

THE WEEKEND JUNCTION



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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Pahayagang**palaban!!!**

Lawmaker hails Supreme Court's

first 'Writ of Kalikasan'



Senator Pia S. Cayetano today lauded the Supreme Court for issuing its very first 'Writ of Kalikasan' and temporary environmental protection order (Tepo) to address the environmental hazards caused by the massive oil pipeline leak in Makati City.

Cayetano, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, said the landmark move indicates the high tribunal's readiness to respond to legal issues brought before it that concern the environment.

"I laud the Supreme Court for ordering the indefinite shutdown of the 177-kilometer pipeline of the FPIC following the massive underground oil leak it caused in Brgy. Bangkal, Makati," she said.

Cont. on page 9

ACCIDENT-PRONE AREA – Motorists traversing Kayang Extension risk their life and limbs in using the back of City Hall's access road as "Short Cut" as shown in photo where a private car and a passenger jeepney ascend from Abanao-Naguillan Roads resulting to a vehicle collision and causing heavy traffic in the area./By Bong Cayabyab

Mayor Bullish on New Waste Technology

page 2

Baguio Tourism Sector Reacts on DOT'S New Slogan

page 3

Jeepney Federation Supports Fare Increase Petition

page 3

CAR on Track on Eradicating Poverty, Other Goals Slow in Progress

page 12

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

"ShelterBox": new life after calamities

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



on page 4

Dito sa Baguio-Benguet kaliwat kanan ang paglapastangan sa kalikasan!!!



On Asin Hydro: CLO tasks TNHALLA to bridle its 'breakaway faction'

page 2

Mayor Bullish on New Waste Technology

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan Wednesday expressed high hopes that the Environmental Recycling System (ERS), the new garbage conversion technology being adopted by the city government, will succeed in fixing the city's waste management system which presently relies on costly out-of-town hauling services.

During the Ugna Yang Panlungsod media briefing, the mayor expressed confidence that the advent of the ERS technology in the city would enable the city to effectively manage its wastes, both the biodegradable and the non-biodegradable, and be weaned from hauling operation that has been draining the city's finances.

The mayor expressed gratitude to the city council for confirming the Memorandum of Agreement

for the purchase of two ERS machines to jumpstart the Japanese technology's operations in the city starting next month.

The MOA was confirmed after gaining the nod of ten councilors – Philian Louise Weygan, Richard Carino, Gloria Ysabel De Vera, Perlita Rondez, Fred Baggagen, Elmer Datuin, Nicasio Palaganas, Edolfo Balajadia and Nicasio Aliping Jr. – who all agreed that the new technology is promising and “worth taking risks for,” if only to find solution to the nagging garbage problem that has hounded the city since 2007.

Councilors Peter Fianza and Isabelo Cosalan Jr. voted against the confirmation while Betty Lourdes

Tabanda and Edison Bilog abstained from voting. They questioned the procedures adopted in the procurement process for the machines citing serious lapses and irregularities.

The mayor earlier assured that the executive department will abide by the procedures prescribed under the procurement law or Republic Act No. 9184 even as he promised to take full responsibility for any lapse and its repercussions should any occur in the future.

He said the ERS was chosen after a careful study based on the merits of the technology thus they are convinced of its viability.

He said they found it more practical to purchase the machines and avail of the technology than to continue to rely on

Cont. on page 9

Lawmaker Says Open Trial for Maguindanao Massacre Will Test PH Wheel of Justice

Senator Chiz Escudero supported calls to open to live media coverage the Maguindanao massacre trial, stressing that this will test if justice is indeed

working in this country.

“For me, this case, and all other hearings where public interests lie, should be fully covered and aired

live so that our citizens can see proof that justice is working in our country and that we can see what direction it is leading to,” Escudero said.

Escudero, chairman of the

Cont. on page 9

On Asin Hydro: CLO tasks TNHALA to bridle its ‘breakaway faction’

BAGUIO CITY – Even before the City Council confirmation of a compromise between the City Government of Baguio and the Tadiangan-Nangalisan Hydro Ancestral Landowners Association, Inc. (TNHALA) a proposed operation of the Asin Hydroelectric Plants (AHP), November 15, another group claiming to have been ‘snubbed’ has already repudiated the same.

The Asin, Tuba, Benguet Community Landowners Association, Inc. (ATCLA) in a petition is now calling on the city government to remove its hydro facilities after failing compensate them since the ‘80s.

The group, asserting it represents

200-affected landowners, claims TNHALA president Roger Sinot has nil authority to enter into an agreement with the local government.

ATCLA likewise faulted the city government for deterioration of its facilities adding the same now pose danger to their properties.

But City Legal Officer (CLO) Melchor Carlos Rabanes is unfazed, maintaining “the City Government entered into a compromise agreement with TNHALA in good faith.”

Admitting he has yet to see the petition he said, “The issue is between TNHALA and ATCLA no longer concerns the city for

as long as we faithfully comply with what has been agreed upon under the compromise.”

Quoting Regional Trial Court Branch III judge Fernando Vil Pamintuan the CLO added, “ATCLA should have intervened in the case between the City Government and the surface owners.”

“The case has been subject of a long drawn court-annexed mediation.... To aver things contrary to what has been agreed upon thus places ATCLA in estoppel.”

The confirmed compromise agreement signed by mayor Mauricio Domogan and Sinot provides owners of lands affected by the

Cont. on page 9

Heart Ailment Snuffs out Boy's Dream

He was the boy for whom expatriate folksinger Conrad Marzan sang in a coming-home reunion concert with Baguio-Benguet musicians last July 11 at the Kalei's Bar in La Trinidad town.

Ten-year old Delson Lipawen was there on concert night, but had to leave early. He was too feeble and sleepy his dad Delmin had to carry him to the ride to their shanty at the

Baguio side of Longlong, a strawberry-producing mountain community

He was the boy with lips and nails so blue you'd think he just had helped him-

Cont. on page 10



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Freddie Farres - Consultant

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Gerry P. Binwagan
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Orwen L. Trazo
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Regular Columnists:

Rudy Garcia
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Atty. Batas Mauricio
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Grace Bandoy
Peter Valencia

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Council Considers Weight-Loss Supplement Sale Regulation

BAGUIOCITY – A proposed ordinance regulating the sale of over-the-counter weight loss supplements to minors is up for second reading at the city council.

Proposed by Councilor Edison Bilog, the measure seeks to control the dispensation of these products to minors for their own protection.

In his proposal, Bilog said there is a need to impose regulations on the sale of these products as these dietary supplements are not subject to the standards by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) unlike prescription drugs normally sold over the counter.

"These weight-loss supplements do not have to disclose a full list of ingredients and often trigger a host of harmful side

effects... This 'buyer beware' policy is troublesome enough (to) adult consumers and moreso, to teenagers and children," Bilog said.

"Warning labels on many of these products alert that they are 'for adult use only'... yet there are no regulations which restrict a retailer from selling these products to children. We must protect our children from unfettered access to untested weight-loss supplements that could wreak potentially permanent damage on their bodies," he stressed.

Bilog said his measure would address the problem "by prohibiting the sale of over-the-counter weight loss supplements to persons younger than 18."

The measure would also require

retailers to post in a conspicuous place a sign stating that the sale of these weight-loss supplements is prohibited among persons younger than 18.

Proposed penalties are fines ranging from P3,000 to P5,000.

The proposal has been approved on first reading and will be discussed by the body for approval on second reading after publication. /A Refuerzo

Baguio Tourism Sector Reacts on DOT'S New Slogan

BAGUIOCITY – Hotel and Restaurants Association of Baguio president Anthony De Leon said that the new tourism slogan being proposed received so much criticism from the different sectors because even the tourism sector has not been consulted about it.

De Leon said the negative reaction of people and stakeholders is a direct result of the utilitarian decision to switch slogans without asking for opinions or recommendations of the stakeholders.

De Leon, who also heads the Baguio Tourism Council and the Baguio Convention and Visitors Bureau, said that the success of the "WOW Philippines" slogan can be attributed to a massive consultation and tourism stakeholders having a sense of ownership to the slogan as they were part of its crafting.

DOT Cordillera Tourism Regional Director Purificacion clarified that the release of the new tourism slogan last week was just a preview and a launching.

Molintas explained that the new slogan should be given a chance by the people. She added that in other countries, their local dialects are being used in the tourism promotion.

Cont. on page 10



RDO-Baguio Exceeds October Collection Target

BAGUIOCITY – The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Revenue District Office – Baguio (RDO8) exceeded its October collection target by about P10 million.

According to RDO-Baguio Collection Section Chief Louie Loy, they have collected P143,249,635.11 for October compared to their target of P133.161 million. This is also much higher than their P108.351 million collection during the same month last year.

For November, Loy said they are on track of reaching or surpassing their target of P170 Million as they have collection of P123 Million already as of November 15.

However, to reach their 2010 overall target of P2.07 Billion, Loy stressed that they still need to work double time because as of October they are still about P400 Million short.

"We are doing

our best to advise and convince the people to declare and pay the right amount of taxes. We advise them to increase their payment and at the same time we are continuing with our tax mapping," Loi said.

According to Loi, December is usually a lean month as far as tax payment or collection is concerned because it is a time when people spend more money for the yuletide season.

Cont. on page 11

FINEST 100 DAYS – City Police Director David Lacdan addresses city officials and government employees baring his accomplishments for the past 100 days of leading the "Baguio's Finest" in maintaining peace and order in the city during simple rites after flag raising ceremonies Nov. 15./By Bong Cayabyab

Jeepney Federation Supports Fare Increase Petition

BAGUIOCITY – The Federation of Baguio-Benguet-La Union Jeepney Drivers and Operators of Baguio-Benguet-La Union will support petition to increase the jeepney minimum in the wake of price hike in oil products.

Perfecto

'Jun' Itliong, federation president and Baguio Public Transport Affairs Office head said if a petition for an increase in the minimum fare is filed by the different transport groups in the Na-

tional Capital Region, they will be joining and supporting it.

"We also have intention of filing, lugi na talaga, umaabot na ng P49 per liter ang krudo dito sa atin, kumpara sa P46 – P47 per liter of diesel sa Maynila", Itliong said.

Itliong said Cont. on page 11

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

Yesterday's Bloodstains

Memories of the brutal crackdown, by Burmese troops against Buddhist monks who lead the peaceful "Saffron Revolution" of September 2007, are still raw. They remain yesterday's bloodstains.

They anchor today's soft but firm challenge by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. "My aim is for a peaceful revolution in Burma," she told BBC, after release from 15 years of detention by Yangon's junta.

"A 'velvet revolution' sounds a little strange in the context of the military," she mused. But she's willing to meet the ruling generals — who jailed her for the "crime" of winning the 1990 elections by a landslide...."

Except for China and North Korea, world leaders hailed her release from fraudulent convictions. "No further restrictions should be imposed on her" UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon said. And

EDITORIAL

government ought to release 2,200 political prisoners.

Burma's rigged polls, authorized under a rigged constitution, shut out Ms Suu Kyi. The sham embedded candidates of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). These are generals in civvies. Nothing more.

Democracy would come eventually, she added. "I do not know how long it will take. "She hoped for a non-violent end to military rule."

This is civilized hope. What are the odds?

Everywhere, militaries are more reluctant to repress demonstrators, says author Elena Poniatowska of Mexico. Not in Burma. In the "Saffron Revolution", the military tatmadaw slaughtered over a hundred, many of them monks, Amnesty International estimates. At least 74 disappeared.

Red Cross has been denied access to prisons since 2005. "In the past two years, at least 238 political prisoners were moved to extremely remote prisons, Amnesty adds "Reports of torture and ill-treatment are rife."

"There are, alas, no guaranteed happy endings for People Power." Viewpoint" cautioned. (PDI/ July 5, 2005.) The "post-modern coup d' etat has a mixed record, as the Guardian notes.

In 1986, Filipinos massed and sent the Marcos dictatorship scampering into luxurious Hawaiian exile. People Power 2 forced a soused and corrupt Estrada regime to quit, barely halfway into it's six-year term.

Did People Power 3 occur unrecognized? That was when popular sentiment, unlocked by Corazon Aquino's death, thrust Benigno Aquino III into Malacanang, some argue plausibly.

We hate to rain on our parade. But Filipinos did not invent People Power.

In 1930, Mohandas K. Ghandi led thousands of Indians, to protest the Salt Tax. The "power of the powerless" proved non-violent protests could undermine repressive regimes. Ghandi would often refer to "Beatitudes" that Christ taught two millennia back. "Blessed are the peacemakers...."

Fast forward to post-Edsa Czechoslovakia's "Velvet Uprising", in 1989, compelled communists to dismantle their single party state and allow free elections. Ukraine's "Orange Revolution" of 2004 and Georgia's "Rose Rebellion" of 2005 protested vote-rigging. Both toppled pro-Soviet governments. Lebanon's "Cedar Revolution" of 2005 drove out Syrian occupiers.

But not all People Power golpes have happily-ever-after endings.

Tanks rolled over Tiannamen Square demonstrators, to the applause of Jose Maria Sison and other Filipino communists. The Uzbekistan revolt of 2005, over rigged polls, was brutally crushed. In Zimbabwe, where inflation doubles prices within 25 hours, people power "failed to ignite", Christian Science Monitor reports.

"Since the '1970s, the trend has been a gradual global shift from violent "people's war" to nonviolent people power," Jesse Walker notes in "The Other Insurrections". In his study "Unarmed Insurrections, Rutgers' Kurt Schock tallied 31 major nonviolent rebellions in the second and third worlds from 1978 to 2001. **Cont. on page 9**



KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

"ShelterBox": new life after calamities

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



TOURISM Secretary Alberto Lim is criticizing travel advisories from several countries, saying it would greatly affect tourism industry, especially now that the country is still reeling from the negative effect of the Manila hostage crisis.

But according to some private stakeholders, Lim should first give tourism a clearer direction before putting the blame on anyone else.

Now that the transition and settling period for the new administration comes to an end, Jose Clemente III, Director and President of the Worldwalker Destinations, emphasized that the DOT should lay down a clear-cut plan on how to promote Philippines in the international stage.

Clemente said the honeymoon period for DOT is now over and it is time to get really moving.

He mentioned that the last quarter of the year is the usual period when tourism counterparts in other countries start firming up plans and programs in preparation for another year but so far, nothing appears to be happening at the DOT's end.

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Clemente also cited the need to sustain a lasting brand for the Philippines that does not change with every change of leadership.

He mentioned the plan of DOT to launch a new Philippine tourism brand in the first week of November, calling this a "deep, dark secret" because so far, no one in the industry seems to have a clue about this.

Benjamin Romualdez, who represented the mining sector in the Forum, agreed with the assessment and said that for a brand to be successful, it must be accepted and owned by the stakeholders and should be the result of a broad consultation process.

Tourism Congress (TC) head Alma Rita Jimenez also echoed Clemente's assessment, saying that there is a growing dissatisfaction over the lack of direction, as reflected in TC's consultations with the different tourism sectors from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

As things stand now, Jimenez said the preponderant majority of the private sector continues to remain uninformed about the official directions of the tourism development program of the country.

Jimenez avers that as far as the private industry is concerned, there are no official DOT plans that can now be used in business planning. There are no firm commitments for agency support or leadership in programs that have to do with promotions, marketing, and

Cont. on page 11

THE PEACE COMBATANT

*Doing business 2010:
Philippines ranked 144 out of
183 countries*

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



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

Allow me for the meantime to describe the Philippines with regard to how the World Bank has ranked the country in 2009 (published in early or mid-2010) with regard to her ability to attract business. For starters, be it known that the Philippines has an overall rank of 114 out of a total of 183 countries ranked by the World Bank. This means that the Philippines is close to the bottom rank of the 183 countries that were ranked for the ease with which business can be done in the country. It may surprise us to know that Mongolia, Samoa, Kazakhstan, Rwanda, El Salvador, Pakistan, Serbia, Vietnam (rank 91), Kenya, Ethiopia, Kosovo, Swaziland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nigeria, Mozambique, and Iran far outranked us in terms of the ease with which businesses can be started in their countries.

According to the World Bank, the number of procedures that have to be accomplished by businesses to start a business in the Philippines is 15. Worldwide, the average procedure required that businesses must do is 8. Investors will need around 52 days for the 15 procedures to be accomplished in order to start a business in the Philippines. Worldwide, the average number of days that businesses needed to get started is 36 days. Further, the global average number of procedures that investors need to do to put up a business is only 36 days.

With regard to construction permits, the Philippines ranked 111. This means that the country is also closer to the bottom in terms of speed of getting construction permits for investors. The number of procedures required to get a construction permit in the Philippines is 24 that can be accomplished in around 203 days.

In contrast, Denmark has only 6 procedures for a construction permit to be processed while the country that has the most number of procedures for a construction permit to be processed require 54 procedures. The latter is the country called the "Russian Federation" which used to be a part of the old Union of Soviet Social Republics.

Worldwide, the lowest number of days required to get a construction permit is 25 and this is in Singapore. Zimbabwe has the highest number of days required to get a construction permit at 1,426.

In terms of employing workers, the Philippines has a ranked of 115. Again, this means that we are also closer to the bottom in term of our ability to make available to investors the work force that he or she requires. In terms of the difficulty of hiring index, we got a score of 56. It is easier to employ workers in the top 10 countries with the highest scores: Australia, the United States, Brunei, Marshall Islands, Hong Kong, Uganda, Palau, Denmark, and Georgia. Surprisingly, countries which we may think to be lagging, are actually ahead of us. In term of the rigidity of working hours index, the Philippines got a score of 0 out of the maximum score of 100. The global average is 25. This means that Philippine working hours is highly inflexible or rigid as 100 indicates high flexibility.

The Philippines rank 127 out of 183 countries of the world in terms of ease with which credit can be obtained. In contrast, countries in which credit is easiest to obtain are Malaysia, South Africa, United Kingdom, Australia, Bulgaria, Hong Kong, Israel, New Zealand, Singapore, and the United States. The data indicate that ease of credit can be obtained is not a function of GNP per capita.

It takes around 16 days and 8 documents for an investor in the Philippines to export. In contrast, France requires only 2 documents and the fastest in terms of number days to export are Singapore, Estonia, Denmark, and Hong Kong.

If anything, data suggest that it is not impossible for our country to be business friendly as being business-friendly is not totally a function of development. Of course, the data also suggest that we are lagging far behind other countries.

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

1st-APLUMA!

DOT lacks direction

DESPAIR FOR CALAMITY VICTIMS: When heavy rains, floods, strong winds, volcanic eruptions and other natural disasters or calamities strike, one of the most immediate needs that must addressed by government and private charitable institutions alike is relocation sites or other places where the displaced victims are to be temporarily sheltered.

Most often, school houses, gyms, covered courts and plazas and other public buildings are transformed as evacuation centers, but bigger problems usually crop up and pose more health and other hazards to the affected families and individuals upon reaching these makeshift shelters, making them pine to return to their homes.

But with "home" having been washed away or gravely destroyed even before the victims left them, there is really nothing to return to, for most of the victims. Despondency and despair then set in, crushing whatever hopes that may have been left in their hearts. The stage is then set for a bleak and hopeless future for many of them.

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SHELTERBOX GIVES HOPE FOR BETTER LIVES AFTER CALAMITIES: "ShelterBox" is changing all these, however. An international relief organization that delivers emergency shelter, warmth and dignity to people affected by disasters worldwide, ShelterBox now aims to help 500,000 people who are victimized by natural disasters worldwide every year.

Tom Henderson, the founder and chief executive officer of ShelterBox, told me in an interview at the "affiliate launching ceremonies" for ShelterBox Philippines at the Fontana Leisure Park in Clark, Pampanga, Saturday, November 13, 2010, that his group has already helped 500,000 people since it was founded in 2000.

A Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in Cornwall, Henderson said that ShelterBox was initially a project of his Club, and was born out of a realization that aid response to most disasters was in the form of food and medicine, but little or no assistance is given in terms of proper shelter to help them in the first few days as they tried to rebuild their lives.

"ShelterBox was launched to fill that void," Henderson said, and, in the case of Filipino disaster victims, ShelterBox has already delivered hundreds of "shelter boxes" six times.

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FILIPINO ROTARIANS PUT UP SHELTERBOX PHILIPPINES: What "proper shelter" does Henderson's ShelterBox provide? Lyne Abanilla, a governor of Rotary International District 3810 and now a trustee of ShelterBox Philippines, explained that each "shelter box" contains a disaster relief tent for a family of about 10 people designed for extreme temperatures and heavy rains, and a host of other items intended to put the victims back on track after the calamities.

Filipino Rotarians are so impressed by the relevance of what ShelterBox is doing—considering the calamities occurring in the country yearly—that they decided to affiliate themselves with the group, putting up ShelterBox Philippines in the process.

Anyone wanting to help push this project—or to be helped by it—can approach any Rotarian in Rotary's 10 districts in the Philippines, said Rotary Past District Gov. Jess Nicdao, the newly-installed chairman of ShelterBox Philippines.

Ifugao Jail Officer Accidentally Kills Self

KIANGAN, Ifugao- A jail officer at the Provincial Jail located at Tiger Hill in Barangay Baguinge here was accidentally killed by his service firearm last November 11.

The victim was identified as Senior Jail Officer 4 Zelmer Lunag, 52 years, married and resident of Lumina, Poblacion North, Lagawe.

Initial investigation disclosed that at about 7:55 P.M of November 11, the victim together with his two companions JO1

Ernesto Gahid and JO1 Ericson Domio were watching television outside their Administration Office when the victim who was seated on a monoblock chair when his M16 rifle he was holding accidentally fell on the cement floor. The firearm which was pointed upward fired hitting the chin of the victim and the bullet lodged inside his head.

Lunag was declared dead on arrival by Kiangnan Municipal Health Officer Dr. Estela Ablao.

The firearms of the victim and

the two other jail guards were submitted to the police station for ballistic examination pending further investigation. Paraffin test was also conducted on the victim.

It can be recalled that last August, four inmates of the Tiger Hill Provincial Jail were burned to death by a just convicted detention prisoner who was about to be transported and committed to the National Penitentiary at Muntinlupa, Rizal./Dan B. Codamon/PIA-Ifugao

Benguet to Regulate Small-Scale Mining

L TRINIDAD, Benguet – The provincial government of Benguet is working to regulate small scale mining in the province so that the people can maintain it as their livelihood and at the same time trigger the province economy.

According to Governor Fongwan, regulating small scale mining means knowing what to do, to practice responsible mining, knowing how to protect themselves and the environment, and the effect of calamity in their livelihood so that they will also know how to prepare.

Fongwan also bared that they are currently gathering data to identify who

are involved in small scale mining and where are the small scale mining areas in the province.

Based on initial estimate, there are roughly 15,000 people involved in small-scale mining in the province of Benguet. According to Fongwan, though there are lesser people involved in mining compared to the almost 60,000 players in province's vegetable industry, more money is circulating in the small mining industry.

Part of the provincial government's regulation plan is the registration of small scale miners, issuance of environmental compliance certificate and to assure their compliance to mining rules and regulation.

Fongwan also reiterated that they are now giving full emphasis on health and environmental protection/preservation in both their vegetable and mining industries.

Meanwhile, Fongwan affirmed that climate change adaptation and mitigation is part of the provincial development plans. 'The effect of climate change must be look into and we have to involve our people,' he said.

Vice Governor Cresencio Pacalso also confirmed that the provincial government is seriously taking the issue of climate change saying they are coming out with their own plan for inclusion in the budget for next year, Pacalso said./Lito Dar/PIA

TESDA Graduates More Trainees

SABANGAN, Mt. Province – Eight beneficiaries belonging to the indigenous peoples (IPs) together with 10 regular scholars graduated last November 5 from the Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW NC II) which was conducted at the Provincial Training Center here.

This training was jointly implemented by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) Mt. Province through a Memorandum of Agreement.

This training conducted to IPs which is funded by the NCIP aims to help indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples who are unemployed and economically inadequate to become skilled workers which they can use in applying for a job locally or abroad.

In the MOA entered into by both agencies, NCIP provided the amount of P81,364.00 which covered the tuition and other fees of the eight IP beneficiaries who came from the Kankaney, Applai, Bontoc and Baliwon tribes of Mt. Province.

The other 10 SMAW NC II graduates are scholars of TESDA who also enjoyed free tuition and other fees.

According to Engr. Glen Murphy, Administrator of the Provincial Training Center here, these SMAW NC II graduates have already taken their competency assessment last Friday./Juliet B. Saley/PIA-MP

Benguet Tourism Council Joins Adivay Festivities

L TRINIDAD, Benguet – The Benguet Provincial Tourism Council (PTC) has lined up some activities to spice up the festivities in celebration of the 110th Benguet Day thru Adivay.

PTC Chairperson Josephine Gacad said the public is invited to partake with the activities of the council apart from those already lined up by the province for the month-long celebrations.

A one day Indigenous Food Fair that will bring together home-grown cuisine and delicacies of the municipalities will take place on November 23 at Akira's Restaurant, Capitol Com-

pound.

Locals and visitors will have a taste of Adivay Rice, a complete meal which consists of native delicacy '*pinikpikan*', *tongsoy* or watercress and *tapuey* or rice wine and Cañao Rice which consists of *watwat* or roasted pig, *pinuneg* or so called native hotdog and *pising* or taro vegetable.

The likes of *kinuday* and *kiniing*, naturally smoked dried meat, *paco* or fern salad, *kiwit* or eel are some delicacies that will be served and charged at minimum price.

A souvenir for visitors and tourists alike, a photo ops by fitting one's face through a painted Benguet

lass or lad in costume will be available from November 19-22 at the Wangal Provincial grounds and on November 23 at the Capitol Compound.

Side by side with the photo ops would be portrait sketching for about 15 minutes with minimum charge.

A booth will also be provided at Wangal grounds to promote tourist destination packages from November 20-22.

Like in the previous years, the PTC which functions as a policy making body for tourism concerns has been actively participating to such activities to promote tourism and related activities./ S.C. Aro/PIA-Benguet

BGHMC Notes Increasing Cancer Cases

BAGUIO CITY – The Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) receives an average of 30 new cancer cases per month or about one cancer patient a day for this year.

This was affirmed by BGHMC Cancer Center Chairperson, Dr. Jasmin Igama, in a kapihan forum last week at the Department of Health (DOH-CAR) Regional Training Center. November is being observed by the Health Department as Cancer Pain Awareness Month.

According to Igama, there is an increasing report of cancer cases being diagnosed on various hospitals mainly because of the increasing awareness among the people.

But she clarified that not all BGHMC cancer patients area from the Cordillera. Many are referral patients Regions I and II, and even as far as region III since BGHMC is known to have a complete cancer center facility.

Igama said lung cancer remains the top type of cancer afflicting patients followed by breast cancer and liver cancer, as the second and third, respectively. She noted that leukemia is still prevalent among children.

Igama explained that cancer pain treatment, like what they do in BGHMC, should be under 'Palliative Care'. By definition, palliative care aims to alleviate pain in discomfort to improve the quality of life of all patients with any end-stage illness.

'Cancer pain is not only physical. It also involves social, psychiatric, emotional and financial pain, among others,' Dr. Igama stressed.

On treating cancer pain with the issue of traditional and alternative health care, Igama stressed that it can be used in complementary with proper health care, though she also advised that patients should also be responsible as well as their watchers or kin. Patients are vulnerable to the various alternative medicines that are currently flooding the market but have no proven therapeutic claim and sometimes unregistered, she said.

Meanwhile, BGHMC Emergency Room Head Dr. Manuel Quirino, a registered practitioner of Acupuncture, said patients could try traditional and alternative health care as long as they consult their doctors about it. He advised the public to be wary of several spas and so-called healing centers that are unregistered or without certification of applying traditional and alternative health care practices.

Quirino also warned against taking-up or using herbal or any other alternative medicines which have no approved therapeutic claim.

In relation to acupuncture, Quirino affirmed its effectiveness as it has been in practice since history could remember, though he also advised the public to be wary of those who are administering it.

According to Dr. Quirino, there are only four of them in Cordillera who are certified by the Philippine Institute for Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC). /Lito Dar/PIA

Lawmaker raises alarm on growing cases of Filipino 'drug mules'

Senator Pia S. Cayetano is calling on the Senate to investigate the alarming increase in the number of cases of Filipinos being victimized by international drug syndicates and used as 'drug mules,' most of them women.

In a privilege speech delivered on Wednesday, Cayetano said 630 Filipinos are currently detained in prisons facing drug trafficking cases. China has the biggest number with 250 detainees, 75 of whom are already

on death row.

"What is more disturbing is that majority of the drug mules are women," added the lady senator, who chairs the Senate Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations. She noted that women make up 62 percent, or six out of every ten Filipinos detained abroad for drug trafficking. She said drug syndicates have been employing individuals to become drug mules in the guise of recruiting them for legitimate work overseas. Drug mules

are used to transport illegal drugs through various means, including handling sealed packages, swallowing the substances or hiding these in their underwear, and even surgically implanting the drug packages in their abdominal cavity or placing these inside the mules' genitalia.

She noted that last month, a Filipina was sentenced to death for drug trafficking by the Yogyakarta's Lower Court in Indonesia. Also just last week, a

PDEA CAR Scores In Fight Vs Dangerous Drugs

BAGUIO CITY – Cordillera has been greatly progressing in the fight against dangerous drugs, according to Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Cordillera (PDEA-CAR) Information Officer Emely Fama.

For 2010 alone, Fama reported that from January to October, PDEA-CAR in coordination with the Philippine National Police and other law enforcement agencies have conducted around 100 anti-drug operations region wide which resulted to the arrest of 98 drug personalities, 10 of them included in the watch list and six on the target list. 95 drug related cases were also filed.

PDEA-CAR total confiscation of dangerous drugs from January to October, has a total Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) value of P1.517 billion, Fama said.

Fama affirmed that there are still 81 drug-affected barangays in the region with Baguio City having the highest number with 27, followed by Abra 13, Kalinga with 12, Benguet 11, Ifugao 11, Mountain Province six and Apayao one. Of the 81 drug affected barangays, 68 were moderately affected and 13 were seriously affected.

Fama explained that though Baguio remains to be the most affected, the situation has improved a lot compared to the previous years. She said the City Anti Drug Abuse Council (CADAC) through its action officer Vice Mayor Daniel Fariñas has been active in the campaign against illegal drugs.

She also acknowledged the strong participation of Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Council (BADAC) through the leadership of ABC President Joel Alangab. She informed that with the recent barangay elections, PDEA is set to re-visit all the city barangays to help them re-organize their BADAC and to assist them formulate their anti-illegal drug campaign plans.

PDEA-CAR also has been continuously coordinating with the different schools and universities in the city for a continuous partnership in the advocacy against illegal/dangerous drugs.

Last September, PDEA in partnership with Baguio CADAC and the Baguio City National High School under Principal Elma Donaal, organized a teenage drug buster training to students from the different BCNHS annexes and main campus.

'With a strong participation from the private sector and the public, particularly the parents with high school and teenage children, hopefully maramating natin ang ating layunin na magkaroon ng isang drug-free city o even a drug-free country,' Fama said.

Meanwhile, November 15 to 19 is being observed as Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Week with the theme, 'Think Health Not Drugs.'

For the observance, Fama said lined up activities include Anti drug abuse seminars in different parts of the region, photo exhibition, film showing, battle of the bands. The observance will have a culminating program and parade on November 26./Lito Dar/PIA

Filipina was arrested for carrying almost two kilos of heroin in Guangzhou, China. Citing reports from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), she said drug syndicates prefer women drug mules due to leniency in the inspection of women in airports. This in turn makes women prey to the syndicates.

"Drug syndicates have lured our women to allow themselves to be used in this illegal drug trade with a promise of a

better life. Filipino women choose to leave the country thinking they have legitimate job offers from drug syndicates. To make it even harder to resist, these drug syndicates facilitate their travel by providing for their plane ticket and even giving them pocket money to spend."

Once they get to their destination, however, the victims are left with no choice but to follow the orders of the drug syndicates for fear that they might get harmed, she added.

"Syndicates even go to the extent of hav-

ing relationships with Filipinas. Members of drug syndicates con them into becoming drug mules by first courting them through internet chat rooms then making them their girlfriend or wife."

Cayetano is slated to file a resolution directing the appropriate committees of the Senate to investigate, in aid of legislation, the alarming increase in cases of Filipinos, especially women, who are being used as drug mules by international syndicates./Office Of Senator Pia Cayetano

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT

First Judicial Region
BRANCH VIII
2nd Floor Justice
Hall, Justice Hill
La Trinidad,
Benguet

IN THE MATTER:
CORRECTION
OF ENTRIES IN THE
CERTIFICATE
OF LIVE BIRTH OF
GRETH S. PION

GRETH S. PION,
Petitioner,

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL
REGISTRAR OF
ITOGON AND THE
NATIONAL
STATISTICS OFFICE
(NSO),

Respondents.

SP. PROC. CASE
NO. 10-C-1648

x————x

ORDER

Petitioner through counsel, filed this Amended Petition praying that after due notice, and hearing, this court issues an order directing the Local Civil Registrar of Itogon, Benguet and the National statistics Office to cause the correction of the entry in his Certificate of Live Birth, particularly his gender from "female" to "male".

WHEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the court sets for hearing on January 17, 2011 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning in the courtroom of this court, Rm 202, 2nd floor, Justice Hill, La Trinidad Benguet.

All persons interested may appear and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in the Junc-

tion, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province, once a week for (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made not later than November 21, 2010.

Furnish copies hereof together with a copy of the petition and its annexes to the Office of the Solicitor General, Makati City; National Statistics Office, Quezon City, the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet Province; the Local Civil Registrar of Itogon, Benguet; the Junction; the petitioner and her counsel.

SO ORDERED.
La Trinidad.
Benguet, this 10th
day of November
2010.

By(SDG)MARYBELLE
L. DEMOT
MARINAS
Presiding Judge

Publication Dates:
November 13, 20
and 27

Mayor Alarmed Over Increasing Robberies

Baguio City – Mayor Mauricio Domogan expressed concern over the series of robberies committed in the city during his weekly ugnayan presser.

He said he has ordered the police to work over time to insure the safety of residents and their properties.

The community can do a lot to help stop criminal elements from doing these things if we report it immediately to the police so that they can do something, he said.

Over the past few days, Domogan has instructed the police to "step up" its efforts in safeguarding government buildings and patrol their areas of responsibility following a series of robberies committed even at City Hall.

He has also tasked the barangays to activate their tanods to augment police forces especially at night.

Its time to work double time, he stressed.

I hope there are no men in uniform who are coddling this criminal elements, he pointed out.

This as CCTV cameras revealed "possible leads" to the City Hall robbery involved a man wearing a government issued raincoat.

Domogan however said we cannot point to anyone unless the full investigation of the incident is finished.

Let us wait for the investigation report, I hope the people responsible will be apprehended, he exclaimed.

Crimes against property this year is high with at least 98 cases of robbery filed with the Prosecutors Office from January to November and more than 450 cases of Theft/Qualified Theft recorded excluding those still under investigation by the police./paul rillorta

PEZA Affirms Growth Of Baguio's BPO Industry

B A G U I O CITY – The Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry in the city remains to be vibrant with continuous hiring and training of employees.

According to Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA-Baguio) Supervising Labor Affairs Officer Ted Palahon, there are five BPO companies registered with PEZA-Baguio namely SITEL with three sites, Aegis People's Support, IHG Noble Trends and Bounds Inc and W W W Outsourcing.

'These companies are continuously hiring employees and joining (city) jobs fair,' Palahon said.

National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB-CAR) Regional Head Benjie Navarro affirmed that the BPO industry is definitely continuously growing and helping the local economy's growth.

Navarro said the BPO industry contributes to the steady growth of the Service Sector of the region's Gross Domestic Product (GRDP). 'BPOs are included in the private services under the Service Sector,' Navarro said.

Based on the 2009 GRDP released by NSCB in August, the service sector contributed 25.4 percent of the

region's economy. Out of the P8.013 Billion earned by the region's service sector, P2.922 billion comes from the private services.

Navarro also agreed with Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago's pronouncement that the Philippines can compete with India as the prime BPO destination. 'In terms of skills, I think the Philippines can compete with India,' he said.

Navarro also lauded Senator Santiago for pushing a legislation that will help the continuous growth of the country's BPO industry. This will be further strengthened with proper legislation in place and more skills training program from the government.

Meanwhile, the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA-CAR)

earlier reported that Baguio needs to be wary of other emerging Next Wave cities for outsourcing and offshoring if it is to retain its competitiveness as a major BPO investment site. Baguio is only at No. 9 of the list of most favored sites with Davao topping the top ten list.

Hillsford Property Corp. of Ayala Land Inc. is now constructing the Baguio-Ayala Land Techno Hub at the John Hay Ecozone, which is expected to further boost the region's role as the northernmost hub in the Cyber Corridor super region, as the completion of this first building is expected to generate more than 20,000 jobs from the BPO offices, retail establishments and support maintenance services./Lito Dar/PIA

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

Applicant

Case No: 2003-CAR-429

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for the Extension of Validity a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation and passengers and freight on the line: BAGUIO CITY - CABAYO (ATOK, BENGUET) 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 December 6, 2010 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 once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER - Regional Director this 17th day of November 2010.

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

Pia hails Supreme Court's firstfrom page 1

"By taking affirmative action on the 'Writ of Kalikasan' petition of West Tower residents, the high court correctly upheld concerns for environmental protection and public safety over industrial profit and warnings of an extreme gas shortage in Metro Manila."

At the same time, Cayetano said the oil leak should prompt a review of the urban planning and zoning schemes of local governments in Metro Manila and adjoining provinces to address the current crisis and to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

"The incident highlights the urgency to review the urban planning and zoning schemes of local government units and integrating these with the plans of neighboring provinces. This will ensure a sustainable balance between industrial and commercial development with protecting the environment and the safety of residents in mega-cities like Metro Manila."

"Concerned agencies must also devise alternative plans together with the private sector to ensure the unhampered supply of gasoline products in the metropolis with the suspension of the pipeline's operation and the prospect of it being shut down permanently over health and safety issues." / *Office Of Senator Pia Cayetano*

Editorial

....from page 4

Will Burma's junta ride out this trend?

Bunkered in Napyadaw, the xenophobic generals have zero sympathy quotients. Under them, Burma emerged second to Afghanistan as a source for heroin. Once Southeast Asia's "rice bowl," the country today is the region largest producer of methamphetamines. Life expectancy is among the lowest in Asean.

But Ms Suu Kyi's hopes, like most of ordinary Burmese, runs headlong into stark geopolitical realities. Burma's coastline provides access to the Strait of Malacca ---the key chokepoint in Asia.

"Daily more than 12 million barrels in oil supertankers pass through this narrow passage, most en route to the world's fastest-growing energy market, China or to Japan," writes F William Engdahl of Center for Research on Globalization. "Who controls those waters controls China's energy supplies."

There is oil and gas in Yadana and Yetagun. In 2004 a large new gas field, Shwe, was discovered off the Arakan coast. China, Thailand, Japan, Malaysia, India and South Korea scrambled over each other to snap up supplies that Burmese generals peddle.

Burma is an integral part of what China terms its "string of pearls," bases from the Spratleys to Cambodia. Beijing funds construction of a 2,300 kilometer pipeline from Burma's deepwater port at Sittwe in the Bay of Bengal to Kunming in China's Yunnan Province. It mans large electronic surveillance fa-

cility on Myanmar's Coco Islands.

Oil has seen Beijing become Yangon's banker, customer, pipeline builder to armorer. It will set the junta's policy in the future.

"Let me tell you something that we Israelis have against Moses," the late Prime Minister Gloda Meir once said. "He took us through the desert for 40 years in order to bring us to the one spot in the Middle East that has no oil.

Guns, goons and gold will keep freedom entombed, the Burmese junta bets. A frail widow now challenges that wager, did Corazon Aquino in 1986. Edsa's liberation rippled worldwide. So will the emerging Burma challenge./J.L. Mercado

Mayor Bullish on New Waste

.... from page 2

hauling operations that cost over P100 million a year.

He said that with that money, the city can instead invest on the technology that promises to tackle the wastes for a considerable period. The ERS machine costs P64 million and the city plans to purchase two units.

The mayor also denied insinuations that monetary consideration is behind the pursuit of the project.

"I can tell those people harboring that suspicion anytime, anywhere, that there is no truth to that. I am doing this to solve our problem on garbage, nothing more," he said.

The mayor said that after the MOA's confirmation, the city can now proceed in completing the purchase requirements for the two machines from the Japanese subsidiary Pro Tech Machinery Corporation.

He said the company has assured of the machines' arrival in the country on November 28. The machines are expected to arrive in the city on or before Dec. 2 along with the Japanese technician to undertake the installation and test run and training of the city's technical people.

The mayor said the machines will take ten days to install but the company assured that the two machines will be operational before Christmas day.

He said city has already prepared the site where the machines will be installed at the Irian dumpsite.

The machines could only process biodegradable wastes and even while the installation is still on process, the company has committed to begin hauling out the city's residual wastes as part of the agreement.

An ERS machine could convert 24 tons of biodegradable wastes into compost per day.

The city churns out a daily waste output of 160 tons, 66 tons of which are comprised of biodegradable.

With the two machines, the city can tackle 48 tons of biodegradable wastes out of the 66-ton output. The remaining 18 tons will be processed by the city using the "turon" scheme and the backyard system developed by former punong barangay Fred Fangonon.

The fertilizer produced can be marketed by the city on its own or course it through the company./A Refuerzo

On Asin Hydro

.... from page 2

hydros shall be compensated 3-percent of the net surplus of the income derived from its operations, subject to adjustment after 3-years.

Said rental shall be paid to TNHALA which shall in turn, distribute the amount to the surface owners.

Rabanes emphasized part of the agreement recited, "TNHALA hereby represents itself as having mandate of all the affected landowners to enter into [the] compromise agreement."

With this he added, "It is now up to TNHALA to control its own ranks, including its breakaway faction, so that the agreement which has been approved by the court, may finally come to fruition for the benefit of the parties."/isl

Lawmaker says open

.... from page 2

Senate committee on justice and human rights, said he is backing President Noyon Aquino's appeal to the Supreme Court to allow the live coverage of the ongoing mass murder trial involving the powerful Ampatuan clan of Maguindanao.

He said the Chief Executive has all the right to ask the Supreme to reconsider its earlier decision disallowing live coverage of the trial, but added that "it is left solely to the sound discretion of the court to decide whether or not to grant it."

He recalled that there were already precedents where the court had barred open coverage of trials especially in cases where privacy rights were involved. However, the senator said that decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis.

"We want a live coverage of the Maguindanao trial so that the public can witness how our justice system works," Escudero explained. "Unlike in other countries where they have a jury system, we only have one entity to decide on the case on trial, and that is the judge hearing it. A full coverage will allow for a better public understanding of any decision that will be arrived at by the judge. He doesn't have to justify his decision all the time, whether guilty or not."

Escudero said that while it is the President's wish for the high tribunal to reconsider its previous ruling on the issue, he should not be the one personally asking for it but his concerned officials.

"The President has been taking cudgels for most of his Cabinet members these past few months. I hope his officials will take the cue sometime in the future and hopefully be the ones to give the President deniability and not let him be the one to keep on talking about these things and in the process defending his Cabinet men to the public," he said./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Heart Ailment

.... from page 2

self with a bowl of blueberries or mulberries – as a normal kid his age is wont.

Delson was a “blue baby”, born with four defects in the heart that pediatric cardiologist Gerry Acosta of the Baguio Heart and Lung Diagnostic Center diagnosed as Tetralogy of Fallot. The frequency of occurrence is 400 per million live births

Dr. Acosta had recommended open heart surgery at the Philippine Heart Center “as soon as possible to prevent onset of complications”.

That’s why Conrad, Bubut Olarte, March Fianza and other pioneers on the local folk and country music scene teamed up with La Trinidad mayor Greg Abalos in mounting the concert. They netted P30,000 that enabled Delson’s mother Susan to bring the boy for check-ups at the PHC in Quezon City.

Delson was set for his final check-up on Dec. 13 for the surgery the following day. The boy had heard of the schedule during his last visit to the center and had been looking forward to it since. Last week, he verified from his mother and was told his heart would be mended before the Christmas break.

His hope for medical deliverance carried him through morning of last Tuesday, a Muslim holiday called Eid al-Adha or the Festival of the Sacrifice. The day celebrates the willingness of Abraham or Ibrahim to sacrifice his son Ishmael as proof of his obedience to God.

Delson, too young to understand what the holiday was all about, knew what it was to be an obedient son. Her mother recalled how the boy spent the morning feeding the few chickens on the yard and cooking legumes in the hut the tenant farming couple built on a steep mountainside

By mid-afternoon however, the boy broke the quiet of the day with a sudden wail: “Maul-ulawak, mama (I’m dizzy, mama).”

Susan rushed to cradle her boy, shouting for help. It took time for neighbors to find a ride as the shanty is out of highway. By the time they reached the hospital, Delson’s weak heart had given up.

That evening, school principal Carmel Meris of Longlong Elementary School learned of the tragedy and passed on the news to those who knew the boy.

He was the boy in the fourth grade who promised his mother he would graduate in two years.

“That’s why he asked that we stay put here in Longlong instead of returning home to Buguias (Benguet) where he was born,” his mother said.

In keeping with that wish, Delmin and Susan decided to have the final rites here. Somehow, they and neighbors pooled enough for a pig offering, in keeping with Igorot tradition and even the Christian version of Abraham’s sacrifice.

Last Friday afternoon, the pinewood casket, assembled without iron nails, was low-

Benguet Needs P3B for Road Rehab

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - The province of Benguet needs more P3 billion to fully rehabilitate into its national, provincial, municipal and barangay road networks damaged by typhoons.

Congressman Ronald M. Cosalan said hopefully a big portion of the fund to repair the province’s roads can be provided through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Cosalan clarified that the new estimates on road damages wrought by Typhoon Juan recently cannot be added on top of the old damage estimates especially if these are for the same road sections that were damaged last year.

In a Kapihan forum last month, OIC-Regional Director Edilberto Carabbacan of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in the Cordillera came up with their estimate of damages on national roads in the region.

The estimates for damaged national roads within Benguet Engineering District 01 amounted to P 69,469,000 while damaged national roads in District 02 amounted to P24,304,120.

Cosalan said he gets to see Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson almost every week and that while the latter has already worked for an initial assistance from JICA, they are looking for other sources of funding.

The huge Guesset landslide along the Beckel-Aritao road and the Acop-Kapangan-Kibungan road sections stand to benefit from the P3.7 billion repair fund, said Cosalan.

He explained that an initial P19 million worth of infrastructure projects is set for bidding in December while P96 million from JICA will be bidden in January.

An amount of P80 million was also allocated for various flood control projects in the province. The Guesset landslide will initially be funded with P60 million while P103 million was allocated for the repair of various sections along the Acop-Kapangan-Kibungan road. / *joseph b zambrano/PIA*

ered on a hillside grave the men of the neighborhood dug the day before. The grave was lined with hollow blocks reinforced by cement and steel bars with a little help from expatriate karate teacher Julian Chees. .

This Monday, Robinson, Delson’s eight-year old brother, will walk the same familiar path up the highway and then turn left towards the Longlong Elementary School. for his third grade class. It will take sometime for him to get used to hiking alone / *Ramon Dacawi.*

Baguio Tourism Sector

.... from page 3

motion.

Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim said last week that the new slogan is just a concept and still under study. “If the people, particularly the foreign market won’t like it, we can pull it out.” He said the slogan was a product of thorough research by the DOT.

The new slogan drew criticism from various sectors, which argued that it was not as imaginative as “Wow Philippines.” Critics called for the country’s eight-year-old tourism slogan, “Wow Philippines,” to be retained.

The slogan was removed from DOT’s tourism promotion website just one day after its launch last November 15 after it was severely panned by industry critics. “Bland,” “Lacks punch,” “Sounds dishonest” were among posts made on popular networking sites about the “Pilipinas Kay Ganda” slogan.

Meanwhile, Baguio Congressman Bernardo Vergara, a respected tourism official before his political career, is supporting the old ‘Wow Philippines’ tag line. He said it should remain because it has given the country the identity for the past years. / *Redjie Cawis /PIA*

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

Case No: 91-CAR-142

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for the Extension of Validity a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation and passengers and freight 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 December 6, 2010 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTFRB 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 15th day of November 2010.

(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
MANOLO V. MAMARIL
Applicant

Case No: 91-CAR-146

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for the Extension of Validity a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation and passengers and freight 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 December 6, 2010 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTFRB 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.

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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 15th day of November 2010.

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

RDO - Bagio Exceeds**.... from page 3**

Meanwhile, October proved to be another noteworthy month for BIR as far as collection is concerned. Records of the Bureau's collection offices show that the revenue service was able to

generate P63.564 Billion in tax payments nationwide for October 2010, marking an increase of P8.644 Billion or 15.74% higher compared to the revenues collected for the same month in 2009.

The October collection performance marks the second month in a row

that the BIR was able to exceed its monthly revenue target, surpassing the October 2010 collection goal by at least P1.012 Billion, or 1.62%.

In line with this, Commissioner Kim S. Jacinto-Henares hailed the Bureau's accomplishment, attributing October's successful collection efforts to the determination of revenueurs across the country to support the Government's development efforts.

She also expressed her confidence in the Bureau's efforts to improve taxpayer awareness and compliance, and linked the Bureau's improving collection performance to the success of the Run-After-Tax-Evaders (RATE) Program in emphasizing the Bureau's determination to prosecute tax evaders./Lito Dar/PIA

Jeepneys Federation Supports**.... from page 3**

they are considering initially a 50 centavos fare increase from the minimum fare of P7.50 to P8.00.

Itliong discounted the possibility that transport groups here would stage a rally or any similar activity to petition for a fare hike. 'Wala kaming balak at walang dahilan para mag-rally, lahat naman ay maaaring pag-usapan ng maayos,' he said.

Meanwhile, Itliong also announced that the Baguio Public Transport Affairs Office (PTAO) in partnership with Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC-Baguio) will be conducting a continuous First Aid Training every Sunday starting this November 21.

'It is part of our emergency preparedness program. Dapat kahit mga driver, pati na rin mga dispatcher ay may sapat din na kakayahan na magbigay ng first aid sa anumang kaganapan ng aksidente o sakuna,' Itliong explained.

Itliong is inviting all jeepney and taxi associations in the city as well as communications and volunteer groups to join in the said First Aid Training Seminar. Registration fee for the seminar is P200 plus P100 for the Philippine National Red Cross membership (plus ID).

If the participants finished the two Sundays training course, they will be given First Aid Training Certificate by the PNRC-Baguio./Lito Dar/PIA

Batas**.... from page 4**

business development.

Tourism Congress is the private sector consultative body in the development, implementation and monitoring of Philippine tourism policies as mandated by the Tourism Act of 2009.

It represents 70 national and regional associations from the sectors of accommodation, travel and tours, MICE, land/sea/air transport services, tourism estates development and other tourism enterprises, where more than 3000 tourism enterprises belong.

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Those who have problems, medical or otherwise, can log-on to 1st-APLUMA's website (<http://1st-apluma.yolasite.com> and give all the details through its Public Serbilis section. You can also email me at esns03@yahoo.com.

E - BAMBOO Ready**.... from page 12**

essary machineries to undertake the industrial activity.

The e-bamboo is a promising industry. It would respond to the growing problem of forest denudation as it regenerates very rapidly as well as it provides sources for food augmentation as well. It does not only provide sustained livelihood to those already engaged in the industry but also caters to the disabled persons as the Department of Labor and Employment had already established a special program where the disabled persons could also be employed in the said industry as Christopher Tugadi had presented during the forum./Maritess Benas/PIA-Abra

Panagbenga 2010**.... from page 12**

committee: Baguio Country Club General Manager Anthony de Leon and Frederico Alquiros.

During the media forum, the mayor invited the general public to all the activities as preparations are underway.

Panagbenga activities start this coming February with a colorful grand opening parade followed immediately by the Market Encounter on Feb. 1 to March 6 where plants and flowers are the main products. The traditional Let A Thousand Flowers Bloom painting event shall be on Feb. 12, where the paintings are displayed on the main thoroughfare for the remaining days of the festival. A Pre-Valentine Event and Fluvial Float Parade at Burnham Lake on Feb. 13 is also being finalized. The most-awaited multi-sectoral Grand Street Parade shall be on Feb. 26 where participants are from the city, neighboring places and other regions.; and the Float parade is on Feb. 27, where the use of various flowers and creativity of artists are proven to be a feast on the eyes.

Session Road in Bloom with various flower-themed product display shall be on Feb. 28 to Mar 6 along the city's main thoroughfare. Cowboys from Mines View, Pacdal, Country Club and the Los Caballeros from La

Trinidad shall also join the festivities on March 2 for Pony Boys' Day. Fun games on horseback along with folk and country music shall be featured that day.

March 3 to 5 is reserved for the Central North Luzon Tourism Fair, where exhibitor-participants from Regions 1, 2, 3 and Cordillera region converge at the Baguio Country Club to showcase their products. Less than a hundred display booths are expected for the event.

The grand closing ceremonies on March 6 shall feature awards for winning floral-themed activities, participating floats, displays, gardens, landscapes, and institutions. A fireworks display, Flowers in the Sky, shall close the event in the evening.

The theme for Panagbenga 2011 is: "The Environment and Community in Harmony."

Accordingly, the theme serves as a reminder for humanity to mind and maintain, sustain and enhance the environment, contribute to its care, to avoid retaliation from mother nature; in relation to the celebration of the flower festival.

For next year's activity also, enhancement seminars on choreography, costumes, culture, music and festival management in general shall be required for coordinators of participants for the street dancing groups.

According to the mayor, elementary school participants shall undergo elimination due to their big number; while the secondary and college participants are welcome, as well as the open category. This is due to past experiences where some participants performed late until the night, the mayor added.

The barangays shall participate through beautification projects within their areas, including their parks.

Aside from traditional activities, more are expected to be scheduled until February.

Interested individuals or groups may contact the Panagbenga Secretariat Office Baguio Convention and Visitors Bureau (BCVB) at Abad Santos Drive, Burnham Park, Baguio City, Telefax (+6374) 442-4315, or their internet site: panagbenga.secretariat@gmail.com./juliegfianza

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

SEM G. MALAMNAO**Applicant****Case No: 2000-01-2933****NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an application for the Extension of Validity a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation and passengers and freight on the line: BAGUIO CITY - LAMTANG 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 December 6, 2010 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTFRB Office, Pacdal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.

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

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

This application shall be acted upon 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 18th day of November 2010.

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

CAR on Track on Eradicating Poverty, Other Goals Slow in Progress

BAGUIOCITY—The Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) is on track on achieving goal number one of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goal (MDG), which is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

This was reflected in the latest MDG Watch progress report posted by the National Statistical and Coordination Board (NSCB-CAR).

Based on the MDG Watch report posted this November, 34.5 percent (based on 2006 data) of Cordillerans remains to be below the national poverty threshold which is a big improvement compared to the 1991 MDG based data of 55.4 percent and is within the reach of the 2015 target of 27.7

percent.

The same report shows that CAR has vastly improve the proportion of its population that is below the national food threshold as well as the region's poverty gap ratio. On children's hunger or nutrition need, CAR has a high progress on children pre-school children or those under-5 years old though neonatal (newborn) care still remains to be a problem.

According to NSCB Regional Head Benjie Navarro, aside from MDG goal No. 1, CAR has a slow progress in the other MDG targets.

The region posted a slow progress in MDG goal No. 2 which is to achieve a universal primary education as well in goal No. 3

on promoting gender equality and empower women.

No. 4 goal or reducing child mortality remains to be a problem for the region except for under-five mortality rate which has improved a lot. Much still needs to be done for goal No. 5 on improving maternal health as maternal mortality ratio remains high.

The NSCB MDG Watch Report aims to pinpoint which MDG goals remains to be a problem, so that the government would know where to focus,' Navarro stressed.

For those who are interested to see the NSCB's latest CAR MDG Watch Progress Report data, you can log on to

www.nscb.gov.ph/rucar/Lito Dar/PIA

Panagbenga 2011 launched, sked released

BAGUIOCITY—The 16th version of the Baguio Flower Festival (BFF) was launched last Monday, November 15 after the flag-raising ceremony at

the city hall grounds, followed by a concert at SM in the evening and fireworks display at Melvin Jones, Burnham Park

Schedule for activities in Febru-

ary 2011 was also released by the Panagbenga Secretariat during the press conference attended by Mayor Mauricio Domogan and members of the Executive

Cont. on page 11



BLOOMING OF FLOWERS – Members of the University Cordilleras Cultural Dance Troupe wow the crowd with a dance presentation depicting the "Blooming Of Flowers" during the launching of Panagbenga's 16th Edition, held at City hall grounds last November 15./By Bong Cayabyab

E-BAMBOO Ready for Take-off I n Abra

BANGUED, Abra - The bamboo industry in the province is now ready to take-off for the engineered-bamboo (e-bamboo) after the social preparations carried out by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) under Provincial Caretaker Arell Banez.

During the forum on e-bamboo held on November 11-12, 2010 at the Abra Provincial Capitol Social Hall, com-

mitments have been expressed by all supporting government agencies to make the e-bamboo a realization in the province soon.

D i r e c t o r Franklin Bonoan of the Cottage Industry Technology Center (CITC) assured provision of technology support. Engr. Oliver Hernandez of the Department of Education the (DepEd) also assured market potential for the end products of the e-bamboo

as per Executive Order 879 directing the DepEd to make use of e-bamboo products for their furniture and fixtures requirements in order to save on procurement costs as well as contribute to the national government's effort to address the problem of climate change.

T h e sustainability of the e-bamboo industry is likewise ensured. Fatima Tangan of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-CAR) said they are now ready with the

different species of bamboos that would respond to the problem of inappropriate bamboo species should here be a problem arising in the propagation of bamboos or other force majeure such as the flowering of some bamboo species that would mean shortages in the supply of raw materials for the industry.

Engr. Ernesto Aton of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) also reassured those engaged in the bamboo industry since the PENRO is now into massive bamboo plantation with the imple-

mentation of the Upland Area Development Project in the province.

Capitalization for the e-bamboo industry is also in place with the special financing program of the Land Bank of the Philippines as explained by Engr. Rodolfo de

la Paz of LBP-Bangued Branch.

As earlier committed by Governor Eustaquio P. Bersamin, the provincial government has already allocated an initial P2.5M for the procurement of the nec-

Cont. on page 11

RESEARCH & STATISTICS

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