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City to Clamp Down on Sham Charity Fund Drives

The profiteering days - and nights - of organizers of fund-raisers for their personal profit but masquerading as humanitarian and civic projects will soon be over, at least here in Baguio.

Stung by the proliferation of fun-runs, concerts and other solicitation events labeled "for-a-cause" but turn out to be "for-a-cost" to line the pockets of the organizers, the city social welfare and development office is set to endorse to mayor Mauricio Domogan an executive order regulating any form of fund-raising here.

The executive order being drafted, according to city social welfare and development officer Betty Fangasan, is in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 1564, also known as the Solicitation Permit Law and the Local Government Code giving local government executives the authority to issue permits for fund-raising activities.

The solicitation permit requirement is intended to distinguish and protect well-meaning fund-raising activities from profit-oriented concerts, fun-runs and other solicitations announced as intended for indigent patients or civic projects that remain anonymous.

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"NO MORE PYROS" - Mayor Mauricio Domogan calls on the public to be safe this Christmas and New Year by totally banning the sale of pyrotechnics citywide during the launching of the Aksyon: Paputok Injury Reduction (APIR) Campaign of the Department of Health-Cordillera last December 4. Also in photo are Pro-Cor SSupt. Ulysses Abellera, BCPO PIO Plsp. Virgilio Hidalgo, HEMS Coordinator Elnoria Bugnosen, Dep-Ed Cordillera Dr. Juliet Pontino, CHSO Dr. Donna Tuvera, BFP SFO John Ullibac and BFP SInsp. Rommel Borja./photo by Paul Rillorta

Sa kasalukuyang panahon marami ang mga halang ang bituka, mga manloloko na nananamantala at ginagamit pakunwari ang mga charity events ngunit ang tutuo ay para lamang sa kanilang personal na ganansya. Dapat ay ma kalaboso ang mga taong ganito!!!



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BY: BATAS MAURICIO



More Police Visibility in Schools Sought

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan on Monday directed the city police under police director Jesus Cambay Jr. to increase police visibility in all public and private schools in the city to deter crimes and maintain order in the school areas.

Cambay committed to beef up their manpower deployment in said areas as requested.

The city council later approved a resolution authored by Councilor Roberto Ortega asking the city police to implement city resolutions for the augmentation of police visibility to maintain peace and order in said areas.

“Delinquencies, misconducts and criminalities are clearly rampant in said areas which lead to untoward crimes. Crime prevention group or any relation organization in preventing crimes of the school is not enough to control inhibit crimes,” Ortega noted.

He cited three past resolutions expressing the same intent.

Theft remains as the most prevalent crime in the city and most of these happen in crowded places like university belts.

Cambay acknowledged the need to deploy more policemen in schools also as a means to curb youth offenses./
A Refuerzo

Young Mother Pleads for Support In Fight Against Cancer

Taking a respite from searching for Samaritans, Remedios Walleng, a 34-year old mother of two, took time - like a mother should - to breast-feed Jereka, her five-month old daughter.

She was wearing a mask against infection, as her immune system has been weakened by Hodgkins lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph nodes diagnosed Christmas last year, and by four chemotherapy sessions she had undergone since then.

She, however, could not submit to chemo immediately after diagnosis as she was then 25 weeks pregnant. She gave birth to Jereka last June 20 and started her chemo treatment last July 8 under a 12-cycle protocol at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

Jeremia Piaoan, her live-in partner, tried to work double time as a taxi driver in an effort to raise P19,000, the price per cycle. As it was a tall order, the price was reduced to about P8,000 per session, enabling Remedios to undergo three cycles.

With her family financially exhausted, Remedios had her third session last Sept. 4 and then stopped with nine more to go. It proved costly as the mass on the side of her face enlarged, a sign of relapse.

Last November 29, she began anew her chemotherapy from square one, again following a 12-session protocol spread every 21 days.

In the social case study report she wrote last July, social welfare officer Melanie Sahoy noted “the family

Cordillera Medical Mission Bound for Leyte

Aside from relief support, the Cordillera is sending this yuletide a 28-member medical mission to serve victims of super-typhoon Yolanda that hit Eastern Visayas early last month.

Led by Dr. Manuel Quirino, head of the emergency department of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, the team will enplane this Tuesday for Tacloban City to relieve other volunteers earlier sent by the Department of Health to serve at the Eastern Visayas Medical Center in the calamity-devastated city.

Quirino, a surgeon, has also specialized in health emergency in disaster management and serves as trainer and course coordinator in basic life support – adult and pediatric, advanced cardiac life support and mass casualty incident management.

With him in the team are eight representatives of the Department of Health, 15 from the BGHMC, four from the Conner District Hospital in Apayao and one from the Far North Luzon Gen. Hospital in Luna, Apayao.

From the health regional office are Dr. Amelita Pangilinan, Dr. Alexei Marrero, Dr. Mary Munoz, Engr. Basilio Munar Jr., Engr. Nelson Cara, midwife David Waclet, nurse Karen Lonogan and nurse Victoria Malicdan,

BGHMC is sending Dr. Mateo Bawayan, Dr. Dexter Feleciano, Dr. Joy fongayao, Dr. Celestrel May Oras, Dr. Elizabeth Solang, Dr. Sheree Villacorta, nurses Raffy Ayunon,, Oliver Balariz, Arthur Calde jr., Simon Lacwasa, Krisel Matias and Allan Nape-ek; psychologist Elaine Bautista, orthopedic Jeff Calixto and occupational therapist Jimmy June Reyes.

From Conner are nurse Gregory Bangon, Dr. Ariel Gayudan, Dr. Oliver : Lacambre and Dr. Michael Mercado.

Completing the team is Dr. Jerome Pascual of the DNLGH in Apayao.

Earlier, the Benguet Electric Cooperative sent the first mission, a 12-member engineering team that reached Capiz in mid-November to help rehabilitate the electric system under the coverage of the Capiz Electric Cooperative.

The team dispatched by BENECA general manager Gerardo Verzosa and led by Engr. Ricardo Pallogan brought along a boom truck and several generator sets - Ramon Dacawi.

is exerting all effort to support (Remedios’) chemotherapy” and “pleads for assistance because it could not afford the cost of her chemotherapy”.

Remedios, who hails from Alilem, Ilocos Sur, worked as a domestic helper in Malaysia until her three-year contract expired in 1998. Her family now stays in a boarding house at FA-301, Km. 4, Balili, La Trinidad, Benguet. Aside from Jereka, the couple has Jeremy, their two-year old son.

Samaritans who would like to support Remedios through 11 more chemo sessions may ring up her cellphone number (09487802466).

City Allots P1.8 Million for Calamity Areas

The city government had sent P500,000 support to three earthquake-hit areas in the Visayas and is working out the transmittal of P1.3 million more to seven other local government units devastated by super-typhoon Yolanda.

“We have notified the seven typhoon-hit areas to which the city’s support will be given to send us their city or municipal bank account numbers so we can work out the bank transfer the city’s assistance,” Ryan Mangusan of the mayor’s staff said.

On request of mayor Mauricio Domogan, the city council approved P500,000 as cash support to some areas damaged by the earthquake and an equal amount for the LGUs that absorbed the brunt of Typhoon Yolanda’s fury. From savings, partly through cancelling its Christmas program, the city added P800,000 to for typhoon-ravaged localities.

The earthquake support fund was sent to the provincial government of Bohol – P200,000-; the city of Tagbilaran – P150,000 and the town of Trinidad, Bohol. Bohol was hit by a killer quake registered at moment magnitude scale 7.2.

A total of P200,000 from the P1.3 million support to typhoon hit areas will be for Tacloban city, and P100,000 each for Ormoc City and Tanauan town, both in Leyte, and the towns of Guiuan, Lawaan, Balangiga and Quinapondan, all in Eastern Samar.

Mayor Domogan also asked that victims of the earthquake and typhoon devastations who had ventured into Baguio in search of rehabilitation and support to report to the city social welfare and development office at Upper Session Rd. so that their situation can be validated so they can avail of government support.

City social welfare and development officer Betty Fangasan said that aside from relief, assistance will include transport support for those who would like to return to their places of origin.

Some of the typhoon victims who came up to Baguio were taken in as house helps or absorbed as workers by some commercial establishments here.

It would still be best help them return to Tacloban and their native towns where the world’s support to help them rebuild their lives is concentrated in the calamity areas.

“They have better opportunities to get back on their feet in Eastern Visayas than in any other place because relief and rehabilitation are concentrated there,” the mayor pointed out./
Ramon Dacawi.

handed over P17,000 while a certain Cathy of Philhealth delivered P2,000. From Barangay Bayanihan came P5,000 and an employee of the city assessor’s office added P4,000.

Somebody from La Trinidad, Benguet contributed P2,200 while two anonymous benefactors gave P2,700 and P2,500. Two more donors who declined to be identified gave P5,000 and P2,000 while a certain Heidei gave P1,000. Another city hall employee contributed P500./Ramon Dacawi.



THE
JUNCTION

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Mayor Urges Establishments to Decorate, Sans Usual Prizes

BAGUIO CITY - Mayor Mauricio Domogan encouraged and urged all the business establishment owners, school heads, punong barangay, and gasoline refilling operators to celebrate Christmas in Baguio 2013 by letting Baguio glitter in gold this yuletide season.

"We are encouraging you to decorate your establishments even if it is not anymore with prizes in deference to the lamentable situation of those affected by typhoon Yolanda in Eastern Visayas, of which the city government is helping them in cash and donation," said the mayor.

It is recalled that supposedly the winners for the said Christmas decoration competition will be receiving prizes. However, there will be no more competition because of the devastation caused by typhoon Yolanda.

"Let the spirit of sharing and joy this Christmas season be felt in the city," said Domogan./Jho Arranz

Mayor: Firecracker Sale Ban to Cover Malls, Market

BAGUIO CITY - The ban on the sale of firecrackers in the city will cover malls, public market and small stores all over the city.

This was emphasized by Mayor Mauricio Domogan who also ordered the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) to step up its campaign against the illegal sale of firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices in all parts of the city.

The mayor has remained firm on his stand to ban the sale of firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices in the city for Christmas and New Year celebrations.

He reiterated this during the Kapihan media forum with the Department of Health Cordillera last Wednesday where he assured that he will not issue any permit for the sale of firecrackers in any part of the city.

Last November 27, he categorically denied the appeal of the Baguio-PAILAW group represented by Agnes Montoya for reconsideration of their request to again sell aerial fireworks for the New Year celebration.

"We stand by our earlier pronouncements that we will not issue any permit allowing the sale of firecrackers and

fireworks in the city primarily because of the numerous injuries caused by the use of firecrackers and pyrotechnic materials and the pollution to the city's ambient air due to the toxic fumes emitted by the said materials," the mayor said in his response to Montoya's letter.

"In fact, before we issued permits to sell only pyrotechnic materials (last year), we made it clear that it would be the last consideration to be given to your group to sell such materials, thus, we encouraged you to look for alternative sources of income..." the mayor noted.

The mayor said the decision was meant for the safety and the health of the people and was not meant to harm Montoya's group.

He said to be fair with everyone, he also issued directive to the managements of the malls and stores in the city not to sell firecrackers and pyrotechnic materials.

Montoya, in a letter dated Nov. 26, appealed their case arguing that the prohibition would entail disadvantages like spawning guerilla-style of selling benefiting only illegal vendors and those who come from other areas. She said the

Colder Temperature Prevails in Baguio, Expected to Drop Further

BAGUIO CITY - The Yuletide season is now being felt in the Summer Capital with colder temperature being experienced especially in the early morning and in the late afternoon until evening.

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)-Baguio meteorologist Danny Galate reported that present temperature ranges from 14 to 22 degrees Celsius though they expect the temperature to drop down to 12 or even 11 degrees level this coming week as the coldest season in the city is usually from December until February.

According to Galate, the cold weather in Baguio came earlier than usual as it started to be felt last week October instead of the first week of November.

"So far the lowest temperature recorded in Baguio for this year was at 12.6 degrees Celsius recorded last October 27," he said.

The lowest temperature in the city so far recorded was 6.3 degrees Celsius on January 8, 1961.

He also reported that PAGASA still expects to have one or two typhoon before the year ends though with less effect in Baguio and the rest of Cordillera.

With the colder weather, Department of Health (DOH-CAR) Assistant Regional Director Dr. Amelita Pangilinan reminded the public to protect themselves from the cold breeze and be wary of Influenza-like illnesses. ILI is also known as acute respiratory infection and commonly caused by common cold and influenza.

DOH-CAR data from January to November 23 shows 3,420 ILI cases in Baguio, a slight increase compared to the 3,212 ILI cases recorded during the same period last year.

She advised the public to always bring out their jackets and other clothes that would make them warm, and to boost their immune system by having a balanced diet, getting enough sleep, having a regular exercise, managing stress and living a healthy lifestyle./JDP/CCD and Roger Federico/PIA Intern

ban will also cause more danger for residents who can still purchase these commodities from outside sources without any assurance on the quality of these produce.

The group also said that based on the record of firecracker injuries last year, these were caused by banned types of firecrackers which were not among the kind the group sold at Burnham Park.

"It is safe to assume then that those banned products are brought from the so-called guerilla traders and/or from neighboring cities or municipalities," Montoya said.

expressed his reservations to a city council resolution allowing the sale.

"Hope that this will be the last time that the City approves the sale of pyrotechnic (devices) considering the so many disadvantages that even the Department of Health has stated and continues to say," the mayor said in his marginal note when he signed Resolution No.276 series of 2010 then.

In 2011, the mayor expressed the same wishes for the city council to amend the ordinance in favor of a total ban but contented himself with a resolution that expanded the list of prohibited firecrackers to virtually allow only the aerial ones, saying he understood that the body did not have enough time to amend the measure.

Last year, the mayor again signed the city council resolution allowing the sale of the aerial types but made it clear that it would be the last time that he will allow the same./A Refuerzo

Diocese of Baguio, OWWA Partner for School-Based Ministry on Migrant Workers Concerns

ITOGON Benguet - The Diocese of Baguio, in partnership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA-CAR), recently visited the Saint Louis High School campus here to provide children and parents and spouse of Overseas Filipino Workers school-based ministry on migrant workers plight, welfare and development.

The activity was part of the "Migrant Apostolate" program of the Diocese of Baguio which aims to develop specific programs at the parish and school level that would help address the concerns of migrant workers and the families they left behind, as well as to serve as a venue for participants to learn about the different welfare and development programs of the government.

There are an estimated 3-6 million children of OFWs nationwide, according to a study conducted by UNICEF and around 10 to 20 percent of these Filipino children has one or two parent/s working abroad, thus reflecting the need for such programs.

During the activity, OWWA-CAR IT Instructor Karen Rodillas gave an orientation on OWWA programs and services while Family Welfare Officer Lourdes Estocapio presented the rewards or gains of being OFWs through the audio visual presentation of the regional winner of the search for Model OFW of the Year Award.

The module on Strengthening Family Program which OWWA-CAR implements for families of OFWs was likewise discussed.

An open forum was also conducted, and most of the participants showed interests in the available scholarship programs and skills trainings under OWWA.

Meantime, OWWA will lead the observance of Migrants' Workers Day which is being celebrated in the country every December 7 by virtue of Republic Act 8042 or the Migrant Workers Act which institutes the policies of overseas employment and establish a higher standard of protection and promotion of the welfare of migrant workers, their families and overseas Filipinos in distress, and for other purposes.

On December 13, OWWA-CAR t is also set to conduct training on OFW Family Welfare cases management for OFW Family Circle leaders in the region./

J D P /
CCD-PIA
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Republic of the Philippines)
City of Baguio) Ss.

AFFIDAVIT

I, ARNULFO RILLERA, a legal age, Filipino and a resident of # 70 Ortega St. Middle Quezon Hill, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with the law, do hereby

Depose and say:
1. That I am the present occupant of the stall no.95 Fish section of the public City of Market;
2. That when the stall was occupied by my mother, the stall was under the name of Carmen Estocapio, a relative of my mother;
3. That Carmen Estocapio stayed with our family and my mother paid for the education of Carmen Estocapio and sign of gratitude, she verbally assigned the stall to her;
4. That since the time my mother occupied the stall, Carmen Estocapio never bothered us for the return of the stall and totally abandoned her rights to occupy and use the stall;

5. That I am executing this affidavit for me to be able to apply for the stall assigned by Carmen Estocapio to my mother and for all other legal intents and purposes;

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 9th day of December 2013 at Baguio City

arnulfo rillera
Affiant

SSS Identification Card 01-1660898-5
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of December 2013 at Baguio City with the affiant exhibit his identification card bearing his signature and picture

Publication dates: Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 - 14, 2013

Rare window

Will the pork barrel scam spiral into a march by the millions next week? The theft shoved to the back burners other equally critical issues from "nutritional black holes" to loss of keystone species.

"He who plants trees benefits another generation." After 12 years of below-radar-screen efforts, research has paid off. Another rare tree in Cebu has won international recognition. But *Cynometra cebuensis* is critically endangered.

Journal Blumea declared the tree as "scientifically described" on Nov. 24 last year. The decision appeared on the Net this month.

"This brings island-endemic tree species to three," notes botanist Franz Seidenschwarz who tracked *Cynometra* from seed to fruit-bearing. All three cluster within the Tabunan forest slivers. "Germany has zero endemic tree species."

Cynometra Cebu bears no local name, unlike the other two. Discovered in 1922, *Arthrophyllum cenabrei* is named Bingliu—the area where it sprouted. *Cinnamomum cebuense* Kostermans, recognized in 1986, is called Kalingag in Visayan.

Degraded habitats and limited numbers will insert *Cynometra Cebu* into "Critically Endangered" tables of the 2001 "Red List" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

A University of Munich graduate, Seidenschwarz led the University of San Carlos (USC) Botany Research Group. Fluent in Cebuano, he authored various studies, including "Plant World of the Philippines—An Illustrated Dictionary of Visayan Plants."

He married Cebuana Elizabeth Cinco who teaches German in a language school she established. Their eldest son is a New York hospital internist. Franz Jr. is a resident physician at Perpetual Succor Hospital in Cebu.

Today, Seidenschwarz juggles the duties of Germany's consul in Cebu with research in a private Maria Luisa Park tree farm. "It is my garden and a secret area where I plant

EDITORIAL the critically endangered species of Cebu.

material.

USC researchers, in November 1998, discovered a new damselfly. Scientifically described by Dr. Matti Hämäläinen, it is now known as *Risicnemis seidenschwarzi*. But in July 2000, the damselfly population dwindled. It was last seen in March of 2001. New populations were spotted in Badian, then Tabunan. The Zoological Society of London included this damselfly on a list of "100 most endangered species of the planet."

Starting in 1999, Seidenschwarz tracked 17 *Cynometra Cebu* trees whose seeds came from one mother tree. The species thrives in dry forests on limestone at altitudes of 400-600 meters. Flowering occurs at the onset of the dry season. But they last only for a few days.

The tassels of young trees are bright pink; in older trees, they are creamy greenish yellow. They attract butterflies, dragonflies and other insects. The woody fruit pods fall in July.

The new species differs from the *Cynometra* in Sibuyan Island. Its leaves are much larger. Its habitat is different. Sibuyan trees sprout on moist fertile wooded flats along rivers. All Indo-Pacific species of *Cynometra* grow under ever-wet climatic conditions. In contrast, Cebu is seared by a dry season from the middle of March to early June.

"It took me over a decade to prove that it is a new species," Seidenschwarz recalls now. "I waited for the flowers. But the blooming was very irregular."

Today's trees bear the imprint of history. Cebu is one of the country's two most deforested provinces. Indiscriminate logging interlocked with unrelenting kaingin or clearing of trees by fire. This pillage led the Spanish colonial government, in 1870, to shred all special licenses to cut trees on Cebu. The Spanish governor-general, in 1873, appointed 12 officials to prevent countrywide deforestation. They were tasked to hold on to depleted forest stands.

They failed. So did the US colonial administrators and Filipino officials who took over after the grant of independence in 1946. Less than a quarter of Philippine rainforests are left.

Deforestation threatens also the birds. The Cebu Flowerpecker or *Dicaeum quadricolor*, for example, is extinct, despite the crossed fingers of conservationists.

In 1917, President Sergio Osmeña opened Cebu's Camp 7 reforestation project. It still exists in a province where the key project of his grandson, former Rep. Tomas Osmeña, is a treeless, 296-hectare reclaimed South Road Properties.

In Central and Southern Cebu, tree-covered tracts remain only in higher and less accessible mountains. Paradoxically, this remaining 0.2 percent fragment of natural forests is unusually rich in endemic plant and animal species. Many of them are rare and endangered.

The largest remnant is the 145-hectare spread within the Tabunan forest. It is hemmed in by farms. And pressure on the land and trees ratchet up from population growth, inflow of migrants and poverty.

Habitat deterioration is caused by timber harvesting, specially by fires during the dry season, says Seidenschwarz who has monitored Tabunan since 1994. That threat is compounded by encroachments.

The nearby Cantipla forest was once "a habitat of the new species," Seidenschwarz notes. On paper, the area is well protected. The reality on the ground is different. The forest area should be delineated soonest, so protection measures can follow.

That gut issue lands on newly elected Cebu Gov. Hilario Davide III's lap. It provides him with a rare window of opportunity for lifetime achievement. Few dare to tally the price tag for failure. Juan L. Mercado/E-mail: juan_mercado77@yahoo.com



In this time of great need let us not forget to help our brothers and sisters in the Visayas!

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

ANGRY AT MEDIA? ENRILE SHOWS HOW

BY: JESUS DUREZA



METRO MANILA —The Philippine Press Institute (PPI) met the other night in downtown Makati and discussed how to deal with the complaint filed by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile against the Philippine Daily Inquirer. It stemmed from the publication of PDI of a story that identified him as allegedly the "mastermind" or "brains" behind the alleged PDAF scam of Janet Napoles. Senator Enrile vehemently denied this.

Instead of filing a libel or civil case in the regular courts, it was instead filed before the **Philippine Press Council (PPC)**, asking for an investigation and the corresponding sanctions imposed, if warranted. I will not talk here about the merits of the Enrile complaint. I will just show to you what this process is all about.

This grievance procedure is not known to many. But at PPC, an aggrieved citizen can lodge a complaint against the newspaper concerned without going to court and seek redress from the print media sector itself. PPC is composed of sectoral representatives from the academe, civil society and private media. It somehow serves as a "watchdog" in that an individual can lodge a complaint against a PPI newspaper-member if he feels aggrieved due to a published article and he needs to also have his side reasonably heard as a way of vindication. It is a mechanism that allows the media sector itself the matter of policing its own ranks and disciplining its own members and at the same time upholding press freedom.

However, there are certain "*jurisdictional elements*" that must be present to set in motion this procedure of seeking redress. Here are some basic things to bear in mind before the council can take cognizance of a complaint.

First, the newspaper subject of the complaint must be a PPI member. This is necessary because sanctions cannot be imposed on non-members for obvious reasons, the press council being an instrumentality of PPI. Secondly, there must be no other pending case in court or in any other body over the same subject matter. In this case, a certification submitted by the complainant must first attest to this non-pendency. Thirdly, there must be a waiver on the part of the complaining party as to judicial recourse, meaning he will forego of his right to go to the regular court or any other administrative body to seek redress if he submits to the jurisdiction of the press council. Lastly, the complainant must show proof that he had communicated to the newspaper concerned to give his side to a published derogatory report but this has not been given due consideration by the said publication.

If all the above elements are present, the press council shall then take cognizance of the complaint and after due investigation and hearing both parties, a decision is rendered. An erring newspaper will be required to publish the decision of the council and/or will be ordered to give reasonable space for the publication of the complainant's own side of the story subject of the case. If the newspaper refuses to comply, a possible fine can be imposed and the other PPI newspaper-members may then proceed to publish in their own publications either the decision or the side of the aggrieved party or both.

This mechanism for redress has not been resorted to too often by aggrieved citizens principally because this procedure for redress is not known to many yet. In fact, there were not too many of such complaints lodged before the council up to the present. According to records, the most notable and the latest case so far heard was the case filed by former **Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo** against the late Philippine **Star** columnist **Max Soliven**, for the latter's series of commentaries allegedly derogatory to former ES Bert. But this happened many years ago. In fact,

Cont. on page 8

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Remove SC control over lawyers?

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... maintain justice in the courts..." (Amos 5:5, the Holy Bible).

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WHAT ATTY. KAPUNAN SHOULD DO: Maybe, lawyer Lorna Patajo Kapunan (a colleague whom I worked with at the defunct Aksiyon Demokratiko Party to push the second presidential run of deceased Sen. Raul S. Roco in 2004), should include in her explanation before the Supreme Court disclosures about judicial corruption earlier aired by Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada, and newspaper columnists Ramon Tulfo and Jarius Bondoc.

Why? Well, so the Supreme Court, which has ordered her to explain her statements in a TV interview about corruption in the judiciary, will also have the opportunity to assess whether the disclosures made by Estrada (specifically, about his claims about "hoodlums in robes" when he was president), Tulfo and Bondoc are true, and would merit sanctions against erring members of the judiciary, if any.

Kapunan should seize this opportunity to respond to calls by Chief Justice Lourdes Sereno herself for lawyers to come out in the open and expose the grafters and the corrupt in the judicial branch of government, instead of simply murmuring their complaints under bated breaths, and thereby trailblaze a cleansing process that would restore judges and justices to their noble role of maintaining justice in the courts.

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REMOVE SC CONTROL OVER LAWYERS: In line with this, here are earlier columns I wrote about corruption in the judiciary. On September 27, 2013, I said: "If we really want lawyers to 'spill the beans' on corrupt judges and justices, as Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno proposed during a gathering on 25 September 2013, the first step that should be done is to remove Supreme Court control over the legal profession, and allow lawyers to police themselves through an independent Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP).

"For as long as any judge will have the opportunity of becoming a Supreme Court justice at some point in his or her judicial career, and the Supreme Court shall continue having the power of life and death, literally and figuratively, over any lawyer, talk about who is corrupt will remain 'hushed-hushed', 'in bated breath', and through 'blind items', for reprisals against whistleblowing lawyers can come real fast and easy."

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SC SHOULD CALL WHISTLEBLOWERS, TOO: On October 11, 2013, I wrote: "Corruption in the judiciary is a very ticklish subject matter to tackle, simply because those supposed to be involved in it—the lawyers and the judges or justices and, many a time, even the prosecutors under the Department of Justice—simply would seldom talk and incriminate themselves. But, every now and then, there are some who are imbued with the courage to talk, and it is these people who should be called to spill the beans, so to speak.

"First, I am referring to Manila Mayor Joseph 'Erap' Estrada, whose short-lived presidency was pockmarked with accusations about what he referred to as 'hoodlums in robes'. Indeed, everyone in the whole Philippine archipelago knew what he meant—corrupt judges, justices and prosecutors, or the members of the prosecution arm of the executive branch of government and the men and women of judiciary who sell, to the highest bidder, their decisions.

"However, he was never given a chance to detail his accusations, after he was ousted in what is now known as the second EDSA People Power Revolution, which ouster was subsequently confirmed and validated

DOH Launches "Iwas Paputok" Campaign in Cordillera

BAGUIO CITY - Find an alternative way of making noise and merry-making instead of firecrackers/fireworks in celebrating Christmas and welcoming the new year.

This was the message of the Department of Health- Cordillera Regional Office (DOH-CAR) and partner agencies officials during the launching of this year's "Iwas Paputok" advocacy campaign in the Kapihan sa Baguio, Wednesday at the DOH regional office.

DOH-CAR Assistant Regional Director Dr. Amelita Pangilinan, said that the "Iwas Paputok" campaign theme, "Maging ligtas ngayong kapaskuhan, mga biktima ng kalamidad handugan" (Be safe this Christmas Season and help victims of calamities) aims to reiterate the health department's advocacy against the use of firecrackers/fireworks to ensure the safety and health of everyone, as well as to advocate the need for all sectors to work together in helping our fellow Filipinos that were devastated by the recent calamities that hit the country namely Typhoon Yolanda, Bohol Earthquake and the Mindanao Crisis.

DOH Health Emergency Management System head Elnoria Bugnosen, in the same media forum, reported that the DOH has recorded 58 cases of fireworks related injuries in the region during the surveillance period from Dec. 21, 2012 to January 4, 2013, an 11 percent increase compared to the same period in 2011-2012.

Out of the 58 cases, 33 belonged to the 6 to 12 years old age group. 19 of the injury cases were caused by "Piccolo". Abra registered the most cases with 19 followed by Baguio City with 15.

Meantime, Baguio City Mayor Mauricio Domogan, one of the panelists during the forum, bared his decision to ban selling any kind of firecrackers/fireworks in the city as he called for public support in ensuring the safety of everyone especially the children.

He also enjoined the local chief executives of nearby Benguet provinces – La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay - to support the "Iwas Paputok" campaign by banning the selling of firecrackers in their respective communities.

Other panelists during the forum were officials from the Police Regional Office – Cordillera, the Bureau of Fire and Protection, the Department of Education and Baguio City police, fire and city health offices./JDP/CCD and Glorievya Tamayo/PIA Intern

no less by the Supreme Court which found him to have abdicated his presidency. Maybe, if Chief Justice Sereno would really want to get to the bottom of corruption in the judiciary, Mayor Erap could be subpoenaed by the Court and compel him to tell the people what he really knew, or still knows, at present..."

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WHY LAWYERS ARE SILENT: On October 13, 2013, here was what I said: "I say once again: remove the lawyers from the control of the Supreme Court (or) from the control of its justices. I am sure that if Filipino lawyers are longer subject to the control and disciplinary powers of the Supreme Court and its justices, they would fall one over the other in exposing bribery and corruption in the judiciary, if, indeed, there is any. But as long as the Supreme Court can either suspend or remove lawyers, lawyers would remain silent, as they are very silent now..."

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REACTIONS? Please call me at 0917 984 24 68, 0918 574 0193, 0922 833 43 96. Email: melanilazomauriciojr@outlook.com, mmauriciojr11@gmail.com, and batasmauricio@yahoo.com.

ASK Meets

BAGUIO CITY – The City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO) started sprucing up the parks with ornamental plants for the Baguio Flower Festival or Panagbenga 2014, it was known during last week's Alay Sa Kalinisan (ASK) Inc. meeting at city hall.

Included here are Panagbenga, Centennial, Sunshine Parks while cleaning and planting is also being undertaken at People's, Veterans,' Igorot, Botanical, Diplomat, and Bayan Park at Aurora Hill. The bridle horse path at Wright Park shall also be improved.

Park lights and security cameras were requested it was reported, as with the installation of piped-in music in sync with the dancing fountains at Rose Garden, Burnham Park.

Decorative lights are expected along Burnham Lake and children's park.

Said improvements shall be used until Summer in Baguio 2014, it was known. The action was lauded by General Services Officer Romeo Concio and City Mayor's Executive Officer Paul Cambod, who presided over the meeting.

A Christmas village is also installed at the Burnham Park, Rose Garden, as part of this year's "Glitter in Gold" celebration; as formally opened Saturday, Dec. 7 with choral performances from the University of the Cordilleras; University of Baguio and Saint Louis University. Dubbed as "Carols and Roses," the lighting of the Rose Garden and Christmas village was graced by Tourism Committee chair Elmer Datuin. Joining him are Congressman Nicasio Aliping, Jr., Mayor Mauricio Domogan, Vice-Mayor Daniel Farinas with their respective messages.

The ASK meeting tackled clearing at the Baguio City Public Market and the auction of stalls to qualified applicants. Zoning shall be strictly followed, it was reiterated. Segregation of Solid Waste was reminded to businesspeople in the market.

The anti-graffiti task force also mentioned that a mural may soon be painted over the walls along Bokawkan and Quirino Highway, which was previously covered with unsightly symbols and bold writings.

For traffic matters, commitment was given by media representatives to air road safety warnings and reminders to motorists and pedestrians in their respective programs.

Cleaning at river tributaries Sagudin, Bued, Ambalanga, is ongoing according to Salaknib ti Waig program head Engr. Moises Lozano; with active participants from the barangays, academe and civic groups.

Apprehension of smoke-belchers also goes on in the city roads, Engr. Lozano said, as 62% of the gas-fed and 58% of those diesel consuming vehicles caught recently passed the smoke-belching test.

Anti-peddling apprehension, and clearing of obstacles are also being done along the central business district, it was known. Other reports; as to health and forestry matters are being prepared for the next ASK meeting. / juliefianza

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

ERIC SIBAYAN & RAQUEL CABRAL

Applicants

Case No:94-CAR-408

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 December 18, 2013 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paoal, 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 28th day of Nov. 2013.

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

TESDA-CAR Regional Skills Competition set to Open Dec. 9

BAGUIO CITY - The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is set to open the 2013 Cordillera Regional Skills Competition on Monday, December 9, at the Baguio City Schools of Arts and Trades (BCSAT) along Upper Session Road, Baguio.

TESDA Cordillera OIC Regional Director Genaro Ronald Ibay disclosed that the regional skills competition is a traditional year-ender event of TESDA which generally aims to showcase the talents and competencies of the region's blue-collar workers and to promote the development of quality technical-vocational (Tech-Voc) skills, as well as to foster camaraderie, sportsmanship and good work attitude among skilled workers.

"Through the competition we also aims to provide due recognition to the role of our country's skilled workforce in national development", Ibay added.

TESDA also hopes to develop a pool of world class workers whose skills help enhance both employability and productivity; develop greater inter-

est among the youth in the opportunities offered by blue collar jobs; to stimulate greater involvement of the private sector in the promotion of tech-voc education and skills training; and to encourage public and private technical-vocational institutions to update their training facilities and industry linkages.

This 19th Regional Skills Competition bears the theme: "Skilled Cordillerans: World Class Workers."

There will be 10 tech-voc fields involved. For Restaurant Services and commercial cooking venue will be at the BCSAT; for Automotive services and welding it will be conducted at the TESDA Regional Training Center here along Loakan Road; for Wheel Alignment and Balancing, it will be here at the Toyota in Bokawkan Road; for IT (Information Technology) Networking, IT Software Solutions and web designs it will be at Informatics Baguio along Bonifacio street; while for Cabinet Making and Joinery it will be held at the TESDA Provincial Office in Lagawe, Ifugao.

The competitions are open to the public and will run until December 12, where the closing and awarding program will be held at nine in the morning at the BCSAT.

The winners of the competition will represent the region in the Philippine National Skills Competition next year where the national winners will

then represent the country in the ASEAN and International Skills competitions./JDP/CCD-PIA CAR

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

DAVID JOSEPH L. BOGNADON

Applicants

Case No:2011-CAR-870

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 freight on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - LOURDES DOMINICAN and Vice Versa with the use of One (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on December 18, 2013 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 28th day of Nov 2013.

(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

RIZALINO TACIO, JR.

Applicants

Case No:2002-BC-432

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 freight on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - ALAPANG and Vice Versa with the use of One (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on December 18, 2013 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 28th day of Nov 2013.

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

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

JOSEPH CUILAN

Applicants

Case No:2001-01-498

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 freight on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - LOAKAN and Vice Versa with the use of One (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on December 18, 2013 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 28th day of Nov 2013.

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

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

JOSEPH CUILAN

Applicants

Case No:89-CAR-008

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 freight on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - LOAKAN and Vice Versa with the use of One (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on December 18, 2013 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 28th day of Nov 2013.

(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

LEON BUCLOG

Applicants

Case No:99-01-481

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 freight on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - MINES VIEW and Vice Versa with the use of One (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on December 18, 2013 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 2nd day of Dec 2013.

(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

WILSON E. TAQUIO

Applicants

Case No:2003-CAR-1137

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 freight on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - TOPDAK, PASDONG ATOK and Vice Versa with the use of One (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on December 18, 2013 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 27th day of Nov 2013.

(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

WILSON E. TAQUIO

Applicants

Case No:2012-CAR-1087

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 freight on the Line: BAGUIO CITY - SAYANGAN ATOK and Vice Versa with the use of One (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on December 18, 2013 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 23rd day of Oct 2013.

(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

LUNINGNING PONGGOS

Applicants

Case No:2005-BENG-434

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 freight on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - QUEZON HILL and Vice Versa with the use of One (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on December 18, 2013 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 28th day of Nov 2013.

(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

FREDA ALICAY - Petitioner -Grantee

THELMA B. COLAS - Petitioner-in-lieu

Applicants

Case No:2008-CAR-114

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is a petition for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freight 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 December 18, 2013 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 28th day of Nov 2013.

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

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT, BRANCH 9
(FAMILY COURT
FOR BENGUET)
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
La Trinidad,
Benguet

IN RE: PETITION
FOR ADOPTION OF
SANDRA
MENDOZA BY
SPOUSES GIBSON
JAMES AND JULIA
PINAS WITH
CHANGE OF NAME
FROM SANDRA
MENDOZA TO
CHEYENNEJEAN
BAGYAN PINAS,
SPS GIBSON JAMES
AND JULIA PINAS,

Petitioners,

SPECIAL PRO-
CEEDINGS
CASE NO. 13-A-
1014

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL
REGISTRAR OF
BAGUIOCITY,

Respondent.

X———X

ORDER

Petitioners husband and wife, through counsel, filed this verified petition for Adoption praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, the subject of adoption, SANDRA MENDOZA be declared to be free from all legal obligations of obedience and maintenance with respect to her biological mother and that she be declared for all legal intents and purposes as the adopted child of Spouses Gibson James and Julia Pinas and will be known as CHEYENNEJEAN BAGYAN PINAS. She will acquire the reciprocal rights and obligations arising from parent-child relationship and direct the Local Civil Registrar of Baguio City to effect said adoption in her

Certificate of Live Birth.

As requested, the Social Worker of the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office of La Trinidad, Benguet is directed to conduct a Child and Home Study Report and said report should be submitted to the Court before the initial hearing of the petition set on March 5, 2014 at (:00 o'clock in the morning.

WHEREFORE, petitioners are directed to meet with the Social Worker of the MSWDO, La Trinidad, Benguet for the conduct of the Child and Home Study who is likewise directed to submit her/his report, incorporating therein her/his recommendation and submit the same to the court, furnishing a copy thereof to the trial prosecutor deputized to represent the State.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners in the Junction, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made not later than December 8, 2013. All persons interested may come to Court and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

Furnish copies hereof together with a copy of the petition and its annexes to the Office of the Solicitor General; the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet; the City Civil Registrar of Baguio City; the Social Worker of the MSWDO, La Trinidad, Benguet; the Junction; the petitioners and counsel.

SO ORDERED.

This 3rd day of
December 2013 at La
Trinidad, Benguet.

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

Publication Dates:
December 7, 14 and
21, 2013

Monitoring Team from the LZBAA Formed

BAGUIO CITY - Mayor Mauricio Domogan created a monitoring team from the Local Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals (LZBAA) through Administrative Order No. 213.

In the order, Section 33 of Ordinance Number 051, series of 2001 provides for the functions and responsibilities of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals, as follows: act on applications such as variance, exceptions, non-conforming uses, and complaints and opposition to applications; and act on appeals on grant or denial of Locational Clearance by the Zoning Officer.

The said monitoring team is composed of the LZBAA members; Engr. Leo Bernardes of the City Engineer's Office, Arch. Johnny Degay of the City Buildings and Architecture Office, Engr. Evelyn Cayat of the City Planning and Development Office, and Architects Joseph Alabanza and Elvis Palicdon from the non-government organization.

"There are instances where conditions are set in the decisions of the Board granting exceptions to proposed projects, thus, there is a need to create a monitoring team from the LZBAA to conduct inspections and ensure compliance to these conditions," said the mayor./JhoArranz

OSYs Undertake Practical Skills Dev't. Program

BAGUIO CITY - Sixty out-of-school youths (OSYs) were given the chance to undergo the practical skills development program on cellphone repair.

This is a program of the city government here spearheaded by the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) headed by CSWD Officer Betty Fangasan.

The said training was conducted last October 1-16 for the first batch and November 6-22 for the second batch where the students underwent a 40 hours training for 12 days on cellphone repair.

According to Fangasan, the city government in partnership with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) also provided repair kits to the 60 students containing one tester and soldering iron, one roll of lead wire and one tube of flux. This is would be of great help to the students for their livelihood in the future.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan stressed that the purpose of the program is to give opportunity to the OSYs to have livelihood of their own in

order to improve their lives and alleviate poverty.

He advised the students to have faith in Our Creator and never lose hope because of the difficulty of life, and to get rid from vices and bad influences.

"Considering that you already have a lucrative profession, alagaan ninyo ang natutunan ninyong skills at huwag ninyong lolokohin ang mga kliyente ninyo. Huwag ninyong ipunta sa masamang bisyo ang kita ninyo," the mayor said.

Mayor Domogan, together with Fangasan, Engr. Modesto Agyao of PEZA and trainers Harris Palomique and Jason Mamaril handed the certificates of completion to the students during the simple graduation rites last November 26 at the Baguio City Hall Multi-Purpose Hall./JhoArranz

Police Reiterates Advice to Drivers to be Always in Good Shape When Driving

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - The Cordillera Police Regional Office reiterates its reminder to drivers to be always in proper shape and their vehicles in good condition before travelling to avoid accidents in the highways.

PRO-Cor Deputy Regional Director for Operations PSSupt. Ulysses Abellera said that drivers particularly of public utility vehicles should always be fit and healthy to drive especially when conveying passengers.

Abellera stressed that drivers should have enough rest and sleep, should always be alert and always make sure that they are capable of long driving especially with the terrain in the Cordillera to avoid accidents like what occurred along Halsema Highway in Atok, Benguet last week-end.

Last November 30, a white passenger van from Buguias, Benguet bound for Baguio City fell off a 50-meter ravine at Calasipan, Atok resulting to the death of two passengers including Mountain Province State Polytechnic College President Dr. Eufemia Lamen who died while being operated at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center in Baguio City on Sunday.

Another passenger identified as Bernabe Lablabong was pronounced dead on arrival at the Atok District Hospital while 14 more others were rushed to the Atok District Hospital and at Pines City Doctors Hospital and BGHMC in Baguio City for further treatment.

Atok Police Chief, PInsp. Cleff Vencio bared based on their initial findings, the driver identified as Jimmy Bangbanga dozed causing the van to fall into the ravine. Bangbanga is still recuperating at the BGHMC and may face several charges.

Survivors of the tragic accident were PO3 Sabyat Rolex, 40; Ngosi Tino, 45; Danilo Melvin, 18; Victoria Licwasen, 33; Bernaditte Dinisia, 32; Elena Salipen, 65; Jake Bantasan, 29; Tito Ingosan, 57; Rachel Bacte, 16; Ben Bayas, 17; Marietta Pagnas, 51; Dona Jane, 1 year and 2 months and Charlene Calabson.

In June this year, 13 people were killed and several were injured when a Ford Fiera jeepney they were riding fell off an 80-meter ravine in Bayoyo, Buguias, Benguet. /JDP/RMC & Kate Yodong/ UB -PIA CAR

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City to Clamp...

from page 1

mous or non-existent.

Fangasan said all forms of solicitation, including those intended as support to victims of Typhoon Yolanda and other calamities, will have to be covered by a permit to be issued by the city mayor.

For caroling activities this yuletide, Fangasan said the permit is issued by the punong barangay of the community where the driver is to be conducted. If it covers more than one barangay, the city mayor issues the permit.

"The number of individuals, organizations and corporations in the city who seek donations and voluntary contributions have increased over the past years, thereby (necessitating their regulation) to obviate illegal fund drives and to protect the general public," the draft of the executive order pointed out.

Fangasan added that issuances of laws and administrative orders regarding solicitations sometimes create confusion and conflict at the regional and national level, prompting the need for the city to issue guidelines.

Pending the issuance of the executive order, all individuals and groups who are into soliciting donations for Typhoon Yolanda victims will be enjoined to submit a detailed report on the cash and goods they have collected and the identities of the calamity victims or beneficiaries of these.

"We are also asking them to apply for permits through our office so that their project can be monitored and their legitimacy and reputation upheld and protected," Fangasan said.

The permit requirement was agreed upon during a meeting with mayor Domogan and city councilor Peter Fianza, who was earlier designated as acting chair of the city relief operations for the typhoon victims.

The draft guidelines limit the administrative expense from the proceeds to 15 percent of the total gross income, with the remaining 85 percent to go to the project to be undertaken by groups. In case the fund-raising activity is solely through voluntary contributions, the administrative expenses shall not be more than 10 percent of the total collection.

That provision, Fangasan stressed, protects the charitable or civic purpose of a fun-raiser, given complaints from would-be beneficiaries of concerts and fun-runs that they actually received nothing or only a pittance of the collections as the organizers had jacked up administrative expenses, sometimes to the point of declaring loss.

The draft also enjoins media outlets to air or publish only projects which are already covered by permits issued by the mayor and to ask the organizers to submit, also for publication or announcement, a detailed report on the collections and disbursements of the fund drive they undertook. The report will include donors and their corresponding contributions, together with the identities and personal circumstances of the beneficiaries and the contributions they received.

Some previous fun-runs and concerts were announced for the benefit of patients when these re launched but nothing was

heard from the organizers on how much was collected and how much and to whom the proceeds were distributed after the race or the show.

The mayor's permit, Fangasan said, may also be the basis for police officers and volunteer communication and support groups to respond to requests for them to assist in the conduct of legitimate fund-drives-for-a-cause.

Meanwhile, a staff member of the city mayor's office also clarified that mayor Domogan has not issued any permit for any solicitation activity pending the issuance of the guidelines.

Ryan Mangusan, the mayor's personal secretary, announced this in the wake of reports reaching the office that some solicitors are out seeking contributions using fake permits./Ramon Dacawi.

Advocacy Mindanow...

from page 4

incumbent PPC chair **Tony La Vina** said the council had been inactive for sometime and needs to re-charge batteries now with the Enrile complaint filed before it.

Provincial or regional press councils may also be organized by the local press groups to address their own local problems. I was informed that the press council that is most active and functioning today is the press council in **Cebu City**. I touched base with the council through **Ms. Cherrie Lim** when I was in Cebu last week. We need to replicate this mechanism nationwide. For the moment, the Philippine Press Council has been moribund and it got out of long slumber only with this recent complaint filed before it by a senator of the Republic.

This will now bring me to some other important points I wish to stress. If the press council is active and functioning and worthy of the public's trust, there is in fact no more need for Congress to pass the controversial "right to reply bill" that media is opposing. I understand the "right to information" bill that media is pushing is still pending in Congress and is subject to a "quid pro quo" deal where the last time I checked, Congress seemed to push for an "exchange deal" for the latter's baby, the Right to Reply bill. Come to think of it, there is no more need for this "tit for tat" arrangement. The intentment of the "right to reply" law is rendered moot by this press council mechanism. Moreover, by availing of the press council grievance machinery, we all avoid and prevent long, tedious, expensive and acrimonious law suits and cases between the press and litigants seeking redress.

We always also hear the advocacy of de-criminalizing libel. This press council mechanism, if normally availed of by those who have complaints against newspapers, will bring about this desired end — even before the law is amended. Ultimately, this will all bring us a more responsible, a much livelier and freer press — a necessary bulwark of our democracy. (Author is a lawyer and the chairman/president of the Philippine Press Institute, a national organization of Philippine newspapers and publications. He also sits in the Philippine Press Council representing Mindanao.) **ADVOCACY MINDANOW FOUNDATION, INC. (AMFI)**

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Baguio City's...

from page 10

parading uniquely designed lighted lanterns and colorful costumes.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan, in his message, said he was happy for the big crowd who came to share with them the occasion. He also expressed hope that as many Filipinos in the Visayas are still suffering from the onslaught of typhoon Yolanda, the true spirit of Christmas, the way Jesus Christ had shared for the people should be observed. For this challenging time, a true season for loving and sharing is what most people need, he said.

He affirmed that the city government has toned down the expenditures and cancelled the local government's annual Christmas party so that they can donate fund assistance for typhoon Yolanda victims.

For the month-long Christmas in Baguio, scheduled activities include: weekly fireworks treat, the University of the Philippines "Pasiklaban and Lantern Parade and first international Folklore Festival on December 8; BCNHS Dancing and Singing Christmas Tree on December 15 at Malcolm Square; Golden Christmas Concert that will feature the Phil Harmonic Orchestra and the Choirs of the World at the Baguio Convention Center on Dec. 28; the Search for the Lucky Christmas Day Baby, among others.

The X'Mas Village of the Baguio Country Club is an added attraction this Christmas season. Many activities are also scheduled inside Camp John Hay including a X'mas Bazaar and food festival at the Bell Amphitheater./JDP/CCD and Roger Federico/PIA CAR

Domogan...

from page 10

related injuries last year while Abra recorded 17% increase, Benguet with 167% increase, Ifugao with 50% increase, Apayao with 100% increase, Mountain Province with 25% increase and Kalinga with 40% decrease.

Picollo remains the number one cause of injury in the Cordillera.

Also in the report, there has been a gradual decrease of fireworks related injuries in the city with 28 in 2008, 23 in 2009, 24 in 2010, 13 in 2011 and a slight increase in 2012 with 15 noted injuries.

The DOH has launched the "Aksyon: Paputok Injury Reduction" (APIR) towards a safe holiday season.

The call is also supported by the Police Regional Office-Cordillera and the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO), the Bureau of Fire (BFP) and the Department of Education (Dep-Ed).

Pro-Cor PSSupt. Ulysses Abellera made calls to the community to discourage relatives in bringing-in fireworks in the city.

Abellera said, "the best way to minimize injuries is not to use firecrackers."

"We are also appealing to gun owners and our policemen not to fire their guns indiscriminately not only during the yuletide season but through-out the year," he stressed.

Dr. Donna Tuvera of the City Health Services Office (CHSO) added the most vulnerable sector of fire-

works-related injuries are children ages 11 years old and below.

"Sadly, fireworks related victims are passive users, she said.

In the event that a person gets hurt due to firecrackers, wash the wound immediately with clean water and mild soap and bring the patient to the nearest health center or hospital for appropriate treatment.

Meantime, Domogan said, "the city government should now hasten the passage of a city ordinance which will totally ban fireworks in the city."

"We should follow the footsteps of Davao City which totally eradicated the use of fireworks," he said.

The mayor said there are safer ways to make noise during the new year like honking car horns.

"This way, we can all enjoy the Christmas and New Year with our families safely and happily," he said.

Recently, Councilors Leandro and Karminn Cheryl Dinney Yangot proposed an ordinance making it unlawful to manufacture, sell, distribute, possess and use types of firecrackers, pyrotechnic devices and similar devices within the jurisdiction of the city which is seen to finally resolve the issue on pyrotechnics use in the city./paul rillorta

DA...

from page 9

fifth year, Arban also discloses that aside from the project's physical accomplishments such as agricultural infrastructure — farm to market roads, foot paths and irrigation support, they are now looking into the actual benefits to the people in the various CHARMP project areas

He also reported that they are now also working into climate change resiliency of Cordillera's highland agriculture, which involves incorporating climate change resilient agricultural infrastructure.

For the three-day event, policy sessions that were conducted include indigenous natural resource management practices; Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation; Rural Livelihood/Enterprise Options; and CHARMP2 program models for scaling-up.

There were also parallel activities such as: Kiddies' Learning Session on Food Preparation and Nutrition, Entrepreneurship Farmers' contest and Photo and Photocaptioning Contest, while the third day of the activity was focused on the anniversary of the CHARM2 project./JDP/CCD-PIA CAR

Republic of the
Philippines
**REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT, BRANCH
9
(FAMILY COURT
FOR BENGUET)**
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
La Trinidad,
Benguet

IN THE MATTER
OF THE PETITION
FOR THE
ADOPTION OF THE
MINOR CHILDREN
ANTHONY
THEODORE
APOLONIO SEBIO,
AIRAJAYCEE
PAGADUAN
RIMANDO AND
COLLEN REY
MONTINO
SANAGEN TO
COLLEN REY
APOLONIO
SERBIO,

SPOUSES ANGELO
B. SERBIO Sr. and
BERNARDETH
A. SERBIO,

Petitioners,

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL
REGISTRAR OF LA
TRINIDAD,
BENGUET AND
BUGUIAS,
BENGUET AND THE
NATIONAL
STATISTICS OF-
FICE,

Respondents.

X———X

SPECIAL PRO-
CEEDINGS
CASE NO. 13-A-
1011

ORDER

Petitioners,
through counsel filed
this verified petition
for Adoption praying
that after due notice,
publication and hear-
ing, the court grants
this petition and issue
a Decree of Adoption
declaring: COLLEN
REY SANAGEN y
MONTINO, AIRA
JAYCEE RIMANDO y
PAGADUAN AND AN-
THONY THEODORE
SEBIO y APOLONIO
as their children and

change of name of
COLLEN REY
SANAGEN y
MONTINO to
COLLEN REY
APOLONIO SEBIO
and AIRA JAYCEE
RIMANDO y
PAGADUAN to AIRA
JAYCEE APOLONIO
SEBIO and direct the
Local Civil Registrar
of La Trinidad,
Benguet and
Buguias, Benguet to
effect said adoption
in their respective
birth certificate.

Considering that
a Child and Home
Study Report of a So-
cial Worker is an es-
sential requisite in
adoption cases, said
report should be sub-
mitted to the Court
before the initial
hearing on February
19, 2014 at 9: 00
o'clock in the morn-
ing.

WHEREFORE ,
the Court Social
Worker of this Court
is directed to Conduct
a Home and Child
Study Report in this
case, incorporating
therein her recom-
mendation and to
submit the same to
the Court, furnishing
a copy thereof to the
trial prosecutor depu-
tized to represent the
State.

The petitioners
are directed to meet
with the said Court
Social Worker, for
purposes of the Home
and Child Study Re-
ports.

Let this Order be
published at the ex-
pense of the petiti-
oners in The Junction
Newspaper, a newspa-
per of general circu-
lation in Baguio City
and Benguet Prov-
ince, once a week for
three (3) consecutive
weeks, the first pub-
lication to be made
not later than No-
vember 24, 2013. All
persons interested
may come to Court
and show cause, if
any why the petition
should not be
granted.

Furnish copies
hereof together with
a copy of the petition
and its annexes to the
Office of the Solic-
itor General; the Pro-
vincial Prosecutor of
Benguet, the Local
Civil Registrars of La
Trinidad, Benguet

and Buguias,
Benguet; The Junc-
tion Newspaper; the
petitioners and coun-
sel.

SO ORDERED.

This 19th day of
November 2013 at La
Trinidad, Benguet.

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

Publication dates:
Nov. 23, 30 and Dec. 7,
2013

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT, BRANCH
64
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION

Abatan, Buguias,
Benguet

IN THE MATTER
FOR THE CORREC-
TION
OF THE ENTRIES
IN THE CERTIFI-
CATE OF
LIVE BIRTH OF
PURITA QUIRINO
PALASI
(formerly PURITA
TUDLONG
QUIRINO)
AS TO HER YEAR
OF BIRTH FROM
"1964" to "1966",

PURITA QUIRINO-
PALASI,

SPECIAL PRO-
CEEDINGS
CASE NO. 13-C-227

Petitioner,

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL
REGISTRAR OF
MANKAYAN,
BENGUET, AND
THE NATIONAL
STATISTICS
OFFICE (NSOO,

Respondents.

X———X

ORDER

Petitioner Purita
Quirino- Palasi ,
through counsel filed
the instant verified
Petition, praying that
after due notice and

hearing, her date of
birth, indicated in her
Certificate of Live
Birth as "June 7,
1964", be corrected to
"June 7, 1966", her
true and correct date
of birth. Copies of her
Certificates of Live
Birth, issued by the
respondent Offices,
are attached to the
Petition as Annexes
"B" and "c".

WHEREFORE,
finding the petition to
be sufficient in form
and substance, initial
hearing is hereby set
on January 28, 2014 at
9:00 o'clock in the
morning. All persons
interested may appear
and show cause, if
any, why this petition
should not be granted.

Let this Order be
published at the ex-
pense of the petitioner
in the THE JUNC-
TION, a newspaper of
general circulation in
Baguio City and
Benguet Province,
once a week, for three
(3) consecutive weeks.
The first publication
to be made not later
than December 8,
2013

SO ORDERED.

Abatan, Buguias,
Benguet,
Philippines, this 4th
day of December
2013.

By: (SGD) AGAPITO
K. LAOANGAN, JR.
Presiding Judge

Copy furnished:
1. Petitioner- Purita
Q. Palasi - Cabiten,
Mankayan, benguet
2. Atty Rafael R.
Palasi (Counsek for
petitioner) - Room
D4, Pulkera Build-
ing, Abatan, Buguias,
Benguet
3. Respondent- Local
Civil Registrar's
Office - Mankayan,
Benguet
4. Provincial
Prosecutor's Office ,
Justice Hill, La
Trinidad, Benguet
5. Office of the
Solicitor General -
#134 Amorsolo St.,
Legaspi Village,
Makati City
6. national Statistics
Office- Sta. mesa
Manila
7. The Publisher

Publication Dates:
December 7, 14 and
21, 2013

AIDS Society of the Phl engages Baguio Poets in HIV/AIDS Advocacy Campaign

BAGUIO CITY - The AIDS Society of the Philippines is adopting another strategy in its advocacy against HIV- AIDS- using poetry engaging the city's poetry enthusiasts in a poetry slam at the Mt. Cloud Bookshop along Casa Vallejo, Session Road in this city.

The Poetry Slam in partnership with Mt. Cloud and the Baguio Writers Group, engaged 12 young adult poets in a three-round poetry contests last week.

The first round was poetry reading of pre-selected poems; the second round involved originally composed poems of the participants about the HIV-AIDS advocacy campaign of "Zero New HIV infections, Zero Discrimination, Zero AIDS-related deaths" while the last round was an impromptu poem writing based on the question, "How would you react (what you would do or say) if somebody you know tell you that he/she has an HIV/AIDS".

AIDS Society of the Philippines Board of Trustees Secretary Diana Mendoza disclosed that with poetry as one of group's advocacy medium, they aim to inform people on ways how to prevent acquiring such kind of viral disease that has no vaccine yet.

She explained that HIV is the virus while AIDS is the disease state wherein a person's immune system weakens and no longer has defenses against the HIV virus. HIV she said can be acquired from unprotected sexual intercourse, unsafe blood transfusion, mother to child transmission and during illegal drug use where there is sharing of needles.

As HIV/AIDS in the country is now in an alarming situation with majority of those infected aged 15 to 24 years old, mostly students and young professionals, the AIDS Society of the Philippines is intensifying its effort of conducting information, education and communication drive among various stakeholders and communities including schools offices and other institutions. It is also strengthening capacity-building, forging partnership, membership building and resource mobilization for HIV/AIDS advocacy./JDPCCD/Roger Federico – PIA Intern

DA Conducts Knowledge and Learning Market for CHAMP 2 Stakeholders

BAGUIO CITY - The Department of Agriculture is conducting a three-day Knowledge and Learning Market (KLM) for its project partners, community stakeholders and development partners in the Cordillera Highland Agriculture Resource Management Project (CHARMP2) in the region at the Crown Legacy Hotel in this city.

The KLM set on December 4-6 adopts the theme, "The I of the Cordillera, Enhancing the Region's inherent and continuing pursuit of excellence", to highlight CHARMP2 Project Interventions in developing Cordillera IP (Indigenous People) communities, their re-

sources and capabilities, and in integrating them further as active partners in community development and nation building.

Through the KLM, the IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), DA's partner for the CHARMP project and other stakeholders and implementers, share lessons learned, best practices and innovations in highland agricultural and natural resource management and the development of the region's IP communities.

YOUNG
Wang, IFAD Country Program Man-

ager for the Philippines, in his keynote message, outlined the importance of knowledge as an intervention tool for development.

For the KLM, Wang also expressed their willingness to share and learn thru the activity's knowledge, experience and best practices sharing.

According to IFAD Country Program Officer Yolando Arban, the CHARMP2 is a seven year highland agricultural development project which started in 2009 and involves a US\$27 million grant from IFAD.

Now on its

Cont. on page 8



ISSUES ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS - City Budget Officer Atty. Leticia Clemente stresses a point on loss and damages and what action shifts and options can be done to prevent climate change. Executive and legislative officials headed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan attended the Asian Cities Adapt (ACA) Return Conference and Project Turnover. Mayor Domogan also shared the experiences he learned when he attended the World Climate Change Summit held in Nantes, France last Month./By Bong Cayabyab

Baguio City's Golden Christmas 2013 Opens

BAGUIO CITY - Colourful lights, glittering Christmas decors, fireworks and heart warming carols welcomed thousands of city folks and visitors on Sunday as the city government formally launched Christmas in Baguio 2013.

For this year's yuletide celebration,

it adopts the theme, "Let Baguio glitter in gold this Christmas season".

Highlighting the festivity was the lighting of Baguio City's giant Christmas tree atop Session Road Rutonda followed by a simultaneous fireworks display in three areas.

Performers from the Saint Louis University, University of Baguio, University of the Cordilleras, Baguio City National High School Special Program in the Arts and the Philippine Military Academy Marching Band provided entertainment.

Making the Dec. 1 affair more merry was the annual lantern parade of the Saint Louis University which was participated by more than 10,000 students, faculty member and officials its different colleges, high school and elementary campuses

Cont. on page 8

Domogan: Make Noise Legally to Welcome New Year

BAGUIO CITY - Mayor Mauricio Domogan is standing his ground on the ban of the sale and use of fireworks in this mountain resort and suggests alternative ways in merry making.

During the Kapihan held at the Department of Health-Center for Health Development-Cordillera December 4, Domogan said, "firecracker vendors have already

been given fair warning two years ago on the ban of fireworks in the city."

"We have given them sufficient time and information that we would no longer allow the sale and even the use of fireworks in Baguio except on occasions where it is controlled or centralized, we told them to look for other business except the sale of pyrotechnics," he said.

The move to ban all kinds of

fireworks received applause from the Department of Health (DOH) which has been discouraging the use of fireworks due to its dangerous nature.

"This is a positive move from the city government to once and for all stop the sale and use of fireworks and we thank the mayor for his decision," DOH-HEMS Coordinator Elnoria Bugnosen said.

According to

statistics from the DOH, Baguio City recorded a 15% increase in fireworks

Cont. on page 8



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