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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!! BAGUO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Pahayagang palabang DENR-CAR Says Watershed Protection Is Everybody's Concern



PROUD IGOROT - Alexander Tumapang, a Cordilleran flutist proudly displays the Philippine flag during the opening ceremony of the III Delphic Games in Jeju, Korea. Tumapang is R P's representative in the Double Reed and Wood wind music competition./ Art Tibaldo.

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - Environment and Natural Resources Regional Cordillera Administrative Region Director Primitivo Galinato Jr. calls on officials, farmers and other stakeholders to help work out for the protection and conservation of the deteriorating state of the region's watershed system.

Saying that DENR cannot do it alone,

Galinato stressed that something must be done with the sorry state of the watershed system otherwise it will become a survival of the fittest.

According to Galinato, there are only 729,539 hectares of forest cover area remaining in the region, of which more than 481,491 hectares need to be rehabilitated.

He lamented the massive conversion of mossy forests into vegetable gardens. If this goes on, it will lead to massive soil erosion then eventually sedimentation and siltation, he

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Paano ba yan eh Si Meyor mismo hinahaayang ma-iskwatan ang Busol



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POI NA BASTOS!!! Si CLOSE -OPEN MAYOR RAB!!!

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



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Visions for Baguio for 2109

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



Forfeiture case could be filed Against Cong. Mikey Arroyo

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday said a forfeiture case could be filed against Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo for the manifestly disproportionate jump of his net worth from P5.7 million in 2001 to P99.2 million last year, the bulk of which he acquired after becoming a congressman in 2004.

Under RA 1379, when a public official's net worth is grossly disproportionate to his salary and other legitimate

sources of income, it is enough ground for any taxpayer to initiate forfeiture proceedings, the 39-year old lawmaker said.

Cong. Arroyo had disclosed in a television interview that campaign contributions were partly the reason for the increase in his net worth.

According to published reports, Cong. Arroyo, however, only declared campaign expenses of P483,000 in 2004 and P552,876.15 in 2007, when he ran

and won as representative for the first district of Pampanga.

"Sa bibig nahuhuli ang isda. This makes it unexplained wealth in violation of the law which can subject the property to forfeiture proceedings in favor of government," said Escudero.

"We all know however that Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez will not initiate proceedings against Cong. Mikey at this time. Any action will likely languish on her desk," the 39-year old lawmaker said.

The senator said **Cont. on page 10**

Baguio hosts 2nd National Human Rights Action Plan area consultation

BAGUIOCITY—The second area consultation for the formulation of the Second National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) was held in this city on September 10-11, 2009.

The NHRAP formulation is being spearheaded by the Presidential Human Rights Committee (PHRC) in partnership with government Executive agencies and civil society organizations, as defined in Administrative Order No. 163, series of 2006.

The Baguio City area consultation cov-

ers Regions I, II, and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and is the second in the series of area consultation that begun in Manila in August and which will be completed in November via a national summit.

The area consultation, according to Undersecretary Severo Catura, executive director of the PHRC, is a problem-solving mechanism designed to successfully overcome human rights issues and challenges through the joint efforts of

government agencies as the so-called rights duty-bearer and the people as the rights claimholders. "We are pushing for a new and a broader way of looking at human rights as it would impact the full development of our people and the nation as a whole," Catura explained.

Human rights objectives and standards, he said, are integrated into this problem-solving mechanism, which is then linked to the government's development objectives. The aim is to achieve "bet-

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Ombudsman Gutierrez's memo On SALN illegal

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday denounced Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez for issuing an illegal memorandum imposing additional requirements before releasing copies of the Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Networth (SALN) to interested parties.

"Its illegal as it hinders or hampers free flow and access to information on matters of public concern," said the 39-year old lawmaker. "Confidentiality is the anti-thesis of 'public document.'" Besides the Ombudsman is not vanguard but the keeper of the SALN so that the public can have better access to it," he pointed out.

Ombudsman Gutierrez issued Memorandum Circular No. 1 on June 16, 2009 requiring a statement stating the reasons for the request and sworn into before a prosecutor of the anti-graft body and the presentation of two government-issued identification cards.

The circular also states that requests made by the public or media for copies of the SALN may be denied outright if the purpose is "contrary to morals or public policy, or is commercial in nature other than by news and communication media for dissemination to the general public."

It also says that the circular was issued because a request for the SALN may be "made under circumstances which may endanger, diminish, or destroy the independence and objectivity of the Office of the Ombudsman..."

"Instead of aggressively running after corrupt officials, the Ombudsman has decided to arrogate unto itself the additional task of safeguarding our morals and public policy," said Escudero.

"What other pretext will it think of next to make it more difficult for us to help fight corruption? The Ombudsman must rescind the memorandum immediately," he said./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Transparency, Ist Key To Improving RP Competitiveness

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero said transparency and the adoption of a collective "IT mindset" are the key to improving the country's dismal showing in the recently released Global Competitiveness Report 2009-2010 by

the World Economic Forum (WEF).

"I am not surprised at all by the recent results of the competitiveness report. A closer look at the country's state of infrastructure and the way business is done, particular with

the public sector, would explain everything," Escudero said.

He said business costs in the Philippines remain high because of several factors that include high "transactional costs" resulting from graft and corruption, high cost of electric-

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The Junction- OIC



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Voters registration ends October 31, 2009

The Commission on Election (COMELEC) in the region is encouraging all qualified voters for the coming local and national elections scheduled May 10, 2010 to go out and register in their respective municipalities and city. The last day of registration is on October 31, 2009.

Atty. Julius Torres, regional director of Comelec-CAR, said eligible to register in order to qualify to vote

are those who are at least 18 years old at the time of elections.

“There is a big number who are coming to register in our offices, everyday there is a long queue, most of them are new registrants who are eager to participate in next year’s national and local elections,” Torres said.

Torres also advised those who have not registered at all or who did not vote during the last two elections to check if their names are still on

the voters master list. Otherwise, they should register so that they can vote.

Torres bared that the poll automation will push through and the computer counting machines will arrive in the region this November. Smart Matic TIM corporation who is in charge of the computers, together with COMELEC personnel will train the teachers who will act as Board of Election

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EVERY MOVE YOU MAKE, EVERY STEP YOU TAKE, WE ARE WATCHING YOU Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr.’s trusted men POSD chief Greg Deligero, mayor’s Private Secretary Jay Co and Executive Assistant II Engr. Tonton Bautista monitor the activities along the central Business District’s strategic areas through a close circuit TV monitor linked at the Baguio Police Station. The mayor’s office is observing the effectivity of the P30M system installed by the Blue Media Communication being offered to the city to ease traffic congestion and help the city’s peace and order situation./By Bong Cayabyab

City Civil Service Month Celebration Focuses On Anti-Red Tape Program

BAGUIOCITY – The city government is bent on pursuing the anti-red tape program as a centerpiece of the celebration of the Civil Service

Month this month. Civil Service Commission regional director Adela Esteban said the city is now in the final stages of printing the

Citizen’s Charter, which spells out the service standards or the step-by-step procedures of the city

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City Breaks Dumpsite Barricade; Charts Plans To Clear Out Wastes

BAGUIOCITY – City officials Thursday charted the city’s waste management plan until the end of this year as waste collection normalized after City Hall operatives broke through the barricade set up by residents at the Irisan dumpsite to prevent its reuse as disposal area.

After tolerating the barricaders in the hope of achieving a compromise and amicable settlement amid an on-going court case, the city government decided to get tough and forcibly entered the site to resume the

waste deposit and hauling routine and normalize the collection system that had been paralyzed for several days causing the wastes to pile up all over the city.

City administrator Peter Fianza who heads the city environment management office said the move was made after the city and the barricaders led by the members of the Barangay Irisan, Asin Tadiangan Association failed to reach a compromise in a dialogue held last Wednesday.

The barricaders were protesting dumping in the area claiming this violated the agreement earlier reached that the city would only use the dumpsite as transfer station to haul out residual wastes but the city explained that the accumulation of wastes in the site cannot be prevented due

to inadequate trucks to haul the refuse and that the city would nevertheless need to deposit residual wastes as backfill to the recessed portions to stabilize the retaining wall built around the site as part of the process of rehabilitating and closing the area.

The continuing standoff prompted city legal officer Melchor Carlos Rabanes to recommend the forced entry as there was no legal prohibition for the city to do so as the property is owned by the city government and that there was no restraining order or injunction from the court.

Combined personnel from the city police office and the public order and safety division led by POSD head Gred Deligero and Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr.’s private secretary Jay Co dismantled the barricade and managed to attain

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National Federation of HS Students call for clean 2010 elections

BAGUIOCITY – About 5,500 high school student leaders from different public and private schools nationwide signed a manifesto calling for a clean, honest and truthful 2010 election.

These students were participants in the recently concluded 7th National Leadership Training for Student Government Officers (NLTSGO) held at the Teachers Camp from September 4-9.

The manifesto was inspired with this year’s NLTSGO

theme, “New Beginnings for nation-Building: Seizing Opportunities, Sustaining Initiatives” and with the rallying cry “Ako ang Magsisimula ng Pagbabago.”

In the said manifesto, the signatories

appeal to all who have expressed their intentions to run for public office to bare their platforms and concrete plans for the country and ensure that they will be carried out and will not remain as plans. They should address

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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

A Lethal Vacuum

"The past is never dead," author William Faulkner always insisted. "It is not even past." But are we, as a people, shackled by perpetual amnesia? Is 37 years ago beyond our capacity to remember?

Evening of September 21, in 1972, Ferdinand Marcos told us, without blinking: slavery was the price tag for democracy to survive here. Proclamation 1081 suspended human rights, padlocked Congress, censored the press. He managed to prostitute a number judges and military into service. And 14 years of the "New Society" (a.k.a. dictatorship) followed with looting, murder and mayhem.

You remember? You belong to a shriveling minority, if you do recall. Majority of youngsters today, surveys

EDITORIAL

and "it's unanimity of the graveyard."

These kids, however, are tomorrow's leaders. Yet, their insight into what People Power wrested back, is tenuous at best. So is their sense of stewardship for nurturing restored freedoms.

This can be a lethal vacuum, thoughtful Filipinos fret. "We are made wise, not by our recollection of the past, but by the responsibilities for the future," George Bernard Shaw cautions insisted:

How can we help people, specially the young, remember? Press groups, in this city and province, can perhaps, take a leaf from Cebu's unique Press Freedom Week rites.

Every third week of September, Cebu's five dailies, 34 radio and eight tv stations aside fierce competition. In unique programs, they underscore duties, not merely rights, of a free press. The professional side is balanced by press freedom walks and socials.

"Today, far too many take freedom of the press as a constitutional given, constant as the northern star," they warned in an earlier common editorial. But "salvage victims and massive corruption underscored the awesome penalty exacted when propagandists masquerade as journalists."

At the Fernan-Cebu Press Center this September, the press, journalism schools, officials civic and religious groups work together on professional concerns and upgrading standards.

The Cebu Citizens Press Council, for example, has sessions on coverage of the 2010 elections. In previous years, CPCC issued guidelines on right of reply, threats to journalists, reporting of crime and religious institutions.

The collective stands taken, over the years, dispel images of journalists banding merely to booze. They reveal professionals concerned over fairness, accuracy and reporting significance. Here are excerpts from their pooled editorials over the years:

Restoration of liberty of expression, by People Power, is a "gift with strings attached," said their first pooled editorial, "But make no mistake about it. This is not constitutional largesse for those who carry a press card.

"Nor are we just complacent beneficiaries of unbridled reporting or comment. We are, first and last, trustees of this gift," it asserted. "As stewards, we're tasked to use the latitude this freedom provides for what is just and good".

"Our young have patchy memories of the dictatorship," the editorial 'Cathedrals Without A Soul' noted. "Few recall that ordinary citizens, massed as 'People Power' on Edsa, risked all to return liberty of expres-

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DIRETSAHAN

**POI NA BASTOS !!!
Si CLOSE - OPEN MAYOR RAB !!!**

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Nagdeklara na si senador NOYNOY AQUINO na tatakbo sya bilang presidente sa darating na halalan... ang tanong may tsansa kaya itong binata nina Aling Cory at Ka Nonoy Aquino... Hindi kaya ito maging mitsa para sa pagkawatak ng oposisyon at magiging kalamangan ng mga nakangising administrasyon na pakuya-kuyakoy na lamang sa Malakanyang?

Habang wala pa sinuman sa oposisyon ang papagitna para maayos ang kanilang mga partido, lumiliit ngayon ang kanilang mga tsansa para makopo ang darating na eleksyon. Abangan na lang natin mga suki ang susunod na maiinit pang mangyayari sa mundo ng pulitika dito sa 'Pinas.

Matindi talaga itong si Chavit Singson. Mantakin mong hinamon nya ang malakanyang na sibakin sya sa mungkahi ng huli na magbakasyon muna siya dahil sa kinasasangkutan eskandalo. At bakit wala man lang reaksyon dito ang palasyo? Natatakot kaya sila na baka kumanta ng sintunado itong si Chavit kapag ito'y pinilit at masukol? Natatakot kaya ang malakanyang na gawin din sa kanila ang ginawa ni Chavit kay Erap, o baka naman nahihiya lang sila kay Chavit, kung hindi kasi kay Chavit ay baka wala sa puwesto niya ngayon si Ate Glo, may utang na loob baga, at kung mapikon si Chavit baka sila ay magka-"chavit-chavit"! Kung ako sa kanila wag na nilang pagbakasyunin o sibakin si Chavit Singson, gawin na nila itong opisyal na badigard ni Pacman kasama ang 2 PSG na itinalaga sa kanya.

Muntik nang mauwi sa gulo ang muling pagbubukas at pagbuwag ng mga nagbarikada ang mga pulis at POSD sa Irisan dumpsite. Walang magawa ang mga nagbarikada sa puwersa ng mga pulisya at mga tauhan ng Meyors ofis. Wala ring nagawa ang mga opisyal sa City Hall kundi ipabukas ulit ang nasabing dumpsite na siyang pinagtatapanan ng mga nabubulok ng basura sa lungsod.

Nakakatawa dahil nag-isyu noon ang mayor ng order para isara ang dumpsite pero ngayon ay muling binuksan? Ano ito, close-open? He! he! ang dami kasing "matatalino" na opisyal sa City Hall kaya hangang ngayon ay hindi pa malutas lutas ang problema sa basura. Pustahan tayo mga suki na gagawin ito na isyu ng mga pulpol-litiko para sa darating na eleksyon.

Mabuti pa itong si MEYOR FLORENCIO BENTREZ ng Tuba, Benguet at isinasaalang alang niya ang kapakanan ng kanyang mga residente. Todo suporta kasi ito sa posisyon ng mga taga Irisan na ipagbawal na ang pagtatapon ng basura sa Irisan dumpsite. Saludo ako ngayon dito kay

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