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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

## CJHDEVCO Wanted to Cut 1,033 trees in John Hay, Rescinded Contract when BCDA Stood Firm to Uphold Environmental Laws



**A SONG FOR THE ENVIRONMENT** - Members of the Baguio City Police Ensemble belt out an environmental song "KAPALIGIRAN" during city hall's flag raising ceremonies. The Baguio's Finest under the leadership of City Police Director David Lacdan are active in various clean-up drive and tree planting activities in the city./By Bong Cayabyab

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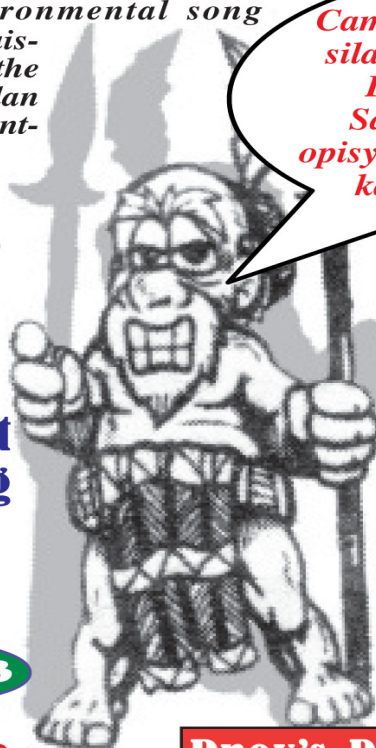
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"BCDA will not, in any way, allow any lessee or locator within our economic zones to violate environmental laws."

This was the statement of Arnel Paciano Casanova, president and chief executive officer of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), amid reports that the Sobrepena-led lessee, Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevco) had plans to cut and earthball 1,033 trees in the John Hay Special Economic Zone (JHSEZ).

The demand letter that CJHDevco sent to BCDA last December shows that the CJHDevCo wanted government to approve all their permits pending with the One-Stop Action Center (OSAC). Ten of these permits are for tree-cutting and **Cont. on page 10**

*Camp John Hay Management, sila lang talaga ang anak ng Diyos, Sobrang Swirti!!!  
Salamat sa mga Korap na opisyal na may kagagawan ng kasalukuyan problema!!!*



**C, PNP Approves PTC for Suspension During Panagbenga** **page 12**

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

*Why Panagbenga will not benefit Baguio!!!*

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



ADVOCACY MINDANOW

*Rationalize, Not Kill, Mining!*

BY: JESUS DUREZA





## Dads Ask Legal Office to Reply to P-Noy's Order on Bocap Case

BAGUIO CITY – The city council on Monday asked the city legal office to take charge of the body's comments and other needed actions relative to the barangay administrative case of Bakakeng Central barangay captain Helen Miranda now pending before the Office of the President (OP).

The OP through Undersecretary and Assistant Executive Secretary for legal Affairs Ronaldo Geron ordered the city council to submit its comments on a memorandum on appeal filed by former Bakakeng Central Punong Barangay Alicia Pacsi-Dizon, et. al. for Miranda's suspension over cases of grave misconduct and abuse of authority.

The city council in September last year suspended Miranda for six months but Pacsi and other complainants filed an appeal before the OP.

The OP order dated Janaury 10 required the city council and Miranda to submit within 15 days from receipt of the memorandum of appeal their comments which as prescribed should: "point out insufficiencies or inaccuracies in appellants' statement of facts; and state the reason why the appeal should be denied or dismissed."

The body in a resolution agreed to request the City Legal Office to prepare comments on the Memorandum of Appeal on the said case./A Refuerzo

## City answers Writ of Kalikasan, seeks Dismissal of Case

BAGUIO CITY – The city government on Feb. 3 filed its answer to the allegations lodged in the Writ of Kalikasan filed by petitioners led by Benguet Rep. Ronald Cosalan over the continued use of the Irisan dumpsite.

The Supreme Court last January 17 granted said writ and issued Temporary Environmental Protection Order (TEPO) to stop the use of Irisan dumpsite as dumping area and as temporary holding or staging point for wastes.

In the 33-page answer prepared by the city legal office under officer-in-charge Melchor Carlos

Rabanes, the city replied point by point to the allegations raised by the petitioners.

In the answer, the city elucidated on the actions it undertook to ensure the proper use of the dumpsite in compliance with environmental laws and the Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 and Republic Act No. 9275 or the Clean Water Act of 2004.

The answer also discussed and justified the actions made by the city government in ensuring the safety and stability of the dump facility.

It also maintained that the city has stopped using

the facility for dumping since 2008 and countered such other claims posed by the petitioners.

In the answer, the city asked the court to dismiss the case and lift or dissolve the Writ and the TEPO issued earlier.

The city also asked to be allowed "to fully complete the process of making Irisan dumpsite as an eco-park in accordance with R.A. 9003 and other environmental laws" and sought P10 million in moral damages and whatever amount the court may decide for exemplary damages.

As this developed, Mayor Mauricio Domogan bemoaned his inclusion as a private

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## Mayor seeks more Aggressive Segregation

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan called for a more aggressive segregation stance in the barangays here to enable the city to properly manage wastes in face of the closure of Irisan dumpsite for waste sorting and transfer.

In his Ugnayan Panlungsod media briefing, the mayor announced a directive to barangay officials to take to task residents who continue to defy the segregation policy by returning the unsegregated wastes to their owners.

He said the city needs to be more aggressive in implementing policy to avoid complicating the waste disposal system which now relies on temporary sorting and pick-up areas in the various barangays.

"I appeal anew to our residents to segregate their wastes religiously so the city will not encounter problems in disposing our wastes. Segregation is our duty and mandate so we hope we take it seriously at all times," he said.

The city now uses existing materials recovery facilities in barangays Lourdes, City Camp lagoon and Lualhati as temporary sorting and transfer sites for the wastes collected.

In the said sites, nonbiodegradable wastes are sorted into recyclables and residuals. The recyclables are being bought on site by dealers while the residual wastes are taken by the Pro Tech Machineries for transport to Capas, Tarlac.

The biodegradable wastes continue to be processed by the Environmental Recycling Ssystem (ERS) machines in Irisan.

The city is also waiting for the P80 million fund from the national government to implement the rehabilitation of the collapsed retaining wall.

The mayor said the city has implemented support measures and hopes that the fund will be released soon to begin the construction of an all-weather retaining wall to ensure the safety of the dump facility./ A Refuerzo

## Cordillera a Base of Outstanding Public Servants, Teachers

The searches are on for the country's outstanding public officials, employees and teachers, under two annual awards programs that nominees from the Cordillera have figured in with impressive regularity over the years.

Nominations to the three-category Search for Outstanding Public Officials and Employees must be submitted to any Civil Service Commission provincial, field or regional office on or before April 30 this year, as per guidelines is-

sued by CSC chairman Francisco Duque.

Also on is the 28th edition of the Search for Outstanding Teachers of the Metrobank Foundation which pegged the deadline for submission of nominations last Monday.

Despite a shallow bench for selection of nominees, it being one of the youngest and smallest regions, the Cordillera ranks second only to Metro-Manila among the regions with the most

number of recipients of the Presidential "Lingkod Bayan", "Dangal ng Bayan" and "Pag-asa" awards handed out annually through the CSC.

Since 1989, the Cordillera had notched a total of 69 CSC awards, broken down to 29 Lingkod Bayan and 29 Dangal ng Bayan individual awards and 11 under the "Pag-asa" individual and team category, as per records of the CSC regional office under director Fernando Porio.

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(SGD) Odell P. Aquino The Junction- OIC



## NCCA Launches Philippine Arts Festival 2012 in Baguio City

BAGUIO CITY—The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) is leading the country's celebration of Philippine Arts Festival 2012 the whole month of February focused on the theme, 'Tradisyon at Inobasyon'.

Launching the festivity in this part of the country, NCCA Deputy Executive Director Marlene Ruth Sanchez spearheaded a kapihan forum at the Philippine Information Agency (PIA-CAR) Dap-ay last Thursday. Sanchez was joined by Festival Director and Vice Head of the National Committee on Dramatic Arts Edward Perez and NCCA Northern Luzon Coordinator Mary Carling.

According to Sanchez, this year's festival aims to bring in together traditional and modern contemporary arts in the promotion and preservation of the country's rich cultures and traditions especially among the youth. It will communicate to the younger generations to educate and appreciate the culture and the art so as to provide a bigger door of innovation which will still evolve around the rich traditional arts and culture of the Philippines.

She also announces that the month-long schedule of festivities set for PAF 2012 celebration banners the flagship projects of the seven committees of the NCCA's Sub-commission on the Arts (SCA) embracing architecture, cinema, dance, literature, music, dramatic and visual arts.

For architecture, Sanchez disclosed that the Committee on Architecture and Allied Arts will highlight three simultaneous exhibits focusing on the growth of Philippine furnitures, architectural artists and the country's finest icons.

For cinema, NCCA will have the 'Cinema Rehiyon 4' in Bacolod City and Negros Occidental on February 8 to 11, which will feature screening and forums that focus on the artistic endeavors in filmmaking from the different regions.

For dance, 'Sayaw Pinoy', now in its ninth year and the longest-running Arts month flagship project, will continue to spread the beauty of dance in various areas all over the country.

On Literary Arts, Sanchez announces that the National Committee on Literary Arts will mount the 'Taboan 2012: Philippine International Writers Festival', in Pampanga and in Baguio on February 9 to 11, which will gather writers and readers for panel discussions, lectures, book fair, literary readings and performances, among others.

On Music, scheduled on February 20 to 24 in Cagayan De Oro and from February 25 to 28

in Baguio and in Iloilo, will be the staging of the First Asian Festival of Gongs and Bamboo Music which will gather both local and foreign gongs and bamboo ensembles for performances and workshops.

For Dramatic Arts, NCCA will have the 'Tanghal 6', which will bring together the best and emerging university and college-based theater groups, as well as community-based theater groups for performances, inter regional exchanges, audience dialogues, workshops and forums and exhibits. Tanghal 6, which will be held simultaneously this February 9 to 11, in four venues nationwide—Baguio City for Luzon, Dumaguete City for Visayas, General Santos City for Mindanao and the National Capital Region.

For visual arts, there will be the 'Philippine International Visual Arts Festival: The Rizal experience that will happen in Angono, Rizal from February 17 to 20, wherein lined-up of activities include conferences, exhibitions, competitions, workshops, painting sessions, scenic tours, among others.

"All the activities for the PAF 2012 are free and open to the public, in which I encourage the public to join, especially the youth, as we hope that the youth would continue to appreciate and love our country's culture and arts, which is an important part of our history," Sanchez added./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

## PRC, CHED Assure Gov't Addressing Concerns of Nursing Profession

BAGUIO CITY—The Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) assured that the government is doing its best to address the concerns presently hounding the nursing profession such as over-subscription and the over-supply of nurses resulting to un-employment or under-employment.

Such assurance was made by PRC Commissioner Atty. Jennifer Jardin-Manalili and CHED

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**MAKING SURE** - Congressman Bernardo Vergara instructs Burnham Park Technical Working Group to plant more decorative and flowering plants in the city's premier park in preparation for the influx of tourists this coming Panagbenga festivities during a surprise inspection last January 30./ Bong Cayabyab

## Gun-Ban Enforced in Baguio City for Panagbenga Festival

BAGUIO CITY - To ensure peaceful and orderly staging of the 17<sup>th</sup> Panagbenga or the Baguio Flower Festival, the police issued a memorandum order suspending Permit-to-Carry Firearm Outside Residence (PTCFOR) in this summer capital the whole month of February.

P/Csupt. Benjamin B. Magalong, regional director of Police Regional Office-Cordillera (PROCOR) said that the suspension of PTCFOR is in reference to the request

of Baguio City Mayor Mauricio Domogan who justified that the gun-ban contributes to the decrease of crime incidence.

Another reason why gun-ban is enforced is that criminal elements and treat groups may take advantage of the festival to carry out their nefarious activities during the month-long celebration, he added.

The police personnel, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and other law enforcement agencies like the

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agencies (PDEA) who are performing official functions are exempted from the gun-ban and are authorized to carry their firearms, Magalong clarified.

Meanwhile, Magalong bared that the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) is ready with 1,968 personnel deployed all throughout the city for the conduct of the Panagbenga Festival.

BCPO also deputized civic vol-

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## Pnoy's Decision Sought to Stop Tree Cutting By SM

In an apparent move to exhaust every available administrative remedy in the attempt to prevent the Shoe Mart Development Corporation from pursuing its plan to cut and earthball pine trees in the City, Honorable City Councilor Edison R. Bilog has filed a proposed resolution requesting His Excellency President Benigno Simeon Cojuangco Aquino III to reverse the decision of the Environment Secretary Ramon Paje allowing the cutting down and earthballing of one hundred eighty two (182) trees within the mall chain's property at

Luneta Hill on top of Session Road.

It can be recalled that retail giant SM earlier announced its intention to pursue further development within its property at Luneta Hill which includes the cutting and earthballing of trees within the said area. It can also be recalled that around three thousand local residents (as reported in the media), trooped to the SM Property atop Session Road last month and held a massive rally to protest the cutting and earthballing of the said trees.

It was also later learned that SM had been issued a tree cutting permit by the Department of Envi-

ronment and Natural Resources (DENR) as well as an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC), ostensibly without undergoing the process of public consultation.

In his proposed resolution Councilor Bilog cited Section 16 RA 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 which provides "General Welfare - xxx Within their respective territorial jurisdictions, local government units shall ensure and support among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health

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# Shattered Halos

"We're all experts at practicing virtue (from) a distance", noted Notre Dame University's Theodore Heshburg. His comment explains why tin halos were shattered even during the early phase of Chief Justice Renato Corona's impeachment trial.

Did Corona and family keep integrity at a distance? Yes, says the loosely-drafted eight charges, now being spelt out, by a sometimes bumbling opposition. Not so, says the defense panel, overseen by grizzled veteran Justice Serafin Cueva. They've lobbed everything but the kitchen sink to defend Corona. That included a demand that Senator Franklin Drilon inhibit himself from the trial—for bias.

By deft questions, Drilon prodded a reluctant Supreme Court clerk to turn over Corona's Statement of Assets and Liabilities. It is the prerogative of a challenged judge to inhibit or not.

## EDITORIAL

The surrendered SALNs threw light on data that molded in files Who said: "What has been in the dark, proclaim from the housetops"? Our guess is Drilon will be supported by the ultimate judge here: citizens who follow the trial through media.

The defense strenuously insisted that Bureau of Internal Revenue Kim Henares be strait-jacketed into merely confirming Corona ITRs were authentic. "That can be done by any notary public", fumed Senator-judge Miriam Santiago before her blood pressure bolted to a worrisome 180/90.

Notarization of Corona's ITRs, in some obscure office as demanded by Maid Miriam, would not have brought out the crisp documented answers that Henares provided. They bear on the example set by the chief justice on tax paying. Some points of Henares testimony:

Corona's gross income ranged from of P465,000 in 2006 to P657,000 in 2010, as shown by Alpha List on tax payments by justices. His net worth, declared at P9.5 million in 2006 bolted to P22.9 million in 2010.

Wife Cristina, became a registered tax payer in September 2003. That was for purchase of an P11-million house in La Vista subdivision, Quezon City. What about income as a Camp John Hay officer? "BIR is examining whether she had the capacity to purchase the La Vista property".

Corona's daughter, Carla, declared a 'taxable income' of P8,476 in 2009. Carla bought an P18 million property in on October 18, 2010 or 10 months after she filed her ITRs. Sellers? The Chief Justice and wife.

Daughter Charina, had no income tax returns when she bought a McKinley Hills property in Taguig City from Megaworld Corp in October 2008. "Not a single income tax return?" asked the prosecutor. "None sir," Henares replied. The buyer is registered with us as an one time taxpayer."

So, how could Corona buy into Bellagio Condos, etc? Future hearings may show math that prove financial clout. For now, the modern axiom will do: "If you live in a tin house, don't leave can openers lying about."

Another question is being asked this early Will BIR's Kim Henares be to the Corona impeachment what Banker Clarissa Ocampo turned out to be for the Joseph Estrada impeachment in 2001?

A day before judges, in the Estrada impeachment trial, were to go on Christmas break, Rep. Joker Arroyo and prosecutors presented a "surprise witness": the "impeccably groomed... the Equitable-PCI Bank's Clarissa Ocampo.

She sat (Erap's) left side, 'about a foot away,' as he signed 'Jose Velarde' on documents for a P500 million investment in the Wellex group, owned by a presidential crony." "He did not sign his real name," Ocampo said. "So, I did not authenticate his signature." She was one of the very few who could link Estrada to the Jose Velarde persona. She was very, very scared".

"She came forward in December after Senate prosecutors alleged that a mansion bought for one of Estrada's mistresses had been paid for with a \$2.8 million check signed by Velarde. Philippine law requires officials declare their assets. But Estrada admitted to only \$700,000, recalled Bloomberg Businessweek.

Ocampo's revelations helped spark Esda II that forced Estrada to quit. Ocampo flew to the U.S. after she testified. She joined ABS-CBN this year as it's chief financial officer.

Henares seems to come from the same mould of Filipina professionals with grit: Justice Cecilia Munoz Palma, PCGG's Haydee Horac, Commission on Audit's Heidi Mendoza and Clarissa, among others. Tiene cojones is the irreverent accolade paid to them by some. "They have balls." **Cont. on page**



## THE PEACE COMBATANT

### Why Panagbenga Will Not Benefit Baguio

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



(This is a Re-Print of last issues Column)

February will mark the opening of PANAGBENGA! Tourists, especially domestic tourists, will be flooding our streets. Expectedly the mass of people will be too many such that nobody will be able to move freely in our streets. Baguio City will be like Quiapo on the Feast of the Nazarene! But this is exactly my point why I believe that Baguio will lose in the tourism market share.

Take Quiapo of Metro Manila. The businesses supported by the ambience of the municipality are pirated DVDs, prostitution, fishball stalls, kikiam stalls, bar-b-q ambulant vendors, odok, adidas, betamax, peanut selling, segunda manos, balut, penoy, and all those street food. Yet, annually, Quiapo has its procession of the Holy Nazarene where perhaps close to a million people participate. Just like Baguio, annually there are close encounters of sweating bodies in our sidewalks and overpasses. The crowd is so tight that hardly anyone would notice if someone would pinch another's ass so hard or so lustfully.

Did the mass of people annually running to the streets of Quaipo made Quiapo more prosperous than the other municipalities of Manila or Quezon City? No. Similarly, this is the case for Baguio City because our own development priorities converted what was once a beautiful city into the dirty-kitchen of Northern Philippines. People flock to the city for only a short while and those that are most attracted are not the people with the highest level of incomes. There is quantity or a large mass of people but the purchasing power of the many are not high enough to boost the economy of Quaipo. Further, people massing to Quiapo are not those who intend to stay long and spend much in Quiapo.

What is true for Quiapo is also true for Baguio City's PANAGBENGA. PANAGBENGA attracts some tourists with good money to spend but the larger bulk that would be coming are those with less money, the curious types focused on the parade and not really on what Baguio City can comprehensively offer to tourists. Quantity but lacking quality.

Of course, nothing in this discussion should be taken to mean that I would like Baguio City to be a city of the rich or that only the rich have the right to visit the city. However, PANAGBENGA is never part of the indigenous traditions of Baguio City. PANAGENGA is essentially for attracting tourists. It is one of Baguio City's business. However, while we will attract some tourists in PANAGBENGA, the qualities of the tourists that we will be attracting are not those types who would stay in the city for several days or weeks. We are merely attracting a mass and not those who would be spending much in the city.

It is the opinion of the PEACE COMBATANT that the correct route for reestablishing the city as a premier tourist destination is to strengthen the city's ambience or image as a large nature city of the north with a unique ecology of cold **Cont. on page 11**



## ADVOCACY MINDANOW

***Rationalize, Not Kill, Mining!*****BY: JESUS DUREZA**

(NOTE: This is part of a series of articles written by the Times Publisher on mining after he revisited recently Mount Diwata or Diwalwal, hub of small scale mining in Compostela Valley Province.)

"Let's not kill mining. Instead, we should rationalize it."

The mining industry today is at a crossroad. Both for small scale and large scale mining. Anytime this month, President Aquino will announce his administration's "new" mining policies. My sources told me the office of Executive Secretary Jojo Ochoa will put on the presidential desk soon for the President's signature the executive order. A task force commissioned to study mining has sent in its recommendations.

There are "leaks" going the rounds of what those papers contain. Some are accurate, others are mere speculations. Some mining industry players fear that a radical shift in the government's mining policy will not only drive away foreign investments but will kill existing projects already on stream. When this happens, the whole economy inevitably, together with the people, will get the ultimate backlash. The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, headed by Phillip Romualdez has a policy paper for consideration in behalf of the mining industry. Not to be outdone, anti-mining advocates, notably Ms. Gina Lopez of ABS CBN Foundation, including the Catholic church intensify their pressure tactics, to somehow sway official decisions. It's fair game for all.

What President Aquino will announce soon will definitely have strategic implications on a long term. It will have far reaching effects – positively or negatively, depending on what will come out and which side of the fence you are in.

**NO TO "STOP MINING"** – In my case, I am for sustainable and responsible mining. I do not agree with the "stop mining" or "no to mining" campaign of anti-mining advocates, although I respect their views. I am for the rationalization of the mining industry to make it a potent driver of the economy; to improve the lives of those in remote and far flung areas, mostly our indigenous peoples or lumads. They never had this opportunity ever.

To me, stopping mining is nothing but a sure-fire formula of depriving the poor and the forgotten, an opportunity to make a breakthrough from poverty. I refuse to accept the proposition that we leave alone the rich minerals lying there beneath their feet "for the future generation". By golly, why worry more about the future when we cannot even take care yet of the present.

The anti-mining campaigners can easily whip up emotions. To agitate support, they present doomsday scenarios. Appearing to be taking the high moral ground, they ride on tragedies, like floods and calamities, as their convenient propaganda vehicles. They resort to scare tactics. And they squeeze dry those incidents "to the max". Well and good. Their campaigns should pressure the mining industry, government and all players to do better. But to kill the industry is something else. Because they also kill the dreams of the poor.

Yes, indeed, there are culprits and bad guys in the mining industry who deserve the bashing. But there are guys too who do good. For example, we should not lump up the sins of the small scale miners with those of large-scale corporate miners who have been doing a good job. The latter have the ways and means of addressing the dangers anti-mining sectors predict may happen. Big, developed countries like the US, Canada, Australia built their economies starting with mining. Their mining footprints did not devastate these countries. Look at where they are today. Many of these reputed mining companies come from these capitals and have imbibed the best practices of the industry where they come from.

**WHERE IS NATIONAL GOVT?** – We have enough good laws to address many of these valid concerns. The implementation however falls short. Our own national government must take the lead to promote mining but at the same time seeing to it that the industry does good than harm. Unfortunately, this is not so today. Government, when the crunch comes, even abdicates its own authority.

A case in point. It showed reluctance in exercising its authority to crack the whip on local government units exceeding their authorities. It did not decisively act to help the multi billion dollar SMI Tampakan project, a project the government says it is supporting, when the South Cotabato province passed an ordinance disallowing it. While

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## KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

***"Impeachment Not Sole Prerogative Of Congress"*****BY: BATAS MAURICIO**

**LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS:** "... The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you'..." (Luke 1:27-28, the Holy Bible).

-ooo-

**SC ASKED TO STOP CORONA TRIAL:** Now, it would seem that the proverbial bridge to be crossed has already been laid before all Filipinos on the issue of whether the Supreme Court can act against the Senate doing its job as an impeachment court, with the filing of a petition with the tribunal by Chief Justice Renato Corona seeking to stop his trial.

Is the impeachment court really supreme on matters of impeachment trials, as senator-judges and congressmen-prosecutors have been saying, so that not even the Supreme Court can do anything against the acts of the Senate while it is trying an impeachment complaint?

Or, as Corona's lawyers are now arguing in their petition before the high court, the Supreme Court really has the power to correct, amend, modify or even reverse or nullify orders or resolutions of the impeachment court which are perceived to have been issued in grave abuse of discretion?

-ooo-

**JUDICIAL POWER VS. ALL BRANCHES OF GOV'T:** The law here is Section 1, Art. 8 of the 1987 Constitution, which, in two paragraphs, provides: "The judicial power shall be vested in one Supreme Court and in such lower courts as may be established by law.

"Judicial power includes the duty of the courts of justice to settle actual controversies involving rights which are legally demandable and enforceable, and to determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the Government."

The key phrase here, it would seem, is "to determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the Government", which is a phrase that has already been explained twice by the Supreme Court.

-ooo-

**"IMPEACHMENT NOT SOLE PREROGATIVE OF CONGRESS":** In the case of *Ernesto B. Francisco, Jr. vs. Nagmamalasakit na mga Manananggol ng mga Manggagawang Pilipino, Inc.*, G.R. No. 160261, November 10, 2003, written by the present Ombudsman, former Justice Conchita Carpio Morales, the Supreme Court said: "... the Constitution did not intend to leave the matter of impeachment to the sole discretion of Congress..." (found at pages 130-131 of Supreme Court Reports Annotated, Volume 415).

This was reiterated by the Supreme Court in *"Merceditas Gutierrez vs. House of Representatives"*, G.R. No. 193459, February 15, 2011, where it said: "The Court finds it well-within its power to determine whether public respondent (House of Representatives) committed a violation of the Constitution or gravely abused its discretion in the exercise of its functions and prerogatives that could translate as lack or excess of jurisdiction, which would require corrective measures from the Court..."

On the argument that the power of the impeachment court to act came from the people, the Supreme Court said its own power to review the acts of all branches of government, including the Senate acting as an impeachment court, also came from the people themselves, when they ratified the very Constitution that contained the power of judicial review against all branches.

**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

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**1st-APLUMA!****Affairs Of The Heart:  
Battle Of The Exes****BY: ISMAEL AMIGO SR**

It being month of hearts, we shall digress from our usual political fodder in this corner for the moment.

Yes, President Noy is in love again and its both good and bad news for him and to all of us too.

He has recently admitted to have dated several times Kapuso talent Grace Lee.

But the not-so-funny thing is, outspoken sister Kris is allegedly no-so-sold with his elder brother's present squeeze in Ms. Lee despite the latter's culinary talent and exceptional looks from inside and out.

Throw in all the superlatives to Ms. Lee's persona, and still, by the looks of it, Ms. Kris is allegedly more prone to remain lukewarm towards her future sister-in-law.

That is, at the moment or until Ms. Kris gets over on something closest to her heart.

Why?

The reason is, according to some movie scribes is the "past tense" that Ms. Lee has and Kris' "past tense" in former husband star cager James Yap.

Somewhere in time, they say, Ms. Lee and Mr. Yap have had shared "some time" yes, together.

It is where the word "unacceptable" as far as Kris is concerned, is derived.

And yap, it is allegedly where the big headache also comes in for the Chief Executive, bigger perhaps, than his administration has in its hands at this point in time.

You think this crossroad would affect President Noy's dispensation of his nation building programs?

As far as this corner is concerned, I would say, it's more likely. Indeed, affairs of the heart are big stumbling blocks especially in this month of hearts.

But if I were President Noy, I'd solicit an advice for him and sister Kris as well, from buddy-losing-running-mate and DOTC Sec. Mar Roxas.

"Why Sec. Roxas of all people?," you'd say.

Oh boy...! C'mon don't be naïve. Juggle you memory bank!

Didn't the good Secretary fell in love and married too, a woman who also had an alleged "past tense" of an affair of the heart with his buddy in President Noy?

Indeed, love can move mountains.

And whether, it's a spin for their upcoming TV series or not, by the looks of it according to some movie scribes, sister Kris is allegedly falling in anew to former BF in Robin Padilla.

Indeed, sometimes history repeats itself.

But if were RP, I'd be more careful this time around lest history would repeat itself anew with him ending up anew behind bars for whatever reason there might be.

The reason why got padlocked? He got himself in a big legal imbroglio on unlicensed guns and a not-so-secret affair of the heart with Kris.

Well, the timing is perfect.

It came too at a time when the Aquinos wielded immense political power like what they are today. See?

**Frost Expected this Season says OPAG-Benguet**

L A T R I N I D A D , Benguet – The occurrence of frost in the hinterlands is expected this cold season although there are no reports yet reaching the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist to date, but farmers are now ready to counter its effects on plants.

Provincial Agriculturist Lolita

Bentres said even if frost or 'andap' is expected this cold month of February due to the drop of temperature nowadays, she stressed that frost does not cause any injury to plants.

Frost normally occurs in the months of November to February which is the cold season in the highlands.

It is usually experienced in

Paoay in Atok, Madaymen in Kibungan and Natubleng in Buguias, said Bentres.

Although there are still some vegetable farms affected by frost in the previous years, seasoned farmers in the highlands already know measures to counter it such as the use of sprinkler or overhead irrigation, according to Bentres.

Cont. on page 11

**BFF 2012 Activities on,**

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan invited the general public to the Panagbenga activities this week, the major highlights being the on-going Market Encounter at Burnham Park, Let a Thousand Flowers Bloom at Melvin Jones on Sunday morning, and Handog ng Panagbenga sa Pamilya Baguio at Burnham Park. The two activities including the Fluvial Float Parade at Burnham Lake, shall all be done Feb. 12.

"Let us enjoy the activities, as this is our very own festival," the mayor said during the regular media forum last week. He assured Baguioites and tourists that activities have been prepared for people of all ages, and from all walks of life.

The Market Encounter features flower-inspired products in booths at Burnham Park, while the painting activity Let A Thousand Flower Bloom is open for those who would like to etch their Panagbenga visions and impressions on canvas for viewing during the grand streetdancing parade. Six barangays have signified their interest to participate in the fluvial float parade.

Panagbenga opened last February 1 with the children's drum and lyre parade along the main thoroughfares and dance show-down at the Athletic Bowl where Baguio Central School won first prize, second and third prizes won by Don Mariano Marcos Memorial Elementary School and Special Education Center, respectively, with corresponding cash prizes.

All other participating elementary schools; Mabini, Dona Aurora, Lucban, San Vicente, Pacday Quinio, Aguinaldo, Dona Nicasia Puyat, John Hay, Josefa Carino, and Benguet Schools; Camp 3 of Tuba and La Trinidad Central School, were also allotted cash prizes.

The theme for the 17<sup>th</sup> staging of Panagbenga is: "Community Convergence for a Sustainable Tourism Growth," where the mayor in his message during the opening program, gave emphasis on the interplay of economic progress and tourism, with effects on the academic growth of the city.

He also lauded the parents and supporters, and barangay officials who joined the parade.

Activities for the coming week include: Feb. 12; The Power Plus Race at Lake Drive, Burnham Park, 5-9 AM; Chili Cookfest, 10AM to 12 noon at the Melvin Jones, Burnham Park.

Sports enthusiasts are also expected to converge with colleagues in different team games at different venues; Feb. 17-18, Flower Tee at the Baguio Country Club; Feb. 18, 4 PM, BPO Night Run at John Hay; Feb. 18, 8 PM, Colt 45 URCC IV-Battlegrounds at the Baguio Convention Center; Feb. 18-19, Panagbenga Airsoft Challenge at Melvin Jones.

The yearly awaited Philippine Military Academy Alumni Homecoming shall be on Feb. 18 at PMA grounds.

On Feb. 19, a dog show and rabies awareness program shall be at People's Park, from 7 AM to 5 PM.

Started 17 years ago, Panagbenga continues to draw in local and foreign tourists for the streetdancing and float parades featuring flowers and Cordillera culture.

Classes in the college level has been suspended on Feb. 25, Saturday, for the streetdancing parade, while the traffic number coding scheme has also been suspended from Feb. 13 to March 2.

The flower float parade shall be on Feb. 26; while Session Road in Bloom shall be from Feb. 27 to Mar. 4. Pony Boys' Day which features races and games on horseback shall be on March 2; while the closing ceremonies shall be on March 4. Other activities are expected at various venues.

Inquiries may be coursed through the Panagbenga secretariat, tel. no. 442-43-15 or at their office, Abad Santos Drive, Burnham Drive, near the city library./ juliegfianza

**101 Abra Policemen Promoted, 119 others in PRO-COR**

SAN JUAN, Provincial Police Office last week. Benjamin B. Magalong, regional director of the Police Regional Office – Cordillera (PRO-COR) led the pinning of ranks and awarding of the General Orders for the mass promotion of the 101 police officers of the Abra

Eleven Police Inspectors were promoted to the next higher rank of

Police Senior Inspectors are PSIs Eddie B. Bagto, Elpidio B. Benas, Jr., Anselmo B. Cacap, Joey C. Charog, Ricky D. Dangioan, Dominador B. de Guzman, Roldan H. Dolipas, Joselito Lamsen, Michael B. Maca-ey, Nicomedes A. Olarte III, and Reymino G. Padoyao.

Cont. on page 11



**Advocacy Mindanow.....****.....from page 5**

DENR Secretary Ramon Paje repeatedly announced support for the SMI's plans to operate an open pit mine, he denied SMI's ECC (Environment Compliance Certificate) because it is into open pit mining. What contradiction! In Zamboanga del Norte province, TVIRD, a mining firm affiliated with a Canadian mother company which has been responsibly operating for about 9 years and well accepted by its host communities but still with a few years of remaining mine life had to go to court alone to battle a similar ordinance. It has surfaced lately in the court hearings that the province is exploiting environment issues when its real motive is to shakedown TVIRD into giving more to the province. Up to now, the national government, supposedly the owner of the minerals and the entity that contracted the mining company to extract minerals, is just sitting helplessly by the wayside. No wonder many investors, mostly foreign, are now starting to look somewhere else to go. Pity because we are now hoarse in crying for foreign investments to come. In this case, we foolishly squander it by driving them away.

**WHERE'S MINING INDUSTRY?**

Tragically, the sector directly affected, the mining industry itself, has been nonchalant about dealing with anti-mining issues and propaganda. It merrily goes about its profitable business with not much regard to winning the hearts and minds not only of its stakeholders but the bigger audience as well. In the face of a growing anti-mining sentiment, the industry allows this avalanche of disinformation to sway public sentiments without helping much to clarify and explain. Their reactions, if not too late, are laid back. They are not rising up to the occasion. I begin to suspect that perhaps some of those in the mining industry, especially the foreigners, get cold feet because they just prefer to lie low and avoid being "political". They may lose by default!

Here is another irony. On the ground, while some mining companies enjoy the support and goodwill of the host communities, people who are not the locals are the loudest in raising their hackles against these operations. How sad because the "outsiders" are the more noisy and the more vociferous ones. And the public wrongly thinks they espouse the preponderant view. Some politicians do not know any better. They jump into the bandwagon to appear publicly as environmentalists, or conservationists without much of serious study. It's the easiest way out. (But having been a politician myself before, "that is par for the course", to use an old cliché.)

**INITIAL FEEDBACKS** — I am saddened to know that unlike in the past, mining today appears to be no longer considered one of the principal drivers of the economy. Some members of the Aquino cabinet were even reported as scoffing at the low contribution of mining to the national economy. They profess ignorance of the big positive impact a mining company brings to a remote host municipality and its environs. If they look only at the amount of excise tax being paid, (2%) then they can say it's pitifully low, that even if they close down mining in the country, it will not matter much because it is an insignificant factor in the economic profile. Sorry, but those facts do not give a com-

plete picture. They fail to reckon the totality of mining's contribution. It's not only taxes. We must factor in the government's share as agreed in the Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA), the salaries and wages paid to the thousands employed, the income taxes paid, the roads and infrastructure built and maintained for the host communities, the required social and development projects (schools, scholarships, livelihood programs, etc); the royalty funds turned over to the host indigenous peoples (lumads); the security-related expenses, (which mining companies have to bear by necessity, given that government cannot physically protect everyone), the extent of business and economic activities it generates specially in the locality, the required rehabilitation fund and the volume of money infused into the local economy on the various operational activities. And so on and so forth.

I'm sure I missed some points but the mining industry must put these numbers together accurately and clearly. And fast! If you total it, it's definitely not peanuts to scoff at. The industry should have done this arithmetic a long time ago. I am surprised. Even the business sector is tentative in what action to take when the whole business community, not only the mining industry is at a crossroad. Wake up boys and girls!

**WINDFALL** — If the government makes the right moves, the reported measly contribution so far of the mining industry to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) can rise dramatically and perk up the economy. It can serve as a windfall — the button just waiting to be pushed. For instance, the US\$5.9 billion direct investment of Saguittarius Mining Inc. in its proposed Tampakan project can perk up Mindanao's GDP several notches higher. Instead of government making light of mining's impact, it should instead view it as an opportunity and a readily available tool, just waiting to be tapped, to spurt the regional and national economy. It's badly needed, especially nowadays, when the economic trend is on a downward trajectory.

**PROPOSALS** — There are proposals for a review of the tax holidays to mining. Or an increase of the 2% excise tax to 5%. There's this proposal that will factor in the so-called total economic value formula, whatever that means. Then there's the complaint of local government units about the low and slow flow of benefits from mining companies that they host. Well and good. Whatever they are, it's always desirable for government and the people to have a bigger piece of the action. But the bottom line is to retain investors' interest and not drive them away.

**SMALL SCALE** — Rationalizing the small scale mining industry is also a must. Small scale mining should not (and CAN-NOT) be totally stopped but must be brought within the ambit of law and regulations. As we have seen, mostly, they are the harbingers of many problems, environmental or otherwise. (I cannot understand why anti-mining voices are focused at big scale mining and not at the real culprits.) Despite past efforts, government failed to follow through on this. The whip must be cracked to totally stop the environmental harm and damage. So sorry to say: during our time, efforts were exerted but did not fully succeed.

**WAY FORWARD** — My unsolicited advice is for the national government, as owners of all minerals to consolidate control over these resources, rationalize the system so that government, the communities and all stakeholders get their due and equitable

share, punish and weed out the bad guys and allow to operate only responsible and compliant mining companies which have good track records and capable of using world-class best practices and technology in the business. And use mining as one of the principal drivers of improving — not destroying or harming — the well being of our people. Killing the industry is not the answer, folks! It's like killing the hen that lays the golden egg just because it shits everywhere when all you have to do is clean it up!

In the midst of these uncertainties, only President Aquino can finally put clarity to all these with the awaited policies to be announced soon. Also, he must put to rest the "floating" status of DENR Secretary Ramon Paje. Competent and well meaning, he is neither here nor there because his non-confirmation in the Commission on Appointments is still a "sword of Damocles" hanging over his head. The President must also put to rest the growing, but perhaps speculative, fears of alleged policy-capture by some "anti-mining" elements who now walk the corridors of power. The mining industry is so vital that we cannot just relegate it to the dustbin. Or leave its fate in the hands of those who want to kill it.

Will President Aquino do the right thing? Let's watch and see.

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

**ISABEL B. FAUSTINO**

Applicants

Case No: 2003-CAR-654

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ - Jitney Service for the transportation and passengers and freights on the Line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION and vice versa with the use of one (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on February 29, 2012 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paodal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their 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 20th day of January 2012. (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

**ADOLBERTO DIAZ**

Applicants

Case No: 2011-CAR-450

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI Service for the transportation and passengers and freights on the Line: BAGUIO CITY (BENGUET) ROSARIO LA UNION and vice versa with the use of one (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on February 29, 2012 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paodal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their 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 20th day of January 2012. (SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR  
Attorney IV



REPUBLIC OF  
THE PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL TRIAL  
COURT, BRANCH  
9  
(FAMILY COURT  
FOR BENGUET)  
FIRST JUDICIAL  
REGION  
La Trinidad,  
Benguet

IN RE: ADOPTION  
OF MINOR AN-  
GELA SHINE  
ONDE  
WITH PRAYER  
FOR CHANGE OF  
NAME FROM AN-  
GELA  
SHINE ONDE TO  
I M M A I A H  
JAZMIN IBAT  
WAYA,

Spouses JOHN C.  
WAYA and MINDA  
IBAT WAYA,  
*Petitioners,*

SPECIAL PRO-  
CEEDINGS CASE  
NO. 12-A-0986

X——X

### ORDER

*P*etitioner  
Spouses John C.  
Waya and Minda Ibat  
Waya, through coun-  
sel, filed this veri-  
fied petition for Adop-  
tion praying that af-  
ter due notice, pub-  
lication and hearing  
, the subject of adop-  
tion ANGELA SHINE  
ONDE be declared

free from all obliga-  
tions with respect to  
her parents and vice  
versa, be declared for  
all legal intents and  
purposes as the  
adopted child of pe-  
titioners and for  
them to acquire the  
reciprocal rights and  
obligations arising  
from parents-child  
relationship, includ-  
ing the right of said  
child to use the sur-  
name of petitioners  
and change of name,  
henceforth, she will  
be known as  
IMMAIAH JAZMIN  
IBAT WAYA and di-  
rect the City Civil  
Registrar of Quezon  
City to effect said  
adoption in her Cer-  
tificate of Live Birth

Considering  
that a Child and Home  
Study Report of the  
Social Worker is an  
essential requisite  
in adoption cases and  
considering that said  
child and home study  
were already con-  
ducted by the Re-  
gional Office of the  
Department of Social  
Welfare and Develop-  
ment -CAR when the  
minor child was de-  
clared an abandoned  
child, said report  
should be submitted  
by DSWD-CAR to the  
court before the ini-  
tial hearing on April  
11, 2012 at 9:00  
o'clock in the morn-  
ing.

WHEREFORE,  
petitioners are di-  
rected to met with  
the Social Worker  
who conducted the

Child and Home  
Study Report for  
purposes of this  
adoption case, and is  
hereby directed to  
submit said report,  
incorporating  
therein his/hr rec-  
ommendations and  
submit the same to  
the court, furnishing  
a copy thereof to the  
trial prosecutor  
deputized to repre-  
sent the State.

Let this Order  
be published at the  
expense of the peti-  
tioners in The Junc-  
tion Newspaper, a  
newspaper of gen-  
eral circulation in  
Baguio City and  
Benguet Province, nc  
a week for three (3)  
consecutive weeks,  
the first publication  
to be made not later  
than February 5,  
2012. All persons in-  
terested may come  
to Court and show

cause, if any, why the  
petition should not be  
granted.

Furnish copies  
hereof together with  
a copy of the petition  
and its annexes to the  
Office of the Solicitor  
General; the Pro-  
vincial Prosecutor of  
Benguet; the City  
Civil Registrar of  
Quezon City; the So-  
cial Worker of  
DSWD-CAR; the  
Junction Newspaper;  
the petitioners and  
counsel.

SO ORDERED.

This 1st day of  
February 2012 at La  
Trinidad, Benguet.

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

Publication Dates:  
February 4, 11 & 18,  
2012

### City answers Writ

.....from page 2

person in the suit saying he still cannot  
fathom why he was sued on his personal  
capacity over an issue that he has been  
tackling in his official capacity.

"I work overtime even on Saturdays  
and Sundays just to address the many  
concerns and problems of the city includ-  
ing the garbage problem but I do not do  
the work in our official capacity yet I was  
included in the lawsuit in our personal  
capacity," the mayor lamented.

"Of course I am the one giving the  
orders. Of course I have to monitor and  
direct our people but it was all done on  
my official capacity as the city mayor."

He however left it to the people to  
judge if the suit is just politically moti-  
vated./ A Refuerzo

A large firm is currently  
seeking for full time/part  
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Representatives and various  
open positions are needed to  
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### Walter William's Journalist's Creed

This creed was written by Walter Williams (1864-1935),  
the man who founded the world's first school of journal-  
ism at the University of Missouri and perhaps contributed  
more toward the promotion of professional journalism than  
any other person of his time.

I believe in the profession of Journalism.

I believe that the public journal is a public trust; that all  
connected with it are, to the full measure of responsibility,  
trustees for the public; that acceptance of lesser service  
than the public service is a betrayal of this trust.

I believe that clear thinking, clear statement, accuracy and  
fairness are fundamental to good journalism.

I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds  
in his heart to be true. I believe that suppression of the  
news, for any consideration other than the welfare of soci-  
ety, is indefensible.

I believe that no one should write as a journalist what he  
would not say as a gentleman; that bribery by one's own  
pocket book is as much to be avoided as bribery by the  
pocketbook of another; that individual responsibility may  
not be escaped by pleading another's instructions or  
another's dividends.

I believe that advertising, news and editorial columns  
should alike serve the best interests of readers; that a single  
standard of helpful truth and cleanness should prevail for  
all; that supreme test of good journalism is the measure of  
its public service.

I believe that the journalism which succeeds the best-and  
best deserves success-fears God and honors man; is stoutly  
independent; unmoved by pride of opinion or greed of  
power; constructive, tolerant but never careless, self-con-  
trolled, patient, always respectful of its readers but always  
unafraid, is quickly indignant at injustice; is unswayed  
by the appeal of the privilege or the clamor of the mob;  
seeks to give every man a chance, and as far as law, an  
honest wage and recognition of human brotherhood can  
make it so, an equal chance; is profoundly patriotic while  
sincerely promoting international good will and cement-  
ing world-comradeship, is a journalism of humanity, of  
and for today's world. /http://  
[www.nationalpressclub.org.ph](http://www.nationalpressclub.org.ph)

### RESEARCH & STATISTICS

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

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno [www.linisgobyerno.org](http://www.linisgobyerno.org)



Republic of the  
Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL  
COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL  
REGION  
BRANCH 62  
La Trinidad,  
Benguet

NICOLE KRISTINE  
DACLILI  
Represented by  
SPOUSES ANTONIO D. MARRERO  
And JOSEPHINE B. MARRERO,

*Petitioner,*

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL  
REGISTRAR  
OF TUBLAY,  
BENGUET,

*Respondent,*

SPECIAL PRO-  
CEEDINGS CASE  
NO. 12-C-1722  
FOR:

CANCELLATION  
OF THE CERTIFI-  
CATE OF LIVE  
BIRTH OF NICOLE  
KRISTINE DACLILI  
WITH THE LOCAL  
CIVIL  
REGISTRY OF  
TUBLAY, BENGUET

X——X

ORDER

*Petitioners,*  
Spouses Antonio D. Marrero and Josephine B. Marrero, through counsel, filed a verified petition averring that:

1. Petitioners are of legal age, Filipinos, married to each other until now and residents of 368 Pias, Camp 7, Baguio City. They may be served with pleadings and court processes through x x x counsel x x x ;

2. Respondent Local Civil Registrar of Tublay, Benguet is the custodian of the records being sought to be cancelled with office address at the Local Civil Registry Office, Acop, Tublay, Benguet and within the jurisdiction of the Honorable Court, where he may be served with summons and court processes;

3. Nicole Kristine Daclili

(Nicole for Brevity), was born on July 16, 1999 at Dapong, Gumatdang, Itogon, Benguet. Her biological parents are herein petitioner Antonio D. Marrero and Cristina B. Daclili who happens to be the niece of Josephine B. Marrero also herein petitioner. Presently, Nicole, still a minor, is now living under the care, support and custody of herein petitioners x x x ;

4. The fact of her birth was registered late on April 14, 2000 with the Local Civil Registry of Itogon, Benguet under Registry No. B0000164 x x x ;

5. Unknown to petitioners, the birth of Nicole was also registered on September 23, 1999 with the Local Civil Registry of Tublay, Benguet under Registry No. 9900232 x x x ;

6. Both records of birth agree only with respect to the first name of Nicole, her gender, the name and circumstances of the mother, but they differ in all other entries;

7. The record of birth with the Local Civil Registry Office of Tublay, Benguet, although registered earlier, is a simulated document and it contains entries with no factual basis to wit:

7.1 It appears that Nicole's last name is Marrero, but the father and herein petitioner Antonio D. Marrero has not authorized the use of his surname by Nicole;

7.2 Nicole was born on July 16, 1999 and not August 28, 1999;

7.3 Her place of birth is Dapong, Gumatdang, Itogon, Benguet, and not Nalseb, Ambassador, Tublay, Benguet;

7.4 The residence of the mother is Dapong, Gumatdang, Itogon, Benguet, and not Nalseb, Ambassador, Tublay, Benguet;

7.5 The name of the father is not Antonio P. Marrero but Antonio D. Marrero ;

7.6 June 24 1997 and Metro Manila appear as the

date and place of marriage of parents, but the truth is that the parents of Nicole are not married to each other;

7.7 It also appears that the informant is Cristina D. Marrero but no person known to exist under this name;

8. The record of Nicole with the Local Civil Registry Office of Itogon, Benguet, while registered at a later date, contains all the correct information regarding the birth of Nicole;

9. Until now, it remains a mystery to petitioners as to how the birth of Nicole, who was born in Dapang, Gumatdang, Itogon, Benguet found itself in the records of the Local Civil Registry of Tublay, Benguet;

10. In support of her scholastic records, Nicole had been using her record of birth with the Local Civil Reg-

Republic of the  
Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL  
COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL  
REGION  
BRANCH 5  
Baguio City

IN RE: PETITION  
FOR CHANGE OF  
NAME AND  
CORRECTIONS OF  
MIDDLE NAME  
OF MAURA N.  
SOTO,

*Petitioner,*

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL  
REGISTRAR, CITY  
OF BAGUIO,

*Respondent,*

SPECIAL PRO-  
CEEDINGS CASE  
NO. 2176-R

X——X

NOTICE OF  
HEARING

*Petitioner,* through counsel filed a verified petition praying that this Court, after due notice and hearing, issue an Order directing the local Civil Registrar, and the National Statistics Office to cause the change and correction

istry Office of Itogon, Benguet, thus her school records bear the name of Nicole Kristine B. Daclili, x x x ;

11. There is a need to cancel the simulated record of birth of Nicole with Local Civil Registry Office Of Tublay, Benguet, because said document cannot be relied upon as a public document and it will only create confusion as to the identity of Nicole and the circumstances regarding her birth and status;

12. In view of all the above, petitioners humbly pray that the Certificate of Live Birth of Nicole Kristine Daclili with the Local Civil Registry Office of Itogon, Benguet .

x x x “

Petitioners pray that after due notice, publication and hearing, this court will issue an order di-

recting the Local Civil Registrar of Tublay Benguet, to cancel the certificate of live birth of Nicole Kristine Daclili.

of her first name from “MAURICIA” to “MAURA”, and her last name from “NABAS” to “NAVAS”.

In support of her prayer, petitioner alleged the following :

1. Petitioner is of legal age, Filipino, a widow and has been a resident of 247 Apugan, Poliwe Barangay, Baguio City, for 23 years.

2. That she was born on February 7, 1952, her late parents Nasario Navas and Salvacion Abangan in Isabela, Negros Occidental, however, her mother had petitioners birth recorded on September 15, 1952, as shown in the National Statistics Office copy.

3. That petitioner has obtained all the clearances from the Baguio PNP, Court, and the NBI and COMELEC registered voter.

4. The petitioner was able to obtain a certificate of Live Birth, from the Civil Registrar of Isabela, Negros Occidental, dated December 29, 1994, which shows her first name as “MAURA” and her last name as

recting the Local Civil Registrar of Tublay Benguet, to cancel the certificate of live birth of Nicole Kristine Daclili.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby given due course .

This case is set for hearing on 8 March 2012 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning at the Bulwagan ng Katarungan (Justice Hall), Justice Hill, La Trinidad, Benguet, at which time, date and place, the petitioners shall present evidence in support of their petition. Any person interested in the matter may appear and show cause why the Petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner for at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspa-

“NAVAS” shown in the National Statistics Office's copy as “NABAS”.

5. That all these years, she has been known and is using her first name as “MAURA N. SOTO” in all documents and in her two children's birth certificates.

NOW THEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the same be set for hearing before this Court, at its Session Hall, on March 29, 2012 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, at which place, date and time, the petitioner shall prove the merits of her petition and any interested person may appear and show cause if there be any, why he same should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published in The Junction Newspaper, a newspaper of general circulation in the City Of Baguio and suburbs, once a week for

per of general circulation in the Province of Benguet. The last publication shall not be later than 3 March 2012.

Likewise, let a copy of this Order and of the Petition and its annexes be furnished the following: the Office of the Solicitor General, Office of the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet, the Office of the Civil Registrar of the Municipality of Tublay, Benguet and the National Statistics Office .

SO ORDERED.

DONE IN CHAMBERS 26th day of January 2012 at La Trinidad, Benguet.

By: (SGD) DANILO B. CAMACHO  
Judge

Publication Dates:  
January 28,  
February 4 and 11,  
2012

three (3) consecutive weeks .

Let copies hereof be served upon the Local Civil Registrar, the National Statistics Office both of Baguio City, and the petitioner through counsel as well as the Office of the Hon. Solicitor General and the National Statistics Office, Manila. Further, let copies hereof be posted at the Bulletin Board of this Court, the City Hall, the City Market, and the Post Office all of the City Of Baguio.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE ANTONIO M. ESTEVES, Presiding Judge of this Court, this 30th day of January 2012 at Baguio City, Philippines.

By: (SGD) ATTY. ALEJANDRO EPIFANIO D. GUERRERO  
Clerk of Court V

Publication Dates  
February 11, 18 and  
25, 2012

## Gun - Ban

.....from page 3

unteer groups to participate in the peace-keeping operations during the celebration especially in managing the expected monstrous traffic during the highlights of the activities particularly the Grand parade on February 25 and the float parade on Feb. 26/JDP/IBZ- PIACAR



## CJHDEVCO Wanted to Cut 1,033 trees in John Hay, Rescinded Contract when BCDA Stood Firm to Uphold Environmental Laws.....from page 1

earthballing that will affect 1,033 trees in John Hay.

BCDA said that only the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is the only government agency authorized to issue tree-cutting and earthballing permits.

"We want to comply with environmental laws," Casanova said, "However, CJHDevco wanted us to exceed our authority by demanding that we approve their pending tree-cutting permits. When we did not give in to their demands, which may expose us to legal liabilities, they unilaterally rescinded the contract and are now claiming an atrocious amount of P14.4 billion from government."

"We cannot be faulted for adhering to the rule of law. Gone are the days of impunity. We have a government now that stands for integrity and the rule of law, particularly laws that protect our environment," Casanova said.

Casanova emphasized that it is CJHDevco who owes government P3.024 billion, and has used the pending permits at the OSAC as excuse to evade their ballooning obligations.

"What they wanted us to do may be illegal," Casanova pointed out. "Now their flimsy excuse is backfiring on them."

Recently, the DENR issued a cease and desist order for the cutting of trees inside the JHSEZ. The order is based on Executive Order No. 23 issued by President Benigno S. Aquino III on the moratorium on cutting and harvesting naturally grown trees since John Hay contains one of the biggest remaining pine forests in Baguio.

The John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC), BCDA's estate manager in the JHSEZ, reassured the public that DENR issued no permits for tree-cutting and earthballing despite CJHDevco's demands.

CJHDevco's demand letter shows that the lessee required BCDA to "cause the approval of all the applications currently pending and overdue and deliver to CJHDevco within the same period, all corresponding permits, licenses and certificates covered."

CJHDevco enumerated fifteen permits pending with the One-Stop Action Center (OSAC). Of these fifteen, ten were for tree-cutting and earthballing.

According to OSAC records, a total of 1,033 trees will be affected if CJHDevco's pending permits were approved. Of these, 520 trees will be cut and 513 will be earth-balled.

Except for the tree-cutting permits, the OSAC has issued a total of 89 permits in 2011. Of these 89 permits, 59 were issued to CJHDevCo and its sub-lessees. Ayala Land Inc. and other JHMC locators did not have any problems in acquiring their permits within the 30-day period.

## Cordillera

.....from page 2

Last year, the region made it in the three categories, with Violeta Salda of the Benguet State University establishing a record by winning her second "Lingkod Bayan" plum. Edgar Madlaing of the Benguet Schools Division copped the "Dangal" and the Abra Dental Team received the "Pag-asa" group award.

The Presidential or Lingkod Bayan Award is conferred on an individual or group "for exceptional or extraordinary contribution resulting from an idea or performance that had nationwide impact on public interest, security and patrimony".

Then mayor Thomas Killip of Sagada, Mt. Province received the Lingkod in 2001 for leading his constituents in making their town the first Peace Zone in the country. Baguio mayor Mauricio Domogan won it in 1995 for steering the city back to its feet after the July 16, 1990 earthquake.

The Pag-asa Award (individual or group) is "for outstanding contributions resulting from an idea or performance that directly benefit more than one department of the government".

Among the prominent winners is the Under-Five Clinic of the Baguio General Hospital (2002), a brainchild of the late Dr. Natividad Clavano as her base in pushing breast-feeding and developing the medical center as world's model baby and mother-friendly health facility.

The Dangal Award is for "performance of extraordinary act or public service and consistent demonstration of exemplary ethical behavior." Ifugao congressman Teddy Baguilat Jr. received the award in 1996 as then mayor of Kiangan town, while then Baguio jail officer Vilma Fangsilat took it in 2001.

Three Cordillera health workers - nurse Rosario Magala and midwife Elena Buenafe, both of Abra, and midwife Teresita Dodon of Sablan, Benguet - were honored posthumously with the Dangal in 1994.

Sometime in 1993, Magala and Buenafe were on their way to immunize children and distribute iodine capsules to a remote barangay when they were swept by strong currents while crossing a swollen river.

That same year, Dodon was coming home after a whole day immunizing children in far-flung barangays when she fatally figured in a vehicular accident.

"As she lay dead on the road, she was still protectively clutching the vaccines and medical paraphernalia, the tools of the trade she loved so much," the Dangal citation pointed out.

The region has so far installed 11 champions in Metrobank's roster of outstanding teachers, according to regional director Leonardo Qitos Jr. of the National Economic and Development Authority who earlier called on schools to nominate elementary, high school and college teachers for the award.

Among last year's 10 outstanding teachers was Vilma Ambat of the Baguio City National High School. She is the fourth winner from Baguio and the school, according to Metrobank Foundation president Aniceto Sobrepena./ Ramon Dacawi.

## Pino'y

.....from page 3

and safety, enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology xxx", as one of the basis for his request to the President. Bilog stressed further that the area where SM intends to implement its expansion project development is one of two remaining forested areas in the Central Business District (CBD) of the City and that these two areas contribute in reducing air pollution within the CBD area. He warned that cutting the 182 trees will definitely result in ecological disturbance that will contribute to global warming and pose other environmental threats to the citizens to Baguio.

Councilor Bilog also explained in his proposed resolution that pursuant to the alter-ego doctrine, the President of the Republic has the power to review decisions of department heads pursuant to the President's power of control over all executive departments, bureau and offices. The President may then, as averred by Councilor Bilog, affirm, modify, alter or reverse the administrative decisions issued by his subordinate officials.

Simultaneous with his proposal to request the President of the Republic to reverse the decision of DENR Secretary Paje allowing SM to cut and earthball trees within their property at Luneta Hill, Councilor Bilog has also filed another proposed resolution this time urging the Shoe Mart Development Corporation (SMDC) to reconsider its plan of cutting down and earth balling 182 trees in pursuit of their plan to further develop their property.

The explanations contained in the second proposed resolution of Councilor Bilog are more or less the same with his previous justifications in requesting President Aquino to reverse the decision of the DENR secretary, albeit with the addition of some more pertinent laws such as Article XII, Section 2 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution which provides that "the exploration, development, and utilization of natural resources shall be under the full control and supervision of the State", and Executive Order 23 which says that "It is the obligation of the State to protect the remaining forest cover areas of the country not only to prevent flash floods and hazardous flooding but also to preserve biodiversity, protect threatened habitats and sanctuaries or endangered and rare species, and allow natural regeneration of residual forests and development of plantation forests"/ Briccio Domondon Jr./Information Officer/ Sangguniang Panlungsod (SP)

## Editorial

..... from page 4

Born to a Chinese-Filipino family, Henares graduated from De La Salle University and became a certified public accountant in 1981. After getting an Ateneo law degree and passing the bar, she got a Masters of Law degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

She worked as a tax lawyer at SGV & Co, then as Senior Private Sector Development Specialist for the World Bank Group. From August 2003 to November 2005, Henares served in the BIR as Deputy Commissioner of the Special Concerns Group and office-in-charge of the Large Taxpayers Service.

President Aquino asked her join his team. Henares admits she hasn't gotten used to having Presidential Security Group members tail her even when shopping for groceries.

That's the least of the defense panels concerns now. They fret more whether prosecution will connect the dots that Henares spelt out with cool professional profession. One thing is sure: Filipinos now are doing that./Juan L. Mercado



**PRC, CHED****..... from page 3**

Assistant Regional Director Dr. Ramon Santiago during the Regional Student Nurses' Congress which was held here at the St. Louis University here last week.

According to Manalili, nursing graduates remain to be the top clients of the PRC in terms of number of graduates taking the licensure examination, and for the past eight years or so, nursing also captured the limelight on issues such as oversubscription, unemployment and over-employment.

Manalili explained that the national government, mindful of these challenges, provided initiatives to address the so called over-supply of nurses like the NARS (Nurses Assigned to Rural Service) and the RN HEALS (Registered Nurses for Health Enhancement and Local Service) programs. It is also engaging in the continuing talk with the Business Process Outsourcing(BPO) industry in the hope and desire to find alternative jobs for nurses specifically medical transcription, health and medical services.

She also said that the commission's data from the licensure examination in the last five to ten years as well as its projection in the next five to ten years, have provided valuable information not only on the present oversupply of nurses but more importantly on finding a solution.

Manalili also disclosed that PRC is trying to open up Japan's market to Filipino nurses and other professional workers through a technical cooperation project between the Philippines in Japan or under Japan-Philippines Economic Development Agreement (JPEPA).

In addition, Manalili also informed that the PRC's Board of Nursing is also pushing for the adoption of a competency based national nursing career profession program which is a more directed and rational training for Filipino nurses towards general nursing practice since trending demand for nurses now is competency based.

On the part of CHED, Santiago said that the Commission has come out with a moratorium on the nursing program. CHED is pushing for the improvement of the policies, standards and guidelines that govern the nursing education and profession and for its strict implementation on higher educational institutions (HEIs) that are offering nursing program.

Santiago also bared that CHED, in partnership with the PRC, Philippine Nurses Association (PNA) and other partner stakeholders are closely monitoring the performances of HEIs with nursing program and that they are ready to close down or give sanctions to any institution that does not adhere to the policies, standards and guidelines of quality nursing education.

"We are trying to do this to protect the general welfare of the public - the parents, students, and the other who are helping provide education for our nurses. The commission and other stakeholders, are one with you in promoting safe and quality nursing care in clinical practice," Santiago said.

The said Regional Student Nurses' Congress, now on its 7<sup>th</sup> staging, was initiated by the Association of Deans of Philippine Colleges of Nursing Cordillera Chapter and the Cordillera Association of Nursing Deans./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

**The Peace Combatant****..... from page 4**

weather, pine trees, lots of trees, and lots of cool nature. Fun city? No. Maybe, a nature city of the north. Maybe a fun city for close encounters with nature. Why would tourists spend more money going to another city where there are the same traffic jams, malls, and the like their own cities? Other cities can make a better offer on these. In contrast, who else but Baguio City can potentially offer a cool or very cool nature city? The comparative or competitive advantage of Baguio lies in the city's potential to bring a different type of both natural and demographic ecologies to the world (this also means the Cordillera demographic landscape).

Unfortunately, our city's current image is that it is a garbage city because we are still unable to provide a sustainable solution to our garbage. We are chopping down trees: in effect, we are chopping down the very things that give our city a competitive edge in the tourism market (in addition to the trees' intrinsic value for carbon sequestration and climate change moderation). Voila! All these do not make our city uniquely different from the other cities. All these do not make our city more competitive than the other cities as a tourist destination. We fail therefore to attract that part of the market segment that can potentially provide more prosperity for our city.

(The author can be contacted through artboquiren2040@yahoo.com, 0927-536-8431, and Facebook)

**Domogan****..... from page 12**

Some councilors earlier expressed reservations on the proposed subsidy fearing that the allocation resulted to the reduction of the budgets of key divisions under the city administrator's office particularly the City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (CDRRMC) and the city sports division.

The mayor assured that the P4 million subsidy will not affect the operations of said divisions and that the allocation will be subject to scrutiny by the Commission on Audit (COA).

He also said that the BFFI should be asked to submit a financial statement to show the fiscal status of the festival for the previous years to give the city officials an idea of its total financial standing./A Refuerzo

**Mayor: No Need****..... from page 12**

Kitma who he said appeared to have been enlightened.

The city government completed the bidding of the facilities last Jan. 27.

The mayor said the bid offers have been evaluated but he has yet to receive the result of the evaluation from the city Bids and Awards Committee.

Based on the TOR, the bid components will be for the rehabilitation and rental under the conditions that the operator shall invest a considerable amount of money for the rehabilitation, upgrading and expansion of the plants to produce 41,406,178 kilowatthours, install independent substation and power line to the national grid.

The terms also provided the schedule of remuneration to the city government and other concerned parties including the provincial government of Benguet, municipality of Tuba and barangays Tadiangan and

Nangalisan where the plants are located and including the surface owners whose properties are affected by the pipelines and plant facilities.

The city accountant's officer under Antonio Tabin is now preparing the payment of the accumulated claims of the surface owners amounting to close to P2 million based on the payment scheme agreed on by the city government and the landowners in 2010.

As per the agreement, the city will compensate the landowners by way of rentals amounting to three percent of the net surplus from the operation of the mini-hydro plants subject to conditions that the rentals will be retroactive to year 2007 when the city assumed management of the plant; and that the rentals will be subject to increase after three years.

The city is also up date in the payment of the tax shares of provincial government of Benguet, municipality of Tuba and barangays Tadiangan and Nangalisan which is being paid annually./A Refuerzo

**Frost Expected****..... from page 6**

Farmers use sprinkler or overhead irrigation overnight or early morning to counter the development of ice in plants. Frost does not immediately manifest and settle. It takes around three days, hence, the application of sprinkler or overhead irrigation helps counter the development of ice in plants, said Bentes.

It also occurs in plantations found between mountains. There is no air movement or air flow leaving the plants undisturbed which is the reason why ice emerges, according to Bentes. /SCA PIA-CAR/Benguet

**101 Abra Policemen****..... from page 6**

Two SPO4 were promoted to Police Inspector, SPO4 Roland C. Beralde and SPO4 Arnold Taluban.

The rest of the officers with ranks from SPO3 down to PO1 were also promoted from their current ranks to the next higher rank by virtue of Special Orders dated January 18, 2012 by made effective December 31, 2011.

Earlier, 24 Police Commissioned Officers (PCO) and 95 Police Non Commissioned Officers (PNCO) or a total of 119 newly promoted personnel take their oath and simultaneously pinned their new rank insignias and shoulder loops at PROCOR parade grounds, Camp Bado Dangwa, La Trinidad, Benguet, as their families and friends watched with admiration and pride.

Among the promotees are six Police Chief Inspectors, promoted to PSupt; PSupt Darnell Dulnuan and Theresa Pucay of Benguet Provincial Police Office; PSupts. Tessie Sarmiento, Reguel Santamaria, Marcial Paclibon and Gabriel Pablo of ProCor Headquarters.

Magalong, in his message challenged the newly promoted officers that promotion comes with greater accountability and responsibility; leadership is leading and managing people, and how to influence people to believe in the leaders cause. Leaders, he said, are not born they are developed and true leaders are those willing to take risks. He urged the promotees to become leaders in their respective fields of assignments./JDP/MTB-PIA Abra with report from ProCor



## C, PNP Approves PTC for Suspension During Panagbenga

The citizens of Baguio can expect a gun-free Panagbenga Flower Festival this 2012.

The Chief of the Philippine National Police, Police Director General Nicanor A Bartolome approved the request of PRO-COR Regional Director, PCSupt Benjamin B Magalong for the Suspension of Permit to Carry Firearms Outside Residences or PTCFOR in a memorandum from the Office of the C, PNP, National Headquarters issued February 6, 2012.

The memorandum stated that in view of the celebration of the "Panagbenga" Festival, all Permits to Carry Firearms Outside of Residence (PTCFORs) are hereby temporarily suspended for twenty four (24) days effective February 10 to March 4, 2012 in Baguio City. Moreover, it indicated that only members of the PNP, AFP and other Law Enforcement Agencies who are performing official duties and in agency-prescribed uniforms will be allowed to carry firearms in the city. This is to ensure the peaceful and orderly celebration of the "Panagbenga" Festival and to make it free from any firearm-related incident.

In addition, the said directive will be implemented through the Police Integrated Patrol System (PIPS), which includes the conduct of checkpoints, LOI SITA/Oplan Bakal, mobile/beat patrols and other police security operations in close coordination with the AFP, other Law Enforcement Agencies, government agencies and LGUs.

The temporary suspension of Permit to Carry Firearms Outside Residences (PTCFOR) was also implemented during the 2011 celebration of the Flower Festival which was one of the security measures of the Baguio City Police Office considering the influx of local and foreign tourist in the city. The last year's implementation resulted to a zero case of gun related incident and contributed greatly to the decrease of 28.3% of crime volume from 1,191 cases on 2010 to 854 cases on 2011. / **KARISSMA STA JUANA**, Police Inspector, PIO, BCPO, 09178132009/09399089664/bcpopio@gmail.com

## Mayor: No Need to Halt Asin Bid

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan on Wednesday said there is no need to stop the bidding of the Asin mini-hydro-electric plants despite an appeal from the Tuba town officials to stay the bidding due to questions on the mini-hydroelectric plant no. 3 lot ownership and claims payment.

"I don't think it's an issue that would merit stopping our bidding out the facilities," the mayor said during his Ugnayang Panlungsod press briefing.

He said he has referred the matter to the city legal office in coordination with the Baguio Water District (BWD) which possesses the documents on the lot ownership and BWD General Manager Teresita De Guzman has agreed to cooperate in the investigation.

The mayor said the issue is not a ground to halt the bidding as he sees no problem whether the lot occupied by the subject plant would turn out to be Tuba's or not.

He said that if indeed Tuba town owns the lot then the city is willing to pay whatever obligations it will incur.

On the other hand, if it is established that the lot is not owned by Tuba, then the municipality will also have to stop claiming its national wealth tax shares as there would no more legal basis for such claim.

The mayor said the issue on lot ownership cropped during his previous term as city mayor. "It is high time to settle this issue once and for all," he said.

The mayor said Tuba Councilor Roger Kitma met with him to air the town council's wish to defer the bidding of the facilities to first settle issues on the payment of rental fees on the lot occupied by the plant no. 3; payment of the power consumption as per the provisions of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act or EPIRA law; and payment of claims of landowners whose properties are affected by the pipelines and plant facilities.

He said he explained the situation to Councilor  
**Cont. on page 11**



**WITH MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT TO SERVE** - The New set of officers of the Young Men's Christian Association of the City of Baguio, Inc. headed by president Felix Eliral "Pedped" Refuezo are sworn in before Chief Inducting officers led by Dr. Ben Ladilad, president of Benguet State University, BIR regional director Eduardo Bajador, Commercial Bank manager YMCA of Pangasinan, Inc. president Edilberto Abalos and 4th Inducting Officer, YMCA of the Philippines, Inc. NGS Pablito Tabucol during the induction and installation of the 2012 YMCA Board of Directors last February 1./Bong Cayabyab

## Domogan, Farinas Defend Grant of Financial Support to Panagbenga

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas on Monday defended the city government's grant of financial support to the Baguio Flower Festival amid questions on the practicability of extending such subsidy.

"I think it is but proper that we continually support this activity because it is our own festivity which has evolved into a much-awaited national and even international event. To run a festival of this magnitude would necessitate the cooperation of both the public and private sectors," the mayor said.

The mayor said that the P2 million subsidy being given by the city government annually is worthwhile considering the benefits that the city derives from Panagbenga in terms of promoting tourism and enhancing the city's economic activity.

The mayor said the city has to sustain its financial aid to the festival due to the enormous financial requirements which he said cannot be raised by organizers by merely relying on sponsorships and donations.

He said funds derived from sponsorships and donations are not definite as these are dependent on what the sponsors could actually deliver whereas the festival would need definite funds to defray expenses including the prizes promised to competitors in the various events.

City Administrator Carlos Canilao said the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation Inc. (BFFI) has programmed P11 million for the activity this year. The P4 million is expected to be provided by the city government and Rep. Bernardo Vergara so the organizer will have to fork out P7 million through other means.

Farinas for his part said that it is the city government's duty to promote tourist-oriented activities like the Panagbenga, tourism being the lifeblood of Baguio's economy.

He said he was informed that other local governments have been extending relatively bigger subsidies to their own similarly established festivals and it is but natural that Baguio support its own festival to create further economic activity and to sustain people's interest in coming to the city.

"We should not block this activity otherwise we will lose our tourists and our economic activity so we should unite in supporting this activity," he said.

The city council that afternoon approved the proposed budget of the city administrator's office including the P4 million subsidy for the festival.  
**Cont. on page 11**

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