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THE JUNCTION

WEEKEND

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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!! BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

A Nation of Billionaires, Dynasties, and Yayas

Breaking out of this inequality trap is going to take brave leaders on both sides of business and politics to open the floodgates for competition.

"When the wealth of a country is used by a handful to make the rest of the population virtual slaves, that is unhealthy because it's no longer a democracy."

So said one of the firebrands of the Philippine Senate in 1969, during the release of a report on inequality and poverty in the Philippines. Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr., then 36 years old, went on to describe how 80 percent of Philippine households lived in poverty, of which about a third lived in severe deprivation and misery.

Meanwhile, 1 percent of Filipino families in 1969 lived in affluence, in those days earning more than PhP25,000 per year. And of that group, Senator Aquino pointed out that an even smaller fraction lived in what he called "super affluence", earning more than PhP100,000 per year.^[1] (That's over PhP6 million today, correcting for inflation.)

Fast forward some 45 years later; and we are face-to-face with much the same stark reality. If we turn to a recent study by government statisticians, only about 22 thousand families belong to the group earning about PhP60,000 or more a month in the Philippines (Figure 1). This is around one-tenth of 1% of the total households in the country.

The vast majority of households - over 18 million accounting for over 90% of the total - belong to the poor and low-income group earning less than PhP5000 per month. While

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Welcome Back Mother Lily- At right is the Honorable Congressman Nicasio Aliping shown administering to the Hon Lilia "Mother Lily" Yaranon her oath of office as the new Baguio City Councilor, while her family watches on. Beside Cong. Aliping is the husband of Mother Lily the former Judge and Baguio City Mayor, Braulio Yaranon/Photo by RG

Maraming nag gagaling-galingan at MA-EPAL na mga lider-lideran ng NGO, Mga Relihiyosong Tao, Mga Polpolitiko, etc..., sa siyudad ng Baguio na pa kunwaring nag-mamahal at nag-mamalasakit sa siyudad ng Baguio ngunit ang katotohanan ay pansariling interes lang nila ang iniisip nila.
AGAAMO TAYON!!!



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BY: NESTOR CASTRO





OVER PRICED BY 150 Million PESOS PNP VEHICLES- The alleged over priced PNP Vehicles./ <http://thephpride.blogspot.com/2015/05/pnp-buys-overpriced-patrol-jeeps.html>

PNP Buys Overpriced Patrol Jeeps

Zaldy Buendia - Quezon City | I couldn't really believe when Mar Roxas said that the 210 new units of modified KIA2700 vehicles cost almost 1.9 million pesos each. I thought he was joking, but he wasn't. It looks like the Filipinos are being robbed again. People who know nothing about vehicle prices would ignore the news about these newly procured vehicles worth a total of 397 million pesos, but people like me who have been in buying and selling vehicles business for a decade would take this issue seriously. I am a good taxpayer and it hurts to know that my tax is being spent unwisely.

The Vehicle These vehicles are modified version of Kia K2700 and are brand new. The cost of unmodified version according to my local Kia dealership is around 950,000 pesos if paid cash. This is a 4x2 with FB-type body and dual air-condition.

The Modification The modified version has the following. Prices are based on my own shop's pricing (Already overpriced on 4x4 modification).

- 12,000 pounds capacity winch (cost around 50,000 pesos brand new)
- Warning lights (costs around 15,000 pesos)
- Front drive to make it 4-wheel drive (transfer case and front differential and other mechanisms costs around 80,000 pesos)
- Sidings/wall of the body has been removed (less around 5,000 for materials)
- Dual swing type air-con has been removed (less around 10,000 for air condition)

To sum it up. P950,000 (original price), plus



P 5 0 , 0 0 0 (winch), plus P15,000 (warning lights), plus P80,000 (front drive), minus P10,000

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John Hay Booming into an Economic Hub

John Hay Special Economic Zone (JHSEZ) is becoming a favorite location for businesses, which translates to thousands of jobs generated.

Dr. Jamie Eloise M. Agbayani, President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC), a subsidiary of the state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) said that at present there are 117 business enterprises who have located inside JHSEZ, a 50 percent increase in number over the past four years and a 196 percent increase in job generation which now accounts to 4,176 employees as of the end of 2014.

This is a 20 percent increase from the total number of workers in JHSEZ in 2013 where there were 3,473 workers recorded.

Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) accounts for 70 percent of the workers inside the

special economic zone employed by InterContinental Hotels Group and Convergys.

In 2013, BPO reported a total of 1,746 workers which number was increased by 40 percent, bringing the total BPO workforce to 2,450 in 2014.

Agbayani explained that in compliance to the policy that the zone and its locators prioritize locals in hiring employees, Agbayani said 90 percent of the work force inside JHSEZ are residents of Baguio City, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay (BLISTT) and the rest of the Cordillera region, ensuring that the local residents are the direct beneficiaries of the developments in Camp John Hay.

Tourism being an economic booster was also felt in Camp John Hay in the year 2014. Agbayani said that data from accommodation facilities here shows

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Lawmaker: Where did P63-B AFP Modernization Fund Go?

Senator Chiz Escudero wants the military to account for almost P63 billion it has received since 2002 to modernize the Armed forces of the Philippines (AFP), as the Senate began its probe into questionable acquisitions of equipment and weapons system under the modernization program.

"Money for the modernization program has been in the AFP's hands beginning 2002. We want to know how it was spent, where it was spent. We want to know what their procurement did to the force, how the military condition has changed," Escudero said.

Escudero, chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, filed Senate Resolution No. 1234 which sought an investigation into the AFP's question-

able procurement to modernize the military. Escudero's initiative is one of the resolutions tackled during the Blue Ribbon Committee hearing.

According to Escudero, a total of P63.38 billion has been released to the AFP from 2002 to 2013. Out of this figure, P41.832 billion came from the General Appropriations; P12.958 billion from the remittances

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Council Railroads, Okays E-Bingo in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY - The city council here railroad and subsequently approved the operation of an electronic bingo (e-bingo) outlet along Marcos highway in a bid to correct the deficiencies of the operator and totally disregarding a battery of opposition from various sectors of the city against all forms of gambling as well as deviating from the city's police against all forms of gambling.

Instead of referring the proposed resolution interposing no objection to the request of Mr. Rafael A. Tabora to put up an electronic bingo outlet as authorized by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) to be situated at Center Point Plaza, Bakakeng Central Barangay, Marcos Highway, the authors of the resolution used the power of numbers to muscle the resolution through the local legislative body in order to catch up with the expected expiration of the one-year permit issued by PAGCOR to Mr. Tabora to operate the e-bingo outlet. The authors of the resolution were the following:

1. Vice Mayor Edison R. Bilog
2. Roberto C. Ortega
3. Elmer O. Datuin
4. Faustino A. Olowan
5. Richard A. Cariño
6. Joel Alangsab
7. Fred. L. Bagbagen
8. Michael L. Lawana
9. Leandro B. Yangot, Jr.

Seemingly disregarding the council procedure, the authors also out voted the proposals of councilors Betty Lourdes Tabanda, Elaine Sembrano, Peter Fianza and Isabelo Cosalan, Jr. to refer the matter to the committee on laws and to invite all concerned sectors to air their views on the matter before acting on the proposed resolution that was purportedly submitted to the council agenda on 09 March 2015 but no committee report was submitted to the council for proper deliberation and a basis

of the council action.

The authors availed of the suspension of the rules to insert the controversial resolution to certify their previous hidden action favoring the operation of the Tabora electronic bingo outlet.

It can be recalled that when Herald Express exposed the existence of a 25 March 2014 unnumbered council resolution interposing no objection to the operation of the Tabora e-bingo outlet along Marcos highway, Bilog, Alangsab, Bagbagen and Olowan denied knowledge of having known such resolution and worst, Bilog, Alangsab and Olowan denied having signed the 25 March 2014 unnumbered resolution.

The only new signatory to the 09 March 2015 was Yangot while Sembrano, who signed the 25 March 2014, failed to affix her signature in the latest council resolution approving the e-bingo operation in the city.

Fianza, Tabanda, Cosalan and Sembrano tried last ditch efforts to put pressure to the majority of the authors to refer the matter to the concerned council committee and for the council to invite all concerned parties for further consultations but the authors prevailed upon them due to the power of the majority of the councilors wanting to vote in favor of the e-bingo operation.

The majority councilors apparently prioritized action on the pending e-bingo application of Mr. Tabora and decided to abandon and neglect the pending proposals of Mr. Romeo Chong, of RCC Global Entertainment that was filed sometime in January 2014 and Alejandro Almonte of Highland Gaming Corporation that was also filed on 17 October 2014. Both application were filed in the council but no action was done by the committee on laws chaired by Cariño.

Religious leaders, civil society representatives, social welfare orga-

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THE JUNCTION

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Mayor Reminds Roving Vendors to Stay-off CBD

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan this week spearheaded a meeting between the Baguio City Market Authority (BCMA), Public Order and Safety Division (POSD) and representatives of ambulant vendors to thresh-out matters on vending policies being implemented citywide.

The chief executive stressed roving vendors are allowed to sell if they follow strictly the guidelines crafted by the city government.

Domogan stressed, “roving vendors are not allowed to sell within the Central Business District (CBD) which is strictly prohibited under the guidelines approved by the BCMA.”

“We will be implementing continuous clearing operations on all sidewalks including our parks that is why we came up with the guidelines on ambulant vendors who will be allowed to sell in the barangays,” he said.

As per guidelines, the privilege to sell as a roving vendor is exclusively for bonafide residents of the city and screened by the task force.

They will be covered by proper Identification (ID's) issued by the city government which is non-transferable and should conform to health and safety measures.

Roving vendors are required to secure pre-requisite documents prior to issuance of special permits which is renewable every three months.

Once an ID of a vendor is confiscated for an offense or violation, it can no longer be re-claimed and the special permit issued is revoked.

Domogan said, “the POSD personnel will not apprehend roving vendors unless they cooperate with the city and follow the guidelines set.”

The mayor said vendors of the night market, Burnham Park and other city parks are disqualified to avail of the privilege to sell as a roving vendor to give fair and equal share of livelihood opportunities among residents. */Paul Rillorta*

Mayor: Burnham Football Field will Remain As Is

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the Weekly Ugnayan Presser clarified issues regarding the proposed off-street parking facility at the Melvin Jones Football grounds within the Burnham Park Complex here.

The Chief Executive said the proposal to build a parking complex was hatched years back with the concept of putting a car park underneath the football field.

“Matagal na yan na plano, panahon pa ni Architect Estipona,” Domogan said.

Last year, an Australian Firm expressed interest in conducting a feasibility study on the viability of constructing a parking complex within Burnham Park at their own expense which the city approved.

In 2014, Domogan issued Administrative order No. 25 approving the creation of a Technical Working Group (TWG) to assess, evaluate and recommend the most advantageous proposal in the operation of an off-street parking.

Recently though, Parkwise Philippines Inc. and CW Developments Inc. released the feasibility study results for the Melvin Jones Football Field which it said is a viable project.

Two options were presented as viable, the first is the construction of a multi-level parking at the Ganza Area and another multi-level parking at the other end of the football field leaving the field in-

Aliping Swears in Mother Lily to City Council

LILIA “Mother Lily” Yaranon was sworn into office as the 12th member of the Baguio City Council in a simple ceremony before Baguio Rep. Nicasio M. Aliping Jr. at a Baguio hotel Thursday (May 7).

Yaranon, wife of former La Union Regional Trial Court judge and Baguio mayor Braulio Yaranon, and a three term Baguio City councilor, was appointed by President Benigno Aquino III last April 21, 2015 to replace Edison Bilog, who in turn automatically assumed the office of vice mayor of Baguio when former vice mayor Daniel Farinas died.

Yaranon thanked Rep. Aliping for supporting and facilitating her appointment saying, “I will never forget [Rep.] Aliping for my return to the [city] council until the end of time.”

She placed 14th in the May 2010 mid-term elections for the 12 man council. Yaranon was appointed being a local Liberal Party member same party as Bilog who caused the vacancy by virtue of his succession to the vice mayor's office.

Rep. Aliping, the Baguio City chairman of

tact which could accommodate more or less 2,484 vehicles while the second option would be to include the redevelopment of the football field that will have more or less 3,000 vehicle capacity.

A Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) scheme for 25 years is also proposed under a public Private Partnership (PPP).

Domogan however clarified the feasibility study is just a tool to determine the viability of the project.

Domogan stressed, “there is no approval of the city government on the said project and presently, it is still being evaluated.”

the LP, said “We are thankful to the President for filling the vacancy at the city council. Now the legislative body of the city of Baguio can function fully and the residents of Baguio are fully represented.”

He also thanked the local members of the LP who endorsed Yaranon for the position, specifically Barangay Chairman Van Dicang, Rudy Paraan, Bruce Limmayog, Joseph Cabato, Mike Lawana, Marvin Binayan and Barangay Chairman Murphy Maspil.

“Without their endorsement, we could not have brought her appointment papers to the DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Governments), and eventually to the attention of President Aquino,” Rep. Aliping stressed.

Her appointment would usher in a stronger LP in Baguio, he added. “An LP working for the progress of Baguio,” Rep. Aliping added.

Last year, there were two LP members who were endorsed to replace Bilog in the city council. They are Yaranon and congressional candidate Marquez Go. */Carl C. Taawan*

“If ever it gets approved, it will be endorsed to the City Council for discussion and conduct of a public hearing then the council will make a resolution,” he said.

Domogan also said, “the city government will not push through with any project that could destroy the park and have detrimental effects on the environment.”

Meantime, an online petition in a social networking site to prevent the supposed construction of parking structures at Melvin Jones Grandstand, Burnham Park was also put up where it claimed that the con-

Aliping Accepting Applications for STUPAF Grantees for SY 2015-2016

BAGUIO Rep. Nicasio M.

Aliping Jr. has announced his Baguio Congressional Office at City Hall is still accepting applications for the Student Financial Assistance Program (StuFAP) of the Commission on High Education's (CHED) for school year 2015-2016.

According to lawyer Ron Perez, StuFAP coordinator for Rep. Aliping, the program is designed to help underprivileged but deserving students the chance to pursue their college education by granting P12,000 a year as financial assistance per successful applicant.

“The amount is not given to the students directly,” Perez explained, “instead the amount will be coursed through the school where the student is enrolled so that the money is assured of being used to pay for the student's tuition fees.”

Under the Ched's StuFAP guidelines, applicants must be a Filipino citizen, a high school graduate or have passed the Alternative Learning System (ALS) equivalency examination for college or Philippine Education Placement Test (PEPT), whose parents' combined income does not exceed P300,000, must not be a grantee of any other government scholarship or grant-in-aid, and must not be a graduate of any degree course.

Documentary requirements for incoming freshmen are: Form 138 or high school report card, ALS accreditation and equivalency test passer certification or PEPT certificate of advancing to the next level.

Other requirements are: income tax return of parents or guardians or certificate of tax exemption from the Bureau of Internal Revenue; certificate of indigency from the barangay, case study from the Department of Social Welfare and Development or affidavit of no income; and certificate of good moral character.

For children of overseas Filipino workers, an additional requirement is the latest copy of contract or proof of income may be considered.

As of this school year, Perez said there are 1,187 grantees who were referred to the Ched program by Rep. Aliping in Baguio City.

Rep. Aliping, meanwhile, said he is planning to give an additional incentive to StuFAP grantees he sponsored so the students will excel in their studies. He intends to give a cash incentive to every StuFAP grantee he sponsored P7,000 for summa cum laude graduates; P5,000 for magna cum laude graduates and P3,000 for cum laude graduates.

Aside from this, Perez said there are also plans in coordination with the regional director of the Ched to harness the potential of the StuFAP grantees by organizing them and tapping them for social, sports, cleanliness and recreational activities which could benefit the Baguio community, in general, and their local villages, in particular. */Carl C. Taawan*

struction will have adverse historical, environmental and economic impacts to the city.

Domogan said, “opposition to any project cannot be prevented and it is very welcome being part of the demo-

cratic process.”

“They need not worry because we are assuring them that we will be considering all the points that will be raised when it comes to the project, they will be part of every process” he said. */Paul Rillorta*

Bottom-line question: 'Will it last?'

"Yes, yes," the wife snapped. "But when can we get a copy from local bookshops?" She had flagged the full-page ad of the just-published *Time* magazine book: "The Francis Miracle: Inside the Transformation of the Pope and the Church."

The author is veteran Vatican correspondent John Allen Jr. of the *Boston Globe*. He called the shots right when the conclave elected Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio who chose the name Francis. "Buona serra," the first Jesuit ever to become pontiff began. He startled the people in the crowd by asking for their blessing first.

Journalists around the world, who had earlier handicapped papables from Brazilian Cardinal Scherer to Canadian Cardinal Ouellet, frantically surfed the Web. All but one: Allen. He had published, much earlier, a profile of the cardinal-archbishop of Buenos Aires.

Ease off, we counseled the wife. We showed her the e-mail from our son Francis, a Delta Airlines pilot based in the United States. "Sorry. There was a mix-up at Federal Express. They delivered Allen's book, which we addressed to you in Cebu, back to us. We asked them to resend. And you should be getting it soon."

Writes Allen: "Not every pope with a game-changing dream succeeds in transforming the Church." Francis enthusiasts want his papacy to succeed in

EDITORIAL

reforms. His detractors fear that the longer it goes on, the harder to roll back "mistakes."

Both camps ask the same

bottom-line question: "Will it last?"

If one means substantive alterations in Church teaching—for instance, acceptance of abortion—the answer is no. Francis does not intend to upend the catechism.

But if one sees reorientation of Catholicism toward the "geographical and existential peripheries and the heart of the gospel," then it's possible; his imprint will outlive his stint on the Chair of Peter, be it long or short.

His reforms range from dethroning Italians as the Vatican's financial power brokers, choosing moderates as opposed to traditionalist hard-liners, greater transparency, etc. "New laws make it virtually impossible for any future pope to return to the status quo ante," Allen adds.

Today's Francis revolution is being felt at the level of in-the-trenches application of doctrine. His Church "sees people living in less-than-ideal ways as souls on the path to redemption, rather than enemies who need to be excoriated."

How long will Francis be able to keep going at his current pace? Will he set a term limit on himself, as Pope Benedict XVI did? What if his papacy is blind-sided by an unforeseen crisis?

Writes Allen: "Francis' imprint will depend on how ready Catholics are, at the grass roots, to carry it forward, even when Francis himself is gone."

"The key point to understanding Francis is this: beneath his simple exterior lies the mind of a brilliant Jesuit politician. He is spontaneous but he's never naive." He knows where he wants to go.

Yet not every pope with a game-changing dream succeeds in transforming the Church. There are five ways a pope can institutionalize change: 1) He can summon an ecumenical council, as Pope John XXIII did with Vatican II. 2) He can appoint bishops who'll translate his vision into practice. 3) He can change the law of the Church. 4) He can issue teachings on a new path. 5) He can create new structures.

"A bishop is the closest thing left on the planet to a feudal lord." Canon law provides that they don't need reelection. So they stay in their jobs until they reach the retirement age.

In the 1970s, Pope Paul VI appointed bishops known for a strong concern for social justice. In America, that outlook was most associated with the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago. Those "Bernardin bishops" are still a force in the US bishops' conference today, more than 35 years after the death of Paul VI.

What accounts for the sharp contrast between yesterday's Cardinal Bergoglio and today's Francis?

He carried into the Vatican his commitment to the poor, relighting missionary fires, and a life of gospel simplicity. He took the bus and lodged in a spartan apartment.

In Argentina, he rarely appeared in public or in formal interviews. "Nobody came away saying he turned the world on with his smile."

Allen notes what Maria Elena Bergoglio, the Pope's only surviving sibling, made of the change. She jokingly replied: "I don't recognize this guy!"

"You're not the man I knew in Buenos Aires. What's happened to you?" asked a cardinal-friend. According to the cardinal, this was Francis' answer: "On the night of my election, I had an experience of the closeness of God that gave me a great sense of interior freedom and peace. And that sense has never left me."

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KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Rematch Earnings Must be Given to Charity

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus..." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, the Holy Bible).

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QC POLICE AS KIDNAPPERS, EXTORTIONISTS: WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

Again, for the nth time, what else is new about the news that several rookie and very young policemen from the Quezon City Police Department the other day acted as kidnappers and extortionists against a man they arrested and detained when he failed to give them P30,000.00 as grease money?

Did not their colleagues from the same Quezon City Police Department figure in the much-publicized EDSA broad daylight kidnapping and robbery just last year? Did not their colleagues from the same police department take some P2 million from a driver they arrested in La Loma several years ago?

And did not their colleagues also participate in the kidnapping of two young siblings who were on their way to their posh school along Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City, many years ago, when I was yet a police reporter? So, what else, really, is new with the police committing crimes? Maybe if we can see policemen from Quezon City shunning crime and vices, then that is what we will consider as news.

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DAILY EXPRESS CELEBRATES AT 43: Here is an invitation for all staffers and employees of the defunct Philippines Daily Express: please join its 43rd anniversary celebration to be held on May 09, 2015, at 4 p.m., at the Aberdeen Hotel along Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. I understand there are going to be a lot of surprises, including raffle of valuable items, so please be there.

Why would a newspaper that was closed at the very start of the Cory Aquino presidency in 1986, and which has not been re-opened since, still celebrate, year after year, its foundation day?

I really don't know, but I can hazard a guess: maybe its reporters, editors, and employees are hoping it continues to serve as a reminder that a government which rode on the people's desire to supposedly restore democracy in our country was actually undemocratic itself, and a certified press freedom killer at that.

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REMATCH PURSE MUST BE DONATED TO CHARITY: If there is going to be rematch between Filipino boxing champion Manny Pacquiao and unbeaten American boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. a year from now, will people still be interested to view it? My gut feeling is that, there is not going to be very many people who will go and watch the second fight between the two.

The feeling is that, Pacquiao and Mayweather duped boxing fans worldwide with the May 02, 2015 "Fight of the Century, Battle for Greatness", especially with revelations that Pacquiao was actually suffering from a right shoulder injury that prevented him from fighting

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DIMENSIONAL ROAD

Senate Resolutions for the Protection of Migrant Workers; Legality of Entry Overseas

BY : MARVIN WACNAG LIDAWAN



"We will never stop illegal immigration until this country has a comprehensive, realistic immigration policy." -Ruben Hinojosa

Majority of Filipinos migrate primarily not for pleasure but for economic –related reasons. These reasons are intensively intersected with the fact that most of us are in search for greener pastures. However, it is crucially advice that the process of exercising these said rights must be legitimately undertaken for its legality is backed by existing laws should there be problems that is going to emerge in the future. Many legal migrant workers are keenly aware of this base from the previous multiple untoward events confronting illegal workers not to mention that even legal workers face varied kinds of predicaments in their jobs overseas. There should be more specific laws covering the protection of migrant workers in the government, to assure the materializations of defenses.

According to the cited data from an activist group for Filipino migrant workers, about 123 Filipinos have faced executions abroad. Lately, Mary Jane Veloso was about to be executed but was given reprieve hours before she could be executed under the Indonesian law. In conjunction to the plights of migrant workers, it can be recalled that Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago has filed several resolutions that cater for the protection of migrant workers. It is then a crucial gesture that the senator kept urging her colleagues to expedite the approval of the pending bills and resolutions for the protection of workers overseas.

Santiago filed about five resolutions according to the Press Release published at the senator's homepage dated April 18, 2015 which are related to overseas-workers' securities and the avoidance for being victims of illegal recruitments.

Senate Resolution number 1007 urges the senate to probe the proliferation of illegal recruitment incidents online with additional Senate Resolution No. 608. Illegal recruits are the common and easy victims of unscrupulous activities abroad. Illegal recruits who are deployed undocumented are too tough to be protected by the laws governing migration. Additionally, Santiago filed a Senate Resolution No. 992 on October 14, 2014 which commands the senate to investigate reports of double visa scheme by recruitment agencies. The double visa scheme allows the bearer of the said visas to move from one country to another illegally with an attached danger that said bearer could be manipulated by an entity or group for illegitimate activities such as drugs and/or human trafficking. This senate resolution is an emphasis of the earlier filed Senate Resolution No. 345 on November 7, 2013 which calls for the need to strengthen state protection for OFW's (Overseas Filipino Workers) and anti-human trafficking efforts in the country. Furthermore, Senate Resolution No. 48 filed on July 15, 2013 urges the investigation alleged deployment of OFW's to war-torn nations despite prohibitions imposed by the government. Santiago in support to her senate resolutions declared that "all legal and diplomatic means must be exhausted to ensure that Filipinos abroad are not wrongfully deprived of life or liberty. But the ideal situation is one that is not necessary." The Senator declared too that, "we must prevent these cases from happening."

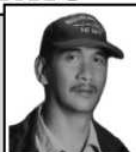
These senate resolutions which are currently examined in the legislative

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MAGKASANGGATAYO

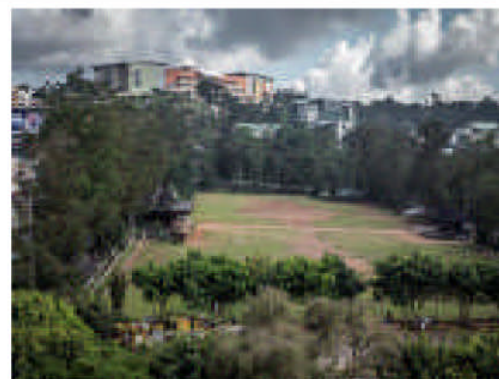
Ayaw Ng Parking Na Maayos Gusto Nila Traffic At Gulo !!!

BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO



Inyong mababasa sa ibaba ng kulom ko na ito ang isang isinasagawa na on line petition na kumontra sa pagpapatayo ng isang multi level parking sa siyudad. Hindi ko nais na talakayin ang merito hingil sa pagpapatayo daw sa isang heritage site, ngunit sa isang praktikal na pananaw matanong ko nga -ano ba talaga ang silbi at importansya ng isang heritage site sa isang lugar na over crowding na ang nangyayari, sapagkat simulat sapol ay wala naman masasabing isang comprehensive and intelligent land use plan ang siyudad ??? Nais ko lang tumbukin ang edeysa na tunay na kailangan ng siyudad ng isang multi-level parking whether it be above ground or underground does not matter bastat malinaw pa sa sikat ng araw na matagal ng kailangan ng siyudad ang isang multi level parking ng sa ganoon ay kapag nag dagsaan ang mga bisita (turista) sa siyudad ay mayroon magagamit na pay parking. Eh kung inyong maalala, pati pay parking ng nakaraang Jadewell ikinontra sa Baguio at ginawang isyu na baluktot, samantalang saan ka ba makakakita ng isang siyudad na walang pay parking, lahat naman ng lugar maging sa Pilipinas at sa abroad ay mayroon pay parking, kaya nga sigurong it's more fun in d pilipins este its more fun in baguio. Pano nga naman, maraming gusto mag kotse at gagawin nilang private parking ang kalsada. **MGA UNGAS NGA NAMAN, KUNG WALA KANG SARILING PRIVATE PARKING ABA EH HUWAG KA MUNA BUMILI NG KOTSE YUON ANG TAMANG PAG-IISIP.** Kaya marahil ang nag pasimuno ng petition na kumontra sa parking ay hindi niya naranasan ang matinding traffic na ating naranasan nuong nakaraang kapaskuhan, panagbenga etc..., at ito ay patuloy tuloy ng mangyayari sapagkat mas accessible na ang Baguio dala ng TPLEX hi way. Kaya kayong kumontra na kung ang -ano pang mga heritage site etc..., na pinag sasabi ninyo, ang tanong ko sa inyo ay kung ayaw ninyo ng pay parking eh ano ang gusto ninyo (TRAFFIC AT GULO SA KALSADA???) , ano ang solusyon sa matinding problema sa parking? Sige nga kayong magagaling kumontra at makisakay sa isyu na kesyo mga environmentalist etc..., kayo, ano ang gusto nyo mangayari at ano ang masusuggest ninyo na solusyon??? **BASTA MALINAW NA MALINAW NA MATAGAL NG OVERDUE ANG ISANG MULTI-LEVEL PARKING AREA, THIS IS AN UN-DISPUTABLE FACT AND ANYONE WHO DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THIS IS A PLAIN AND SIMPLE FOOL !!!! Hi! Hi! Hi!**

###



Petitioning Sec. Mar Roxas, DILG; Chair Felipe de Leon, NCCA; Chair Ma. Serena Diokno, NHCP

Please prevent the construction of parking structures at Melvin Jones grandstand, Burnham Park, a declared national historical site

The undersigned seek your help in preventing the construction of two multi-storey parking structures on Melvin Jones football grounds, Burnham Park. Mayor Mauricio Domogan has commissioned Australian owned companies, Parkwise Philippines Inc. D2 Capital Pty Ltd and CW Developments Inc, to build two parking structures with rentable commercial spaces. The construction, if allowed to go on, will have adverse historical, environmental, and economic impacts to Baguio City.

1. Historical - Melvin Jones is an integral part of Burnham Park, a declared national historical site by NHCP, as illustrated in the original map designed by Daniel H. Burnham in 1909. This open space has been in existence even before the Americans came to Baguio City and will be reduced by a total park land area of 49,385.60 sq.m. in order to accommodate two structures housing 3,000 parking slots and a ground level to serve as commercial rentable spaces.

2. Environmental - Melvin Jones is an aquifer, a vital water source for a city with dwindling water supply. Heavy construction equipment will adversely affect the aquifer. Melvin Jones is also a carbon sink, a natural environment that absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Baguio City's air pollution was rated by WHO as worst than Manila and Cebu in 2012. The structures will increase air pollution in the area due to increased vehicular activity.

3. Economic - Parkwise Philippines Inc.'s proposal will require Baguio City Council to pass a City Ordinance that will prohibit parking anywhere in the CBD so that Parkwise Carpark will meet its predicted financial returns and will cause added financial burden to the residents and the local transportation industry.

The proposed carpark structures will worsen current traffic congestion in the CBD area, as Parkwise Philippine Inc. encourages more people to bring their vehicles to the CBD and park at their parking structures.

Those of you who have visited Baguio City lately know that it is experiencing urban decay – we need your help to preserve in its natural state the only open area left in the city.

Thank you.

Letter to

Sec. Mar Roxas, DILG; Chair Felipe de Leon, NCCA; Chair Ma. Serena Diokno, NHCP

Please prevent the construction of parking structures at Melvin Jones grandstand, Burnham Park, a declared national historical site

A Nation of Billionaires...

from page 1

experts still debate the exact figures due to well-known non- or under-reporting of incomes by some survey respondents (notably the very rich), most would agree that the figures above are likely to underestimate the true degree of inequality in the country.

Figure 1. Filipino Families Disaggregated by Income Class



Good and bad inequality

Inequality per se is not bad.

Many societies tolerate (or even celebrate) some degree of inequality in so far as it incentivizes people to work hard, innovate, save, invest in education, and take calculated risks in entrepreneurial activities. This is the "good inequality" that moved JK Rowling to write the next Harry Potter novel, Bill Gates to pursue the next technological innovation, Steve Jobs to design the next Apple product, or Christopher Nolan to produce the next blockbuster movie. They became very rich relative to the rest of us, but nearly every one of us benefited from their contributions to arts, popular culture, and technology.

Moreover, an unequal distribution of income and wealth could emerge despite an egalitarian distribution of opportunities. Variations in effort, skill, and luck, after all, could produce variations in outcomes.

The problem arises when the inequality of outcomes is rooted in an inequality of economic opportunities. This exists amid wide differences in the quality of education, a general dearth of decent jobs, and an uneven economic environment that favors larger firms while driving many smaller firms into informality.

Inequality of this type can lead to a more volatile and less efficient economic system. The concentration of economic opportunities within the hands of a few is essentially the "uneven playing field" that characterizes the Philippine economy today.

Good for billionaires and politicians, but bad for yayas?

Prof Cielito Habito of Ateneo de Manila wrote in 2012 that "growth in the aggregate wealth of our 40 richest families in 2011—which Forbes Asia reported to have risen by \$13 billion in 2010-2011—was equivalent (in value) to 76.5 percent of the growth in our total GDP at the time...this ratio was only 33.7 percent in Thailand, 5.6 percent in Malaysia, and 2.8 percent in Japan—suggesting that income inequality in the Philippines is much worse than in several of its neighbors."

Updating this, the net wealth of the 40 richest families in the Philippines stood at \$72.3 billion in 2014. If we limit our focus to the families who were in the top 40 wealthiest in 2010 and in 2014 (about 30), these families' net wealth increased by well over 200% during this period.

But it's not just the economic elite that appears to have done very well in recent years. For comparison, we consider the average net wealth of both the upper and lower houses of the 15th Philippine Congress.

The Philippine economy grew by 3.7% in 2011, while the net wealth of senators grew four times faster over this same period. Similarly, in 2012 Philippine GDP grew by 6.7%, while the net wealth of senators expanded by over 30% during this same period. The average Philippine Congressman did not do so bad either, posting

about 13% and 7% wealth gains during the same period. (While notions of wealth and economic growth are not exactly the same, these comparisons could still be illustrative.)

Table 1. Philippine Congress and Senate, Average Net Worth, 2010, 2011, and 2012

		2010	2011	2012
SENATE	NET WORTH	P=183	P=126	P=164
	AVERAGE	Million	Million	Million
	GROWTH RATE		+16.14%	+30.19%
CONGRESS	NET WORTH	P=47	P=53	P=57
	AVERAGE	Million	Million	Million
	GROWTH RATE		+12.74%	+7.48%

Assuming of course that all of this wealth has been created legally, there is nothing overtly wrong with the economic and political elite doing very well financially during this time of plenty for the Philippines.

The question is whether the rising tide is lifting all boats. Certainly it is not.

Hunger incidence according to SWS fell only by less than one percentage point in the course of this reference period – from 19.1% of the population in 2010 to 18.3% in 2014. Self-reported poverty also increased from 48% of the population to 54% during this period. Official poverty figures indicate that poverty has been stuck at around one-fourth of the total population in the past decade.

On top of this, inequality across Philippine regions underscores the significance of being born on the "right" island. Drawing on data reported by the Human Development Network and UNDP, children born in the National Capital Region are more likely to enjoy human development levels in education and health akin to fast growing emerging market economies like Estonia, Brazil and Mexico. On the other hand, children born in Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi will grow up with human development levels comparable to conflict-plagued African countries like the Congo, Niger and Central African Republic.^[1]

Political inequality

In a related article we have argued that unequal access to political power and democratic processes – reflected by the persistence and predominance of political dynasties—represents the political side of economic inequality. In fact, political inequality and economic inequality go hand in hand. Both spheres have become largely anti-competitive; and it would be difficult to ameliorate one without reforming the other.

In fact, these links have long been recognized. More than 45 years ago, the 36-year-old Senator Aquino already exposed how the monopoly of state power by one dynastic family conspired with various monopolies in the economic sphere:

"We cannot get complete solid detailed data, but this much we know. The government has granted around ± 4.5 billion in loans during the Marcos administration. Of this, from 40 to 50 families got 2.3 billion, either by borrowing directly from, or getting their foreign loans guaranteed by, government financing institutions. In other words, some 40-50 families got almost 50 percent of the total loanable funds of the government."

"One family got a loan guarantee for ± 300 million; another, for ± 263 million; a third, for ± 178 million. *Sumod-sumod na 'yan.*"

"Two senators each got over ± 400 million; a congressman got ± 180 million."

Much has changed since those days; but the risks of monopoly in both the economic and political spheres still plague the country. Our conglomerates have become much larger; and a few have helped the country penetrate valuable export markets. Yet one wonders whether all of them promote fair competition and innovation, or instead, derive their success from protectionism and its captured Philippine market.

Philippine political dynasties have also proliferated, producing as one analyst called it, many "mini-dictatorships" across our different provinces. Do all of them pursue good governance, citizen empowerment, and more inclusive politics? Here's a fact to think about: based on

City Wants Clarity on Declared Historical Sites

BAGUIO CITY - The improvement of Baguio City Hall grounds is still on-going despite opposition.

Said project is being pursued based on the list of historic sites and structures installed with historical markers from the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) that only the City Hall building and not the grounds that was declared as such on September 2, 2009.

In the executive-legislative meeting last Monday, mayor Mauricio Domogan requested the city council to immediately pass a resolution requesting the National Commission for Culture and Arts and the various cultural agencies to coordinate with the city government before declaring a place as historical and cultural heritage sites in the city of Baguio in order to clear out confusion in the city government here.

"We are not oppos-

ing the declaration of historical sites in the city, but we have to follow what is required under Republic Act 10066," said Domogan

Councilor Peter Fianza, who chairs the Committee on Education, Culture and Historical Research, said that on 2009, city hall has been marked as heritage building and has tried to look into an official document to support the declaration of the City Hall Building as a heritage site but found none.

Fianza also stressed the importance of recognizing the interest of the Local Government Units (LGUs), hence, there is a need for consultation with the NHCP.

He believes that marked structure/site is only a recognition while declaration as historical needs a resolution. There must be distinction between marked heritage site and that of a declared heritage site.

Domogan pointed out that City Hall build-

Cont. on page 7

our ongoing monitoring, about 8 out of every 10 of our Governors belong to dynastic clans. And of these dynastic governors, only about one-fourth of them can claim that not one of their family members in elected office have been implicated in criminal, administrative, or election-related offenses.

While only among the first steps, the Competition Policy Bill could help break the monopolistic (or oligopolistic) patterns on the economic side, while the Anti-Dynasty Bill could create similar space for new players and more competition on the political side.

Until these main blockages to competition are removed, many other fundamental reforms are far less likely to prosper (or are going to be far less ambitious) due to the unequal economic and political landscape that is expected to give birth to and nurture these "inclusive development reforms".

Breaking out of this inequality trap is going to take brave leaders on both sides of business and politics – including more progressive business tycoons and more benign political dynasties – to open the floodgates for competition.

International economic history suggests that no country has ever industrialized and achieved the next higher stage of development, without either of two actions: enlightened elites from the inside opening the doors to more competition; or many more people from the outside – notably the youth – breaking down the door itself. **Rappler.com/ Ronald U. Mendoza and Katherine Peralta** /The authors thank David Yap and Fred Cruz for helpful inputs. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Asian Institute of Management.

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
First Judicial Region
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT & EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF
Baguio City

VALENTIN P. CALANGO,
Mortgagee,

-versus-

JULIA INGOSAN,
Mortgagor.

FORECLOSURE CASE No. 15-569-S

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Upon petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended, filed by VALENTIN P. CALANGO, herein-after referred to as the MORTGAGEE, for the satisfaction of the mortgage indebtedness of JULIA INGOSAN, hereinafter referred to as the MORTGAGOR, which as of the filing of the petition, amounts to P65,000.00, Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest but excluding attorney's fees and other expenses incidental to the foreclosure, the Ex-Officio Sheriff or her undersigned Deputy Sheriff, will sell at public auction on JUNE 2, 2015, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, at the lobby (fronting the main entrance) of the Hall of Justice Building, Baguio City, the following described mortgage properties and all its improvements existing thereon, to wit:

ASSESSMENT OF REAL PROPERTY No.

DIMENSIONAL ROAD

would-be - victims though they never applied for a job), do not deal with training centers and travel agencies that promise overseas employment (Training centers and travel agencies are not recruitment agencies), do not accept tourist visa (This type of visa is only for a temporary residence in a country of one's destination which manifest that the bearer of such visa is not allowed to work. Should the bearers of this type of visa work

2014-01-001-1480950 (LAND)

Boundaries: North: ASS LOT NO. 140 South: ASS LOT NO. 138 East: ASS LOT NO. 140 West: ASS LOT NO. 138

Actual Use: Residential Area: 811 square meters Market Value: P121,650.00 Assessed Value: P14,598.00

ASSESSMENT OF REAL PROPERTY NO. 2012-01-001-150665 (BUILDING)

Actual Use: Residential Total Market Value: 206,497 Total Adjusted Market Value: P185,847.30 Total Assessed Value: P18,584.73

Prospective bidders may investigate the title, rights and improvements of the property with regards to encumbrances, if any there be.

Baguio City, Philippines, this 6th day of May, 2015.

(SGD)
LINDA G. MONTES-LOLOY
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

(SGD)
RUBEN I. ATIJERA
Sheriff-in-Charge

Publication: May 9, 16, and 23, 2015

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in the countries of their destinations, they are considered illegal) and never entertain overseas job fixers.

Based from this writer's experience, if they are directly hired by the company overseas, the applicants will handle their documentation and processing costs only and to play it safe, it is best to settle placement fees when there are lawfully available visas and plane tickets, which follow after the applicants have signed their viable contracts. This happens when your medical examination is favorable and you were finally advised to take the Pre-Employment Departure Orientation Seminar (PEDOS) in an authorized organization recommended by the recruitment agency responsible to deploy applicants.

Furthermore, the following elucidates how to identify the presence of an illegal recruitment based from the existing guidelines from the POEA: the recruitment agency instantly ask for a placement fee or any type of fees without receipt, the agency promises the applicant for an immediate deployment, the agency immediately requires the applicant to undergo medical examination or training despite the absence of a contract or a guaranteed employer, transacts with applicants in public places like restaurants, malls among other places not in the office of a licensed agency, perform house-to-house recruitment, insufficient information about the job being applied for, claims that they have arranged with an employer who's going to directly hire applicants, promises applicants of fast deployment through tourist or visit visa, unable to provide a legal contract or a working visa, introduce themselves

as employers or a representative of a legitimate recruitment agency but fails to show identification card as proof, some may introduce themselves as employers connected with training or travel agencies, encourages the applicants to gather more applicants for immediate deployment and above all, they represent themselves using false names and addresses.

To add, these are other MODUS OPERANDI being performed by illegal recruiters stipulated under the POEA guidelines obtained. "Escort Services is performed when undocumented workers are escorted at the airport or any international exit to evade checkpoints set to check on the documents of workers. Tourist-Worker Scheme makes workers leave the country purportedly as tourist but in reality is being deployed as worker abroad. Assumed Identity operates by deploying workers abroad particularly minors under assumed identities. Direct Hiring claims that workers are hired by foreign employers without the intervention of licensed recruitment agencies and are deployed undocumented and without protection. Trainee Worker Scheme explains that hired workers are deployed allegedly not for employment but for training purposes only and will return to sending company after training. Backdoor Points Scheme is when workers are sent abroad not through regular exit channels like airports but are deployed usually through cargo ships. Tie-Up System is done by unlicensed recruiters with foreign principals who are usually in the blacklist use the name and offices of licensed recruiters in their illegal activity. Visa Assistance/ Consultancy Scheme is another strategy wherein firms offer services including the pair-



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
Securities and Exchange Commission
SEC Bldg. EDSA, Greenhills,
Mandaluyong City

SEC ADVISORY

The Securities and Exchange Commission has received reports that Facebook netizens are being invited or enticed to invest their money in **EMGOLDEX PHILIPPINES' "Pinoy Style Patak Patak"** for a promise of huge profit/high returns where investment of One Thousand Pesos will earn profits ranging from Five Thousand to Ten Thousand Pesos or a placement of Thirty Five will yield One Hundred Eighty Thousand to Three Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (1k=5k to 10k payout or 35K=180K to 360k payout).

Per verification, Emgoldex Philippines is not a registered corporation or partnership. Likewise, such entity is not authorized to solicit investment from the public as it did not secure prior registration and/or license or permit to solicit investments from the Commission as required under Section 8.1 of the Securities Regulation Code.

In view thereof, the public is hereby advised to exercise self-restraint from investing their money into such high yield-high risk investment scheme and to take the necessary precautions in dealing with the above-named entity.

Should you have any information regarding the operation of the said entity, please call the **Enforcement and Investor Protection Department** at telephone numbers 584-7187 or 584-7652

ing of workers with foreign employers and promising applicant's immigrant visas but are in reality engaged in the recruitment business. Lastly, Blind Ads Scheme enticed workers to apply and send cash payments addressed to a Postal Office Box without the worker having the opportunity to communicate personally with the recruiter."

Finally, the policy on Immigration Consultants specifically MC 10, series of 2003 stipulates that "Immigration consultancy agencies and similar entities which are based locally, are required to obtain a license in accordance with the guidelines as provided for in Part II, Rule I, sections. 1 and 2 and Rule 2, sections 1 to 5 of the 2002 POEA Rules and Regulations, before they may engage in recruitment and placement activities, regardless of the visa under which deployment shall be made eventually." This order further adds that "fees shall be duly cov-

ered with OFFICIAL RECEIPTS and may be collected only AFTER a worker has been issued the necessary EB3 Visa."

It is extremely annoying that illegal recruitments still creep skillfully and cunningly operated by corrupt individuals or organizations to these days. To combat these illegal actions requires the urgent moves of concerned agencies in the country as well as individual citizens' involvement. It calls for a national responsibility which provides everyone lessons to be vigilant. It is then appropriately safe to apply under legitimate recruitment organizations and to only apply when qualified. Unqualified applicants yield unscrupulous individuals who are motivated to devise illicit ways for possible deployment abroad of which the consequential drawbacks boomerang to the applicants in the long run. Foolish individuals are fooled by fools.

marimongkikman@gmail.com

City Wants... from page 6

ing was declared under the old law. However, under R.A. 10066, the city government did not comply with the requisites in declaring the city hall building as historical site because there was no public hearing and there was no resolution of the city government for the declaration of the city hall building.

So as to be clarified with the various concerns of the city regarding declaration of heritage sites, the city council passed a proposed resolution requesting the NCCA and various cultural agencies attached to said office to coordinate with the city government of Baguio for its information and guidance before the declaration as historical and cultural heritage sites any place, location, or building in the city of Baguio./ Jho Arranz

Council Railroads...

nization leaders and other concerned citizens of the city petitioned the city council not to approve the e-bingo application of Mr. Tabora and other applicants since the proliferation of e-bingo outlets will affect the morals of the people among other major reasons.

Ironically, the majority of the council members, who voted in favor of the e-bingo application of Mr. Tabora, shut the doors on the opposition by refusing to refer the matter to the concerned council committee in order to allow future discussions in relation to the said matter.

Those who voted in favor of granting the e-bingo application of Mr. Tabora were Ortega, Datuin, Cariño, Olowan, Alangsab, Bagbagen, Lawana and Yangot while those who vehemently opposed the existence of e-bingo in the city were Fianza, Tabanda, Cosalan and Sembrano.

The pro-electronic bingo councilors even had to reason out that the operation of e-bingo in the city is not against the city's anti-gambling policy since what is only defined by the city's policy is legislation against casino, e-games and illegal gambling.

PNP Buys..

from page 2
(dual air-con), minus P5,000 (metal sheet on sidings and upholstery)

The total cost would be P1,080,000. Let's add P20,000 as agent commission and another P50,000 for some other collective modifications, the final total cost would be around P1,150,000. This is far different from the declared P1.89 million. Where did the P740,000 go? Con-

from page 2

Earlier, PAGCOR gave Mr. Tabora a permit to operate e-bingo in the city using the controversial 25 March 2014 unnumbered resolution and that the authorization already expired, thus, the majority members of the city council exerted all efforts to have the resolution approved even without the required committee report and the consultations with the people of Baguio so that it could continue its operation.

The city's permits and licensing division was preparing the issuance of a closure order for Mr. Tabora's e-bingo outlet but it was overtaken by the railroading of the resolution interposing no objection to the e-bingo operation.

The council also requested PAGCOR to shy away from issuing authorization to e-bingo operators in SM City Baguio and the Baguio Center Mall considering that they were not able to secure the required council endorsement and ordered the city permits and licensing division to close the operation of such outlets. / by Herald Express News Team May 4, 2015 /Source: <http://baguioheraldexpress.com/news/city/council-railroads-okays-e-bingo-in-baguio>

sidering this is a bulk order, there should be a discount of at least P50,000 pesos each unit. It looks like some P155M has just been pocketed safely.

Zaldy Buendia is a car enthusiast and owns a car repair shop in Quezon City See Also: **Philippine Politics is Second Most Profitable Business in Asia**, Money Magazine Says / <http://theppride.blogspot.com/2015/05/pnp-buys-overpriced-patrol-jeeps.html>

Lawmakers...

from page 2

from the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA); P1 billion from the Malampaya fund; P6.59 billion from the Department of Energy (DoE); P909.98 million from interest income; and PP92.438 million from government arsenal.

"Why is our military still in a sorry state after P63 billion? With this money, we get to ask: is the Filipino soldier better off than before? Are our soldiers better equipped? Are they better trained? Is their inherent bravery boosted by more confidence in fighting with the purchased arsenals? The answers will show us where this modernization plan can and will take us," he said.

Escudero said the funds appropriated for the modernization program may pale in comparison to the military giants of our neighboring countries but wise, judicious and efficient spending will go a long way in strengthening our military force.

"We are no Hercules compared to the formidable forces of China or Japan, so we better equip our military with the right arsenal. There is a dream sequence and there is reality. We want to see how they close between these two in terms of spending," he added.

The senator asked Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin for a full accounting report on the use of the Modernization Fund. The defense chief said he will provide the committee with the said report before the next hearing. /OFFICIAL WEBSITE: <http://chizescudero.com/OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE: https://www.facebook.com/senchizescudero/OFFICIAL TWITTER ACCOUNT: @saychiz>

EDITORIAL

...from page 4

St. John Paul II was convinced that on May 13, 1981, the Virgin Mary changed the flight path of an assassin's bullet in St. Peter's Square to preserve his life. And it also was the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima. The pope believed that Mary was the reason he survived—to forgive the assassin.

Among other things, that conviction explains why it was always implausible that John Paul would resign, no matter how frail he grew near the end. He believed that the Virgin Mary wanted him to continue. He was never going to wake up one morning and just call it quits.

It seems unlikely that Francis will heed calls to rein in his freewheeling public persona in any significant way, given that it's not the product of a PR war room but, rather, what he believes he experienced as an act of God.

Whether his paucity is truly "miraculous," in the sense of boosting the long-term fortunes of Catholicism in some world-changing way, remains to be seen. There's no doubt, however, that as Francis views it, his is a mission with a miracle at its core.

DIMENSIONAL ROAD

...from page 5

bodies for executive approval will benefit any individual Filipino migrant worker regardless of the nature of their jobs abroad.

Meanwhile, with the growing numbers of illegal recruitment incidents in the country, there is a need for concerned agencies in the government to campaign for citizen's awareness in the avoidance of illegal recruitment. The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) should refurbish illegal recruitment community awareness which should be expected to circulate in all connecting agencies to be made available in all areas of the country. The performance of this reduces the occurrence of illegal employment practices

that are contrary to the immigration laws of the country. It is also suggested that this awareness should be circulated as a campaign project if not part of the curricula of the Department of Education (Dep Ed), Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Commission of Higher Education (CHED) of which hold majority of citizens interestingly capable to take part of the campaign since they comprise the populace that targets the global market for employment.

Here are important guidelines according to the POEA which every citizen planning to apply overseas should be aware of for the avoidance of illegal recruitment: apply only to recruitment agencies that are licensed by the POEA, check if there

are job orders even if it's a licensed recruitment agency, deal only with authorized representative of a licensed agency; transact business inside the registered address of the agency and when the recruitment is done in the province, check if the recruitment agency has a provincial recruitment authority; pay the appropriate placement fee which is equivalent to one month salary exclusive of documentation and processing costs; when there is a valid employment contract, demand for a receipt of any placement fees that you pay, do not be tempted by advertisements or brochures requesting you to reply to Post Office (P.O.) Box and to add payment for the processing of papers (In most cases, these are done through emails of

Cont. on page 6




Branded o hindi, lahat made in China, BAKIT..... magtitiis sa high Price branded merong low Price RUSI naman.

Trade-in accepted

RUSI BAGUIO-BENGUET Km. 3, La Trinidad, Benguet CP Nos.: 0995-9731349	RUSI TUBA, BENGUET Brgy. Cadmangan, Tuba, Benguet CP No.: 0999-885-0843
RUSI BUGUIAS, BENGUET Brgy. Abatan, Buguias, Benguet CP No.: 0947-995-1609	

Leukemia...**from page 10**

total of P25,400 that Aliping said would prop up financially distressed patients.

Of the fund, P4,139.28 was used last Tuesday to purchase insulin and medicines for Helen Ballesteros-Vicente, a 61-year old widow with nine children and no means of income who has been suffering from diabetes for 19 years now.

Vicente, who lost her husband to kidney ailment, and one of her sons, a paraplegic, were taken in by another widow and friend, Maria Paz "Datsu" Infante-Molintas in the latter's home in Tubao, La Union. Molintas herself single-handedly raised her four sons when her husband, Mike, a pony boy at the Wright Park, died in 1997.

Another beneficiary of the veterans' fund was a 31-year old former security guard who is trying to cope with mental illness, busying himself selling "balut" here after spending two years at the National Mental Hospital in Mandaluyong.

"When my condition improved, I was allowed to go home from Mandaluyong," he explained last week, adding he needed some clothes to be presentable while moving around peddling duck eggs.

A volunteer led him to a "wagwagan" shop and later to a department store, later giving him what was left of the P500 budget from the veteran's fund.

There are other generous souls out there, five of whom pooled P27,000 for 18-month old Raciala Chloe Pa-ay who, like Mordayne, is also battling leukemia.

Days after the baby's mother, Ginalyn, made an appeal through the local weeklies, an anonymous donor met her at the Baguio Cathedral and handed over P10,000. A government official matched the amount while a certain Peter and another contributed P1,000 each before Ramon Tagle added P5,000. */Ramon Dacawi.*

SAF 14 Kin Receive...

the first to extend it support of P10,000 to each of the families of the 13 SAF members upon the arrival of the officers' remains at the regional police headquarters last Jan. 30.

In last Monday's turn-over, each family received P17,100 from the proceeds of the concert dubbed "He's My Brother" and hosted by the University of Baguio, aside from P5,000 each from the BIBAK ore Northern California.

The beneficiaries included the family of PO2 Joel Dulnuan, a SAF member not included in the original list as his address was in Nueva Vizcaya. His father, who received the fund support from the concert proceeds, missed the BIBAK donation and may claim the same from the information division of the city mayor's office.

Mayor Domogan said the fund drives only proves the keen sense of community of Baguio and Cordillera residents.

The musical treat was made possible by Baguio-Cordillera folksingers led by lawyer Jose "Bubut" Olarte and Albert Banasan, president of the Cordillera Entertainers (Baguio-Benguet-based) Association who performed pro bono for four hours. With them were a-line dancers from the BaguioBenguet Cowgirls and the El Caballeros of Guislad led by Ferdy Bayasan.

The concert was jointly sponsored by the regional police headquarters led by Chief Supt. Isagani Nerez, the Baguio Correspondents and Broadcasters Club headed by television newscaster Dobie de Guzman, alumni of the Philippine National Police Academy, the regional Crime Investigation and Detection Group under Sr. Supt. Jimmy Catanes, the Baguio City Police Office and the Benguet Provincial Police office.

Representatives of the BIBAK of Northern

from page 10

California led by its past president, Art Bulayo, came for the turn-over rites.

An initial effort launched earlier by a group led by lawyer-real estate developer Alex Bangsoy triggered an outpouring from all over, specially from expatriates who trace their roots to the Cordillera, contributing individually or collectively for a total donation of P2,552,379.09.

"Many of our 'kababayans' living overseas who helped raise the amount did so anonymously," Bangsoy, who was overwhelmed by the response, said.

Following the online fund drive, the Metro Baguio Practical Shooters Association led by Gilbert Atioan staged a shootfest that raised P140,000 for the kin of the 14 heroes.

The slain Cordillera warriors were led by Sr. Inspectors Cyrus Anniban of Tabuk, Kalinga and Gednat Tabdi of La Trinidad, Benguet. The rest were PO3 Robert Allaga, PO3 Noel Golocan, PO2 Joel Dulnuan, PO2 Peterson Carap, PO2 Walner Danao, PO2 Franklin Danao, PO2 Jerry Kayob, PO2 Noble Kiangnan, PO2 Nicky de Castro Nacino Jr., PO2 Russel Bilog, PO1 Gringo Cayang-o and PO1 Angel Kodiamat. */Ramon Dacawi.*

Former Domestic...**from page 10**

ilathala sa diyaryo ang problema ko (I am allowing the publication of my problem)," she wrote last April 22. "Sana po may mahabag sa kalagayan ko (Hopefully somebody would take pity because of my condition)."

People who can help may visit Erlinda during her dialysis schedule on Tuesdays and Fridays at the Cordillera Kidney Specialists, Inc. within the Baguio Midland Courier Building along Kisad Rd. They may contact her sister, Carmen Ambloza, at cellphone number 09984656756. */Ramon Dacawi.*

City Answers PCUP...

engaged in business in the area."

Evidence showed that some of the structures are used as eateries, photocopying and computer rentals businesses, livestock sales, boarding houses, offices and others.

The structures are not covered by building permits and thus are considered illegal and proper subjects of demolition, according to Canilao.

Canilao further said that the demolition of the structures has been endorsed by the Regional Development Council and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Cordillera (DENR-CAR).

The RDC in a resolution passed in 2013 supported the city's plan to immediately demolish the illegal constructions in the area stressing the need to establish dormitories for the BIBAK constituents.

Last year, DENR-CAR OIC regional director Paquito Moreno also supported the city's demolition plan in the area as he turned down the petition of the OCT No. 1 settlers to own the lots they are occupying.

Moreno said the DENR being the administrator of the lots under OCT 1 has advocated of

John Hay...**from page 2**

that tourist arrivals inside John Hay increased by 13 percent or a total of 187,153 tourists recorded to have visited this place in 2014 compared to the 165,622 visitors in 2013.

The opening of businesses inside Camp John Hay, was driven by the increasing tourist arrivals, both local and foreign, showing that 2014 is another good year where economic regeneration was noted.

"The boost in tourist arrivals was a result of the promotion of the Camp for recreational and eco-cultural tourism, for meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions (M.I.C.E.), and the open-

from page 10

the "best use" of the property and a demolition to be executed by the city mayor's office will help the department enforce its mandate.

"Sadly, the occupation of the land by the petitioners is bereft of any legal basis and thus, can never ripen into ownership or possessory right. They cannot be qualified beneficiaries... since the subject lot is not alienable and disposable land. We therefore reiterate that clearing of the area of informal settlers is prioritized and we solicit the occupants' cooperation in making it a peaceful and orderly proceeding," Moreno said.

In the letter to Panganiban, Canilao said the city "has always observed due process and the other requirements of the law in the issuance and implementation of all demolitions in Baguio City."

"Under the premises, we are compelled to proceed with the ongoing investigation, as it is our mandate under the Local Government Code. Rest assured that the City will comply with all the requirements of law, as maybe applicable under the circumstances," Canilao said. */A Refuerzo*

ing of new retail shops and restaurants at the Ayala Techno-Hub," Agbayani explained.

In the Ayala Techno-Hub alone, with the opening of its second business processing outsourcing (BPO) facility and additional retail shops and restaurants, the locators increased to a total of 34 in 2014.

The intensified marketing of the Historical Core as a preferred destination for corporate events and family occasions had also contributed to the visitors in the area.

Record shows that there were 48 marketing events, functions and eco-tours held in 2014, with nuptials consistently accounting for

KAKAMPI MO...**...from page 4**

Mayweather in his usual tiptop form during that fight.

So here is my suggestion, so that both fighters can recoup the trust and confidence of their fans, and salvage boxing from being ruined by what they did in their first outing: carry out the rematch, pay them whatever they are supposed to be paid, but, one, they should no longer be requiring people to pay for watching them, and, two, they must donate all their earnings from the rematch to charity.

-000-

P L E A S E

LISTEN: DZEC 1062 kHz Manila, 1080 kHz Dagupan City, 711 kHz Naga City, 1260 kHz Lucena City, 1224 kHz Davao City, and www.eaglenews.ph/Mondays to Fridays, 6 a.m.; DYKA 801 kHz Panay Island, Yes Radio 88.3 FM, Barobo City, Surigao del Sur, Yes Radio 93.9 FM, Cagwait, Surigao del Sur, Mondays to Fridays, 10 a.m.; 92.7 Smile FM, San Francisco, Agusan Del Sur, Kiss 101.1 FM, Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte, Mondays to Fridays, 12 noon; 107.5 Win 107.5 FM, Roxas, Isabela, Saturday, 5:30 a.m., Sunday, 7 a.m.

about 68 percent of the events.

The historical core is composed of the Bell House, Amphitheater, and the Cemetery of Negativism.

Agbayani added that not just in Camp John Hay, Baguio City and its adjoining towns benefits from the opening of the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX) in the middle of the year, which significantly shortened travel time to the City of Baguio, eventually encouraging others to visit this summer capital including the tourism towns in Benguet province. */JHMC-PR*



"ARREST THEM AND CONFISCATE THEIR IDs" - Mayor Mauricio Domogan gives this marching orders to law enforcers during a meeting with SP Committee On Market chairperson Councilor Elaine Sembrano on knuckle headed ambulant vendors at Burnham Park who openly defy the agreement not to sell their products in stationary areas disturbing the pathways of parkgoers during a meeting which was also attended by ambulant vendors thereat./by Bong Cayabyab

Leukemia-Stricken Kids Lean on Donors' Shoulders

Members of the Baguio chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars are shoulder to shoulder with a five-year old girl in her protracted battle against acute lymphocytic leukemia, a cancer that does not take on victims of its size.

Thanks to the veterans' instant pass-the hat during their induction of officers last April 16, Mordayne Naslangan, a farmer couple from Sinto, Bauko, Mt. Province is assured of her eighth chemotherapy session on May 18 at the Baguio General Hospital here.

"We will need about P5,000 for the laboratory and drugs needed for her treatment that day, and we were praying that we would receive response to our plea for fund support before that day," the girl's mother, Domarlyn said last Wednesday.

Under financial stress after her eldest of three children pulled through seven chemo sessions,

Domarlyn expressed relief when told the veterans led by out-going and incoming post commanders Larry Senato and Willy Totanes will shoulder the amount.

Bob Aliping, a member of the veterans group, mostly retirees from the United States Navy, triggered the spontaneous fund drive when he offered a copy of his "Boba Songs", a collection of his original folk and country compositions, saying any amount in exchange would be used for a medical mission.

Aliping earlier distributed his CD to fellow expatriates in San Diego, California, collecting \$1,300 for Quakelyn Lisayen, a 24-year old former rescue volunteer working out an organ transplant for kidney failure.

Out-going post commander Larry Senato took the drift, contributing \$100. Incoming commander Willy Totanes matched the amount. The members took on for a

Cont. on page 9

SAF 14 Kin Receive Support from City, Concert and BIBAK Northern California

A humanitarian concert initiated by the police, media and Baguio folksingers last March 28 netted P239,000 which was distributed to relatives left behind by the 14 Cordillera police officers who were massacred last January 25 in Mamasapano, Maguindanao.

Over in the United States, members of the BIBAK chapter of Northern California pooled P70,000 which they also handed to the fallen heroes' kin during a twin turn-over in front of the Baguio city hall last Monday morning.

Only last April 27, at the rites marking the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Baguio from the Japanese imperial forces, city mayor Mauricio Domogan and city social welfare and development officer Betty Fangasan handed P20,000 each to the families of 13 of the 44 members of the Special Action Force of the police who were slain by Muslim rebels while they were in pursuit of international terrorist Zulkifli Abdhir.

Benguet Province, through Gov. Nestor Fongwan, was among

Cont. on page 9

Former Domestic Helper Badly Needs Help

With nowhere else to turn to for help, Erlinda Abad, a 48-year old kidney patient made a public appeal last week, hoping readers of this paper would respond and help sustain her twice-a-week dialysis treatment that doctors said must be for life.

The 4th of five children, she reached the third grade and then quit school for good to work as a gardener. The decision was triggered by the unstable relationship of her parents and her need to fend for herself.

At 18 she was hired as a house help until her employer brought her to Quezon City where she worked as a domestic for over 20 years.

"Unfortunately, she was later diagnosed for (end-stage renal failure, and had to come home last year where she took refuge in the home of one of her sisters at Camp 7 here).

Eventually, her parents reconciled and, in their seventies, stay together in her sister's house.

"Pinapahintulutan ko po na

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The JUNCTION

Pahayagang Palaban!!!

City Answers PCUP on BIBAK Lot Issue

BAGUIO CITY - The Benguet-Ifugao-Bontoc-Apayao-Kalinga (BIBAK) lot along Harrison Road is intended for housing needs of students from the BIBAK city government and the present occupants are illegally occupying the lots they are using not for residential but for business purposes.

The city government through city administrator Carlos Canilao stressed this in the reply to Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) chair Hernani Panganiban on the status of the BIBAK lot.

Panganiban earlier asked Mayor Mauricio Domogan to defer the implementation of the planned demolition of the more than 50 illegal structures in the area pointing out the need to observe proper procedures and to ensure that the rights of the owners will not be violated.

The PCUP took into consideration the settlers' claim that they are members of the marginalized sector and have been occupying the BIBAK compound since 1982 and thus are qualified to stay in the area or be granted relocation privileges under Republic Act 7279 or the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992.

In the reply, Canilao said the city through its anti-squatting and illegal structures committee is in the process of completing the investigation on the structures but initial results showed that the lot is not occupied by the BIBAK association but by private individuals who entered the property without permission from the authorities.

The said lot measuring about 5,000 square meters was segregated from Original Certificate Title No. 01 in favor of the BIBAK Dormitories Inc. in 1961 and thus "was slated to cater to the housing needs of the students coming from the BIBAK areas."

Further investigations revealed that that the structures are being used "for profit" and do not appear to be occupied by members of the urban poor for their housing needs but by "wealthy people who are

Cont. on page 9

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