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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

City stops Maharlika construction

activities

BAGUIO CITY – The city government ordered the management of the Maharlika Livelihood Center to cease and desist from pursuing the construction activities it has started within the said structure because of the absence of the necessary permits from the concerned offices, among other safety issues.

Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong said the city government also ordered the management to remove all the construction materials it stockpiled in the said structure in compliance with the stoppage order to prevent any unnecessary incident that would pose a serious threat to the safety of the tenants and the public.

He added the new management team appointed by Agriculture Secretary

William Dar to take over the continuous operation of the Maharlika Livelihood Center already paid a courtesy call to him and plans and programs on how to improve the facility were discussed.

The new Maharlika management team is expected to takeover the operation of the government-owned structure right at the start of next year to replace the present management team whose contracts have not been renewed by the new leadership of the agriculture department in the face of controversies that had been levelled against them by tenants.

Earlier, the management of the Maharlika Livelihood Center attempted to construct a mezzanine within the

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Benguet Governor Melchor Diolas awards the certificates of recognition to the SEA Games athletes during the flag raising ceremony at the Benguet Provincial Capitol in La Trinidad on Monday, Dec. 23. (Photo by Abel Cada-o - Benguet PGO)

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Sick kids in hospital get visit, gifts from 'Santa' •page 8

BENECO urges consumers to avail of pre-paid power •page 6

Christmas celebration in Baguio generally peaceful – BCPO •page 2

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

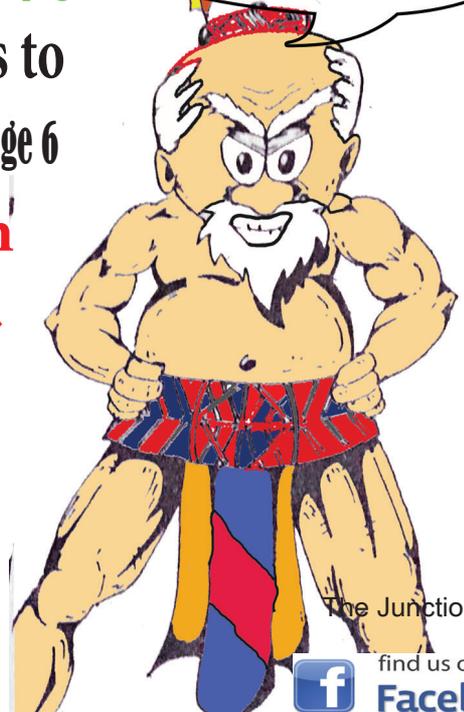
Juan, Isabel, at Zacarias sa kuwento ng Pasko

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



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Happy New Year Apo! Sapay kuma ta napinpintas daytoy nga tawen para kadatayo amin!



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Baguio aims for zero firecracker-related case in New Year revelry •page 8

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Christmas celebration in Baguio generally peaceful - BCPO

BAGUIO CITY – The leadership of the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) disclosed the celebration of Christmas in the country's undisputed Summer Capital was generally peaceful amidst the influx of thousands of visitors wanting to spend their holidays in the city.

BCPO City Director Police Col. Allen Rae F. Co said there were no reported high-profile crimes in the different police stations based in strategic areas around the city during Christmas eve and Christmas Day that

allowed the local police force to conclude that the celebration of Christmas in the city was generally peaceful.

He claimed the country's police force remains on heightened alert until such time that there are orders from higher headquarters to help in ensure the Yuletide season in the different parts of the country are celebrated peacefully and for lasting peace to be realised amidst efforts by some groups to disrupt the merrymaking of Filipinos.

The police official

asserted the deployment of the city police force, especially in strategic places in the city, will remain until the heightened alert status of the PNP will be downgraded to help maintain the smooth flow of traffic and the peace in the city in time for the celebration of the coming of the new year and other related activities organized by the city government and other interested groups wanting to join such celebration.

However, Co admitted one of the noticeable problems documented by

the local police force in the city during the Christmas eve and Christmas Day is traffic in identified choke points in some parts of the city primarily because of the influx of tourists who brought with them their vehicles to the city.

According to him, traffic endorsers made sure traffic in most parts of the city was moving to lessen the inconvenience of both residents and tourists alike.

The BCPO chief appealed to both residents and tourists to cooperate with the

stringent anti-criminality, peacekeeping and traffic management measures currently being implemented along major roadlines around the city to help reduce the impact of the traffic congestions and deter the occurrence of crimes that pose a serious threat to life and limb.

He declined to issue a comment on the current trend of crimes in the city during the prevailing period compared to that of last year, saying that he will have to await the outcome of the cele-

bration of the new year in the city before issuing the necessary statements considering he needs the complete data for the year for the annual report of the local police force in order to compare trends.

He explained that what is evident is there has been a continuous down trend in the crime volume in the city over the past three quarters, thus, he expressed confidence there will be a continuous reduction of crimes being committed in the city for the whole year./Dexter A. See

More traffic experiments to be undertaken in city

traffic situation in the city.

BAGUIO CITY – The city government will be conducting more traffic experiments along different roads in the city to help in easing the traffic jams suffered by residents and visitors alike.

Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong said the city government started the implementation of some traffic experiments in some major roads in the city as short-term solutions to the prevailing traffic congestions but more traffic experiments are yet to be implemented.

He added that if these experiments do not work, then the same will be cancelled and replaced with other measures aside from working on possible adjustments on the existing congestions.

The city chief executive claimed the traffic experiments are stop gap measures while the city is awaiting the outcome of

the comprehensive traffic study done by traffic experts from the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

According to him, one possible solution to the prevailing monstrous traffic congestions in the city is the eventual construction of multi-level parking structures in strategic areas in the city to accommodate the huge volume of vehicles that flock to the city during weekends and peak tourism months to help lessen the inconveniences of both the residents and visitors.

Earlier, MMDA traffic experts came to the city a number of times to study the prevailing traffic situation after which they will submit their comprehensive report within three to four months or by early next year with their recommendations on how to improve the current

One of the administration's 15-point collective agenda is the formulation of effective traffic management to help curb the traffic jams around the city brought about by the rapidly increasing number of vehicles in the streets.

Based on the data from the city's traffic management division lodged with the City Engineering office, various roads in the city have a capacity to accommodate slightly over 18,00 vehicles but the number of registered vehicles in the Land Transportation Office (LTO) already reached more than 64,000 and still counting, aside from the vehicles that flock to the city during weekends and holidays.

The recent traffic study conducted by the MMDA costs around P1.5 million which was donated by the MMDA as part of its corporate social responsibility to provide assistance needed by other city governments in addressing traffic problems in their areas of jurisdiction.

Part of the ongoing activities of the city government is the re-designing of pedestrian lanes and intersections of the different roads to reduce the impact of traffic to the daily lives of the people living in the city's 128 barangays./Dexter A. See

GSO gets biggest chunk of P2.255 billion city budget

BAGUIO CITY – The City General Services office (GSO) will be receiving the biggest allocation from the recently approved P2.255 billion annual budget of the city government getting some P318.2 million budget for 2020.

The allocation for the city government's 20 percent local development fund came in second with P300 million followed by the City Engineering Office which got a budget of P197.4 million.

Rounding up the other city government departments and their respective allocations include the City Health Services Office – P181.3 million, non-office – P141.8 million; Sangguniang Panlungsod – P109.4 million; City Environment and Parks Management Office – P104.9 million, Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund – P101.5 million, City Treasury Office – P92 million, City Mayor's Office – P82.1 million, City Buildings and Architecture Office – P73.8 million, City Social Welfare and Development Office – P68.9 million, City Administrator's Office – P61.1 million, City Veterinary and Agriculture Office – P61 million, Department of Education –

Division of city Schools – P43.9 million, Baguio City Police Office – P36.8 million, City Assessor's Office – P34.4 million, City Budget Office – P32.5 million, City Human Resource Management office – P30.5 million, Bureau of Fire Protection – P30.5 million, City Accounting Office – P21.9 million, City Planning and Development Office – P20.5 million, City Legal Office – P19.4 million, Local Civil Registry Office – P17.9 million, City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office – P12.5 million, City Library – P11.8 million, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Male Dorm – P6.3 million, City Prosecutor's Office – P5.7 million, Regional Trial Court – P4.7 million, Municipal Trial Court in Cities – P2.5 million, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Female Dorm – P2.3 million and Commission on Audit – P1.1 million.

Earlier, the City Council approved the revised P2.255 billion annual budget of the city government next year during its final regular session last December 16, 2019 to prevent the implementation of a re-enacted budget.

The revised 2020 annual budget of the city govern-

ment was agreed upon by both the executive and legislative departments to accommodate the proposed P15 million allocation for the city's hosting of the Cordillera Administrative Region Athletic Association (CARAA) and the P10 million seed money for the implementation of the educational financial assistance for deserving indigent students from the city's barangays.

Under the proposed annual budget of the city next year, the sources of funds include beginning balance – P225 million, tax revenue – P518,212,938, non-tax revenue – P345,850,000, external sources – P1,165,937,062.

Among the expenditures of the city government where the budget will be used include personal services – P820,826,000, maintenance and other operating expenses – P741,766,000, capital outlay – P262,008,000, special purpose appropriations – P405,340,000.

The approved annual budget will be transmitted to the regional office of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM-CAR) for mandatory review after the appropriation ordinance shall have been signed by the local chief executive./Dexter A. See



The JUNCTION

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*Our articles and stories (news/features) are ready to go for printing without the involvement of the editor and publisher who happen to be on leave.

Benguet honors its SEA Games athletes

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet -- The Provincial Government of Benguet gave recognition to its athletes who participated in the recently concluded 30th South East Asian (SEA) Games hosted and won by the Philippines.

At least 16 athletes from the province of Benguet contributed to the medal haul that made the country as the overall champion of the 30th SEA Games which carried the slogan "We win as One."

During the flag raising ceremony at the Provincial Capitol on Monday, Benguet officials led by Gov. Melchor Diclas and Vice Gov. Johnny Waguis awarded certificates of recognition and cash incentives to the athletes who brought home medals in their respective sports events of the SEA Games.

Present during the recognition rite were Jerry

Olsim who snatched a gold medal in kickboxing, Ariel Lee Lampacan who also got a gold medal in Muay Thai, Muay Thai silver medalists Jenelyn Olsim and Rusha Mae Bayacsan, and bronze medalist Jedd Andre Kim in the men's Sambo combat.

Other athletes honored were gold medalists Jason Baucas in wrestling, Crisamuel Delfin in arnis, and Gina Iniong in kickboxing. Silver medalists Trendin Lepatan and Islay Erika Bomogao in Muay Thai and broze medalists Daniel Parantac in Wushu and Karol Maguide in kickboxing.

Team Lakay head coach Mark Sangiao who served as coach of the kickboxing team was also given recognition by the provincial government.

Benguet Sports Coordinator Deanmark Monang said that the list of athletes

who were honored is still being updated as many of the athletes have not yet come back home.

Diclas said the Benguet athletes showed their prowess competing with the best athletes from the Southeast Asian nations bringing honor not only to the province but the whole country as well. This makes the people of Benguet very proud, he said.

The governor assured that the provincial government will be giving back to the athletes by further strengthening its support.

The completion of the Benguet Sports Complex and other sports facilities in the province will also be prioritized to help in the development of striving athletes who will compete in the local, national and even international sports events in the future, he said.

At least P100 million is being earmarked for the completion of the Benguet Sports Complex Gymnasium which is the venue for most of the sports activities of the province and even hosting the annual regional sports meet (JDP/RMC-PIA CAR)

billions and much more than those in other highly urbanized areas.

According to CSWD Officer Fangasan, the hograisers were given enough time to seek relocation for their piggeries, with a fund allocation of P10M from the Department of Agriculture (DA), and technical expertise from the City Veterinary Office, City Engineers and City Building and Architecture Office (CBAO).

Accordingly, an underground treatment facility which converts waste through shielded tubes to biogas is included in the farm lay-out. In turn, methane gas conversion is done through fermentation, and further into electricity for farm operation. Desludging with organic fertilizer as by-product is done weekly, Mangersa also assured.

For waste water, the



Another Cordilleran sacrifices life for country

BAGUIO CITY - Another Cordilleran soldier who sacrificed his life for the country was laid to rest in his hometown in Pinukpuk, Kalinga.

Army Corporal Adonis Valera, a Scout Ranger and a member of the 86th Infantry Battalion, was shot in an encounter between elements of the communist terrorist group in Barangay Villa Rey, Echague, Isabela on December 14.

Philippine Army 5th Infantry Division Spokesperson Major Noriel Tayaban said that the 86th IB responded to reports of extortion activities in Barangay Villa Rey by alleged members of the

liquid undergoes 45 to 60 days natural process treatment in three highly dense polyethylene plastic covered interconnected tank pits which renders it fit for farm water, considering its nitrogen content. According to Mangersa, the water could also be used for fishpond, but not for animal or human consumption.

The piggery building which has 1,200 fatteners shall be surrounded by plants for air and water absorption, in a one-hectare fenced area.

The proposed area is the subject to a usufruct agreement which after ten years, after evaluation by concerned agencies may or may not be renewed.

City-based hog-raisers through the Baguio Animal Raisers cooperative (BARaCo) led by Julie Mangigil were present during the forum.

New Peoples Army from the Regional Sentro de Gravidad Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) that led to fire fight.

The encounter that ensued between the government forces and a still unidentified number of rebels lasted for more than 20 minutes. Unfortunately, Valera was seriously hit while Corporal Harold Ganagan of Tinglayan, Kalinga and Fajaro Manuel of Paracelis, Mountain Province were wounded.

Valera was among the heroes of the Marawi siege that fought against the communist terrorists for the liberation of Marawi in 2017. He was a recipient of the Gold Cross Medal from President Rodrigo Duterte for his gallantry of action during the Marawi siege.

Tayaban said that the Army intensified the military operations in

Cagayan Valley Region in anticipation of possible

terrorism attack by the NPA rebels to the military and police camps, communication installations and heavy equipment on the founding anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines on December 26.

MGen. Pablo Lorenzo, 5th Infantry Division Commanding General, hailed the bravery and gallantry of the Kalinga warrior during a funeral mass ceremony held at the Camp Melchor Dela Cruz in Gamu, Isabela before he was brought to his hometown.

He said Valera is a true warrior and a full blooded Startrooper, who paid the ultimate sacrifice by dedicating his life for the liberation of the people of Isabela against the CTGs.

"The people of Isabela and your fellow Startroopers will always be indebted to you. Rest in peace, hero." (JDP/RMC-PIA CAR)

City stops Maharlika...

from page 1

structure without the required permits from the city government that prompted the affected tenants to file a complaint with concerned offices of the city government leading to the issuance of the necessary cease and desist order against the implementation of the project because safety

Fangasan earlier headed a technical working group which assessed sites in Sablan and Tuba which could not comply with set requirements. **Julie G. Fianza**

issues uncovered by the technical personnel that conducted an inspection on the facility.

Further, Secretary Dar also informed him it will only be in 2025 that the administration and management of the Maharlika Livelihood Center will be turned over to the city government considering the 50-year contract that was entered into by the city government and the developer of the facility sometime in April

Cont. on page 7

Piggery issues tackled

BAGUIO CITY - Local government unit officials of Baguio and San Pascual, Tuba, Benguet shall jointly look at Charoen Pokphand Food's (CPF) technology-operated and modern piggery projects in Concepcion, Tarlac and Mangataram, Pangasinan in January 2020.

This was agreed upon during the public consultation at the San Pascual barangay hall, Dec. 13, with Punong Barangay Lorna Runas, barangay kagawads, residents, Tuba municipality officials and the Baguio group led by City Social Welfare and Development Officer Betty Fangasan, Executive Assistant to Mayor Benjamin Magalong Leandro Tabilog and City Veterinarian Silardo Bested.

San Pascual officials and residents insisted on scrutinizing currently operating CPF piggery projects, immediate surroundings and community, thus the

CPF representative Engr. Emil Mangersa assured San Pascual Tuba residents that since the establishment of Thailand-based CPF farms in the Philippines in 2008, sanitary standards were set for pollution-free hog-raising projects. Our model pig farms are community and environment-friendly, with bio-security, climate control system, waste management and water treatment facilities, Mangersa added.

The relocation of hog-raising farms from Baguio to San Pascual, Tuba, Benguet is in compliance with a national law which prohibits said livelihood project in highly urbanized areas. Piggeries were seen as major sources of pollution in city rivers including Balili and Ambalanga, where studies done by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) point out of colliform invasion, numbering to

Guilty!

By: Harry Roque (www.tribune.net.ph)

After 10 long years, the verdict came. I would have wanted that the court allowed the reading of the salient portions of the decision so that the people will know the legal and factual basis for the verdict. But both the public prosecutors and the defense opted only that the dispositive portion be read. So be it, I thought. Ultimately, it's the verdict that would matter.

So, for five minutes or so, the long journey of the victims of the Maguindanao massacre, at least for 57 of them, finally bore fruition. Twenty-eight accused, including three Ampatuan siblings and two of their nephews, were found guilty for 57 counts of murder and meted the penalty of reclusion perpetua with no possibility of parole. Another 15 were found guilty as accomplices and sentenced to six years to 10 years of jail time, while the rest of the accused, in excess of 50, were acquitted on the basis of reasonable doubt. It was definitely a win for the victims, one which sent the very clear message that you cannot kill with impunity in this country, because it may take time, but you will still go to jail for it.

I, together with the victims whom we represented, was of course ecstatic. I was particularly pleased that the pretender Zaldy, the former ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) governor, was also found guilty despite his defense of alibi and his protestation that he is the only decent Ampatuan. As the judge ruled, there is no puti among them, only dirt black. As correctly ruled by the judge, the defense of alibi is the weakest of all defense. Moreover, the evidence of conspiracy against the governor was beyond reasonable doubt. Not only was he present in at least two meetings where the massacre was planned. In both instances, he uttered words clearly showing that he approved and took steps to ensure its happening. Gone was the possibility of Zaldy perpetrating the influence and wealth of the family, as the clan would have wanted.

EDITORIAL But there are at least two Ampatuans who got away scot-free, at least as far as this case is concerned. Karma, I'm sure, will catch up with them. I was not surprised that the grandson Sajid was acquitted, not because he was not guilty, but only because the judge already ruled that in the meetings where the massacre was planned, Sajid merely kept quiet. I will say it again. The fact that Sajid kept quiet was only because in their culture, the young ones are expected to do so out of deference to their elders. The fact that he undisputedly attended the meetings where the massacre was planned without objecting to it or reporting the matter to the police proved that he acquiesced to the plan. As a popular song goes, "You say it best when you say nothing at all."

The fact that 57 were acquitted was also no surprise to me. Forty-six of them were already granted bail and hence, there has been a prior determination by the judge that evidence of guilt against them is not strong. But of course, I have always maintained, although ignored by Leila de Lima, that these policemen should be charged for graft and dereliction of duty for playing dumb and deaf when they heard the shootings, but not for murder. As law enforcers, they should have taken steps to prevent the massacre or to apprehend the perpetrators thereof. But this criminal liability is separate and distinct from the liability for murder.

I have always maintained that charging the 197 accused, with half of them being policemen whose liabilities were not for murder, merely insured the delay of the resolution of the case. Had half the accused found not guilty by the court not been charged to begin with, we probably could have terminated the case in five years instead of 10.

What now?

For one of the victims, Reynaldo Momay, the fight is far from over. I was particularly depressed by the court's dismissal of the 58th count of murder if only because the initiative to file it in the first place was our initiative and not that of the state. We went on our own field investigation with the assistance of famed Peruvian anthropologist Jose Pablo Baraybay where we recovered the blood-stained ID and dentures of the deceased. In addition, an Inquirer reporter, who cheated death courtesy of a bum stomach on the day of the massacre, testified that Momay was part of the coverage.

This was confirmed by former Congressman Toto Mangudadatu. Moreover, Momay's live-in partner testified that the dentures which we recovered belonged to the deceased, because it was she who cleaned them every night. More importantly, the dental technician who made the dentures confirmed that it belonged to the deceased. True, the remains of Momay were never found. But given the foregoing, the judge, in my opinion, should have at least found preponderance of evidence that Momay was indeed the 58th victim of the massacre.

Besides, what difference would a 58th conviction make? Not much. Under our laws, the 57 counts for which the accused were found guilty would be deemed served simultaneously. A 58th conviction would have not mattered as far as the accused are concerned. **Cont. on page 7**



KAKAMPIMO ANG BATAS

"New Year's Resolutions": bakit laging di natutupad?

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY: "... `Ang mga nakikinig sa mga Salita ko at tumutupad sa mga ito ay mga taong matalino, na nagtayo ng kanilang bahay sa ibabaw ng bato'..." (si Jesus, ang ating Diyos at Tagapagligtas na Siyang Diyos Ama, Anak, at Espiritu Santo, sa Mateo 7:24, Ang Tanging Daan Bibliya).

-000-

"NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS": BAKIT LAGING DI NATUTUPAD? May mga isinulat na ba kayong mga nais niyong gawin pagpasok ng taong 2020? Yun bang ang tawag ng marami ay "New Year's Resolutions"? Di ba, taon-taon, marami sa atin ang gumagawa ng listahan ng mga gusto nating isakatuparan sa ating mga buhay para bumuti na ang ating mga buhay?

Ang problema lang, wala ni isa man sa mga "resolutions" na ito ang natutupad. Laging bigo ang maraming maabot ang mga ninais nilang gawin pagpasok ng bagong taon. At sa maraming bigong makamtan ang kanilang mga "resolutions", ang sinasabi na lamang nila ay ganito: "wala naman talagang nagtatagumpay sa kanilang mga resolutions".

Pero, alam po ba ninyo na may sikreto pala para makamtan natin ang mga mabubuting naisin natin hindi na lamang para sa ating mga sarili kundi pati na sa ating mga mahal sa buhay? Ang sikreto po mabubuksan ng ilang mga prinsipyong dapat nating isaalang-alang sa ating mga ginawang "New Year's Resolutions". Nakasulat na noon pa man ang mga sikretong ito. Ang kailangan na lamang, alamin natin kung ano ang mga ito at gawin natin ito.

-000-

MGA SIKRETO UPANG MATUPAD ANG ATING MGA "NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS": Ang unang sikreto ng katagumpayan ng ating mga layunin para sa pagpasok ng bagong taon ay simple lang: kailangan nating ipagkatiwala ang mga layunin o mga "New Year's Resolutions" natin sa Diyos. Itanim natin sa ating mga isip: sa Diyos tayo magtiwala buong puso at lubusan, at huwag panghawakan ang ating sariling karunungan, o mga nararamdaman.

Sa lahat ng ating mga gawa, unahin nating pasalamatang ang Diyos. Pagkatapos, hingin natin na pangunahan Niya ang mga plano, ambisyon, at layunin natin sa buhay. Paano natin mahihingi ang pangunguna ng Diyos sa ating mga plano, ambisyon, at layunin sa buhay? Alamin natin kung ano ang Kaniyang mga kautusan

Cont. on page 6

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www.linisgobyerno.org

FAIR AND SQUARE

**The Ninja Fixers
(Part 3)**

BY: ATTY. JAMES S. VALEROS

The purpose of this repeat revelations is to acquaint the present City

officials of the issuances of previous franchises by LTFRB in violation

of the moratorium but were palpably not addressed by their predecessors

thereby allowing thousands of public utility vehicles to operate in the city

with illegal or void franchises or Certificates of Public Convenience--- JSV.

II

Simultaneously with the issuance of false CPCs without applications and payment of fees as alluded to in Part 2, LTFRB Region 1 through its ninja fixers strategized another circumvention of the moratorium in that it permitted applications of vehicle-for-hire of vans to operate in Region 1 with base of operation in Baguio City and subsequently allowing their conversion to Mega Taxi service which later became ordinary taxi, without the express authorization of the Board en banc. Hundreds of taxis in the city still operate with CPCs converted from vehicle-for-hire without authority by the Board en banc and in violation of the City's moratorium.

III

Many other irregularities by LTFRB Region 1 in the grant of franchises especially in Baguio City and CAR in violation of moratorium were committed by ninja fixers during the period from 1996 until before the transfer of franchising functions to the LTFRB-CAR in 2003. To sum them up since they are numerous, the herein Memorandum Report by personnel who conducted the investigation ordered by the Board en banc is better published en toto for the information of all who did not come to know these anomalies before, thus:

"MEMORANDUM 21 December 1998

For: THE BOARD

**From: Exec. Director Cecille S. Abella
Atty. Ray M. Rodriguez
Engr. Rogelio Oasan
Mr. Alberto L. Ruiz Jr.
Mr. Reynaldo Lavario**

"Re: Report on the Verification of Records and Documents of R-1 LTFRB per Affidavit-Complaint of Atty. James S. Valeros

"Pursuant to the Board's Order directing the above-mentioned employees of the Board to proceed to LTFRB Region 1 San Fernando, La Union, to conduct an examination of office records and documents as contained in the Affidavit-Complaint of Atty. James S. Valeros.

(2)

"The following are the findings and observations, to wit:

1. That the documents attached to the above-mentioned complaint were confirmed by Ms. →

**Why locate national stadium in
Capas, Tarlac and not in NCR?**

PART 2

BY YEN MAKABENTA

Opening the facility, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hailed its "top-level universal design" and "harmony with its surrounding environment."

Renowned architect Kengo Kuma designed the stadium along traditional Japanese lines, with the use of wooden eaves and domestic lumber helping it to blend into the surroundings in central Tokyo.

The stadium will host the opening and closing ceremonies plus the flagship athletics events of the Olympics.

But the marathon will not have its traditional finish there, as the event has been moved to Japan's northern island of Hokkaido to avoid the expected heat and humidity of the capital.

The unveiling of the stadium came as a relief after the humiliation in September 2016, when Prime Minister Abe scrapped the original plans of the late Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid as the costs soared beyond \$2 billion.

The stadium was also lowered to a height of 47 meters (154 feet) from the original design of 70 meters, which was criticized as too high and for being a potential eyesore on Tokyo's skyline.

Total construction costs, including design and supervising fees, came to 156.9 billion yen (\$1.45 billion), within the budget, according to officials.

The stadium will see its first sporting action on December 21 when former sprint champion Usain Bolt will take the track for a special exhibition relay.

The first competitive action **Cont. on page 6**

Arlene D. Rimando, Records Officer, La Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board Region 1 and per docket book of the said office;

2. That the sale and transfer of units/CPC granted are without mother case or main case folder;

3. That there are cases of kabit legalization with dropping and substitution wherein CPC no longer exist or already cancelled were granted;

4. That several transactions are happening to circumvent the moratorium policy of the Board through kabit legalization, appropriation, sale and transfer, dropping and substitution, petition to register in lieu and conversion of vehicle-for-hire taxi to mega taxi;

5. That the case numbers specifically mentioned in the complaint confirms the existence of anomalous transaction being undertaken;

6. That the docket books of R1-LTFRB are improperly maintained considering that unauthorized entries are made and non-docketing of transactions and missing pages are very apparent upon examination, and

7. That there are cases of missing case records specifically those on sale and transfer with dropping and substitution, kabit legalization with dropping and substitution and cancelled CPC later with kabit legalization with dropping and substitution.

"In view of the foregoing, we recommend the immediate stoppage of the processing of applications/petitions for new CPC, sale and transfer, sale and transfer with dropping and substitution, kabit legalization with dropping and substitution and the like except special permits and extension of validity and to undertake the immediate inventory of cases R1-LTFRB to prevent the further loss of case records."

(signed by Exec. Director Abella, et. al...)

10 things about 2019

PART 1

BY: DARREN M. DE JESUS (WWW.MANILATIMES.NET)

Adieu 2019! Just like my column last year, this will be my wrap-up on the year that has passed. This being an election year, most political intramurals took place in the first four months of the year, and the latter part of 2019 was more on an introduction of the newly-elected officials. Regardless, the palates of the politically and legally curious were satisfied with the goings-on in the Philippines in 2019, which has always proven to be worthy for telenovela dramas.

1. The midterm elections.

The lead up for the midterm elections was just as exciting as the previous ones, but the results came more of a surprise to many with the lopsided victory of the administration's bets for senator.

The Otso Diretso slate claimed zero victories, not even former presidential candidate, Mar Roxas, got in the magic 12. With political commentaries saying that 2019 will be a "plebiscite" on the approval or disapproval of the administration, none perhaps predicted a complete wipe out that may have led to the death of the Liberal Party, at least for the time being.

The elections could be said to be not violent, although of course a series of election-related deaths persisted, and the automated elections did not cause much of a problem. We will see if Smartmatic will continue to be our provider with the President's directive to change.

2. Young-blood politicians.

The 2019 elections brought some surprises. The newbie senators immediately got on the ground running. Sen. Roland "Bato" de la Rosa got a taste of being viral during a committee hearing after castigating a youth activist. Sen. Francis Tolentino also made Internet rounds with veteran Sen. Frank Drilon confronting him during a Senate hearing. Sen. Bong Go has been more visible in going all over the country, championing his Malasakit Centers, which got their legitimacy late this year when the President signed into law the Malasakit Center Act. If you ask me, this solidifies Sen. Go's run for the presidency in 2022.

In the local scene, we have the young ones causing quite a stir. Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso, now known as Yorme, has gained so much popularity with his round-the-clock work ethic. It likewise helps that he is very social media savvy, with people pushing him to run for the presidency this early. Another is Pasig Mayor Vico Sotto, 30 years old only, with a very unconventional or rather, un-trapo-like brand of leadership that is almost never done in Philippine politics.

3. Maria Ressa's persistence.

Maria Ressa and Rappler will never go away despite the government leviathan breathing down on them. Ressa has been busy advocating her cause while Rappler, despite clamped down by the Securities and Exchange Commission and Bureau of Internal Revenue, is still in operations. An arrest is not enough to put Ressa down, and she has no plans of giving up the fight. Around 40,000 concert goers got another taste of Ressa at the U2 "The Joshua Tree" concert in the Philippine Arena in early December, where Bono mentioned Ressa twice, and flashed her portrait alongside other Filipina icons that included former President Cory Aquino and Sen. Pia Cayetano.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

BENECO urges consumers to avail of pre-paid power

BAGUIO CITY – The Benguet electric Cooperative (BENECO) is encouraging interested member-consumer-owners to avail of its pre-paid power services which is part of the innovations it introduced within its power distribution system which translates to the benefit of the increasing number of consumers within its franchise area.

BENECO General Manager Gerardo P. Verzosa disclosed the cooperative's pre-paid power services is still available for interested consumers, especially those operating transient houses or renting out some of the rooms in their buildings, to help in saving expenses on the consumption of power because the estimated power that will be consumed will be the one that will be contained in the meters that will be installed in their structures.

Earlier, BENECO embarked on the use of the pre-paid power services to its consumers like what is being offered to power consumers in Metro Manila as an alternative for its increasing number of consumers, especially those operating transient houses and renting out rooms, for them to be able to save on power cost and purchase the pre-paid power only when needed

in their rented houses.

The electric cooperative was purchased some 1,000 pre-paid meters available for installation in the residences of interested consumers wanting to avail of pre-paid power services.

However, Verzosa admitted it was difficult for management to impose on its officials and employees to avail of the installation of the pre-paid meters for its pre-paid power services thus it is currently aggressively promoting the use of the same for existing transient houses and rented rooms, aside from the fact that its application for the offering of pre-paid power services is currently pending with the regulatory body, the Energy Regulatory Com-

mission (ERC).

According to him, the offering of the pre-paid power services to interested consumers is part of the electric cooperative's overall plan to embrace the automated metering infrastructure that will allow the computers to read the monthly power consumption of big loaders before the same will be done to its consumers within Baguio City and La Trinidad.

Verzosa underscored the importance of the electric cooperative being able to work with the current advancement of technology to help in significantly maintaining its single digit systems loss and improving the reliability of its power distribution system to be able to bring to its increasing number of consumers quality power.

The BENECO official asserted the need for the

electric cooperative to keep its power cost low apart from maintaining a decent single-digit systems loss to ensure it will remain competitive in the highly competitive power industry, especially at this time that there are some private power distribution utilities interested in taking over the operation not only of ailing electric cooperatives but also those

that are doing well in the operation and maintenance of their power distribution system.

BENECO is one of the few class AAA rural electric cooperatives in the country that was able to achieve the coveted single digit systems loss, 100 percent collection efficiency among other aspects of its operations over the past several years./Dexter A. See

Kakampi mo ang batas

from page 5

na may kinalaman sa nasabing mga plano natin.

Ang pinakamabisang paraan upang malaman natin kung ano ang mga kautusan ng Diyos na magbibigay sa atin ng Kaniyang pangunguna sa mga layunin natin sa buhay ngayong bagong taon ay ang pagbabasa ng Kaniyang mga kautusan. Nasaan ang mga kautusan ng Diyos? Nasa Bibliya, wala ng iba pa. Ayon kasi sa Bibliya mismo, ito ang kasulatang nagmula sa Diyos.

-000-

NATUTUPAD ANG "NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS" NG MGA TAONG "MATAINO": Ang pangalawang sikreto ng katagumpayan ng ating mga "New Year's Resolutions" para sa taong 2020 ay ito: ibigbigay sa atin ng Diyos ang lahat ng ating kailangan sa pang-araw-araw na buhay. Kailangan natin ng yaman at kasananaan? Kailangan natin ng katagumpayan? Kailangan natin ng karunungan, kalusugan, at kapangyarihan? Pagsumikapan muna nating puspupang alamin at tuparin ng buong katapatan ang Kaniyang mga utos.

Ang kapangyarihan kasi ng Diyos sa ikaliligtas ng mga mananampalataya sa anumang sitwasyon nila---kahirapan, kaguluhan, at kabiguan sa daigdig na ito habang sila ay nabubuhay pa, pagkasunog sa Araw ng Matinding Kapighatian, at uod at apoy ng impiyerno---ay makikita sa Kaniyang Salita, ang Bibliya, ang Mabuting Balita. Ang Salita ng Diyos ay buhay at mabisa, dahil ang Salita ay ang Diyos mismo.

Ang pangatlong sikreto ng katagumpayan ng ating mga "New Year's Resolutions" ay yung sinabi ni Jesus mismo, na nakasulat sa ating Inspirasyon sa Buhay sa kolum na ito. Kailangan nating maging matalino, at magiging matalino lamang tayo sa mata ni Jesus, ang ating Diyos at Tagapagligtas na Siyang Diyos Ama, Anak, at Espiritu Santo, kung tayo ay nakikinig at tumutupad sa mga Salita Niya. Isagawa po natin ang tatlong sikretong ito, at magtatagumpay tayo sa 2020!

-000-

Cont. on page 7

Why locate national stadium... from page 5

there will be the Emperor's Cup football final on New Year's Day.

Cojuangco's vision, Cayetano's chance

The idea of hosting the 30th SEA Games in the Philippines did not come originally from the Duterte administration. It is rather a bequest from the previous Aquino 3rd administration and Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Cory Aquino's brother who is a former three-term president of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC).

The hosting rights were originally awarded to Brunei in 2012, but the country pulled out days before the 2015 Southeast Asian Games due to "financial and logistical reasons."

The Philippines was previously slated to host the 2023 SEA Games but, in July 2015, it agreed to host the games after Brunei's withdrawal (with Cambodia taking its place for 2023).

On July 21, 2017, The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) wrote the POC to say that it was withdrawing its support for the Philippine hosting of the 2019 SEA Games, saying that the government had decided to reallocate funds meant for hosting to the rehabilitation efforts of Marawi, which was left devastated following the Battle of Marawi. It was later reported that the POC's insistence on handling all matters of the hosting — finance, security and the conduct of the Games as it did for the 2005 SEA Games — led to the PSC's withdrawal of support.

The following August, however, the Philippines, through the then-POC President Cojuangco, confirmed that the country would be hosting the 2019 SEA Games, after Cojuangco wrote to President Rodrigo Duterte and appealed for reconsideration of the withdrawal notice.

It must be acknowledged that the Philippine hosting was originally his idea while he was POC president. He sought and got the approval of his nephew, President Benigno Aquino 3rd. It was also Cojuangco's idea to hold the games in Central Luzon, particularly in the provinces of Bulacan, Pampanga and Zambales. He added that the Philippine Arena in the municipality of Bocaue in Bulacan province would "most likely" be used in the games. In January 2018, during the groundbreaking of the New Clark City Sports Hub, it was announced that the organizers would attempt to hold all events of the games outside of Manila with New Clark City in Capas, Tarlac; Subic; and

Bulacan as the main host localities.

Cojuangco also came up with the scheme to sell off the Rizal Memorial Stadium as real estate to businessman Enrique Razon, in order to fund the transfer to Tarlac. But this was met with loud opposition, and was not heard of again.

Cojuangco-Cayetano deal

In all the talks about hosting the SEA Games, Alan Peter Cayetano was never in the picture.

He was thought of chiefly or only when President Duterte changed his mind about supporting the games. Cojuangco and Cayetano evidently struck a deal behind the scenes.

Cayetano would work on Duterte to persuade him to reconsider his withdrawal of support for hosting SEA Games.

In exchange, Cojuangco, as POC president, appointed Cayetano as chairman of the organizing committee, the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Phisgoc), for the 30th SEA Games, never mind Cayetano's total lack of knowledge and experience in organizing an international sports competition.

Duterte was persuaded to relent, with Cayetano's prodding. The nation woke up to the announcement that henceforth Cayetano would be the chief organizer of the 30th SEA Games.

Cayetano would not budge from this perch, even when it was exposed that he had maneuvered to have the P7.5-billion funding for the SEA Games diverted to the Department of Foreign Affairs, of which he was briefly department secretary.

The exposé caused considerable consternation. Teodoro Locsin Jr., the new foreign secretary, vice Cayetano, took one look at the item and immediately ordered that the funds be turned over to the PSC, which should have custody of all sports funds.

There were some calls for Cayetano's resignation as chairman of the organizing committee. Instead, he doubled down by organizing the private Phisgoc Foundation, with himself as chairman, which would handle all solicitation of commercial sponsors for the games. On this matter, the Ombudsman will have much to say

The sponsorships may have been thought of as personal gravy by the organizers of the 30th SEA Games. But in Olympic tradition, sponsorships are an essential part of the funding for a sports competition. They are not to be construed as "pork barrel" for anyone.

Extrajudicial Settlement of the Estate of the Late Juanito Marco D. Calica with simultaneous Deed of sale

Notice is hereby given that the property of the late Juanito Marco D. Calica who died on September 12, 2015 at VMMC, Diliman Quezon City. Involving an unregistered land situated at Pacdal, Baguio City and covered by ARP 96-07001-49320 has been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement with simultaneous deed of sale among the heirs as per Doc. No. 297; Page no. 60; Book no. XLV; series of 2019 dated December 23, 2019 as per Notarial Register of Atty. Robles G. Calabias of Baguio City.

Dec. 28, 2019 and Jan 4 & 11, 2020

Agencies enjoined in campaign to end VAW in the workplace

BAGUIO CITY - The Regional Committee Against Trafficking – Violence Against Women and their Children (RCAT – VAWC) of the Cordillera region culminated the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women with a program at the Burnham Park, here.

Philippine Information Agency – Cordillera Regional Director Helen Tibaldo highlighted the role of government agencies in ensuring safe spaces, workplaces and a community which are VAW-free.

“Our role in ensuring safe spaces becomes much more relevant and effective if we come together as a community,” she said as she encouraged the government agencies and the other sectors to promote a violent-free workplace, community, and a VAW-free Philippines.

“Forwarding a country free of violence against women involves not only

empowering women of their rights but also educating the different sectors about respect and equality regardless of gender,” Tibaldo said.

Male police officers from the Baguio City participated in the program using high heels and dressed as women to show support for the advocacy on promoting the campaign to end violence against women.

Each year, the police force and other uniformed personnel participate in the campaign by wearing high heels and even parading in the different public places as their way to help in the campaign as “they put their selves in the shoes of women.”

A skit and a song focusing on the campaign to end VAW in schools and the community was presented by Benguet State University participants while the DOH-CAR led a Zumba dance participated by the delegates coming from the different

agencies including the DSWD-CAR, Commission on Population and other schools.

The DOT-CAR also placed orange banners at the boats at the Burnham lake which aims to strengthen the anti-VAW advocacy initiative dubbed as the Orange Your Icon. The idea is to attract public's curiosity on why landmarks or icons nationwide are colored orange, providing opportunities for advocates to explain the Anti-VAW advocacy.

During the 18-day campaign opening last November 25, DSWD-CAR Regional Director Leo Quintilla said focus of the advocacy campaign is for the various agencies to look at their commitments to end violence against women as an individual, and as an agency.

“We have to show that there are government agencies committed to help to get justice and healing of victims of violence against women like the DSWD, the PNP and many more agencies,” he said.

Quintilla and PRO-Cor Regional Director Police BGen. Ephraim Dickson also signed a memorandum of agreement strengthening the partner-



Government agencies participate in the Zumba dance as part of the culminating activity of the 18-Day Campaign to end violence against women at the Burnham Park in Baguio City. (RMC-PIA-CAR)

ship of the two agencies in developing and implementing social protection programs that will address the needs of the poor, strengthen the support for the campaign to end violence against women, empower citizens and promote inclusive growth in the region.

The 18-Day Campaign to End VAW supports the Philippine government's goal of protecting the human rights of women and girls by upholding its commitment to address all forms of gender-based violence as enshrined in the 1987 Constitution.

Government agencies are mandated to raise awareness on the problem of violence and the elimination of all forms of VAW and girls pursuant to Republic Act 10398 or the Act declaring November 25 of every year as the National Consciousness Day for the Elimination of VAWC.

In 2006, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed Proclamation 1172 extending the national campaign to 18 days including December 12 that marks the signing in the year

2000 of the UN Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to supplement the UN Convention against transnational organized crimes.

From 2016 to 2021, the campaign carries the theme “VAW-free Community starts With Me”. This year's campaign underscores the valuable role of individuals especially the youth in fighting VAW and girls within various institutions. (JDP/RMC-PIA CAR)

Editorial

from page 4

But it does make the world of a difference though for the heirs of Momay as it could have given them closure. The judgement in the case of Momay was tantamount to a judicial condemnation that he had disappeared, that he had become a desaparecido. Hence, the Momay family would still not be sure whether to light a candle for him come All Saints' Day. This is clearly torture of the worse kind as far as Momay's loved ones are concerned.

And yes, there is still the right of the accused to appeal. And here is where we stand on slippery slope. Why? Because the Court of Appeals (CA) is the weakest link in our judicial system. Courtesy of anonymity of the justices and the lack of contact with the public, it is in the CA where transactional decisions are often made. I speak with authority in this regard since I also represent the heirs of Gerry Ortega. To quote the President himself when news came out that a now retired CA Justice dismissed the case against former governor Joel Reyes, the suspected killer of Ortega, who at the time of the dismissal, was arrested as a fugitive and denied bail by the RTC: “Corrupt talaga ang justice na yan (That justice is really corrupt).”

So, no, we cannot sit on our laurels. We need to continue to be vigilant because, unfortunately, in this country, money talks and it does so very loudly.

Meanwhile, justice has been done to all but one of the victims. Coming as it did during the yuletide season, I could not help but hum the lyrics of a Filipino Christmas song that succinctly summarizes the emotions of the victims who were finally accorded justice: “Ang gabi'y payapa, lahat ay tahimik, pati mga tala sa bughaw na langit (The night is peaceful, everything is still, even the stars in the night sky).”

Merry Christmas to the 57 victims and to Nenen and the rest of the Momay family — tuloy po ang laban (the fight continues)!

DOT pushes for sustainable...

from page 6

tainable tourism promotions.

There are also talks on creative tourism and the creative economy; farm tourism; innovations in the tourism industry, and digital marketing.

For Cordillera, DOT – CAR OIC Regional Director Jovy Ganongan affirmed an increasing tourist arrivals, wherein the 2,185,877 arrivals in 2018 was up by 10.97 percent compared to the 2017 figure of 1,969,707 million.

Ganongan also shared that with the DOT – DPWH convergence program, an investment of almost P7.8 billion was already invested to pave a total of 280.76 kilome-

ters of roads leading to tourism destinations. More related projects are still in the pipeline.

With the regional tourism roadmap and the regional slogan of “Find Yourself in the Cordilleras”, Ganongan called on stakeholders to encourage tourists to find themselves in culture, adventure and nature so as to make their stories, build memories and enjoy the experience of visiting the region.

DOT also awarded plaque of recognition to star – rated establishments in the region led by the Baguio Country Club (5 star) and The Manor Camp John Hay and Forest Lodge (4 star). (JDP/CC-PIA CAR)

Kakampi mo ang batas

from page 6

TUMAWAG PO KAYO SA AMIN: Kung gusto ninyong magkaroon ng mas matinding kaalaman kung papaano lalong patatagin ang ugnayan niyo kay Jesus, tumawag po kayo sa amin sa 0977 805 9058, 0918 574 0193, 0933 8251308 o sa aking Messenger account sa Facebook, “Melanio Lazo Mauricio Jr.” Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com, mmauriciojr111@gmail.com. Maaari din po kayong magbasa ng aming website sa AND KNK, ang andknk.ph o www.facebook.com/attybatas.

City stops Maharlika...

from page 3

1975 as per available records.

At present, the Maharlika Livelihood Center is under the direct supervision of the agriculture department's Human Settlements Development Corporation (HSDC), one of the government's subsidiary corporation.

The Maharlika Livelihood Center was constructed by the private developers commissioned by the national government over a parcel of city-owned land right to the heart of the city through a 50-year lease for the put up of the facility with the condition that the same will be turned over to the city upon the lapse of the duration of the contract and that the same will be owned by the city./Dexter A. See

Baguio aims for zero firecracker-related case in New Year revelry

BAGUIO CITY - The city government of Baguio is calling on its constituents to avoid using firecrackers and other pyrotechnic materials in greeting the new year as it gears up for another zero firecracker related injury revelry.

City Health Office Head Dr. Rowena Galpo said they are aiming for a repeat of firecracker-injury-free December 2018 to January 2019 holiday celebration.

“For the first time we recorded zero firecracker related injury in Baguio City, no death, no tetanus, no watusi, no stray bullet cases,” Galpo said. “We should maintain the zero firecracker incidence; we do not like to have injuries due to unnecessary use of firecrackers and pyrotech-

nic materials to celebrate the holidays, she added.

Record shows that in 2015, the city recorded seven firecracker related injuries, four in 2016, three in 2017 and none in 2018.

The substantial drop in previous years is attributed to the ban on the sale of firecrackers in the city of Baguio thru an administrative order of then mayor Mauricio Domoganin in 2015.

In 2016, the city government again adopted an AO banning the sale and use of firecrackers and in 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte issued Executive Order 28 - providing for the regulation and control of the use of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices.

The City Health Office

and the DOH will be monitoring firecracker-related cases from December 21 to January 5 next year.

Galpo said that despite the call of the city government, the different hospitals are still gearing up to respond to firecracker related injuries and other medical emergencies during the holidays most especially for the New Year's eve celebration.

Galpo is encouraging the public to use alternative ways for merry making during the celebration of the New Year or join the community fireworks display at the Burnham Park on New Year's eve which is being organized by the city government of Baguio for its residents. (JDP/RMC-PIA-CAR)

DOT pushes for sustainable and inclusive tourism destinations

BAGUIO CITY - With the Philippines increasingly getting the attention of really serious markets around the world, the country needs to prepare for their arrival by making destinations really sustainable.

Department of Tourism Undersecretary Arturo Boncato Jr., in his keynote message during the Regional Tourism Summit at the Holiday Inn here on December 19, emphasized that sustainable tourism is at the core of DOT's development plan.

In presenting the

country's Tourism Development Plan, Boncato outlined that the tourism industry in 2018 contributed 12.7 percent of the country's gross domestic product and produced 5.4 million employment opportunities, which comprised 13 percent of the total employment in the Philippines.

With the increasing foreign tourist arrivals, Boncato also reported that each tourists spends an average of \$120.60 per day and usually stays around the country for an average of nine days.

Domestic tourism is also booming with around 111.4 million local tourists recorded in 2018 with total expenditures of around P61 billion.

Given the boom in the tourism industry, aside from pushing for a competitive, sustainable and inclusive tourism destinations, Boncato reiterated the importance of responsible tourism both to industry stakeholders and tourists, foreign and local.

Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority Chief Operating

Officer Pocholo Paragas talked about the government initiatives and programs on Sustainable Tourism Infrastructure Development. Nerizza Del Fiero of the Tourism Promotions Board discussed sus-



NEW AGE SANTA. Fritz Gerald Padilla poses for a photograph with medical personnel of the Baguio General Hospital Pediatric Ward after distributing gifts to sick children on December 22 as part of the 'Silahis ng Pasko' project. The 'Share a Joy' component is the fourth in the 46-year old project started by his father; the late city councilor Narciso Padilla, in 1973. (PNA photo by Pigeon M. Lobien)

Sick kids in hospital get visit, gifts from 'Santa'

BAGUIO CITY - Three days before Christmas, some 47 sick toddlers and young children at the Baguio General Hospital (BGH) pediatric ward got a visit and gifts from "Santa Claus".

The gifts range from coloring books, crayons, sketch pads, watercolor and paintbrushes.

Silahis ng Pasko organizing chairman Fritz

Claus.

Padilla and his daughter, Summer, did the rounds at the pediatric ward of the hospital as they gave the loot bag and balloons.

“This is just the fourth in our series of events after the Children's Mardi Gras on Dec. 1, the Lucky Christmas Family and the Special Day for Special People (blinds) the past three Sundays,” he said.

He said other activities include the giving of gifts to the Lucky Christmas baby to be selected in the same hospital when the clock strikes midnight on December 25.

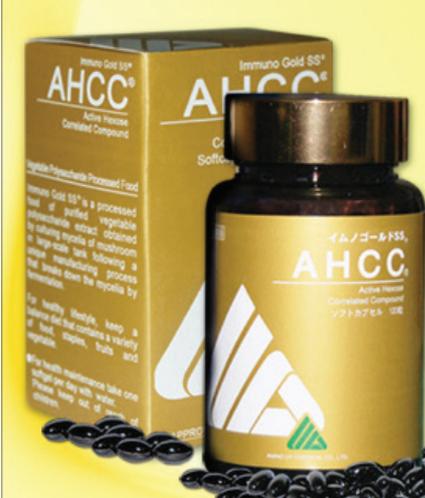
On December 30, some 49 athletes will be feted in the Kafagway/Kordillera International Sports Luminary Awards Podium, most of whom are medalists in the recent Southeast Asian Games. (Pigeon Lobien) (PNA)

Gerald Padilla said the gift-giving event, or "Share a Joy", is a component of the month-long annual project started by his father.

“Seeing their faces make me want to really go full-throttle on the project. The feeling is so great seeing them smile or even bump fist with you,” said Padilla, who donned a suit similar to Santa

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