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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Pahayagang palaban!!! **Lawmaker Says Lack Of Budget Transparency Spawns Corruption**



Sen. Chiz Escudero said President Arroyo's decision to veto the transparency clause in the 2009 budget will lead to more corruption.

"I am disappointed with that decision because I believe that transparency is the best prescription for fighting rampant corruption in this administration. Transparency equals accountability," Sen. Chiz the opposition senator said.

Malacanang reiterated the President was being consistent with her past actions and that due regard should be given to legally and judicially established regulations.

Mrs. Arroyo also said that some measure of confidentiality needs to be enforced on certain matters and that with every office having the right to control its operations it may regulate the manner by which the public can examine or copy any public record.

The transparency clause seeks to prevent the Executive

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"FROM HERO TO ZERO...AND BACK." Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan urges barangay officials to institutionalize year-round barangay gardening and beautification activities for the city to reclaim its title as "cleanest and greenest" not only on paper but in reality during the executives' regular monthly meeting, March 25. Community affairs officer Laurence Adube, councilor Joel Alangsab and general services officer Romeo Concio look on./By Bong Cayabyab

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City to begin ground preparations for landfill project.....p3

"Transparency" siyempre ayaw ng mga korap sa Gobyerno ng Transparency at masmadali silang ma buking!

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Lacson: villain or victim?

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



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MGA KABABALAGHAN SA NCIP

National Commission On Indigenous Peoples 1st part

BY: ODELL "BOMBITO" AQUINO



Panlilio-Padaca Team-Up Possible Only In A Democracy

Sen. Chiz Escudero said yesterday the fact two individuals from very non-traditional backgrounds can consider running for national office shows that democracy is thriving in the country.

"I welcome the move of civil society to drum up support for the entry of Gov. Ed Panlilio of Pampanga and Gov. Grace Padaca of Isabel in the 2010 presidential elections," the opposition senator added.

However, he said Gov. Panlilio may want to consider the cases of two Catholic priests who became politicians, as he contemplates a run for the presidency.

"There may be a lesson or two to be learned from the political forays of former Haiti president Jean-Bertrand Aristide and former US Rep. Robert Drinan of Massachusetts. Both had to make a choice eventually," the opposition senator added.

Aristide was already out of the

priesthood when he ran for Haiti's top post in 1991, while Drinan declined to run for re-election in 1981 after Pope John Paul II unequivocally demanded that all priests withdraw from electoral politics.

Aristide was expelled from the Salesian order in 1988 after his political activities were deemed an incitement to hatred and violence.

Drinan, who remained a priest while serving his elective post in the 70s, eventually heeded the Pope's directive.

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Chiz dares house speaker NogralesWithdraw support for con-ass; be one with the people

Senator Chiz Escudero said yesterday that House Speaker Prospero Nograles should heed the people's opposition to charter change before 2010 by withdrawing his support from the draft resolution calling for a constituent assembly.

"I urge and challenge the Speaker not to give in to the pressure of the House cha-cha train. He should stand his ground for the

people even at the expense of losing his position," he said in a statement.

Escudero, who is chair of the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendments, noted that the latest Pulse Asia survey shows that two out of three Filipinos do not favor changing the constitution at this time.

Conducted from February 2 to 15, the Pulse Asia poll also shows that

public opposition to cha-cha is a "view shared by majorities (60% to 70%) in all geographic areas and socio-economic groupings."

"The right time for charter change is not now, but after 2010. The Senate will not be a party to this charade and the people will surely reject any proposed amendments at this time," Escudero said.

The senator also pointed out that Commission on Elections

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Tax On Text Is Like Robbery In Broad Daylight

Opposition Senator Chiz Escudero on Wednesday said imposing a tax on text messaging is tantamount to government "robbing the people" in broad daylight.

"Whether it's 10 centavos or 5 centavos, I will still oppose the measure. I am against imposing tax on text messaging be-

cause I believe it will be borne by those who have less in life," he said in a statement.

"Texting is no longer a luxury; it is the easiest way to connect with loved ones and friends. Text messaging will suddenly become more expensive as the tax can be passed on to end users," Escudero added.

The senator described the plan as "lazy man's

quick fix" aimed at responding to the expected loss in revenues due to the worsening economic crisis.

The senator cautioned the lower house from taxing the patience of the people.

"These are difficult times. Let us think instead of ways to ease the people's plight," Escudero said. /Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Lawmaker To Ched: Junk 5-Year Plan For Nursing

Sen. Chiz Escudero said Saturday that the long white line of nurses seeking employment can be shortened if the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) focuses on improving the quality of nursing education instead of increasing the

course to five years.

"I am against adding another year for nursing, or for any other course," the senator said in a radio interview in Cauayan, Isabela.

"Our nurses are being praised all over the world. Why in the world does CHED want to change what is not broken?" he asked.

Escudero said the CHED should instead weed out diploma mills that have proliferated due to the increase in the number of students wanting to take up nursing. He also called for stricter supervision of nursing review centers.

Echoing the call of the Catholic Educational Association of

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The Junction- OIC



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2-Social Workers: "Our big 'C' is for Compassion"

Their office is dimly-lit. Gloomy. Ominous of endless pleas for help: a regular day-to-day concern at the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO).

Five days in a week, stories of how expensive it is to be poor and how eating once a day is a luxury for some frequents their workplace.

But amidst the

blur of people some refer to as statistics, their presence means life. "Like candles in the dark," some say. Their voices full of care, full of compassion.

Yet none of the people who consider them angels know they too, need relief.

J a n e Concepcion, 50, was diagnosed with stage three breast cancer sometime in

the summer of 2008. Letty (full name withheld upon request) discovered she had stage four throat cancer in 2007.

Jane who has not been blessed with a child says she appreciates how the lightest touch of her husband becomes more than a million words.

Letty on the

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IBP'S STAND - Integrated Bar of the Philippines- National President and Board of Governors chairman Feliciano Bautista (center) meets with IBP governor for Northern Luzon Abelardo Estrada and other officers of the local chapter headed by incumbent president George Dumawing and incoming president Daniel Mangallay for a dialogue relative to the IBP's stand of the Supreme Court's Resolution issued last Feb. 20, 2009 for a Mandatory Legal Aid Service for Practising Lawyers./By Bong Cayabyab

City to begin ground preparations for landfill project

BAGUIO CITY - The city government will soon begin ground preparations for its engineered sanitary landfill project.

M a y o r Reynaldo Bautista Jr. has given the go signal for the conduct of land survey, identification and evaluations of the 2.9-hectare

city property at Sto. Tomas School Area barangay recently chosen as the landfill site.

The said processes are required before the landfill project can be prosecuted.

City Environment Management Office (CEMO) head Romeo Concio

said that after passing the resolution confirming the site, the city council will also have to officially identify the area as disposal site as a requirement of the law.

In his Administrative Order No. 60, the mayor created the Sto. Tomas

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Rules set on implementation of anti-smoking law

BAGUIO CITY - The city government has adopted the rules and regulations to implement Ordinance No. 8 series of 2008 or the Comprehensive Anti-Smoking Ordinance of Baguio City.

The ordinance prohibits smoking in public utility vehicles, government-owned vehicles or other means of public transport, accommodation and entertainment establishments, public buildings, public places, enclosed public places or any en-

closed area outside one's private residence or private place of work except in duly-designated smoking rooms.

The rules defined all areas where smoking will be banned:

PUVs would refer to public utility

jeepneys, buses, taxis and other vehicles used in the transport of goods and members of the general public. Accommodation and entertainment establishment refer to restaurants, fastfood

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Households, business establishments urged to join clean drive

BAGUIO CITY - Residents and businessmen here were urged to keep their surroundings clean as their contribution to the city's cleanliness campaign.

Acting vice mayor Daniel Farinas in a memorandum requested heads of households and owners of business establishments including boarding houses at the central business district and at the different barangays to strictly comply with the city

ordinances on cleanliness particularly Ordinance No. 498 series of 1969 and Ordinance No. 572 series of 1973.

Farinas noted that during the clean-up drive conducted by the officials and employees of the city government, it was observed that residential and boarding houses have not been segregating their

wastes and are leaving the refuse near sidewalks without using garbage bins or trash bags. The practice causes the areas even those located within the central business district to become eyesores.

"There is therefore a need for the owners of such boarding houses to likewise inform their

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PROBLEMA Sa Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB-CAR)?

Send us an email at info@hlurb.net or text/call 0917-5069123 and we will post the information at www.hlurb.net.

Magsumbong at mag-ingay para mabawasan ang katiwalian sa Gobyerno!!

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

Paradoxes' Promises

(Government) goes on in strange paradox: decided only to be undecided; resolved to be irresolute; adamant for drift; solid for fluidity; powerful for impotence, That's how Winston Churchill, in November of 1936, skewered the party then in power.

Isn't this the theme that also underpins Paradox and Promise in the Philippines' European Union, Asian Development Bank and five other agencies published this 143-page study.

The analysis uses the prism of gender equality. Don't go away. The book is not fixated about empowerment of women. It weaves an insightful matrix of national problems, plus specific action plans.

Filipinos are no slouch in crafting a favorable policy environment, the study says. But implementation is patchy. Policy

EDITORIAL

hasn't delivered intended benefits as extensively and effectively as hoped for. This is one of the many paradoxes amid promise in the country.

A paradox, the dictionary says, is a seemingly contradictory statement that is true. Gilbert Keith Chesterton often paraphrased paradoxes by the Master from Galilee The paradox of courage, GKC wrote, is that a man must be a little careless of his life in order to keep it.

Filipinos highly value schooling. Paradoxically, education indicators are skidding Fewer children enroll in the world's 12th most populous country. More also drop out. In Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, only 35 out of 100 make it to grade 6. The quality deficit is worse. Only 6 out of 1,000 grade 1 entrants will graduate from grade 6 grounded solidly in math, science or English.

We train the largest number of health personnel in ASEAN. Paradoxically, the proportion of Filipinos dying without medical attention has risen to 70 percent. That's a figure not seen, in this neck of the woods, since the mid-1970s.

Out of every 100 Filipino doctors, 68 practice abroad. Over 164,000 nurses migrated in four decades. A perverse consequence is de-skilling. That's where doctors train to become nurses to wangle a visa.

Visible issues lend themselves to action where officials scrunch up grit, the study says. But some persistent problems are invisible from appalling conditions for domestic workers to human trafficking. Responding to them is particularly difficult. Failing to respond beckons disaster.

Unnoticed, an average of eight women die daily from pregnancy and child-birth related causes. They're just as dead as PR man Salvador Dacer and his driver whose unsolved murder hug the headlines. So are 700,000 babies aborted yearly. Abortion substitutes for hard-to-come-by family planning services.

Chronic hunger doesn't make prime-time newscasts as Erap's bigote does. But it shrivels a quarter of pre-schoolers. Out of 100 pregnant and breast-feeding mothers, 42 are anemic. Wizen mothers give birth to midget kids. Given our priority for politics over reform, it'll take 50 years before we solve this problem, says the Food Research & Nutrition Institute.

Having a woman President can be convenient. The lady jacks up indicators of gender empowerment. So do women justices and executives Of 81 governors, 18 are women; of 1,631 mayors, 286 are women. Majority of government employees are women.

Paradoxically, the plight of 2.5 million domestic migrants mostly female –don't cause a blip on radar screens. Often between 15 to 24 years old, most work in private homes. The least protected of workers, many are exploited. There's been little help for women employees, who've been sexually

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PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

MGA KABABALAGHAN SA NCIP
National Commission On Indigenous
Peoples 1st part

Email: aquino_odell@yahoo.com
BY: ODELL "BOMBITO" AQUINO



Nais kong ipaalam sa ating mga dear readers ang isang email na aking natanggap mula sa isang nagngangalang MZ Barredo kung saan maaaring may basehan ang kanyang email na pinadala sa akin. Ihahayag ko ang kabuuan ng kanyang email sa susunod kong kolum (dala ng kakulangan ng espasyo), ngunit akin munang bigyan ng komento ang kanyang impormasyong ipinarating. Sa totoo lang mga dear readers, hindi ito ang unang beses na nakatanggap ang inyong lingkod ng impormasyon hinggil sa mga posibleng kababalaghan o katarantaduhan nagaganap sa NCIP kaya hindi pwedeng sabinhin nitong si MZ Barredo na ito na siya ang first and foremost only informer hinggil ditto. Kaya ko lang nasasabi ito mga dear readers sapagkat ang kilala kong MZ Barredo ay isang matandang *^%\$#@(*^% ngunit pasalamat din naman ako sa lahat ng ating mga impormante maging ano pa man ang kanilang interes o motibo sapagkat hindi ko na tungkulin ang humusga sa motibo ng isang impormante. Ang importante sa akin ay kung mayroon katotohanan ang mga impormasyon ipinarating sa atin.

Kung tutuusin ay maganda at mabuti ang layunin at objective ng creation at mandato ng NCIP kaya nga lang ang tanong ay tapat kaya at honest ang mga nasabing commissioners ng NCIP at hindi kaya sila **KORAP** na katulad din ng mga commissioners ng mga ibang opisina at ahensiya ng gobyerno? Kung **KORAP** ang mga commissioners o ang ilan sa mga commissioners ng NCIP eh kawawa ang magandang layunin ng NCIP kung saan ang mga deserving indigenous peoples at rightful **ANCESTRAL** land claimants at hindi kung sino-sinong **UNGAS** ang makikinabang at mag papasasa sa mga benepisyong makakamit sa NCIP! Sa puntong ito, kahit ako mismo ay maraming mga katanungan hinggil sa istilo ng NCIP sapagkat ang mismong hepe at komisyoner ng NCIP na si Atty. Eugenio A. Insigne (NCIP Chairman) noong sinulatan ko siya noong February 16, 2009 (2nd follow up letter) ay hanggang ngayon ay wala pa siyang sagot sa ating mga katanungan at dedma pa rin. "Bakit kaya," ang tanong.

Alam ninyo mga dear readers, sa ating karanasan, ang isang kawani o opisyal ng gobyerno, kung walang tinatago at sadyang transparent ay kadalasan madaling sumagot at mabilis sumagot; ngunit yung mga may itinatago, aba eh kadalasan ay dedma, o maraming palusot- HE ! HE ! MGA UNGAS TALAGANG OPISYALES NG GOBYERNO NG MGA ITO, AKALANILANAKAKA-ISA SILANGUNIT SATOTOO AY (AGAAMO TAYON). SARILI NILA ANG KANILANG NILOLOKO SAPAGKAT MULAT NA ANG MATA NG TAONG BAYAN. Ngunit, dapat sanang

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

Lacson: villain or victim?

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



The daughters of publicist Salvador Dacer have filed murder cases against Senator Panfilo Lacson for the murder of their father. Dacer sisters Carina, Sabina, Emily, and Amparo executed an affidavit saying that their father repeatedly told them that should anything happened to him, then Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) Chief and concurrent Chief of the Philippine National Panfilo Lacson is the one to blame.

The complaint of the Dacer sisters cited the testimony of former Police Superintendent Mancao II who executed an affidavit that it was Lacson who ordered the killing of Dacer. Mancao executed the affidavit in Florida, United States of America.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales has said that the filing of the affidavit by the Dacer sisters will accelerate the re-opening of the Dacer-Corbido murder case. The Dacer sisters filed the affidavit in California where they currently reside.

Senator Panfilo Lacson, on the other hand, claims that the Dacer sisters are gravely mistaken and misguided. He claims that the sisters are committing a serious injustice.

Former PAOCTF Officer Michael Ray Aquino, Lacson's co-accused in the case is being held in a correctional facility in the U.S. for espionage charges. An error is believed to have been committed in his case and he will be re-sentenced for the offense sometime this month.

As discussed by The Peace Combatant last week, it is not likely that Lacson's intent to be one of the presidential candidates in 2010 is the motive for the filing of the criminal charges against him. Lacson is not the presidential candidate to beat in 2010. Other presidential candidates outshine Lacson.

So the only hypothesis plausible is that either Lacson is guilty or that he is a victim of an elaborate frame-up by the criminal gangs that he has supposedly hunted down. Either way, the situation reflects a deplorable state of the nation: criminals can either assume the position of the Chief PNP or that criminals can influence the Department of Justice and the likes of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales.

Thus, more than a political motive to the recent filing of a murder case against Senator Panfilo Lacson, the nation should see the ongoing circus as reflective of a fundamental disease affecting our political life: criminals can rule or become influential in our society, they can even occupy the highest positions of leadership or authority of our land.

If Senator Panfilo Lacson is guilty then the Office of the Chief PNP can be occupied by hoodlums. On the other hand, if he is not then the Office of the Justice Secretary or the office facilitating the filing of criminal charges against Lacson today can be influenced by the criminal gangs.

Thus, one of the most important challenges confronting the Filipino people in 2010 is to be free from criminal gangs that are attempting to influence our political institutions.

Of course, voters must be prepared to vote intelligently. Voters must also become political actors that conduct political actions other than voting.

At the same time, our men and women have an important role to play. They must not allow themselves to be tempted by the criminal gangs.

The criminal gangs that some of our men and women in uniform support today can become big enough to influence our political life.

(The author maintains a website at www.geocities.com/arturoboquiren and can be contacted through artboquiren2040@yahoo.com and 0927-536-8431)

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Genuino's star shines bright with 1.5 M joining "BIDA" march

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



CIVIL INTERVENTION MEANS TO ABOLISH OR CHANGE GOV'T? The Filipino people have an absolute right to reclaim from the government the authority and power to govern, and this they can do at any time that the government has committed a gross violation of the Constitution and lost full public trust, through "civil intervention."

This is the main gist of an emailed statement that a group (or a person) calling itself (or himself or herself) MAGDAOS (or "Movement for the Advancement of Grassroots Democracy and Open Society") sent to me the other day.

As a consequence of this absolute right, the people likewise have the legal right and moral responsibility to abolish or change that government, MAGDAOS said, through one "Ronnie Dela Cruz" (with email address ronzel@yahoo.com).

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"IT IS THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO RECLAIM GOVERNMENTAL POWER": So that the public may know, I am reprinting here parts of the statement, entitled "Civil Intervention is Divine Intervention" thus:

"Government power is not absolute. It is based (on) and dependent upon sovereign will and power of the supreme ruler and arbiter, the people. The legal and political sovereignty conferred by the people upon its government is neither absolute.

"It is dependent upon the faithful compliance of the government to the *social contract*, our Constitution. If and when *fundamental* provisions of the *social contract* were grossly violated by the government, the people have absolute right to reclaim from that government the *authority* and *power* to govern.

"They have the right to annul its contract with that government because 'sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them.' More of this in succeeding issues.

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"BIDA" MARCH: 1.5 M PARTICIPATED DESPITE THE HEAT:

The Cultural Center of the Philippines-Quirino Grandstand-Roxas Boulevard March staged by BIDA, or "Batang Iwas Droga at Abuso", last Saturday, March 21, 2009, achieved much more than its goal of landing a new record with the Guinness Book of World Records—that of being the longest march in the Philippines.

Indeed, with official and unofficial estimates saying that the people who participated in the march could reach about 1.5 million, this is a record that is hard to beat for a long time.

But then, it is also going to be the loudest condemnation ever by Filipinos of the drug menace that appears to have already gripped tightly the country and its people in its clutches, to the point that the rich and the poor have become drug pushers and users, and government officials have stooped so low as to enable them to nonchalantly sell their souls for a few hundred thousands of pesos from drug lords.

The message of the more than a million souls who braved the heat and the humid atmosphere Saturday just to join the BIDA march, without being paid and without being fed anything, is loud and clear: the scourge that is illegal drugs must be stopped, at all costs, and woe to those who will act otherwise.

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GENUINO'S POLITICAL STAR SHINES WITH "BIDA" MARCH: It is because of the success of the march in inspiring more than a million people to come out strongly against a major problem of the country that one of its principal organizers managed to shine brightly last Saturday, and I am referring to Chairman Efraim Genuino, now known as "Kuya Efren", of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR).

What Genuino did, in gathering the people who joined the march from across the country—Christians, Muslims, Tagalogs, Visayas, professionals, policemen, military personnel, and many others—indi-

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MOSHPIT

*Suicide- alarming upsurge
Part I*

BY: GRACE BANDOY



In our catholic-dominated, “conservative” country, suicide is considered a taboo. But that was during the yesteryears, because today it has become an issue we cannot dismiss anymore. We should talk about it publicly. It has to be written for everyone to read. It has to be mentioned in the news for everyone to know, that it’s happening to people we know and care about.

I use to mock people who commit suicide and think they are just the stupidest people on earth. They are abnormal and just plain insane. We keep these thoughts to ourselves of course, we don’t tell their families. Now, it seems suicide is not so ludicrous anymore, I don’t know if it’s just part of my growing older and wiser.

It should not be a subject matter kept in the dark any longer!! It is a stark reality we all have to face. And it definitely is not something families of suicide victims should be ashamed of.

Kamikaze for the Japanese people is an honorable act of courage. Hara Kiri is no different as dying with honor. Acts of suicide.

In the other neighboring Asian countries, suicide is a regular agenda of their everyday news. It is an “acceptable” part of their social culture and way of living. And the Philippines is slowly catching up into making it happen also – suicide cases becoming part of our daily news and eventually becoming a ‘normal’ way to die.

Time can only tell if this will transform Filipinos into thinking that committing suicide is generally okay since a lot of people seem to have done it already, add to that all the recession-related suicide happening around the world spread widely on our tv sets and newspapers.

It’s scary to even imagine that today’s children will think it’s a normal thing to do – cut your own life in creative ways available out there.

We can’t deny that we all had thoughts of suicide more than once in our lives – whether it was during those tumultuous, rebellious teenage years or our first break-ups or when we just felt depressed for whatever reason.

But how many of us took it to that actual level of killing himself? Very few did. We can count them on our fingers. We condemned them and never understood why.

It was probably because of religious-related fears that stopped us the most, hell and all its gory. But for a considerable many, we just realized that “living is way better than being dead”.

The recent death of a friend’s brother from yet another case of a policeman shooting himself to death brought me to have grave concerns about suicide again – concerns of it being talked about by everyone of us.

We should talk about it to our kids, to our friends, our families, everyone we know.

I believe that the first step to coping with suicide and eventually becoming open about it is to wholly understand why some people do it. Know the story behind the why.

This is the very first case of suicide where I fully understood and realized that the act was the only answer to the person’s woes.

Although I’m a little scared and worried to think that the suicide was the right thing to do, I still personally think that to be alive is better.

But I understand why this particular person did it. And I believe that if only we knew what situation the other suiciders were going through, we also would have understood why they found the courage to exterminate their own lives and chose to die than go on living. Then it is easier to accept their death.

Suicide is not condemnable and we should be thankful our society is not keeping this from us anymore. It’s totally okay to talk about suicide.

DIRETSAHAN

Casino sa John Hay???

BY RUDY “BANTAY SIYASAT” GARCIA



Marami na naman ang nagtapos ng elementarya, sekondarya, at kolehiyo... Bakasyon grande para sa mga estudyante... Ganoon din sa mga nagtapos ng kolehiyo... Bakasyon sila ngayon... hanap ng trabaho bukas..., Pag walang mahanap, ang tawag dun... tambay. Tambay muna ngayon... Malay nila, bukas o makalawa makahanap na sila ... ika nga, huwag mawalan ng pag-asa, mas mainam kasi na ikaw ang maghanap ng swerte kesa hintayin nalang na dapuan ka nito. Magpursige... Hapi Gradwesyon en maligayang Pagbabakasyon!

oOo

Iimbestigahan daw ng korte suprema ang “affidavit” ni “Nicole” na nagpapawalang bisa sa nauna nitong “Affidavit”. Angtawag sa huli ... sinumpaang salaysay at ang una... kasumpa sumpang salaysay. Pweh! Bwisheet!

Tuloy ang laban, sabi naman ng Gabriela ... Aba, talagang palaban ang mga kababaihang pinay...karapat dapat nga silang tawaging “Gabriela Silang” ng panahon ngayon... at ang dapat na itawag kay “Nicole” ay “Gabriela Sibab”... (Sumibat kasi sya papuntang “Merika”) at ang tawag sa kaso nya ngayon ay kaso kasuhang kasoklasuklam na kasoh nungalingan!

oOo

Mukhang hindi tugma ang sinasabi ng palasyo sa aktuwal na nangyayari sa mababang kongreso. Sabi kasi ng palasyo, siguradong tuloy na raw ang eleksyon sa 2010, samantalang umaarangkada naman ang con-ass sa kongreso na balitang anak ng pangulo ang pasimuno. Kung walang kinalaman ang Malakanyang sa isinusulong na con-ass dapat sawayin nila itong si “Mikey Mouse” para hindi isipin ng madlang pipol na sila mismo ang pinakapasimuno dito at pa-eklat lang sa publiko ang kanilang ipinapahayag!

Samantala, nagpila na ng reklamo sa DOJ ang mga anak ni Dacer laban kay Senador Panfilo “Ping” Lacson. Handa naman daw harapin ng nasabing Senador ang reklamo. Yan ang hirap sa pulitika, pag kakampi mu ang Administrasyon patay ang kaso, pag hindi, pilit itong bubuhayin. Ang tanong, pano kung mag-iba na naman ang administrasyon habang dinidinig ang kaso, eh di baka mamatay na naman ito? Ano sey nyo FG Mike at Siraulo... este sir Raul pala?

oOo

Hanep at ang kakapal din ng apog itong mga namumuno ng Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) at ang Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHEDVCOR) sa pagpirma ng kasunduan o MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) na naglalayong kumuha ng lisensya o permit sa PAGCOR para sa casino at iba pang klase ng laro sa loob ng Camp John Hay na wala man lang konsultasyon sa mga opisyal at madlang pipol ng Baguio. Buti nalang at may nag-ingay kundi hindi sana nabuking itong nasabing MOA. Sa ngayon ay binabantayang maigi ng Baguio Multi Sectoral Group ang nasabing isyu at base sa impo ay gagawan daw nila lahat ng paraan para ito maharang, katunayan isang resolusyon ang kanilang isinumite sa kinauukulan!

Sana naman ay magkaroon ng “Political Will” ang mga opisyal ng Baguio para hindi matuloy ang casino at hindi sila mabukulan katulad sa inihayag nilang posisyon na tutol daw sila sa jueteng, etsetera pero mukhang papogi points lang ito na naidrowing lang sa kapisang papel, tama ba ako mga bosing diyan sa City Hall? Me casino ba o wala?

oOo

Nakakabahala na ang nangyayaring serial at gang rape dito sa lungsod ng Baguio. Sunod sunod na ang mga panggagahasa na kalimitan ay mga estudyante ng nursing ang biktima. Ayon sa sumbong ng isang biktima, isang sasakyang van daw ang gamit ng mga salarin at ang iba sa kanila ay may tattoo daw na bulaklak ng rose sa braso malapit sa balikat.

Nagpulong naman ang mga kinauukulang ahensya ng lokal na

Cont. on page 11

Fil-Am nurse enjoys success in U.S. home health industry

OAKBROOK, Illinois — While many traders and financial managers in the United States are groping in darkness over the gloomy economic atmosphere wrought by recession, a 41-year-old nurse from Miag-ao, Iloilo in the Philippines has successfully inched her way into home health business in Fairfield Way, Bloomingdale.

The success of Lira Faicol Mueda's four-year-old home health business that serves the entire state of Illinois however didn't happen overnight.

"We also encountered some problems in the beginning, but me and my husband, Edwin, do the marketing and directly manage the business," quipped Mueda, who considers Edwin as the business' "most effective hands-on administrator."

Problems such as nurses not following instructions, marketing and staffing, manpower shortage, employees being pirated by rival home health centers, immediately hounded Mueda's business, put up in partnership with another Ilonggo nurse and entrepreneur Roland Hedriana, according to Edwin.

"But despite the recession, we haven't laid off anyone," Mueda sighed. "In fact, we keep hiring people."

FILIPINO STAFF

Mueda, who worked in home health for 12 years, said 90 percent of their staff are Filipino nurses, physical therapists, nursing aides, occupational therapists, speech

therapists, and social workers.

Mueda described home health as "like a hospital but is done in the home and the nature of this business is professional health care staff."

She and Edwin valiantly decided to establish their own home health upon the advice of their doctor friends who made firm assurances to use the home health for the doctors' patients.

"Thus we became independent and decision-making is the most important," Mueda explained. "We figured it is easy to run it (home health) if you have the knowledge, background and experience."

Mueda graduated at St. Paul College (now university) in Iloilo City in 1989 and credited the Catholic-run institution "for what I am today as well as the other nurses who graduated there."

CHICAGO HOME HEALTH

In 1992, Mueda, a board passer and full-fledged nurse, arrived in the United States and landed right away in home health in Chicago's central nursing home.

"That's the only nursing field I know since then," she humbly stressed in an exclusive interview at the Braxton Seafood Grill, here, recently.

She finds her fellow Filipino medical professionals to be "flexible and trustworthy" and "always willing to go out in the field."

Competitions among home health centers in Illinois are tight owing to growing patient population and longer life expectancy among Americans, according to Mueda; "but our advantage is we operate for 24 hours and we keep that as a standard."

Mueda said her main satisfaction and something any operators of home health anywhere in the United States would not have the qualms to brag about, is "patient or client satisfaction."

"We provide their needs on time, we give excellent patient care, and courtesy visits," she pointed out. "Our nurses in the field who are mostly Filipinos are really good and well-known (in the United States) as excellent caregivers."

A Filipino male employee described both Lira and Edwin as "one of the most generous couples in business" saying "they always recognized employees by holding annual gathering like Christmas party where great raffle prizes are given away."

'RECESSION PROOF'

Why is nursing considered a "recession-proof" profession? Mueda volunteered that in health care system in the United States, no one is being turned down and there are more demands for the job.

"Aside from being accessible, health care is basic

Lawmaker calls on gov't, communist rebels to resume peace talks Without pre-conditions

Opposition Senator Chiz Escudero yesterday called on government and the National Democratic Front (NDF) to resume peace talks without pre-conditions to show their sincerity in ending the long-running communist insurgency in Asia.

"We should do away with preconditions. Both sides should work for the immediate resumption of the formal talks. The bloodletting must stop, especially now that our countrymen are being hit hard by the economic crisis," he said.

The senator issued the statement on the eve of the 40th founding anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA), the NDF's armed wing, on March 29. Formal talks between the Philippine government and the NDF collapsed in August 2004 with the inclusion of the rebels in the US and EU (European Union) terrorist lists.

"The failure of past administrations to bring about true and meaningful change in our country has fueled this long-running revolutionary movement. But armed struggle is not the answer to our country's problems," Escudero, chairman of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights, said.

He said both

sides should work together to break the impasse by implementing confidence-building measures.

The government demands, among other things, an indefinite ceasefire as a precondition to the resumption of formal talks and proposed that the discussions focus on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR).

The rebels, on the other hand, have outlined a number of "impediments" to the continuation of the peace process. The NDF is demanding that the government move for the delisting of the CPP-NPA as a "foreign terrorist organization" in the list of the United States and the European Union.

It is also asking for the release of NDF consultants Elizabeth Principe, Randolph Echanis, Eduardo Serrano, Eduardo Sarmiento and Randy Malayao. It has also urged the government to stop the "persecution" of its chief political consultant Jose Ma. Sison in The Netherlands.

The NDF has also deplored alleged extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances of over 1,000 unarmed legal activists.

The opposition senator said that the recent electoral victories of the Left in Latin America show that the parliamen-

tary arena is a viable alternative to armed struggle.

Escudero said the success of Bayan Muna party-list leader, Rep. Satur Ocampo, and his militant colleagues as well as other left-of-center groups in getting elected to the Lower House show the advances in the country's political environment since 1986.

"Democratic space has widened considerably since 1946 when the elected representatives of the Democratic Alliance were barred from taking their seats in the House. We must work together to expand it further," he said.

Escudero also said the government must seek peace with honor instead of engaging in a military campaign to destroy the rebels by 2010.

He pointed out that billions being spent by government in its counter-insurgency campaign could be instead be allocated for development purposes if talks resume and a ceasefire agreed upon by both parties.

"We all know that a military solution will not end this insurgency. Unless we root out poverty and injustice, the rebellion will continue," Escudero said.

"There can be no genuine development without peace. All we need is the political will and purity of heart to end this conflict among Filipinos once and for all."/Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Cont. on page 8

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

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE JUDGE

RE: PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT
AS NOTARY PUBLIC

ATTY. RUBIE
LORRAINE S.
BOGYA-LICTAO
Petitioner.

x-----x

NOTARY PUBLIC
N0.09-NC-0155

NOTICE OF
HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a summary hearing on the petition for appointment as notary public filed by the above-named petitioner shall be held on April 16, 2009 at 10:30 o'clock in the morning before the Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court, La Trinidad, Benguet. Any person who has any cause or reason to object to the grant of the petition may file a verified written opposition thereto on or before the date of the summary hearing.

Let this Notice of Hearing be published once (1) a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in the JUNCTION, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province, the first publication to be made not later than March 29, 2009.

SO ORDERED.
La Trinidad, Benguet,
Philippines, this 26TH
day of March, 2009.

By (SGD) BENIGNO
M. GALACGAC Vice-
Executive Judge

March 28 and
April 4, 2009

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT, BRANCH
1
(FAMILY COURT
FOR BENGUET
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
La Trinidad.
Benguet

IN THE MATTER
OF PETITION FOR
CORRECTION FOR
THE CHANGE OF
NAME OF MINOR
SELINA BAYAONA
ALVAREZ TO
MARIE THERESE
G BAYAONA
AND ORDER
CORRECTION OF
ENTRY IN THE
BIRTH
CERTIFICATE OF
PETITIONER.,

SELINA B.
ALVAREZ (MARIE
THERESE
BAYAONA)
Assisted by
TERESITA C.
BAYAONA,
Grandmother And
Guardian,
Petitioner.

- versus -

LUIGI ARNOLD
ALVAREZ AND THE
MUNICIPAL
LOCAL CIVIL
REGISTRAR OF LA
TRINIDAD,
BENGUET

Respondents.

x-----x

SPECIAL
PROCEEDINGS

Rules set....

.... from page 3

chains, eateries, motels, lodges, inns, boarding housing, disco houses, videoke bars and movie houses or any other place offering food, sleeping, accommodation and recreational facilities to the public for a fee.

Public building refers to any building or structure owned by the government and used for government purpose or one that is owned by a private person but used exclusively by the government or any of its instrumentalities or any building used or controlled for public purposes without reference to the ownership of the building.

A public place refers to gasoline stations, banks, malls, town squares, terminals, shopping or business arcades, schools, churches, hospitals, cinema houses, gymnasias, funeral parlors, barber shops and parks.

As per the rules, establishments are required to designate a smoking room or area which is totally enclosed or physically segregated but properly ventilated and properly marked by a sign posted saying "Smoking Area."

The sign shall include a warning in English about the ill effects of both smoking and secondary exposure to tobacco smoke.

Accommodations and entertainment establishments can however opt to be considered as smoking establishments but must first obtain registration with the Office of the City Mayor.

Persons liable are any individual smoking within the prohibited areas, any passenger, driver, conductor or inspector of government-owned vehicles or PUVs, or the president or manager, owner/proprietor or operator of accommodation and entertainment establishments who "knowingly and willfully allows, abets or tolerates and/or fails

CASE 09-C-1540

ORDER

Petitioner assisted by her Grandmother and Guardian Tourist G Bayaona through counsel, filed this verified petition praying that after due notice, publication and hearing the court orders the Local Civil Registrar d La Trinidad. Benguet to change the following entry b her Certificate d Lire Birth as follows

No. : from
SELINA BAYAONA
ALVAREZ to MARIE
THERESE G
BAYAONA And to
CANCEL 1. the entries:

Date and Place
of Marriage of Parents : October

10.1992. Potia.
Ifugao
And to JUST
LEAVE It BLANK.

WHEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in tam and substance the court sets it for hearing on August 13, 2009 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning before the Session Hall of this Court, Capitol, La Trinidad, Benguet and all persons interested may appear and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published at the expense d the petitioners m the JUNCTION, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province, once a week, for three(3) consecutive

weeks, the first Publication to be made not later than March 29, 2009.

Furnish copies hereof together with a copy of the petition and its annexes to the Office d the Solicitor General, Makati City; the Provincial Prosecutor d Benguet; the Local Civil Registrar d La Trinidad, Benguet; the Junction: the petitioner and counsel.

SO ORDERED.

This 25th day of
march 2009 at La
Trinidad, Benguet.

By: (SGD) FRANCIS
A. BULIUYAT SR.
Presiding Judge

March 28 and
April 4 - 11,
2009

to warn, advise or report violators."

The Health and Services Office and the City Building and Architecture Office are tasked to inspect and certify the appropriateness of the designated smoking areas while the inspection of tourism-accredited and non-accredited establishments shall be done by the city health office in coordination with the city administrator's office.

The rules also give establishments 60 days to comply with the requirements including the registration of accommodation and entertainment establishments with designated smoking areas.

For the penalties, violators will be meted fines ranging from P500 to P2,000 or imprisonment or not less than one to six months or both upon discretion of the courts.

Failure to comply with the 60-day period would be a ground for business permit revocation.

Establishment owners will be subject to following penalties: P300 fine or one month imprisonment or both for the first offense; P500 fine and two months imprisonment for second offense and P1,000 fine and four months imprisonment for third and subsequent offenses.

PUV violators are subject to fines ranging from P100 to P500 and imprisonment of from one to three months.

Three violations of the rules shall be ground for cancellation of the establishment's business permit./aileen p. refuerzo

Fil - am nurse....

.... from page 6

and a right, not a privilege. Health care in the United States is very open and most elderly here live longer," she enthused. "Lay off (among medical professionals) is very rare and the job is really in demand."

Mueda disclosed that health care in the United States "is not yet and may not be affected by recession."

Home health, according to her, "is the cheapest form of homecare."

Home health helps patients stay for a shorter period in the hospital; it helps save medicare a lot of money, she admitted.

Other advantages of home health, she added, are the following: It avoids cross infections for patients; patients heal better; and helps patients how to be independent instead of letting them stay in the hospital.

HEALTHBUDGET

Mueda said she was "less worried" when President Barack Obama

Cont. on page 11

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT BRANCH
4
(FAMILY COURT
FOR BENGUET)
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
La Trinidad,
BENGUET

IN THE MATTER
OF THE PETITION
FOR
LEGITIMATION
AND
CORRECTION OF
ENTRY IN THE
CERTIFICATE OF
LIVE BIRTH OF
THE MINOR
NICOLIE
DONGALEN
KHAYAD,

FRANCIS S.
KHAYAD JR.,
Petitioner,

-versus-

THE MUNICIPAL
CIVIL REGISTRAR
OF LA TRINIDAD,
BENGUET.

Respondent.

X-----X

SPECIAL
PROCEEDINGS
Case no. 09-C-1538

ORDER

Petitioner,
through counsel
filed this verified
petition praying
that after due no-
tice, publication and
hearing, the court
orders the Local
Civil Registrar of
La Trinidad,
Benguet to correct
the following en-
tries in the Certifi-
cate of Live Birth of
Nicolie D. Khayad as
follows:

Name of Father
- from FRANCIS
TOM SORIA
KHAYAD JR. To
FRANCIS SORIA
KHAYAD JR.

Date of Mar-
riage of Parents:
from SEPTEMBER 5,
1994 to APRIL
19, 1996

Place of Mar-
riage of Parents:
from TUBA.
BENGUET to LA
TRINIDAD
BENGUET

And to DE-
CLARE Nicolie D.
Khayad as the le-
gitimated child of
Francis S. Khayad
Jr. and Eunice D.
Khayad

WHEREFORE,
finding the petition
to be sufficient in
form and substance,
the court sets it for
hearing on August
6, 2009 at 9:00
o'clock in the morn-
ing before the Ses-
sion Hall of this
Court. Benguet
Provincial Capital.
La Trinidad.
Benguet and all
persons interested
may appear and
show cause, if any,
why this petition
should not be
granted.

Let this order
be published at the
expense of the pe-
titioner in the
JUNCTION

NEWSPAPER, a
newspaper of gen-
eral circulation in
Baguio City and
Benguet Province.
once a week, for
three (3) consecu-
tive weeks, the first
publication to be
made not later than
March 22, 2009.

Furnish copies
hereof together
with a copy of the
petition and its an-
nexes to the Office
of the Solicitor
General, Makati
City; the Provin-
cial Prosecutor of
Benguet, the Local
Civil Registrar of
La Trinidad.
Benguet, The Junc-
tion Newspaper,
The Petitioner and
Counsel

SO ORDERED.

This 17th day of
March 2009 at La
Trinidad, Benguet.

SGD. FRANCIS S.
BULIYAT SR.
Presiding Judge

March 21, 28
and April 4,
2009

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

IN THE
MATTER OF
PETITION FOR
CORRECTION OF
ENTRIES IN
THE
CERTIFICATE
OF LIVE BIRTH
OF MARION
JOY C.
SUMALI,

MARION JOY C
SUMALI,
represented
herein by her
Father QUINTO
B. SUMALI,

Petitioner,
-versus -

HL, - LOCAL
CIVIL
REGISTRAR OF
BOKOD,
BENGUET

AND THE
NATIONAL
STATISTICS
OFFICE,

Respondents,

X-----X

SPECIAL
PROCEEDINGS
CASE NO. 09-C-
15308

ORDER

Petitioner.
through counsel,
filed this veri-
fied petition
praying the after
due notice, pub-
lication and
hearing the court
orders the Local
Civil Registrar of
Bokod,
Benguet to
change the fol-
lowing entry in
the certificate
of Live Birth of
Marion Joy C.

Sumali as fol-
lows:

Sex : from MALE.
to FEMALE

WHEREFORE,
finding the peti-
tion to be suffi-
cient in form and
substance, the
court sets it for
hearing on July
29, 2009 at 9:00
o'clock in the
morning before
the Session Hall
of this Court,
Capitol, La
Trinidad Benguet
and all persons
interested may
appear and show
cause, if any,
why this petition
should not be
granted.

Let this Or-
der be published
at the expense of
the petitioners in
the
JUNCTION NEWSPAPER
a newspaper of
general circula-
tion in Baguio
City and Benguet
Province, once :
week, for
three(3) consecu-
tive weeks, the
first publication
to be made not
later than March
22, 2009..

Furnish cop-
ies hereof to-
gether with a
copy of the peti-
tion and its an-
nexes to the Of-
fice Of The So-
licitor General,
Makati City; the
Provincial Pros-
ecutor of
Benguet; the Lo-
cal Civil Regis-
trar of Bokod
Benguet, ; The
Junction Newspa-
per ; the peti-
tioner and Coun-
sel

SO ORDERED.

This 16th day of
March 2009 at La
Trinidad .
Benguet.

By:(SGD)
FRANCIS A.
BULIYAT SR.
Presiding Judge
March 21, 28
and April 4,
2009

Pinupuna at Pinapansin.....

..... from page 4

pakatatandaan ng mga SUWAPANG AT MAGNANAKAW na opisyal na ito na may sinasabing Law Of Karma, meaning what you sow is what you reap. Sa simpleng salita, kapag magnanakaw kayo, balang araw mananakawan din kayo o mas masahol na trahedya ang sasapit kung hindi sa inyo ay sa inyong mga mahal sa buhay, yan sa aking palagay ang Law Of Karma.

Sa puntong ito ay nais ko ring pasalamatan ang isa ko pang informer hinggil sa mga kaganapan sa NCIP na si pareng Vic B. Salamat sa lahat ng mga impormasyong na ibigay mo SER!!! Marahil siguro ay dapay ng palitan ang pangalan ng NCIP at huwag ng NCIP kung hindi NCIPILCK as in National Commission On Indigenous Land Claimants Kunwari, Hi ! Hi ! Hi !....

Editorial

..... from page 4

harassed in economic zone factories.

Despite laws like Anti-Trafficking (RA 9208) or Anti-Rape Law (RA 8353) the fur-
tive trafficking of women, as sex slaves, paradoxically persists.

Prostitution thrives in Manila, Cebu and Davao. But the blight taints out-of-the-way places like Bongao in Sulu. Well-structured flesh syndicates in Zamboanga traf-
fick girls into Malaysia.

An increasing number of underaged Muslim girls are funneled to Middle East countries, the report says. Of 287 studied by the Human Rights Documentation Sys-
tem, 40 were minors when trafficked. The youngest was a 10-year old a year younger than now released former Congressman Romeo Jalosjos' victim.

Women trafficked to Saudi Arabia, Syria, Taipei and the United Arab Emirates are generally destined for sexual exploita-
tion and slavery-like conditions of domestic work. Those shipped to Cyprus, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Singapore are generally destined for pros-
titution.

Migration comes at a cost. More so for a country where almost 3,000 leave daily to beat grinding poverty. Much attention has focused on OFW remittances. But the real bill has not been fully tallied. What is the real cost for whole generations long sepa-
rated from spouses children and families Not by bread alone do countries survive.

There've been useful initiatives to ad-
dress these interlocking problems. Many come from the private sector. Bantay Bata, for example, helped more than 13,000 vic-
tims. The Catholic Church has a full time commission on migrants. The Visayan For-
um aids human trafficking victims. Philip-
pine Port Authority set up half-way houses. Lihok Pilpina in Cebu has mustered re-
sources for this sector.

But much remains to be done. "It is nice enough that we do our best, Winston Churchhill often stressed. Sometimes, we have to do what is required.

Lawmaker says..**.... from page 1**

branch from reallocating funds for one project to another without informing the Legislative, or allowing the public to scrutinize such allocations.

Escudero recalled that in a study done last year by the Washington-based think-tank International Budget Partnership, the Philippines was seen as not having initiated ways to make it easy for citizens to track its spending, revenue collection and borrowing.

He also said that the money wasted on corruption by government annually could have been spent on education and social services, health and agriculture.

"The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission recently disclosed that 20% of the country's annual budget goes to corruption. With the 2009 budget set at P1.415 trillion, one can only imagine the amount that will go to the pockets of others," he noted.

In 2008, the budget for education was P145 billion, social services P5.5 billion, health P1.66 billion, and agriculture P21.7 billion.

Escudero said such sums would be paltry compared to what is lost to corruption.

The opposition senator said Mrs. Arroyo's veto decision makes it harder to hold government accountable for cases involving abuse, misuse, and corruption of public funds.

As chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revisions of Laws and Codes, Escudero has already taken steps to address corruption.

In trying to make Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, more effective, he filed Senate Bill 1963 that sought to put treaties, bilateral arrangements, and executive agreements under the coverage of the procurement law.

Escudero noted that the charges filed this week against 17 former and current DPWH officials in connection with the anomalous bidding for World-Bank funded road projects only underscores the need for more transparency.

"It is the duty of any government to have all information on the budget available to the public so that scandals like this can be prevented," he said./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Panllio Padaca..**.... from page 2**

In welcoming the Panlilio-Padaca team-up, Escudero also said that since the Philippines values freedom and the rule of law, anyone who can contribute to nation-building or help provide solutions to the country's ills is welcome to participate in the political process.

"I believe that our democratic ideals are best served when more people of every political persuasion can lend a hand in boosting efforts to engender hope and harmony in the country rather despair and disillusionment."

He stressed that the current government has pushed the country to the brink of ruin,

where corruption is the order of the day rather than transparency and accountability.

"If Gov. Panlilio and Gov. Padaca share our national values over individual interests, I am sure we will be able to find common ground in finding the proper way to address many vexing issues facing our nation," Escudero stressed./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Chiz dares..**.... from page 2**

(Comelec) Chair Jose Melo has said it is no longer possible to hold a plebiscite on charter change before the 2010 elections.

"Why even push and rush it at this time? At a time when we are confronting a deepening economic crisis, the last thing we want to engage in is a divisive debate on charter change," Escudero said.

Nogralas has said that he will file the draft resolution calling for the convening of a constituent assembly (Con-Ass) to amend the constitution after it was able to get the support of 175 congressmen/Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Lawmaker to Ched**.... from page 2**

the Philippines and the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations against the CHED plan, Escudero said making nursing a five-year course would mean an additional financial burden to parents and students.

"Parents set aside a budget for the education of their children. Based on current figures each nursing student needs about P100,000 annually for matriculation plus textbooks, excluding review courses. Adding another year to the course makes it more expensive," the senator pointed out.

At the same time, Escudero also called for a moratorium on tuition, miscellaneous and other fees, noting that most nursing colleges also have compulsory in-house review courses that are paid for separately by students.

Meanwhile, based on a report done by CHED and the Professional Regulatory Commission, only 12 out of the top 175 nursing schools in the country had a passing rate of 90% or higher during the period 2000-2004.

In the 1970s & 1980s, the passing average for the Nursing Licensure Exam was 80-90%. But in 2008, only 44.51%, or 39,455 out of 88,649 examinees, passed.

"The nursing profession in the Philippines has yet to recover from the 2006 leakage case. This is a symptom of the long-standing deterioration of our nursing education. The CHED must not focus on facilitating the commercialization of the profession and instead make it less difficult for those wanting to take it up," Escudero said./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

House holds..**.... from page 3**

transients on existing city ordinances prohibiting littering and the need to maintain their areas, surroundings and premises clean for their own health security and safety," he said.

Farinas reminded that the city has existing ordinances penalizing the owners and administrators of residential and commercial establishments who do not maintain cleanliness in their premises.

"In view of this, you are hereby requested to strictly comply with the provisions of the (ordinances)," Farinas said in the memorandum./aileen p. refuerzo

2- Social**.... from page 3**

other hand relates, "I drop everything when I hear little footsteps coming through the front door."

They say, the love they feel is so overwhelming they just have to share it with those in need of loving, of caring.

Because of similar circumstances, both agree they appreciate even the minutest expressions of life now, more than ever.

Thus, they continue working, not minding the pain stubbornly reminding them they are ill.

"It's our spiritual therapy," they claimed.

The two social workers have each received nominations for City Hall's outstanding employee citation, with none actually bagging the plum; cash prize they could have easily used for one of their treatment sessions.

If you want to help them so more can benefit from their ill but caring hands, you may visit them at the CSWDO or call (074) 446-2718, 442-7893, or 442-3842.

To the hearts of many, their excellence goes beyond time and even humanity./ISL

Batas.....**..... from page 5**

cated some kind of a gift, a gift of unity and understanding and peaceful cooperation and co-existence, all of which this country urgently needs in the days to come.

I am sure many of those who wanted to project an image of a strong leader in time for the presidential elections in 2010 would have looked at the BIDA march with envious green eyes, because Kuya Efren has now easily projected himself as a strong contender and a possible winner, with the people willing to sacrifice, at his beck and call.

Unknown to many, however, Kuya Efren had been in the forefront of the fight against illegal drugs, in cooperation with various socio-civic organizations, local government units and law enforcement agencies.

Through PAGCOR, Kuya Efren has been responsible for the previous BIDA marches, which, in themselves, also set individual records in attendance of those who detest the drug menace.

-ooo-

Comments? Email them at batasmauricio@yahoo.com, or you can call me at 09179842468

City to begin**.... from page 3**

Property Land Identification Task Force composed of city personnel with technical capabilities to undertake the land identification and survey to establish the metes and bounds of the property.

The task force will be composed of Engrs. Luis Ortencio of the city assessor's office, Edward Magalgalit of the city building and architecture office, Gerald Sannad of the city engineering office and Virgilio Tumayan of the city planning and development office, Salvador Goyala, Edwin Ingosan and Roland Obello of the city environment management office and three police personnel from the city police office.

Apart from conducting the actual identification, survey and evaluation of the lot, the task force will also be tasked to coordinate with barangay officials and residents on the plans and activities of the task force and to prepare and submit to the Baguio City Solid Waste Management Board evaluation reports, plans and other pertinent documents generated during the identification and survey.

The body was also tasked to submit a report on its accomplishments after a month.

The Sto. Tomas lot was recently chosen over four other shortlisted options as the final location of the planned landfill. It is said to be the most advantageous since it is located within the city and would require the least development cost of P61 million.

Concio said the city will also have to begin the process of conducting a survey on social acceptability to satisfy the requirements of the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources.

After which, a full-blown feasibility study on the site will be made preparatory for the city's application for an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the DENR.

Construction or development proper will only begin upon satisfaction of these requirements.

Concio said the city plans to develop the first cell which will require a one-hectare area of the lot. He said this cell can contain the city's wastes for three to five years. The succeeding cells can be developed in future.

The establishment of a landfill has been identified as the city's final disposal facility after the closure of the Irisan open dumpsite pursuant to Republic Act No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

The mayor said a safe disposal system is also included in the city's Comprehensive Land Use Plan of 2002-2008 and the Medium-Term Development Plan of Baguio City for 2005-2010./aileen p. refuerzo

Fil - am nurse....**.... from page 8**

unveiled a multi-trillion-dollar budget on February 26, an ambitious plan to boost clean energy development, access to education and health care coverage.

Some of those costs would be offset in part by allowing tax cuts to expire for the wealthiest households. An overview of the spending plan for health care showed

the budget sets aside a reserve fund for what Obama calls a "down payment on health care reform": \$633.8 billion over the next 10 years.

About half of the money would come from reductions in payments to health care providers who serve the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The other half would come from limiting the value of itemized deductions for wealthier families, those earning \$250,000 a year or more.

The budget also lays out eight principles for Congress to use in fashioning a health overhaul plan, including making health coverage affordable; guaranteeing people a choice of plans (including keeping the coverage they have through their employers); and investing in prevention and wellness. Another principle: "Aim for universality." The budget says any health care overhaul "must put the United States on a clear path to covering all Americans."

When they started the home health, Mueda figured it will be good if it stays for five years. "But it's now (in full operation for) eight years and it will be there for a long time, for the future of our children," said Mueda, referring to Joshua, 13; Mahalia, 2; and one-month old Ethen.

Mueda's parents are Rafael and Lilia and her elder sister is Cecile Pearce who is also a nurse in California. Youngest among five siblings, Mueda's other brothers are Carlo, Dante, and Angelo, who are all living in Miag-ao town, some 42 kilometers away from Iloilo City in the Southern Philippines./ **By Alex P. Vidal/ PNS**

Diretsahan.....**..... from page 6**

gobyerno para sa agarang ikalulutas ng kasong ito, pero ang pinakamainam na panlaban ay ang kooperasyon ng mga mamamayan at paigtingin ang patrulya ng ating mga kapulisan sa mga lugar na maaaring sentro sa pag-atake ng mga "Manyakis"! di Tsip Superentendent Wilfredo Franco, Ser?

oOo

Saludo ako sa grupong "CIVAC" o Civilian Volunteers Action Group na isang Multiplier Force ng ating Law Enforcement Unit sa patuloy nilang suporta at pag-aalay para mapangalagaan ang Pis en Order dito sa lungsod ng Baguio.

Saludo rin ako kay punong barangay William Domogen ng Lower Session Road, Malcolm Sq. sa pagbibigay sa konting

espasyo sa Peoples Park para magamit ng CIVAC.

Para sa kaalaman ng ating mga suki, marami na ang naitulong ang CIVAC sa pagsugpo ng mga krimen, katulad ng isnatsing, pandurukot, nakawan, holdapan at iba pang Street Crimes. Sa ngayon, mapapansin na maayos at tahimik na ang Peoples park na dating pinamumugaran ng mga masasamang elemento lalo na sa dis-oras ng gabi, kaya naman panatag na ang kalooban ng ating mga mamamayan na paboritong pahingahan ang nasabing lugar! Kay PB Domogen at ang CIVAC na pinangungunahan ni Pareng Albert, Kudos sa inyo mga apo! Ipagpatuloy!

oOo

At sino kaya itong isang mataas na opisyal ng Baguio City na namataan ng isa kong "Bubuwit" na bumibili umano ng isang gamot sa "Nanlambot na alaga" sa isang botika ng intsik sa Upper Mabini St.? nakakapgtaka dahil hindi naman katandaan itong opisyal na kung tutuusin ay kaya pa nitong bunuin ng ilang rounds ang kapartner. Siguro, bayad utang ito sa pang-aabuso niya sa kanyang katawan noon. Balita kasing lasenggo ito at mahilig magbisita sa mga bahay aliwan. Sino sa palagay nyo mga suki ang opisyal na ito? Pen pen de sarapen! Bato uten de almasen,... aw, aw, he he

SUMVAC**.... from page 12**

still to be decided on. April 17 also marks the start of the Baguio Centennial Music and Arts Festival until April 24, while the Summer Delphic Workshop follows on April 18 to 23.

On April 22, Earth Day shall be celebrated with various activities on how to value and save mother earth. The city shall also send a delegation to participate to the annual Aliwan Fiesta in Manila, on April 23-25.

On April 27, Baguio commemorates the heroism of its veteran sons and daughters in the liberation of the city from enemy forces. A befitting ceremony, including a gun salute and floral offerings, follows at the veterans park, with the remaining veterans and women' auxiliary units, widows and children.

Baguio also serves as host to the Philippine Councilor's League convention, and the Summer Arts Festival on April 28 to 30, and May 1.

On May 2 and 3, the Baguio City National High School (BCNHS) observes its annual homecoming with its alumni from abroad and nationwide attending the affair. On May 3, a workshop shall be conducted on the making of paper carp streamers.

May 4 and 5 shall be the City Mayor's Office Public Employment Services Office job fair, at the Baguio Convention Center.

On May 9 and 10, an art workshop and concert at the park will be conducted, respectively, with venues to be announced.

The Asian Institute of Management (AIM) conducts a Creative Arts Workshop at the Igorot Lodge, Camp John Hay on May 11 and 12.

May 15 marks International Day of Families, and on May 28, "Sabsabong ti Mayo" closes the Summer Vacation activities./ juliegianza

Sr. Citizens adopt rose garden

BAGUIO CITY—Funds for the initial improvement and development of the Rose Garden at Burnham Park have been allocated by Congressman Mauricio Domogan and the council through vice-mayor Daniel Farinas, as senior citizens of the city “adopt” the said park last Thursday morning.

The congressman committed half-a-million pesos, while the vice-mayor promised P400,000, with the senior citizens organizations, including the retirees and veterans’ associations, witnessing the occasion.

To initially start the development, the congressman planted rose shrubs, assisted by the senior citizens.

A contracted group, with personnel from the City Parks Management Office as supervised by the senior citizens’ group shall go on with the beautification procedures.

The “adoption” of the park is part of the advocacy program of senior citizens in doing their part as cooperative and productive citizens, in their twilight years. Congressman Domogan and the vice-mayor thus, expressed appreciation for the senior citizens’ efforts.

According to Vice mayor Farinas, during the weekly Ugnayan forum later Thursday morning, he envisions the adopt-a-park program as initial effort

in the development of the “garden of peace, filled with bouquets of harmony.” “The funding initiative proves that we are sincere in our efforts in working hand-in-hand with them,” the vice-mayor added.

In connection to this improvement in the park, Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr., last week issued an administrative order for additional personnel in the Burnham Park Management Authority (BPMA) so as to ensure “major development directions congruent with the landscaping and preservation plan of Burnham Park.”

The original committee shall now proceed with development programs, with the City Buildings and Architecture Office department head, and the Public Order and Safety Division chief./juliegfianza

THE JUNCTION WEEKEND



SURVIVOR. Francisco “Boy” Vidal who survived the 1990 temblor while working as a guard at Hyatt Baguio revisits the place where he was virtually reborn, claiming with his experience, he can weather the greatest of storms. Boy is now a US citizen based in Hawaii. He is joined by wife Alice and son Francis, Jr. who is celebrating his first birthday on April 5./Bong Cayabyab

SUMVAC activities for April and May

BAGUIO CITY—Activities designed for all ages abound in the city, as various groups launch their own way of celebrating summer; through indigenous games, search for picturesque objects, culture and literature, piety, nature treks and environmental endeavors, and food fares.

According to Vice-Mayor Daniel Farinas, all committee heads and members from the city government are advised to see to their respective assignments for SUMVAC 2009 activities.

For starters, on April 5, Kafagway Summerbest launches

its activities in all religious establishments and churches in the city. The group, headed by former city councilor and National Correspondents Club of Baguio (NCCB) president Narciso Padilla, shall choose foreign visitors and tour them around the city during the four-day holy week break. The guests shall also visit neighboring towns; La Trinidad and Tuba for strawberry picking and a tour at the Brown Madonna site, respectively.

A lucky first-time summer visitor shall also be chosen by members of the local

media, the Baguio Correspondents and Broadcasters Club (BCBC), as tourists start their holy day trek to Baguio on Thursday.

Guided tours within the city and to neighboring towns, with their local fare

and provisions to offer; and tourist spots to view, shall occupy most of the four days, with going away gifts for the lucky visitors.

On April 11, Holy Saturday, a pageant of flowers and candlelights

shall proceed from Upper Session road down to People’s Park, Malcolm Square. On Easter Sunday, April 12, a mass by the lake shall be celebrated, while other churches conduct their own

Easter observations in various venues. Easter egg hunts are also scheduled in other venues, in malls here in the city.

An electric light parade shall be done on April 17, with venue

Cont. on page 11

Pinoy, kaya natin ito! Yes the Filipino can!

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