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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

## Lawmaker: Let's Focus on Fraud-Free Automated System



**"BLACK IS BLACK"** – Members of the Roadside Inspection, Testing and Monitoring Team (RITMT) tests a government vehicle at Harrison Road during the conduct of 'Free Emission Testing' last April 27 at Harrison Road./Photo by paul rillorta

Senate minority leader Alan Peter Cayetano said that what is far more important than forming or joining coalitions at this time is for the voters and candidates to be assured that the improved automated system will further deter any attempt by known political operators to tamper with the results.

He said he is closely monitoring preparations for the 2013 national elections particularly the extent of progress in the ensuring that automated elections will be safe from fraud.

"As long as we have an automated election that is fair and with no possible intervention by special operators, whatever coalition one belongs to wouldn't really matter," he said in response to questions about his preferred political coalition.

"So far, there have been no indications of this happening and it looks like everything is proceeding on time," he added.

The senator also pointed out that the nature of political campaign in the country has already drastically changed due to the advent of information technology and social media.

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BY: BATAS MAURICIO



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## City to Enhance Hospitality for Weather-Beaten Tourists

**BAGUIO CITY** – The city government aims to improve its hospitality to keep up with the influx of tourists who continue to come in droves to this mountain city even after Holy Week to seek relief from the intense summer heat of the lowlands.

City officials led by Mayor Mauricio Domogan, Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas and Councilor Elmer Datuin who heads the council committee on tourism and special events called on city departments to maintain if not augment their maintenance and service crews in the various tourist spots to cater to the needs of the visitors.

Domogan asked concerned offices to continue to address concerns particularly the peace and order to tackle traffic and crime problems; utilities to ensure water supply and smooth garbage collection; and the tourist-oriented establishments to cater to the needs of the vacationers.

Datuin requested the departments to maintain the services and amenities mounted for the "Summer Vacation in Baguio" (SUMVAC) operation during the Holy Week including traffic, information, motorist and medical assistance.

"As we all know because of the hot weather, the influx of tourists to our city continues and this is unusual so we should continue delivering these amenities for our visitors," Datuin said.

Since last Holy Week, tourist arrival record in the city has considerably increased as compared to the past years and this was attributed mainly to the city's cold weather.

"Our hottest weather has been recorded last Sunday but our climate remains to be the come-on for tourists as it still is the coldest in the country," Datuin said.

Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas said this reaffirms the fact that the city is still the Summer Capital of the Philippines.

Mayor Domogan placed the tourist arrival last Holy Week at half a million which he said is a good number considering the rainy weather at that time and expressed hope that the city can sustain the new-found dynamism in the city's tourism industry.

The mayor credited the various public and private groups and volunteers who rendered assistance for the success of the Holy Week operation even as he called on all the civic groups to continue providing services for the whole duration of the summer.

The city's summer calendar of events continues this May with barangay fiestas and various religious, cultural and other programs spread out throughout the month.

The SUMVAC committee is spearheaded by the mayor and action officer Carlos Canilao./A Refuerzo

## City Honors Cab Driver's Honesty

That is what Hector Valdo, a 42-year old taxi driver exemplified after returning a bag containing eight thousand Canadian dollars, two thousand five hundred pesos and important documents.

Monday (April 23), Valdo was properly recognized for his 'good deed' and was presented a City Resolution commending his selfless act.

City officials here said, the fact that he was never tempted to keep the same for his own benefit is worthy of praise.

It can be recalled that Valdo, after finding the bag full of cash left in his taxi reported the incident to ABS-CBN Baguio who in turn contacted the owner.

"He has set an example not only to the city's constituents but also to the whole world that in the midst of poverty and hardships, one does not need to take advantage of other people to survive", the plaque reads.

"the impact of the good deed that Mr. Valdo did is immense for it proves that Baguio City residents are trustworthy and upright, and tourists wether local or foreign can have a sense of security when visiting the city", it says.

The resolution which is a testimony of his honesty is now kept in the books of city hall. /paul rillorta

## BCDA and DPWH Ink SCTEX-TPLEX Connection to Cut Travel Time to Baguio

The state-run Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and its private sector partner, is poised to provide the virtual "missing link" that will not only dramatically cut down travel time between Metro Manila and Baguio City, but will make the seamless journey more comfortable and enjoyable.

The link will come in the form of a 700-meter road connecting the existing Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) terminus in La Paz, Tarlac to the forthcoming Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Express-

way (TPLEX).

A memorandum of agreement (MOA) on the construction of the envisioned connector road has been signed by the BCDA, the DPWH and the Private Infra Development Corp. (PIDC), signaling the launch of the road project under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement.

BCDA chair Felicito Payumo thanked DPWH Secretary Rogelio L. Singson for agreeing to fund and implement the construction of the connector road. He said the PPP scheme which is being championed by the Aquino administration as a linchpin of national economic development, takes off from the build-op-

erate-transfer (BOT) model as adopted by the country through the BOT law which Payumo authored while still a congressman representing Bataan.

Through PPP, Payumo stressed that vital infrastructure projects like the TPLEX of the DPWH are constructed at no cost for the government, with the private partners bankrolling the project implementation with the attendant commercial risks.

For his part, BCDA President and CEO Arnel Paciano D. Casanova said that the seamless connection between the SCTEX and TPLEX will favor no less than the motorists who will

Cont. on page 9

## DOJ Stops Collecting Legal Fees

**BAGUIO CITY** – the collection of legal fees entire the country has been terminated.

This was revealed by Deputy City Prosecutor Gloria Agunos April 25 after receiving a directive from De-

partment of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Leila De Lima to stop collections.

"The office received the communication at 4:45 pm of April 25 and we immediately followed", Agunos said.

Under Republic

Act 9279, legal fees will be collected from clients for cases and documents filed with the Prosecution Offices of the country.

The Circular revoked the implementation of DOJ Cont. on page 9



THE JUNCTION

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## Electrical Connections Dialogue on

BAGUIO CITY - Due to discrepancies in the number of applications and approved electrical service connection at the Benguet Electric Cooperative (BENECO) and Special Services Office, City Mayor's Office (SSD-CMO), a dialogue shall be conducted as with the revision of several documents for said application.

This was the pronouncement of Mayor Mauricio Domogan after listening to statements from the concerned agencies last week at city hall.

It was learned that BENECO has processed at least Five Thousand applications, while the SSD-CMO has only more than Three Thousand documents on record. The SSD-CMO issues the application form and should be, with the City Engineers Office, among the last offices to process the same.

Some applications have only one number, while several applications have been filed with the old administration, as among the violations discovered.

It was during the old administration that an amnesty through an ordinance, for electric connection was granted to buildings without permits. The practice however extended up to this administration. Mayor Domogan however said that electrical connections are basic needs specially for city-dwellers. "Let us not begrudge them of this necessity," he added.

This (the amnesty), he however emphasized, should not be used to deter government action in case of demolition of buildings without permit.

More stringent action should be done instead to control dubious documents into approval and eventual usage in constructions, the mayor said.

Processing for electrical connection undergoes application for service connection, inspection through a licensed electrical engineer/contractor, after which a permit for service connection is given.

The form to be revised shall be the subject of a meeting, between and among the mayor, BENECO, SSD-CMO, Integrated Institute of Electrical Engineers (IIEE), with recommendations from the CEO. An investigation by the CEO shall also be done.

A review of the ordinance on the amnesty shall also be done, the mayor ended./juliegfianza

## Police Patrol Urged to Guard Forbes Park from Land Speculators

BAGUIO CITY - The city environment and parks management office (CEPMO) recommended the conduct of police patrols at the Forbes Park to safeguard the area from intrusion.

CEPMO officer-in-charge Cordelia Lacsamana suggested this in a report to Mayor Mauricio Domogan following an on-site investigation conducted by the CEPMO forestry team on incidents of illegal dumping of earth materials at Parcel No. 1 of the forest reservation.

The mayor last Monday ordered the CEPMO to investigate the reported soil dumping activities in the area saying the lots which are now the subject of reclaim-

ing proceedings, have to be guarded against land speculators.

He said any construction should not be allowed in the area pending resolution of the city's petition for the nullification of the Certificates of Ancestral Land Titles (CALTs) issued by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) over parcels of the forest reservation.

In her endorsement to the mayor, Lacsamana reiterated the recommendations of acting forestry division chief Walter Aguirre for the police to apprehend the dump truck drivers who undertook the dumping of soil and for the creation of an inter-agency com-

posite team to conduct an indepth probe over the incident.

Aguirre in his report said he noticed an estimated 20 cubic meters of earth materials dumped at the portion of Forbes Park while part of the wire fence was cut to give way to vehicles.

Aguirre said on April 20 he returned to the area after receiving a text message on another soil dumping which he said he was able to stop.

Aguirre said there was no concrete evidence on who gave the authority to dump the soil in the area "unless the drives of the dump trucks will be apprehended and give their statements under oath."

The mayor earlier called for  
**Cont. on page 9**

## Mayor: Planned Change in Land Titling Process will not Abet Squatting

BAGUIO CITY - The planned shift from townsite reservation to direct award mode of land titling as contained in the proposed amendment of the Baguio City Charter will not abet squatting in the city as the new process, once approved, will not cover applicants with illegitimate and dubious claims.

"This new process will not encourage squatting as it will cover only bonafide lot applicants and not those applicants with questionable claims including those in waterways, watersheds and road right-of-ways," Mayor Mauricio Domogan clarified on Wednesday.

The mayor said the change in the land disposal procedure as contained in the proposed charter amendment will on the contrary discourage land speculation as the titling process will be hastened in favor of the actual and qualified occupants of the land.

The mayor said the city needs the shift to direct award mode of titling to address the mounting townsite and miscellaneous sales applications that remain unacted due to the slow process involved in the city's present land disposition scheme which is based on its status as a townsite reservation.

He said there are around 5,600 applications that remain pending in the city and if not disposed will cause more problems in the long run.

He said many applications date back to as far as 30-50 years and the delay in titling opened the floodgates to squatting problems.

He said the delay also led to the shortchanging of the city government in terms of land taxes and permit fees as lot applicants because of the delay are allowed to occupy the land and build their homes without paying taxes and construction permits fees to the city government.

He said if approved, the direct award will speed up the process of awarding these public lands to actual and qualified beneficiaries and in doing so, will address the squatting problem and at the same time will assure payment of land taxes.

The mayor said the new process will shorten the procedures by localizing the members of the awards committee and by doing away with some of the steps including the bidding requirements.

The composition of the awards committee along with the land disposition process' conflict with the Free Patent Law remain as grey areas in the ongoing study of House Bill No. 3759 or An Act Revising the Charter of the City of Baguio.

The bill is now pending before the Senate committee on local government chaired by Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

The city is expected to submit its position paper on the bill this week for consideration by Marcos' committee before the bill can be submitted for plenary debates and amendments in the Senate.

The city's position paper will delve on the salient amendments particularly on the implementation of the direct disposal and award of alienable public lands and the revisions in the functions of city departments./A Refuerzo

## DOLE Reports 95.2% Employment Rate in Cordillera for the 1st Quarter of 2012

BAGUIO CITY - working individuals The employment while the 4.8 percent sector in the region unemployment rate remains bright as the translates to 35,000 Department of Labor individuals without and Employment work.

(DOLE-CAR) reports Jalbuena also a 95.2 percent employment rate and a region's underemployment rate, which stands at 18.5 percent, remains to be a concern.

DOLE-CAR Regional Director John Henry Jalbuena, in a situation in which a kapihan forum, worker is employed, bared that with the but not in the desired current 793,000 capacity, whether in workforce in Cordillera, the 95.2 percent employment rate of skills and experience. Jalbuena ex-

plained that that their concern involves the two sides of underemployment based on work hours, which are those who have jobs but work less than 40 hours a week and those who work for 40 hours a week but years for more, which is usually the case happening in the Agriculture, farming and fisheries(AFF) sector.

The DOLE, along with its attached agencies, aim to focus on this  
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## Unsettled "IOU"

"Media Accountability and Public Engagement" is the theme 76 newspapers will discuss at Philippine Press Institute's annual meeting Monday. Harsh facts underpin the antiseptic captions.

President Benigno Aquino will key note this two day meeting. He quit waffling and endorsed the Freedom of Information bill. That should buff up his bona-fides. Discussions will then hopscotch from an "Asian Media Barometer" to "Reporting the Environment".

These debates are possible because "journalists of a tougher mould" fought suppressors. Joaquin Chino" Roces, Teodoro Locsin Sr., Jose Burgos, Sr were imprisoned and their papers padlocked before. People Power One smashed

Marcos' shackles. Inquirer didn't buckle when

## EDITORIAL

President Joseph Estrada tried to gut it's advertising base.

The press "basks complacently in liberties that earlier generations fought for," notes a Cebu Press Freedom Week editorial. "We drink from cisterns we never built. And we reap from vineyards we never planted."

Journalists still have to settle this IOU. The only acceptable currency is unflagging dedication to daily truth seeking. There must be "quiet recommitment, by all, to this fountainhead of other liberties". Nunca Mas. "Never Again".

This is a gruelling task, given past betrayals. Under Proclamation 1081, journalists most vociferous in proclaiming liberty of expression morphed into the harshest martial law censors.

"Whenever freedom of the press has been permitted, Filipinos defended it with passion," David Rosenberg writes in "Marcos and Martial Law" (Cornell University) "Whenever it has been prohibited, they complied with government regulation with obsequiousness."

We're hobbled by truncated memories. Eight out of 10 students barely recall Sen. Benigno Aquino. Or why he was gunned down. This is also a society of embedded impunity.

Tuesday, the Committee to Protect Journalists in New York published it's 2012 survey. A dysfunctional justice system wedges the Philippines, third among the four nations, that fail to nail journalist murderers. Iraq, Somalia and Sri Lanka are our fellow "black sheep".

Newspapers, broadcast stations and institutions, re-emerged into a post martial law world altered by Internet. First conceptualized at the 1956 Dartmouth Artificial Intelligence conference, the Net span off into cell phones, Twitter, Facebook, Ipads, etc.

An original 16 million signed up for the Net at the start. By June 2011, over 2.16 billion were "wired." Cell phones debuted in the mid 1990s. Over 5.28 billion hefted a cell phone by late 2011. Of these, 86 million were Filipinos.

In 2001, Filipinos were the first to wage revolution with cell phones, Howard Rheingold wrote in "Smart Mobs: The Next Social Revolution". They "provided the first real test of text messaging" to oust Joseph Estrada.

Lebanese cloned Filipino tactics to whip up "Cedar Revolution" rallies that "resembled Edsa's human waves," wrote Christian Science Monitor. Today, cameras, in cell phones, document massacre of demonstrators in Syria, by Hafez al Assad's Hafez troops despite a wobbly UN ceasefire.

"The public used to consume news like sucking on a straw", recalls Richard Posner in his book: Bad News. "Now it's being sprayed like a firehose". The new media's vast reach and millisecond speed whets assertion. Paradoxically, it spurs demands for even more verification.

"Every new medium begins as a container for the old," communications guru Marshall McLuhan wrote This resonates in a sideline debate: Will print go the way of the dinosaur? For now, recall the ancient axiom: Verba volant. Scripta Manent. "Words vanish. The written word endures."

Focus instead on the more festering issues. Internet, cell phone and Facebook move truth—or falsehood—at "warp speed." A scoop stood until the next edition. Today, it lasts until the next click of a mouse.

"News organizations are abandoning the race to be the first to break the news," Economist


Cont. on page 9



**1st-APLUMA!**

**CJ Corona Acquittal a Boost to UNA**

**BY: ISMAEL AMIGO SR**



MANILA — We already have this inkling before to spill the beans out but former and come-backing "Mr. Expose" Senator Ernie Maceda proved quicker to the draw.

Living up to his monicker, "Mr. Expose" exposed and quite literally let the cat out of the bag claiming that Chief Justice Renato Corona's acquittal or not guilty verdict — as we have discussed it here before — would only mean two things.

First and foremost and as sure as the sun shining, a not guilty verdict would somewhat weaken President Noy's mandate because surely the judiciary will always get in the way whatever Malacanang wants to do be it pro-people or whatever.

If you don't have an iota of an idea what the judiciary can do, go check on the web what happened to former PGMA's signed MOA-AD contract in Malaysia witnessed by no other than former US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristy Kenny.

It was only the tip of the iceberg so to speak of so many other international government contracts rendered null and void in the name of "unconstitutionality" or if not bamboozled by a sledgehammer-like TRO by the SC where CJ Corona reigns supreme.

The next big thing is, according to "Ka Ernie," Corona's acquittal or "how the senators vote in the impeachment case against the Chief Justice will impact on the political fate of Vice President Jejomar Binay who has been the subject here on our previous item re "Early-birdism."

As what his political alliance UNA (United Nationalist Alliance) stands for, the veep has too early too soon already declared his plans to run for president in 2016.

On the flipside of it, Ka Ernie, who is a known Binay ally, furthered that "Corona's conviction will bolster support for President Aquino and his "anointed candidate" for president while an acquittal would boost the stock of the opposition candidate, which could very well be Binay."

So there it is.

If and when President Noy's shining armor of a mandate shows a chink in the form of a CJ Corona acquittal, that chink would eventually become a crack that his endorsed political entity for president in 2016 may not find to his liking.

And you guessed it right. The flipside of it would be a solid and shining armor worn no less by VP Binay embossed with a "For President" logo.

Inquirer columnist Amando Doronila also bravely put it in black and white in his column saying Corona's acquittal "will be the start of the downturn of Noy's popularity. He becomes 'weaker' and his candidate becomes weaker."

UNA came into existence through Binay's Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) coalition and former President Joseph Estrada's Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP).

It may be recalled Ka Ernie served as Cont. on page 9



## ADVOCACY MINDANOW

*President 'S Travails***BY: JESUS DUREZA**

I attended the annual assembly of the Philippine Press Institute a few days ago in Manila. Pres. Aquino was our speaker. He talked about the travails of being an object of slanted, at times, negative and even false reporting. I sympathized with him.

The president dished out some jokes as he whined about some media ploys of some. Like the story of a basketful of crabs which someone left unattended. When attention was called about the crabs crawling out of the basket and losing all of them, the owner's confident answer was: "Don't worry. They are Filipino crabs"! Meaning, they will pull everyone down and therefore not one can leave the basket. Our now famous "Crab mentality" will do the trick!

Unlike the former President GMA who was not usually available for media ambush interview, Pnoy is something else. He engages face to face the media at any given opportunity and is at home with "dishing it out" which naturally makes him sitting duck for spins and anglings of stories. For journalists who are in constant search for good stories, if not juicy items, he is considered "good copy". This can be good or bad. Good because as president he is a rich source of information and policy directions. And that way, he exemplifies transparency. Bad because everything that comes out of the president's mouth is supposed to be presidential statement and accorded heavy weight. This then gives no room for mistakes. Hence any slip is nuanced and magnified.

The fact though that up to now Pnoy enjoys a high popularity rating is good reason to argue that he must be doing the right thing in the eyes of the public by the manner he engages the media.

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**CATHOLIC MEDIA** — During the PPI assembly, I talked with Fr. Jon Domingo, OMI, of Cotabato's Oblates who runs the almost 50 year -old weekly MINDANAO CROSS, one of the community press awardees for 2012. The Oblates media network also includes several radio stations. The secret why the Oblates' media group is now self sustaining and long-running is because it projects itself as a commercial endeavor and less of being an evangelizing tool of the Catholics. And the Oblates will continue to keep it that way. It's good food for thought for our Davao Verbum Dei Foundation.

@@@

**CONGRATS** — Several Mindanao based newspapers won prestigious annual awards during the PPI awards night. Congrats to EDGE DAVAO ran by veteran journalist Tony Ajero, SUN STAR Davao, headed by Stella Estremera and of course Mindanao Cross.

@@@

**OMBUDSMAN**— Justice Minerva Morales Carpio, our Ombudsman, spoke about the respective roles of media and the judiciary and the collaborative opportunities for good governance for both. She called on media to continue igniting the sparks for transparency and good governance.

By the way, when we met, the first thing the Ombudsman asked was how the Dutertes were doing in Davao. She asked about Mayor Sarah who, as everyone knows is married to the Ombudsman's nephew, Atty Carpio.

@@@

**MEDIA ACCOUNTABILITY** — Just how should media be held accountable to the public was a topic of great interest to all.

Many of us are aware of the fact that the press freedom clause in the constitution is the bulwark and fountain head of media's reason for being. It cannot but be policed only from within its own ranks. Hence it is a must for all publications to adopt their own internal code of ethics and it is on those standards and benchmarks that media could be held accountable. Of course, the rules on libel, both criminal and civil are mechanisms for accountability too.

So what's the ultimate power of a reader or listener? Simply flick off that TV or radio dial to shut out forever a foul-mouthed announcer or throw that newspaper's copy into the wastebasket and swear not to buy that paper again. Simple!

@@@

**FLUVIAL** — We had our annual fluvial procession for the Lady of Manaoag at Punta Dumalag last week. About 20 colorfully festooned bancas and boats participated to venerate Mother Mary.

## KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

*Cong. Peping reacts to SC decision***BY: BATAS MAURICIO**

**LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS:** "...Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life... It will produce thorns and thistles for you... By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground..." (Genesis 3:17-19, the Holy Bible).

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**CONG. PEPING REACTS TO SC DECISION ON LUISITA:** Here is a reaction directly texted to me by former Tarlac Rep. Jose Cojuangco Jr. on the latest Supreme Court order about Hacienda Luisita: "The Cojuangco family would like to convey that we will abide by the rule of law.

"We also reiterate that we have never been against land distribution. Our concern has always been for the welfare and rights of the true residents of Hacienda Luisita. We will wait for due process according to the law in determining a fair valuation."

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**SOMETHING GLOSSED OVER IN HLI DISPUTE:** There is something that is being glossed over in the decision upholding the distribution of Hacienda Luisita's 5,000 or so hectares of land to its farm workers. Who among the Hacienda's 10,000 or so residents are going to get the lands? And who will not get any land?

On the other hand, if the Supreme Court decision will mean distributing all of the 5,000 or so hectares to the 10,000 or so farm workers, each farm worker will get an approximate area of only 5,000 square meters, or half a hectare each.

Will the farm workers be able to derive any real benefit from the half-hectare land that is going to be given to each one of them? Will they be able to use the land to make them earn enough, and make life for them and their family members better than what they are having now?

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**CAN WORKERS WHO GET LAND ENJOY THE SAME BENEFITS?** I am sure that with the lands in the Hacienda already distributed to its farm workers, the Cojuangco family will no longer continue the social welfare benefits it has been giving, for free, to the workers, like free education, free water and electricity, free rice rations during the lean months, free medical services that could easily cost millions, and sharing in the Hacienda profits to the tune of 3% of its annual gross revenues.

Will the workers be able to provide for these benefits by themselves using the land that will be distributed to them? The clear answer is a no. It will in fact be impossible to generate even a meager income from only a half-hectare land, so that it is clear that Hacienda farm workers, even if they shall have already become landowners, will become more destitute and more deprived.

With a life that will turn for the worse after owning the lands of the Hacienda, it wouldn't be long before farm workers will be compelled to sell the lands awarded to them, as the example of many past Luisita workers, who had to mortgage or sell the lands given to them as a result of previous land reform programs, will show.

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**LAND DISTRIBUTION IS NOT ENOUGH:** Land distribution, indeed, is not the real answer to the long-pestering Hacienda Luisita dispute. Land distribution has been shown to have made life worse for those who have been given lands. The real solution is genuine agrarian reform, through a system whereby the farmer is given not only the land but also what he needs to attain a better life for himself and his family.

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## Roads Closed for Repairs, Coding Suspended

BAGUIO CITY- The city council during its session last week approved the partial closure of Kayang extension and Chanum street for rehabilitation/reconstruction/upgrading of damaged paved national roads.

Kayang Extension; (Chainage 0000 - Chainage 0210), shall be partially closed from April 18 to June 1 while Chanum street; (Chainage 0000 - Chainage 0181) is totally closed from May 15 up to July 3, this year.

The road closures were requested by District Engineer Ireneo Gallato of the Baguio City District Engineering Office, Department of Public Works and Highways-Cordillera Administrative Region, (DPWH-CAR) in a letter to Vice-Mayor Daniel Farinas.

Said closures have been announced during an earlier Traffic and Transport Management Council (TTMC) meeting with Mayor Mauricio Domogan as chair and presiding officer. The mayor directed City Engineer Leo Bernardez to install traffic signages for the public's information.

Meanwhile, Administrative Order 044, s. of 2012 was issued for the suspension of the number coding scheme only for private vehicles on April 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25 and June 1, 2012.

The mayor issued the coding suspension to "allow local residents and visitors to freely roam around the summer capital and enjoy its cool and romantic weather, pine-scented air and scenic spots," specially during the weekends until this coming month.

The move was recommended to and approved by the mayor during an earlier meeting, through the Baguio City Police Office Traffic Management Branch (BCPO-TMB).

Anchored on Ordinance 107, s. of 2008, the coding may be suspended during activities sponsored and co-sponsored by the city government; and, the Local Government Code, wherein every local government unit shall exercise powers "for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare of its constituents."/juliegfianza

## Tabuk Peace Council Welcomes Women Members

TABUK CITY, Kalinga - To ensure that the concerns of women and children will be heard during peace consultations, the Matagoan Bodong Consultative Council (MBCC), the special body created to settle conflicts here, will now be including the women sector representatives as members of the council.

There will be at least five women members to be included as representatives of the women sector from the five districts of Tabuk City.

Heriberto Barila of the MBCC, in an interview, said that with the involvement of women in the peace process policy-making and activities, the MBCC hopes to effectively reach out to the basic unit of the community which is the family, eventually making the council more efficient in its conflict resolution programs.

The council in a recent assembly consulted with women representatives on their involvement and active participation as council members. During said meeting, the women raised several concerns.

Topping the list is the provision of a women desk in every barangay council; a women sectoral representative in the Sangguniang Panglungsod (SP); and the formal recognition and institution of the women sector as members of the MBCC.

Currently, the MBCC he said formulated a proposal for the funding request of said sector through the Ways and Means Committee of the SP to make official their membership in the council.

He said that as an initial activity, the MBCC starting this April would be conducting an information education campaign in the five districts to inform the women sector participation and expected roles in the city's peace process.

Created under the leadership of then City Mayor Camilo Lammawin Jr., the MBCC was designed as the LGUs arm in settling conflicts especially in the Matagoan Zone or zone of life which is not covered by the 'bodong' (peace pact).

Upon the assumption of Ferdinand Tubban as the city mayor, he pushed to strengthen the program believing its effectiveness in resolving the peace and order concerns in the city as it unifies the natives and immigrants by advocating equality and recognizing uniformity in the laws of the bodong./GGD, PIA-CAR, Kalinga

## Mayor Appeals Anew for Release of Dumpsite Fund

BAGUIO CITY - Mayor Mauricio Domogan appealed anew to Malacanang for the immediate release of the P80 million for the rehabilitation of the collapsed Irisan dumpsite retaining wall.

The mayor said he took advantage of the presence of Dept. of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Jesse Robredo d. The mayor said the city hopes to receive the fund as soon as possible to implement the rehabilitation work before the onset of the rainy season to avoid further untoward incident in the area.

The mayor said President Benigno S. Aquino III has issued a memorandum to declare Baguio City along with Boracay as national asset and historical heritage sites and the city can use this to justify the release of said fund.

"We hope that with the President's good intention for our city, Malacanang will see the urgency and the necessity of releasing the fund to help us rehabilitate the dumpsite," the mayor said.

The mayor earlier admitted being apprehensive that the fund will not make it in time before the typhoon season because then the situation at the dumpsite could worsen.

"I really hope that the release of this fund will not drag on knowing the situation at the dumpsite which still poses risk especially if the retaining wall will not be repaired before the rainy season," he said.

The retaining wall collapsed at the height of a typhoon in August last year causing a trash slide that killed five persons and buried houses along Asin Road.

The P80 million will be used to build a superstructure envisioned to withstand strong typhoons and heavy rains to stabilize the dump facility preparatory to its conversion into a nature park.

The city earlier requested P100 million for the project but this was reduced to P80 million upon review of the program of work by the Dept. of Public Works and Highways. /A Refuerzo

## News Feature: 2012 "Gotad Ad Kiangnan" Festival

KIANGAN, Ifugao — Organizers of the annual town fiesta celebration here called "Gotad Ad Kiangnan 2012" are now all set for six days of festivities from April 28 to May 3.

The theme for this year's town fiesta is "Together in Progress, Working for Success" that aptly depicts the struggle of the local government and the people towards its journey in quest of progress and better living conditions for its constituents.

The first day of the celebration is the opening of the Garden Show that will feature and promote a variety of garden products from some entrepreneurs in the community such as floral display, green house plants and other aesthetic plants for landscaping at the Municipal Gymnasium.

The following day is devoted to the so-called Jollibee and Friends Invasion in Kiangnan in which the giant food chain, Jollibee, brings its food services to the village folks of the town so they can experience a virtual exposure to urban living and in the evening is the Spiritual Awakening Night.

The spiritual awakening night with Reverend Edgardo Abano as messenger is intended to be a venue where the different churches come together in Kiangnan for a spiritual gathering featured with religious songs, spiritual messages, exhortation prayers for the town and its people and other presentations to induce a spiritual awakening of the people.

On April 30, the civic parade competition per barangay, opening of the Agro-Industrial Fair, opening of ball games competition and in the evening is the competition in folksongs followed by public merriment with native dancing amidst rice wine drinking.

The climax of the celebration is on May 1, which portrays the real meaning and spirit of the occasion, "Gotad," which is a native term for merrymaking or feasting to thank the gods of the sky world for all the blessings they bestowed to the community and its people.

Native rituals will be performed as had been done by the Kiangnan people of olden days with the butchering of animals as offerings to the gods then followed by the performing arts competition and the Pre-Pageant in search of "Bugan ya Wigan di Kiyangan" 2012 beauty contest.

There will also be a "Walk and Play like a Kid for a Day" organized to show to the rest of the world that Kiangnan is a child-friendly municipality, ethnic games, medical mission, neo-ethnic street dancing, and concert for a cause during the last day of the town fiesta.

Michael Aliguyon, over-all chairman of the "Gotad Ad Kiyangan 2012," hopes that the events that will be presented during the celebration will entertain tourists and visitors and attract them to visit the municipality more often./DBC-PIA Ifugao



## More than 400 Kids, Adults Benefit from Vaccine Mission in Baguio City

BAGUIO CITY - More than 400 children and elderly in the city lined up for free vaccination on anti-meningitis and anti-meningococemia at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) Garden yesterday in a vaccination mission spearheaded by the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination (PFV) as part of the observance of World Meningitis Day (WMD).

The global observance of WMD, now on its fourth year, is spearheaded by the Confederation of Meningitis Organization Inc. (CoMO), and its partner here in the Philippines, the PFV. For this year, they decided to hold the celebration here in Baguio, of which the highlight is the said free vaccination mission, in cooperation with the BGHMC and the city government of Baguio.

PFV Executive Director, Dr. Lulu Bravo, in an interview, expressed happiness on the overwhelming turnout of the activity. According to her, it just shows that the people are now very much aware on the importance of vaccination, on how it can keep them and children healthy or safe from such illness that the vaccines are made for.

Bravo reiterated their advocacy for the WMD 2012, which calls on all people to join hands in the fight against Meningitis, a potentially deadly inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, which can be the result of a virus, bacteria, or other microorganisms, and can be associated with a potentially life-threatening blood infection (sepsis).

She stressed that it is the goal of the WMD 2012 to gain the support of at least 1 million people around the globe to such advocacy before the 2013 WMD celebration. Sign or pledge of support can be done by any people around the world just by logging on through the CoMO website, she added.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of people around the world die from meningitis, or suffer life-long disabilities. Bacterial meningitis, which is the most severe and common form, causes around 170,000 deaths globally every year. Those surviving meningitis patients can have their lives devastated as a result of long-term effects, such as deafness, brain damage, and limb-loss.

The PFV, Inc. is a non-stock, non-profit organization which goal is to protect and advocate for the promotion of vaccination as essential to disease prevention especially among infants and children. /JDP/CCD-PIA CAR

## Abra Electric Coop Adopts Measure to Facilitate Billing

BANGUED, Abra — Adopting innovations to facilitate billing so that consumer members can pay their bills on time, the Abra Electric Cooperative (ABRECO) now allows its members to take picture of their meter reading and present this when paying the bill.

The ABRECO management headed by General Manager Loreto P. Seares, Jr. adopted the measure in efforts to address the problem of the electric coop's meter readers where they cannot do the reading when gates of some member consumers are locked or households have dogs that are not kept in cage or

W i l s o n Bolante, the public affairs officer of ABRECO, further advised the member-consumers to immediately complain if the reading reflected in their bill is questionable. He said they should call the attention of the sub-station in their area to reconcile the reading and should not wait for their due date so that it could be acted upon immediately.

In case of disconnection, Bolante explained the process that is being followed in the reconnection of their power lines. Members, he said, have to pay the necessary charges like the reconnection fee and arrearages and inform the Institu-

tional Services Department (ISD) after paying so that the appropriate job order could be issued for the reconnection of their line. The job order is forwarded to the Engineering Department who will implement the reconnection.

He warned the members to refrain from doing the reconnection by themselves so that their connection will not be considered as tampering of illegal connection. But most important of all, is the consideration of the safety of the members.

Meanwhile, ABRECO also reiterated to its member-consumers to always coordinate with their office before cutting trees along the electric lines in or-

Cont. on page 11

## Supplementary Feeding Program Serves 43,693 Children in Cordillera

BAGUIO CITY — The Department of Social and Welfare Development - Cordillera reported it has so far served some 43,693 day care children in 2,027 day care centers in the entire region.

The Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP), which was launched August last year, provides supplement to regular meals to currently enrolled day care children as part of the DSWD's contribution to the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) program of government.

Data from the Protective Services Unit of the DSWD-Cordillera revealed it has allocated a total amount of P 76,676,967.00 including administrative cost. P 70,295,775.00 is allotted for food items and utensils.

The SFP is currently implemented by local government units through the local social welfare offices under technical assistance and monitoring of the DSWD regional office.

Program guidelines provide that food supplementation should be in the form of hot meals to be served during break or snack time in the morning session or, during break or snack time in the afternoon session to children in day care centers, five days a week.

Under the program, parents of day care children who are organized into Day Care Service Parent's Group (DCSPG) manage the feeding program based on a prepared meal cycle using available indigenous food materials.

Children beneficiaries will be weighed at the start of the 120-day feeding program and a monthly weighing thereafter will be done to determine improvement and sustenance in their nutritional status.

Based on the latest DSWD-CAR monitoring, majority of local government units have been compliant to standards for the feeding program (including financial management) while feedback from parents and day care workers affirmed it has improved the eating habits of the children and has helped them minimize eating junk food.

Meanwhile, the DCSPGs viewed the feeding program as a chance for them to bond with their children while others saw it as an opportunity to learn strategies and techniques on how to prepare and cook locally available food thereby saving money for their families.

Initial results also indicated that children became more physically active and participative in day care sessions, and attendance of children have improved aside from significant weight increase. /Rochelle Maala- DSWD CAR

## DSWD Releases First Cash Grant to 3,074 new 4ps Beneficiaries in Mt. Province

BONTOC, Mt. Province — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has released the amount of P6,738,400.00 for the first cash grant of the 3,074 Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries in the municipalities of Bauko, Bontoc, Sabangan, Sagada and Tadian including the additional 4Ps beneficiaries in the municipality of Besao who were recently included in the program.

Based on the data of the Social Welfare and Development (SWAD) Team office here, of the total amount allocated,

P6,453,800.00 were given to 2,937 4Ps beneficiaries. The cash grant of the 137 others was withheld for the following reasons: for re-assessment of the concerned beneficiaries, absent during the distribution, beneficiary is out of the area, beneficiary is deceased, some waived, and double entry for some beneficiaries.

The amount released covers the months of January, February and March 2012 and the amount received by each beneficiary varied depending on the number of qualified children each family has.

Of the total 2,937 beneficiaries who actually received the cash grant, the municipality of Bauko has the highest number of 1,188, followed by the municipality of Tadian with 777, Bontoc with 367; Sabangan with 336; and Sagada with 225 beneficiaries. The additional 44 beneficiaries of Besao received the total amount of P104,000.00.

Moreover, the DSWD is also scheduled this month to distribute cash grant to the 4Ps beneficiaries of the other municipalities who were earlier covered by the program.

4Ps beneficiaries of Barlig are

Cont. on page 11



## City Joins Global Celebration of 'World Meningitis Day'

BAGUIO CITY – April 24 marks the fourth 'World Meningitis Day' which is annually celebrated across the globe including the City of Pines.

The yearly celebration was conceptualized to raise awareness about the life-threatening disease to save millions of children worldwide.

In the city, hundreds of children were immunized for free which started with the ceremonial vaccination in front of city hall last April 23 which was spearheaded by Dr. May Montellano, President of the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination, Inc. and witnessed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan and city hall officials and employees.

Montellano said, 'meningitis is a potentially deadly inflammation of meninges, the membrane that covers the brain and spinal cord caused by a virus or bacteria'.

It is spread via tiny drops of fluid from the nose or throat of an infected person when he coughs, talks or sneezes and other persons breathe them in during close contact.

'The disease is preventable through vaccinations and can be treated if detected early', she said.

The symptoms of meningitis include colds, runny nose, diarrhea, vomiting, fever, lethargy, headache, skin rashes and stiff neck.

Health workers however advise people to 'seek medical treatment' immediately if signs and symptoms of the disease is detected.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan on the other hand thanked the health facilities in bringing needed medical services in the city including free vaccines which will be used to immunize children and senior citizens.

The mayor urged residents to let their children be immunized as soon as possible to combat the deadly disease.

Meantime, records from the Department of Health, Center for Health Development Cordillera revealed 19 suspected cases of Meningitis has been monitored last year and only a single case was confirmed positive./paul rillorta

## Clean and Green Contest Still on

BAGUIO CITY – One barangay per district, from the city's twenty districts vies for the cleanest and greenest title as judges make the rounds until the end of this month to validate results from the first level judging.

Eighteen barangays in their own respective district.

The raw score, results of the first level judging were carefully computed, tabulated, and

counter-checked by Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES) grantees as supervised by Search Committee Chairperson and Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda, last Tuesday at the city hall multi-purpose hall.

Punong Barangay Catherine Quinones of MRR Queen of Peace, PB Guillermo Francisco of North Central Aurora Hill,

Kagawad Andrea Landa of Camp 8, PB Gerry Uy of San Roque, PB Sotero Dulaycan of Pinsao Pilot, PB Michael Flores of Kabayanihan, PB Arturo Rapelo, Jr. of Imelda Village, PB Benjie Macadangdang of Lourdes Subdivision Ext., and PB Jose Galinato of S L U - S V P Barangays witnessed the activity.

Councilor Tabanda clarified inquiries about the Cont. on page 11

## 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 journalism 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 society, 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-controlled, 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 cementing world-comradeship, is a journalism of humanity, of and for today's world. /http://www.nationalpressclub.org.ph

## RESEARCH & STATISTICS

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

FEDERICO A. ERFE

Applicants

Case 2003-CAR-230

## NOTICE OF HEARING

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

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on on May 9, 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 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 19th day of April 2012.

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

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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



## Lawmaker: Let's Focus on Fraud-Free Automated System

.....from page 1

dia – a fact that prospective coalitions and candidates should seriously consider in their campaigns.

“With so many friends on Facebook, one can already campaign for himself. President Obama showed us the way in not only getting support but also in raising money through the internet. The political parties have to realize that the campaigns can no longer be run the way it used to be run in the 60s,” he said.

The minority leader said social media has increased the capacity of politicians to reach out to their constituents and vice versa.

“Before, the only way you can participate is through your organized networks and representatives. But now with Twitter, Facebook, and the online versions of the major dailies, reaching out has been made so much easier,” he said.

In this light, he called on the administration to be mindful of how quickly public opinion can change even as he expressed the thought that political leaders should not rush into forming coalitions this early./Office Of Senator Alan Peter Cayetano

## Editorial

..... from page 4

notes. “[They’re] focusing instead on being the best at verifying.”

Remember the bogus psychological profiles on then presidential candidate Benigno Aquino? Election campaigner Guido Delgado peddled them at a press conference. Pressed for evidence, he bristled. “It’s the job of the press to verify.”

“In practice, the lowest editorial standards tend to drive out the higher,” notes a Pew Foundation study. “It creates a kind of Gresham’s Law of Journalism.” Assertion converts the press “into a conduit of politics as cultural civil war.” Reliance on polarized argument spreads.

“Verifying facts is the central function of journalism,” the late Bill Kovach drilled into Nieman fellows at Harvard University. “The essence of journalism is a discipline of verification. That holds for a network TV news division or a lone citizen blogging on Internet.”

“At work today is a new culture of impatient journalism. (It is) not dedicated to establishing whether a story is true. Instead we’re moving towards a journalism of assertion. And the cost to society is high.”

“In my 11 years in broadcasting, I’ve noticed only a handful of reporters take advantage of ‘deep background sessions’, ABS-CBN Lynda Jumilla writes in Philippine Journalism Review. The need is for more reporting of significance, adds Jumilla, who covers the Supreme Court chief justice’s impeachment.

“Evolution of the Web has raised the bar,” Googles’ Richard Gingras writes. “The future of journalism can... be better than its past. But this will only be the case to the extent that all of us work to make it so.”/Juan L. Mercado

## 1st - Apluma

..... from page 4

Estrada’s campaign manager and Binay as his vice-presidential running mate in 2010.

The impeachment trial resumes on May 7 and for purposes of prediction it is rumored that at least seven of Mr. Aquino’s political allies would vote for Corona’s conviction, while at least five senators would go for acquittal.

Here’s the possible equation: Aquino’s seven may come in the names of Senators Franklin Drilon, Francis Pangilinan, Ralph Recto and Teofisto Guingona III, all members of Mr. Aquino’s Liberal Party; and Panfilo Lacson, Sergio Osmeña III and Antonio Trillanes IV.

A possible eighth is Sen. Ed Angara who is in the thick of things building an economic center in his home province and needless to say “needs the financial support that only the President can provide” so we can count him in.

The flipside of it meantime, could be acquittal Senators Joker Arroyo, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Loren Legarda and Manuel Villar Jr.

This is based on their questions, statements and vote to respect the Supreme Court temporary restraining order against the examination of Corona’s dollar accounts.

For the record, only eight are needed to acquit Corona even as the prosecutors need 16 votes to convict

## DOJ

..... from page 2

Circular No. 42 which defined the fees paid by clients when transacting business with the office of the Prosecution Service.

The circular reads, ‘it appearing that 100% of the basic salary of prosecutors under RA No. 6758 has already been reached, Section 20 of RA No. 10071 mandates that fees authorized to be collected under RA No. 9279 shall no longer be collected’.

Assessments Clerks and collection officers were ordered to ‘cease and desist’ from assessing and collecting legal fees effective immediately.

It can be recalled that collection of legal fees has been questioned by lawyers during its initial implementation./paul rillorta

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

MANUEL B. GAVINA - Vendor

JOHN K. LOMISIT - Vendee

Applicants

Case No:93-CAR-755/2012-CAR-345

### NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an for application Sale and Transfer of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - CRYSTAL CAVE and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on on May 9, 2012 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.

At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant/s shall publish the NOTICE on 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 19 th day of April 2012. (SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR Attorney IV

## BCDA and DPWH

.....from page 2

be traveling from Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Northern Luzon.

“At the end of the day, the connector road and the resulting seamless travel from SCTEX to TPLEX provides the motoring public the best service government has to offer,” Casanova said.

The connector road project is an initiative of the BCDA and the DPWH representing the national government, and will be constructed by PIDC which is a consortium of locally-owned contractors.

Incidentally, the PIDC is also undertaking construction of the 88.58-km TPLEX that will run northward from La Paz to Rosario, La Union, traversing a handful of Tarlac and Pangasinan towns. Partial opening of its section up to Gerona, Tarlac is expected to be completed before the end of this year.

The existing SCTEX is a 93.77-km expressway that traverses Bataan, Pampanga and Tarlac provinces.

It began commercial operations on April 28, 2008 with the opening of Subic-Clark Segment and Zone A of the portion of Clark-Tarlac Segment. The opening of Zones B and C of the remaining Clark-Tarlac Segment on July 25, 2008 signaled the full operation of SCTEX.

Currently, SCTEX has an estimated daily traffic of more than 25,000 vehicles.

## Police Patrol

..... from page 3

vigilance in protecting forest reservations and public lands now in dire situation due to bogus land claims and titles.

Apart from Forbes Park, Wright Park, Botanical Garden are also now in danger due to the issuance of spurious CALTs while Busol watershed is also mired in squatting cases which remained unresolved due to NCIP’s interference.

The mayor said that while the city government is doing its best to protect the said supposed reservations, support and vigilance from the public is necessary to rally authorities into acting in favor of the city in its on-gong legal battle to recover said forest reservations and retain them as such.

“These are the bigger problems (for which) we need everybody’s support because if we lose in our legal battle to reclaim these areas, then we can just imagine what will happen to our environment and to our city,” the mayor stressed.

The mayor said this cause is more realizable as the lots involved are not private properties but part of public domain that are supposed to be inalienable.

The city has pending petition through the Office of the Solicitor General with the Court of Appeals for the cancellation of the CALTs issued over parcels of land within said reservations and of titles covering prime pieces of property which were subdivided and eventually expanded by several hectares in Pacdal and Dontogan barangays.

He said the city legal office has also filed a petition for the cancellation of the CALTs issued over Botanical Garden./A Refuerzo



## 2-Day Jobs Fair

**BAGUIO CITY**—The city government as represented by the Public Employment Services Office (PESO) in coordination with other government offices and agencies shall conduct a jobs fair on May 1 and 2 at the Baguio Convention Center.

The announcement was done by Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the regular Ugnayan with the city's media groups last week.

According to PESO officer Romelda Escano, the May 1 affair shall have no less than 35 local offices offering job vacancies while on May 2, interested applicants may look around for foreign employment from at least 25 agencies.

Other activities shall be conducted at the venue: seminar on anti-illegal recruitment, pre-employment orientation seminar, free online job search services, free overseas calls and free haircut and massage.

The job fair and services are being sponsored by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA), Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT), Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Civil Service Commission (CSC), and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

A media sponsor ABS-CBN is also working with the offices for the benefit of employees and employers, both here and abroad, while other sponsors, opted to conduct jobs fair in their own respective venues.

Vacancies include, for local employment; services for call centers, Information Technology, Medical Transcription, and Food and Beverage services. Foreign employment needs include medical services, engineering and construction and other skilled blue-collar jobs./juliefianza

## Tarlac Sugarcane Farmers Rejoice Over SC Ruling on Hacienda Luisita

More than 100 sugarcane farmers from Tarlac celebrated here in Baguio City when the Supreme Court Decision on the issue of the Hacienda Luisita was announced on Tuesday.

The Supreme Court voted 14-0 to rule and order the distribution of the lands almost 5,000 hectares to some 6,000 farmer beneficiaries in Hacienda Luisita ending a decade old land dispute.

SC spokesperson Midas Marquez announced that the SC justices also voted 8-6 to affirm the its Nov. 22, 2011 landmark ruling which held that just compensation due Hacienda Luisita, Inc. (HLI) should be based on the valuation of the land on Nov. 21, 1989, the day the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) approved Luisita's stock distribution option agreement (SDOA).

Marquez said that eight justices, including Chief Justice Renato Corona, voted to use the valuation used in 1989, when a stock-distribution option was implemented. Justices Presbitero Velasco Jr., Arturo Brion, Teresita Leonardo-De Castro, Roberto Abad, Jose Perez, Jose Mendoza, and Martin Villarama also voted to base compensation on 1989 rates.

Among the farmer beneficiaries are the members of the Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Hacienda Luisita (Ambala), Farm Workers Agrarian Reform Movement (FARM) and Association of Original 1989 Farm Worker Beneficiaries of Hacienda Luisita./Redjie Cawis/PIA CAR

## Woman Leader Shares Best Practices on Waste Management to Ifugao Folks

**L A G A W E**, these seemingly of no use materials into source of income and providing employment to many idle hands. She narrated that their rivers in Las Pinas before were full of water lilies that fishes can not thrive and this posed a big problem to the local government unit. However, she managed to invite a trainer who taught the people how to make slippers out of water lilies. The area are now cleared of the said destructive plant and fishes started to

Villar, who was guest during a flag ceremony here, elaborated how the people converted

thrive and this posed a big problem to the local government unit. However, she managed to invite a trainer who taught the people how to make slippers out of water lilies. The area are now cleared of the said destructive plant and fishes started to

## 545 Abra Students Avail of Dole's Special Employment Program

**BANGUED, Abra**—A total of 545 students from the different schools and colleges in Abra availed of the Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

DOLE-Abra Provincial Director Dr. Emerito A. Narag, said the number of students who applied for SPES this summer vacation exceeded the total number of students that benefited last year during both the summer vacation and the semestral break.

SPES beneficiaries who are 15 to 18 years old students work not more than eight hours a day and in no case beyond 40 hours a week as provided for under the Republic Act No. 9231. However, in case of emergency situations, they may be allowed to work on Saturdays and beyond the prescribed 8 hours a day, and all payments for work rendered beyond normal working hours should be subject to payment of statutory overtime pay to be shouldered by the employer, Narag further explained.

Most of the jobs assigned to SPES beneficiaries are office aide and special projects of the LGUs except for Jollibee and the Abra Diocesan Teachers and Employees Multi-Purpose Cooperative (ADTEMPCO) where the SPES beneficiaries will serve as service crew.

The LGUs of Bangued and San Juan, on the other hand, will send their SPES beneficiaries to the barangays to retrieve the Skills Registry System (SRS) forms that they have floated earlier but failed to retrieve as targeted due to inadequate staff to do the job. These two LGUs are the pilot project areas of the DOLE in the SRS program.

The allocation initially approved for the province this year's SPES was increased to P3.9M. Due, however, to lack of local government units (LGUs) and private institutions to participate in the said program, only P936,834.80 is being allocated by DOLE as its share representing 40% of the hiring rates of the participating agencies. The remaining 60% of the daily rate is being shouldered by the participating agencies and private establishments./JDP/MTBB-PIA CAR, Abra

## Ifugao Mayor Orders Creation of Municipal Poverty Reduction Team

**ALFONSO LISTA, Ifugao**—The mayor of this corn-producing municipality has ordered the creation of the Alfonso Lista Poverty Reduction Team (ALPRAT) to help uplift the economic condition of the people.

In his executive order, Mayor Glenn Prudenciano stressed that the municipality has adopted its development strategies through a comprehensive development plan that embodies the vision, sectoral goals, development strategies, and policies.

"Through its community base monitoring (CBMS), the municipal government has determined and identified sectors and individuals that are living beyond the national government poverty threshold level," he said.

Prudenciano stressed that there's a need to have a multi-sectoral body to address the needs of indigent people in the municipality.

The ALPRAT will be chaired by the municipal mayor with the different municipal heads, and sectoral or non-government organization representatives as members.

Prudenciano explained that the ALPRAT will formulate the local poverty reduction action plan which shall contain the programs and projects collectively drawn from a participatory process by the municipality with concern stakeholders.

He added that needs were based on relevant sex-disaggregated economic, and climate change vulnerability data and its poverty reduction strategy to be undertaken by the municipality./JDP/MBL-PIA CAR, Ifugao

appear.

The coconut husks which were piled in different places were converted into nets which are being used to riprap projects and also for fertilizers. On the other hand,

kitchen left over by their group into fertilizers and were able to produce tons of organic fertilizers being sold to farmers.

Villar said that the country can attain progress

without sacrificing the environment thus she encouraged the townsfolk to cooperate and manage their wastes for the benefit of the next generation./VDB-PIA-CAR, Ifugao



**DOLE: Reports****.....from page 3**

through a convergence of their programs, Jalbuena informed adding that DOLE has already been implementing programs that could help address underemployment such as the Skills Registry System (SRS), Philjobnet and through the conduct of career coaching and job-matching seminars.

Jalbuena was guest in the kapihan media forum on Wednesday, launching the Labor Day Jobs and Livelihood Fair, which for Cordillera will be held simultaneously at the Baguio Convention Center, SM City Baguio and at the Provincial Capitol of Abra.

More than 20,000 job vacancies, both local and overseas, will be offered in the job fair. Jalbuena reiterated his invitations to the region's available workforce especially the newly graduates to apply. He advised applicants to come with the needed requirements and appropriate attire.

The 110th Labor Day celebration this year adopts the theme "Pagtutulungan, pagbabago, disentang trabaho", which is in line with President Benigno Aquino III's 16-point Social Contract with the Filipino People as well as the DOLE's mandates in providing a full, decent, productive employment for every Filipino. /JDP/CCD-PIA CAR

**Inmates Mark Environmental****.....from page 12**

and musical artists led by lawyer-folksinger Jose "Bubut" Olarte.

Last Sunday was also their fourth observance of "Earth Day". They perked it up with a dance-and-song performance series, mostly from the women cells. It was in response to a challenge from city councilor Peter Fianza for them to plan their own programs within the walls.

"I'm writing my impression on this event, and I hope it gets published," a woman detainee said after she and three others did a dance number. Later, they took to the floor again for some line dancing, to the tune of To the tune of "Achy Breaky Heart" by the vising Red Neck Band, they took to the floor again for some line dancing.

As it was for the prisoners, the folk and country music concert following the "Earth Day" program proved therapeutic for the performing band, soloist Kenneth and lawyer Jerry Marave, manager of the recently opened Old West folkhouse along Bokawkan Road.

The day before, the owner of the lot where Old West was built told them the place would be dismantled the next morning. "That left the band and the servers without jobs," Marave said. "Still, this concert before and with the inmates must go on."

Lead guitarist Ranny Cuison capped the show with two bouncy pieces, bringing the house down with flawless strumming and plucking of the strings while twirling the instrument around his body.

Next on line is "Mother's Day Inside" which falls on May 13.

Last year, the inmates celebrated "Mother's Day", which fell on May 8, which is also World Red Cross Day. Warden Khita gave them reason to turn their courtyard into a picnic ground with their mothers, children and grandchildren.

That gave them reason to turn over P4,000. It was all they could pool after a two-month fund drive.

The following day, Khita had a woman inmate escorted by two female jail guards

to the Abanao Branch of the Philippine National Bank. The inmate deposited the amount to the account of the Philippine National Red Cross in Manila.

It was their contribution to the outside world's fund drive for the victims of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear threat in Fukushima, Japan.

As Karl Marx said - from each according to his/her ability. - Ramon Dacawi.

**Clean and Green****.....from page 8**

procedure, and announced the list of finalist barangays.

The contest is part of Panagbenga festival 2012 where other activities ended in March, but Punong Barangays were given until May to work on sustaining roadside gardens and landscapes within their areas of responsibility.

The criteria includes; cleanliness and orderliness, 40%; greening, garden and landscaping, 35%; and sustainable innovation and initiatives, 25%.

For the cleanliness and orderliness criteria, the presence of streetsweepers, waste segregation, garbage area and collection schedule were scrutinized by the Punong Barangay judges. Points were allotted for the absence of: litter dumps, litter evidence, stray animals, animal litter, graffiti, spray painting evidence, handwriting on walls and unmanaged laundry hangings. Several points were for the absence of: burning evidence, cooked food stands, smoke belching evidence; no traffic obstruction, untended junk and improper parking of vehicles in the roads. Sanitary conditions of piggeries and animal pens, as with waterways were inspected, as with proper disposal of sewage and waste water.

Gardens in commercial and residential areas were also inspected, including community and roadside arrangements, hedges, absence of unwanted weeds and physical enhancements.

For the sustainability: barangay legislation and budget appropriation should have been presented, as with evidence of participation from individuals, community and linkages, and economic, environment, social impact.

Barangay officials, grouped within their district acted as judges, visited barangays from another district until last week, while visual artists shall complete the judging and announce the results on May 7.

As to the guidelines, the barangay with the highest tabulated score was automatically the district entry to the contest.

Cash prizes and trophies shall be awarded on May 7, 2012 during the flag ceremony at the city hall grounds.

Councilor Tabanda heads the committee, with Ms. Cathy Dela Rosa as co-chairperson. Ms. Onie Aguinalde, Special Services Division of the City Mayor's Office OIC Noel Mabutas, Public Information Officer Ramon Dacawi, Councilor Philian Louise Weygan-Allan, Councilor Perlita Chan-Rondez, Councilor Joel Alangsab, Councilor Nicasio Palaganas, Atty. George Fortea of the Congressman's Office, Architect Joseph Alabanza and CEPMO head Cordelia Lacsamana are members of the committee. /juliegfianza

**Abra Electric Coop****.....from page 7**

der to prevent accidents.

Relative to this, ABRECO also appealed to the people to report to their office electric posts that need to be replaced of cleared of plants such as vine climbing the posts and service drafts, and branches of trees that hang around the electric facilities for safety purposes.

Moreover, ABRECO also advised individuals who buy houses with existing power connections to secure permission from the house sellers to transfer the ownership of their electric meter so that the bills could be directed to the buyers for proper accountability.

Regarding the discount of senior citizens, the program is still on-going. Qualified seniors are those whose monthly consumption is below 100 kilowatts per month. All they need to do is to personally appear to the ABRECO office, present their valid Identification cards and birth certificate to prove their age and barangay clearance. /JDP/MTBB-PIA CAR,Abra

**DSWD Releases****.....from page 7**

scheduled on April 14, Paracelis is April 27, and Natonin is April 28.

The cash grant to be received by these beneficiaries depend on their compliance on the given conditions they have to comply with such as: pregnant women must get pre and post-natal care and be attended during child birth by a skilled/trained health professional; parents or guardians must attend responsible parenthood sessions, mother's classes, and parent effectiveness seminars; children 0-5 years old must receive preventive health check-ups and vaccinations; children aged 3-5 years old must attend day care or pre-school classes at least 85 percent of the time; and children 6-14 years old must enroll in elementary or high school and attend at least 85 percent of the time in school.

The program provides each family beneficiary a cash grant of P500 per month or P6,000 a year for health and nutrition expenses and P300 per month per child or P3,000 for one school year or 10 months for educational expenses for a maximum of 3 children per household as long as they comply with the conditions which are included in the beneficiary's Oath of Commitment. The program is not a free gift or dole out as the beneficiaries must meet specific conditions before they can receive cash assistance. Non-compliance to the conditions will result in the suspension of cash grants or dropping from the program.

The beneficiaries have been receiving their cash grant through Land Bank and some through ATM Cash Cards. But the DSWD has already coordinated with the Philippine Postal (PhilPost) as payment center for the municipalities of Barlig, Natonin, Paracelis; Rural Bank of Buguias, Bauko Branch for the 4Ps beneficiaries in the municipality of Bauko; and Rural Bank of Buguias, Tadian Branch for the 4Ps beneficiaries of Tadian and the other beneficiaries will soon be issued cash cards. /JDP/JBS-PIA CAR,Mt. Province



## Fil-Chi Partnership in City Strong Despite Tensions

BAGUIO CITY – strong partnership and cooperation is proving beneficial in this Mountain City despite tensions between China and the Philippines over Scarborough Shoal.

The Filipino-Chinese Shen Lian Association here made a courtesy call to Mayor Mauricio Domogan last week to renew ties.

In their meeting, the association expressed their desire to donate a classroom for elementary kids here.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan has agreed on the plan but said a proper location should first be identified.

'We would still be looking for a place for them to erect the building', Domogan said.

'We will be recommending a school, there are still a lot of elementary schools which need this kind of donation', he said.

Domogan said, 'the donation will be a great help to the city if realized' /paul rillorta

## Entrepreneurial Training set for Barangay, Youth Chiefs

Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo is encouraging barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan chairs to attend the second "Negosyo sa Barangay Entrepreneurship Development Training: The Next Level" set for the Luzon Cluster on May 30 to June 2.

In a memorandum circular, Robredo said the seminar "is the next phase in a series of clustered trainings designed to further enhance the capability of the barangays on entrepreneurial development".

He said it was designed to be in-depth and comprehensive, focused on how the barangay and SK chiefs "can promote entrepreneurship in their respective barangays and spur economic development and help their constituents move out of poverty".

The seminar is under a tie-up of the Department of trade and Industry-Philippine Trade Training Center, the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship and the Center for Future Leadership.

Robredo asked provincial governors, city and town mayors, Liga ng Mga Barangay presidents and SK presidents to encouraged their punong barangays and SK chairs to attend the four-day training.

Trainees are allowed to charge P7,500 training fee aside from travel expenses to local funds, except from the 20 percent development fund or other source which may prejudice poverty reduction efforts.

As the memorandum circular did not specify the training venue, participants may contact the Negosyo sa Barangay secretariat through telephone numbers (02) 383-3154 or mobile phone numbers 09063077557, 09232652974 and 09298927792 or Facebook or email account [negosyosabarangay@gmail.com](mailto:negosyosabarangay@gmail.com).

The training for the Visayas cluster is set on Sept. 13-16 while that of the Mindanao cluster will be on November 8-11.

Robredo directed DILG regional directors to cause the widest dissemination of the memorandum circular./Ramon Dacawi.

## Inmates Mark Environmental Theme anew

They may not bother to translate Karl Marx's ideas to politics, but inmates of the city jail now and then flesh out his quotation, specially the first part: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs."

Change "his"

to "her". Most of the credit to the prisoners' observance of "Earth Day" within their courtyard last Sunday goes to the women's dorm, under the guidance of their wardress, Chief Inspector Mary Anne Tresmanio. As did women oversaw planning and rendition of their candle

prayer marking "Earth Hour Inside" last March 31.

"Thanks for giving importance to Mother Earth despite your limited access," noted Ed Flor, the community environment and natural resources for Baguio invited as guest speaker by jail warden, Chief Insp. Severino Khita.

"No matter how small it is, it counts a lot," Flor

told the inmates, referring to what they are doing for the environment within their givens behind bars.

The close-to-five hundred prisoners have long been into waste segregation, with assigned wards daily checking cell after cell for adherence to this policy. For years, they've been recycling, fashioning out piggy banks, picture frames, jewelry boxes and such

out of paper and waste materials.

"Ayaw namin na dahil 'di kami marunong maglinis dito ay ilipat ang city jail sa buwan" (We don't want that the city jail would be transferred to the moon simply because we don't know how to clean)," quipped one of them while serving as master of ceremonies in their "World Environment Day" program the other year.

That was when they began pine seedling production, thanks to for-ester Emilio Damogo and nursery foreman Nestor de Guzman who taught them how to coax seeds to sprout.

Last March 31, they went beyond 60 minutes, notching two hours in their fourth edition of "Earth Hour", spent with mayor Mauricio Domogan

Cont. on page 11

## The JUNCTION

Pahayagang Palaban!!!



"MY HERO" - a loved-one hugs World War II Veteran Robert Bellasi during the celebration of the Liberation of Baguio last April 27./photo by paul rillorta

## Sports: Fianza Proposes Sports Council

City councilor Peter Fianza has proposed the establishment of a Baguio Sports Promotion and Development Council to serve as advisory body to give direction to the city's sports programs.

In a proposed ordinance, Fianza recommended tapping sector representatives to compose the council which is also envisioned to recommend sports policies, plans and activities and monitor implementation of the same.

Fianza noted that despite the conduct of a sports summit in 2004 for the finalization of the city's sports development program, the city still has to create such council to address the need for a holistic view and approach to sports development.

He recalled that in 2009, a proposed ordinance adopting a sports development code for the city was introduced "and pending action before the Sangguniang Panlungsod".

Lately, he said, "Administrative Order No. 95, Series of 2011 was issued by the City Mayor creating a technical working committee to draft and formulate the city sports code".

An advisory council will have to be created to collate and look into all proposed actions, not only for representation but also for possible immediate implementation, Fianza added.

He recommended that the council be composed of not more than 25 members from the city sports development office, the city schools division, the Baguio Correspondents and Broadcasters Club, coach/trainer in combat and non-combat sports, representatives of athletes' organizations, umpires and referees, the city council, Sanggunian and barangay federation chairs, sports coordinators of the private and public elementary and high schools, schools' athletic manager, business, medical practitioners and managers of sports facilities./RD.

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