergency"? If one asked Hamlet, he'd have shrugged: "There are more things in heaven and on earth Horatio, Than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

Indeed, this "TRO proved the wisdom of packing the high court with one's appointees—for that foreseeable future when one is forced to call in favors," an Inquirer editorial pointed out. And "why didn't Chief Justice Renato Corona inhibit himself?", wondered Sun Star columnist Frank Malilong "(This) case personally involved his former boss."

President Arroyo skipped senior justices to hand her former chief of staff a midnight appointment. Thus former Sen. Rene Saguisag and some see a "de facto chief justice."

Like Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico, DOJ can not "accept a referee's decision graciously", observes constitutionalist Joaquin Bernas. TRO means "executive officials must allow GMA to travel "effective immediately", until the court lifts the order—"if we're to abide by rule of law."

Secretary Leila de Lima's view is a motion for reconsideration stops TRO dead in it's tracks. That 'd render any TRO absolutely useless... Anger at GMA "consigned reason to the sidelines. "That affects even the highest executive authorities (and) is a sad, sad thing". Senator Miriam Santiago adds. It's enough to make one feel like "slashing wrists."

Martial law detainees were denied the **Cont. on page 7**



## THE PEACE COMBATANT

*Christmas Season: Chance to build people's participation*

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



The Christmas season is in the air. Of course, several writers have already used the opening line that I use today but this fact will not prevent others from using the same line again and this includes me.

Actually, the Christmas season started last September because businesspersons started selling Christmas trees as early as that month. One can view this as the commercialization of Christmas despite its essence as one of offering, love, and sacrifice for love's sake. Yet, one way of de-commercializing Christmas is through people's participation.

Remember the fake snows of Baguio during Christmas Season 2010? Whose great idea was it? There is no need really to find out, but whoever was responsible, please do not it again and, hopefully, you did personally profit from it (but this comment should not exempt you from the usual Commission on Audit scrutiny).

Surely, we made ourselves look like monkeys before the world in Christmas season 2010! At the very least, we looked funny because we appear not content in aping the culture of our colonizers. We even copied their climate. We made ourselves look like 10<sup>th</sup> rate copycats before the world.

Snows do even remotely capture the spirit of the season. There was no snow when Jesus was born. There is no snow in Jerusalem, in Bethlehem, nor in Nazareth.

Worst, our rendition of the American or European snow is not even close to the real snow. Did we gain anything out of the fake snows? None. Did our image as a city improve because of it? No. It was even a very expensive way to look bad, ridiculous, and funny.

However, where do we move from here? The suggestion of the PEACE COMBATANT, which I BELIEVE the Junction Staff, Editor, and Publisher will support is that we harness the participation of our citizen in building a Christmas program for 2011. Better yet, we make this annual or eternal in the same league as the Panagbenga but with a twist please: PANAGBENGA's objectives pertain to tourism while a Christmas program, although it may also serve the concerns of Baguio City tourism, must be implemented in a manner that the essential spirit of Christmas is preserved.

Of course, I am not suggesting that we transform our city into something that is sectarian-religious—something that our brothers/sisters of other faiths may detest. Yet, at the same time, the Christmas season is inherently Christian and we owe it to our Christian brothers and sister not to corrupt the essential meaning of Christmas just as we must be careful that we do not spoil the meaning of the Ramadan when the Ramadan is also recognized in our city.

In any case, the point is that we mobilize the creative power and genius of our people in installing a Christmas season program that best reflects the aspirations and perspective of our citizens. We can retain the original and relevant spirit of Christmas in a way that we factor in the culture of the Filipino people and the Cordillera region. There is no need to have fake snows to make our observance of the Christmas season merry, **Cont. on page 7**



## ADVOCACY MINDANOW

*Maguindanao Massacre Two Years Ago (Day One)*

BY: JESUS DUREZA



(Note: Right after the Maguindanao incident, Dureza then presidential adviser for Mindanao wrote a personal account as "crisis manager" which was published and carried by media. Now back in the private sector as Publisher of the Mindanao TIMES daily newspaper and actively managing Advocacy MindaNow Foundation and doing consultancy work, he is re-printing his "recollections" with on a day-to-day account recalling the four (4) critical days of the incident. This will be a 4- part series starting today.)

**DAY ONE** —Nov 23 Two years ago, I was in Davao City that day and was finalizing arrangements for me and wife Beth to fly to Manila in the late afternoon flight for her usual medical check up. By noon, I was getting text messages from several sources about the missing convoy. I started inquiring.

Gensan Inquirer Correspondent Aquiles Zonio told me over the phone that he was supposed to be with the convoy from Buluan to Shariff Aguak on board the Mitsubishi Lancer of Mindanao Bulletin Editor Joseph Jubelag, who was driving. But Joseph decided to peel off from the convoy and proceeded to the pension house in Tacurong where they stayed the previous night to pick up some belongings. They did not try to catch up with the convoy anymore.

At 9:30 a.m., Joseph said he called by phone Bulletin Correspondent Bong Reblando who was ahead in a rented van with the convoy enroute to Shariff Aguak. He told Bong that they decided not to proceed anymore as they were delayed in Tacurong but would catch up with the group when they return to Buluan from Shariff Aguak for the scheduled press conference after the planned filing of the certificate of candidacy of Toto Mangudadatu. That was to be the last phone call with Bong.

Bong was a close friend and a kumpadre, being ninong to one of his sons. I found close kinship with Bong because both of us had similar beginnings. I was Bulletin correspondent too during my early days as a journalist. He was always supportive of my work in Mindanao, in the peace process, as press secretary, etc. I recall Bong's naughty practice of calling me by phone and telling me that his article about my latest statement was published in the Manila Bulletin issue that day. When I asked what it was all about since I had not issued any new statement, he would simply say: "Just confirm it, Kumpadre. It's about moving the peace talks forward". He knew me so well that press statements I issued a long time ago he would be able to re-cycle and spin aligned with current events. I would always caution him though: "Pakiusap lang kumpadre. Please always tell me ahead what statements I had supposedly issued to you before you report. It may trigger a war!" And we would laugh together.

From all accounts, the Mangudadatus knew of the dangers they were facing in opposing the Ampatuans. They were political allies before. The filing of the certificates of candidacy was a declaration of war. The media delegation to be part of the convoy was a security cordon. Most of them were from Gen. Santos City.

Joseph later related to me that on November 22, he stayed overnight with some mediamen, together with Bong, Aquiles, etc at a pension house in Tacurong in preparation for the activity organized by the Mangudadatus. The following day, at 6:30 a.m. Monday, he drove his vehicle to Buluan where the convoy was supposed to assemble before the jump off.

Joseph said there was some discussion, before the convoy left Buluan about the security concern as they learned that there was no security escort provided by the authorities. Joseph said they contacted by phone Gen. Cayton, then 6<sup>th</sup> division commander based in Awang, Cotabato city who said that while there were no security escorts, there should be no concern. Joseph however got worried. That's when he decided to just let the convoy go ahead and instead drove to the Tacurong pension house to first pick up his belongings. On board his vehicle were media friends Aquiles and Paul Bernardo. His close buddy, Bong rode in a van and went ahead with the group. There were 6 vehicles in the caravan. Joseph's Lancer would have been vehicle No. 7.

Aquiles remembered that while they were at the hotel lobby, and while Joseph went up to the room for his belongings, one of the waiters approached him. The waiter was nervous. He told Aquiles that when they left the hotel early that same morning, some unidentified and suspicious-looking men arrived and asked about the identities of those who joined. **Cont. on page 10**

## KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

*Hope for RP blind in Rotary bag making*

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



**LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS:** "...Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations..." (Psalm 100:4-5, the Holy Bible).

-ooo-

**"THRICE AS FAST" DANGEROUS:** "Thrice as fast" is a real fast way of going after the corrupt in government, as President Aquino vowed in the aftermath of criticisms that his government short-circuited legal processes to charge and thereafter arrest and detain Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in an effort to beat any Supreme Court order allowing her to go abroad.

But going after and prosecuting the corrupt "thrice as fast" is dangerous. It could result in hasty maneuvers, in a denial of due process, and in deprivation of certain legal and Constitutional rights, as Arroyo is claiming now. It may even lead to mob rule, just to satisfy the cry for blood of many, especially the anti-Arroyo people. There is still no substitute for adhering to what is legal.

-ooo-

**ROTARIANS AND BLIND MEN:** Just what else can a blind do to earn a living—offer massage, play the guitar and sing, and beg alms? Not anymore, according to Carina Rodriguez, the president for Rotary Year 2011-2012 of the Rotary Club of Pasay Maharlika, District 3810, Rotary International.

"The blind can now also earn tremendously more, with more self-respect at that, by making paper bags, which are then marketed nationwide and even worldwide," Carina told me as we chatted Tuesday night on the sidelines of a neurological service for a Rotary Club president who had just died.

As of now, Carina's Rotary Club is initially pushing through with the training of blind individuals who are being cared for by the Epheta Foundation for the Blind, with the aim of turning the 700 blind men and women housed therein into expert paper bag makers. And the training is for free, Carina said, who dreams of training the blind in the other parts of the Philippines in due time.

-oo

**BLIND MEN AS PAPER BAG MAKERS?** Once trained to make paper bags, the blind can then be harnessed as a regular source of the bags, which are getting to be popular these days because of increasing environmental concerns among plastic users—paper bags are proven to be more environment-friendly than plastic.

Right now, there is a great demand for paper bags from supermarkets, stores and other retail establishments in the Philippines and even abroad. This could become a steady source of respectable income for the blind everywhere in the country, Carina added, thereby giving them hope for a better life, and opening for them more opportunities.

Carina said she has been advocating paper bag making even when she was not yet Rotary Club president. Through the years, she has trained out of school youth, drug rehabilitation patients, and even former rebels who have gone back to the folds of the law. Interested parties may call Carina at 0917 501 2235 or email her at [carinarcpm@yahoo.com](mailto:carinarcpm@yahoo.com).

-ooo-

**AQUINO OFFICIALS KNOW OF ARROYO PALACE:** Some officials of the Aquino government who served under Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had also visited Gloria's "palace overlooking the cliff" in the Dominican Republic, our source is saying. It is a wonder why these officials are maintaining a silent stand on the matter, the same source asked. Why, indeed?

**Notice To The Public**

Want to know more about the cult -Jehovah's

Witness

visit the website <http://carm.org/jehovahs-witnesses>

This advertisement is paid for by Pastor Jules Samaniego of the Good Samaritan Everlasting Christian Ministry

Email : [gsecministry@yahoo.com](mailto:gsecministry@yahoo.com)



## 1st-APLUMA!

"Big fish"

No matter what, this corner wishes to congratulate the Aquino Administration for that swift delivery of arrest warrant on CGMA. Congratulations too in giving out a good example of political will.

Congratulations too in giving out an example on how to catch the "Big fish" in the political aquarium.

Congratulations too to President Noy's political advisers for decisively slamming home what must be done.

After all, what are they in power for if they can't tailor out what must to be done in keeping in the country CGMA and company?

Congratulations! And for that, former president Joseph Ejercito Estrada could be grinning from ear to ear now.

"Karma 'yan kay CGMA," as they say.

We just hope, P-Noy's boys won't stop from there.

With the leader of the pack now under hospital arrest, this corner could only hope other fishes that used to brag their big scales before would be snagged by P-Noy's gigantic fish net in the next few days.

We could only hope too, the administration of President Noy will not become complacent and forget about its social contract with the Filipino people because governance is not just about hauling into prison perceived big scale plunderers.

And that's what we have been driving home before or from the very start of President Noy's Administration in 2010.

We need examples, decisive examples.

Truth to be told, 1<sup>st</sup> APLUMA have had been rolling out articles on "just letting her (CGMA) go" yes, for humanitarian reasons nothing more nothing less.

Dura lex, sed lex. The law is harsh, but it is the law.

Now, this would certainly appear as a big turnaround from my previous piece but what we were trying to imply was this: The Aquino Administration may extend a humanitarian act by allowing CGMA seek medical care abroad on a long leash and save itself from any political backlash whatsoever in case CGMA's health condition degenerates.

But the flipside of it, methinks goes this way: President Noy gambled more against the political backlash that will befall him if and when the "Big fish" slips away from their hands and swim its way into deeper waters, out of reach.

And that's a bigger risk. Indeed.

And now it's a much, much better scene to just watch the biggest gold fish from inside a controlled aquarium.

Congratulations to you Boss Ronald. Good job!

Ala kang kupas./1st-APLUMA (1st-Alliance of Provincial Newspaper Publishers)

## Cordillera PNP Reports Decrease in Crime Volume

**BANAUE** Ifugao - A much improved peace and order situation with lesser crime volume and increase index crime clearance and solution efficiency. Thus reported the Police Regional Office - Cordillera (PRO-Cor) headed by PCSupt. Benjamin Magalong during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) meeting at Banaue Hotel here last week.

In the PRO-Cor report which was presented by PSSupt. Joseph

Adnol to the RPOC body headed by its chairman Ifugao Governor Eugene Balitang, crime volume in the entire region went down by 10.92 percent January to October this year, with 6,996 crime incidents recorded compared to the 7,854 cases during the same period of 2010.

According to Adnol, index crimes were down by 10.01 percent - from 5,004 in 2010 to 4,503 this year. For non-index crimes, PRO-Cor data also shows a 12.53 decrease from 2,850 cases in 2010,

to 2,493 this year.

On crime against person, out of the 2,147, physical injuries remains to be the majority cases with 1,825. For crime against property, theft remains to be on top of the list with 1,644 cases out of the total 2,356 cases recorded.

In the same meeting, Adnol also reported an increase in index crime clearance and solution efficiency for PRO-Cor. Index crime clearance efficiency improved to 25.9 percent this year, compared to 23.9 percent in 2010, while index crime

Cont. on page 10

## PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

**PGMA kulong na. Mga BALIMBING at IPOKRITO nag labasan na !!**

**BY: ODELL P. AQUINO**



Walang sinabi ang mga telenovela sa mga kamakailan na kaganapan hingil sa drama ng korte supremo este suprema, malacanang palakasan este palace, department of injustice este justice at kampo ng mga inosente este mga arroyo. Ang mga leading man, leading lady, leading b \_ \_ \_ a at leading unano ay nagpakita ng kani-kanilang mga galing sa nagaganap na patok na hit drama special, and of course kamuntik ko nang makalimutan bangitin ang mga dakilang **Sip-Sip B** na wala naman ginawa ng nakaraang siyam na taon na nanungkulan si leading unano. Hay-yay-yay ang buhay pinoy talaga naman o o, lumalabas ang galing ng pag babalimbing na kung saan ay walang sinabi ang bilis magpalit ng kulay ng unyango [ Iguana] at ang galing ng pagiging **IPOKRITO**. Mayroon jan tuwang -tuwa na nakakulong na si leading unano ngunit wala naman silang ginawa for the past 9 years na nanungkulan si leading unano at kitang kita naman nila ang ka-bulshitan at katiwalian ginagawa ng kanilang mga kaibigan at kailan Regional Directors etc..., na mga bataan rin ni leading unano, nakisaw-saw pa nga sila sa grasya galing kay leading unano ngunit sa ngayon ay kontodo-palakpak sila na naka-kulong na si leading unano. Tsk! ts! ts! ts! . Nakaka suka ang kanilang pagka **ipokrito**. Eto naman sila leading b \_ \_ \_ a at leading lady na nagpakita ng kanilang kulay na sinusuway si leading man sa dahilan si leading unano naman daw ang nag pakana ng watch list order kaya kanila itong inpinipilit kahit na alam na nila na ito ay labag sa konstitusyon. Kung bakit naman ang kampo ni leading b \_ \_ \_ a ay inabot ng pagka-tagal tagal na isampa ang mga kaso laban kay leading unano ay isang **tunay na palaisipan**. Kaya ating abangan, tayong mga tanga este taga baguio at manuod na lang ng mga kaganapan ng puros lamang pag-popolitika at sa aking palagay ay walang kinalamn sa pagbibigay ng tunay na hustisya a mga na api at sa mga gumawa ng korapsyon at katiwalian. Lets sit back, relax, watch and enjoy the actions of the extreme **HYPOCRITES, BALIMBINGS, BACK STABBERS, LEECHES, CARPET BAGGERS, THIEVES, SUPREME CORRUPTORS SCUMBAGS ETC.....** Kawawang Pilipino pagkatapos ng lahat ng kaganapan ay BAON pa rin sa utang at sa kahirapan.

####

Nais ko lang batiin ang ating mga kaibigan sa mga larawan sa baba na sila naman ay mga simpleng opisyal ng gobyerno na gumagawa ng kanilang mga tungkulin abot-kaya ng kanilang abilidad at sinseridad na mag bigay ng serbisyo publiko.



**At left is Bombit in dialogue with PSI Eugene Raymundo, BCPO Station Commander, Station 8, briefing this columnist on the peace and order situation in his AOR.**



**Left photo is Kagawad Jose Go and Jun Mina ang mga public servants ng Braangay Philam. Si un Mina ang butihin kabiyak ni Punong Barangay Sarah Mina, the ever beautiful and masipag na kapitan ng Brgy. Philam.**



## Pocket Miners Urged to Plant Trees, Get Involved in Greening Program

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet, Nov. 24 (PIA) — The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) urged the small scale mining sector to get involved in the National Greening Program (NGP) of the government.

PENRO Head Guillermo Fianza said Executive Order 26 otherwise known as the NGP mandates all government agencies, local government units, institutions with the participation of the civil society and the private sector the planting of 1.5 billion trees until 2016 as a mitigating measure to address cli-

mate change and for livelihood opportunities.

EO 26 also mandates the planting of 10 seedlings per individual per year for six years.

The NGP steering committee meeting held recently also included the small scale mining sector as part of the program, said Fianza.

He said the PENRO is willing to do survey as soon as areas for planting trees shall have been identified adding that they could approach the different Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices in La Trinidad, Buguias and Baguio City.

This is needed to

register it with the national office for possible funding for seedling production, according to Fianza.

He assured that if the planted trees registered with the respective CENROs reached maturity, they will be allowed to cut with permission for mining timbers. Timbers are needed in small scale mining operations.

Governor Nestor Fongwan also urged the pocket miners to protect the environment during operations and rehabilitate even after leaving the mined area.

He encouraged the planting of a fast growing Moso bamboo species grown in China to prevent

soil erosion and as alternative livelihood for handicrafts and furniture.

The species thrives in a short span of time, within 85 days it could grow more than 15 feet, said Fongwan.

Moreover, Fianza said the province was able to identify a total of 1,500 hectares to be planted with 675,000 seedlings this year and hope to double the area by next year.

Provincial, municipal and barangay LGUs, government line agencies, private sector and civil society already planted trees during the rainy season in their respective identified sites in consonance with the program./ JDP/SCA-PIA CAR, Benguet

## Cordillera PNP

.....from page 6

solution efficiency improved to 16.5 percent this 2011 from 14 percent last year.

As per assessment, Adnol stressed that most crimes against persons and properties took place in capital towns and Central Business Areas, though for street crimes such as pick pockets and snatching, most of the cases happened in Baguio.

As per crime clock, Adnol stressed that for crime against person most of the cases happen from 6:00PM until midnight while crime against property peaked from 9:00PM-5:00AM.

As for the PRO-Cor's peace and order initiatives, Adnol also reported that they have already intensified their Police Integrated Patrol System (PIPS) and have already activated Barangay Peace Action Teams (BPATs) to participate in crime prevention.

In addition, PRO-Cor is currently working on the institutionalization of a reward system in the provinces through the Provincial Peace and Order Councils (PPOC), deployment of e-letter (electronic blotter system) in urban areas, as well as the establishment of GIS (Geographical Information System) for crime mapping and analysis.

It is also a primary directive of Magalong to all their personnel to intensify their Police Community Relation (PCR) activities, as he acknowledged the importance of getting the thrust and support of community in ensuring peace and order in the region.

Magalong, in a statement, also acknowledges that as they have intensified their peace and order efforts, programs and strategies, emergence of flaws cannot be avoided but he assured that they are doing their best and working doubly hard to make the necessary adjustments./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

## The Peace Combatant

.....from page 4

meaningful, and unifying.

The large number of groups in our city can be tackled by assigning the groups into committees, zones and specific areas of responsibility. All can be potentially happy. There can be imperfections but we should be able to count on the people's goodwill and intent to marshal themselves within the traditional spirit of Christmas.

We should not forget that the bigger issue being addressed by this proposal is this: how do we make governance participatory? How do we avoid programs that will look ridiculous? How do we make programs that are more consistent with our aspirations and perspective as a people? How do we use major occasions to unify ourselves? How do we build and institutionalize people's participation?

(The author can be contacted through arthboquiren2040@yahoo.com,

## BIR Urges The Public to Join Premyo sa Resibo Promo

BAGUIO CITY - Do you want to win P1 million? Then join the instant "Premyo sa Resibo" (PSR) promo of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Jeanette Maria Mabalot of BIR informed during the year-end adjustments forum for government withholding tax agents that the PSR is a texting promo open to Smart, Talk N Text, Globe, Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular Prepaid and Postpaid subscribers nationwide.

Aside from the P1 million monthly grand prize, a participant has the chance to win instant mobile prepaid loads, MyPhone cell phones, P5,000 daily, and P25,000 weekly.

To join the promo, one should always ask for a receipt whenever they purchase goods or services. Identify the Tax Identification Number (TIN) of the establishment, Receipt Number and Amount in the receipt and then using their cellphone, type in the text message in this format: PSR<space>TIN<asterisk>Receipt Number<asterisk>Receipt Amount and send it to 9777(for single entry) or 9778(for multiple entry).

For multiple entries, the participant is entitled to one entry for every P100 reflected in their O.R. and amount will be rounded out to the next hundred for fair play (For example P230 O.R amount - entitles a participant to 3 entries). Winners will get a congratulatory text from 9778 and a confirmation call from PhilWeb.

Mabalot informed that those receipts from Cash Register Machine (CRM) and Point of Sale (POS), are also allowed in the promo. However, these are thermal papers that easily fade so she advises that it is important to handle the receipt with utmost care.

All valid text-entries will be issued a unique raffle entry number thru a text confirmation

. Mabalot explained that sometimes there is a delay in receiving the text confirmation due to network congestion. Thus, she advised to send entries during off-peak hours from 11:00pm to 8:00am./JDP/MC-PIA CAR

## Aditorial

..... from page 4

right to travel, under Proclamation 1081. Most will instinctively swear by Fr Bernas' constitutional insights. Seared by dictatorship detention, our minds insist the Constitution must be upheld. But our guts rebel at all those "dragon teeth" that the Arroyo years sowed.

In Greek mythology, Jason sowed teeth of the dragon slain at the spring of Arbes. And from them rose warriors to do battle for Jason. The phrase means systematic fomenting of disputes. As her bids for term extension failed,

GMA appointed scores to the judiciary, Pagcor, government corporations, until leaving Malacanang. That included the Palace gardener who got a Luneta Park post. Gen. Delfin Bangit's term as AFP chief, exceeded by 11 months, Arroyo's departure from Malacanang. President Benigno Aquino fired Bangit. "Dragon teeth", however, still battle for her.

President Arroyo had an unprecedented 10 years to serve. It was a window of opportunity for greatness. That slammed shut in a decade of sleaze when she let urgent things crowd out the important. Sad to say, she did not "know the time of visitation"./ Juan L. Mercado



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

IN RE: PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF ILLEGITIMACY OF LEHMAN C. BUCASAN AND CANCELLATION AND CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN HIS RECORD OF BIRTH,

LEHMAN C. BUCASAN,  
*Petitioner,*  
-versus-

THE MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET AND THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO), QUEZON CITY,  
*Respondents,*

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASE NO. 11-C-1714

X———X

### ORDER

Petitioner, through counsel, filed this verified petition praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, the court orders the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet to correct the following in his birth certificate:

First Name : from BABY BOY to LEHMAN  
Middle Name : Cancel and leave it blank

Last Name of Mother : from LASTIMOZA to BUCASAN

Birthplace of Mother : from Tabuk, Kalinga to Itogon,

Benguet  
Date and Place of Marriage of Parents : Cancel the entry and leave it blank  
and declaring petitioner as an illegitimate Child.  
WHEREFORE finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance the court sets it for hearing on February 16, 2012 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning before the Session Hall of this Court, Benguet Provincial Capitol, La Trinidad, Benguet and all persons interested may appear and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in The Junction Regional Newspaper, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province, once a week, for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made not later than November 20, 2011.

Furnish copies hereof together with a copy of the petition and its annexes to the Office of the Solicitor General, Makati City; the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet; the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet; The Junction Regional Newspaper; the petitioner and counsel.

SO ORDERED.

This 14th day of November 2011 at La Trinidad, Benguet.

By: (SGD) FRANCIS A. BULIYAT Sr.  
Presiding Judge

Publication dates on November 19, 26 and December 3, 2011.

Republic of the Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION  
BRANCH 10  
La Trinidad,  
Benguet

HOPE BACOLONG GUIAGI

*Petitioner,*

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF LA TRINIDAD BENGUET AND THE NSO OFFICE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL, QUEZON CITY

*Respondents,*

SP. PROC. CASE NO. 11-C-1716

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION  
BAGUIO CITY

OFFICE OF THE EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY,

*Mortgage,*

-versus-

SPOUSES ALONZO ABIBUAG AND GLORIA AMPAGUEY-ABIBUAG,

*Mortgagors,*

SPOUSES ESWHER CASTANEDA AND ESTER AMPAGUEY-CASTANEDA, Borrowers,

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. 11-310-S

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL

FOR:

CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN ITEM NO. 2 IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH

X———X

### ORDER

Petitioner, through counsel, filed this verified petition on 9 November 2011 praying that after due notice, publication, and trial, judgment be issued directing the Local Civil Registrar of the Municipality of La Trinidad, Benguet and the NSO to correct the entry as regards the gender of HOPE BACOLONG GUIAGI from "FEMALE" to "MALE".

WHEREFORE, finding the petition

to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for hearing on February 07, 2012 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before the Session Hall of this Court, 2nd floor, Justice Hall, Justice Hill, La Trinidad, Benguet and all persons interested may appear and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

X———X

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Upon verified petition for extra-judicial foreclosure of real estate mortgage under Act 3135, as amended filed on October 28, 2011 by METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, through counsel, as the MORTGAGEE, for the satisfaction of the mortgage indebtedness of SPS. ALONZO ABIBUAG AND GLORIA AMPAGUEY-ABIBUAG, as the MORTGAGORS and SPS. ESWHER CASTANEDA AND ESTER AMPAGUEY-CASTANEDA, as the BORROWERS, the outstanding obligation, which as of August 31, 2011 amounts to EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ONE PESOS & 62/100 (Php 800,501.62) inclu-

sive of interest and penalty charges, but exclusive of attorney's fees, sheriff's fees and expenses incidental to the foreclosure proceedings, the undersigned or any authorized sheriff will sell at public auction on December 14, 2011 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the lobby of the main entrance of the Hall of Justice Building, Baguio City to the highest bidder for CASH and in PHILIPPINE CURRENCY, the real property together with all improvements existing thereon is more particularly described as follows:

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in The Junction Regional Newspaper a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made not later than July 10, 2011.

Furnish copies hereof together with a copy of the

to b sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for hearing on February 07, 2012 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before the Session Hall of this Court, 2nd floor, Justice Hall, Justice Hill, La Trinidad, Benguet and all persons interested may appear and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

TRANSFER  
CERTIFICATE OF  
TITLE NO. T-  
47094 REGISTRY  
OF DEDS.  
BAGUIO CITY

"A parcel of land (Lot 68-A-3-A-2 Psd-1-015075, being a portion of Lot 68-A-3-A, (LRC) Psd-153182, L.R.C. Rec. No. \_\_\_\_\_), situated at the Res. Sec. "J" City of Baguio, Island of

petition and its annexes to the Office of the Solicitor General, Makati City; the Administrator National Statistics Office; the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet; the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet; The Junction Regional Newspaper, the petitioner and his counsel.

SO ORDERED.

DONE IN CHAMBERS, this 11th day of November 2011 at La Trinidad, Benguet.

By: (SGD) EDGARDO B. DIAZ DE RIVERA, Jr.  
Presiding Judge

Publication Dates : November 19, 26 and December 3, 2011

Luzon. x x x x x ; containing an area of FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY SIX ( 526 ) SQUARE METERS . ( Complete technical description appears in the title)

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

Baguio City, Philippines,  
November 14, 2011.

By: (SGD) ATTY. REMEDIOS BALDERAS - REYES  
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-officio Sheriff

By: (SGD) DELFIN E. ARIAGA  
Sheriff IV

This publication awarded by raffle to The Junction Regional Newspaper, Dates of publication - November 19, 26 and December 3, 2011.

Copy furnished all parties concerned.

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.



# 'End Impunity': 58 Trees Commemorate Victims of Ampatuan Bloodbath...from page 1

to join the BCBC-led event.

Significantly, they were there to commemorate death with life - 58-trees to commemorate each of the victims; vowing they would stand guard against senseless killings and impunity of people behind the violence that was two years passed.

It was a simple but meaningful ceremony.

Graders from Baguio Pines Family Learning Center, members of the non-government organization Citibuddies, staff of University of the Philippines College Baguio, students of Baguio Central University College of Nursing, staff of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Cordillera Clonal Division were there.

Joining them were elements of the 21<sup>st</sup> Philippine Air Force Group Reserve, life savers from the City Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council - Disaster Operations Center and the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines.

Pupil Danica Torcuato's innocence couldn't mask her indignation at the turtle-paced justice the families of the victims now cry for. "At best," she said, "we could only let their memories live on by caring for the trees we commemorate them with."

Torcuato's alma mater, Baguio Pines Family Learning Center, is the very first institution in 2009 to write Malacanang Palace, ahead of the Baguio Centennial Commission, urging then President Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo to spare the Baguio Convention Center pine patch from being built upon.

Eva Fianza of Citibuddies and Baguio Central University and Rafael Tallocoy of the City Mayor's Office on the other hand both vowed support for media, each vowing in representation of their respective groups to stand by truth and dissemination of the same.

TSG Emmanuel Carantes on behalf of the PAF on the other hand assured, "Our men in uniform share the same hope for peace... we are here because we likewise believe there is no room for senseless violence in our country."

For media's part, Richard Valdez gave a picture of the role of media in society, the hazards of his chosen vocation, and a personal look into the lives of some of his media friends he lost in the tragedy.

The latest count of slain journalists already reached 146, five of whom perished only this year.

Since 1986 however, the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility only notes 10-convictions and the bigger fishes are yet to be charged, leaving their mere henchmen to fry.

So far, only Andal Ampatuan Sr. and Andal Ampatuan Jr. who were tagged as masterminds of the massacre are the only ones who have entered their plea before the court. Of 196-accused, 100- remain at large.

At dusk, members of the Baguio press down Session Road holding torches symbolic of that flicker of hope that someday, the dark days of immunity would be over./sl



**BENGUETELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**Alapang, La Trinidad, Benguet**

**Tel Nos. 422-2000 / 422-2110 / 422 - 2969**

**"Quality Service Is Our Way Of Life"**

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP ASSEMBLY

Notice is hereby given to all members of the Benguet Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BENECO) that the 31st Annual General Membership Assembly (AGMA) will be held on December 03, 2011, Saturday at the Covered Court, Benguet State University-Bokod Campus, Ambagueg, Bokod, Benguet.

### Schedule of activities:

- 08:00 A.M. - 09:30 A.M. - Registration
- 09:30 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. - Program Proper
- 10:30 A.M. - 12:00 Noon - Business Meeting
- 12:00 Noon - Onwards Lunch and Raffles

### Order Of Business :

- I. Report on the number of members present in order to determine the existence of a quorum;
- II. Reading the notice of meeting and proof of its publication or mailing thereof including the waivers executed by members from attending the meeting;
- III. Reading the approval of the minutes of the previous general membership assembly;
- IV. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous general membership meeting;
- V. Presentation and consideration of the President and General Manager's Report;
- VI. Unfinished Business;
  - a. Policy on the District Contingency fund (DCF)- Proponent NASECORE
  - b. Proposed separation of Baguio City from the franchise of BENECO Proponent: BAELCO and Mr. Bial Palaez.
  - c. Proposal to register BENECO with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) Proponent: NASECORE
- VII. New Business

### Proposed by Management :

- a. Confirmation of the 2008 AGMA Resolution No. 001-2008 approving the redistricting of BENECO whereby towns of Sablan and Tuba will remain to comprise District IX and barangays Asin Road and Irisan will revert back to Baguio City.
- b. As proposed by: Mr. Bial Palaez District 7, La Trinidad
- c. Refund scheme of the Php 98,561,178.00 over collection for the period 2006-2009 based on the approved unbundling decision dated July 20 2001 under ERC Case No. 2002-214.
- d. Preparation by management a supplemental CAPEX plan covering the far flung areas not covered by the original CAPX earlier submitted.
- e. Update of consumer-members master list deleting the names of deceased, transferees and those who left for abroad.
- f. A report status of the energy power project being undertaken by BENECO in Manasoc, Buguias, Benguet with respect to project cost, amount spent, percentage of project completion and its MW capacity.

### As proposed by: Ms. Emerita Fuerte, Chapter President, NASECORE

- f. Requesting BENECO Board of Directors to present to the General Membership accountability of the BENECO Board of Directors and officers to the fines and penalties paid by to the BIR related to the misdeclaration of actual cost of the lot purchased at South Drive, Baguio City.
- g. Requesting BENECO Management, in the spirit of transparency and accountability to member-consumer who shoulder the operating and capital expenditures of the electric cooperative, to present in its report the following data:
  - Updates of the refunds being implemented in terms of actual amount to be refunded, amount already refunded, the length of time to complete the refund specially on the meter deposit, the loan condonation and PPA with MIRANT (now Team Energy)
  - The management recommendation of the National Electrification Administration (NEA) Audit Report and what management intends to do to comply
  - The breakdown of the District Contingency Fund amounting to P 350,000.00 for each Director, how the amount was spent (project funded) the beneficiary/beneficiaries and the source of the fund.

### As proposed by : Mr. Federico Balanag, Chairman BAELCO

- h. Reduction of electricity rate through availment of tax incentives such as the 12% VAT as provided under RA 9520. The reduction shall be a big help to most consumers who belong to the marginalized sector.
- i. Refund of DISCOUNT resulting from the approval of the energy supply contract between BENECO and Team Energy as per ERC decision dated June 30, 2008 under Case No. 2005-025RC which mandated BENECO to refund the discount of P 0.2075 per kwh to its consumers.
- j. Update on the accounting/recording of Reinvestment Fund or Member Capital Contribution (MCC) per consumer-member to show/record contribution.
- k. Update on the petition to exclude the lot purchase at South Drive from the Capital Expenditures (CAPEX).

### VIII. Adjournment

Every member is encouraged to attend this Annual Assembly.

**November 20 & 27, 2011**

**MANAGEMENT**



## Advocacy Mindanow.....

.....from page 3

Aquiles suspected something was wrong and got nervous.. He recalled that they were not able to catch up with the convoy as Joseph stayed in the comfort room for a long time. "Thank god for that bad stomach, I survived," Aquiles in hindsight told me. Unknown to Aquiles, Joseph had already decided not to proceed to Shariff Aguak and his upset stomach was due to tension and fear. Being an old hand in the area, he trusted his instincts. He decided not to go. That's when they called Bong at 9:30 a.m. and told him about the decision that they would not be able to catch up and join. The next call at 10:30 a.m. to Bong's cellphone and all the frantic calls that ensued were no longer answered, except for one call to another mediaman's phone and someone with a moro accent answered briefly then cut the line.

Later that day, the gruesome massacre of the Mangudadatu convoy including the media contingent was confirmed. At first it was a feeling of denial. Almost all of the mediamen in the group were my close friends. Everytime I made trips to Gensan or Cotabato before that, many of them would always be there covering my events. To some of them who joined the Mangudadatu delegation, perhaps, it was another opportunity to do a job. And I can tell you, media work especially in the provincial press, although exciting at times, is a hard, dangerous grind. For one, it does not pay well. But many stick to it for what I call "psychic income" – not the cash rewards, but of course it also counts — but more for the adventure and the excitement of getting a good story out. That's why they are a special breed – and for all of their faults too. That was the reason why when I was press secretary, to the discomfort of some sectors in Manila, I was giving priority to the provincial press. I recall changing the format of presidential coverages. Where the usual practice was the accompanying Manila press took the front seats and got the first shot of asking the first questions with the provincial media at times sidelined or even excluded from the event, I revised this giving the locals priority even in the physical arrangements. For a change, Malacanang hosted Christmas parties on a regional basis for the provincial press while I was there. I knew how it was as I was once one of them.

By the way, the tragedy befalling our media victims could not be sufficiently vindicated, even if all the perpetrators were sent to jail. For some sectors to even say or suggest that I received bribe money from the Ampatuans to help quash the cases is mercifully wrong. Even my visit at the military hospital as part of my work as in charge of Mindanao affairs to check on reports that Bapa Ampatuan was reportedly getting VIP treatment was dramatized as another telltale evidence that there was bribery. I was fortunate that the emissary of the Ampatuans who was always sent to me during the whole period came out and gave his full story of how I even declined to lift a hand on the case, knowing that many lives of my friends were lost aside from the fact that it was ridiculous – if not dangerous — for me to get a payoff to quash a case totally outside of my control. I asked for a separate investigation but nothing happened up to now. But I guess that's par for the course for public officials like me. Too bad for me. So

you will all understand why being back now in the private sector is so liberating! But it's another story altogether.

That fateful day was a media tragedy unmatched anywhere in the world. The unfolding of the gruesome event continued later in the day. And being in charge of Mindanao for the palace, I braced myself.

I was trying to piece together the events of the day as more reports came in. When media called for a statement, I said I would recommend proclaiming a state of emergency. Late afternoon, as I was boarding my flight to Manila with my wife Beth, Defense Secretary Bert Gonzales called by phone. "Do you know what's happening?", he asked. I simply said: "It's unbelievable.!" He told me to proceed to the lobby of Edsa Shangrila hotel in Ortigas immediately upon landing. At 8 p.m. that night Bert told me that the President directed us to go to Maguindanao immediately. I was designated "crisis manager". To be continued/ADVOCACY MINDANAW/<http://www.advocacymindanow.org/columns>

## City's Top Barangays

.....from page 2

Ferdinand Bucad; Gibraltar with PB Roy Tao-ey; Dizon Subdivision with Kagawad Domingo Valdez; Loakan Liwanag with PB Rosalina Martin; Atok Trail; West Bayan Park with Kagawad Johnny Javier were presented with the CADAC trophy, a certificate, and cash prize of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000) each. They were adjudged as the twenty (20) outstanding barangays in the search, in the fight against drug abuse.

Outstanding schools were; Baguio City National High School, represented by Ms. Remedios Andrada; Pines City National High School, Ms. Catherine Quinacman; Quezon Hill National High School, Ms. Marlou Carrera; Irisan National High School, Ms. Janey Pascua; Guisad Valley National High School, Dr. Rosalia Ocyaden; Roxas National High School, Ms. Demetria Fomocao; Mil-An National High School, Ms. Lily May Claver; Pinsao National High School, Ms. Beverly Pearl Paleyan; Joaquin Smith National High School, Mr. Eric Dinaguan; Magsaysay National High School, Mr. Abraham Domiles; National Institute of Information Technology, Mr. Vladimir Cayabas;

Maranatha School, Mr. Edwin Macatol; Almaariff Educational Center, PB Camil Abdullah Apolinario; Mabini Elementary School, Ms. Susana Aliping; SLU Laboratory School, Mr. Allan Padan; Baguio Central School, Ms. Teresita Castellano; Dona Josefa Elementary School, Ms. Anna Liza Banglayan; Manuel Quezon Elementary School, Mr. Nicomedes Tabelin; Jose Rizal Elementary School, Ms. Brenda Bal-iyana; and Lucban Elementary School, Mr. Jerry Walsiyen.

The Baguio Center for Young Adults also received a CADAC trophy, a certificate and Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000); while the search for outstanding individuals yielded Kagawad Roland Pansingan of Rizal Monument barangay; PB Ronaldo Garcia of Baguio General Hospital Compound Barangay, Ms. Rossana Dizon of Dep-Ed, and Ms. Marlene de Castro as outstanding individuals who bannered the fight against drug abuse. The four individuals received a trophy, a certificate and One Thousand Pesos (P1,000) each.

In recognition for exemplary contributions as outstanding partner of CADAC in

its anti-drug advocacy, a special award was given to the City Anti-illegal Drugs-Special Operations Task Group, BCPO; Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency-Cordillera Administrative Region; SM Baguio; Dr. Zoraida Clavio of the City Health Department; and the Department of Education, Division of Baguio.

In Mayor Mauricio Domogan's message, as represented by Secretary to the Mayor Raffy Tallocoy, he enjoined each to wage war against illegal drugs, and protect the youth from falling victims to the lure of drugs, as each life is so precious and valuable.

"Pitiful is one's life when embroiled in something illegal, such as prohibited drugs," he ended.

The theme for the occasion is, "Global Action for Healthy Communities without Drugs."/juliegfianza

## 1b Utak

.....from page 3

also willing to withdraw their petition for a fare hike, if the government will immediately implement the long standing transport sector modernization program and that they will air such position in the scheduled fare hike petition hearing at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB-Central Office) hearing slated this December 8./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

## DA Advocates

.....from page 3

higher in terms of minerals, especially sodium – which is said to be the hardest element to be absorbed by the human body.

Acosta admits that high cost is still an issue or concern on organic vegetables as it plays with the law of supply and demand. He also stressed that if organic farmers increase in number, it will also lower the cost of organic veggies.

The said forum serves as the culminating activity of the regional celebration of Consumer Welfare Month last October.

DA-CAR Information Officer Robert Domoguen in an interview stressed that the activity aims to encourage the government, private sector, and farmers, who participated in the forum to ensure that food supply is safe through organic farming as well as to advocate good practices in food handling.

According to Domoguen, the activity, which is in coordination with the Cordillera Consumernet, is in line with the government's National Organic Program and the country's Organic Act, which DA Secretary Proceso Alcala initiated when he was still a Congressman.

For Cordillera, Domoguen affirmed that DA currently has P25 Million fund to promote and demonstrate organic farming here in the region as well as in ensuring that such vegetables are truly organically produced through a monitoring mechanism and labeling system.

In the said forum, the more than 100 participants from various Consumernet partner agencies, farmers and other stakeholders were also apprised on the Organic Heirloom Rice Production and Marketing; DA's Organic Agriculture Program and Development; organic farm management; and veggie noodle preparation.

There were also presentations on Food Safety and Management; Consumer Rights and Responsibilities; cooking Demo and Product Testing, as well as a Buyers-Sellers forum./SCALD/PIA CAR



## Igorot Karate

.....from page 2

the father of shotokan (knife-hand) style of martial art in the Philippines.

Sasaki planted the seed that is shotokan in the Philippines in the early 60's as a young second dan blackbelt sent by JKA central headquarters in Tokyo.

"This will be a world-class training," assured Sensei Hermie Pelingen, head of the Philippine headquarters of JKA in La Trinidad.

"The accomplishments of Chees would speak for the quality of what he is injecting to our local karate landscape."

Chees now holds 50-gyms in southern Germany. During his younger days, he was the only non-German by birth to have joined the German National Karate Team.

His triumphs as a Karate practitioner started while he was working in an army camp in Germany where the national team coach took notice of his prowess after winning several regional and national tilts.

Soon, he rose to the world rankings topping the England and Dutch Internationals. The icing on his cake came in 1993 at the World Shotokan Championships in Saarsbrücken, Germany when he won his world title.

Like a monk whose travails are sure hit when transformed from 'real' to 'reel', Chees recalled, "I prepared for the 1993 World Championships for months and months, including winter by my lonesome in the wilderness."

Three years later, Chees emerged sixth in kata at the World Championships in Las Vegas, Nevada. In 2007, he ruled the seniors' kata at the Worlds in Bergamo, Italy.

His most recent crown came at the Fort Lauderdale, Florida World Championships in 2009.

But his world-renowned exploits had humble beginnings. Chees started karate under Edgar Kapawen, Sr. — one of Sasaki's early students who now head the JKA-Orient Northern Luzon Headquarters.

Before Germany, he earned his blackbelt as an in-house student of Sasaki, made to do odd jobs aside from training for 3-years at the former JKA Philippines Headquarters in Manila.

The December 3 seminar will enable karatekas of all belts to have a glimpse of Gasshuku, the rigid week-long training program being conducted by JKA Germany headed by Master Ochi.

Proceeds of the seminar will be used to support indigent patients in Baguio and Benguet as an extension project of Shoshin Kinderhelfe, a charitable foundation Chees established with his German students.

Interested karatekas may register with the following JKA chapters: Central Headquarters at the basement of the Church of the Epiphany, La Trinidad; Quirino Hill under Leon Lonogan, Puguin-Longlong chapter under Miller Quintin, Easter College under Maynard Canseho, Natubleng under Rheysa Payangdo, Abong Foundation under Robert Pablo, Besao under Rev. Johnny Agwiking, Davao under Ruben Dumdom, Cagayan under Boy Sabunod, Cotabato under Ruben Dumdom, Lanao under Al Tlibas, and Las Pinas under Shihan Sasaki/rd and isl

## Environment

.....from page 3

The first Halsema Highway Environment Forum was sustained and intensified assigning every second Friday of the month as a simultaneous clean-up within the so called Mt. Trail Inter-Local Health Zone of Atok, Bakun, Buguias, and Mankayan.

To make the agreement binding, a Memorandum of Agreement was forged among the provincial government, concerned municipal and barangay officials, concerned government line agencies, transport, religious, and the private sector./JDP/SCA PIA- CAR, Benguet

## Benguet

.....from page 12

of the sector and the provincial board in passing legislative measures and other policies that regulate the industry.

The non-issuance of mining permits is still an issue confronted by the small scale miners. They are constrained from getting consent from mineral claimants, mining agreements for exploration, mineral production sharing agreement, and financial and technical assistance agreement.

Fongwan also urged the miners to stop the use of heavy metals such as cyanide and mercury which is not allowed, in order to protect themselves, their families and the community.

He likewise urged them to protect the environment during operations and rehabilitate even after leaving the mined area.

He further encouraged the planting of bamboos, a fast growing species called Moso grown in China to prevent soil erosion and as alternative livelihood in crafting handicrafts and furniture. It thrives in a short span of time. In 85 days it could grow more than 15 feet.

In his trip to China just recently, Fongwan was able to get samples for propagation and further distribution.

The province could not do away with small scale mining which is one of the major industries in the province aside from agriculture or the vegetable industry but this should be regulated, Fongwan stressed. Pocket mining existed long before the exploration of large scale mines./JDP/SCA- PIA CAR, Benguet

## PROCOR

.....from page 12

gambling region wide is extremely necessary and therefore, a need to further intensify and sustain this campaign, Magalong said.

The Cordillera Regional Anti-Illegal Gambling Special Operations Task Force (RAIDG-SOTF) will undertake forceful, intensive and unrelenting campaign against all forms of illegal gambling specially "jueteng," according to Magalong.

The RAIG-SOTF is headed by the Deputy Regional Director for Operations, PSSupt Roberto Soriano as the Task Force Commander. PSSupt Joseph Adnol, Chief, Regional Investigation Detection Management Division (RIDMD), is the Assistant Task Force Commander who heads the Investigation and Intelligence Team with four operatives; PSupt George Daskeo, OIC, Regional Operations and Plans Division (ROPD) as Task Force Secretariat while PSupt Anselmo Andayan, Chief, Regional Police Legal Office (RPLS) is the Legal Officer and PSSupt Virgilio Laya, Chief, Regional Police Community Relations Division (RPCRD) is the Team Leader of the Public Affairs team with the Regional PIO as member to serve as the spokesperson of the Task Force.

The Provincial/City Anti-Illegal Drugs-Special Operations Task Force is headed by the Deputy Provincial/City Director for Operations (DP/CDO) under the supervision of the Provincial/City Directors.

The RAIG-SOTF conducts operations against all forms of illegal gambling specifically "Jueteng" anywhere in the region in conformity with the pertinent provisions of Presidential Decree 1602 as amended by Republic Act 9287 entitled: "an Act increasing the Penalties for Illegal Numbers Games), and in close coordination with the Local Government Units (LGUs).

It will investigate/validate information on the alleged involvement of PNP personnel in illegal gambling activities.

The Task Force Commander will personally supervise the implementation of this project regarding the operational and administrative activities at all levels./PIA CAR/PROCOR

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

**GERALD CAMSOL REPRESENTED BY  
FELY FELIX  
Applicants**

**Case No: 2004-BAG-CAR-1510  
NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an application for the Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI Service for the transportation and passengers and freights on the Line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CAR and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on December 7, 2011 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.

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

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER-Regional Director this 11th day of November 2011.

(SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR  
Attorney IV

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

**JOSEPH FLORES  
Applicants**

**Case No: 97-BC-151  
NOTICE OF HEARING**

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

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on December 7, 2011 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.

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

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER-Regional Director this 17th day of November 2011.

(SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR  
Attorney IV



## Belen-Making Contest Ushers in Yuletide Season

BAGUIO CITY – Barangays are encouraged to join the belen-making contest, with the purpose of instilling teamwork between and among grassroots officials and their respective residents. That is because only one entry per barangay is allowed.

This was announced during the well-attended monthly Punong Barangays' (PB) meeting last week.

The "Belen" or nativity scene entry should be in place by the last week of November, it was learned.

Registration which started Tuesday, at the Office of the Liga ng Mga Barangay, shall be up to Nov. 30 only. A list of materials used for the belen should be prepared for the assessment of judges.

The Liga Office shall set the evaluation date once the list of entries is finalized.

The barangay belen entries shall be judged as to creativity or the use of indigenous and readily available materials, 30 %; communication of the theme, 25%; appropriateness, 25%; and teamwork or the barangay's efforts for the belen, 20%.

The first prize winner shall receive P10,000; the second and third prize winners shall have P5,000 and P3,000 respectively. The belen-making contest is in line with the city's "Christmas in Baguio" activities, which shall be full-blast by December 1, with the theme, "Warm Christmas in Cool Baguio."

Other barangay Christmas activities are the Simbang Gabi, and Prayer walk where interested participants are encouraged to see their barangay officials.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) shall be more active in community doings as part of their Community Engagement Program.

This was according to Lt. Col. Jose Pauly who represented Maj. Gen. Nonato Alfredo Peralta, PMA Superintendent, during the Punong Barangays' meeting.

Civic services, a sports clinic for the youth, and music lessons are being offered for the different barangays by the PMA community including the cadets in addition to environment-cleaning efforts, Pauly said.

They may also have their own version of PMA cadets having a day being city officials; same as the

Scout-Official-for-a-Day (SOFAD) for the boy and girl scouts, or Senior Citizen Official for a Day (SCOFAD), he added, these activities being a part of the cadets' learning experience while in the academy./juliegfianza

## PROCOR Director Issues new Directive Vs Illegal Gambling

TRINIDAD, Benguet — In continuing efforts to strengthen all out war against illegal gambling, Police Regional Director SSupt. Benjamin Magalong recently issued Implementing Plan 24/11 creating the Regional Anti-illegal Gambling Special Operations Task Force (RAIG-SOTF) which will oversee, direct and supervise anti illegal gambling operations region wide.

Despite sev-

eral directives to intensify the campaign and eradicate all forms of illegal gambling, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government and National Headquarters PNP still receive numerous complaints from the citizenry regarding the unabated existence of illegal gambling particularly "jueteng". Our campaign to address illegal gambling falls short of the public expectation. The public has persistently

denounced the continued and unhampered operations of illegal gambling and the alleged lackadaisical attitude of the PNP to stop this illegal activity, the PNP stated.

Likewise, reports that some police personnel are involved in this illegal activity as protectors aggravate the situation and affects the whole PNP organization when reports like this are taken in sweeping generality. Hence, a more aggressive and sincere campaign to eradicate all forms of illegal

Cont. on page 11

## The JUNCTION

Pahayagang Palaban!!!



**INMATES' LANTERNS FOR SALE** - Baguio City Jail inmates make lanterns fashioned out from bamboos and recyclable materials to earn a living this Christmas Season. Christmas lanterns and decors made by the inmates are being sold to the public at the Baguio City jail.— by Bong Cayabyab

## Benguet Continues to Boost Pocket Mining Industry, Regulates Operations

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet — The provincial government is bent on pursuing measures to boost the small scale mining industry and to further regulate its operations.

Governor Nestor Fongwan announced during the Small Scale Mining Congress held November 22 at the Wangal Sports Center here that the province is negotiating with Central Bank the possibility of establishing gold buying stations in the mining town of Itogon as majority of small scale miners are located in the municipality.

Fongwan said it would be more advantageous to install in Itogon a buying station and encourage miners to bring back and spend money in their own town. Miners presently trade their gold in Baguio City.

Small scale or artisanal mining is a subsistence form of mining with the extraction of minerals

from the ground through mechanical means such as bulldozers, backhoes and relying on manual labor.

Fongwan also bared that the provincial government is talking to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) not to be too tight on the pocket miners. He said these small scale miners are not generating so much income, adding that they only want to send their children to school and maintain their family.

The BIR accordingly wants the Central Bank to withhold the two-percent excise tax on the sale of gold by small-scale miners.

With the BIR's move, there was seemingly a decrease in trading with the Central Bank, Fongwan admitted.

Meanwhile, Fongwan reported that with the constant reminder of the cease and desist order preventing such miners to

enter their adits during bad weather, there was a decrease in accidents this year.

"We are happy this year for the few accidents and we thank the Lord," said Fongwan.

This should be maintained as we move toward towards zero casualty like what the large scale mining sector is doing, he stressed. One of the focus of this year's congress is disaster preparedness.

Fongwan also informed the existence of the Provincial Mining and Regulatory Board chaired by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – CAR and co-chaired by the governor which looks into the regulatory activities of the sector such as the issuance of permits.

He also underscored the role of DENR in looking into the operations

Cont. on page 11

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