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# THE JUNCTION Pahayagang Palaban!!!

MA BUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

## City to pursue demolition of BIBAK illegal structures

**B**AGUIO CITY – The city will pursue the demolition of the illegal structures at the Benguet-Ifugao-Bontoc-Apayao-Kalinga (BIBAK) lot along Harrison Road here as soon as the legal issues have been settled.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said the city may have won the first round in the court battle after getting a favorable decision from the Regional Trial Court over the cases filed by 50 owners of the illegal structures.

Cont. on page 6



The BIBAK Lot along Harrison Rd. measuring 5,000 sqm was meant to house the BIBAK Student Dormitories for the housing needs of students from the Cordilleras. It is now illegally occupied by families, and portions of it are being used for commercial purposes to benefit a few. Demolition of these illegal structures is long over due. Give this property back to the STUDENTS of the CORDILLERAS.

Nakakatakot itong ginagawa ng COMELEC, nasa kalagitnaan na tayo ng February at saka pang sinisiguro ang mga test ng Hokus Pokus (PICOS) machines. Tuwing eleksyon na lang, parating ganyan, bakit kaya???



Athletic bowl to be managed by the sports division

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## ABANGAN!

Simula March 30, maiinit na 12 election issues!

- > Maiinit na exposé hinggil sa mga iba't-ibang kandidato!
- > Alamin kung karapat-dapat nga ba silang iboto!
- > 15,000 copies per issue - libreng ipamimigay!

Elections 2016 bi-weekly issues soon to come!

**Painit na nang painit!**

Comelec holds mock elections after glitches

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Public discouraged from giving alms to beggars

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MAGKASANGGA TAYO

>Urong-sulong na Judge

>SALN ng mga Judges (National Secret ba???)

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FASTRACK

>The Star-Spangled Banner

>Grace Poe - a true Pinoy nationalist & patriot!!!

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BFF now a member of Int'l Festival Organization

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Baguio still overall champ in CARAA 2016

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Duterte-Cayetano: Zero tax for doctors who'll go to provinces to provide health care services

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# BAGUIO LPs PROCLAIM NATIONAL LINE UP



**B**AGUIO CITY – Former Interior Sec. Mar Roxas and Rep. Leni Robredo got a head start of the competition in Baguio City with their simultaneous proclamation in the city courtesy of the local Liberal Party (LP).

Last February 9, the Baguio chapter of the LP, headed by chairman and Baguio Rep. Nicasio M. Aliping Jr., started the campaign for national candidates moments after the blessing of the LP headquarters at the 3rd Road of Quezon Hill.

In attendance during the event were graduates of the local Basic Orientation on Liberal Democracy (BOLD), barangay officials, politicians, members of the Muslim community in Baguio, businessmen, and members of the city LP numbering about 1,000.

"It is very heartening to see all of your today," Rep. Aliping told the crowd adding that if their numbers were to be the gauge of the elections in Baguio, then the tandem of Roxas and Robredo would be a sure win.

"I also want to clarify that we are not campaigning for ourselves because we can only do so on March 26 but we are here to introduce to you the entire line-up of national candidates of the Liberal Party," Rep. added.

Aliping together with the Baguio slate were on hand to introduce the national candidates.

Aliping, being the head of the local LP, introduced Roxas, who was being proclaimed in his hometown of Roxas City where the entire campaign of the party kicked off.

Councilor Isabelo "Poppo" Cosalan, who is a candidate for vice mayor, on the other hand introduced Robredo, the widow of former DILG Sec. Jesse Robredo.

Meanwhile, Baguio Councilors Joel Alangsab and Leandro Yangot together with council candidates Joseph Cabato, Engr. Jun Orca, lawyer Ron Perez, Rudy Paraan, architect Maylen Yaranon, and Art Allad-iw presented the credentials of the LP senatorial slate com-

prising of Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senate Pro-tempore Ralph Recto, Senator Teofisto Guingona III, former senator and ex-food czar Francis Pangilinan, former senator Panfilo Lacson, outgoing Justice Sec. Leila de Lima, ex-Energy Sec. Jericho Petilla, outgoing TESDA Sec. Joel Villanueva, TIEZA chief operating officer Mark Lapid, PhilHealth Director Risa Hontiveros, COOP NatCCO party list Rep. Cresente Paez, and DILG Assistant Sec. for Muslim Affairs Nariman Ambolodto.

The local LP is already doing the rounds in the city to introduce the national candidates especially through barangay consultations and caucuses.

Rep. Aliping added, "get to know your candidates for the national position, join our consultations and caucuses or you can organize one for your community by simply contacting the Congressional Office at City Hall to schedule one." /Carl C. Taawan

# Duterte-Cayetano: Zero tax for doctors who'll go to provinces to provide health care services

"Zero tax plus subsidy."

The tandem of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano has these to offer to medical doctors who are willing to go to the country's provinces to provide health care services to Filipinos.

Cayetano made this assurance before medical practitioners at the 21st Joint Convention of the Philippine Society of Hypertension (PHS) and the Philippine Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society (PLAS) on Thursday.

"The country's disorder can be seen in the sorry state of our health care system. Halos lahat ng doktor nasa Maynila at malalaking siyudad. Dapat

pumunta sila sa mga probinsiya kung saan sila mas kailangan," Cayetano said.

Citing government statistics, the senator said 7 out of 10 Filipinos die without seeing a doctor.

"We have to increase public doctors' salaries so that more practitioners will go to the public hospitals," he said, as he encouraged the country's doctors to go to the provinces to provide services to the people.

"We will guarantee their safety, exempt them from paying income taxes, and even give them additional subsidy," Cayetano assured.

The tandem said the lack of public health workers and facilities in rural areas

deprives patients of the proper treatment they need. Hence, if elected, they vowed to pave the way for more accessible health care services in the countryside, like specialty hospitals in Visayas and in Mindanao, as well as tertiary hospitals in the regions.

"In the ARMM alone, it takes a patient 60.9 minutes to reach the nearest hospital. This is criminal. This is totally unacceptable," Cayetano said.

"There should be no second-class citizens with regards to health care. Tama na ang gulo at hirap sa kawalan ng maayos na health care system. Panahon na para sumaya ang mga Pilipino," Cayetano concluded. /DC-HQ

# Athletic bowl to be managed by the sports division

**B**AGUIO CITY - Mayor Mauricio Domogan disclosed in his weekly forum last Wednesday that with the newly rehabilitated athletic bowl in this mountain resort, the city is contemplating of passing on the management from the City Environment and Parks Management Office to the Sports Division of the City Administrator's Office.

"We are still in the process of finalizing the administrative order since we are evaluating the existing regulations in the utilization of the said facility," explained Domogan.

He stressed that sports activities of athletes/children who will be practicing for special events will not be charged for the use of the facility. However, if the utilization of the facility is for other purposes, a minimal and reasonable rate fee will be collected to be used for the maintenance of the athletic bowl.

Of the 60 million supplemental budget, the city will provide Light Emitting Diode (LED) at the athletic bowl to be used during night activities.

"We are also looking into

the possibility of constructing a building to be used as indoor sports facility," added the mayor.

According the Baguio representative Nicasio Aliping, Jr., the continuing rehabilitation of athletic bowl is expected to match national and even international standards and spur sports development in the city of Baguio.

Congressman Aliping was instrumental in the rehabilitation of the athletic bowl with an estimated funding of 160 million. /Jho Arranz

# 600 runners join Million Volunteer Run3 in Baguio

**B**AGUIO CITY, - More than 600 runners joined the Million Volunteer Run3 of the Philippine Red Cross local chapter over the weekend.

Atty. Erdolfo Balajadia, PRC-Baguio chairman, thanked all those who participated in the fun run raise funds for humanitarian activities, and the sponsors who made the event a success.

Mel John Fernandez, a 62 year old participant, said being a part of the run is his way of helping the organization to augment its operational funds.

Many South Korean students who are studying in the city and their teachers also joined the event.

PRC Baguio Chapter Administrator Annie Tamayo said the funds raised during

the MVR3 will go a long way in helping the less fortunate and in beefing up disaster preparedness and rescue programs.

The MVR3, a humanitarian run which is participatory and non-competitive, aims to raise funds for the capacity building of the Red Cross. /JDP/JBZ/ R. Hadap & M. Ranoy -PIA/SLU interns

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## ROTARY, CONGRESSMAN'S FOUNDATION SPONSOR LIMB DISTRIBUTION ANEW

**B**AGUIO CITY – A worthy partnership comes back to Baguio and Benguet this May hoping to give hope to handicapped persons.

The Rotary Clubs of Baguio and Benguet together with the Rotary Club of Coimbatore Midtown District 3201 and the Baguio Congressman's Social Responsibility Foundation, Inc. (BCSRFI) is bringing back the Limbs for the Limbless project which seeks to provide prosthetic limbs to indigent handicapped persons.

The project is a yearly international outreach of the Rotary Club of Coimbatore to distribute artificial limbs throughout Asia. Last May 2015, the Indian Rotary Club brought the project to Baguio and La Trinidad providing 100 patients with artificial limbs. This year the project is extended for the entire Cordillera region.

Coimbatore is a city in the Indian State of Tamil Nadu.

Baguio Rep. Nicasio M. Aliping Jr. said that the international project would benefit more indigent handicapped persons in Baguio and added his appreciation to Rotary past president Baboo Kannan, who is the district chair for the Artificial Limbs Committee the Coimbatore Rotary for bringing back the project to the city.

"I am so happy that the Rotary Club of Coimbatore has chosen Baguio once again to be part of this noble endeavor to give fresh hope to our indigent patients," Rep. Aliping said.

He added that handicapped patients may start heading to the Office of the Congressman at the Baguio City Hall to register while the actual measurements of registered beneficiaries will be taken on March 11 at the

Benguet State University.

"The beneficiaries will not be charged for any of the services and implants. A person of any age who has lost a limb, or limbs, or part of it (especially the leg) due to any reason can enroll," a primer on the project stated.

"This is a project worthy of our help and assistance and I am happy the Rotary Clubs of Baguio and La Trinidad has partnered with the Baguio Congressman's Social Responsibility Foundation in bringing hope to the limbless in our city," Aliping added.

The foundation is composed of business and community leaders with a heart for Baguio. Its board of directors include Councilors Isabelo Cosalan, Joel Alangsab and Leandro Yangot, Joseph Cabato, Engr. Jun Orca, lawyer Ron Perez, Rudy Paraan, architect Mylen Yaranon, and Art Allad-iw./*Carl C. Taawan*



*Masakazu Nose, a Japanese national who gained attention and respect of the public for picking up litters at the overpasses and other walkways in the Baguio City, continues his good deeds by painting the railings of the overpass along Magsaysay Avenue. (Lauren Alimondo- PIA/SLU Intern)*

## Wastewater management study results to help city in development planning

**B**AGUIO CITY – The results of the Pre-Feasibility Study on the Green and Integrated Wastewater Management of the city government conducted by the Cities Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA) would help to the city address its sanitation needs towards improving the environment and public health.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said thus as he commended the CDIA team led by Dr. James Arthur for the completion of the study during the draft final report presentation last Feb. 9.

Dr. Arthur said the study aimed to prepare a Strategy and Investment Program for Wastewater Management and Drainage for the city until the year 2035 and Pre-feasibility Studies for Priority Actions from 2016 to 2025.

The program and priority actions are envisioned to improve the city's environment and public health through improved drainage, sanitation and wastewater management infrastructure and enhanced capacity in urban planning and management.

The study came up with Strategy, Roadmap and Investment Program for sanitation, wastewater management, storm-water drainage and flood control, pre-feasibility studies for short- and medium-term (0-5 and 5-10 year) projects and programs in these sectors, and an associated capacity building and institutional strengthening plan.

City environment and parks management officer Cordelia Lacsamana said the study will greatly help the city as it provided a "pathway" to tackle its wastewater management program, sewerage and septage system as well as urban drainage and flood control system with its detailed analysis and data.

Since the study provided inputs on climate resilience, Lacsamana said the results can be integrated in city development plans including the City Land Use Plan which is crucial considering the city's vulnerabilities.

Lacsamana said the study is significant particularly in the city's thrust to strengthen water governance by exploring the potential

of treated wastewater as solution to water scarcity which is projected to reach critical level by 2030.

"We have to rethink our current strategies on wastewater management. We don't want to double the projected disaster caused by flooding, pollution and water shortage," she said.

Among the strategies presented in the study are the improvement of storm water management through wastewater and watershed management, upgrading of old sewerlines, upgrading of the sewer treatment plant and construction of new ones.

In the wastewater management and drainage roadmap, the following strategies were present for the city government to pursue from 2016-2030: multi-hazard mapping; land-use transportation plan and improvement of flood preparedness and community response; master plan for watershed, wastewater management and drainage; augmentation of BSTP treatment capacity at Sanitary Camp; Decentralized Wastewater

## Duterte-Cayetano: We will implement a better, bolder CCT program

**I**nspired by the thriving livelihood measures of other countries, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said under their leadership, a "better and bolder" Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program will take effect.

"Sino dito ang nakakatanggap ng 4Ps (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program)? Magandang programa, pero sapat na ba para sa inyo?" Cayetano asked a crowd of supporters in their campaign launch in Tondo.

"Iba po ang 4Ps ng Duterte-Cayetano. Katulad po ito ng sa Thailand. Magkakaroon ng bangko para sa mahihirap na negosyante," he added.

The senator was referring to the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bank of Thailand (SME Bank), which provides loans, counseling, and other services to SMEs, which help promote their growth.

The tandem also wants to expand the CCT program to include a livelihood component, where beneficiaries are given access to capital to start their own small businesses.

"Many people depend on this program. If you remove it, they won't even have jobs. We have to expand it. Para may tunay na pagbabago," Duterte said.

The duo said despite government's massive allocation of funds for anti-poverty measures like 4Ps, about 50 percent of Filipinos still feel left behind. A 2015 SWS survey showed that around 11.2 million families consider themselves poor.

"If we want to end disorder brought by the lack of jobs and low income, we need to give people the chance to stand on their own feet," Cayetano ended./DC-HQ

## DFA brings West Phil. Sea advocacy campaign in Baguio, Benguet

**B**AGUIO CITY – Department of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Assistant Secretary Charles Jose will be in the city and Benguet next week to hold series of forums on the narrative of the West Philippine Sea issue and the position of the government.

On Wednesday, February 17, a multi-sectoral forum is set from 9:30 to 11:30AM at the University of the Cordilleras Theater. This is expected to be attended by representatives from the national government agencies, local government units, academe, and the private sector.

This will be followed by luncheon press conference and a focus group discussion in the afternoon among selected key informants.

A campus tour (forum) is set on the same day from 2:30-5:00PM also at the UC Theater to be participated in by students from the different universities in the city.

On Thursday, Feb 17, ASec Jose will be La Trinidad for a campus tour at the Benguet State University Closed Gym from 9:30 – 11:30AM.

The advocacy campaign aims to increase the level of awareness of the public through the conduct of briefings, focus group discussions and media engagements on the Philippine

narrative of the West Philippine Sea issue and to support the Philippine government's position on said issue.

Asec Jose has been going around the country holding multi-sectoral forums and campus tours to explain the core issues underlying the West Philippine Sea, the principles underpinning the Philippine position and the country's initiative to address the West Philippine Sea issue.

The Cordillera leg culminates the West Philippine Sea advocacy campaign which is a collaborative effort of the DFA and the Philippine Information Agency in coordination with the various stakeholders at the local level./JDP/SCA-PIA-CAR, Baguio

Cont. on page 6



# Mar's low ratings worry LP

SENATE President Franklin Drilon on Wednesday said the consistently poor showing of Manuel "Mar" Roxas 2nd, presidential candidate of the Liberal Party (LP), is a concern, but he expressed confidence that the ratings of the former Interior secretary will improve with the help of the ruling party's machinery.

"Of course it is a concern. No question about that," Drilon, the vice chairman of the LP, said.

In all the past surveys, Roxas consistently trailed his rivals in the presidential race. In December last year, Vice President Jejomar Binay topped the Pulse Asia survey with 33 percent, dislodging Sen. Grace Poe who got 21 percent.

Results of a survey released by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) on January 15 also showed Binay leading other presidential bets with 31 percent. Poe placed second with 24 percent. Roxas got 21 percent, while Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte had 20 percent.

Poe regained the lead in the latest survey released by Pulse Asia last week, getting the support of 30 percent of the people polled. Binay got 23 percent while Roxas got 20 percent.

But Drilon said he believes that Roxas' ratings will rise once the LP machinery kicks in.

"We have the biggest political machinery in the country. We have the most credible 'general campaign manager' and that is President Benigno Aquino 3rd," he told a weekly news forum in The Senate chief said they expect Roxas' numbers to go up in the next three months as the ruling party will be maximizing its political machinery with the help of local

officials.

"We have many governors, congressmen, mayors who are [running] unopposed and therefore, we will have them campaign for our national candidates," Drilon noted.

He said members of the Cabinet will also campaign for Roxas since there is no law prohibiting them from doing so.

Some Cabinet members were present in the kickoff rally of the LP in Roxas City, Capiz, on Tuesday, including Budget Secretary Florencio Abad.

"Under the law, Cabinet members are not prohibited from campaigning. They can campaign," Drilon said, adding that what is prohibited is the use of government funds for political purposes.

Roxas was reported to be the top overall ad spender last year, shelling out P774 million from January to December 2015. Binay was said to have spent P695 million while Poe paid P694 million for her campaign ads.

Drilon expressed confidence that Roxas will win the presidential derby.

He also expressed dismay over supposedly slow resolution of disqualification cases filed against Poe.

"I am not happy with the pace of trial in the Supreme Court. It appears that the High Court lacks a sense of urgency. These are] not ordinary case[s]. [They] will have a vast impact on our future," the Senate chief said.

He maintained that it is within the High Court's power to hold marathon hearings on cases of great importance.

"Having oral arguments once a week, that is not giving it the urgency it deserves. I'm not dictating on the court, but it is very frustrating because we know for certain that the court could hasten the process by conducting marathon hearings but it has chosen not to do so," Drilon said.

Defending Mar

The President also expressed confidence that Roxas will recover in surveys, scoring opposition candidates for taunting the LP standard-bearer because of his poor survey ratings.

In his speech before local leaders in Iloilo City on Tuesday night, Aquino took potshots at Binay, saying he regretted that Roxas did not make it as Vice President in 2010.

"We need leaders who share our same mindset, who loves Filipinos, and will put the country before self. They are none other than the tandem of Mar Roxas and Leni Robredo," he said in Filipino.

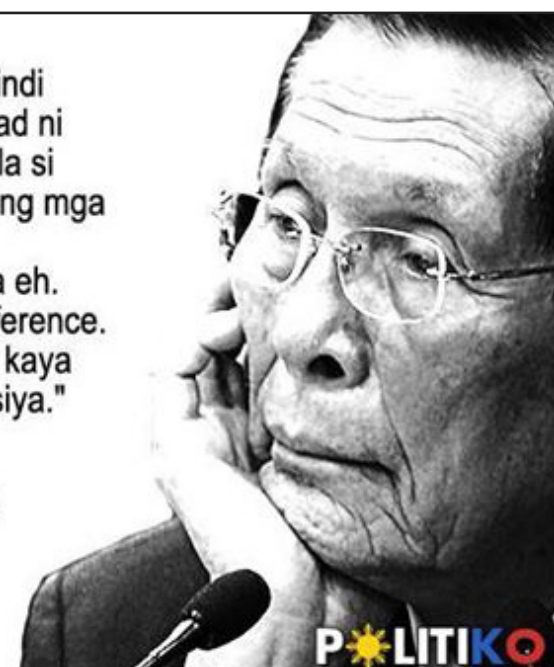
"Mar and Leni are candidates who don't do deeds to earn brownie points with the public, who have no drama, who have no gimmick but just all work. With them, we don't need to hear promises because Mar and Leni have been serving the public especially the needy for a long time now," the President added.

Also on Wednesday, he called on mayors to support candidates of the Liberal Party so that the reforms that his administration started will continue.

"If you think that we were on the right path for the past six years, why change it?" Aquino said in a speech at the League of Municipalities of the Philippines' general assembly held at Marriott Hotel./ by JEFFERSON ANTIPORDA, REPORTER AND JOEL M. SY EGCO, SENIOR REPORTER

"Yung gabinete niya, hindi niya kinausap. Di katulad ni Obama, nung tirahin nila si Bin Laden, pinulong yung mga advisers niya, Cabinet members, CIA. Ito wala eh. Walang command conference. Sinolo niya. Akala niya kaya niya. Yun pala palpak siya."

**Senator Enrile**  
on PNoy's role in Mamasapano



KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

*Top candidate now a nervous wreck?*

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



**LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS:** "... If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you..." (1 Peter 4:24, the Holy Bible).

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**TOP CANDIDATE NOW A NERVOUS WRECK?** Who is this candidate for a top position in the May 2016 national and local elections who is being reported as having nightmares and sleepless nights as the campaign season started last Tuesday, February 09, 2016? I was told this candidate is now suffering from extreme nervousness and anxiety and would usually call out aides even during the wee hours of the morning.

I have my guess who this candidate is, but reading news accounts give me a clearer idea that this is the candidate who already spent hundreds of millions just for media advertising alone, has long ago mobilized thousands and thousands of supporters from almost every nook and cranny of the country, and yet still has no clear assurance of victory.

My advice to the candidate? Do not worry too much, or you may lose your sanity as the days go by. If you are going to be allowed to win by God, there is nothing your opponents can do to rob you of that victory. If you are going to be allowed to be defeated by God, there is nothing you can do to reverse that defeat. You must pursue your campaign, in the spirit typifying a fraternal organization from UP Diliman, which always shouts "fight, fight".

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**LP COMMENTS UNFAIR TO ROXAS:** I guess that leaders of the Liberal Party must exercise extreme caution in talking about the chances of their standard bearer, Mar Roxas, in the upcoming electoral exercise, especially in public. If they have nothing to say that would boost at least the morale of their candidate, they should say nothing at all.

I am referring to the statement attributed by a national daily newspaper to re-electionist Senate President Frank Drilon, quoting him as saying that LP leaders are worried by the consistent low ratings of Roxas in surveys conducted by reputable survey firms.

Even if the report also quoted Drilon as saying that the LP is now doing something about this, the impression it gave is that the party is having nightmares and sleepless nights over Roxas' chances, which is not really flattering and is unfair to Roxas. It is in fact something that could create further alienation of voters from Roxas, because they may think of voting for someone else instead since a vote for Roxas will not really benefit him anymore.

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**WHAT IS LOVE?** Since the day of love is just around the corner, let me highlight some quotations here about love from a great book that is often ignored by many: "The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray."

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

"If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen..."

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**PLEASE WATCH OR LISTEN:** "Tambalang Batas at Somintac", a news-commentary radio program, aired at DZEC 1062 kHz and other Radyo Agila provincial stations, at <http://www.eaglebroadcasting.net/radyoagila> and at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (type DZEC Radyo Agila Tambalang Batas at Somintac 1062 Live), 6 to 7 in the morning, Philippine time. Phone: 0922 833 43 96, 0918 574 0193, 0977 805 9058. Email: [batasmauricio@yahoo.com](mailto:batasmauricio@yahoo.com).

**Table 1**  
**2016 ELECTIONS: PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE**  
January 24 - 28, 2016 / Philippines  
(In Percent)

Base: Registered voters with biometrics									
Of the people on this list, whom would you vote for as PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES if the 2016 elections were held today and they were candidates?	RP	LOCATION				CLASS			
		NCR	BL	VIS	MIN	ABC	D	E	
POE, GRACE IND	30	33	39	26	16	25	32	26	
BINAY, JOJO UNA	23	32	28	20	14	21	22	30	
ROXAS, MAR DAANG MATUWID LP	20	11	16	32	21	20	19	25	
DUTERTE, RODY PDPLBN	20	16	8	15	48	24	21	15	
DEFENSOR SANTIAGO, MIRIAM PRP	4	6	4	4	1	7	4	1	
MENDOZA, MEL PMP	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SEÑERES, ROY WPPPM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
VALENCIA, DANTE IND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Don't know/Refused/None	3	2	4	3	1	4	3	2	
Don't know	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	
Refused	0.4	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	



## FASTRACK

>The Star-Spangled Banner  
>Grace Poe - a true Pinoy nationalist &  
patriot!!!

BY: FREDDIE J. FARRES



## MAGKASANGGA TAYO

>Urong-sulong na Judge  
>SALN ng mga Judges (National Secret ba???)

BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO



## FAIR AND SQUARE

Where Lies the Blame for  
our Traffic Congestion  
in the City? - Part 2

BY: ATTY. JAMES S. VALEROS



**The Star-Spangled Banner**- I happened to chance upon the CNN news on the opening of the Super Bowl Sunday (the most widely viewed [television] event in the world) and there was some news on the star performers like Lady Gaga who would sing The Star-Spangled Banner, although this is not my first time to have noticed how the Americans or non-US citizens sing the US national Anthem.

One thing noticeable about these star(s) who sing the US anthem is that they don't seem to have some kind of strict criteria on the delivery of the anthem, and in fact at the latter part, even the crowd breaks into an applause and some sort of a joyous moment.

In fact, even Charice Pempengco a Pinoy star at that was accorded the benefit of singing the US anthem at the opening of the 2013 Civil Rights Games at Chicago. A feat that would be unthinkable and even highly condemnable at that should a foreigner sing the Lupang Hinirang.

Which now brings me to the question that, are Americans less patriotic when they allow foreigners to sign their national anthem at major events, and also are Americans less patriotic when they allow these star performers to sing their national anthem in what appears to be different singing styles?

Which brings to mind what I distinctly remember when Martin Nievera was vilified and so much ado was made against him when he sang the Lupang Hinirang during a Pacquiao fight and while I am not a diehard Martin Nievera fan, I happened to like his rendition, although the so-called experts found it wrong and not according to standards (what and who the hell decides on the standards, you tell me?). Hence the vilification and condemnation against Nievera on how he sang the Lupang Hinirang reached such ridiculous proportions.

The question again, to my mind is, is Martin Nievera less patriotic, or are we as a nation less or more patriotic based on how the Lupang Hinirang is sang?

Just take note at how the Americans seem to be having fun and enjoying (I would imagine with a high sense of pride and patriotism as I see it) when The Star-Spangled banner is sang and with a lot of cajoling and clapping at the latter part, whereas the Lupang Hinirang should be sang with a certain tempo and mood, etc.

As far as this columnist is concerned, I will keep some of my thought to myself and leave it up to you to draw your own conclusion.

While it appears that the Pinoys can truly make a mountain out of a molehill and trivialize what is indeed trivial. Although, I notice and the list I can make is quite long, that there are indeed non-trivial and even serious matters or incidents that need our collective national attention and concerns which we apparently simply ignore and take for granted.

But just don't sing the Lupang Hinirang with the mood of The Star-Spangled Banner, and you're dead. Truly more fun in the Philippines.

####

**Grace Poe - a true Pinoy nationalist and patriot!!!**  
- We are truly a blessed nation and country. We have at present a roster of Presidentiables, that if all elected simultaneously into office, can lead the whole world if not the whole universe.

We have a Du30 that will solve crime and bring us peace and order, although not clear on his economic policies, assuming he has any.

We have a Binay, who is and must be presumed to be innocent not until proven otherwise - that is how our

Cont. on page 7

Ano ba naman itong si Judge Leody M. Opolinto ng AMTC 3, Baguio City, sa aking palagay ay isa itong urong-sulong na Judge at posibleng mayroong itinatago na ayaw niya na aming mapatunayan sa pamamagitan ng pag-disclose ng kanyang SALN, sapagkat ang inyong lingkod na isang hamak na kolumnista ay siya rin ang Director for Anti Graft & Corrupt Practices ng Linis Gobyerno. Ano ang ibig kong sabihin? Nuong January 23, 2016 ay sumulat kami sa tanggapan ng Court Administrator ng SC at ang aming request ay ma-bigyan ng mga kopya ng SALN ni Judge Opolinto para sa mga taong 2012-2014 sapagkat mayroon kaming bineberipika dala ng isang impormasyon na ipinarating sa amin nuong November 2015 hinggil sa diumano ay ill gotten wealth (o tago na yaman) nitong si Judge Opolinto. Base na rin sa aming karanasan kapag nag-request tayo sa Court Administrator ay pwedeng abutin ng siyam-siyam ang ating request (bakit kaya babagal-bagal ang Court Administrator, sadya kaya???) kaya minabuti natin na mismong si Judge Opolinto na lang ang ating rektahin na sulatan para sa aming request for his SALN. Kaya nung January 30, 2016 ay sinulatan natin mismo si Judge Opolinto at kinabukasan mismo ay nakatanggap ang ating opisina ng tawag galing sa kang Clerk Of Court. Ayon sa Clerk of Court ibibigay ni Judge Opolinto ang ating request for his SALN provided na ako mismo ang kukuha ng SALN (aba may kondisyones pa na ako mismo ang kukuha, ANO YUN !?!) Ok lang sana ang kondisyones ni Judge na yun na alam ko naman na walang ligal na basehan. Ang problema nga lang ay naka base po tayo sa Manila from Monday to Friday at weekends lang tayo na sa Baguio, kaya ang aking ginawa ay gumawa ako ng isang authorization letter (notarized at that) para sa aking representative na siya na lang ang mag-pickup for and in my behalf. Aba, eh, pag punta ng aming representante ay ipinaikwan lang daw ang letter authorization at nag-bago daw ata ng isip si Judge. Aba, ibang klase itong Judge na ito na tunay na MAKAPANGYARIHAN at marahil ay ABOVE THE LAW ANG JUDGE NA ITO!???

Later this week ay nakatanggap uli ng tawag ang ating opisina from the Clerk of Court kung saan sinabi sa aming representative na may proseso para sa pag request ng SALN at yuon ay nakasaad sa AM No. 98-8-6-SC dated June 13, 2012. Nais ko lang i-share ang ilang mga relevant points ng sinasabing guidelines:

Page 6 (2nd par.) - "In essence, it is the consensus of the Justices of the above-mentioned courts and the various judges associations that while the Constitution holds dear the right of the people to have access to matters of concern, the Constitution also holds sacred the independence of the Judiciary. Thus, although no direct opposition to the disclosure of SALN and other personal documents is being expressed, it is the uniform position of the said magistrates and the various judges associations that the disclosure must be made in accord with the guidelines set by the Court and under such circumstances that would not undermine the independence of the Judiciary."

Page 15-17 - "1. All requests shall be filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the Sandiganbayan, the Court of Tax Appeals; for the lower courts, with the Office of the Court Administrator; and for attached agencies, with their respective heads of offices.

2. Requests shall cover only copies of the latest SALN, PDS and CV of the members, officials and employees of the Judiciary, and may cover only previous records if so specifically requested and considered as justified, as determined by the officials mentioned in par. 1 above, under the terms of these guidelines and the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 6713.

3. In the case of requests for copies of SALN of the Justices of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the Sandiganbayan and the Court of Tax Appeals, the authority to disclose shall be made by the Court En Banc.

4. Every request shall explain the requesting party's

Cont. on page 6

## II. The LTFRB Regional Directors

Of the six (6) LTFRB regional directors appointed by Presidents in this region from 1996 to the present, it was Director Daniel Tapia who first learned to circumvent the purpose and spirit of the moratorium declared for Baguio City by the LTFRB (or the Board for short).

Thus, without actually accepting new CPC applications, he nevertheless granted franchises to operate PUVs by spurious and fraudulent means such as:

- a) by converting one (1) unit taxi franchise to ten (10) or more individual CPCs, when sold and transferred to buyers;
- b) by resurrecting long dead CPCs and issuing new CPCs in their stead;
- c) by issuing taxi franchises over abandoned truck-for-hire CPCs previously operating in some parts of Region 1;
- d) by issuing impromptu CPCs for car dealers without the benefit of application and payment of filing fees; to name a few.

Later, in tandems with unscrupulous lawyers, personnel of LTFRB and soliciting fixers, he became more emboldened to accept new applications and grant CPCs in direct violation of moratorium and other rules prescribed by the Board.

It was during his time when the hundreds of PUJ CPCs in Trancoville, Aurora Hill and in the La Trinidad trunkline were issued, not to mention the franchises issued to owners of van units for mega taxi and vehicles-for-hire services, with bases of operations both inside and outside Baguio City.

He became so controversial especially with media that the City Council in its Resolution Nr. 153, S. of 1998 declared him persona non grata in Baguio City and recommended to the higher authorities his ouster as Regional Director.

In a lesser degree, his successor, Regional Director Veronica Lasaten also contributed somehow to the traffic congestion in the city, amidst and despite the moratorium existing. In her case, she, with endorsement of the City Council in a resolution passed in just ten (10) days, convinced the Board to legalize taxi units operating in violation of the Public Service law, allegedly for human consideration.

Following the retirement of Director Lasaten, Regional Director Bruno Patricio assumed the position as Regional Director of LTFRB- Region 1 until 2003, when franchising functions was transferred and assumed by DOTC-CAR. Director Patricio in his time was responsible for the CPCs granted to vehicles-for-hire plying Baguio City to many parts of the Cordillera via the Halsema Highway and from Baguio City to other municipalities of Region 1 via Kennon Road and Naguilian Road. The opposition of then Mayor Vergara and myself were most often dismissed for the reason that he would not allow these vehicles-for-hire to enter Baguio City anyway.

Then, there was Regional Director Atty. Mondiguing of the DOTC-CAR who was popularly known to many as the one who issued thousands of original and derivative CPCs that became to be called as Mondiguing franchises. It was also during his time when alleged CPC applications merely pre-docketed by LTFRB Region 1 in the 1990's without applications filed were used later as basis for change party applications in the LTFRB-CAR, thus adding more vehicles-for-hire and taxis in the city.

The Inventory of thousands of irregularly issued franchises prepared by LTFRB-CAR and furnished the City Council and the Board listing Certificates of Public Convenience issued in violation of the moratorium were mostly franchises granted during the tenure of Director Mondiguing.

To the credit of former Regional Director Federico Mandapat, Jr. who became Regional Director from 2006 to 2010 and Regional Director Celina Claver who served from 2010 to 2015, however, no new Certificates of Public Convenience were issued violating the moratorium. Unless...there were such issuances that I did not come to know, as others were claiming otherwise.

Obviously, it is clear and patent that had these Regional Directors only lived up to their true duties and functions which were assigned and expected of them, we would not be experiencing much of this traffic jams and pollution we are now made to suffer..



## City to pursue demolition... from page 1

tures to stop the demolition but it does not mean the end of the struggle as the petitioners filed for a motion for reconsideration of the court's decision.

"We will wait for the right time to implement the demolition order. The law has to take its course," the mayor said.

The RTC Branch 5 under Presiding Judge Maria Ligaya Itliong-Rivera recently junked the petition for the issuance of a writ of preliminary injunction to prevent the demolition of their structures at the government property.

The court cited the position of Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources-Cordillera officer-in-charge regional director Paquito Moreno that the "petitioners occupation has no legal basis and neither can they qualify as beneficiaries under (Republic Act) No. 10023 (Act Authorizing the Issuance of Free Patents to Residential Lands) because the lot is not alienable and disposable. Thus the possession of the petitioners, no matter how long, could never ripen into ownership or possessory right."

"Given the foregoing, the Court finds that petitioners are not entitled to the issuance of an injunctive writ because they have no right to the property on which their structures stand," the court said.

The city had set the demolition of 58 illegal structures from August 11-14 after the occupants refused to voluntarily vacate the area which the city said 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."

The occupants claimed 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.

The city maintained that the present occupants are private individuals who entered the property without permission and are now utilizing the area for profit. Their structures were also not covered by building permits.

The city's bid to clear the lot measuring about 5,000 square meters was supported by the former leaders of the BIBAK Student Dormitories Inc., the Regional Development Council and the DENR-CAR.

In 2014, Moreno 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 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./A Refuerzo

## Wastewater management... from page 3

Treatment Systems (DEWATS) and septage treatment plant at Lower Rock Quarry; Balili and Galiano catchments sewer replacement and extension program; rehabilitate or replace communal septic tanks with DEWATS technologies; sewer extension program and DEWATS for other catchments;

Improve discharge efficiency of the sinkholes and critical drainage sections and introduce sustainable drainage system or SUDS approach to urban drainage works;

Execution of a memorandum of agreement with the Baguio Water District on wastewater management to rationalize roles and finally the forging of a metropolitan engagement through the BLISTT.

Dr. Arthur said the sanitation and wastewater management target is 100 percent of wastewater of the city will be collected and treated by 2035.

He said this will result to clean rivers, improved water table, less health cost, rivers used for irrigation and recreational purposes without any health hazards and cleaner rivers downstream./A Refuerzo

# OCD conducts contingency plan formulation workshop for LGUs

**BAGUIO CITY** - The Office of Civil Defense - Cordillera regional office continues to intensify disaster risk reduction management capacity building for local government units.

The OCD conducted last week a three - day contingency planning formulation workshop cum training of facilitators with 41 representatives from various local government units in the region as participants.

OCD Planning Officer Dawn Lyndelle Fernando said they are training more facilitators so that every local government unit can have the capacity to identify possible hazards in their areas that need a contingency plan for better disaster risk reduction and preparedness.

In the training workshop, participants were given an orientation on the Philippine DRRM system, cluster approach and Incident Command System as well as on the National Disaster Response Plan. They also learned how to craft contingency plan.

OCD Cordillera Regional Director Andrew Alex Uy, in an interview, stressed the importance of the capacity building activity of teaching LGUs to facilitate the formulation of contingency plans for any disaster or emergency.

"Contingency plans are very important documents as these will serve as LGUs' 'bible' in case of disaster or emergency or every time that there is a need to go to the response phase of disaster risk reduction and management", Uy said.

"We are focusing on disaster preparedness which is why we are looking to identify the gap in every local DRRM plan and preparedness so that LGUs can prepare for a contingency plan for any gap that they can identify", he added./JDP/CCD/Rhona Hadap & Johji Yokota- PIA/UC Interns

## Magkasangga tayo... from page 5

specific purpose and their individual interests sought to be served; shall state the commitment that the request shall only be for the stated purpose; and shall be submitted in a duly accomplished request form secured from the SC website. The use of the information secured shall only be for the stated purpose.

5. In the case of requesting individuals other than members of the media, their interests should go beyond pure or mere curiosity.

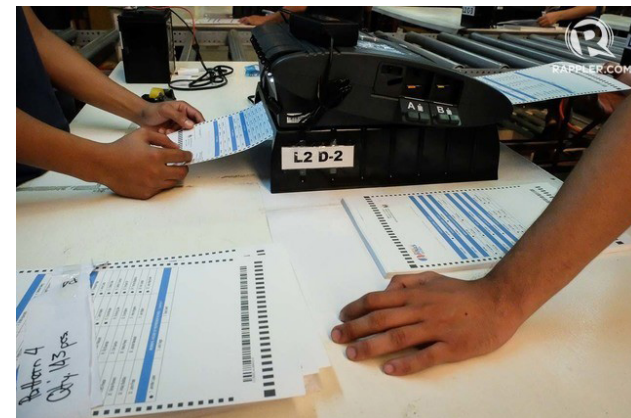
6. In the case of the members of the media, the request shall additionally be supported by proof under oath of their media affiliation and by a similar certification of the accreditation of their respective organizations as legitimate media practitioners.

7. The requesting party, whether as individuals or as members of the media, must have no derogatory record of having misused any requested information previously furnished to them.

The requesting parties shall complete their requests in accordance with these guidelines. The custodians of these documents[59] (the respective Clerks of Court of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Sandiganbayan, and Court of Tax Appeals for the Justices; and the Court Administrator for the Judges of various trial courts) shall preliminarily determine if the requests are not covered by the limitations and prohibitions provided in R.A. No.6713 and its implementing rules and regulations, and in accordance with the aforesaid guidelines. Thereafter, the Clerk of Court shall refer the matter pertaining to Justices to the Court En Banc for final determination. **SO ORDERED.**"

Nais ko ring ipaalam sa publiko na wala naman akong kaso na pending sa korte ni Judge at sa aking pagkakaalam ay wala rin akong kamag-anak na may kaso sa nasabing korte.

Eto ngayon ang nakakatawa na para bagang, above the law ang mga Judges na kung pahihirapan pa ang publiko sa pag-bigay ng kanilang SALN samantalang mismo ang Pangulo ng Pilipinas, mga Senador at Congressman ay napa-



**TESTING BALLOTS.** Comelec-deployed personnel test ballot papers on vote-counting machines in the poll body's warehouse in Santa Rosa, Laguna./File photo by LeAnne Jazul/Rappler

**MANILA, Philippines** - The Commission on Elections (Comelec) held mock elections on Saturday, February 13, after fixing recent glitches in the voting system.

The voting process started at 7 am and was scheduled to end at noon.

The counting process would begin shortly after the voting. Comelec Chairman Andres Bautista led the mock elections in H. Atienza Elementary School in Baseco, Manila.

He also moved to Robinsons Ermita mall to witness the voting process there.

The first voter in Baseco was 26-year-old Lawrence Panis.

Panis said this year's voting process was relatively faster compared to the one in 2013, the last time the Philippines held automated elections.

He said it was easy, for one, to find his name on the voters' list.

The Comelec chairman, however, noted that it took Panis around 11 minutes to cast his vote.

Bautista said the ideal time for voting is 2-3 minutes.

"Sa mga unang botante, parang matagal na," he said. (It seems it took the first voters a long time.)

Bautista said the Comelec needs to improve its systems to speed up the voting process.

Saturday's activity comes after the Comelec fixed glitches in the automated election system. Mock elections are expected to surface more potential issues and problems that should be addressed before election day itself.

At the Tenement Elementary School in Western Bicutan, for instance, early reports said voters were being turned down because of a wrong list.

System errors previously spotted also affected the vote-counting machines. The machines rejected 1-2% of ballot papers in a recent test.

Smartmatic said this is "no cause for alarm" because finding out errors is a normal part of tests.

Candidates like Vice President Jejomar Binay, however, criticized the Comelec for these glitches. Binay said "sinister parties" want to manipulate the elections./Paterno Esmaquel II /Rappler.com

kadaling kumuha ng kanilang SALN at pati na rin sa ibang mga officials na ating nakukuha ang kanilang SALN sa opisina ng Ombudsman.

Sa aking pagkakalam ay dapat lang naman na tanggal ang sensitive information which is usually the address of the official na ito ay binubura sa SALN na ibinigbigay.

Ngayon, sa aking pananaw, ang isang opisyal na maraming dahilan at pinapahirapan ang pag access o pag-disclose ng kanyang SALN ay posibleng may sabit at kanya itong itinatago sa dahilang baka siya ay mabukulan o mabutasan. Kung sabagay wala naman sigurong itinatago na ill gotten wealth itong si Judge Opolinto.

Siyanga pala Judge, kung nais mong mag-komento o mag-react hinggil sa aking kolum, feel free to send over your reaction at aking titiyakin na ilalabas ko ito sa aking column space at baka ipakiusap ko pa sa pahayagang ito na gawing isang full blown story ang hinggil sa isyu na ito.



# Establishing partnership in the conduct of Global Youth Exchange and Volunteer Activity

**B**AGUIO CITY - The city government here under the leadership of mayor Mauricio Domogan and the Catholic Children Youth Foundation (CCYF) headed by Rev. Jaehak Lee (Antimus) of the Republic of Korea recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding wherein the latter signified their intention to establish partnership and cooperation in the conduct of Global Youth Exchange and Volunteer Activity with the city government through the City Social Welfare and Development Office.

In the MOU, the city of Baguio and its partner cities and organizations have long been in headway of mutual development encouraging various forms of exchange

in tourism, governance, investment, education, culture and the arts, environment and technology.

Enumerated in the MOU includes the cooperation in the Global Youth Culture Exchange and Volunteer Activity in the city of Baguio and in the Philippines in general; the CCYF will bear the expenses for business cooperation; cooperation in exchange of human resources specifically on youth program; financial support, medical and educational needs of the youth of Baguio; exchange program between the youth of Korea and Baguio City wherein the city government will make the necessary itinerary and logistic support to the youth coming from Korea endorsed by the CCYF for

immersion with the youth of Baguio. Likewise, the CCYF will provide the possibility of sponsoring the youth from Baguio for immersion to Korea; bridging multi-culture of children with Filipino and Korean blood relation; and cooperation in exchange of information, use of venues, facilities and equipments.

Further, both will identify suitable program for the engagement.

The partnership aims to cultivate common good based catholic spirit in the youth of the two countries and promoting their development into desirable members of globalization, and to cooperate in the conduct of "Global Youth Cultural Exchange and Volunteer Activity in the Philippines."/Jho Arranz



Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda hands over a memorabilia to outgoing Philippine Military Academy Superintendent MGen. Oscar Lopez during the PMA Host Parents and Officers' fellowship night at the Baguio City Hall Multipurpose Hall on January 28. (Johji Yokota- PIA/SLU Intern)

## Public discouraged from giving alms to beggars

**B**AGUIO CITY - The City Social Welfare and Development Officer (CSWDO) is discouraging the public from giving alms to mendicants roaming the city's central business district.

CSWDO Betty Fangasan gave the advice in a meeting with members of the reactivated Task Force on Anti-Mendicancy presided by City Mayor Mauricio Domogan.

The meeting was held to review each member agency's functions and to firm up rescue operations in efforts to rid the city of the increasing number of mendicants especially this Panagbenga and the

coming Holy Week.

Fangasan said residents and visitors of this resort city should refrain from giving alms to mendicants as this will just encourage them to continue the bad practice of earning money. She added that always giving them money will just worsen the situation of the beggars by making them lazy to look for better source of living.

She proposed that these individuals who want to be of help to these mendicants should instead be foster parents to them.

Domogan meanwhile advised the policemen and other members of the task force who will be con-

ducting rescue operations to coordinate properly with the CSWDO and the regional office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The social welfare and development offices are tasked to bathe the rescued mendicants before they accompany them to the bus companies who shall transport the non-resident mendicants to their places of origin.

The task force has noted the proliferation of members of a tribe who are in the city conducting begging activities the past months./JDP/ABD-PIA CAR

### Fastrack...

from page 5

justice system operates in a democracy.

We have a Mar Roxas, who appears to have missed his chance at countless time at greatness (pakitang gilás sana nuong araw pa) when he held numerous hot-shot positions at the present government.

We also have a feisty Lady Miriam, whom to my mind is no longer taken as a presidential serious wannabe but instead had developed some kind of star status.

But of all those I have mentioned, one presidential, take the take so to speak, and can only be looked at as a true presidential, who has shown her true nationalistic and patriotic love for her country.

Can you imagine, Madam Grace Poe who happened to have been

settled and established in the US with financial standards that are above-average or could even be considered on the rich side. As I understand it she was already an established elementary teacher, with residence at quite a swanky place in the US, with an established husband (work or profession I have no idea), and she throws this all away and renounces her US Citizenship and wants to become the biggest public servant of them all.

There being 24 senators of the republic, that alone is a mean task which she seemed to have relished coming from being the MTRCB Chair which I would imagine she may have found to be as boring compared to her previous teaching job.

But no, not as Senadora ng bayan, the power that

comes with it, is just fantastic. I could imagine how her appetite for power was titillated as senadora ng bayan.

But what about the POWER and MONEY that comes with being President? That is the ULTIMATE, can't get any better or harder than that.

That is why, no matter how you look at it, by wanting to become President of the Philippines, Grace Poe is doing the ultimate sacrifice for us the Filipino People, which according to her own words, she wants to continue the legacy of her late father (jeez, she should be an actress, after all that is the legacy of FPJ the King!!!).

The question now is, am I serious with this column of mine or am I just trying to humor myself? You tell me.

## Tabuk businesses to install CCTVs until June

**T**ABUK CITY - Business establishments in the city are given until June this year to install their surveillance systems with video monitoring.

Estanislao Albano Jr. of the City Information Office informed that if businessmen fail to comply with Ordinance No. 09, series of 2015 requiring all commercial and service establishments to install and maintain closed circuit television (CCTV) systems, they

will face penalties from a fine of P5, 000.00 to revocation of permit to operate.

The ordinance covers the following: banks, financial institutions, pawnshops and the like; branches of national business chains; shopping malls, department stores, supermarket, groceries, entertainment centers, sports centers, movie houses, warehouses, hotels, inns, Internet cafes, hospitals and medical facilities, places of entertainment with 100

patrons a day; car dealership, gasoline stations and depots; all industrial and manufacturing establishments; all education establishments whether private or public; and all government facilities and buildings including markets, transport terminals and parks.

The law which took effect on January 11 gives business establishment six months to comply with its provisions./PAB-PIA CAR, Kalinga w/ reports from Tabuk CIO



Republic of the  
Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL  
COURT OF BAGUIO  
CITY  
FIRST JUDICIAL  
REGION  
BRANCH 3

IN RE: PETITION  
FOR CHANGE OF  
NAME OF JESSICA  
VALERIE BORILLO  
ORCALES AND  
JUSTINE MARLON  
BORILLO ORCALES  
TO JESSICA VALERIE  
ORCALES JULIAN  
AND JUSTINE  
MARLON ORCALES  
JULIAN

JESSICA VALERIE  
BORILLO ORCALES  
AND JUSTINE  
MARLON BORILLO  
ORCALES,  
Petitioners.

-versus-

LORETO B. JULIAN,  
LOCAL CIVIL  
REGISTRAR OF  
BAGUIO CITY  
AND THE PHILIP-  
PINE STATISTICS  
AUTHORITY,  
Respondent.

x-----x

SPL. PROC.  
CASE NO. 2516-R

ORDER

A verified petition  
was filed by petitioner  
through counsel, alleging  
among others that:

1. Petitioners are  
siblings, both of legal age,  
both Filipino citizens,  
and residents of No. 65  
Immaculate Conception  
Street, South Central,  
Aurora Hill, Baguio City.  
They may be served with  
process emanating from  
the Honorable Court  
through their under-  
signed counsel.

2. Respondent  
LORETO B. JULIAN, of  
legal age, married to the  
mother of the Petitioner  
and a resident of the same  
address as the petition-  
ers is being impleaded  
herein being the biolog-  
ical father of the Petition-  
ers to be granted.

3. Respondent Local  
Civil Registrar of Baguio  
City with office address  
located at T. Alonzo  
Street, Baguio City and  
the Philippine Statis-  
tics Authority located  
at Solicarel Building,  
Ramon Magsaysay  
Boulevard, Sta. Mesa,  
Manila are being  
impleaded as nominal  
parties considering  
that these offices shall  
implement the court  
decision relative to this  
case.

4. The Petitioners,  
JESSICA VALERIE  
BORILLO ORCALES

and JUSTINE MARLON  
BORILLO ORCALES  
were born out of wedlock  
on August 24, 1994 and  
August 9, 1993, respec-  
tively, to Spouses Loreto  
and Myrna Julian.

5. In the Certificate of  
Live Birth of the Petition-  
ers, their father's name  
was not indicated therein,  
because at the time they  
were born, their parents  
were unsure if they will  
settle as husband and  
wife. Copies of their  
respective Certificates of  
Live Births are herewith  
attached as Annex "A" and  
Annex "B".

6. Subsequently, on  
December 9, 1996, Peti-  
tioners' parents Loreto  
B. Julian and Myrna  
O. Julian contracted  
marriage with each other.  
A copy of their certificate  
of marriage is herewith  
attached as Annex "C".

7. Since preschool  
to the present, both  
Petitioners used their  
father's surname in all  
their transactions. Hence,  
initially, they did not find  
it necessary to change  
their surname to Julian.

8. The affidavit of  
acknowledgement of  
paternity and consent to  
use the surname of their  
father, Loreto B. Julian, is  
hereto attached as Annex  
"D".

9. The Petitioners in  
all their transactions with  
third persons and insti-  
tutions consistently used  
their name Jessica Valerie  
Orcales Julian and Justine  
Marlon Orcales Julian.  
School records of the  
petitioners showing that  
they used their respective  
correct names are hereto  
attached as Annex "E"  
and "Series".

10. In order to capture  
the correct name and  
legal status of the peti-  
tioners, it is fitting and  
proper to allow them to  
change their name.

Petitioners pray that  
after due notice, publi-  
cation and hearing, an  
Order be issued to allow  
the change of name of  
Petitioners from JESSICA  
VALERIE BORILLO  
ORCALES and JUSTINE  
MARLON BORILLO  
ORCALES to JESSICA  
VALERIE ORCALES  
JULIAN and JUSTINE  
MARLON ORCALES  
JULIAN.

It appearing that  
the instant petition is  
sufficient in form and  
substance, the same is set  
for hearing on August 8,  
2016 at 11:00 o'clock in  
the morning before this  
Court at its Session Hall,  
Justice Hall Building,  
Baguio City. Any person  
may appear and show  
cause, if any, why said  
petition should not be  
granted.

Let a copy of this  
Order be published at the  
expense of the petition-  
er once a week for three  
(3) consecutive weeks,  
the first publication of  
which should not be later

than February 7, 2016 in a  
newspaper of general cir-  
culation in Baguio City to  
be determined by raffle  
pursuant to the provision  
of Presidential Decree  
No. 1079; let copies  
hereof together with the  
copies of the petition and  
its annexes be furnished  
to the Solicitor General,  
134 Amorsolo St.,  
Legaspi Village, Makati  
City, Metro Manila,  
National Statistics Office  
(now known as Philip-  
pine Statistics Authority  
PSA)-Solicarel Bldg. I.  
R. Magsaysay Blvd. Sta.  
Mesa, Manila.

Baguio City, Philip-  
pines, this 27th day of

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

IN THE MATTER  
OF PETITION FOR  
ADOPTION OF MI-  
NOR SALEM (A.K.A.  
SALEM ARMANI)  
DALISAN BANWA.

SPOUSES ARMAN-  
DO A. LACTAWEN  
SALVADORA K. LA-  
DISAN,

Petitioners,

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL  
REGISTRAR OF LA  
TRINIDAD, BEN-  
GUET and THE  
PHILIPPINE STATIS-  
TICS AUTHORITY,  
Respondents.

x-----x

Special Proceedings  
Case No. 15-A-1029

ORDER

Petitioners, through  
counsel, filed this ver-  
ified Amended Petition  
for Adoption, praying  
that after due notice,  
publication and hearing,  
the prospective adoptee,  
SALEM (a.k.a Salem Ar-  
mani) DALISAN BAN-  
WA, be declared the leg-  
itimate child and legal  
heir of the petitioners  
and that he shall then be  
known as SALEM AR-  
MANI DALISAN LAC-  
TAWEN.

WHEREFORE, find-  
ing the Petition to be  
sufficient in form and  
substance, the petition-  
ers are directed to meet  
and confer with the  
Court Social Worker for  
the conduct of the Child  
and Home Study in re-  
lation to this Petition.  
The Court Social Work-  
er therefore is directed  
to conduct a Child and

January, in the year of  
Our Lord, 2016.

(SGD) EMMANUEL  
CACHO RASING  
Presiding Judge

Copy furnished:

1. The Solicitor General
2. Local Civil Registrar of  
Baguio City
3. Philippine Statistics  
Authority
4. Atty. Ma. Conception  
C. Castro-Santiago
5. The Junction  
Newspaper
6. Loreto B. Julian

Publication Dates:  
February 6, 13 and 20  
2016

Home Study and sub-  
mit to this court her  
REPORTS, incorporat-  
ing therein her findings  
and recommendations,  
and furnishing copies  
thereof to the Office of  
the Solicitor General;  
to the Office of the Pro-  
vincial Prosecutor of  
Benguet; and the Office  
of the Regional Direc-  
tor of the DSWD-CAR,  
Baguio City. The said  
offices may or may not  
file Comment to said  
REPORTS.

The REPORT of the  
Court Social Worker  
should be submitted to  
this court at least fifteen  
(15) days before the in-  
itial hearing of this Peti-  
tion, which shall be on  
March 16, 2016 at 9:00  
o'clock in the morning.

Let this ORDER be  
published at the expense  
of the Petitioner in the  
Junction, a newspaper  
of general circulation in  
Baguio City and Ben-  
guet Province and the  
Cordillera Administra-  
tive Region, once a week  
for three (3) consecutive  
weeks, the first publica-  
tion to be made not later  
February 14, 2016. All  
interested persons may  
come to court and show  
cause, if any, why this  
Petition should not be  
granted.

Furnish copies of this  
ORDER, together with  
copies of the Petition  
and its annexes, to the  
Office of the Solicitor  
General; the Office of  
the Provincial Prose-  
cutor of Benguet; the  
Office of the Local Civil  
Registrar of La Trini-  
dad, Benguet; the Court  
Social Worker and the  
Office of the Regional  
Director, DSWD-CAR,  
Baguio City. Furnish  
copies of this ORDER to  
the Junction and the pe-  
titioner and counsel.

SO ORDERED,

In chambers, this  
27th day of January 2016  
at La Trinidad, Benguet.

(SGD) RUFUS G.  
MALECDAN, JR.  
Acting Presiding Judge

Publication Dates:  
January 30, February 6  
and 13, 2016

## NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE AMONG HEIRS

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of  
the late AIDA JONSON TOLEDO who  
died intestate on 25 October 2015 in Ba-  
guio City without will, consisting of the  
following property: Transfer Certificate of  
Title No. T-55730 "A parcel of land (Lot  
1, Psd-CAR-000719), being a portion of  
Tsi-V-1568-Amd. Townsite Sales Patent  
No. 1308). Situated at Res. Sec. "B", Baguio  
City, Island of Luzon... had been the sub-  
ject of EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT  
OF ESTATE AMONG HEIRS on 26 Jan-  
uary 2016 as per Doc. No. 768, Page No.  
154, Book No. XXXVIII, Series of 2016  
of the Notarial Registry of Atty. James S.  
Valeros of Baguio City.

Publication Dates: January 30,  
February 6, and 13, 2016

## Baguio still overall champ in CARAA 2016

BAGUIO CITY - Shouts of victory filled  
the Baguio City Athletic Bowl as the  
city's athletes rejoiced during the closing  
ceremony of the Cordillera Administrative  
Region Athletic Association meet 2016 on  
Wednesday (Feb. 17) afternoon.

Earning 212 gold medals, 91 silver medals  
and 79 bronze medals, Baguio City Team  
retained its title as the over-all champion in  
the week-long CARAA meet spearheaded  
by the Department of Education and hosted  
this year by the city of Baguio.

The city's elementary division hauled  
88-34-30 gold-silver-bronze medals while  
its secondary counterpart took home  
123-56-49 medals. This is Baguio's highest  
gold medal haul in three years.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan led the city  
and DepEd - Baguio officials in receiving  
the championship trophy from DepEd-CAR  
Regional Director Ellen Donato and  
Assistant Director Francis Bringas during  
the awarding and closing ceremonies.

The Province of Benguet emerged the  
1st Runner Up garnering 43 gold, 93 silver,  
87 bronze medals, followed by Ifugao as  
the 2nd Runner Up with 20 gold, 34 silver,  
59 bronze. Mountain Province landed 3rd  
runner up with 19 gold, 36 silver, 70 bronze;  
Kalinga-Tabuk- 4th runner up with 17 gold,  
27silver, 44 bronze; Abra- 5th runner up  
with 16 gold, 31silver, 34 bronze while Team  
Apayao got 8 gold, 22, silver, 40 bronze.

Athletes also competed in indigenous  
Filipino games for the title of "Larong Lahi"  
which is comprised of 'Kadang-kadang' and  
'Sanggul' or arm-wrestling.

In the game Kadang-kadang, Kalin-  
ga-Tabuk City team took the first gold at the  
opening of the CARAA meet on Saturday as  
they defeated Apayao, last year's champion.

Winners for the arm wrestling 55.0  
Category were Romeo Galate Jr. of Benguet  
Team (gold medalist), Briyan Sapdoy of  
Mountain Province (Silver medalist) and  
Roel Nanongna of Ifugao (bronze).

Winners for the 55. 01 Category were  
Arnold Chalis Jr. of Baguio City Team (gold)  
Jhon Jhon Requiso of Apayao(silver), and  
Mt. Province's Reden Acdong(bronze).

Kalinga -Tabuk City won the title for the  
Special games joined by differently abled  
athletes with 15 gold, 10 silver, 2 bronze

## DOT, UC partner for green architecture

BAGUIO CITY - The Department of  
Tourism- Cordillera Regional office partners  
with another private institution as it pushes  
for green architecture in this mountain resort.

Last January 29, the DOT Regional  
Director Marie Venus Tan and University  
of Cordilleras President Ray Dean Salvosa  
signed a memorandum of agreement for  
"REV - BLOOM" Baguio! To bring in green  
architectural design to tourism infrastructure  
and in revitalizing other tourism sites in the  
Summer Capital and its neighborhood.

Under the partnership, UC as part of its  
Corporate Social Responsibility, commits  
to share expertise, skills and knowledge in  
providing technical assistance and services to  
DOT's projects under REV - BLOOM Baguio  
including the green architecture design of  
the DOT Regional Office and Master Devel-  
opment Plan of the Tourism Complex and  
nearby Sunshine Park.

UC also commits to provide manpower  
assistance to maintenance and preservation  
activities of the tourism department.

The (architectural) plans for the building  
and also the Sunshine Park will be developed  
and donated by the UC while DOT's counter-  
part is to allocate the funding, Tourism Infra-  
structure and Enterprise Zone Authority chief  
Operating Officer Atty. Guiller Azido said.

Funds for the development of the Regional  
Office and the whole tourism complex into  
a tourism hub for information, exhibits and  
conference area had already been allocated,  
he said.

Azido also disclosed that aside from the  
DOT Complex, DOT in coordination with  
the city government, are also looking into  
the Burnham Park Master Development Plan  
designed by the UC to see how they can bring  
in short and long term development projects  
for Baguio's well known park./JDP/CCD and  
Erlyn Lomboy - PIA/SLU Intern

medals. Other winners are Baguio City  
team with 14 golds 15 silvers, 13 bronze,  
Benguet team with 6 golds, 8 bronze and  
Mt. Province with 2 golds, 1 bronze.

Moreover, certificates of appreciation with  
cash prize were also given to deserving  
billeting stations and delegations that  
showed outstanding performance. Special  
Awards include Most Clean, Green and  
Eco-Friendly Billeting Host School won by  
Baguio SPED Center(1st), Rizal Elementa-  
ry School(2nd) and a tie between Mabini  
Elementary School and Quezon Elementary  
School for the 3rd place.

The Ifugao delegation won as the Most  
Clean, Green and Eco- Friendly Delega-  
tion, 2nd place- Kalinga-Tabuk City, and  
3rd place- Abra delegation.

Well organized delegations were also  
acknowledged with the Most Disciplined  
Delegation awarded to Kalinga-Tabuk City  
(1st), Ifugao (2nd) and Mt. Province (3rd).

According to DepEd Regional Sports  
Coordinator Agustin Gumuwang, all top  
three winners in each event will be trained in  
preparation for the 2016 Palarong Pambansa  
scheduled on April 10-18 in Legaspi City,  
Albay./JDP/ RMC & Abigail Clemente and  
Lalaine Gala-Gala-PIA/UC Intern



## THE JUNCTION

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## Baguio Flower Festival on

**B**AGUIO CITY- At least 17 dance groups and a dozen float organizers are expected to join the Baguio Flower Festival streetdancing and floral float parade on Feb. 27 and 28 respectively.

The grand streetdancing parade weaves its way from Panagbenga Park to Session road- Magsaysay Avenue-Harrison road and culminates with performances at the center portion of the Athletic Bowl, Burnham Park; while the float parade enters the Melvin Jones grandstand area through the Ganza parking, Burnham Park.

Of the 17 streetdancing groups, 11 with their drum and lyre groups are from the elementary category. Primary schools; Mabini, Baguio Central, Dona Aurora, Josefa Carino, Jose P. Laurel, Lucban, Quezon and Pinget qualified after an energetic performance from Panagbenga Park up to Athletic Bowl, Burnham Park during the opening parade, Feb. 1. Aguinaldo, Dominican-Mirador, and Don Mariano Marcos Elementary Schools may also join the parade, it was announced. The street-dance participants donned colorful costumes and showcased recycled material props for their performance.

Six other groups; some hall-of-famers join the open category. The number of participants are expected to increase as application ends on Feb. 20, it was known.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan in his opening program message acknowledged the hard work poured into the "historic, sensational, phenomenal and grand spectacle called Panagbenga. The unified efforts through

public-private partnership has brought the 21st Baguio Flower Festival a reality," he said.

The unwavering support and generosity of sponsors, talents and experiences shared by all participants is expected to equal or even surpass the grandeur of the festival's twenty years, he added. We have the privilege of seeing Panagbenga's transformation through the years, he further said.

As to the touted idea of having potted plants for the floats, the mayor said the Department of Tourism led by Regional Director Venus Tan should take the lead. The availability of potted plants should be considered, the mayor said, as with budgetary concerns. The idea was tied up with having vertical gardens along the main roads to re-green the area.

Vehicular traffic routes were planned by the Baguio City Police Office Traffic Management Bureau (BCPO-TMB) during the main parades. Student-volunteers from the different universities are being briefed by the Panagbenga secretariat.

Panagbenga activities are the on-going Baguio Blooms exhibition and exposition at Lake Drive, Burnham Park; Feb. 14, Color Fun Run; Handog ng Panagbenga Sa Pamilya Baguio at the Melvin Jones Grandstand and Football grounds; Let A Thousand Flowers Bloom, Kite-Flying Challenge, Panagbenga Fancy Dress/Costume Competition, Fireworks Display;

Feb. 19 to 21, PMA Grand Alumni Homecoming; Feb. 19, Golf Tournament For A Cause; Feb. 22, Boyce Avenue Concert; Feb. 27, Mr. Panag-

## Search for the most outstanding LTIA begins

**B**AGUIO CITY - The yearly search for the most outstanding Lupon Tagapamayapa Incentive Awards (LTIA) in this mountain resort kicks-off this last week.

Around 30 villages submitted their letter of intent to participate in the said search at the Special Services Division (SSD) of the Mayor's Office.

The search aims to provide motivation to other lupons in improving their over-all performance in furtherance of Katarungang Pambarangay concerns as well as to strengthen the efficacy of the KP as an indigenous conflict-resolution structure at the grassroots. It also extends appreciation and recognition to lupon tagapamayapa whose exceptional service delivery performance has significantly contributed to the attainment of the objectives of the KP and at the same time to generate awareness among and support from the various sectors of the Philippine society on the KP as a potent vehicle toward social ordering and human development.

The LTIA committee composed of representative from the Department of Interior Local Government Baguio Field Office, Department of Justice, Baguio City Police Office, Liga ng mga Barangay and the SSD will subsequently conduct a

thorough assessment, evaluation and on-site visitation and validation to the participating villages who joined the said search.

The participating villages will be judged based on their efficiency in operations discernible through the observance of settlement procedures and settlement deadlines, conduct of monthly meetings exclusively for Katarungang Pambarangay and systematic maintenance of records; the effectiveness in securing the objectives of the program through the quantity and quality of settled cases; and the creativity and resourcefulness of Lupon Tagapamayapa (LT) through the innovative mediation techniques initiated, active coordination with concerned agencies like DSWD, PNP, DAR, DepEd, DOJ and other courts, sustainability of the advocacy efforts, KP trainings initiated and conducted as well as attended by the LT, exclusive area of facility within the barangay hall or a separate structure for settlement proceedings and the mobilization of budgetary support from the city and non-government organizations.

Last year, Lourdes Subdivision Extension headed by punong barangay Benjamin Macadangdang was honored as the best performing lupon in the city for calendar year 2014./Jho Arranz

## City intensifies task force...

...from page 10

municipality of origin for further intervention. The CSWDO will provide psychosocial interventions as well as temporary shelter and other basic needs to mendicants in accordance to the policies set for the use of the Silungan Center.

While, the BCPO will monitor and apprehend mendicants and psychotic vagrant; turn over mendicants and psychotic vagrants to the CSWDO; assist in transporting clients to the hospital or residence and coordinate with the CSWDO regarding apprehension of mendicants and psychotic vagrants.

On the other hand, BGHMC will conduct psychiatric examinations and treatment of vagrant psychotic on an in-patient or out-patient basis; refer the client to other departments of the hospital for further evaluation and conduct training to personnel of concerned GOs and NGOs on the screening and identification of psychosocial problems of psychotic and non-psychotic vagrants and mendicants.

The PIA will assist in the preparation of advocacy materials needed in the campaign for the proper management of mendicants. Together with the PIA, the DILG and DTI will assist in the information dissemination on the anti-mendicancy law.

DSWD will assist in locating family of men-

dicants outside the city, augment food and financial assistance for mendicants going out from the city, and provide temporary shelter for mendicants especially from Manila under the Sagip Kalinga Program before they are turned over to the LGUs.

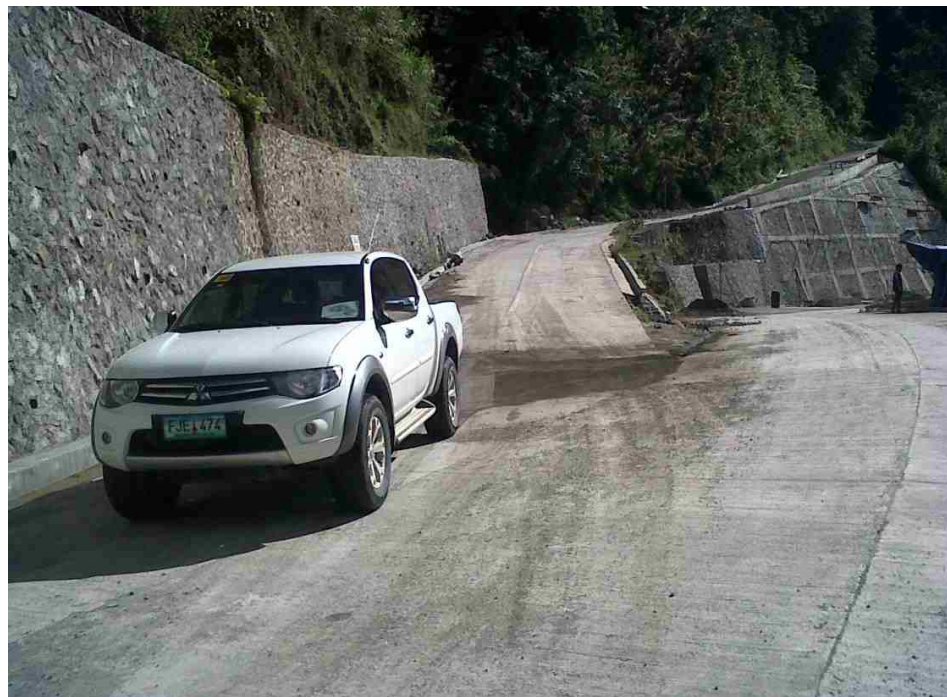
The BJMP will also provide temporary shelter for mendicants who can no longer be accommodated by the silungan center of the CSWDO, assist in escorting mendicants outside the city and provide rehabilitative program for mendicants if necessary.

CHR will coordinate with the DSWD and BCPO any reports of mendicants and psychotic vagrants while the PMHA will assist in the conduct of information education campaign on the prevention of mental illness and promotion of mental health.

The different transport groups will assist in transporting recovered mendicants and psychotic vagrants and refuse boarding of unaccompanied/unescorted mendicants and psychotic vagrants.

"Let us be united in eradicating, if not, minimize and control the proliferation of mendicants in the city of Baguio," said Domogan.

On the other hand, the public are discouraged from giving alms to mendicants roaming around the city./Jho Arranz



Going to the beautiful Batad Rice Terraces of Banaue, Ifugao is now faster and easier with the completion of this national road under the Tourism Infrastructure Project of the DPWH.(DBC-PIA CAR, Ifugao)



## CEPMO personnel undergo landscaping training

**B**AGUIO CITY – Some 56 city environment and parks management office (CEPMO) personnel underwent a training course on ornamental flower production and practical landscaping last January 21-22.

CEPMO officer Cordelia Lacsamana said the training aimed to enhance the capability and skills of her staff in flower growing and garden designing which they can apply in discharging their tasks.

The participants were apprised on the basics of landscaping by Villamor Zaparita, public services assistant of the parks division of the CEPMO.

Public services officer

Jones Gas-ib lectured on nursery cultural management practices, planting media requirement, application of fertilizers, propagation through seeds, proper sowing of seeds, watering, cultivating, pinching, drying and treating seeds, picking or potting, control of plant pests and diseases, shade requirement, treating of cutting with rooting hormone prior to planting, propagation through cuttings and selection of planting materials.

At the end of the course, the participants were asked to apply what they learned in an actual landscaping workshop where prizes were given to the best output. *A Refuerzo*

## City intensifies task force to address mendicancy concerns

**B**AGUIO CITY – The proliferation of mendicants in the city of pines coming from nearby municipalities has alarmed and created concern among the residents in this city.

It is for this reason that mayor Mauricio Domogan recently convened the concerned agencies as well as public and private groups and associations to intensify the task force to address the mendicancy concerns in the city of Baguio.

The city government here together with the task force composed of the Baguio City Police Office, Baguio General Hospital and medical Center, Philippines Information Agency-CAR, Department of Interior and Local Government-CAR, Department of Trade and Industry-CAR, Bureau of Jail management and Penology-CAR, Depart-

ment of Social Welfare and Development-CAR, Commission on Human Rights-CAR, Philippine Mental Health Association-Baguio-Benguet Chapter, and the different transport groups like Victory Liners Inc., Philippine Rabbit Bus Lines, Dangwa Tranco Inc., Dagupan Bus Company, Genesis, among others recently renewed its commitment through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to restore the duties and responsibilities in protecting and promoting the right to health and instill health consciousness among the mendicants.

Said MOA aims to accelerate community development and contribute to national progress with healthy citizens of the city of Baguio and to create massive public awareness on the role of the family, different sectors of the

society in their contribution to mental health.

It is recalled that then president Ferdinand Marcos signed presidential Decree 1563 on June 11, 1978: "Establishing an Integrated System for the Control and Eradication of Mendicancy providing penalties, appropriating funds therefore, and other purposes".

Renewing its commitment to address the mendicancy concerns in the city, the different stakeholders signed the MOA Friday, Feb. 12 at the city mayor's office.

In the agreement, it is the responsibility of the city government here to take the lead in the planning, citywide implementation, information dissemination and monitoring of the project and to coordinate with all member agencies of the task force as well as with other concerned public and private groups and associations to ensure its success.

The City Social Welfare and Development Office will conduct intake, interview and assess clients

then turn over clients to their families with the assistance of the PNP or turn over to the LGU in the

Cont. on page 9

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*Evelyn Ng and daughter, Kathleen, show the traditional way of cooking of radish cake during the press briefing to usher the Year of the Monkey at the Hotel Supreme, Baguio City. (Zhang Yu-PIA/ SLU intern)*

## BFF now a member of Int'l Festival Organization

**B**AGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan last week expressed elation over the Baguio Flower Festival or Panagbenga's membership to the International Festival and Events Association (IFEA).

The mayor announced the good news during the regular media forum. "This is an honor and a distinction for the city's Panagbenga, the certification being a first in the country," the mayor said.

A certification from IFEA arrived Jan. 26 and its validity lasts until 2017, it was known.

The certification cites the Baguio Flower Festival as a "member in good standing, adhering to the ethical standards of conduct outlined by the IFEA with all rights and privileges pertain-

ing thereof."

The IFEA, a not-for-profit organization was founded in 1956, in Boise, Idaho, USA. Its target audience "includes all those who produce and support quality celebrations for the benefit of their respective 'communities.'" The IFEAs' "primary focus is identifying and providing access to the professional resources and networks that will, as stated in the mission, inspire and enable those in our industry to realize their dreams, build community and sustain success through celebration."

"The IFEA exists to serve the needs of our entire industry, all those who share our core values of excellence & quality; the sharing of

experience, knowledge, creativity and best practices; and the importance of "community" building both locally and globally," it was known from IFEAs' official website.

Panagbenga, a kankana-ey word for "a season for blossoming," started in 1995 with schoolchildren being the main players. The festival grew to be a crowd-drawer with its rich cross-culture month-long celebration, and blooms from local, national and even foreign suppliers.

Now, on its 21st year, the celebration expects more tourists during the main events: the streetdancing and float parade on Feb. 27 and 28. *Julie G. Fianza*

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