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THE JUNCTION

WEEKEND

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MABUHAYANG PILIPINO!!! BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Lawmaker Urges Comelec to Reverse Ruling on Candidate Airtime Restriction; Pushes for Democratization Rather than Restriction

"Now that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) has a quorum, it can now reverse the ruling on limiting advertising time to 120 minutes for TV and 180 minutes for radio."

This was the statement of Senator Alan Cayetano today as President Benigno Aquino III announced the appointment of former Ambassador Macabangkit Lanto and Atty. Bernadette Sardillo as the new Comelec commissioners to replace former Commissioners Rene Sarmiento and Armando Veloso who both retired last February 2.

The Senator had long been urging the Comelec to reconsider its ruling on the time limit for candidate advertisements, saying that the agency should democratize campaigning rather than put limits to it.

ADLIMITSAREANTI-POOR

The Senator said that limiting the advertising airtime, particularly for radio, deprives the **Cont. on page 8**

People of the Philippines: YOUR 20 Million Pesos was spent to beautify the Rose Garden in Burnham Park!!! By Cong. Vergara & TIEZA, Can somebody just explain to me how all these is 20 MILLION PESOS?!!



Photos and caption courtesy of Grace Bando at Facebook.

Malapit na ang eleksyon, huwag paloloko sa mga matatamis na salita at pangako ng mga pol-politiko!!!

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

Our peaceful claim on Sabah must be based on legal and political frameworks

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



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KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Why Philippine presidents ignored Sabah claim

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



City Keeps Eye on New Waste Tech

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan Wednesday during the Weekly Ugnayan presser said the city is still open for better alternative waste solutions offered by foreign companies here.

Domogan said, 'the city government could entertain proposals for other waste to energy technologies being offered if it can address the tons of waste produced in the city daily.'

'We are not closing our doors for new technologies that will be effective for the city's needs,' he said.

A foreign proponent has offered the city a 'waste to energy' technology and is inviting technical personnel to visit their waste to energy plants in Germany and Great Britain.

The mayor said he is suggesting a site visit by the visit technical team by April and assess if the technology will work for the city.

Meanwhile, the city government is said to review the contract it has entered with the Urdaneta Engineered Sanitary Landfill.

Domogan said, 'the city is seeking to ask the Urdaneta ESL for possibly lowering the tipping fee it is imposing for the dumping of waste at their facility.'

'We will assess if we will save more if we revert to bringing our waste to Capaz ESL or continue with Urdaneta ESL whichever is lower', he said.

Apart from this, the city is banking on the cooperation of the city constituents in segregating their refuse for better waste management./paul rillorta

Panagbenga 2013

Financial Audit Pushed

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan supports the city council's move for the audit of fund-raising activities of Panagbenga 2013. The financial statement should make public all fund-raising components of the just-concluded Baguio Flower Festival including the Session Road in Bloom, Market Encounter/Baguio Blooms and the like, the mayor said.

The audit brings about transparency for private and corporate sponsors, Congressman Bernardo Vergara who contributed from his own funds, and city-budget fund for Panagbenga's prizes and other expenses, the mayor said.

In an earlier letter, Councilor Elmer Datuin as Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Special Events, Parks and Play grounds, recommended the submission of Panagbenga audited reports for transparency and accountability, thus a detailed income listing of stall rentals, sponsorship revenues, donations and other and expenses for the operation.

A thorough study by the committee shall be done, and later the decision "whether or not the City Government of Baguio should still continue to provide financial assistance amounting to at least 5 million (pesos) a year to the operation of Panagbenga," the letter read.

"The committee shall also study the possibility of maximizing the income derived from the operation of the above income-generating activities as substitute funding...in lieu of the financial assistance by the city government for the benefit of the private sector partner..." for future Panagbenga festivals, the committee letter further stated.

Panagbenga 2013 executive officer hotelier Anthony de Leon has submitted comparative audited financial statements of Panagbenga 2010, 2011 and 2012. "The annual income tax return has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code...pertinent tax regulations and other issuances of the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Internal Revenue," he said in a statement.

"The Baguio Flower Festival Foundation has filed all applicable tax returns, reports and statements required to be filed under Philippine tax laws for the reporting period, except those contested in good faith," de Leon further stated.

A private Certified Public Accountant, Salvador Pablo has done all the pertinent documents, it was known.

The audit shall also validate the dreams of the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation, Inc. officers if Panagbenga festival could achieve financial independence in the near future, as was expressed in an earlier press conference./juliegfianza

City Satisfies PMS Inquiry on Heritage Lot

BAGUIO CITY – the city government successfully defended its right to continuously possess a piece of prime lot previously owned by the national government here.

The lot covering 52,402 square meters and covers a chunk of the Dominican Heritage Hill and Nature Park is the subject of an inquiry by the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) which previously owned the property.

Accordingly, the lot was owned by the Ministry of Human Settlements (MHS) until it was abolished in December 12, 1986 and replaced by the Office of the Development Management (ODM) which was later on merged into the PMS.

All properties which included the Dominican lot was transferred to the PMS, however it remained idle for years.

The PMS transferred the rights of the property to the City Government of Baguio and the Sandiganbayan Cont. on page 8

Leave Stones to Their Natural Color, Architect Pleads

Do not alter nature - not even the colors it had assigned to pebbles, stones and rocks.

"Let the stones' natural colors be," advised former city architect Joseph Alabanza. He's the same aging Baguio boy and former presidential assistant who also frowns each time a high-rise building is put up to further obliterate the city's skyline.

The advice may well be for politicians of any color, some of whom had their names painted white on river stones and rocks, and on Baguio's dwindling limestone formations, obviously to enhance voters' recall of their names in the elections.

To some, this act of vandalism boomeranged, as some voters retaliated by omitting such names of wannabes in their ballots.

Alabanza's call for now, however, is directed to for well-meaning barangay leaders and residents who turn to stones which they line up on street sides and jurisdictional boundaries to enrich the pattern, harmony and tranquility of their community's gardens, projects and borders.

"I hope we stop changing the stones' natural colors," Alabanza said Wednesday noon. He noted the practice of painting them is contrived, an affront to authenticity.

The best thing is to scrub them clean of moss, soot and dirt so their original hues would emerge, he stressed.

That's why, he said, the stone base of the facades of the city hall and the Baguio City National High School were spared of paint brush, to bring to the fore the beauty and unique color and grains of Baguio stone.

"Maymayat no baybay-an tayo ti natural nga kolor to bato," he appealed.

The architect then pointed to a tree, noting that painting stones is like painting its green leaves and brown trunk to make it look artificial.

Only the other week, city officials issued a public reminder on adherence to a 23-year old ordinance prohibiting the nailing, bolting and wiring of signs on trees.

The reminder came in the wake of findings by a team from the city council staff that even trees around Burnham Park, the city's main recreation area, were not spared of signs.

The regulatory ordinance authored by then councilor and now vice-mayor Daniel Farinas, was amended last year, through councilor Erdolfo Balajadia who upped the penalties for violations from five to 20 days imprisonment or P200 to P800 fine to P30 days imprisonment and or P5,000 fine./Ramon Dacawi.

Massive Graffiti Clean-up Drive Commended

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan last week has approved the commendation of the city council for the enforcement of said regulation. Graffiti, either of gigantic proportions or minimal, on walls, posts and drive done last February 16 and 17, here in the city. The clean-up moved, it was

known.

The NSTP core, earlier met with private institutions who not only volunteered support and manpower but also paint and materials during the two-day activity.

Graffiti along the central business district were painted over and cleaned; from Rimando road to Aurora hill, city limit going to La Trinidad, New Lucban, T. Alonzo, Caguioa Cont. on page 8

Women's Month Celebrated

BAGUIO CITY – Eight outstanding women in their own field of service were feted during the Women's day program last Friday morning at the Baguio Convention Center, with Congressman Bernardo Vergara, Mayor Mauricio Domogan and other city officials present.

For Secondary Education, Baguio City National High School Principal Dr. Elma Donaal; for livelihood and welfare, Regional and City

Clavio were honored as Baguio's 2013 Outstanding Women Leaders (OWLS).

They now are an addition to the fifty-one awardees including women rights advocate Patricia Anne Gallardo; Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda, Maria Aplatén who were among chosen OWLS since 2006.

A tribute was also given to the late Saint Louis School principal Thelma Leal, as were the women awardees ser-

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THE JUNCTION

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DOST-CAR Promotes Oleoresin Tapping

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - The Department of Science and Technology - Cordillera is promoting the tapping of oleoresin in pine trees as source of livelihood among the locals.

Initial steps in promoting the income generating project was through a training in Kabayan, according to DOST Provincial Science and Technology Chief Arnold Inumpa. The participants underwent a hands on training on oleoresin extraction in pine trees including its processing.

The oleoresin is processed to remove the sticky substance to come up with gum rosin already in crystal form, said Inumpa. The rosin is used in the manufacture of products such as paint, adhesive products, asphalt cement, varnish, lacquer, printing ink, soap, linoleum among others.

Oleoresin when processed produces a by product called turpentine and is also used as raw material for perfumes, solvent thinner for oil-based paints, oil wood finishes, protective coating, and anti-septic for cleaning agents.

As there is not enough supply in the country, manufacturers import the raw material, Inumpa said.

He informed that there is an assured market for this product which cost ranges from P95.00 to P125.00 per kilogram depending on the classification.

According to Inumpa, the output from the training among participants in Kabayan was considered as premium class which commands a higher price, and two companies already signified their interest in buying the processed product.

He explained that an average of one kilogram could be extracted per tree and harvest could be done weekly as resin regenerates. Oleoresin tapping does not harm the tree and even foresters are aware of the process, he added.

Oleoresin tapping according to Inumpa is not a new practice and was ventured on among the locals in the province in the past but it died down due to the very low selling price. Accordingly, in the 1970's the processed resin was sold at a very meager price of only P1.00 per kilogram.

In venturing to such a business, Inumpa said there are legal procedures that interested individuals or groups need to comply such as securing permit from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other relevant permits that may be required./JDP/SCA-PIA CAR,Benguet

La Trinidad, Benguet launches Strawberry Festival 2013

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - After the successful staging of Baguio City's Panagbenga 2013, this capital town welcomes visitors and residents alike to its Strawberry Festival which will run until April 5.

La Trinidad officials headed by Mayor Greg Abalos hosted a kapihan media forum, Tuesday, to formally launch the festival which adopts the theme, "Sowing the Seeds of Meaningful

Friendship".

Abalos disclosed that this year's Strawberry Festival and will not only feature the municipality's well known luscious strawberries and byproducts but also their culture, as well as the town's othesuch as semi-temperate vegetables and cut flowers.

The highlight of the activity will be on March 18, the town's foundation day, wherein there will be a civic parade, program, street dancing, strawberry eating contest, "Owik Tan Tayao" - na-

tive rite and Indigenous People's Night.

Other activities to look forward to is the "Strawberry Night Clasique" - an evening of wine, food and music, on March 22 at the municipal gym, wherein people are invited to come in their coat and tie and enjoy the music, the local cuisine and the new strawberry wine variety of

La Trinidad, which they aims to bring in the international market.

In the morning of March 23 there Cont. on page 9

BFP Enjoins Public Support in Forest Fire Prevention

BAGUIO CITY - With the onset of the summer season, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) calls on the public to help protect the remaining forest reserves in the region from fire.

Bureau of Fire Protection - Cordillera (BFP-CAR) Public Information Officer SFO 2 Josesito Dollete, in a press conference launching the observance of Fire prevention Month this March, disclosed that forest fire remains a concern in the region as in 2012 alone, 47 grass, rubbish and forest fire incidents were recorded, higher than the 36 cases recorded in 2011.

According to Dollete, most causes of forest fires are burned garbage left unattended and lighted cigarette butts that were carelessly thrown. He admitted that they lack the equipments to deal with forest fires so they are partnering with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for such effort.

He explained though that if the grass or forest fire is within roadside or near the road, they can respond to it.

Fire Chief Inspector Joe Ferdinand Bangyod, Baguio City Fire Marshall, in the same forum, bared that they are partnering with the city government and private environmental groups for the advocacy against the prevention of forest fires in the city.

He reported that during the first quarter of 2013 alone, cases of forest fires have damaged at least 17.5 hectares of forest reservations in the city and the burning of around 120 trees.

Dollete and Bangyod are enjoining the public and the community to also help support the advocacy so that "together we can protect our environment, particularly our forests, which is very important especially with the present concern of climate change."

For this year's observance of Fire Prevention Month, scheduled activities are focused on an intensified fire safety and prevention advocacy campaign down to the household level as BFP statistics show that most of the structural fire incidents are residential.

For Cordillera alone, BFP reported 106 residential fire incidents in 2012 mostly due to kitchen management accidents./JDP/CCD and Gloria Diane Rivera/PIA Intern

CEPMO Calls for the Public Cooperation, Discipline in Maintaining Burnham Park

BAGUIO CITY - The City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO) appeals to the public to cooperate and observe discipline for the maintenance of the city parks.

CEPMO Evaluation Officer Joseph Hermogeno said that even as the city government spends much amount for the maintenance of the parks if park goers do not cooperate, it is very challenging.

It is not easy to handle a park, if park goers and the

people are not disciplined," he pointed out.

Hermogeno disclosed that the city government of Baguio allots P35 million annually in the beautification and maintenance of Burnham Park, the city's premier park, being maintained by the CEPMO.

Still the 34-hectare Burnham Park, one of the city's most valuable assets, is being criticized of "poor maintenance".

"Sasabihin sa maintenance, kaya nga sinesweldohan ng government para gawin yan e," Hermogeno said. But he clarified that the maintenance does not only clean but also do rigorous tasks like planting and watering plants all over the park that include the Igorot Garden, Rose Garden, Melvin Jones grandstand and football grounds, picnic grove, skating rink, Athletic Bowl and the Burnham Lake.

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Imminent Loss of Forest Reserves to Fake Ancestral Claims is City's Biggest Ordeal

BAGUIO CITY - The imminent loss of the city's remaining forest reservations to bogus ancestral land claimants is presently the city's biggest ordeal, Mayor Mauricio Domogan said on Wednesday.

The mayor said the seemingly losing battle to reclaim areas within vital forest reserves like the Busol watershed where squatters remained scot-free due to a protective injunction issued by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Forbes Park, Wright Park and Botanical Garden which were issued Original Cer-

tificates of Land Title (O-CALTs) also by the NCIP is the most serious environmental problem the city is facing, which if not reversed, will lead to tragic results.

The mayor said the city has remained locked in a battle to reclaim said areas and will continue to pursue the recovery effort even if recent results were not encouraging.

Last January, the Court of Appeals quashed the petition of the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) for the nullification of the O-CALTs issued over 47 public properties including properties

titled in the name of the City of Baguio including Wright Park, national, city and barangay roads and mineral reservations and 12 private properties because of failure to exhaust the administrative remedy.

The mayor is hopeful that the Court of Appeals will reconsider its decision and will rule on the merits of the petition instead of the technical aspect.

"I hope we will not sacrifice the merits of the case in favor of the grounds of technicality because it is the interest of our city and our people that is on the line

Cont. on page 8

Mayor Maintains City's Roadside Smoke Emission Tests in Order

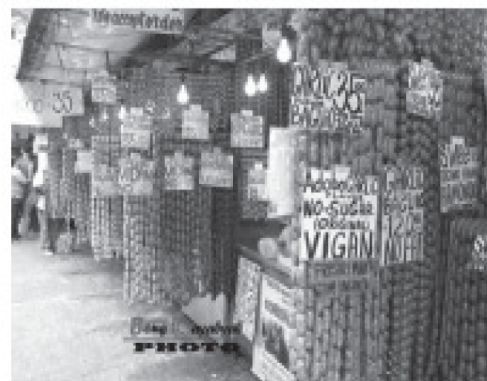
BAGUIO CITY - Mayor Mauricio Domogan Wednesday grunted many private and public utility motorists.

The mayor said that there is no problem with the city's RITMT system as the machines are in good condition and the vehicle smoke emission standards being

used are in accordance with the law thus there is no basis in the claims that the RITMT system is faulty and causing the inconsistencies in the test results.

On the other hand, the mayor said there is a need to look into the accuracy of the system of some of the private testing centers.

Cont. on page 9



THE BEST LONGANISA IN BAGUIO CITY MARKET, PHILIPPINES. - Bong Cayabyab photo

Whittling Down To Scale

"Tomas Osmena's losing candidates are for the birds," fretted this anxious fan of Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle. Instead, he asked: "How many ballots before we know who the cardinals elected pope?"

The last conclave voted four times to pick 78-year old Cardinal Josef Ratzinger. The seat of Peter was vacant for over three years in the 13th century. People locked the cardinals in, tore off the building's roof. A diet of bread and water led them to elect Gregory X.

The March conclave comes to a church that "shifted southwards", notes New York Times. Two thirds of Catholics lived in Europe in the 1900s. Soaring spires of Notre Dame, Chartres to Mont St Michel symbolized their faith.

Religious indifference and secularization emptied the pews. Only half of the French now identify themselves as Catholics, down from

EDITORIAL

80%. Mass attendance seesaws from 18% in Spain to 10% in Germany Baptized millions "never darken doors of a church, and don't support policies on morality or sexuality."

In contrast, Asia had 130 million Catholics in 2010, up from 126m, Vatican's annual statistical yearbook reports. Latin America's Catholics will rise to 600m within two decades. By 2025, there'd be 220m African Catholics. At century's turn, there were 130m.

"The Vatican is now in the wrong location", writes Philip Jenkins in the New Republic. "It's 2,000 miles too far north of its emerging homelands."

By the half-century mark, Europe will account for 15% percent of Catholics. Many will be immigrants or overseas workers from Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Cardinals voting in the Sistine Chapel will be looking south. "Some theorists are boasting, "Africa is the Faith," Jenkins adds. Who can best reveal the *sensus fidelium*?

"The sufferings of people and difficult questions they ask are an invitation to be in solidarity with them, not to pretend we have all the solutions," Tagle told the last Synod. "They see the concrete face of God in a Church that can be silent with them, as confused as they are..."

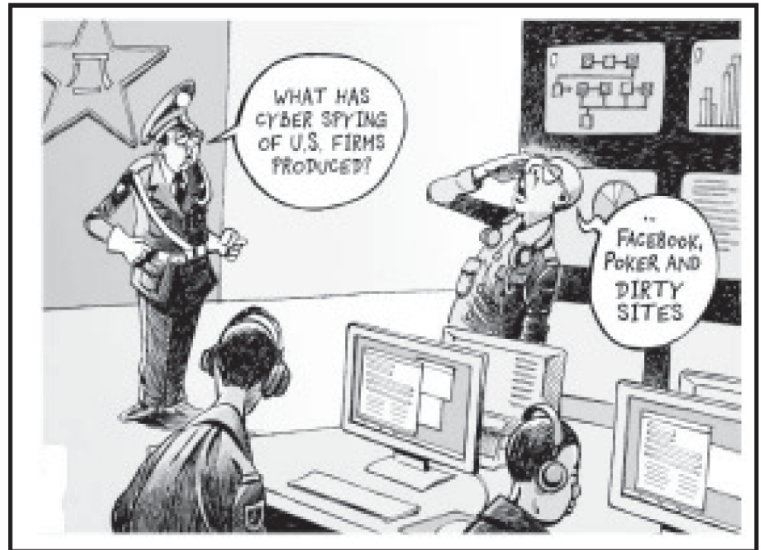
"The Church should contribute in the public square. But we in Asia are very particular about the mode....So, you may be saying the right things. But people will not listen if the manner by which you communicate reminds them of a triumphalistic, know-it-all institution."

Do Tagbilaran bishop Leonardo Medroso and like-minded bishops get the message? Medroso threatened excommunication for anyone who backed the RH bill. That swept in President Aquino, legislators to ordinary Catholics — like Mercedes Concepcion, one of 42 scientists Pope Paul invited to advise on "Humane Vitae".

"The phenomenon of bursting (Philippine) churches is actually misleading," notes Windhover magazine. Only 21% percent of Filipino urban students believe in life after the grave, an earlier survey by McCann Erickson and Philippine Jesuits found. Majority or 88 %percent believe in a Supreme Being. But only 15% were instructed in their faith by parents. Their doctrinal foundation and catechetical instruction seem to be faltering."

If the rate the Church loses members persists, the Philippines would no longer be a Catholic country in 40 years, theologian Catalino Arevalo writes. "They're not turning away. They're just not being reached."

"The church is at a crossroad", Australian daily reports. "But as a consequence of the brilliant letter of papal resignation, a whole new revamp becomes possible when few expected it. Who occupies the throne of St Peter matters way beyond church circles". That whittles Osmena's gripe about losing councilors to size./Juan L. Mercado



THE PEACE COMBATANT

Our peaceful claim on Sabah must be based on legal and political frameworks

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



The Peace Combatant proposes that the peaceful claim on Sabah must be based on legal as well as political frameworks. It cannot be in any other way. Otherwise, our country will be making a claim based on violence, flirt with the possibility of war, and ultimately lead Sabah and the "Sultanate of Sulu" into a long period of chaos. For the Philippine claim to be enduring and sustainable, both frameworks are necessary for executing a peaceful claim on Sabah.

What will a legal claim consist of? This is something that is not as simple as it seems. For one, the applicable legal framework may not simply be local but international. Issues have to be resolved in terms of international law as at least two countries are involved. Years back or in 1878, the Sultanate of Sulu has leased Sabah to a British company represented by Gustavus Baron de Overbeck and Alfred Dent. In the lease document, the "Sultan of Sulu" has transferred all the rights and powers that the Sultanate possesses to the British company. There is a provision (as alleged in the translation of the document), that the Sultanate must have their consent should Sabah be ceded to another country. Yet, at the same time, we do not know if the payment that the Sultanate received after Sabah became part of the Malaysia will be considered as de facto acceptance of the Sultanate of Sulu of the change in status of Sabah.

In addition, there is also the possibility that rival claimants to Sabah may argue that what has taken place was not actually a lease but a sale because nobody makes a lease in perpetuity or through the end of time. Of course, the legal questions are easy for our government lawyers to argue that in fact that Sultan of Sabah owns Sabah.

However, the more difficult one is the political aspect of the case. Suppose that indeed the Sultanate of Sulu owns Sabah? The Malaysians can make a counter claim that the establishment of the Malaysian Federation peacefully overthrew the Sultanate and that the Sultanate and the Sultanate has no longer a dominion over Sabah. While there are countries like the United Kingdom wherein monarchies have survived the test of time, there are also countries like France in which a royalty is overthrown and had ceased to be in dominion. Another country in which a royalty used to exist is Russia and we know that the Russian revolution has overthrown monarchy in that part of the globe.

Moreover, suppose that it is possible to give Sabah to the Sultanate of Sulu, would not Sabah be pushed to chaos? Would not the authority of the Sultan of Sulu be subjected to continuous challenge from Sabahans? Will we not actually push Sabah into a state of chaos and violence?

In the foregoing, we have not even look at what Brunei thinks on the matter. Brunei used to own Sabah and the popular account is that the Sultan of Brunei gave Sabah to the Sultan of Sulu for the latter's assistance in quelling a rebellion. A recent news report is now making a claim that succeeding Sultans of Brunei have been refuting that the Sultan of Brunei had given Sabah to the Sultan of Brunei. Thus, if this were the case, this dimension of the problem would complicate the claim of the Sultan of Sulu. If the Sultanate of Sulu does not own Sabah in the first place, this MAY strongly imply that the Sultanate of Sulu had only rights to rent but the territory is not owned by Sulu Sultanate in the first place.

Of course, at the moment, all these are speculative because we do not know if the document immediately available to us is authentic and if they are authentic, we do not know if the immediately available translations are faithful translations of the original document.

Thus, the suggestion of the Peace Combatant is for all concerned to think twice, thrice, and many times before we decide to agitate or make an indirect encouragement to the Sultanate of Sabah with their armed claim on Sabah. It is best that all **Cont. on page 11**

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Why Philippine presidents ignored Sabah claim

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... The Lord will bring a nation against you from far away, from the ends of the earth, like an eagle swooping down, a nation whose language you will not understand, a fierce-looking nation without respect for the old or pity for the young. They will devour the young of your livestock and the crops of your land until you are destroyed..." (Deuteronomy 28:49-51, the Holy Bible).

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WHY DID FILIPINO PRESIDENTS IGNORE SABAH CLAIM? Why has the Sabah claim of the Sultanate of Sulu and North Borneo remained unresolved up to now, even if around 40 years have already lapsed since the Manila Accord was signed in 1963 by the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia, and even if the Accord's clear mandate was that the claim needed to be resolved despite the fact that North Borneo signed up as a member of the Federation of Malay in the meantime?

From where I sit, the reason is clear: presidents and other ranking officials of the Philippines deliberately chose to ignore the Sultanate's claim over Sabah, or what was worse, intentionally disregarded the claim altogether, through the years. Now the nasty question that our presidents and their ranking officials must answer is, why did they ignore or disregard the Sabah claim?

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MOTIVATIONS IN IGNORING SABAH CLAIM: That nasty question gives rise to yet another equally nasty query: what motivations prompted our presidents and their officials to ignore and disregard the Sabah claim? Were these motivations for the good of the country, the Sultanate, and the entire Filipino nation? Or, were they merely for the personal, family, or private interests of the presidents or their favored ones?

How do we answer these questions truthfully? Well, we may have to look into whatever dealings, private or otherwise, which our presidents struck or entered into with Malaysia or with its officials and businessmen, at a time when they were still in Malacanang, or even after they have already stepped down from power.

I am sure this kind of an approach will tell us why a particular president adopted a policy that kept the Sabah issue or claim unresolved through the years. I am sure this inquiry will lead us to understand why, despite the overwhelming evidence that the Sultanate of Sulu and North Borneo really owns Sabah, Filipino presidents uniformly closed their eyes to that evidence which are readily available even to a third rate researcher at the Office of the President.

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SULTAN KIRAM'S LETTER TO PNOY, PART IV: So the public will know, here is another part of the October 15, 2012 letter which Sultan Jamalul Kiram III personally delivered to the Office of the President over the Sabah issue (but which letter was allegedly lost but now reported to be found):

"A closer reading of Articles XIII and XIV of the Kiram-Bates 1899 Treaty shows that, in granting protectorate status to the Sultan and his subjects, and by not agreeing to the sale of Jolo or any other island of the Jolo Archipelago without the consent of the Sultan of Jolo, the United States implicitly respected the Sultanate as a sovereign entity.

"The second important point in that the Kiram-Bates Treaty provided the legal instrument and basis that the United States needed to gain access to and gain control over the Sultanate's territory. Similarly, the MILF letter of January 2003 provided the opening for the implementation of the Philippine Facilitation Project in 2003 to 2007, wherein the United States, allied agencies for aid and conflict resolution, and other international non-government organizations entered into the Mindanao situation..."

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REACTIONS? Please call me at 0917 984 24 68, 0918 574 0193, 0922 833 43 96. Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com, mmmauriciojr11@gmail.com.

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

SABAH: LET'S ALL COOL IT!

BY: JESUS DUREZA



I am sad with what happened several days ago in **Lahad Datu, Sabah**. The violence and the killings were tragic. And from all indications, my earlier personal apprehensions that the problem will worsen if the **Malaysians** will push the button, are now taking place.

I remember what **President FVR** used to say in admonishing everyone to always look for win-win solutions when facing situations: "Don't throw shit to an electric fan. It will only irretrievably spread the mess" or words to that effect.

But I am reserving comments since all the facts are not in yet. And also, there are actions done by all the principal players that we are not privy about as yet. Hence, it is best that we wait for all the facts to surface.

I was an active participant in previous crisis situations that I handled. And I know that in similar situations, there are circumstances and information known to the crisis handler that others are not aware of. Those info determine one's course of action during critical and emergency situations.

Decisions are made based on the interplay of many factors. To make a critique of the judgment calls made by those handling the situations without knowing all the info at hand may not only be premature. It will be grievously unfair. And unwise.

Hence, let us all pipe down and avoid knee jerk criticisms of what happened. Of course, we cannot avoid dealing with initial criticisms, doomsday scenarios and worst-case situations that many "instant" experts will profer. And there are many of them out there just ready to pounce for one reason or another. It is always said that post incident "quarter backing" with the benefit of hindsight are favorite pastimes of commentators or grandstanders. Those who just sit in air-conditioned offices, safe and far from the scene of actual combat or incident always dish out "I told you so" comments after the fact. Everyone becomes an expert.

But it is best that we hold our judgments for the moment.

Why? One, because the situation is still volatile and it has not been resolved up to now. Two, it has serious security and diplomatic implications involving both the Philippines and Malaysia. Three, it involves the honor and dignity of the **Sultanate of Sulu** and the **Tausugs** who already sacrificed the lives of 10 of their members (and still ready to sacrifice some more), as they are standing their ground in spite of demands for surrender. Four, it strikes deep into the workings of the Aquino administration and how the President himself handles crisis situations. Fifth, it is too complex to over simplify with the Malaysian factor at the vortex.

LET'S COOL IT —The events will still continue to unfold in Sabah. And even in nearby Sulu and **Tawi Tawi** in **Southern Philippines**. Then, the diplomatic reverberations of the Sabah claim will still have to be dealt with somehow.

This is a lode mine, a treasure trove for all. The media will have a field day. The kibitzers will kibitz. The politicians must have something ready to say. The Sultanate will continue to profess honor and dignity. Across our shores, the Malaysians will pander to their own national interest and play to their gallery. Back home, President **Aquino** and his advisers will continue to seek the best approach consistent hopefully with our national interest. Everyone will have a field day!

At the end of the day, the President has to take full responsibility for the turn of events. There's no passing of the buck, no ifs and buts. As the saying goes, the buck ends on Your Excellency's desk.

In the meantime, I have an unsolicited advice to all: **'LET'S ALL COOL IT, FOLKS.'**

MAGKASANGGA TAYO

ALIPING for Congressman, ano kayo HILO at HIBANG !!! Para sa pagbabago at kaunlaran-JOEMOL NA!!!

NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO



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

ALIPING for Congressman, ano kayo HILO at HIBANG !!! - Magiging matindi ang bakbakan ng mga magkakatangali para Tongressman este Congressman. Anjan si Mark "Chekwa" Go, Bernie "Bulldozer" Vergara at Nicasio "Squatter Protector & Land" Aliping. Sa ngayon ay hindi pa ako sigurado kung sino sa dalawang kandidato, kung si Mark "Chekwa" Go o si Bernie "Bulldozer" Vergara ang ating susuportahan at ikakampanya. Ngunit isang bagay ang nasisiguro ko at yuon ay hinding hindi natin masusuportahan itong si Nicasio "Squatter Protector & Land" Aliping, hindi pa naman ako hilo o hibang mga dear readers, katoninayan ay ikakampanya ko na hinding hindi dapat ibotos itong si Nicasio "Squatter Protector & Land" Aliping at kung malasin po tayong lahat at nagtagumpay ang isang Aliping ay para na rin tayo kumuha ng bato na ipinalo sa ating mga ulo. Sa tutuo lang, tignan ninyo kung ano ang naging accomplishment nitong si Aliping sa kanyang pagiging isang Tongsehal este Konsehal at walang wala kayong makikita na kahanga-hanga nothing worthy or substantial ika nga !!! Siyanga pala ma iba nga pala tayo ng kuwentuhan, sinong Konsehal ang bagman ng Jueteng? Sinong Konsehal ang nang aagaw ng lupa ng may mga lupa? Sinong Konsehal yun bumili ng paso na at wanted na sasakyan ng Financing Company at nang huhuliin mismo ng Financing at Hiway-Patrol (HPG) ay nagmamatigas pa at at kung sino sino pa na military ang tinawagan at niname drop? Sinong Konsehal ang mahilig mag kasino? Sinong Konsehal ang dala-dalawa ang chika babes ngunit napaka tipid magbigay ng sustento sa isa niyang chika babes kung saan mayroon siyang junior? Kaya inyong pakatatandaan kung wala na kayong pakialam sa kapakanan at future ng ating mahal na siyudad ng Baguio at gusto na ninyong lumala ang pag papatakbo eh di si Aliping ang inyong iboto at sabay kumuha na rin kayo ng Bato at ipalo na rin ninyo sa inyong mga ulo. **Hi ! Hi ! Hi ! ALIPING FOR CONGRESSMAN, NI SA PANIGINIP HINDI OOBRA, ANO KAYO HILO O HIBANG!!!** Kung ikokompara naman natin itong si Mark "Chekwa" Go at si Bernie "Bulldozer" Vergara aba eh, medjo mahirap ikompara ang dalawang ito sapagkat pareho silang mayroon matinding track record. Itong si Mark "Chekwa" Go ay matinik sa Negosyante at naging Manager ng isang malaking multinational na katulad ng Texas Instruments (TI), at ito naman si Bernie "Bulldozer" Vergara ay subok na sa dinami -dami ng mga projects na kung atin siyang ikokompara kay dating Tongressman Domogan ay walang sinabi at binatbat itong si Domogan sa dami ng ating nakikitang mga projects ni Vergara, kaya sa ngayon ang napaka simple lang na katanungan ay ito kayang si Mark "Chekwa" Go o itong si Nicasio "Squatter Protector & Land" Aliping ay kakayanin kaya nila makakuha o maka deliver ng kahit na one fourth (1/4) ng mga kasalukuyan projects na nagagawa ni Bernie "Bulldozer" Vergara? Yaan po ang pinakamatinding katanungan sa ngayon mga dear readers???

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JOEMOL NA, PAGBABAGO NA - panahon na mga dear readers, huwag na natin pag aksayahin ng panahon at boto itong si The Great, The One, The Only Mauricio **"ERS/TRASHLIDE etc..."** Domogan, dapat na siyang palitan ng isang tunay na nagmamahal sa ating siyudad ng Baguio. Anong klaseng tao o nilalang ang inyong matatawag sa isang liderato na Three (3) terms ng Tongressman este Congressman at Four (4) Terms ng Mayor ay hanggang sa ngayon ay **Cont. on page 11**

Experimental Night Market to Continue; New Rules Set

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan authorized the continued implementation of the experimental night market along Harrison Road but issued new rules to improve the conduct of the livelihood project.

“There is a need to come up with amendments to the existing rules and regulation to be strictly implemented by the city treasury and the public order and safety division of the city mayor’s office and must be observed by the participating vendors in the night market along Harrison Road to effectively and efficiently address the problems that cropped up since the implementation of the order,” the mayor noted in Administrative Order No. 33.

The new guidelines govern the screening process for new applicants, the manner of payment of cuartais and the monitoring of the operations.

In the screening process, duly designated persons will undertake the screening to whom applicants will submit application forms with the following attachments: Voter’s ID or Commission on Elections (COMELEC) certificate of registration or any proof of residence in the city for at least six months; latest community tax certificate and 2x2 ID picture.

The other guidelines in the screening:

*Applicants need not be members of any night market association;

*Registration is not transferrable and shall be accepted if there are still available spaces as certified by the POSD but in no instance can the number of registered vendors exceed the number of vending slots which 940. Mobile vendors shall be allowed to vend coffee and other refreshments;

*Walk-in vendors must be residents of Baguio;

*Upon approval of application, a registration fee of P300 shall be paid by the applicant and a night market ID shall be issued to the vendor;

*Vending Identification Cards shall be issued by the Office of the Market Superintendent to registered vendors. The ID card shall show the picture of registered vendor and his or her designated representative.

On the payment of cuartais, the following guidelines will be imposed:

*Except for mobile vendors, a regulatory fee of P50 per night per vendor shall be paid on the Monday of the vending week which is from Monday to Sunday or a weekly payment of P350 per vendor. Mobile vendors shall pay P30 per night per vendor. The fees collected, less the cost for administration of the Night Market shall accrue to the General Fund;

*Payment shall be made to the City Market Office either personally or through their Night Market Association president, by the vendors upon presentation of their ID cards. Association presidents making the payment must present the list of members and their corresponding ID cards;

*An official receipt and corresponding vending tag indicating the number of the space to be occupied by a vendor for the week shall be issued. The color of the vending tag will be changed every week;

*Payments must be received by the Market Office from 8am to 3pm every Monday. After said time, the Market Office shall receive walk-in vendors who after 3pm shall have priority to the slot indicated in the vending card. Walk-in vendors will be issued temporary vending IDs in addition to vending tags;

*Late payments shall be entertained after the deadline of 3pm every Monday but the vendor shall still pay P350 regardless of the remaining numbers of nights that he/she is able to vend;

Cont. on page 10

Zero Rabies Case in the Baguio City in 2012

BAGUIO CITY - No rabies incident was recorded in this summer capital during the past year with the continuous vaccination and education, information and campaign on dog and pet owners.

City veterinarian Dr. Brigit Piok reported this as she assured that the city remains committed to its advocacy on animal welfare and public health and safety by continuously building public awareness on the prevention and control of rabies through education and vaccination.

Some 5,000 dogs and cats in the city have been vaccinated for free from January 2012 to the present, Piok said as she urged pet owners to have their dogs and cats vaccinated with anti-rabies vaccines being offered free by the city government. In line with March which is observed as the Rabies Awareness Month with the theme “Working together for a rabies-free Cordillera”, Piok announced that the conduct of free anti-rabies vaccination in the different barangays and free rabies shots during weekdays in the veterinarian office and information dissemination in the schools to protect people against rabies exposure.

Rabies is a deadly disease of animals caused by a virus which is transmissible to human beings through the bites of infected animals through contact of the saliva with an opening or wound in the skin, causing acute inflammation of the brain and the spinal cord. It can also be transmitted through aerosol transmission, faulty vaccines, and tissue and organ transplants.

Piok advised that when a person is bitten by a dog, wash the wound with soap and water and go to the nearest clinic and have himself examined by a physician./JDP/JBZ-PIA CAR

US-Based Organization to Hold Dialogue on Heritage Preservation in Kalinga

TABUK CITY, Kalinga - A United States-based organization dedicated to the preservation of historic architecture and sites in the Philippines will hold on March 13 a dialogue with indigenous peoples of Kalinga on cultural heritage preservation.

BAKASPILIPINAS represented by photojournalist and historic photographer Trix Rosen and two others will be here for the dialogue to present photographic documentation of Kalinga culture and architecture gathered long ago.

The one-day dialogue is in cooperation with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) provincial office here. It aims to revisit the known photo-documentation available on architectural structures and cultural heritage of the iKalingas documented in the past.

According to Natividad Suguiyao, Kalinga NCIP provincial officer, the dialogue and photo documentation presentation hopes to identify from participants a list of issues which impact on local cultural heritage preservation for further documentation with BAKASPILIPINAS’ technical assistance which NCIP will broker in the future.

During the dialogue, Roz Li of BAKASPILIPINAS will introduce their organization while Pascale Montaderand on identifying cultural heritage sites.

“A Kalinga Journey Through Time”, a selection of photographs gathered by Trix Rosen in Kalinga and the Cordilleras for two decades will also be presented.

Participants will be lectured on the importance and impact of tourist gathering and tourism services, on ROOTS (Return to Our Own Towns and Traditions by Saguiyao) and Kalinga brochure and packages.

Suguiyao said the activity is supported by the Office of the Governor, Provincial Tourism Council, Kalinga-Apayao State College and the Kalinga-Apayao State College Alumni Federation. (JDP/PAB-PIA CAR, Kalinga)

OCD-CAR Inspects Rehab of Damaged Farm to Market Road in Tinoc Town

TINOC, Ifugao -The Office of the Civil Defense in the Cordillera region visited the province recently to inspect the on going rehabilitation of the Tinoc-Kiangan farm to market road damaged by typhoons Juaning, Pedring and Queil.

Led by OCD Director Andrew Alex Uy, the team was accompanied by the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) Operation and Warning Officer Ambrosio Dulnuan, Tinoc vice mayor Agustin Calayan, Ceasario Bahiwag of the Municipal Engineering Office and Rosemarie Cawili of the Municipal DRRMO.

The project is worth P29 million with the 50 percent was already downloaded to the local level.

Tinoc has incurred major damages on its main route causing its isolation at the height of the said typhoons. The municipal officials requested OCD for immediate repair of the said FMR which is the only road to reach the town and to enable the delivery of farm outputs and purchase of supplies and prime commodities from the nearest market areas outside the municipality./JDP/zVDB-PIA CAR, Ifugao

OWWA releases Livelihood Grants to Cordillera OFW Groups, Returnees, and Dependents

BAGUIO CITY - The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Cordillera Regional Welfare (OWWA-CAR) through the National Reintegration Center for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE-NRCO), recently released P465,000 worth of livelihood grants to OFW groups and OFW returnees and dependents in the Cordillera region.

Two OFW Family Circles – the Bagong Bayani Family Association of La Trinidad Benguet and Simbaey Circle of Mt. Province got P100,000 grant each. 22 OFW returnees, 20 from Baguio-Benguet and one each from Conner, Apayao and Lamut, Ifugao, also received P10,000 each from the DOLE-NRCO livelihood grant (individual category).

OWWA-CAR Regional Director Manuela Peña, in an interview, disclosed that the livelihood grant is part of the reintegration services which aims to help OFW returnees especially repatriates who were displaced due to unexpected events such as political or economic turmoil in their place of work, on their livelihood endeavor that would help them have an alternative income for their family.

In addition to the cash grant, qualified beneficiaries are also given entrepreneurial skills development and financial management training upon assessment of OWWA in coordination with partner agencies such as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP).

In 2012 alone, the said DOLE-NRCO livelihood assistance program has benefitted 87 OFW returnees and nine OFW Family circles in Cordillera or a total grant of P1.7 million.

Peña explained that for OFWs who want to expand their business or go into a bigger entrepreneurial endeavor, the national government has P2B OFW Reintegration program, a special loan program of the OWWA in partnership with the LBP and the Development Bank of the Philippines, wherein qualified beneficiaries can borrow from a minimum of P300,000 to a maximum amount of P2 million.

Meantime, simultaneous with the releasing of the livelihood grants, OWWA-CAR also awarded P15,000 livelihood assistance each to three widows of OFWs under the Educational Livelihood and Assistance Program (ELAP).

Surviving legal spouse of a deceased OFW (active OWWA member) is eligible for a P15,000 livelihood assistance and dependent children are also eligible for an annual educational assistance of – P5,000 for elementary, P8,000 for high school and P10,000 for college./JDP/CCD-PIA CAR

P1 in 2006 is Worth P.78 in 2012 in CAR

BAGUIO CITY — In a Statistical Coordination Board, it stated that due to the general rise in the prices of goods and services, the buying power of the peso in the region stands at 78 centavos, meaning the value of goods and services worth 78 centavos in 2006 are bought at one peso in 2012.

The peso had the highest value in Apayao at 84 centavos followed by both Kalinga and Abra at 81 centavos, Benguet 77 centavos, Ifugao 76 centavos while Mt. Province had the least value at 75 centavos in 2012.

The PPP is a measure of the real value of the peso in a given period relative to a chosen reference period. It is computed by getting the reciprocal of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and multiplying the result by 100.

The average CPI for all items in CAR rose by about 3.7 percent or from 123.7 in 2011 to 128.2 in 2012. This was slightly higher than the inflation rate of 3.2 percent recorded in the previous year.

The CPI is an indicator of the change in the average prices of a fixed basket of goods and services commonly purchased by households relative to a base year while inflation rate is the annual rate of change or the year-on-year change in the CPI.

During the last 10 years, prices in the region spiked in 2008 when the highest inflation rate was recorded in 6.9 percent.

Among the Cordillera provinces, the largest year-over-year increases in prices occurred in Ifugao (7.0 percent) followed by Apayao (3.8 percent), Benguet (3.6 percent), Mt. Province (3.2 percent), Kalinga (3.1 percent) while the smallest were posted in Abra (2.2 percent)./JDP/MWC-PIA CAR

Tuba Officials Pass Poverty Alleviation Measure

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - Officials of Tuba municipality have crafted the town's Poverty Alleviation Ordinance anchored on the local government's role in the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger in the town. This is also in line with the millennium development goals

Penned by Councilors Adora Paus-Gabino, Maria Carantes and Rebecca Apil, Municipal Ordinance 210 series 2013 covers the bona fide residents of Tuba who are poor and who belong to the marginalized sectors such as farmers, tenants, residents. It also includes poor but deserving students, victims of calamities and in and out of school youth.

Individuals in crisis are also covered such as those suffering from any sickness or disease, children in conflict with the law, and victims of abuse and human trafficking.

The measure spells out the support which may be accorded to the identified sectors such as accessibility to trainings and skills to empower them, subsidy to farm inputs, livelihood loans, infrastructure services, waterworks facilities, job opportunities, health services, support to education, scholarship programs, financial assistance to victims of calamities, alternative learning program, and computer literacy course.

The measure also calls for the organization of local poverty reduction action team (LPRAT) to formulate policies and plans and strategies as intervention measures to ease poverty.

The team is tasked to conduct an annual civil society organization assembly to plan and propose local poverty programs and project as input to the Annual Investment Plan (AIP).

The measure also requires the adoption and establishment of a community based monitoring system (CBMS), an organized process of data collection, processing and integration as basis for local planning, program implementation and impact monitoring./JDP/SCA-PIA CAR, Benguet

Mayor Clarifies Asphalt Overlay at Session Road

BAGUIO CITY - With the just completed asphalt overlay along Session Road, it has been noticed that after the month long celebration of the 18th edition of the Baguio Flower Festival, the markings on the pedestrian lanes along Session Road already faded away. Because of this, there were allegations that percentage of the funds of the said project went to the pocket of the city mayor.

That's not true, paninira lang iyan, it's purely politics" said Mayor Domogan during the Weekly Ugnayan Forum last Mar. 6.

Basing on the report of the Department of Public Works and Highways, there is a need to enhance the roads in the city and there is no reason why I should oppose the project if it is for the benefit of the people of Baguio said the mayor.

Mayor Domogan was dismayed and emphasized that the Session Road asphalt overlay of the Department of Public Works and Highways is a national fund in which the city has no control over it. The DPWH should review and look at the flaws of the project.

The mayor hoped that the public should assess the allegations of some people so that the public will not be misled by erroneous information./Jho Arranz/PIO-Baguio

AFP to Integrate more CPLAs, Recruit Additional CAFGUs

TABUK CITY, Kalinga - The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) assured it will integrate additional former members of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) to the military and train more civilian auxiliary forces in order to sustain the improving peace and order situation in the region.

MGen. Joel Ibañez, commanding general of the 5th Infantry Division, said they will offer additional recruitment quota for the CPLA provided they undergo the disarmament, disposition and reintegration (DDR) process.

"We want that the bayanihan program of the AFP is complemented by former armed groups and trained militias so that they themselves can feel the joy and satisfaction of working together for the welfare of the communities," he said.

He said former rebels will not only be recruited to provide security and fight insurgents but also to help bring public service to the far-flung barangays through the AFP's bayanihan program and convergence with local government units and national agencies.

On the other hand, Col. Roger Salvador, commanding officer of the 501st infantry brigade said they will also target to recruit 120 Civilian Auxiliary Forces Geographical Units (CAFGUs) particularly from Balbalan and Pinukpuk to provide security in areas still infiltrated by the New People's Army (NPA).

As reported by Lt.Col. Felix Benitez, commanding officer of the 21st infantry battalion, four mountain barangays in Balbalan and four also in Pinukpuk are still NPA territories and are under the military's tight watch.

Last month, 40 CAFGUs finished the basic military training courses held here and were dispatched to their areas of origin to beef up security and civil action manpower during outreach missions./PAB/PIA-CAR/Kalinga

DOH Reminds Public to be Wary of Summer Diseases

BAGUIO CITY - With the onset of the summer season, the Department of Health (DOH) is reminding the public to take precautionary measures on the possible rise of various diseases.

Dr. Luisa Paran, DOH-Cordillera Disease Prevention Cluster head, disclosed in an interview that skin lesions, heat stroke, diarrhea and sore eyes are among the common diseases that the public should be wary of during

DA Promotes National Year Of Rice in Panagbenga

BAGUIO CITY — The recently concluded Panagbenga 2013 or the 18th Baguio Flower Festival celebrations in this summer capital has drawn the attention of the public on the importance of rice and the National Year of Rice 2013.

Department of Agriculture-Cordillera Regional Technical Director for Operations Danilo Dagui said that the DA joined the festivities of the Panagbenga to promote the advocacy campaign of 2013 as the National Year of Rice which was declared by President Aquino under Proclamation no. 494 on October 18, 2012.

The DA participated in Grand Float Parade Dancing on February 24 with its beautifully crafted float bearing the NYR 2013 logo and the tagline "Sapat na Bigas, Kaya ng Pinas." The float won the first place beating the other 18 competing floats.

Designed with colorful flowers that came from the province of Benguet, the DA float depicted the strong and unified support and commitment of the six provinces in the Cordillera – Abra, Apayao, Ifugao, Kalinga and Mountain Province, to achieve rice self-sufficiency in the country starting year 2013.

Aboard the float were ladies in their native Cordillera costumes and the different varieties of rice found in the region as well as rice alternatives such as rootcrops.

DA-CAR Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division Chief Pat Annanayo said the float parade as part of the celebration of the Panagbenga became a venue for the department's "Panatang Makapalay" to reach not only the locals, but also the tourists. He added that the message it conveys will be of great help for the people to conserve rice.

"Ang Panatang Makapalay ay para ipaabot sa mamamayan ang kahalagahan ng bigas," Annanayo said.

The DA also had a booth during the week-long Session Road in Bloom with the NYR as its theme. Displayed were organic rice and vegetables, the One Town One Product of the different municipalities and provinces and information materials such as flyers and brochures on the NYR and the different programs and projects of the government in agriculture.

Individuals who came to the booth of the DA were encouraged to support the NYR advocacy campaign thru the Panatang Makapalay or the Rice Pledge. They were urged to recite the Panatang Makapalay so that it be instilled on them.

Dagui reported that the Cordillera is a rice self-sufficient region in 2012 having a rice self-sufficiency level of 119 percent but he stressed the regional challenge in 2013 for the whole CAR is to produce 524,998 metric ton of palay to be able to contribute to the rice self-sufficiency goal of the present administration thru the NYR 2013./JDP/RC and Fely Ann M. Del Rosario

Tublay Regulates Tourism Industry

L A TRINIDAD, Benguet - Tublay officials see the need to preserve and protect the environment while maximizing its tourism potential prompting them to pass a measure which regulates and governs the tourism industry of the town.

Ordinance No. 2012-01 encompasses the administration, promotion and development including penalty provisions of tourism facilities and related programs and activities. The measure calls for the creation of municipal tourism committee and municipal

sponsored by tourism council necessary in pushing for administrative and technical functions. For tourist attractions managed by the local government unit, it underscores the decentralized roles of the barangay directly responsible in the management, protection, and preservation of tourist destinations in coordination with concerned municipal and municipal

Lawmaker Urges Comelec....

from page 1

masses of much-needed information about their candidates.

"With 180 minutes for all radio stations nationwide, that means candidates only have four 30-second spots for 80 provinces. Considering that we would also need to allot a great percentage of the 180 minutes to national issues, how will we get our message to our voters in the provinces and our stand on local issues with that limited amount of time?" Cayetano questioned.

RIGHT TO BE INFORMED

Cayetano added that with media being the most effective and most cost-efficient way to inform voters about their candidates, the aim of lessening the spending of candidates by limiting or regulating air time is at the expense of lessening voters' opportunities to know their candidates more in order to vote wisely.

"I am not merely pushing for more leeway for candidates to advertise themselves during the campaign, I am fighting for the right of the people to be informed and to make the right choice when they vote. I am pushing for a more mature system of elections where in leveling the playing field means we focus more on enhancing people participation rather than increasing regulations," Cayetano stressed.

MONITOR SPENDING, NOT A TIME

Cayetano also said that instead of focusing on limiting advertising time, the Comelec should focus on monitoring candidates' campaign spending and the source of the funds used to advertise. "Maraming mga taong gumagamit ng pera na pang-advertise na nagmula sa illegal na paraan - sa gambling, smuggling, etc.," Cayetano said. "Kahit na hindi lahat ng kandidato ay ganito, ito ang dapat tutukan ng Comelec imbis na airtime."

OPPOSITE EFFECT

"I understand the Comelec wants candidates to limit spending in order to level the playing field. But that is not what is happening on the ground. Instead of spending on a 30-second ad, candidates will instead spend on sorties where you have to purchase tickets for all your staff and yourself, to book a hotel and to find transportation in the area.

This actually costs more," Cayetano explained.

During an earlier joint congressional oversight committee hearing on the automated election system (JCOC-AES), Cayetano had already expressed dismay over Comelec Resolution 9615 that limits national candidates to only 120 minutes of airtime for television and 180 minutes for radio during the campaign period. Meanwhile, local candidates are only allowed 60 minutes for television and 90 minutes for radio. In the past, the agency limited advertisements on a per-station basis.

Massive Graffiti....

from page 2

area, Harrison road to Baguio City National High School, University of the Philippines Baguio area up to the Baguio General Hospital area, Harrison road to Bokawan, Happy Homes, Camdas, Trancoville, Tabora area including Private road, Salud Mitral, General Luna to Session road, Assumption road to Abanao road.

Students of the NSTP core which include Saint Louis University (SLU), Baguio School of Business and Technology (BSBT), Data Center College of the Philippines, University of the Cordilleras (UC), Baguio College of Technology (BCT), Pines City Colleges (PCC), STI College, Baguio College Academy, AMA Computer College, National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT), GMS Technology, University of Baguio (UB), the Philippine Women's University (PWU) and the schools under the Department of Education were part of the workforce for the activity.

"The project undertaken...serves as the start of a strong partnership between the city and these private institutions with regard to graffiti obliteration," the ordinance states. It is also "intended to be a continuing project for the schools, the government, the task force and the barangays to sustain the areas repainted and cleaned," the ordinance further states.

Though the project was undertaken in preparation for the just-concluded 2013 Baguio Flower Festival, it is expected that similar activities shall be done by the NSTP core group.

The participating schools shall be given copies of the commendation, it was learned. /juliegfianza

City Satisfies PMS....

from page 2

through a Deed of Conveyance in April, 2004 acting on a request from then Mayor Bernardo Vergara and Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario.

The Sandiganbayan was awarded 20,000 square meters while the city government was given 32,402 square meters and where the Historic Dominican Hotel is erected.

However, part of the condition of the transfer is for PMS to use the facilities of the property for free if requested.

The city government is also obligated to rehabilitate the Old Diplomat Hotel and develop the area into a Nature Park with all the needed facilities and amenities, failure of which was for PMS to execute a Deed of Reconveyance and transfer the property back to PMS.

A meeting was held at the PMS office in Malacanang last March 7 where officials of the city attended and presented the developments being undertaken for the said property.

The city was able to present major improvements such as perimeter fencing, road concreting, riprap and lights installation.

Councilor Philian Louise Weygan-Allan who chairs the Dominican Heritage Hill Committee also cited improvements to the building's right wing where the 1st and 2nd floor multi-purpose hall is presently being used for seminars and gatherings aside from the donated 10 Commandments Tablet Building used for prayer meditation.

The facility has its own parking area, landscape and gardens and maintenance and 24 hours security.

Atty. Jose Wilfrido Oca, PMS Assistant Secretary said, "their office is happy that the facility is now being used for its intended purpose and the proposed development of the Heritage Hill and Nature Park is being implemented."

"We are glad that Baguio City has done its obligation as stated in the Deed of Conveyance and we hope that it will continue to develop the area into a world class nature park," he said. /paul rillorta

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Imminent Loss....

from page 3

here. Even the Supreme Court has maintained in several decisions that merit should not be sacrificed on the altar of technicality," the mayor said.

The mayor lauded the OSG for pursuing and attending to the case saying that in his opinion, the office did the right move despite the adverse decision of the court.

The city government has a similar petition pending before the NCIP for the cancellation of the spurious titles issued over Wright Park.

There were reports that the CA issued a similar ruling on another OSG petition covering Forbes Park lots but this has yet to be confirmed as no copy of the decision has reached the city government.

The mayor reported that many lots covered by the questioned CALTs at Forbes Park have already been sold despite the pending case and despite the city government's warning not to buy said lots due to their questionable status.

The mayor said the city government will continue to cooperate with the OSG in pursuing the cases covering these forest reservations.

"We maintain that these lots are not alienable and part of our forest reservation and the titles issued to them are not valid so we will continue to work together to reclaim and protect them," the mayor said. - A Refuerzo

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THE JUNCTION
Pahayagang Palaban

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

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno www.linisgobyerno.org

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF COURT
La Trinidad,
Benguet

RURAL BANK OF
BUGUIAS, INC.,
TADIAN BRANCH,
Mortgagee,

-versus-

KEVIN DOMINGO &
HARRIET
DOMINGO,

Mortgagors,

FORECLOSURE
CASE NO. 13-EXF-
1683

FOR: EXTRA-
JUDICIAL FORE-
CLOSURE OF
REAL ESTATE
MORTGAGE
UNDER ACT 3135
AS AMENDED

X———X

SHERIFF'S NOTICE
OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

Upon petition for foreclosure of real estate mortgage under act 3135 as amended filed by the RURAL BANK OF BUGUIAS, Tadian Branch, herein represented by its manager, ROGELION CALAYAN, of legal age, Filipino citizen, and with residence at Tadian, Mountain Province, Philippines against KEVIN F. DOMINGO, a minor/now of legal age, Filipino Citizen, herein assisted by his mother HARRIET F. DOMINGO, widow, a Filipino Citizen and both residing at # 315 Balili, La Trinidad, Benguet, in a real estate mortgage dated November 23, 2009. That as of July 23, 2012, the outstanding obligation amounted to ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P 150,000.00), Philippine currency, exclusive of agreed interest, attorney's fees and expenses.

That the undersigned announces that he will sell at Public Auction on APRIL 2, 2013 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in front of the Bulwagan Ng Katarungan, Justice Hill, La Trinidad, Benguet to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippine Currency the mortgaged property together with all improvements thereon to wit:

**TRANSFER
CERTIFICATE OF
TITLE NO. T-67563**

"xxx A parcel of land (Lot 1-A-5, Psd-CAR-015688) being a portion of Lot 1-A, Psd-CAR-000330, situated at urban code 131113, Barangay of Km. 6, Asin Municipality of Tuba, Benguet, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the S., along line 1-2 by Lot 1-A-4 of the subd. Plan., on the NW., along line 2-3 by Lot 1-B; Psd-CAR 000330; on the N., along line 3-4 by Lot 1-A-6 of the subd. Plan.; on the SE., along line 4-5 by Perpetual Alley (1.00 m. wide) portion of Lot 1-A-2 of the subd Plan.; along line 5-1 by Perpetual Alley (1.00 m wide) portion of Lot 1-A-3 of the subd Plan. Beginning at a point marked "1" plan being N.32 deg. 22-W., 2,744.54 m from BLIM # 1, Tuba Benguet, thence.,

N. 75 deg. 38'W., 35.06 m to point 2;
N. 24 deg. 44'E., 18.49 m to point 3;
S. 75 deg. 41'E., 35.05 m. to point 4;
S. 24 deg. 39' W., 9.25 m. to point 5;
S. 24 deg. 43' W., 9.26 m to point of beginning ;xxx"

Prospective buyers/bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the real property herein-above described and the encumbrances thereon if any there be.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on April 24, 2013 at the same time and

place without further notice.

La Trinidad,
Benguet, Philip-
pines, February 28,
2013.

FOR: THE PROVIN-
CIAL SHERIFF

Women's Month

enaded. The University of the Cordilleras (UC) Hapiyoh mi cultural dance group gave fitting ethnic presentations and reception to the congressman, mayor, the guest speaker and all those present.

Guest of Honor and Speaker Civil Service Commission (CSC) Regional Director Marilyn Taldo focused on the Kababaihan Festival's theme, "Kababaihan: Gabay Sa Pagtahak Sa Tuwid Na Daan." An achiever herself in education and in her career, Director Taldo noted that "Righteousness is everyone's concern," more so with women in all aspects: in the home, in the office, in the community, in business, public service and everywhere else. The woman's role is to lead and to guide, she said.

The woman's role to achieve and be excellent in her field is as "important as anyone else's." Director Taldo emphasized.

She announced what the CSC has been doing for gender equality awareness and development in government offices, and the regional office is a semi-finalist in the tilt. She also mentioned nominations for outstanding women workers.

In her response, too, soft-spoken Dr. Clavio spoke of past national heroes and called for local heroes who would continue to do their part in nation-building, through their sincere and passionate efforts.

During the same program, winners for the slogan contest were announced, where Loakan-Liwanag Women's organization won the top prize of P3,000; Ambiong Women's Organization came second, with Pucusan WO, Victoria Village WO, and the Commission on Human Rights Office, as 3rd, 4th and 5th places, respectively.

For the Poster contest, Victoria Village WO came in first, Gibraltar WO, Camp 8 WO, Dizon Subdivision WO, and Barangay San Carlos Heights came in second, third, fourth and fifth places, respectively.

A parade along major thoroughfares capped the celebration, with other free health services for women until the end of the month./juliegfianza

La Trinidad....

will also be the "Strawberry Fun Run" to be followed by "Dutin tan Dukto", a public breakfast feeding at the municipal park, wherein local berries (dutin) and rootcrops (dukto) will be served. In the evening of the same day will be the pre-pageant night for the search for Mr. and Ms. La Trinidad at the municipal gym, which final pageant is scheduled on March 30 at the same venue.

On March 23 and 24, there will be the festival of Horses - Gymkhana in La Trinidad, while in the night of March 25 will be the "La Trinidad Shi Bunguit (Benguet) Tan Kafagway (Baguio) - a theatrical type multi-cultural presentation that will give emphasis

EX-OFFICIO OF
BENGUET

By: (SGD) JOHN
MARIE O. OCASLA
Sheriff IV

Publication dates :
March 2, 9 and 16,
2013

from page 2

on the contribution of La Trinidad to the province of Benguet and the city of Baguio.

Around 60 pairs are also set to wed on March 22 in the "Rose Wedding" wherein the municipal gym will be transformed into a romantic hall full of flowers, especially with La Trinidad grown roses.

There will also be a Strawberry Clean-Up Drive along Balili River tributaries in line with the Adopt an Estero program of the local government.

From March 15 to April 5, La Trinidad visitors can also enjoy the various produce of La Trinidad with the Agro-industrial fair at the municipal park and the Strawberry Lane at the municipal park.

Called the 'Strawberry Capital of the Philippines', La Trinidad landed in the Guinness World Record on March 20, 2004 for the "Largest Strawberry Shortcake" baked with passion by various bakers of the town during the town's Strawberry Festival. The winning piece weighed 9,662.23 kilogram (21,213.40 pounds) and tasted by thousands of visitors./JDP/CCD-Chelsea Irving and Jaro Nicandro, PIA interns

CEPMO.....

from page 3

Hermogeno stressed that with the co-operation of the people, work will be lessened for the staff and they would be involved in more important tasks rather than doing things that park visitors can do themselves like segregating their trash and throwing their wastes at designated trash bins in the park.

More disciplined community would surely help in maintaining the city parks, Hermogeno said stressing that simple instructions like "No smoking" and "No littering" if followed will have a great effect on the park's cleanliness and maintenance.

Burnham Park is owned by the public thus, the public should help in maintaining it, he added./JDP/CCD- Jan Robert D. Nicandro and Aileen Chelsea Irving/PIA Interns

Mayor Maintains....

from page 3

ters in the city in view of the findings of an earlier investigation conducted by the Dept. of Transportation and Communication Cordillera (DOTC-CAR) that a number of said private testing firms are not complying with the standards set by the law.

Many private and public motorists expressed dismay over failing the RITMT tests and blamed the city's system for the inconsistencies.

This prompted Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas to call for an investigation on the functions of the Clean Air Monitoring Unit (CAMU) particularly the enforcement of compliance to vehicle emission standards set in Ordinance No. 61 series of 2008 or the Clean Air Act Ordinance of the city. CAMU is an interagency body chaired by Mayor Domogan which spearheads the implementation of measures to control vehicle emission under the city environment and parks management office (CEPMO).

In a proposed resolution, Farinas also sought to include the probe the "propriety of the tests being generated by the testing machines which are being used by the RITMT." Farinas said there were drivers complaining that even new motor vehicles released by motor vehicle manufacturing companies fail

the RITMT test despite the fact that these are newly manufactured units.

Farinas added that many motorists are also questioning the manner of the apprehension and testing during the RITMT operations as team members are not experts in the said functions.

"The conduct of a reassessment and fact-finding investigation of the functions of the CAMU and the RITMT operations which shall be participated in by private and public motorists, taxpayers and other concerned individuals as well, or in general, our constituents, to be conducted by the government as a voluntary move to eradicate red tape in the system shall help to introduce amendments and or to rectify what is wrong with the system affecting the foregoing matter," Farinas said.

The mayor however said this is not a new issue and has been the subject of previous investigations, among which the DOTC-CAR findings that many private testing centers are not at par with the standards of the law.

He said these firms continue to operate as the authority to stop their operation lies with the DOTC central office which is issuing their accreditation.

He said the city will stand by the reliability of its testing system.

CEPMO officer-in-charge Cordelia Lacasamana said the RITMT conducts random tests of both private and public vehicles by flagging down smoke-belching vehicles and testing them up front.

The mayor earlier ordered the conduct of voluntary smoke emission tests for public utility vehicles (PUVs) in the city on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in response to the request of the transport groups to temper the application of Ordinance No. 61 series of 2008.

The measure requires PUVs to pass the smoke emission tests before operating.

Drivers, operators or owners of the PUVs will be issued Certification of Voluntary Testing (CVT) upon determination that the PUVs have passed emission levels. The CVT shall indicate the emission level of the tested vehicles, the operators/owners and drivers of the PUV, the make and model of the PUV, the plate number of the vehicle and validity period of the CVT.

Moreover, the operators, owners or drivers who have voluntarily submitted their vehicles for emission testing shall be exempt from side testing for one month for diesel engines or two months for gas engines, which shall be reckoned from date of issuance of the certificate of voluntary testing provided that the CVT is presented upon flagging down of the vehicle.

Dubbed as the city's version of the Clean Air Act, the ordinance was passed in 2008 to address the increasing air pollution in the city by mandating that all vehicles, whether public, private, or government-owned must conform with the emission standards set forth in the same measure and those that will violate the standards will be prevented from plying within the territorial jurisdiction of the city.

The emission standards prescribed in the ordinance are based on the standards specified by the DENR in Administrative Orders (DAO) No. 2007-27, 2003-25, and 2000-81, or as will be specified in future orders or issuances by DENR and/or the BLIST Airshed Governing Board./A Refuerzo

Experimental...

from page 6

*The market office personnel shall furnish a list to the POSD indicating the name and the vending tag numbers issued. The list shall also indicate the vacant spaces; and

*In cases of typhoons or any cancellation of night market operation within the week, payments shall be applied on the corresponding days of the following week or on any days to be determined by the treasury office.

Vendors who paid for their cuartais for the week must possess their vending card and ID card during the allowed vending time. Those who do not possess either card shall not be permitted to sell;

Vendors who fail to sell/participate for three consecutive weeks shall be deemed inactive and shall renew registration to activate status provided that there are still available spaces. Vendors shall surrender their ID in case he/she no longer wishes to sell in the night market;

The vending time of 9pm to 1am shall be strictly followed. No vendors shall be allowed to display their goods before 9pm and shall remove all their goods after the vending hours;

The authorized products to be sold in the night market shall be limited to woven materials, silver craft, small handicrafts, communication gadgets, RTWs and wagwag items, artifacts, gift items, indigenous products, dry goods, preserved foods, fruits and vegetables, handy tools, small or light hardware, electric and electronic items. Finger foods, burgers, hotdogs will be allowed but on a limited basis. Wet goods, meat and fish (raw or ihaw-ihaw), illegally acquired goods, pirated CDs, DVDs, intoxicating drinks, cigarettes shall not be allowed.

Food carts should be sanitary and in uniform size and as much as possible made of stainless steel or aluminum. Food carts made of oil cans shall not be allowed.

Display stands shall not exceed the measurement of four feet or 1.2 meters in height and shall not exceed the space allotted for vendors as demarcated by the city engineering office. Vendors can use umbrellas but shall not erect any permanent structure;

Vendors should maintain cleanliness of their designated area at all times. Food vendors shall provide proper waste disposal. Flower boxes and sidewalks shall not be used as storage and selling areas.

Upon due notice and investigation, violation and or non-compliance of vendors of any of these rules and regulations shall be a cause of suspension or permanent removal of the vendor from the night market. Continued violation of members of an association shall be a cause of suspension or permanent removal of the association leader.

The city will assign 11 POSD personnel with the assistance of two policemen to monitor the night market. Roving POSD men will monitor and remove illegal vendors or peddlers on other areas of the central business district before and during the night market operation./A Refuerzo

Tublay...

from page 7

officials and employees.

It also incorporates relevant and mandatory fees to be collected for the maintenance and monitoring of tourism and related facilities and activities.

The measure also requires owners of accredited tourism oriented and related establishments and organizers of tourism activities to keep a record of volume of tourist arrivals and to regularly submit to the municipal tourism action officer.

There are also rules set on the operation, management, accreditation and licensing of tourist destinations and establishments such as maintenance and housekeeping, security, medical services, firefighting facilities and other precautionary measures. The facilities include homestay, hotels and other similar establishments, restaurants, cafes, souvenir shop, rest rooms, sports and recreational facilities, including travel agencies, transport group and tourist guides.

The town is endowed with natural tourist attractions such as caves, rivers, rock formations, mountains, and man-made attractions considered as indispensable to tourism.

Among the popular attractions are the Bengao-ngao caves, ENCA eco-tourism and organic farms and Tuel Hot Springs. There are also other caves such as Ketong, Bongis, and Tey-tey ideal for spelunkers and adventurers alike.

Other destinations are the Benedictine Sisters Convent good for retreat and meditation and the Los-oc Tower View Point which offers a panoramic view./JDP/SCA-PIA CAR, Benguet

DOH...

from page 7

hot summer days.

She advised the public not to expose themselves to direct sunlight especially from 10:00 am to 3:00pm when the sun is at its hottest as this can cause skin lesions or burns or even worse, skin cancer – when a person is regularly over-exposed to ultraviolet rays.

Heat stroke is also a risk to a person who stays out under the sun for a prolonged period of time as this may result to the overheating of the body, she added.

As a precaution, Paran advised the public to wear light clothing that covers the whole body and the use of hats or umbrella and sun block to protect themselves from the sun.

Diarrhea, a water-borne disease which is usually caused by drinking unsafe water especially from bottles or containers that are not properly cleaned, or by eating contaminated or unsanitary prepared food, is also a concern, Paran added.

She reminded the public to practice proper hygiene by washing their hands before preparing and eating any food as well as to ensure that the water they drink are clean or boiled water.

Also rampant during summer season is sore eyes, a viral disease. According to Paran, this is also attributed to poor hygiene, as a person can acquire the virus by touching or rubbing his unclean hands to his eyes, or can be acquired from other person who is infected of sore eyes.

To stay fit and healthy this summer sea-

SUMVAC 2013 Working Committees Re-Organized

BAGUIO CITY – Gearing up for the 2013 Summer Vacation (SUMVAC) in Baguio, Mayor Mauricio Domogan last week re-organized the SUMVAC working committees to begin the ground works for the three -months activities.

The SUMVAC in Baguio is an institutionalized annual endeavor undertaken by the City Government in partnership with different government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), the private sector and People's Organization (POs).

In Administrative Order No. 012, the mayor spelled out the composition and various program committees to come out with a comprehensive management plan to embrace all the desired events lined up by various sector for the 3-months duration to maximize the tourism potentials to be derived from the conduct of the programmed events.

The SUMVAC 2013 Executive committee is chaired by Domogan with Congressman Bernardo Vergara as Honorary chairman, Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas as Vice Chairman, with City Administrator Carlos Canilao as the Action Officer.

The SUMVAC operations committee 2013 with its corresponding chairpersons are as follows: Araw ng Kagitingan, Liberation of Baguio and Kafagway- Councilor Joel A. Alagsab; Liaison for Visiting National Officials for the Duration of SUMVAC – Councilor Betty Lourdes F. Tabanda; Summer Health and Environment Program – Councilor Erdolfo V. Balajadia; Summer Arts Expo, Cultural Market and Exposition – Councilor Perlita Chan-Rondez; National and Regional Summer Tourism Program – Councilor Richard A. Carino; Job's Fair/Labor Day Activities – Dr. Estrella V. Bisquera; Communications Groups, Peace, Security and Traffic Assistance – PS/SUP. Jesus D. Cambay Jr.; Media Relations Search for Lucky Summer Visitors – Helen R. Tibaldo of Philippine Information Agency-CAR; Church/Holy Week Activities – Councilor Philian Weygan-Allan; Barangay Fiesta – Councilor Joel Alangab; Summer Sports Activities – Councilor Karminn Cheryll Dinney Yangot; Streamer Road Signs' Maintenance-Eng. Oscar Flores – City Buildings & Architecture Office; physical arrangements and logistics – Romeo Concio, General Services Office.

The various committees chairpersons shall head their respective committees in preparing policies guidelines and measure that would ensure the success of their respective programs.

Among the traditional events lined up for the SUMVAC include the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) graduation rites; Holy week commemoration; Araw ng Kagitingan; Aliwan fiesta, Baguio Liberation Day celebration, Labor Day and Sabsabong ti Mayo.

Numerous events are also proposed for inclusion in the accredited list of activities for SUMVAC 2013 to sustain the conduct of a wide array of activities that will attract the influx of foreign and domestic tourists to the city during the duration of the summer season./JDP/MAWC – PIA CAR

La Trinidad Boosts its Strawberry Wine

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - The strawberry wine of this town is into the process of being perfected and will have a new packaging that will be launched during the Strawberry Festival.

Mayor Gregorio Abalos, Jr said a group of wine producers in Manila is helping the local government in perfecting the technology through training which started a few months ago. The process of production adapts a new technology of aging using manufacturing level standards.

According to Abalos, the improved strawberry wine has eight percent level of alcohol fit for dining and packaged in a bottle imported from Europe.

A soft launching of the strawberry wine will take place on March 22, 2013 at the Municipal Gym through an activity dubbed, "Strawberry Night Clasique."

Part of the 2013 Strawberry Festival, the affair is an evening of wine, food and music also attuned to the festival's theme, "Soaring the Seeds of Meaning-

son, Paran urged the public to immediately consult a doctor if they do not feel well to avoid further complications as well as to get enough sleep so that the body will have strong resistance against diseases and illnesses.

"Smoking should be minimized, if not avoided because this affects not only the upper respiratory tract but the whole body itself", she added./JDP/CCD- Jaro Nicandro and Chelsea Irving/PIA interns

ful Friendships" according to Municipal Agriculturist Fely Tibbaen.

It is a formal affair which calls for the wearing of formal attire to renew and strengthen friendships said Tibbaen. Incidentally, it is also a Balikbayan Night for locals abroad who have come home to visit and enjoy the festivities.

For those who are interested to have a taste, toast, hear tunes and tete a tete with friends, a fee of P200.00 is charged per head./JDP/SCA-PIA CAR, Benguet

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

MERCEDITA TANGO - Vendor
JOVITO A. MATULAY - Vendee
Applicants

Case No:2003-CAR-859
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for the Approval of Sale and Transfer with Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Jitney Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the Line: BAGUIOPLAZA 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 April 3, 2013 at 10:00 A.M. P.M. at the LTRB 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 shall publish the NOTICE on one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

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

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

WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER - Regional Director this 27th day of February 2013.

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

The Peace Combatant...

from page 4

parties concerned to exercise restraint in the use of armed claim over the territory. Unfortunately, the Sultan of Sulu has already executed an armed claimed although of course he has emphasized that his followers were merely making an armed visit on something that they own in the first place. This is akin to a house owner making an armed visit to his tenant's household without seeking the latter's permission and in the middle of the night. I anticipate the Sultanate of Sulu would argue that they have tried to use peaceful means of resolving the dispute but they were not listened.

In any case, the wise choice for all concerned is to return to the peaceful path of making the claim over Sabah. This is not easy because the Malaysians appear determined in impressing their claim to sovereignty over Sabah.

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

Magkasangga Tayo...

from page 5

ayaw pa na bumitiw sa katungkulin/kapangyarihan at ayaw pa na bigyan ng pagkakataon ang ibang mga tao na manungkulan, yaan po si The Great, The One, The Only Mauricio "ERS/TRASHLIDE etc." Domogan. Para sa inyong kaalamanitong si The Great, The One, The Only Mauricio Domogan, tatlong termino na siya naging Tonggman este Congressman o 9 years ng Congressman at apat na termino o 12 years na siyang Mayor eh ayaw pa niya bumitiw. **ANG TAWAG SA NILALANG NA GANYAN AY MAKASARILI, SUWAPANG AT GAHAMAN**, bakit si Domogan lang ba ang anak ng Diyos na mayroon kapabilidad at karapatan na manungkulan at maging Mayor sa siyudad ng Baguio??? Panahon na para sa pagbabago at panibagong liderato, isang tunay na nagmamahal sa siyudad ng Baguio, an original son of Baguio, an Ibaloi, one who will do what is right for the City of Baguio, isang tao na pangangalagaan ang pangalan ng Molintas Family. **JOEMOL IS THE MAN FOR NOW**. Subukan natin siya walang mawala sa atin kung siya ang maging Mayor ng Baguio. Ika nga sa ingles- Things can no longer get any worse the way they are and have been under the administration of Domogan, it is a time for change- it is time for **JOEMOL**.

City Prepares.....

from page 12

SUMVAC 2013 which could help in attracting domestic and foreign tourists in this mountain resort.

Meetings, conventions, expositions and private led activities scheduled this SUMVAC 2013 are as follows: Couples for Christ Convention (Mar. 8-10 and Apr. 12-14), Metro Bank Car Show (Mar. 8-9), Panagbenga Luzon Taekwondo Championships (Mar 10 onwards), Rainbow Mission Church Activity (Mar. 12 and May 6-9), BDO on Wheels (Mar. 15-17), Jao Ming Marketing-Concert Tour and Prin-

cess Velasco mall Tour (Mar. 23), Dance de Ballet Recital (Mar. 24), SLU-White & Blue Students Publication, "Tinta ng Mamamahayag: Sumasabay sa Himig ng Panahon at Indak ng Isipan" LAMBAKAN RACE 2013" (Mar. 25-27), Jesus Miracle Crusade (Mar. 29-31), Team Delirious: Car Show with a Cause, Operation: Medical Mission (Mar. 30-31), Rotary Club National DisCon (April 4-7), Steel and Skin (Apr. 5-6), Musar Recital (Apr. 5-6), Southeast Asian Center for Training & Development (Apr. 8-11 and 19-21), Le Tour de Filipinas (Apr. 16), Phil Assn. for the Career Advancement of Educators (Apr. 22-24), Mainstream Production Concert (Apr. 27), Free Believers in Christ Fellowship, Inc. (Apr. 28), Table Tennis Competition (May 3-4), Jesus Christ to God be the Glory Church (May 10), NCBF Church Activity (May 20-22), World Food Exposition (May 23-25), Asia Leaders Convergence "Ignite 2013" (May 29-31).

Supervising Tourism Operations Officer Benedicto Alhambra said that more private led activities will be expected.

Different political personalities will be very visible at this point in time considering that this is the campaign period added Coun. Datuin.

The Baguio City Police Office headed by PS/Supt. Jesus Cambay, Jr. are expected to be more vigilant considering that influx of domestic and foreign tourists are coming this summer season. Volunteer groups will be providing security assistance during the Holy Week commemoration.

In order to maintain the city's cleanliness, Mayor Domogan stressed to look for available funds to be used in hiring additional manpower particularly street sweepers as the city will be expecting increase volume of garbage during the summer season.

For the SUMVAC in Baguio 2013 to be successful just like the just concluded Baguio Flower Festival 2013, cooperation, teamwork and proper coordination of the different committees are very vital this summer season said Coun. Datuin./Jho Arranz/PIO-Baguio

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

EMMANUEL CARINO - Vendor
LINA P. BUSTARDE - Vendee
Applicants
Case No: 97-BC-119
NOTICE OF HEARING

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

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on April 4, 2013 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTFRB Office, Paoal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidence.

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 evidence 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 26th day of February 2013.

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

Lawmaker...

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in the country," Cayetano said.

The senator raised this concern as he commended Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Sec. Rosalinda Baldoz's statement that the agency already has a template prepared for dealing with the deportees. "It's good that the DOLE has a template. But using the general template for rehabilitation of deportees is not enough because the problem that will arise out of the Sabah standoff may be greater than any other situation on deportation that we have faced in the past such as those that resulted from the Arab spring uprisings. This calls for a specific and comprehensive program for immediate employment as an emergency measure for this special situation," Cayetano said.

Send Food to Tawi-Tawi Now

Cayetano was also alarmed by reports that Filipinos in Tawi-Tawi are panic buying due to the conflict and urged the government to send food to affected areas as soon as possible. "On top of the security issue, the government needs to be pro-active in addressing the basic needs of those who may not be involved in the standoff but are nevertheless affected by it because they reside in the area or contiguous areas," he said. The senator added that the comprehensive plan of action of the government should include how to address the issue of alarming rising commodity prices in affected contiguous areas. "These have to be addressed at the same time that the security issues are being addressed because these concerns will only become greater as the tension escalates. Our government must be prepared," he said.

In the ongoing conflict, dubbed the Sabah Standoff, armed men under the service of the Sultanate of Sulu asserted their alleged claim over the contested island of Sabah. Malaysian Royal Security Forces in turn asserted Malaysia's claim. The succeeding weeks have found the two forces engaging in armed conflict resulting to the deaths of 13 Filipinos to date. The conflict has also triggered panic buying in the neighboring Philippine island of Tawi-Tawi.

Sister Cities...

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systems development.

Heads and members of the delegations signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Baguio officials headed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan, Rep. Bernardo Vergara and Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda during the welcome banquet tendered by the city last Feb. 22 to affirm the exchange programs pledged during the Sister-Cities Forum held earlier as a side event to the recently concluded Baguio Flower Festival.

Vallejo City pledged the beautification of the memorial parks of World War II veterans and the appropriate recording of all data to encourage visitation and remembrance of their heroic legacy. They also intend to encourage the proactive participation of various veterans groups in the city.

The Vallejo group composed of Tanzania Committee chair Dr. Ward Steward and Sister City Association members Nelly Buan, Paul Ligda, Elissa Steward, Maximo Potente and wife and Lilibeth Asera also vowed to pursue the creation of a Vallejo-Baguio Sister City

Shrine Task Force and the Vallejo-Baguio Sister City Educational Program Task Force Committee.

Vaughan City delegation composed of Councilor Marilyn Iafate, spouses Tony and Erlinda Insigne and Lurvie de Blois all of the Filipino-Canadian Association of Vaughan (FCAV) volunteered the promotion of systems and best practices on waste disposal strategies, waste disposal being both cities' immediate concern.

Gongju City also represented by Jeong Gwang-ui and Lee Sun-hwa presented the following projects: creation of the Gongju marker in Botanical Garden and the reciprocal participation in both the Gongju Festival and the Panagbenga Festival. They also committed to initiate the Gongju public official and employee exchange program.

Taeback which sent the biggest delegation composed of Councilor Kim Chun-soo, tourism chief Bae Il-hwan, official report chief Sin Ok-hwa, chief of international exchange Kwon Tae-you, mayor's secretary Kim Hyoungmcheol, adviser Kim Hak-jo, Kim Yong-an and journalists Bae Yeon-ho and Oh Hyeong-sang volunteered the forging of agreement for the to emulate the O2 Resort of Taeback in Baguio City by December and the visit of the city environment and parks management office in Taeback to gain information on the best practices of Taeback with regards to solid waste management.

Taeback also committed the improvement of the existing employee exchange program by April; the mounting of an art exposition in coordination with the Taeback Art Association following reciprocal visits and incorporating innovation with the inclusion of instrumentalists; sustained participation in Panagbenga and Fil-Am golf tournament; and the participation of the Baguio delegation to the Taeback Snow Festival in January 2014 and to the Taeback elections and inauguration in June-July 2014.

Hanyu representatives presented the promotion of the eco-friendly micro-mobility electric motor to improve transportation; launching of information education campaigns on the culture and history of Hanyu and Baguio through reciprocal student visits including significant historical data on World War II pioneers in Baguio and another information drive on health and wellness through natural healing techniques. Hanyu also offered a sharing of best practices on waste management and segregation.

Hangzhou representatives pledged the completion of the Hangzhou marker by April and the creation of reciprocal markers in Hangzhou by June. They also committed the activation of the Student and Teacher Exchange Program with the goal of promoting Mandarin language in the Philippines and English in Hangzhou.

Domogan hailed the sister cities for actively pursuing exchange programs and expressed hopes that all the activities named for this year will be pursued to further strengthen friendship, promote mutual understanding and development opportunities among the kin cities./ Aileen P. Refuerzo

Stricter Measures up for Block 4 City Market

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the Weekly Ugnayan Presser Wednesday confirmed that the renovation of the city's public market block 4 is complete.

The work is already finished and the facility is ready to be used but they still need to secure the surrounding areas and cover the side alleys of asphalt overlay,' Domogan said.

The mayor also said stricter measures to prevent sidewalk vendors from occupying vacant spaces around the area will be enforced.

'This will ensure that there will be no obstruction ensuring smooth passage of people and legitimate stall owners can sell their products without competition from sidewalk vendors,' he said.

Domogan said, 'parking areas will also be designated in block 4.'

The city government is also planning to set-up a space for a POSD sub-office to ensure that its personnel is readily available within the vicinity.

Designed for open vending, the newly renovated block 4 can accommodate at least 331 stalls with provisions for livestock, sari-sari products, fruits and vegetables.

It can be recalled that former City Fire Marshall Richard Villanueva reported that the old structures in block 3 and 4 poses danger and recommended for its immediate closure.

The city government then ordered the demolition of structures at the said area and proceeded in the rehabilitation of the facility.

With the improvements in block 3 and 4, Domogan said, vendors and consumers will experience better working conditions and can be assured of improved safety and protection./paul rillorta

City Prepares for Summer Vacation (SUMVAC)

BAGUIO CITY - To sustain the city of pines, being the Summer Capital of the Philippines and one of the summer best destination, Mayor Mauricio Domogan issued Administrative Order No. 012, series of 2013, re-organizing the working committees for the summer vacation (SUMVAC) in Baguio 2013.

SUMVAC in Baguio is an institutionalized yearly endeavor undertaken by the city government of Baguio in partnership with the different government agencies, non-

government organization, private sector and people's organization.

The different working committees had a meeting with the city mayor last Mar. 7 at the Treasurer's Conference Hall and discussed their respective programs and activities to ensure proper coordination and to avoid conflict of schedules with concerned agencies.

Action Officer and City Administrator Atty. Carlos Canilao also re-

quested the different committees to submit their respective proposals in order to seek ways and means that all their activities will be properly supported.

Aside from the traditional events lined up for the SUMVAC like the Philippine Military Academy graduation rites, Holy Week activities, Araw ng Kagitingan, Baguio Liberation Day, Labor Day and Sabsabong ti Mayo, numerous private led activities were already lined up during the three-months duration of

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Most City Infra Projects Ahead of Schedule

Most of the city's infrastructure projects supported by its Internal Revenue Allotment and Local Development Fund are ahead or on schedule, city engineer Leo Bernardez reported last week.

Out of 45 projects, Bernardez said 17 were ahead of schedule, nine were on schedule, five were completed, nine have been suspended and only one was behind schedule.

Ahead of schedule included the construction of cross-drain and concrete canal at Chroime St., Upper Quezon Hill amounting to P271,000; improvement of road at East Quirino Hill (P1.398 million; retrofitting of scoured foundations of the elevated sewerline along M. Roxas Creek (P2.3 million); concretizing of perimeter road and construction of main gate at the city sewage treatment plant at North Sanitary Camp (P1.75 million); and rehabilitation of sewerline at Gray's Compound to Sumulong St., Holy Ghost Barangay (P530,953).

Among those on schedule were construction of covered drainage canal at Purok 4 of Fairview Barangay (P169,800); drainage canal rehabilitation at Fairview (P149,689); continuation of pathway at Purok 7, Irisan Barangay (P99,736); riprap and railings at San Luis Village (P180,000); and improvement of multi-purpose basketball court at Outlook Drive Barangay (P313,064).

A P3.394 million project for the installation of sewerline at the back of the city sewage treatment plant and rehabilitation of sewerline at North Sanitary Camp was suspended last Feb. 25 pending the approval of a continuous project covering the two sites.

Also suspended was the installation of additional sewerline from Dagohoy St. to T. Alonzo St. amounting to P2.2 million pending issuance of a permit from the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Likewise suspended pending a change in work order were the restoration of eroded riprap wall at Atok Trail Barangay amounting to P1.2 million, and the development of a drainage canal at Purok Ongasan, Loakan Proper amounting to P149,946 due to resistance of residents.

Completed were improvement of pathway and footbridge with railings at Purok II, Fairview (P74,800); construction of drainage and canal at Purok 5 of Upper Market (P132,694); canal concreting and upgrading of alley at Purok 6, Honeymoon-Holy Ghost (P345,000); flood control concretizing and upgrading of canal and alley at Purok 2 and 3 of Honeymoon-Holy Ghost (P315,084); and relocation of sewerline at Lualhati Barangay (P98,000)/RDacawi.

Sister Cities Pledge More Exchange Programs with Baguio

BAGUIO CITY – Six of Baguio's most active twin cities from five countries committed to pursue more meaningful exchange programs with the city.

Delegations from Vallejo City (California, USA) led by Sister City Commission vice chair Dan Buan, Vaughan City (Ontario, Canada) headed by deputy

mayor Gino Rosati, Gongju City (South Korea) by deputy mayor Yoon Seok-Gyu, Taeback City (South Korea) led by vice mayor Yong Ki Chung, Hanyu City (Japan) and Hangzhou (China) represented by Baguio-based nationals vowed to share with Baguio their best prac-

tices in the following fields: strengthening of sister-city ties; tourism development; community partnership and government

The JUNCTION Pahayagang Palaban!!!

Mayor Clarifies Asphalt Overlay at Session Road

BAGUIO CITY - With the just completed asphalt overlay along Session Road, it has been noticed that after the month long celebration of the 18th edition of the Baguio Flower Festival, the markings on the pedestrian lanes along Session Road already faded away. Because of this, there were allegations that percentage of the funds of the said project went to the pocket of the city mayor.

That's not true, paninira lang iyan, it's purely politics" said Mayor Domogan during the Weekly Ugnayan Forum last Mar. 6.

Basing on the report of the Department of Public Works and Highways, there is a need to enhance the roads in the city and there is no reason why I should oppose the project if it is for the benefit of the people of Baguio said the mayor.

Mayor Domogan was dismayed and emphasized that the Session Road asphalt overlay of the Department of Public Works and Highways is a national fund in which the city has no control over it. The DPWH should review and look at the flaws of the project.

The mayor hoped that the public should assess the allegations of some people so that the public will not be misled by erroneous information. **Jho Arranz/PIO-Baguio

Lawmaker : Government Must Prepare for Possible Mass Deportation of Pinoys In Sabah

Senator Alan Cayetano urged the government to prepare a specific and comprehensive program for the 800,000 Filipinos in Sabah who will inevitably be affected by the rising tension between the Malaysian Royal Security Forces and the armed men of the Sultanate of Sulu. Cayetano

stressed that the government must also be prepared to protect the interests of Filipinos in other parts of Malaysia who may experience discrimination from their host country due to the standoff. "The reports of deaths are alarming and as such, security concerns must undoubtedly be prioritized. But at the same time, we must also be prepared to address the greater ramifications of this escalating tension

like the possibility of a mass deportation of Filipinos in the area," he said.

Alarming Sudden Need for Jobs

"Imagine a situation wherein we suddenly need to find jobs for hundreds of thousands of Filipinos from Sabah and Malaysia on top of the present number of unemployed Filipinos

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GREAT BONDING - A mother spends quality time with her daughter at lunchtime at the City Hall's Mini Park./By Bong Cayabyab