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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

11-Million building inaugurated in PCNHS

An 11 million, three-story building with 9 classrooms was inaugurated last Friday at the Pines City National High School (PCNHS) in preparation for the start of senior high school this year.

The inauguration was attended by Congressman Nicasio M. Aliping, Jr., DPWH Director Alex Casatañeda, Department of Education (DepEd) Curriculum Imple An 11 million, three-story building with 9 classrooms was inaugurated last Friday at the Pines City National High School (PCNHS) in preparation for the start of senior high school this year.

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Cont. on page 6



NEW SCHOOL BUILDING - Congressman Nicasio Aliping assisted by DepEd officials Elma Donaál and Rachel Bugtong, PCNHS principal Leticia Sab-it and DPWH district engineer Alexander Castaneda cut the ceremonial ribbon of the newly constructed 3-storey classroom in Pines City national High School costing P11million. / By Bong Cayabyab

Mainit ang magiging bakbakan ngayon para Congressman. Kanino kayo, Aliping, Vergara, o Go ??? Good track record with substantial accomplishments ang isang batayan !!!



Cayetano to lead veto override to give SSS pensioners 2000 peso pension hike •page 2

Chiz asks law makers to override Pnoy's veto on SSS pension Hike •page 10

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Mainly dry CAR, Ilocos conditions 'till next week •page 6

Elections 2016 bi-weekly issues soon to come!

Painit na nang painit!

- > 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!

ABANGAN!



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SPES registration begins •page 8

MAGKASANGGA TAYO

Binay- Escudero Na!!!
Welcome P/SSupt. George Daskeo
Ang lokal na line-up ko sa ngayon!!!
•page 5 BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO



KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Biggest criminals in RP today

•page 4 BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



Duterte - Cayetano will not allow country to become "Asia's Mexico," to go after local "El Chapos" •page 9

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City lauds villages with low crime incidents

BAGUIO CITY - The city government here honored five barangays in this mountain resort for its commitment in supporting the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) to the prevalent crime prevention and solution efforts of the BCPO during the regular Monday flag raising ceremony at the Baguio City hall grounds.

City officials headed by mayor Mauricio Domogan personally handed the certificates of commendation to barangays SLU-SVP Housing, San Roque Village, Phil-Am, Sto. Tomas Central, and Lower Lourdes Subdivision.

Barangay official have a vital role in maintaining peace and order with close

coordination with the BCPO through the different police stations in the city.

Also recognized is UB marshall Jumar Pascua Lingling for his active participation in the anti-criminality campaign of the BCPO that resulted the immediate arrest Michael Lazaro Lorenzo for a case of theft committed at UB Square, Lower General Luna St.

In his inspirational message, Domogan said "the barangays have significantly contributed in the peace and order management in coordination with the BCPO, thus, making Baguio City a safer place to live, study, visit, work and do business." /Jho Arranz

Baguio City crime rates declined

BAGUIO CITY - The Baguio City Police Office reported recently that the crime rate in this city has dropped last year compared in 2014 as the city police intensifies the campaign against criminality in this mountain resort.

The BCPO's crime situation report shows that a total of 4,407 index crimes were recorded last 2015, a decrease from the 4,929 of 2014 or a drop of 10.59%.

On the other hand, 11.15% decline in focus crimes was recorded. However, the most prevalent crimes committed are theft, physical injury and robbery.

Authorities said a total of 1,789 persons were arrested thru warrantless arrest which includes 10 homicide cases, four murder, 556 physical injury, 13 rape, 66 robbery, 527 theft, 16 carnapping, 64 violence against women, 135 special laws, 32 child abuse, and 365 other non-index crime.

While, a total of 102 wanted

persons were arrested. Two are with reward, one in the regional level, 18 in the city level, and 81 in the station level.

However, there are still 354 wanted persons being searched for by the authorities.

43 drug personalities were arrested with P4,566,984.32 worth of illegal drugs were confiscated.

27 persons were arrested with 13 firearms seized, 19 firearms surrendered, nine were recovered and 15 cases were filed in courts.

A total of 11,433 apprehensions were affected under the city's zero obstruction campaign.

In the implementation of the city ordinances of Baguio, a total of 29,943 violators were apprehended with penalties amounting to P6,419,200.

"The decline in crimes in this city is attributed to intensified police operations and community support," mayor Domogan said. /Jho Arranz

Cayetano to lead veto override to give SSS pensioners 2000 peso pension hike

Vice Presidential bet and Senate Majority Floor Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said that he would initiate the call to legislators to end the executive branch's legacy of vetoing important laws and make history by overriding the veto President Benigno Simeon Aquino III made on a bill which seeks a P2,000 across-the-board increase in Social Security System (SSS) monthly pensions.

"It is time for Congress to stand up for our millions of pensioners and give them the pension that they need. We must stand up against the executive's awesome powers and ensure the passage of important laws that will help alleviate the lives of our people and show that we are the people's voice and not just a rubber stamp of Malacanang," Cayetano said.

Cayetano said social security is meant to help pensioners after their retirement cope with the costs of living without their regular salaries. "But what good is social security if what they get is so low that it cannot even meet

their barest needs?"

It was reported that Aquino has vetoed or blocked several social legislation such as the Magna Carta for the poor and the lowering of income tax rates for working Filipinos.

"Wala pong personal o pulitika dito. Pinaglalaban po namin ang milyong milyong pensioners na kailangang kailangan itong 2000 pesos na ito para sa pang araw araw nilang pamumuhay," Cayetano added.

The senator vowed to lead the charge in mobilizing the legislature to override Aquino's veto. He said the legislative will require two-thirds vote of the House and Senate, voting separately.

"For the sake of our struggling people, I will do everything in my power to counter this veto. It is an uphill battle but a fight that must be waged nonetheless. We owe it to the people especially the vulnerable such as the elderly, the sick and the unemployed who are at the bottom barrel. Sobra-sobra na ang hirap nila," Cayetano said.

Cont. on page 6

City keen in paying utilization of sewerage treatment plant

BAGUIO CITY - In this Wednesday weekly forum, Baguio City mayor Mauricio Domogan disclosed that the city government here is keen in paying the utilization of the parcel of land being used as the sewerage treatment plant at the South Sanitary Camp.

It is remembered that the area being used as the city's sewerage treatment plant is owned by the National Power Corporation with the agreement that the city gov-

ernment will replace the same with a parcel of land.

"The city was able to look for a replacement located in front of the Mansion House, but, there was a dispute regarding the cost of the area per sq. m. which resulted to a misunderstanding between the city government and NPC," said Domogan.

However, in the latest information, the NPC is no longer interested for a replacement of the land, but instead, for the city government to pay more or less 34 million.

According to mayor Domogan, the city has only allotted 15 million for that purpose.

"Because of this, the city will be scheduling a meeting with the officials of NPC in order to once and for all settle the exact amount due to the NPC," he added.

"Considering that the city has only allotted 15 million for the said purpose, the possibility of setting the Terms of Payment is needed in order to resolve the problem," ended Domogan. /Jho Arranz

TWG formed to come up with individual survey plans of identified city needs

BAGUIO CITY - Mayor Mauricio Domogan recently issued Administrative Order No. 04, series of 2016 creating a Technical Working Group (TWG) to come up with individual survey plans of identified city needs from the available technical sources as one of the requirement in the processing and issuance of special patents.

Considering that the city has identified several parcels of lots for public purposes, these identified sites need to be segregated from the alienable and disposable areas and subsequently, the issuance of free patents.

The TWG will be chaired by the city planning and development coordinator and to be co-chaired by the chief of the surveys and mapping division of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Cordillera Administrative Region.

The members include the officer-in-charge of the PENRO, land management officer III, officer-in-charge I of the CENRO, survey man, all of the DENR-CAR; engineer II and math aide of the A.O. 504 clearing committee, DENR-CAR;

engineering assistant of the city engineer's office; engineering assistant of the DPWH-BCDEO and; administrative assistant III of the CPDO.

The city has allocated five million pesos from the 2015 supplemental budget for the individual survey of areas identified as city needs.

It is recalled that city officials earlier expressed reservation with the implementation of the Free Patent Law because allowing the subdivision of lots that are above 200 sq.m. can be abused by landowners by availing of the Free Patent Law because under the new law, multiple applications may be made up to 12 hectares of land owned by claimants nationwide resulting to land monopoly.

However, the city and DENR-CAR officials agreed that the Free Patent Law runs counter to the city's present procedure of disposing alienable and disposable lots and thus, inapplicable to the city's setting as a townsite reservation.

Residential free patents have a maximum 200 sq. m. in highly urbanized cities like Baguio, while, townsite sales applications have a maximum of 1,000 sq.m. /Jho Arranz

Comelec assures extensive testing of vote counting machine

BAGUIO CITY, Jan. 13 (PIA) - The new sets of vote counting machines for the 2016 election are undergoing extensive testing in time for a voters education roadshow in major cities nationwide.

Commission on Election Commissioner Louie Tito Guia bared that since October last year, Comelec along with representatives from various political parties and non-government organizations have been reviewing and testing the new vote counting machines. This will go on for seven months to ensure that the machines will function efficiently properly from counting to transmission.

"To make the election more transparent, we have been engaging various stakeholders from the source code review - basic program or code that will be telling the machines what to do; the loading of names of candidates to align it to the election management system up to the customizing of the code to make sure the machines are

configured to count the way it should", Guia stressed.

After the testing and review, Comelec will go to various parts of the country for a voters education roadshow on the vote counting machines.

"We will be more active in engaging the public and the media for an information and education about the system. What we want to happen is for the public to actively engage and involve in the process", Guia said.

He disclosed that there are over 95,000 new vote counting machines that can cover all the voting precincts in the country plus reserves for contingency measure. He assured that these machines are newer version and with added features compared to those used in the last automated election.

Guia was in the city last week for the launching of the Comelec - Baguio initiated Voter Care Center, the first specialized telephone hotline and action desk set -up for the May 9, 2016 election. /JDP/CCD - PIA CAR



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EARLY BIRD - A senior citizen pays her realty tax early to avoid inconveniences and avail of the chance to win the raffle draw. Three 1st prizes (40 inches colored TV), three 2nd prizes (2-door refrigerators) and three 3rd prizes (washing machines) and 25 consolation prizes await the lucky taxpayers during the raffle draw on March 1./ By Bong Cayabyab

Athletic bowl readiness for caraa assured

BAGUIO CITY - Barring hitches in the contractor's timetable, the Baguio Athletic Bowl will be ready for the Cordillera Administrative Region Athletic Association (CARAA) meet with its tartan track oval and all.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan on Wednesday said this was the assurance made by project contractor R.U. Aquino Development and Construction Corporation during the coordination meeting for the CARAA event slated on Feb. 6-10.

"The contractor committed to place the final coating for the rubberized track on January 23 and then the painting and curing for five to seven days. If the schedule is followed, it will be ready for the Feb. 6 opening of the CARAA," the mayor said.

He said they will have another coordination meeting before the event to finalize the preparations and they expect to draw up the guidelines for the use and protection of the newly

installed track by that time.

Other venues of the various sporting events are also being prepared to ensure that the games will be played smoothly and orderly.

The mayor earlier directed concerned departments to take charge of sprucing up the venues and ensure readiness of required personnel, security, logistics and other provisions.

The mayor tapped city parks management officer Cordelia Lacsamana, city engineering officer-in-charge Elpidio Garabiles, city building and architecture officer Nazita Banez, city administrator Carlos Canilao, city health officer Dr. Rowena Galpo, Emergency Medical Service director Dr. John Tinoyan, city general services officer and acting city police director Rolando Miranda for the tasks.

He particularly sought the improvement and rehabilitation of the Melvin Jones Football Grounds and Archery Range, reserva-

tion of the playing venues, swimming pool, football field, the Baguio Convention Center and others.

He said security personnel should be on hand throughout the event starting from the opening program and at the various billeting centers and playing venues.

Medical personnel will also be deployed complete with ambulances and medical equipment and paraphernalia.

The mayor also stressed the need to fast-track the procurement of all materials and equipment needed for the events to ensure that these will be ready in time for the sports meet.

City sports development officer Gaudencio Gonzales said the city allotted P4 million for the sports activity.

The sporting event is again expected to draw the participation of over 5,000 athletes and delegates from the five provinces and two cities of the region./A Refuerzo

New police chief ordered to effect round-the-clock crime watch

BAGUIO CITY - Mayor Mauricio Domogan on Monday directed newly installed city police officer-in-charge George Daskeo to effect a round-the-clock peace and order campaign in the city to sustain the downtrend in criminality.

At the close of 2015, the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) reported a 10.59 percent decrease in the crime volume under OIC Sr. Supt. Rolando Miranda. However, the crime solution efficiency was also reduced from 66 percent in 2014 to 56 percent

in 2015.

The mayor said that while the report indicated a downtrend in the number, the crime incidents that transpired remained alarming.

"We cannot afford to let our guards down so I expect our new police chief to be available 24/7 to focus on the peace and order situation of our city," the mayor said.

Aside from the crimes against property, the mayor asked the new police chief to give special attention to

containing physical injury incidents which are mainly alcohol-related thus the need for stricter monitoring of night establishments.

The mayor also singled out the drug problem, gambling and traffic condition as among the major concerns commanding concentration by the city police.

Daskeo unceremoniously replaced Miranda as officer-in-charge effective Jan. 8 without the knowledge of the mayor prompting the city executive to decry what he called the Philippine

Baguio folk urged to conserve water in face of el nino

BAGUIO CITY - Mayor Mauricio Domogan on Wednesday urged Baguio residents to observe water conservation methods as a means of coping with the El Nino phenomenon or prolonged drought which will affect the country until the first quarter of the year.

"We have to learn to use water wisely so we can contribute in its conservation which is now a must considering the effect of the El Nino and the increasing demand for water in our city," the mayor said.

The Baguio Water District issued the following water conservation tips:

*The Basics: Check for leaks within your water piping system regularly and have them repaired immediately. You can also report leaking pipes to the Baguio Water District tel. no. 444-7246, cel nos. 0908-865-1504 (SMART); 0922-840-9765 (SUN); and 0917-679-4929 (GLOBE)

*In cooking, use a basin when washing vegetables, fruits and other foods. Avoid thawing frozen food under running tap water; bring out frozen food from the freezer/refrigerator hours before cooking.

*In taking showers and flushing the toilet, take short showers or you can also use a pail or "batya" instead of shower.

*In doing laundry, use basins and avoid overflow of water when laundering with hands; use washing machines with full load only and use only as needed; and reuse laundry water for flushing toilets, washing cars or gardening.

*In washing hands, face and hair, use a wash basin, dipper or pail.

*In brushing teeth and shaving, use a glass when brushing your teeth, also

when rinsing your razor.

*Make your own rain water harvesting facility by using ordinary asphalt drums.

Last year, the city government mapped out an action plan to address the impact of the El Nino phenomenon containing the consolidated plans, programs and activities (PPAs) before, during and after the climate cycle of agencies involved in the four core concerns namely food security, energy security, health and safety.

City planning and development coordinator Evelyn Cayat who convened the El Nino action meeting in October last year said the plan will make up the city's Roadmap to Address the Impact of El Nino (RAIN).

Various agencies participated in the preparation of the action plan including the Department of Trade and Industry-Cordillera Administrative Region (DTI-CAR) for the food security; Baguio Water District (BWD) for water supply; Benguet Electric Cooperative Inc. (BENECO) for energy security; the City Health Services Office for health concerns; the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources Cordillera (DENR-CAR) for environment; and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) for the safety concern.

Under the health concern, the PPAs center on handling the various diseases and health threats for the duration of the El Nino with preemptive actions focusing on health information dissemination activities, trainings of health workers, stockpiling of equipment, medicines and supplies at health centers, enhancement of surveillance, among others.

El Nino onslaught

measures focus on mobilization and deployment of outbreak responders and clinical management while aftermath actions center on post-outbreak assessment, recovery and reconstruction.

On water security, preparation measures include bulk water supply outsourcing, watershed management, protection and preservation, water conservation advocacy, underground aquifer management, drilling and exploration, rainwater harvesting and systems loss prevention.

During the El Nino, priority will be given to the equitable distribution of water supply, cloud seeding, conservation advocacy, tapping assistance of private water supplier and water recycling and after the calamity, the focus will be seeking national support to decentralize the police power to apprehend illegal water exploration, desalination, management of surface and underground water storage, well rehabilitation, water exploration and protection of watershed reservations.

On food security, the focus will be on regular price and supply monitoring of prime commodity sources and retailers, assessment of market situation during disaster and replenishment of inventory by tapping local distributors, manufacturers and government assistance and conduct of diskwento caravans in affected areas.

On safety concern, actions include the fixing of budget allocation for water supply, continuous training and education of the various sectors on fire and disaster prevention, determination of fire and disaster-prone areas, drilling and restoration of water reservoir beside the fire station and information-education campaign and mobilization of personnel and volunteers to respond to emergency situations./A Refuerzo

National Police's practice of circumventing its own rules in appointing police chiefs in the city.

He said this practice of the PNP to disregard the law is disconcerting considering that the city's peace and order is at stake.

"It seemed they had made it a practice to violate their own rule. They did it during the time of Sr. Supt. Jesus Cambay and now with Col. Miranda. I have been hoping that they will follow the rules of this time. I kept on asking for them to submit the names of the nominees so we can

submit our own recommendation but it did not happen until last Monday when I found out that we already have a new police chief," the mayor said.

Despite the mayor's appeal to observe the procedure, Cambay was unceremoniously replaced by Miranda in February 2014. Miranda had since served as OIC of the city police until his exit last Jan. 8 which the mayor noted as another violation of the PNP rule on the tenure of OICs.

The mayor said however that until the PNP corrects

its practice, the city has no choice but to work closely with whoever is assigned to its police department for the sake of maintaining the city's peace and order.

"I just hope that our new police chief will deliver and see to it that the city's peace and order will be attended to 24 hours a day," the mayor said.

Daskeo served as deputy for administration at the BCPO from 2011-2012.. Before his present assignment in the city, he served as the provincial director of the Kalinga police office./A Refuerzo

BS Aquino's legacy: Ad hominem politics

Many of us, I'm sure, have been shaking our heads, even pulling our hair over the childish squabble between Manuel Roxas 2nd and Davao's Dirty Harry Duterte.

But really to blame is the kind of politics and electoral discourse President Aquino 3rd has imposed on this country.

In debates, there is what's called the fallacy of ad hominem argument, or that directed against the person rather than his position in the debate. To borrow that phrase, Aquino's brand of discourse is that of ad hominem politics, or variations of it.

Roxas started the childish squabble by disputing Duterte's claim that Davao is a peaceful city, calling it not just inaccurate, but a "myth". He even used the Pilipino word "kathang-isip," which translates to "fictional." While such talk, on the surface, appears to be a question of fact, it is really an attack on the person of Duterte as the mayor considers Davao's peace-and-order situation his unquestionable achievement, especially since he even had to "kill" criminals for it.

EDITORIAL

Duterte, of course, retaliated by questioning Roxas' "Wharton" record, which surprisingly hit

a raw nerve in this man who is Aquino's 2016 bet. I wonder why he had been so sensitive about it that he blew his top. One could lose his cool over that if getting into Wharton had been an ordeal, or cost the family tons of money. If that was the case with Roxas, that could explain why he was admitted only in September 1976, two years after he finished high school in 1974.

Roxas' dig into Duterte's track record in Davao, rather than debating with the mayor what he intends to do when or if he becomes President, has really been Aquino's and his camp's kind of discourse.

They spent hundreds of millions of pesos and the Senate's valuable time trying to pin the corrupt label on Vice President Jejomar Binay with the help of one of the biggest broadsheets in the country. It was easy, of course, for the Aquino camp to quickly dig up documents showing that Grace Poe Llamanzares isn't a natural-born Filipino and doesn't meet the residency requirement to run for the presidency.

Watch how the Commission on Human Rights will swiftly uncover evidence that Duterte did kill criminals. Liberal Party stalwart Chito Gascon, a lawyer, wasn't made chair of the CHR last July for nothing.

But this has always been the self-righteous mindset of the Yellow Cult: those who aren't with them are corrupt, evil. Marcos was the Devil incarnate, President Gloria Arroyo was evil and they did nothing, absolutely nothing for the good of the country. Aquino's trademark argument, in fact, has been to blame everything that has gone wrong during his term – even the most recent international embarrassment that was the tanim-bala episode – on his predecessor.

The unfair, slow justice system? Take out Chief Justice Renato Corona, as he was picked by Arroyo. The PDAF pork barrel scam? Jail the three opposition senators only. The Mamasapano massacre? Blame it on sacked police chief Alan Purisima, only.

Don't expect the election discourse to involve such issues as whether the P178 billion conditional-cash transfer (CCT) scheme was a huge dole-out, the most expensive vote-buying scheme ever undertaken in this country; what alternatives do we have in dealing with what is now our biggest trading partner, the People's Republic of China; what economic program do we have other than just opening up our economy to the world, and hoping the hidden hand of the free-market works; or what do we do with the moribund coconut industry, in which most of our poor are trapped in.

The only thing this yellow regime and its cohorts know is ad hominem political discourse.

Aquino didn't sign climate-change document?

The revelation was buried deep into the article published Dec. 16 in the opinion pages of this newspaper by Rene Golongo, the business sector representative to the advisory board of the Climate Change Commission: That President Aquino had not signed our "pledge" to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris assembly of which was hailed as a historic one that could save the planet.

The pledge is technically called the "Intended Nationally Determined Contribution" (INDC) to the world's effort to stop global warming. Aquino had to sign the document, and not just issue an authorization for someone to sign it, as he was the chairman of the Climate Change Commission.

"For such a critically important international document outlining official commitment/s of the Republic, the Chairman's imprimatur should be required,"

Golongo pointed out.

Golongo also noted; "The Philippine INDC was submitted under the authorship of former Climate Change Commission Commissioner Lucille Sering (aided by Climate Change Office Deputy Executive Director Joy Goco). By sequence, Goco announced that Sering resigned her position in September 2015. Yet, a covering letter dated October 1st [attaching the INDC] submitted to the UNFCCC on its face was signed by Sering."

So could Sering sign the document and submit it, when she was no longer with the Climate Change Commission?

Golongo explained: "The Commission is composed of three Commissioners, plus the President of the Philippines as its Chairman; only the Chairman can call for a meeting of the Commission..." There is no showing of a Climate Change Commission en banc meeting convened for the purpose of approving the INDC, and authorizing its release and/or submission to the UNFCCC.

It would turn out to be a big embarrassment for the country, that we submitted a document for such a crucial initiative of mankind that wasn't signed by the head of the Philippine Republic. I even doubt that Aquino read the document.

No wonder it was such a naïve pledge, that we promised to reduce our CO2 emission by 70 percent by 2030. No other country was stupid enough to promise that much reduction, with our neighbors in Asia pledging at most only a 30 percent cut.

The only way we could, perhaps, achieve a 70 percent reduction is by banning all vehicles on EDSA and closing all factories in the country.

Such stupidity has been, anyway, the new normal for this Administration. tiglaomanilatimes@gmail.com
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KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

*Biggest criminals in RP
today*

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need..." (Ephesians 4:28, the Holy Bible).

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BIGGEST CRIMINALS IN RP TODAY: I know, from prophecies that have come true, that foreigners will lord it over native Filipinos in business and in politics, as shown by foreign businessmen becoming billionaires and owners of big and profitable companies in our country, and by those of foreign descent getting elected to even the highest government positions here.

Just look around everywhere in the Philippines today and the proof of the fulfillment of these prophecies will confront anyone who still entertains doubt about this matter. The prophecies, written thousands of years ago, have come true, and appear to continue to happen, with no one having the means to stop their further occurrence.

Yet, these prophecies are being fulfilled not only in the field of business and politics, but even in the commission of crimes. Undeniably, the biggest criminals in the Philippines nowadays are no longer Filipinos, but foreigners. Indeed, foreigners are drug lords, smuggling lords, gambling lords, and even prostitution lords, in our country. Wow. When will Filipinos ever wake up?

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OPERATORS, OWNERS OF PUV's LIABLE FOR ERRING DRIVERS: A statement attributed to Quezon City Councilor Bong Suntay by a morning radio commentator on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, claimed that operators and owners of taxi and passenger bus and jeepney units should not be held liable for the rude and criminal behavior of their drivers. Suntay in effect is saying only the erring drivers should be penalized for their bad behavior.

Does Suntay (who allegedly owned the taxi unit driven by a driver who badmouthed his lady passenger the other week) have any legal basis for his supposed claim? What is the law on the liability of operators and owners of public utility vehicles when their drivers commit crimes or discourtesy against their passengers, their fellow motorists, and even the public in general?

The rule, under the existing Public Service Law, requires the owners and operators to exercise "extra-ordinary diligence" in the selection and supervision of their employees, including (and most especially) their drivers and conductors. If the owners and operators fail to exercise this extra-ordinary diligence, they can be punished through a cancellation of their franchises, or the payment of damages or fines.

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REFRAINING FROM ANGER A MEANS TO STOP SINFULNESS: We are now in the third week of the first month of the new year, and yet many are already falling away from their resolutions to do good or better in the days ahead. Let me share with you some tried and tested rules to pursue what we set out to do at the start of 2016, that is to make things become better not only for ourselves but for our loved ones as well.

Let us strive to put off our old self, as well as our old minds and way of thinking. Instead, we should now put off falsehood, and speak truthfully to everyone, for we must believe that we are all members of one body---not separate and distinct from one another, but that we are parts of one body, one blood, and one spirit.

We must refrain from raging anger, for if we are angry, we are susceptible of sinning. Let us not allow the sun to set without our anger having been sorted out and clarified. Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing work with their own hands, so that not only will they be able to satisfy their needs but those of others.

-000-

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 (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.

MAGKASANGGA TAYO

Binay- Escudero Na!!!
Welcome P/SSupt. George Daskeo
Ang lokal na line-up ko sa ngayon!!!

BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO



Welcome P/SSupt. George Daskeo - Welcome sa ating bagong PNP City Director na si P/SSupt. George Daskeo. Ito pong si P/SSupt. Daskeo ay galing ng Kalinga as the former Chief of Police (COP) and now as the OIC PNP Baguio City Director. Ano kaya ang magiging style nitong si Col. Daskeo, siya kaya ay magiging isang magaling at kagalang-galang na hepe ng pulis ng Baguio,? Papalitan kaya ni Col. Daskeo ang kasalukuyan hepe ng Intel na si P/Supt. Lubos na kung ako ang tatanungin ay dapat na sigurong ma promote at ma-assign sa ibang assignment at hindi na sa intel, alam naman natin lahat mga dear readers that intel is short for intelligence at alam din natin na sobra-sobra na ang intelligensya este intelligence ni P/Supt. Lubos. Lubos-lubos na talaga at dapat siguro na kanya itong i-share sa mga ibang kulang ng intelligence, para ma dagdagan ng talino ang mga iba. Hi! Hi! Hi! . AGA AMO TAYON Intel Chief Lubos .

####

Binay- Escudero Na!!!- tunay na gaganda ang pamamalakad ng bansang Pilipinas kapag nagkaroon ng isang Binay-Escudero na kombinasyon. Ang dalawang ito ay mayroon solid na track record pag dating sa serbisyo publiko, subok na subok na sila sa kanilang kakayahan na pagandahin ang ating ekonomiya at mag hatid ng tunay na serbisyo publiko. Si VP Binay maganda ang puso para sa mga dukha at mga nognog at si Sen. Escudero naman ay isang magiting na fiscalizer, isang tunay na magandang kombinasyon. Pag-aralan po ninyong mabuti mga dear readers kung gugustuhin po ninyo ng isang presidente na walang wala POE na experience at track record o isang presidente na certified mamamatay-tao. Saan na tayo eh di kay VP Binay na, kahit na pinag bibintangan nilang nagsagawa siya ng korapsyon (ngunit wala naman napatunayan at panay panira lamang ni BAKLETONG -TRILLANES) ngunit subok naman na sa delivery of public services na kung tutuusin ay yuon ang pinaka mahalaga para sa masa. Kaya sa eleksyon sa Mayo-BINAY-ESCUADERO na tayo!!!

####

Ang lokal na line-up ko sa ngayon!!! - sa aking most humble opinion mga mahal na mamababasa ng kllum na ito, sa aking palagay ang mga sumusunod ang aking panalangin na lumabas at mag tagumpay sa darating na local elections. FOR TONGRESSMAN este CONGRESSMAN walang iba kung hindi si Apo Nicasio Aliping, ang dami na niyang natulungan at ang dami rin niyang mga proyekto na kung ating ikokompara sa mga nakaraang Tongressman este Congressman ay walang nakagawa as a neophyte Congressman. FOR MAYOR - walang iba kung hindi si Apo Morris Domogan, si Apo Morris ay tested and proven . FOR VICE MAYOR - walang iba kung hindi si Bro. Edison Bilog, madaling lapitan hindi tulad ng isang tumatakbo jan na kapag eleksyon ka lang nya kilala, subok na ipokrito na ang ale na yun. FOR CITY COUNCILORS ang ating majic 9 for now na line-up ay ang mga sumusunod - ORTEGA, DATUIN, OLOWAN, BALAJADIA, RON PEREZ, YARANON, UEDA, CABATO, MAZO. Hindi pa ako tapos sa assessment ko for the remaining 3 other Councilors at ating pinag aaralan pa ng mabuti.

More road projects expected

BAGUIO CITY - The city expects more road projects for prosecution this year as it stands to receive a bigger funding for infrastructure development.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said the city gets an annual allocation from the regular Dept. of Public Works and Highways infrastructure fund for the improvement of its roads and bridges.

He said it helps that the city has its own engineering district stationed to monitor the conditions of the city's infrastructures.

He said he was informed of a substantial increase in this year's allocation so it is expected that more projects will be implemented.

The mayor said this is a welcome development considering the city's need to repair and upgrade major arteries including Kennon Road, Naguilian Road and Marcos Highway and

Abrenian among topnotches in nursing board exam

BAGUIO CITY -- An Abrenian lass is among three Bexaminees who topped the November 2015 Nurse Licensure Examinations.

Alyssa May Bringas Madriaga of Poblacion East in Pidigan, Abra had a rating of 86.40% and tied with Alyssa Claire Anguren Almo of Remedios T. Romualdez Medical Foundation in Tacloban City and Suha Canlas Hassan Magdy Mohammed Ibrahim of the Pamantasan Ng Lungsod Ng Maynila as Top 1 in the recently released nursing board exam.

Madriaga finished her Bachelor Science in Nursing at the University of Santo Tomas.

Meanwhile, Saint Louis University in Baguio City has nine examinees in the Top 10 namely Pamela Baltazar Doctor -Top 3; Frances Jenicah Cuilan Fianza and Gizelle Anne Dacquel Juico -Top 5; Darianne Montesa Jimenez - Top 6; Diane Bondoc Colcol - Top 7; John Ardy Hagad Redondo and Gehla Dana Marie Bonao Tumanan - Top 8; Justine Mae Manaois Gervero - Top 9 and Princess Maureen Aclera Quinsay - Top 10.

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) announced that 9,114 out of 18,500 passed the Nurse Licensure Examination given by the Board of Nursing in the cities of Manila, Bacolod, Baguio, Cabanatuan, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Dagupan, Davao, Iloilo, Laoag, Legazpi, Lucena, Pagadian, Tacloban, Tuguegarao and Zamboanga last November 2015.

SLU also remained as one of the top performing schools nationwide in the November 2015 Nurse Board Exams. Its 98.06 percentage rating with 253 passers out of the 258 examinees placed it in third spot.

The University of Santo Tomas, Mariano Marcos State University-Batac and Xavier University are the number 1 performing schools with 100% passing rate followed by Cebu Doctors University in the Top 2.

Successful examinees should personally register and sign in the Roster of Registered Professionals. /JDP/RMC-PIA CAR

233 Kalinga former rebels provided PhilHealth coverage in 2015

TABUK CITY, Kalinga - - Two hundred thirty three former rebels in the province enjoyed primary health care in 2015 through their enrollment with the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth).

PhilHealth-Kalinga Head Rommel Aranca reported this is a joint undertaking of the Office of Presidential Adviser on Peace Process (OPAPP), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Department of Health (DOH).

OPAPP and DSWD conducted the social assessment and prepared list of qualified applicants while DOH provided the annual premium of more than P559, 000. Aranca said.

Former rebels are among the marginalized sectors targeted to be provided quality health care under President Benigno S. Aquino III's Kalusugang Pangkalahatan or Universal Health Care Program where every Filipino should be provided access to primary health care through enrolment with PhilHealth.

The health care is on top of other assistance provided by the government to former rebels that include livelihood and education. /JDP/LL-PIA CAR, Kalinga

other national roads.

The mayor said the budget will also include the repair and improvement of some of the city's bridges and river flood protection projects.

The DPWH appropriates fund through legislation based on the medium-term infrastructure program which has to undergo review and approval by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA).

Immediately after the NEDA Board approves the annual infrastructure program, the Dept. of Budget and Management issues the Advices of Allotment for the projects in the program for implementation and release of the funding./A Refuerzo

Comelec iterates calendar of activities and prohibited acts for 2016 election

LAGAWE, Ifugao - - The Provincial Election Supervisor (PES) distributed to the different municipalities the Calendar of Activities and Prohibited Acts for the 2016 National and Local Election for the information of the public.

PES Ricardo Bulintao said this is important for the public to know so that they can responsibly and meaningfully participate in the electoral process guided by the schedule of activities and the prohibited acts to ensure an orderly, peaceful, clean and credible election.

January 10 to June 8, 2016 is the Election Period. Prohibited acts include the transfer officers and employees in the civil service under the Omnibus Election Code including the bearing, carrying or transporting firearms or other deadly weapons unless authorized in writing by the Commission on Election (COMELEC).

It is also prohibited during this period the use of security personnel or bodyguards by candidates unless authorized by the COMELEC. Likewise the organization or maintenance of reaction forces, strike forces or other similar forces and the suspension of elective local officials.

Certified list of voters will be posted on February 9.

February 9 to May 7, 2016 will be the campaign period for candidates for President, Vice President, and Senator and Party-list groups participating in the party-list system of representation.

From February 9 to May 9, 2016, giving of donations or gifts in cash or in kind including the appointment or use of special policemen, confidential agents and the like are prohibited.

March 7, 2016 will be the last day to file application to avail of local absentee voting and on March 10 is the last day for the Committee on Local Absentee Voting (CLAV) to receive application forms for local absentee voting.

From March 25 to May 7, 2016 will be the campaign period for candidates for Members of the House of Representatives and elective regional, provincial, city and municipal officials.

Campaigning is prohibited on March 24 and March 25 which are Holy Thursday and Good Friday respectively.

From March 25 to May 8, 2016, it is unlawful for the appointment or hiring of new employees, creation or filling up of new positions, promotion or giving of salary increases, remuneration or privileges including the construction of public works, delivery of materials for public works and issuance of treasury warrants or similar devises for a future undertaking chargeable against public funds and the release, disbursement or expenditures of public funds.

April 9 to May 9, 2016 will be the casting of votes by overseas workers and campaigning abroad is prohibited. April 15 is the last day to verify whether the applicant for local absentee voting is eligible to vote as local absentee voter.

May 2 to May 6, 2016 will be the testing and sealing of the OMRs or VCMs.

On the eve of May 8, 2016 until the Election Day on May 9, campaigning is prohibited. Likewise the selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving or taking intoxicating liquor and the giving, accepting, free transportation, food or drinks or things of value.

May 9, 2016 is the Election Day for the casting of votes and thereafter the counting and consolidation of votes.

Also prohibited on May 9 are voting more than once or in substitution of another, soliciting votes or undertaking any propaganda for or against any candidate or any political party within the polling place or within 30 meters thereof, opening of booths or stalls for the sale of merchandise or refreshments within a radius of 30 meters from the polling place and the holding of fairs, cockfights, boxing, horse racing or any form of gambling.

May 13 to May 15 will be the canvass of the results and proclamation of the winners for Senatorial, congressional, party-list, regional and provincial elections./DBC-PIA CAR, Ifugao

Tourist transport group organized in Benguet

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - -With transport considered a key element in the tourism industry, the advent of organized tourism transport group may make travelling more reliable and convenient in the province.

A tourism transport group called Benguet Tourism Transport Organization, Inc. (BTTO) was recently established with members composed of operators, drivers, and other interested individuals aimed to promote tourism in the province and other Cordilleran tourism destinations. It started.

Accredited by the Department of Tourism as tourism transport organization, it started operation this month, the BTTO Chair of the Board of Trustees Atty. Juan M. Nazarro, Jr. said.

A basic requirement for accreditation is brand new vehicle such as van to be used for a period of five years only, according to Nazarro. They also secure franchise.

Provincial Tourism Operations Officer Clarita Prudencio said BTTO frontliners such as drivers and operators must undergo training in cooperation with the DOT-CAR to equip them with relevant information and background on tourist sites and places of interests as well as on proper grooming and courtesy.

Activities and development of the organization will be regularly monitored according to Prudencio. The provincial government will also extend assistance through trainings and promotions, she added.

With the establishment of the first organized transport group in the province, Nazarro hopes other transport groups will follow suit and legalize their service for the safety and convenience of tourists. /JDP/SCA-PIA CAR, Benguet

11-Million building...

from page 1

Also present are MRR Queen of Peace Barangay Captain Catherine Quiñones, 3K Rock Construction Representative Atty. Vandolph Ngipol who turned over the symbolic key to PCNHS principal Leticia Sab-it.

The final 6 rooms and other amenities of the new building was sourced out from DepEd School Building funds facilitated by Baguio Congressman Nicasio M. Aliping, Jr. It was added to the old building with 3 classrooms initially funded by the City Government under Mayor Mauricio Domogan. Aside from the classrooms, additional rooms for offices and toilets were added. It was constructed by 3-K Rock Construction.

Guest speaker Elma Donaál narrated how PCNHS rose from the ashes after the earthquake that devastated Baguio in 1990. Donaál was the assigned principal after the earthquake fell most of the school buildings.

Thanking the people behind the construction of the new building, the contractor 3K Rock construction, Engr. Alex Castaneda and Congressman Aliping for facilitating the budget, she dedicated her speech to the young students who she said were luckier than the earlier students of the school. "After the earthquake, our students had to study in make-shift tents and they have to raise their feet everytime it rains," she said.

She finished here statements by asking the teachers and students to use the facilities well and to care for it for the future generations./Carl C. Taawan

mentation Division chief Rachel Bugtong and School Governance & Operations Chief Elma Donaál.

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Guest speaker Elma Donaál narrated how PCNHS rose from the ashes after the earthquake that devastated Baguio

Mainly dry CAR, Ilocos conditions 'till next week

MANILA - Dry soil condition will likely prevail in Ilocos Region and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) until next week.

Latest forecast of State weather and climate authority Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) show an average zero to three rainy days are likely there during the 10-day period ending next Wednesday (Jan. 20).

PAGASA forecast for such period zero to 50 mm of rainfall in Ilocos.

Between zero to 25 mm of rainfall is likely in CAR then, PAGASA continued.

According to PAGASA, Ilocos and CAR can expect only light rains during the period.

Ilocos' irrigated rice in its vegetative and flowering stages while standing vegetable crops there are in the vegetative stage, noted PAGASA.

In CAR, PAGASA said agricultural activities in progress are harvesting and watering of various vegetables.

"Strong El Nino condition is on-going in eastern and central equatorial Pacific," PAGASA noted in its forecast.

The drought-driving El Nino already affecting the Philippines may last until mid-2016, PAGASA already warned.

For January 2016, PAGASA expects neither dry spell nor drought in Ilocos and CAR.

Expected number of dry days in both regions this January can reach 26 days to 31 days, PAGASA added./ (PNA) FPV/CJT/EDS

Cayetano to lead veto...

from page 2

In his veto message, Aquino explained that the stability of the entire benefit system will be 'seriously compromised' if the proposed pension hike is implemented.

Cayetano, however, said Aquino's fear was based on wrong assumptions. The senator explained that the SSS should institutionalize long overdue reforms like increasing its rate of contribution collections and expanding its investment reserves.

Cayetano said if elected in the 2016 polls, he and his running mate, presidential candidate and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte will prioritize the pension hike of SSS members and look into the Government Service and Insurance System (GSIS) and Pagibig to upgrade and improve welfare of members and also exempt workers earning 20,000 pesos and below from income taxes.

"Ang kailangan ng mamamayan ay tunay na pagbabago na nakabatay sa matapang na solusyon at mabilis na aksyon. As part of our platform to promote equality under the law and genuine inclusive growth, we will work to substantially increase the people's benefits to give them a better quality of life. We will provide the working people with a living wage and guarantee that the government promotes the welfare of the population through sustainable assistance measures," Cayetano concluded./office of Senator Alan Peter Cayetano

in 1990. Donaál was the assigned principal after the earthquake fell most of the school buildings.

Thanking the people behind the construction of the new building, the contractor 3K Rock construction, Engr. Alex Castaneda and Congressman Aliping for facilitating the budget, she dedicated her speech to the young students who she said were luckier than the earlier students of the school. "After the earthquake, our students had to study in make-shift tents and they have to raise their feet everytime it rains," she said.

She finished here statements by asking the teachers and students to use the facilities well and to care for it for the future generations./Carl C. Taawan



A young Ibaloi of Benguet prepares a native food called "pinuneg", the Cordillera version of blood sausage, which is made up of pig's blood, large intestine, and spices

COMELEC-Kalinga reminds police to observe courtesy in gun ban implementation

TABUK CITY, Kalinga - With the start of the gun ban last January 10 for the May 2016 elections, Provincial Election Supervisor Dexter Bary Cawis reminds police officers inspecting motorists and public utility vehicles to observe high courtesy and be guided by the "plain view principle".

Cawis reported that all police station commanders in the province were issued COMELEC guidelines on the ban during the January 5 command conference at the provincial police command office here.

The police put-up check points on designated areas for the gun ban inspection.

Cawis asked police field commanders to closely coordinate with municipal election officers for the smooth implementation of the gun ban.

In line with the gun ban, there is temporary suspension of permit- to- carry guns that were issued to gun holders, however, COMELEC head office can issue exemption to the gun ban to some applicants as provided by law, Cawis said.

Only law enforcers in full uniform and who are on official duty shall be allowed to carry firearms outside of residence.

Cawis appealed for cooperation during police inspections explaining that the gun ban is part of COMELEC measures to ensure peaceful and orderly conduct of the May 9 synchronized elections.

Aside from the gun ban, prohibited acts during the election period from January 10-June 8, 2016 include use of security personnel or bodyguards by candidates unless allowed by the poll body, the organization or maintenance of reaction forces, strike forces or other similar forces, transfer or movement of government employees, and suspension of elective local officials./JDP/LL-PIA CAR, Kalinga

FEATURE

ALONG WITH MAMASAPANO, SENATE SHOULD ALSO INVESTIGATE THIS

Roxas squarely responsible for MRT-3 mess

It is President Benigno S. Aquino's criminal negligence that resulted in 44 police commandos massacred; that should convince us never, never again to have such kind of yellow leadership, especially that of a haciendero scion.

It is the criminal mismanagement by his candidate, Manuel Roxas 2nd, of the main mass transport system of Metro Manila that has made the MRT-3 a daily hell for hundreds of thousands of commuters. That should be enough to convince every Filipino never ever again to vote into any position of power anybody from the yellow cult, especially a haciendero scion.

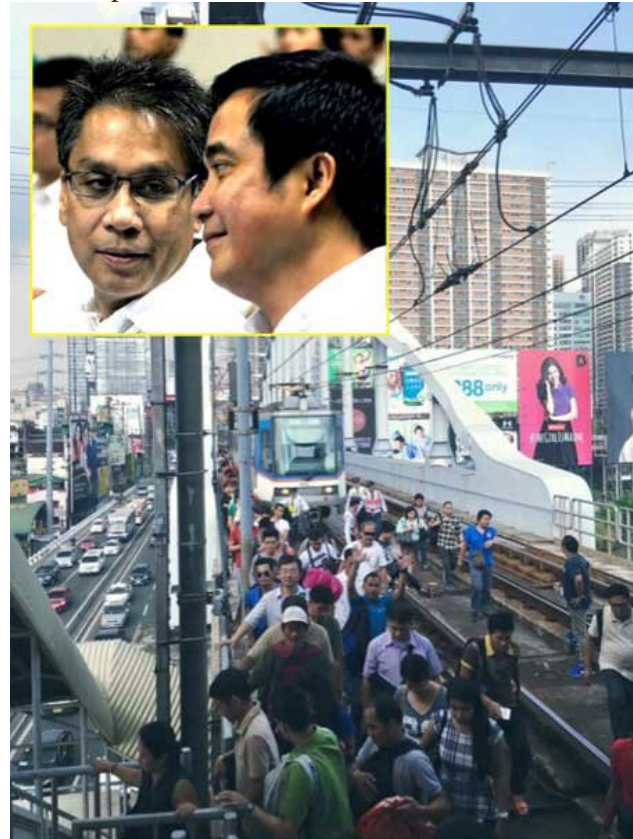
Consider the facts and tell me if I am exaggerating.

For 10 years after MRT3 started operations, the Japanese firm Sumitomo Corp. maintained the system under a contract with Metro Rail Transit Corp. (MRTC), the MRT-3 builder. The train was so efficient that Sumitomo would boast about MRT-3 in its sales pitch for bidding for similar projects around the world.

Sumitomo's contract expired July 2010, and was renewed on a six-month basis only, but for four times by the MRTC, subject to DOTC's approval. MRTC chairman Robert Sobrepeña told this writer that Sumitomo was in a bind – it required a longer time frame, so it would estimate how much of maintenance inventory it needed to keep, which actually cost half of its more than \$1 million monthly contract. Sobrepeña and Sumitomo continually wrote letters to the DOTC to request a bidding for a longer-term contract. "We got absolutely no reply," he said.

In the letter of DOTC Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya published in response to columnist Jarius Bondoc's well-researched exposes, the secretary wrote:

"On 4 October 2012, the MRTC wrote the DOTC, informing the latter that it would no longer procure a maintenance service contractor once Sumitomo's contract would expire (sic) on 19 October 2012.



Another day, another aberya: Passengers getting off the MRT-3 that conked out between stations. Inset: The two Liberal Party bigwigs responsible.

Given the short period of time left before said contract would expire, the DOTC resorted to a simplified bidding process in line with the Procurement Law (Republic Act No. 9184) beginning in the first week of October 2012."

Abaya lying

Abaya was lying so the blame would be on MRTC, that it suddenly stopped Sumitomo's contract.

It was the DOTC's MRT-3 General Manager Al Vitangcol who told the MRTC in early September that it would no longer agree to extend Sumitomo's contract.

The DOTC officially informed the MRTC on October 4 that Sumitomo's contract would not be extended. It then scheduled a bidding in two weeks, a "simplified" one, which involved simply the submission of bids, and for government to negotiate with what it felt was the best bidder. It justified this by claiming it was an emergency move taken in order to prevent, to quote its letter, "a stoppage of MRT-3's operations, which would have severely disrupted the daily transportation needs of its close to 600,000 riders."

That was the start of MRT-3's deterioration.

Note that all this time, when a proper bidding could have been undertaken and bidders given all the time to prepare for it – two years after Sumitomo's contract expired July 2010 – the head of the DOTC, the Cabinet member in charge of this crucial mass transit system, was Roxas.

Totally unexpected however – although conspiracy theorists allege another scenario – was the death of DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo Aug. 18, with Aquino announcing Aug. 31, 2012 that Roxas would replace him.

However, Roxas assumed his DILG post only Oct. 19, the day the Sumitomo contract expired, and an obscure PH Trams-CB&T, was designated winner of the simplified bidding.

PH Trams-CB&T was a brand new company only two months old, and had a subscribed capitalization of only P2.5 million, or equivalent to only a 120th part of the P300 million cost of the MRT-3 maintenance contract it was given.

One of its six investors was known in Pangasinan province as a Liberal Party financial supporter – Wilson de Vera. He had been accused by the Czech ambassador of attempting in July 2012 to extort \$30 million from the Czech company Inekon in exchange for winning the contract to supply MRT-3 its train cars.

On Dec. 15, the Ombudsman filed charges against Vitangcol, who signed the contract for MRT-3 and all of PH Trams incorporators for corruption involving the contract's award. That's another case why I question the Ombudsman's integrity: Why weren't Vitangcol's bosses, first Roxas, and then Abaya, charged?

Why did Roxas drag his feet for a month-and-a-half to leave his DOTC post Oct. 19, even if Aquino had appointed him to the DILG post Aug. 31? Is this a huge coincidence that Oct. 19 was after the PH Trams closed the contract with MRT-3?

Am I too biased to suspect that Roxas was a securista, that he wanted to make sure that his two-year plot to get a favored contractor in place before he stepped down pushed through? Was it even a better scenario for him that his apparently witless lackey, Abaya, and Vitangcol signed the contract papers and, therefore, would be accountable if the scheme was exposed?

What these morons did not realize, though, was that Sumitomo's maintenance contract was not as profitable as it seemed. Half of the contract price was the cost of inventory for the MRT-3's parts, which were expensive because many of them were precision-engineered and of the highest-quality steel.

What the idiots didn't know

What these idiots did not know was the typical Japanese business model that is so different from the Americans. Japanese companies have a longer-term strategy, so that

Tuba officials seek assistance for completion of CBMS

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet, - Recognizing the relevance of the data generated utilizing the system in evaluating impact of policies, plans, program and projects carried out at the local level, officials of Tuba municipality seek technical and financial assistance from the provincial government for the completion of the second round of the conduct of Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS).

Tuba officials authorized Mayor Florencio Bentre to forge a Memorandum of Agreement with the provincial government for the completion of another round of the conduct of CBMS.

The CBMS is a tool designed to generate information and data disaggregated down to the household level.

As can be recalled, the provincial government in partnership with the 13 municipalities undertook the first province-wide CBMS census in 2009 of which the results are part of the national repository.

The results then were used primarily in monitoring the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and in analyzing the poverty situation in the province.

The data generated was also used as input in the preparation of the Comprehensive Development Plans of the municipalities.

Tuba LGU together with other municipalities such as Kabayan and Kapangan took the initiative to conduct the second round of the CBMS census in their respective areas, and are requesting for technical and financial assistance to implement the remaining CBMS modules as designed.

The results will be used in updating relevant data for policy makers./JDP/SCA-PIA-CAR, Benguet

they agree to the smallest margins, as long as their reputation is built up for more and bigger projects. Its MRT-3 maintenance contract barely made a profit, but Sumitomo used the rail's efficiency as a sample of its expertise in light rail building.

Indeed, Sumitomo has built up a reputation as one of the best light-rail builders in the world, with its latest projects being the \$500 million contract signed in 2012 to build Vietnam's first urban rail system and a \$398 million supply contract for Chicago Metra' commuter rail cars.

Trying to scrimp on cost as much as it could from its contract, PH Trams didn't build up a stock of spare parts that it had to cannibalize its other cars for the required parts. The result: the number of cars running at present stands at 14 at the most, down sharply from 70 when Sumitomo was running MRT-3.

Without replacements, the trains' steel wheels have also become squeezed into ovals so that now these have to run slower or they would be derailed. With maintenance becoming so messed up, MRT-3 trains have been stopping at mid-stations, are so few, or run so slowly.

But Abaya may not really be the person he may think he is, since he appears so "what-me-worry?" confident even if it has become obvious to many that he messed up MRT-3, that it is an accident waiting to happen.

On Christmas eve, Abaya awarded a new P4 billion contract to a Korean-Filipino consortium consisting of Busan Transportation Corp., Edison Development & Construction, Tramarc Mercantile Inc., TMCI Corp Inc., and Castan Corp. As what happened during Roxas' time, Abaya claimed there was an emergency situation so that the "winner" of the bid was determined through negotiations.

Roxas, when he was about to assume the six-year term of the top DOTC post, awarded only six-month contracts for the MRT-3. Abaya – who is also the Liberal Party president, by the way – having only less than six months to go before he leaves the DOTC as its secretary, signs a contract for three years, i.e., until 2018, long after he is gone. I think Abaya turns out to be more clever than Roxas.

If the Senate is reinvestigating the Mamasapano massacre, they might as well investigate the MRT-3 mess, which could, if uncorrected, lead to accidents killing more than those murdered by the Moro insurgents in Mamasapano./tiglaomanilatimes@gmail.com

Republic of the
Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL
COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
Branch 59

ADDITIONAL
FAMILY COURT OF
BAGUIO CITY

IN THE MATTER
OF THE ADOPTION
OF ZACHERY JUR-
VEY TAGUDAR
VILLANUEVA,
AND CHANGE OF
HIS NAME IN HIS
CERTIFICATE OF
LIVE BIRTH FROM
ZACHERY JURVEY
TAGUDAR VILLAN-
UEVA TO ZACHERY
JURVEY VILLAN-
UEVA DREU,

SPS FRANCISCO
D. DREU JR. AND
MICIELLO GRACE
V. DREU,

Petitioners,

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL
REGISTRAR OF BA-
GUIO CITY Herein
represented by SYL-
VIA R. LAUDENCIA
and JOSEPH SOLIVA
BUMACAS,

Respondents.

X-----X

**SPEC PRO No. 482A
FOR: ADOPTION**

ORDER

The petitioner-spouses
Francisco D. Dreu Jr. and
Miciello Grace V. Dreu
filed this verified petition
praying that after notice,
publication and hearing,
the Court shall issue a
Decree of Adoption:

a. Declaring Zachery
Jurvey Villanueva, for
all legal intents and
purposes, as the child
of petitioners, who shall
be thereafter known as
Zachery Jurvey Villan-

ueva Dreu; and
b. Ordering the
Local Civil Registrar of
Baguio City to issue an
amended birth certifi-
cate of Zachery Jurvey
Villanueva as the child of
the petitioners pursuant
to R.A. 8552.

Finding the petition to
be sufficient in form and
substance, let the same be
heard before the Regional
Trial Court, Branch 59,
Baguio City on June 13,
2016 at 10:15 o'clock in
the morning, at which
place, date and time, the
petitioners shall prove
their case. Any person
interested may appear
and show cause, if any
there be, why the petition
should not be granted.

Let a copy of this
Order be published at
the expense of the peti-
tioners in The Junction,
a newspaper of general
circulation in the City
of Baguio and Benguet
province once a week
for three (3) consecutive
weeks.

The petitioner-spous-
es are directed to make
an appointment with
the Court Social Worker
for the purpose of con-
duction the required
case study on the minor
ZACHERY JURVEY VIL-
LANUEVA. The Court
Social Worker is required
to submit to the Court the
case study not later than
June 13, 2016.

Furnish a copy of this
Order to the last known
address of Joseph Soliva
Bumacas at number 73
Palma Steet, Baguio City.
SO ORDERED.

D O N E I N
CHAMBERS, this 5th of
January 2016 at Baguio
City Philippines.

(SGD) IVAN KIM B.
MORALES
Judge

Publication Dates:
January 9, 16 and 23,
2016

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT /PARTITION OF THE ESTATE OF PURIFICACION A. SORIANO

That an Extrajudicial Settle-
ment /Partition of the Estate of
the late Purificacion A. Soriano
who died intestate on April 21,
2015 at Baguio City was extraju-
dicially settled and partitioned by
her heirs on November 15, 2015
before Notary Public Louella Xy-
lee T. Apilado and entered in to
her notarial registry as doc. 389,
page 79, book 5, series of 2015.

Publication Dates: January 16, 23,
and 30, 2016

Passing BBL is not about SPES registration begins politics, official says

BAGUIO CITY - - The Basic Law for the
Bangsamoro region is not about politics
but an answer to the long wait of the Bang-
samoro people to their right to self-deter-
mination and peaceful living.

This was stressed by Atty. Armi Beatriz
Bayot of the Office of Solicitor General and
member of the legal team of the negotiating
panel of the peace talk with the Moro Islamic
Liberation Front (MILF) during kapihan
media forum here on Friday.

Bayot explained that the Bangsamoro
people have been waiting for decades to
properly exercise their right to self - deter-
mination. At the same time, the Bangsamoro
Basic Law (BBL) can open ways for progress
and peaceful living in the region.

The passing of BBL will be a milestone as
it will lead to the decommissioning of arms
and combatants of the MILF and will end the
militarized nature of Mindanao towards the
attainment of peaceful living in the region
that will lead to progress and development,
Bayot added.

Regarding the presence of other armed
groups in the region, she explained that
under the normalization annex of the BBL,
both the national government and the Bang-
samoro will be committed to address peace
and order concern through a joint security
force.

She also clarified that after passing the
law, there is still a long process which will
include a plebiscite to determine what areas
will compose the Bangsamoro region and
for the formation of the Bangsamoro gov-
ernment.

Bayot expressed the government's hope
that both the House of Congress will find
time to address the conflicting provisions
and harmonize their respective version of
the bill so they can pass the BBL Law within
the administration of President Benigno
Aquino III.

The BBL is still pending in Congress.

Baguio City Congressman Nicasio Aliping
Jr., in the same forum, expressed his support
for the passing of the Basic Law for the Bang-
samoro Region.

"We owe it to the Bangsamoro people and
I do not see any problem why both Houses of
Congress cannot pass it within this admin-
istration. What the House of Representa-
tives and Senate need is to have a bicameral
session to synchronize each House's version
and address the conflicting provisions,"
Aliping said.

He also stressed that if the BBL is passed,
the Cordillera Administrative Region can
adopt some of its provisions for the proposed
bill for Cordillera autonomy.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution provides
for the creation of autonomous region in
Muslim Mindanao and Cordillera because of
their unique historical and cultural heritage
as well as the need for progress and develop-
ment in some parts of both regions.

The kapihan media forum was part of the
information campaign of the government to
increase the awareness and understanding of
every Filipino on what is the BBL and why it
is important to be enacted into a law./JDP/
CCD - PIA CAR

SPES registration begins

BAGUIO CITY - The Special Program
for the Employment of Students (SPES)
opened last Monday, to accept registration of
students at the Public Employment Services
office (PESO) at the Baguio City Hall.

The registration for both high school and
college students started Jan. 11 until Feb. 29,
2016 from 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M., from Mondays
thru Fridays.

"This year's program will be held in two
tranches, high school students' work period
will begin in April to May while the tertia-
ry-level students will begin in June," said
PESO Baguio manager Jose Atanacio.

Interested students must be bona-fide
Baguio residents, physically fit, 15-25 years
old at the time of registration, currently
enrolled or a student who has not been able
to enroll for the past semester/academic
year but is intending to enroll this coming
semester/academic year, have garnered an
average passing grade during the last school
term attended, and must belong to families
whose parents' or guardians' joint incomes
do not exceed P116,898 per year after tax
deductions.

Documents needed include original copy
of birth certificate issued by the Philippine
Statistics Authority (formerly NSO) or by the
Local Civil Registrar, original copy of parents'
or guardians' most recent Income Tax Return
forms or a Certificate of Tax Exemption
issued by the BIR if they are exempted from
paying taxes.

High school students must present last
year's grades while college and vocational
students must present recent grades from
the first semester of academic year 2016.

The documents must be photocopied
before submitting the same at the PESO.

Also, former SPES grantees who wish to
avail of the program must also register per-
sonally at the PESO during the specified reg-
istration period and they must bring their
SPES identification cards.

"There are 350 slots available under the
program on a first-come first-served basis,
thus, an examination for all new registered
applicants will be held on March 6 at the
Doña Josefa Elementary School," stressed
Atanacio.

The SPES is mandated under Republic Act
No. 9547 otherwise known as an act to help
poor but deserving students pursue their
education by encouraging their employment
during summer and/or Christmas vacations,
through incentives granted to employers,
allowing them to pay only sixty per centum
of their salaries or wages and the forty per
centum through education vouchers to be
paid by the government, prohibiting and
penalizing the filing of fraudulent and ficti-
tious claims, and for other purposes.

Said program is intended to qualified
students in order to develop the intellectual
capacities of children of poor families and
harness their potentials for the country's
well being. Specifically, the Program aims to
help poor but deserving students pursue their
education by providing income or augment
their income through encouraging their
employment.

For updates, interested applicants may visit
SPES Baguio Facebook Account or visit the
PESOffice personally. /Jho Arranz

Kabayan community learns pyrite stone craft making

LA TRINIDAD Benguet, - - The pyrite
stone craft may soon be an entrepreneurial
endeavor of the Kabayan Barrio community
in Kabayan municipality while responsibly
developing their local resources.

Pyrite locally known as "tangkiyal" is a
common stone in Kabayan Barrio. Also
known as fool's gold, Pyrite's metallic luster
and pale brass-yellow hue resemble that of
gold.

The art of packaging pyrite stone as a
novelty item is taught among residents of the
community. The training is funded under
the National Commission on Culture and
the Arts, according to Provincial Tourism
Operations Officer Clarita Prudence.

It will culminate on February 2 with a
program in Kahayan Barrio and the induction
of Kebayan Tourism Culture and the Arts
Council. Governor Nestor Fongwan and
NCCA officials are expected to grace the
event.

The NCCA funds projects which impact on
the culture and arts. It also provides venue
for the different regions to articulate their
local culture and development concerns./JDP/
SCA-PIA CAR, Benguet

Ifugao town cited as most competitive municipality in CAR

LAGAWÉ, Ifugao - 2015 was another
fruitful year for this capital town in terms
of good governance as it was cited as the most
competitive municipality under the 3rd to
6th class category in the Cordillera Admin-
istrative Region.

The municipality of Lagawe was ranked
number one in the Cordillera Region and
number 17 nationwide in the just concluded
2015 Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness
Index (CMCI) joined by 515 munici-
palities.

The National Competitiveness Council
(NCC) conducted an assessment to more
than 1,000 LGUs nationwide under 1st to
2nd class and 3rd to 6th categories. This aims
to improve the Philippines' standing in inter-
national competitiveness rankings and move
the country from the bottom third to the top
third tier by 2016.

The CMCI is an annual ranking of Phil-
ippine cities and municipalities developed
by the National Competitiveness Council
through the Regional Competitiveness
Committees (RCCs) with the assistance of
the United States Agency for International
Development.

It is a program which encourages LGUs
to gather and voluntarily submit data which
are used to measure their performance on
three pillars anchored on global standards:
economic dynamism, government efficiency,
and infrastructure.

"Congratulations to all our stakeholders
and partners in the government and private
sectors for your unending cooperation and
support," the LGU-Lagawe stated.

The municipality also received the Early
Bird LGU Award. (JDP/MBL-PIA CAR,
Ifugao with report from Lynette Abuan/
LGU Lagawe)

Duterte-Cayetano will not allow country to become "Asia's Mexico," to go after local "El Chapos"

Presidential contender and Davao City Mayor Rodrigo "Rody" Duterte said the country has no place for "El Chapos" as he reiterated his commitment to fight the problem of illegal drugs, magnified by international drug cartels operating in the country.

"El Chapo" is the alias of the dreaded Mexican drug lord Joaquin Guzman, leader of the Sinaloa drug cartel, who was recaptured on January 8 of this year after six months on the run following his escape from a Mexican prison.

"I will wipe out illegal drugs in 3-6 months. I will not allow our country to become Asia's Mexico. We will not become a narco-state," said Duterte who explained that the country's drug problem has become a national security issue.

Duterte's Vice President, Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano, added that he and Duterte have a comprehensive plan and strategy as well as the political will to win the war against illegal

drugs. "With the help of the people, we will end the reign of drug lords and make our streets safe again for our people," he said.

On January 2015, Horacio Hernandez, a Mexican national suspected to be part of Guzman's drug cartel, was arrested by the PNP's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operation Task Force and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Makati City after selling P12 million worth of cocaine to undercover agents.

Last Tuesday, around P180 million worth of suspected "shabu" or methamphetamine hydrochloride were seized in Valenzuela City from two Chinese-Filipino men, both believed to be members of the "Asia Drug Network," an international drug network operating in China, Philippines and Hongkong.

Duterte said the country's crime situation, particularly drug trafficking, has become so dire that no less than bold solutions and swift actions are necessary to end this debacle.

"We will not allow our country to become a Narco State like some countries in Latin America. We will reclaim our streets from the drug lords and criminals who have made them unsafe. We will bring the war to their doorsteps. If they want to play rough, I will redefine to them the meaning of 'rough,'" Duterte said, referring to criminals and drug syndicates.

Cayetano said that 92 percent of barangays in the National Capital Region (NCR) are infiltrated with drugs. He also said that 50 percent of those in jail are because of drug-related cases.

Cayetano said if elected, he and Duterte will round up the big-time drug lords of the country, local and international alike, by combining the elements of the military and the police and modernizing their crime-fighting strategies such as creating a national anti-crime hotline number similar to Davao's 911 emergency hotline. / *Office of Senator Alan Peter Cayetano*



Congressman Aliping seen personally checking the installation of the Athletic Bowl Tartan track. / *Carl C. Taawan*

Police Cordillera gears up for peaceful and orderly elections

LA TRINIDA, Benguet, - With the start of the election period, the Police Regional Office - Cordillera (PRO-Cor) gears up its preparation to have an honest, orderly, peaceful, and credible national and local elections on May 9, 2016.

The Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines set up checkpoints under the supervision of the Commission on Election (Comelec) as part of security precautions.

Comelec checkpoints manned by local police are set up in every city and town to implement the gun ban which took effect last January 10 until June 8 and

to prevent election-related violence.

PC/Supt. Ulysses Abellera, PRO-Cor regional director, stressed that only visual search of the vehicle is allowed at the checkpoints. The officer on duty simply looks into the vehicle and flashes light in there without opening the car's door.

During the election period, the law provides that no person shall bear, carry or transport firearms or other deadly weapons in public places, including any building, street, park, private vehicle or public conveyance, even if licensed to possess or carry the same, unless authorized in writing by the Comelec.

Abellera disclosed that

the province of Abra will be the main focus of the police with its history of violence especially during elections.

"We have lined up several activities for voters education and peace forum in Abra to end the culture of violence," Abellera said. These will be done in cooperation with the various government offices and the private sectors to advocate the peace movement to achieve a zero casualty during the election period in the province.

He added that the police will be ready to prevent election related incidents like ballot snatching which occurred in the last elections in other provinces. / *JDP/JBZ-PIA CAR*

Spring festival launching January 25

BAGUIO CITY - The Baguio Spring Festival or Chinese Lunar New Year celebration will kick off here on January 25, 8 a.m. at the City Hall grounds.

A line-up of activities prepared by the city government and the Baguio Filipino-Chinese Community will be launched during the program to be graced by Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Rep. Nicasio Aliping Jr.

Executive committee chair Kane Chanbonpin will open the program while adviser and parade chair Peter Ng

will present the committee members.

Lawyer Cristeta Leung will talk on the significance of the celebration.

A cultural dance presentation will be rendered by the Baguio Patriotic High School Chinese Faculty to be followed by a trivia to be facilitated by Pepito Avena, head secretariat of the committee.

The Spring Festival is considered the grandest and the most important annual event for Chinese people. This year, Year of the Monkey

according to Chinese zodiac, the Chinese New Year falls on February 8.

The city's celebration proper will be marked mainly by a gift-sharing program at the Bell Church grounds.

Highlights of the activities include a media briefing on February 3 6:30 p.m. at the Hotel Supreme, barangay gift-giving on February 5 at Dontogan barangay and the awaited grand colorful parade, 2:30 p.m. at Session Road with program at Melvin Jones and dinner and awards night 7 p.m. at Hotel Supreme. / *A Refuerzo*

Kidney patient pleads for help

BAGUIO CITY - A kidney patient has sounded SOS anew to augment his resources to sustain his twice-a-week hemodialysis.

Cedric Waig, 55 of Camp 7, a former construction laborer who was forced to quit his back-breaking job after being diagnosed with a chronic kidney disease, appealed anew to Samaritans for assistance to tide him over the costly kidney cleansing procedure.

His wife Margarita said they only depend on the meager income of their two sons who also do construction works for their daily needs but there is no spare amount for his husband's treatment and medicines.

She said their relatives extend help from time to time but it is limited since they too have their own families to support.

"(Mr. Waig's) is a case of a client who was afflicted with an ailment that upsets

the family financially and emotionally. The family members are supportive of each other and they are doing all means to meet the medical expenses of the client but they financially incapable thus, they seek assistance from welfare agencies," the office of the city social welfare and development noted of his case.

Those willing to help the family may contact Margarita through cel no. 09187888429. / *PIO*

Panagbenga 2016...

from page 10

Flower Festival Foundation, Inc. (BFFFI) committee meeting where plans are finalized, more space is allotted for landscapes, the mayor intimated. Last year's 300 stalls may now only be 100 or more, he added.

The city's counterpart to the festival is P4M; specifically for prizes in various competitions, Mayor Domogan further said.

Traffic plans for the month-long celebration are now laid out, where alternate and one-way roads, and parking areas are designated; and notices in strategic places for tourists' early information. Among the most-visited places are Wright Park, Camp John Hay, Mines View, The

Mansion, Philippine Military Academy, thus roads leading to said areas are expected to burgeon with tourist-filled vehicles.

Other Panagbenga activities are: February 1 to March 6, Baguio Blooms exhibition and exposition, Lake Drive, Burnham Park; Feb. 8, Chinese Spring Festival; Feb. 14, Handog ng Panagbenga Sa Pamilya Baguio at the Melvin Jones Grandstand and Football grounds; Let A Thousand Flowers Bloom, Kite-Flying Challenge, Panagbenga Variety Show, Fireworks Display;

February 19 to 21, PMA Grand Alumni Homecoming; February 19, Floral arrangement competition judging;

February 15 to 17, School-based landscaping competition; February 27 to 28, Sponsor's and exhibitor's Day at the Athletic Bowl; Feb. 29 to March 6, Session Road In Bloom; March 5, Pony Boys' Day, Wright Park; March 6, Closing Ceremonies and Grand Fireworks display at the Athletic Bowl and other areas in the Central Business District.

Activities yet to be scheduled is the Barangay-based Clean and Green Landscaping competition judging.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Bless the Children with Flowers." / *Julie G. Fianza*

City retirees honored

BAGUIO CITY - The city government of Baguio recognized retiring city hall employees last Monday, during the regular flag raising ceremony at the Baguio City Hall grounds.

Among those recognized are City Environment and Parks Management Office employees Domingo Tambol for having rendered 41 years of service in government, Concepcion Santos for rendering 28 years of government service, Rosita Paulino for serving the government for 37 years, and Charles Basitan for rendering 16 years of service.

Evelyn Elwas and Oscar

Misa of the General Services Office were also recognized for their 15 years and 23 years of service to the government, respectively.

Dr. Mary Lenore Marilyn Alabanza of the Health Services Office has served the government for 19 years.

In a simple ceremony, the city officials headed by mayor Mauricio Domogan handed the plaques of recognition to the said retiring employees.

This is in line with the "Salamat Paalam" program of the city government in coordination with the Civil Service Commission./Jho Arranz

Chiz asks law makers to override Pnoy's veto on SSS pension Hike

Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero is urging his fellow lawmakers to override President Aquino's veto of legislation granting a P2,000 across-the-board increase in the pension of retired Social Security System (SSS) members, a measure that would have benefited close to 2 million pensioners.

"It is saddening because our SSS pensioners have waited long enough for this measure," said Escudero, the leading vice-presidential candidate in the May elections.

"There is no better time than now to have the SSS pension hike bill enacted into law, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate and members of the House of Representatives to do the right thing and vote to override the President's ill-advised veto of this bill," he added.

Under Article VI, Section 27 of the 1987 Constitution, Congress can override a presidential veto by passing the bill with a two-thirds vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

"We need to muster the two-thirds majority vote to override the veto. It may be difficult but we will try for the sake of our SSS pensioners,"

Escudero pointed out.

In his two separate identical letters to Senate President Franklin Drilon and Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr., President Aquino said that while he recognizes the objective of the measure "to promote the well-being of the country's private sector retirees, we cannot support the bill in its present form because of its dire financial consequences."

According to the President, the P2,000 across-the-board pension hike with a corresponding adjustment of the minimum monthly pension would result in "substantial negative income for the SSS."

House Bill No. 5842 sought to amend the Social Security Act of 1997 by increasing the present minimum pension of P1,200 to P3,200 for retirees with at least 10 years of credited service. For those with over 20 years of credited service, monthly pension will increase from P2,400 to P4,400.

The bill, authored by Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Colmenares, was passed on third reading by the House of Representatives on June 9 last year and was adopted in toto by the Senate on November 9.

Some 1.9 million retirees

are expected to benefit from the proposed legislation.

Escudero had earlier said that private sector retirees, many of whom are salaried employees whose incomes have been heavily taxed during their working years, need immediate help so they can cope with the rising cost of living.

"A significant increase in pension is necessary to enable our senior citizens maintain an acceptable living standard, taking into consideration the ever-increasing cost of living," he said.

The veteran lawmaker said the existing monthly SSS pensions are, "without question, not enough for seniors to afford their basic needs like shelter, food and medicine."

"A decent pension would keep the elderly out of poverty and allow them to complete their life journey with dignity and comfort," Escudero said.

He said experiences in other countries showed that giving bigger pension to senior citizens, especially those living below the poverty line, results in better life conditions for a larger population as the elders share their benefits with the members of their household

by buying food, supplies, clothes and even school materials for their grandchildren./Office of Senator Chiz Escudero

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PANAGBENGA SECURITY CONCERNS - Mayor Mauricio Domogan meets with the police and agencies concerned to ensure full security for the staging of Panagbenga this coming February with the expected influx of tourists and spectators to witness the event./By Bong Cayabyab

Panagbenga 2016 preparations

BAGUIO CITY - The 21st version of the Baguio Flower Festival opens on February 1 with the school childrens' drum and lyre parade from Panagbenga Park at Upper Session road, through the major thoroughfares and performance at the Melvin Jones Football grounds, Burnham Park.

A concert follows in the evening, at the SM Atrium.

Everybody is invited to all performances, Mayor Mauricio Domogan said, during the regular media Ugnayan last Wednesday. He added however that during

the Feb. 1 opening, grand streetdancing and floral float parades on Feb. 27 and 28, respectively; candidates for the May elections should not take advantage of the occasion.

The grand street dancing parade starts at the Panagbenga Park, pass through Session road, Magsaysay Avenue, and Harrison road to the Athletic Bowl where performances will be shown. The float parade starts in front of the Regional Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) office, pass through Session

road, Harrison road up to the Athletic Bowl.

"We do not allow any form of campaigning," including breaking the lines to shake hands with spectators, or distribution of campaign materials, the mayor further said.

Campaign period for national positions start Feb. 9, it was known.

Innovations for this year's flower festival include the noticeable lessening of stalls in the Session Road in Bloom, the mayor said. In a Baguio

Cont. on page 9

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