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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Revocation of permits eyed for buildings with converted parking spaces

BAGUIO CITY – City government authorities mull the simultaneous revocation of building, occupancy and business permits issued over business establishments that failed to restore their converted parking spaces.

Mayor Benjamin Magalong, in the Management Committee meeting Dec. 3 directed the City Buildings and Architecture Office (CBAO) to notify the owners of the establishments that failed to revert the parking slots which they converted into stalls and other uses to their original purpose.

CBAO Officer-in-Charge Arch. Johnny

Degay said there were 28 establishments within the Central Business District that were issued building permits with approved parking spaces but altered their building plans and converted the parking slots into commercial stalls in violation of Presidential Decree 96 or the National Building Code and city ordinances.

He said all of them were given grace period during the time of former mayor Mauricio Domogan to rectify their violations either by restoring their parking areas or by designating parking areas outside their buildings but

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MAHARLIKA TURN OVER - Contrary to earlier reports, Maharlika will be turned over to the city by year 2025, not 2020. Maharlika is currently under the management of DA-HSDC. This building has become one of the dirtiest and unsafe places in the city.

Wen ya,
adu dagiti building (ken
babalay pay) nga nag-convert ti
parking spaces da, tapos ag-park da iti
kalsada. Ay apo. Ala sige Meyor,
aramiden yu ti nasayaat.



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Baguio crime volume decreases by 38 percent

BAGUIO CITY – The Summer Capital's total crime volume incidents decreased by a whopping 38 percent from January to November this year as compared to the same period last year or 1,184 less incidents in 2019 as compared to the 3,119 reported in 2018.

This was disclosed by Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) Dir. Allen Rae Co in Monday's flag-raising rites at City Hall led

by Mayor Benjamin Magalong and Vice Mayor Faustino Olowan.

He said that incidents of physical injuries decreased by 12 percent; robbery by five percent; murder by 56 percent; homicide by 44 percent and carjacking or theft of motorcycles by 43 percent.

Co added that vehicular traffic accidents in the city lowered to 815 from the last year's 1,887 accidents or a significant decrease of 57 percent due to

community cooperation, traffic scheme, safety protocols and measures implemented including strategic plans and programs initiated by the present administration under Magalong.

"When the community trusts their policemen, when they have the high sense of confidence in them and cooperates fully with them, their policemen will be enabled, will feel better about themselves, thus perform

better, work at their best and produce greater results," he stressed.

Co attributed the significant decrease in crime incidents to the implementation of the BCPO's various anti-criminality plans and programs like the intensified Oplan SOMABAT or the detailed patrol plan and guide where patrollers and mobile cars are roaming around their respec-

tive designated areas on specific periods of time.

"This is based on data produced by the CIRAS (Crime Information Reporting and Analysis System) where deliberate deployment of police personnel along identified hotspots or focus areas during peak hours is implemented, bringing your policemen When and Where they are most needed," he explained.

Co said his office also conducts massive check-point operations to seal all ingress and egress to and from the city; deployment of special tourist police that additionally showcases Cordillera culture and traditions; use of the Cobra Eye Command Center where prompt response is achieved as incidents are immediately spotted on CCTV; operationalization of specialized teams to respond to specific situations monitored by the tactical operations center and calls received for police assistance. -*Gaby Keith*

Cimatu commits to help fast-track moratorium on tree-cutting, new constructions

BAGUIO CITY – Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu on Dec. 6 committed to help fast-track the issuance of an executive order imposing a moratorium on the construction of commercial buildings and tree-cutting in the city.

Cimatu paid a call on Mayor Benjamin Magalong who joined the secretary in inspecting the city's sewerage treatment plant in North Sanitary Camp and the Environmental Recycling System site in Irisan barangay which are two of the city's most crucial environmental facilities.

He said his office made some recommendations to the proposed moratorium and will make a follow through with Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea.

He lauded Magalong's efforts to push for the moratorium to address the city's environmental problems.

"We all know that Baguio City's carrying capacity had been exceeded and the executive order granting a moratorium may be the right key to stop once and for all the congestion problem caused by commercial constructions and residential constructions in hazardous areas," Cimatu said.

He said he sees no problem in implementing the moratorium as there are built-in policies and procedures being applied by the DENR and the local government unit that can readily be applied.

Magalong at the start of his term as mayor pushed for the moratorium citing serious environmental issues being faced by the city.

It was proposed to cover the construction of commercial buildings and cutting of trees for one year and to include a funding component to enable the city to implement rehabilitative programs particularly on the upgrading and expansion of its sewerage treatment system.

Last Oct. 4, the mayor said the President approved the proposal in principle.

Last Oct. 25, he said the documentary requirements for the moratorium order were being prepared by the Dept. of Interior and Local Government under Secretary Eduardo Año. / Aileen P. Refuerzo

Mayor orders experimental traffic scheme on several roads

Vehicular traffic along Marcoville Road, R. Villaron Street up to the Utility Road near a bus company's station have reached disturbing and serious level prompting the city's chief executive to order an experimental traffic scheme in an aim to find solutions for the same.

In Executive No. 169-2019, Mayor Benjamin Magalong ordered the installation of "One Way, No Entry" at the junction of R. Villalon Street and Utility Road as part of the experimental traffic scheme.

The EO directs one-way traffic at Marcoville Road from the driveway of Victory Liner going down

to Leonard Wood Road or North Drive with the installation of "One Way, No Entry" signage at the junction of S. Manrique Street and Marcoville Road.

One-way traffic is also ordered along S. Manrique Street going up from Leonard Wood Road or North Drive. Another one-way traffic is directed along V. Martinez Street going to Leonard Wood Road.

Two-way traffic is allowed along R. Villalon Street from junction of V. Martinez Street or in front Tuno-tuno Restaurant.

The experimental traffic scheme will start December 10, 2019. However, the EO did state

when the experimental traffic scheme will expire.

The city government is also enforcing an alternative traffic rerouting scheme along South Drive and Park Road going to Baguio Country Club every Saturday since November 30, 2019. Under the scheme, one-way traffic is enforced from South Drive towards Pacdal Road Rotunda.

The city has embarked on several traffic schemes and road closures in an aim to find a better solution to vehicular traffic while awaiting the result of a technical study from the Metro Manila Development Authority believed to ease road congestions in Baguio. / *Jessa Mardy P. Samidan*

MOU signed for ecology toilet in Baguio

Mayor Benjie Magalong signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the officials of a private company to establish an "ecology toilet" system that treats and recycles wastewater into a potable water after being scientifically processed using anaerobic bacteria.

Officials of the IIRMA International Consultancy Inc., a domestic corporation linked to IRUMA International Fukouka Co, LTD

of Japan visited Mayor Benjamin Magalong emphasizing their proposal to establish an ecology toilet in the city.

Dr. Yasuhide Takashima, one of the pioneer inventors of the ecology toilet said Baguio City will be first foreign land to use the technology 25 years after its development in Japan.

The Japanese technology using sake bacteria which was derived from rice hulls is being offered to process toilet waste in

households, offices and even the sanitary plant of Baguio City.

In the MOU, IIRMA will establish a demonstration unit of ecology toilet for public use in the city. An estimated cost of P5 million for the establishment and operation of the ecology toilet demo unit for six months will be born solely by IIRMA.

The city on the other hand, shall issue the necessary government permits for the instal-

lation of the technology, provide power and initial clean water source as well as the site where the ecology toilet will be built, among others.

The MOU is subject for city council confirmation.

The unsolicited proposal was earlier presented to the city officials by Engineer Arnel Hibo of IIRMA saying that the Japanese technology will lessen the volume of water needed to flush a traditional toilet system.

Hibo furthered that maintenance of traditional toilet system

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Cordillera lawmakers file new autonomy bill

BAGUIO CITY - The Cordillera congressmen have filed their version of the bill creating the Autonomous Region of the Cordillera.

On Monday, the seven Cordillera lawmakers filed House Bill No. 5687 at the House of Representatives with high hopes of its passing smoothly in Congress and by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in the 18th Congress.

Representatives Joseph Sto. Nino Bernos of Abra, Elias Bulut Jr. of Apayao, Mark Go of Baguio City, Nestor Fongwan of Benguet, Solomon Chungalao of Ifugao, Allen Jesse Mangaoang of Kalinga and Maximo Dalog Jr. of Mountain Province filed the bill as one for the Cordillera.

The creation of an autonomous region in the Cordillera is mandated under the 1987 Constitution along side with the Muslim Mindanao and while Mindanao has already attained it even twice, it is yet to be realized in the Cordillera.

"In 2001, the Congress passed Republic Act No. 9054 to expand the territory and power of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. During the 17th Congress, Republic Act No. 11054, also known as the "Bangsamoro Organic Law" (BOL) was enacted to establish the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and abolish the ARMM. In early 2019, the BOL was ratified through a plebiscite, marking the transition from ARMM to BARMM. On the other hand, an autonomous region in the Cordillera has yet to be realized," the bill's explanatory note stated.

Bulut, a firm advocate of autonomy, believes that the attainment of the Cordillera autonomy

would ensure that the much needed development of the region will be met and that the natural resources will be well managed by the Cordillerans.

"Our third shot for our quest for Regional Autonomy gained ground on December 2. Together with all Cordillera Congressmen, we filed House Bill No. 5687 seeking to fulfill a constitutional mandate of establishing a Cordillera Autonomous Region. May God Bless us in this continuing struggle," Mangaoang said in a social media post.

"I am one with our Cordilleran Congressman brothers in affirming the distinct tradition and culture of the Cordillerans which predated even the written history of our country. I strongly believe that the eventual passage of this bill will be the first step in realizing our dream of a united, peaceful, prosperous and distinctively unique community that our forefathers dreamt us to be," Bernos said in his social media page.

Cordillera Regional Development Council Vice Chairperson, NEDA-CAR Regional Milagros Rimando expressed gladness with the filing of the new bill to pursue Cordillera

autonomy.

Rimando said that the Cordillera congressmen along side their technical working group composed of their chief of staffs worked hard to create the new bill on autonomy looking at the different sections and provisions of the new bill. The RDC TWG and the indigenous peoples leaders assembly also gave inputs.

As the lawmakers will be working with the Committee on Local Government in Congress for the processes, the RDC, she said, will continue its intensified Information Education and Communication campaigns on the pursuit of Cordillera autonomy. This time with the HB 5687 in the different areas in the Cordillera region particularly in the grassroots level to ensure that this time autonomy would be understood and be looked at as the most effective option to pursue sustainable development in the Cordillera region.

The Cordillera congressmen are expected to present the HB 5687 and its key concepts and salient features during the Multi Stakeholders Gathering for Cordillera Autonomy towards Federalism in Baguio City next week. (JDP/RMC-PIA CAR)

MOU signed for ecology...

from page 2

requires volume of water that may contribute to the possibility of water crisis in the future in Baguio.

According to Hibo, the technology was proven effective in saving water in Japan. The Ecological Toilet System (ETS) has four more additional stages unlike the traditional water tank and flushing method. Hibo explained that in the ETS, there are tanks for fermentation, processing, filtration and storing of clean water.

He explained that in the fermentation tank, the feces will be trapped there while the water will be extracted. He said that the sake bacteria will be put in the said tank to decompose or dissolve the solids. Then water excrete will go to the processing tank to rid out the remaining solid materials before going to the filtration tank where the water will be further "purified".



La Trinidad Trading Post porters load the truck with vegetables for disaster-affected province of Apayao. (RMC-PIA-CAR)

Benguet people donate vegetables, non-food items to Apayao

of travel, the team reached the

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet, Dec. 6(PIA) -- Benguet farmers and other stakeholders of the La Trinidad Trading Post donated tons of vegetables and other non-food items to disaster-affected province of Apayao.

More than five tons of assorted vegetables, other non-food items and cash were sent off to Apayao by the people of Benguet last Monday.

Nora Ganase, president of the League of Associations at the La Trinidad Trading Post, said they started an outreach program within their organization to provide support to the people of Apayao who were recently affected by continuous rains causing massive floods and landslides.

The outreach program raised more than five tons of assorted vegetables like sayote, potato, carrots, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, tomato, bell pepper, radish

and other leafy vegetables. Donations included cash which was used to buy at least 28 cavans of rice. Hygiene kits, clothing, and assorted groceries were also collected.

The league composed of farmers, traders, porters, packers, and truckers annually conducts outreach program targeting the indigent people of the Benguet municipalities. This time they chose Apayao as their main beneficiary in their annual "share-your-blessings" program.

"This is a way for the league to give back to the people in need and this time to their fellow Cordillerans in Apayao," Ganase said.

The donation drive was in coordination with the La Trinidad Municipal Police Station, the Benguet Provincial Police Office, the Police Regional Office - Cordillera and the Department of Public Works and Highways-Cordillera who provided the truck used to deliver the donations.

On Monday night, La Trinidad officials led by Mayor Romeo Salda with league officials Ganase and coordinator Agot Balanoy sent off the truck load of vegetables with La Trinidad MPS Chief, Major. Roldan Cabatan as team leader.

After at least 14 hours

Apayao Provincial Capitol in Luna town where the donations were received by Provincial Administrator Maria Elena Ravelo and Apayao PPO Director Col. Byron Tegui-in who expressed gratitude to the people of Benguet in behalf of Gov. Eleanor Bulut-Begtang.

The vegetables were then distributed to the different municipalities and barangays particularly those who were mostly affected by the continuous heavy rains and those in isolated barangays.

Gov. Begtang even personally helped in distributing the goods to far flung barangays of Calansan despite the heavy downpour on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Cordillera Career Development College had delivered a week earlier at least three tons of sayote in their version of Operation Sayote donation drive.

CCDC Vice President for Administration Annabelle Gondales said that upon noting the devastation of Apayao, their school launched the Operation Sayote asking their students for at least one sayote each. She was surprised that more brought sayote and at least 3000 kilos were collected and were given to the province of Apayao on November 26. (JDP/RMC-PIA CAR)

Hard lessons from the Southeast Asian Games

By: Ricardo Saludo (www.mailatimes.net)

WITH the stirring, spectacular opening ceremonies last Saturday, and then the massive medal haul by Filipino athletes, one may seem uncharitable in tempering cheers for the 30th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games with a few admonitions.

Indeed, since the November 30 kickoff, right on the birth anniversary of founding Katipunero Andres Bonifacio, the SEA Games' critics have fallen silent, as if their carping in recent weeks were not just drowned out, but also debunked by the ecstatic chorus of the Hotdog band's "Manila" at the packed Philippine Arena.

Many people, brimming with patriotic joy, may then take umbrage if Congress, the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB), and the Commission on Audit (CoA) proceed to look into the P55-million Olympic flame cauldron in New Clark City, as well as the channeling of P1.5 billion in SEA Games funds to the private Philippine Southeast Games Organizing Committee, headed by stalwarts of President Rodrigo Duterte's administration.

Expose those tarnishing the nation

Why investigate and spoil the immense boost to national pride and unity from the Games? Can't we just bask in the glow of the impressive display of what Filipinos can do for the nation and the region, plus world sport and international harmony?

Answer: Because sweeping SEA Games anomalies under the rug would erode the very pride, excellence, unity and sportsmanship among our neighbors felt by Filipinos over the SEA Games celebration and competition. Let us extol the nation's achievement, and hold accountable those who would tarnish it — by exposing any fake news claiming corruption, as well as real crooks profiting at the nation's expense.

EDITORIAL

To repeat, the nation and our integrity institutions OMB and CoA, along with responsible, impartial media, should probe claims of anomaly and incompetence to debunk lies that shamed Filipinos in our moment of triumph before the region, and to censure and punish traitorous Filipinos who use their position and influence in corrupt schemes fleecing and shaming the country.

Whether fake news to shame the administration, or graft-ridden deals exploiting it, the end-result is the exact antithesis of what international sports, from the Olympics and the world championships to the SEA Games, stand for: excellence, fairness and friendship in competition.

False accusations are patently unfair and dishonest, destroying the very basis of fair play in sport. Take the claim that foreign athletes had to sleep on the hotel floor, and Muslim ones were served pork. In fact, the former arrived earlier than their scheduled check-in, and elected to sleep on the holding room floor while waiting for their rooms. And the hotel hosting the Muslim group said all religious dietary rules were followed.

Corruption too opposes honesty as well as patriotism, and its schemers now want to avoid accountability for dishonesty by hiding behind nationalist pride. Don't expose our graft, they seem to be saying, to spare the nation shame.

Well, the only way to dissuade similar brazen profiteering at the people's expense is to probe and punish it. Period. Plainly, if grafters will not spare even international showcases of national pride and prowess, what will they not taint with corruption?

Sportsmanship for nation-building

Tarring international sports events are particularly damaging to the Republic's values and reputation. Being largely free from fractious political issues, games among nations attract the most attention and adulation from the global populace, especially the youth making up the participants or aspiring to be among them. Fake news and corrupt schemes alienate this massive sport-loving segment of the world community.

Sports also give the youth the rare opportunity to bring honor and pride to the country without having to, say, wage war, invent amazing devices, create billion-dollar enterprises, or make blockbuster films or chart-topping records. Hence, when great sporting events are slashed by sleaze, among the ideals bloodied is the youth's heroic drive to serve and elevate the nation.

Sportsmanship also builds unity and peace by allowing athletes in fierce competition, even among nations that have fought wars or are still in conflict, to shake hands after the matches. Recall the Christmas truce 105 years ago this month, when German and British troops facing off in the trenches stopped shooting and played football, despite orders from the British high command not to fraternize with the enemy.

Now, what happens when politicking and graft invade the Games? Unsavory comments and sentiments replace the celebration of harmony and unity among disparate peoples. That cannot but rob the Games of goodwill. Hence, one would not be surprised

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KAKAMPIMO ANG BATAS

Problema bilang abogado, daan ng pagsulong ng Simbahang AND KNK

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY: "... 'Huwag kayong mag-impok ng mga kayamanan dito sa lupa; dito'y may naninirang insekto at kalawang, at may nakakapasok na magnanakaw. Sa halip, mag-impok kayo ng kayamanan sa langit; doo'y walang naninirang insekto at kalawang, at walang nakakapasok na magnanakaw. Sapagkat kung saan naroroon ang iyong kayamanan, naroroon din ang iyong puso'..." (si Jesus, ang ating Diyos at Tagapagligtas na Siyang Diyos Ama, Anak, at Espiritu Santo, sa Mateo 6:19-21, Ang Tanging Daan Bibliya).

-000-

BAKIT AKO LUMUSONG SA GAWAIN NG "PAGPAPAHAYAG AT PAGLIL-IGTAS"? Naririto po ang ikalawang bahagi ng aking isinulat na testimonya patungkol sa aking pagiging kasapi ng Simbahang Anak ng Diyos Kadugo Ni Kristo (AND KNK), na inilabas na sa website ng AND KNK na andknk.ph at naglalayong ipaliwanag kung bakit ako nagpasyang lumusong sa gawain ng pagpapahayag at pagliligtas ng kaluluwa, sa kabila ng nararanasan ko noon na kari-wasaan, katanyagan, at kasiyahan sa mga materyal na bagay:

"Isang araw, nawala lahat ang aking mga pinanghahawakang katanyagan. Nagkaroon ako ng problema sa pagtatanggol sa isang pamilyang nakakain ng mga de latang may mga uod na buhay. Sa aking pagtanggap sa pamilyang ito bilang mga libreng kliyente, nagalit sa akin ang may-ari ng mga de latang pinagmulan ng mga uod na nakain nila.

"Ako ay nasuspendi sa pagiging abogado ng tatlong taon. Nawala ang aking mga kliyente, nawala ang aking mga programa at mga diyaryo. Naging napakadilim ng aking mundo ng mga panahong iyon.

-000-

MGA NAMAYAPA KONG MAGULANG, INSTRUMENTO NG DIYOS: "Ngunit ang aking namayapang ama, si G. Melanio Pauco Mauricio Sr., ng Ramos, Tarlac, at ang aking namapaya na ding ina, si Gng. Salvacion Lazo Mauricio ng San Ildefonso, Ilocos Sur, ay naging mga instrumento ng Diyos upang hindi ako mawalan ng loob, sa harap ng napakatinding dagok ng buhay na dumating sa akin.

"Sinabi nila sa akin, 'huwag kang manghihina. Hanapin mo kung ano ang gusto ng Diyos sa iyo'. Sa kanilang tinuran, nag-umpisa akong magbulay-bulay. Nag-umpisa akong datnan ng mga inspirasyon---ano ba ang nagawa ko na upang magpasalamat naman sa Diyos sa napakandang buhay na ipinagkaloob Niya sa akin?

"Napakabuti ng Diyos sa akin at sa aking mga mahal sa buhay. Pero, bakit wala akong pagpapasalamat man lamang sa Kaniyang kabutihan? Sa loob ng tatlong taong ako ay suspendido bilang abogado, ipinakita sa akin ng Diyos ang mga kasagutan. Sa loob ng tatlong taong ito, nagbigay ang Diyos sa akin ng liwanag, upang ang Kaniyang mga gawain ng pagpapahayag at pagliligtas ay magkaroon ng kaganapan.

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PROBLEMA BILANG ABOGADO NAGING DAAN NG PAGSULONG NG SIMBAHANG AND KNK: "Sumulong ang Simbahang Anak ng Diyos Kadugo Ni

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Kakampi mo ang Batas*from page 4*

Kristo sa iba't ibang dako sa loob ng tatlong taong ito. Sa kagandahang-loob ng Diyos, pinagtagpo Niya ako at ang iba pang mga pinili Niya sa mga gawain. Niliwanag Niya sa akin na ang Kaniyang mga tatawagin upang makasama ko sa gawain ng pagpapahayag at pagliligas, sa ilalim ng Kaniyang Simbahan, ang Simbahang Anak ng Diyos Kadugo Ni Kristo, ay yung mga bibigyan Niya ng mga usaping legal.

"Ang mga taong may kaso sa hukuman, o niyuyurakan ang mga karapatan, ang magiging sentrong bahagi ng mga gawain ng Diyos sa ilalim ng Simbahang Anak ng Diyos Kadugo Ni Kristo. Dahil sa kanilang mga kaso o usaping legal, ang mga taong ito ang magkakaroon ng pagkakataong madinig ang mga pagpapahayag ng Kaniyang Simbahang Anak ng Diyos Kadugo Ni Kristo.

"Sa ngayon, hindi maikakaila na marami pa ang dapat gawin. Magkaganunman, naitayo na ng Diyos ang Kaniyang Simbahan sa Silangan, sa Malayong Lupain, sa Pilipinas. Naipunla na, kumbaga, ang binhi. At sumusulong na ang mga gawain. Ang kailangan na lamang sa ngayon ay puspusang pagkilos ng lahat ng mga tinawag sa pamamagitan ng kanilang mga kaso sa husgado. Salamat sa Diyos sa Ngalan Niyang Jesus, Amen."

-ooo-

REAKSIYON? Tawag po sa 0977 805 9058, 0918 574 0193, 0933 8251308 o sa aking Messenger account sa Facebook: Melanio Lazo Mauricio Jr. Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com, mmauriciojr111@gmail.com. Maaari din po kayong mag-post ng inyong mga reaksiyon sa aking Facebook page, www.facebook.com/attybatas.

Editorial*from page 4*

if Broadway star Lea Salonga backed out of the SEA Games opening due to concerns over integrity and fractiousness.

Of course, the essence of sports is winning and excelling. Every athlete wants to take the crown fair and square, with the best man or woman prevailing. Nothing fair and square, of course, when falsehoods shame the Games, and what gets projects are not the best companies, but the most connected.

Time to take sports seriously

Sadly, despite the foregoing arguments, the liars and schemers who besmirched the SEA Games may escape exposé and accountability. National leaders and policy makers have long given little value to sports as a tool in nation building. "It's just a game," goes the disdainful refrain.

That is not how other nations, especially the global sporting giants, treat sports. Indeed, most members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have Cabinet-level ministries handling sports, unlike the Philippines.

If there is any leader who should punch hard for taking sports seriously, it is Sen. Manny Pacquiao. Our national icon of global sports excellence should light a fire bigger than the cauldron blaze he ignited at the SEA Games opening, and make our leaders and our people treat games as, well, not just games.

That means, first and foremost, bringing the rules and practices of various national sports in line with global norms. These standards include not just anti-doping and anti-fixing regimes, but also safeguards for the welfare of athletes, like insurance for racing — required abroad, but forcibly waived hereabouts, with tragic results.

Let's stop treating sports as kid stuff.'

Baguio tourism council answers**Enchanting Baguio critics**

malicious intent
--- every now
and then, dispar-
aging the Christ-

BAGUIO CITY December 06 – The private sector-led Baguio tourism Council (BTC) that was created eleven years ago by virtue of the city's Revised tourism Code to serve as the local government's partner in advancing the sustainable growth of the local tourism industry lashed out at critic of the 43-day An Enchanting Baguio Christmas at the Rose Garden, saying that the goal was simple, to make the city's Christmas celebration enchanting enough to inspire a community of kindred souls aching to the shared roles the best that they can. In a statement, BTC interim chairperson Gladys Vergara stated that 'the world we live in day-by-day is big enough for the Christmas spirit to immerse all of us, heart and soul, towards a desired noble goal.' "We believe that Baguio is now on the very threshold to be a better city. This will happen when we're standing by each other's back, serving shoulder-to-shoulder, striving, aspiring, and winning as one. Ahead, the task remains to be done. A little appreciation, said from a simple Thank You, is enough comfort for us," Vergara stressed. She stated that the An Enchanting Baguio Christmas is a joint effort of the BTC and the local government and she happens to serve as the interim chairperson with Anthony de Leon, general manager of the Baguio Country Club (BCC), as vice chairperson. The BTC official pointed out that the council accepted the responsibility of conceptualizing, planning and executing all Christmas-related programs and events, mindful that the task needs a shared effort between the government and the private sector. According to her, in all aspects, the BTC worked unselfishly, gladly coordi-

nating with local government offices directly concerned, striving hard hand in hand with the public counterparts to ensure the successful staging of the events that had been planned for the said activity. "We humbly acknowledge the sincerity conveyed thankfulness and the gladsome faces of city folks and tourists who graced the pre-launching program at the Rose Garden, which featured stellar performances by the Bayanihan The National Dance Company on November 23 and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra the next day (courtesy of Mr. Arsenio Lizaso, the Cultural Center of the Philippines President, who gave Baguio this rare but most welcome treat. These concerts drew tremendous public reception framed in jubilation, which we profusely thank for, indeed a rousing start to kick-off the 43-day Christmas festivities," Vergara added. She disclosed that the BTC people stood ten feet tall with everyone who attended the Christmas program last December 1, right in the heart of the city at the Session Road rotunda and with them, 'we held our bated breath as city officials switched on the symbolic Christmas Tree put up at the circle, followed immediately by the simultaneous lighting up of Session Road, the center islands, the buildings along it.' Along with the institutional Lantern Parade staged by the Louisian community, the event was a multi-sensory spectacle of Christmas lights and decors liberally used to give us the Christmassy feel never before done in recent years. This is without doubt public approval. She stipulated that the BTC felt disappointed over what have been reported --- undoubtedly fueled by

massy feeling that in two weekends and in days in between has overwhelmed our people and out of nowhere, malevolent bashers have raved and ranted in unbelievable disdain, belittling what has been publicly accepted by people from all walks of life, casting aspersions at every turn, magnifying faults that are simply par for the course for huge projects like a Baguio Christmas festival. "We all realize that putting together An Enchanting Baguio Christmas is hardly a breezy walk, given the usual challenges along the way --- the magnitude of the task, the scale of aspirations sought to be achieved, the scarcity of time and resources at our disposal. Hard work, focused determination, and yes, self-sacrifice were invested voluntarily to make it happen, often times by self-abnegation," Vergara stated. For reasons of public transparency and accountability, she emphasized that the BTC is making public a detailed accounting and auditing report of the funds used to make the Christmas celebration happen and let it be noted though that government funds were shoe-string at the very start and the BTC had to source out added funds through meritorious sponsorships to get the huge project going. By January, the BTC assured that it will come out with an independent audit on the funds that were used to hold the said Christmas festivities right at the heart of the city. Further, the BTC explained that it is our well-considered position that the Christmas Fair now going on at the Rose Garden is not a trade fair, contrary to those who seem to equate the activity with those that have been conducted merrily, with the sunshine spread out cheerfully. First and foremost, any selling done in the premises is merely

incidental, meant simply to complement the ambiance of an enchanting Christmas setting sought to be simulated. The principal aim is not to make anyone profiteer from its use, but overall, to make the Rose Garden an enchanting place of fun, fellowship, amusement, and family-oriented activities. The chalets for exhibition and marketing outlets form part of sponsor entitlements aside from media values provided depending on the chosen level of sponsorship package. These chalets are strictly curated and sell carefully selected products that exude the Christmas exuberant atmosphere as depicted in European Christmas Markets. Absolutely no rental charges were imposed. To the last exhibitor (except for one whose undertaking we withdrew due to unshared objective), there is collective fulfillment that something valuable is being shared. By Dexter A. SeeBaguio tourism council answers Enchanting Baguio critics BAGOIO CITY December 06 – The private sector-led Baguio tourism Council (BTC) that was created eleven years ago by virtue of the city's Revised tourism Code to serve as the local government's partner in advancing the sustainable growth of the local tourism industry lashed out at critic of the 43-day An Enchanting Baguio Christmas at the Rose Garden, saying that the goal was simple, to make the city's Christmas celebration enchanting enough to inspire a community of kindred souls aching to the shared roles the best that they can. In a statement, BTC interim chairperson Gladys Vergara stated that 'the world we live in day-by-day is big enough for the Christmas spirit to immerse all of us, heart and soul, towards a desired noble goal.' "We believe that Baguio is now on the very threshold to be a better city. This will happen when we're standing by each other's back, serving shoul-

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Kalinga geothermal project set to complete exploration phase

PIA - - The Kalinga Geothermal Project (KGP) is on track to complete the exploration phase with the drilling of two slimhole wells.

The Department of Energy (DOE) awarded the Renewable Energy Geothermal Service Contract to proponents Aragorn Power and Energy Corporation (APEC) and Guidance Management Corporation (GMC) on March 25, 2010 with a contract area of 26,139 hectares, spread out over the municipalities of Pasil, Lubuagan and Tinglayan.

Exploration drilling

To implement the exploration drilling, two well pads were completed including construction of access roads, improvement of national road choke points and implementation of geohazard mitigation measures.

The LF 230 coring drill rig and other drilling equipment were successfully mobilized and transported to the project site in Balatoc, Pasil with the cooperation and support of the local government units and concerned communities.

Victor Dugan of the

KGP project team said that the exploration drilling has provided employment for over 50 local residents to work in various capacities.

To date, the project proponents have logged 350,000 man-hours of injury-free operations.

The project team has made an effort to engage and dialogue with the local leaders and host communities in the course of implementing the various exploration activities. These are designed to ensure that local stakeholders are informed on the status of the project and emerging issues are discussed and resolved freely and openly.

Support for local development

The community development projects provided under the individual memorandum of agreement have likewise been delivered to the eight ancestral domains namely Balatoc, Colayo, Dalupa-Ableg, Guina-ang, Dangtalan, Uma, Bangad and Tongrayan.

The KGP initiated the

Kalinga Geothermal Scholarship Program in school year 2010-2011 to provide scholarship grants and educational assistance to deserving youths from the eight ancestral domains within its contract area.

As of school year 2019-2020, the program has extended scholarships to 351 grantees and produced 221 graduates in various courses. Five scholar graduates in engineering and geology have been hired for the project.

Compliance to government permits

The KGP has been compliant with the required government permits including the Certificate of Non-Coverage secured from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Special Land Use Permit covering three well pads, and water permits from the National Water Resources Board.

In keeping with the Memorandum of Agreement with the indig-

enous cultural communities, a joint monitoring team has been constituted with representatives from the National Commission for Indigenous Peoples, Provincial/Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices, the council of elders, and the concerned provincial, municipal and barangay local government units.

Republic Act 9513, otherwise known as the Renewable Energy law, aims to accelerate the exploration and development of renewable energy resources as well as to increase the utilization of renewable energy. The law further aims to institutionalize the development of national and local capabilities in the use of renewable energy systems, and to promote its efficient and cost-effective commercial application by providing fiscal and non-fiscal incentives.

The way forward

Dugan said that there are various phases of geothermal exploration

and development which, with the successful completion of the current exploration drilling, will hopefully allow for the declaration of commerciality and eventual field development.

He said that the results from resource assessment studies and exploration drilling will serve as basis in determining commerciality of the project.

Energy Project of National Significance

The DOE awarded the Kalinga project a Certification as Energy Project of National Significance (CEPNS).

The KGP holds the distinction of being the first Renewable Energy Project to be granted a CEPNS by the DOE.

There are eight existing Geothermal Power Plants in the Philippines with total installed capacity of 1,918.19 megawatts, the biggest of which is the 722.68 MW Leyte Geothermal Power Plant. (JDP/PAB-PIA CAR, Kalinga)

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SOLEDAD P. NONATO who died intestate on November 8, 1997 at the City of Baguio without any will. Covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-5934 has been the subject of an affidavit of self-adjudication by heir BERNARDO P. NONATO on December 2, 2019 before Notary Public Randy W. Lem-ew of Baguio City as per Doc. No. 245, Page No. 49, Book No. VI, series of 2019.

December 7, 14 & 21, 2019

City wins eGov ICT Award

BAGUIO CITY - The city government garnered first place in the City Level for the Best in eGov Global Competitiveness Award or the G2W (Government to the World) for its "EBOMS V1.0: Electronic Budget Operations and Monitoring System".

This was announced by Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)-CAR Dir. Leo Ugto in Monday's flag-raising rites at City Hall led by Mayor Benjamin Magalong and Vice Mayor Faustino Olowan.

He said that local gov-

ernment units' (LGUs) best practices in information and communications technology were lauded during the Digital Governance Awards 2019 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City last November 26.

Ugto added that the award cites the efforts of an LGU in developing world-class systems in using ICT that are at par with international or internationally-recognized standards, thus making the LGU globally competitive, recognized and virtually accessible and interactive.

Started in 2012, he

said the eGov Awards is the first and most prestigious recognition to be given by the ICT sector to LGUs with exemplary performance in empowering its public customers and businesses.

"It is an annual search for best practices in LGUs in utilizing ICT to effectively and efficiently deliver public services to its constituents and business stakeholders," Ugto explained.

This year's search is a joint project of the DICT, Department of Interior and Local Government and the National ICT Confederation of the Philippines. /Gaby Keith

Baguio tourism council...

from page 5

der-to-shoulder, striving, aspiring, and winning as one. Ahead, the task remains to be done. A little appreciation, said from a simple Thank You, is enough comfort for us," Vergara stressed. She stated that the An Enchanting Baguio Christmas is a joint effort of the BTC and the local government and she happens to serve as the interim chairperson with Anthony de Leon, general manager of the Baguio Country Club (BCC), as vice chairperson. The BTC official pointed out that the council accepted the responsibility of conceptualizing, planning and executing all Christmas-related programs and events, mindful that the task needs a shared effort between the government and the private sector. According to her, in all aspects, the BTC worked unselfishly, gladly coordinating with local government offices directly concerned, striving hard hand in hand with the public counterparts to ensure the successful staging of the events that had been planned for the said activity. "We humbly acknowledge the sincerity conveyed thankfulness and the gladsome faces of city folks and tourists who graced the pre-launching program at the Rose Garden, which featured stellar performances by the Bayanihan The National Dance Company on November 23 and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra the next day (courtesy of Mr. Arsenio Lizaso, the Cultural Center of the Philippines President, who gave Baguio this rare but most welcome

treat. These concerts drew tremendous public reception framed in jubilation, which we profusely thank for, indeed a rousing start to kick-off the 43-day Christmas festivities," Vergara added. She disclosed that the BTC people stood ten feet tall with everyone who attended the Christmas program last December 1, right in the heart of the city at the Session Road rotunda and with them, 'we held our bated breath as city officials switched on the symbolic Christmas Tree put up at the circle, followed immediately by the simultaneous lighting up of Session Road, the center islands, the buildings along it.' Along with the institutional Lantern Parade staged by the Louisian community, the event was a multi-sen-

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City looking for joint venture partner for market dev't

BAGUIO CITY – The city government is currently looking for a joint venture for the proposed multi-million development of the Baguio city public market to help improve the current situation in the city's show window.

Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong said a number of corporations with track records on the development of markets signified their intention to be the city's partner in the proposed development of the city's public market to make it one of the best markets in the Southeast Asian region.

However, he claimed informed these potential joint venture partners of the city government not to further adjust the projected rentals of the stalls for the vendors that will make these unaffordable to vendors.

The city chief executive stated the city government will be willing to increase the number of storeys of the planned structures aside from agreeing to the put up of additional

basement parking for the joint venture partners of the city to recover their investment in the development of the city's public market.

The conceptual development plan of the Baguio public market which has an initial project cost of P2.5 billion that suddenly increased to P6 billion is now being subjected to public consultations for inputs from stakeholders on how to further enhance the said plan before the preparation of the detailed plans and specifications of the multi-billion project.

The city's public market was supposed to have been developed and upgraded as early as 1996 if not for the case filed by various associations of vendors that questioned the constitutionality of the ordinance that prescribed the rules and regulations for the development of the facility and the validity of the contract that was an offshoot of the aforesaid ordinance that dragged up to the Supreme Court (SC) for over two decades.

In 2016, the SC came

out with a decision that dismissed the case filed by the different associations of market vendors and upheld the constitutionality of the market development ordinance and the validity of the contract entered into between the city government and the controversial Uniwide Realty Sales and Resources Development Subsequently, the earlier decision of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that declared Uniwide to be insolvent was also upheld by the High Court that prompted the city government to consider the contract as deemed terminated so that it can pursue other options on how to proceed with the development of the market facility being the city's major show window to visitors frequenting the city.

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) offered the city government a P10 billion credit facility for the development of the city's public market which has been left out by other public markets located in neighboring first-class municipalities in the other parts of Northern Luzon, thus, the need for the city to already proceed with the proposed development by updating the

Baguio number coding...

from page 8

tioners or participants of sanctioned activities such as conventions, conferences and assemblies, provided that, sponsoring groups of the conventions, seminars, conferences or assemblies shall be required to issue their participants the necessary stickers or documents showing that the owners or possessors thereof are participants of such activities.

Executive Order No 1, series of 2009, entitled 'Setting the guidelines for the implementation of Ordinance No. 107, series of 2008' defined sanctioned activities as those referring to sponsored, or hosted activities by the city government which are duly authorized or approved by the City Mayor or the City Council through appropriate resolutions.

For this year, the 70th edition of the annual golf tournament will be held from December 2-18, 2019, with games hosted by the BBCC and CJH golf courses.

Aside from the more than 1,400 golfers who earlier signified their intention to participate in the annual golf tourney, their family members will also be joining them.

The city chief executive underscored the need to suspend the implementation of the Baguio Number Coding Scheme for motor vehicles of participants of the prestigious international sports event in the city on the aforesaid dates to provide golfers and members of their families a convenient and stress-free journey around the city to help boost the city's identity as one of the prime tourist destinations in the country./Dexter A. See

Baguio tourism council...

from page 6

sory spectacle of Christmas lights and decors liberally used to give us the Christmassy feel never before done in recent years. This is without doubt public approval. She stipulated that the BTC felt disappointed over what have been reported --- undoubtedly fueled by malicious intent --- every now and then, disparaging the Christmassy feeling that in two weekends and in days in between has overwhelmed our people and out of nowhere, malevolent bashers have raved and ranted in unbelievable disdain, belittling what has been publicly accepted by people from all walks of life, casting aspersions at every turn, magnifying faults that are simply par for the course for huge projects like a Baguio Christmas festival. "We all realize that putting together An Enchanting Baguio Christmas is hardly a breezy walk, given the usual challenges along the way --- the magnitude of the task, the scale of aspirations sought to be achieved, the scarcity of time and resources at our disposal. Hard work, focused determination, and yes, self-sacrifice were invested voluntarily to make it happen, often times by self-abnegation,"

earlier plans that were prepared for the said purpose./Dexter A. See

P22B needed to complete...

from page 8

year and will look into the needs of the city and assess its capacity to pay the soft loans it may provided for specific environment projects and programs.

The city chief executive claimed the city government might be able to access at least P2 billion in grants from the concerned government agencies but the P20 billion required to bankroll the full blast completion of the proposed projects will have to be taken from grants or soft loans from different financial lending institutions based on debt-to-equity ratio to ascertain the city's capacity and ability to pay back the borrowed money.

Among the proposed projects to help the city government significantly improve its existing water and waste water treatment plants include the proposed rehabilitation and expansion of the 32-year old Baguio sewerage treatment plant, the put up of a sewerage treatment plant for the city's abattoir and the public market, the construction of additional sewerage treatment plants along strategic areas in the Galiano, Bued and Ambalanga rivers, and the connection of all residential and commercial structures to the established sewerage

Vergara stated. For reasons of public transparency and accountability, she emphasized that the BTC is making public a detailed accounting and auditing report of the funds used to make the Christmas celebration happen and let it be noted though that government funds were shoe-string at the very start and the BTC had to source out added funds through meritorious sponsorships to get the huge project going. By January, the BTC assured that it will come out with an independent audit on the funds that were used to hold the said Christmas festivities right at the heat of the city. Further, the BTC explained that it is our well-considered position that the Christmas Fair now going on at the Rose Garden is not a trade fair, contrary to those who seem to equate the activity with those that have been conducted merrily, with the sunshine spread out cheerfully. First and

foremost, any selling done in the premises is merely incidental, meant simply to complement the ambiance of an enchanting Christmas setting sought to be simulated. The principal aim is not to make anyone profiteer from its use, but overall, to make the Rose Garden an enchanting place of fun, fellowship, amusement, and family-oriented activities. The chalets for exhibition and marketing outlets form part of sponsor entitlements aside from media values provided depending on the chosen level of sponsorship package. These chalets are strictly curated and sell carefully selected products that exude the Christmas exuberant atmosphere as depicted in European Christmas Markets. Absolutely no rental charges were imposed. To the last exhibitor (except for one whose undertaking we withdrew due to unshared objective), there is collective fulfillment that something valuable is being shared. **By Dexter A. See**

Revocation of...

from page 1

date not one of them complied. The mayor said the city will no longer tolerate these establishments' defiance of the law as he tasked the CBAO to begin the process of revoking their permits in coordination with the Permits and Licensing Division.

The establishment's violation of the National Building Code and city ordinances is a ground for the revocation of the building and occupancy permits.

The CBAO has the authority to recommend the disapproval or non-renewal of business permits of non-compliant businesses./Aileen P. Refuerzo

treatment plants.

Further, the city government is also pushing for the construction of additional rain harvesting facilities in strategic areas in the city to ensure a huge volume of rain water is stored to be used for the increasing water requirements of the city consumers especially during the summer months.

Earlier, the Japan International Cooperating Agency (JICA) estimated the city needs at least P22 billion to completely rehabilitate the water and waste water treatment facilities and to put up similar structures to significantly reduce the pollutants in the different bodies of water flowing from their headwaters in the city up to where they drain in the lowlands.

Based on data from the Cordillera office of the Environmental Bureau (EMB-CAR), the recent reading of pollutants in the Balili river increased from the previous P1.6 trillion matter per number (MPN) per 100 milliliters of water while the reading at the Bued River increased to 465 MPN per 100 milliliters of water that was tested which indicate that the said bodies of water are heavily polluted and needing immediate interventions to prevent the situation from worsening./Dexter A. See

Baguio number coding scheme suspended anew

BAGUIO CITY – The city government ordered the suspension of the Baguio Number Coding Scheme for the motor vehicles of the participants of the ongoing 70th Fil-Am Invitational Golf Tournament from December 2-18, 2019.

Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong issued Executive Order No. 168, series of 2019, which ordered the suspension of the Baguio Number Coding Scheme for the participants of the ongoing amateur golf tournament which is now underway at the Camp John Hay (CJH) and Baguio Country Club (BCC) golf courses.

Under the order, participants of the golf tournament are required to show to the apprehending officers their identification cards issued by the organizers for their exemption from the coverage of the traffic scheme of the city.

It has been the practice of the city government to suspend the implementation of the Baguio Number Coding Scheme during the conduct of huge gatherings conducted in the city, in this case, the 70th edition of the Fil-Am Invitational Golf tournament.

Ordinance No. 01 series of 2003, amended by Ordinance No. 107 series of 2008, is known as the

Baguio Number Coding Scheme Ordinance where motor vehicles are not allowed to ply the city's streets on certain days of the week based on the ending of the license plate number of motor vehicles.

Section 6 of Ordinance No. 01, series of 2003, as amended by Section 1 of Ordinance No. 107, series of 2008, exempts private motor vehicles and chartered public utility vehicles of visitors, tourists, vaca-

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FROM DUMP TO PARK - Mayor Benjamin Magalong briefs DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu and DENR Regional Director Ralph Pablo on the city's plan to turn the decommissioned Irisan dumpsite into an ecopark on Friday, 6 December 2019

Baguio not interested to host CARAA in 2021, 2022

focus its available resources on the

BAGUIO CITY – The city government signified it is not interested to host the prestigious Cordillera Administrative Region Athletic Association (CARAA) in 2021 and 2022 to allow other city governments in the region to have a chance to host the regional sports competition.

Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong claimed the city government will no longer accept default decisions by the regional and district offices of the Department of Education declaring Baguio City as the host of future regional sports competitions if there are no local governments interested in hosting the CARAA.

Supposedly, Apayao will be the host of the 2020 CARAA for the second time after the provincial government hosted the 2019 regional sports competition, but the present administration decided to back out from hosting the said competition for the provincial government to

celebration of the province's 25th or silver anniversary in February 2020 right which coincides with the scheduled CARAA sports competitions.

Baguio City usually serves as the host to other sports delegations from the different parts of the region if there are no local governments that bid to host the sports competition as it can afford to allocate a portion of its available funds to conduct the annual sports event in the region.

After the education department declared Baguio City as the host of the 2020 CARAA, the education department requested the city to allocate some P15.5 million to defray the expenses needed for the hosting of the annual sports competition whose events can be held in different sports venues around the city.

The city chief executive stated the city already outlined

its priority programs, projects and activities for the next 3 years to build a better Baguio and its needs all the available funds to achieve this the benefit of the present and future inhabitants.

The CARAA serves as an avenue for the selection of deserving athletes from the different parts of the Cordillera who will represent the region in the 2020 Palarong Pambansa in Davao city by April or May next year.

More than 7,000 athletes and sports officials from the eight divisions in the region will be joining the 2020 CARAA sports competitions with the successful medalists representing the region in the different regional, national and international sports competitions.

Aside from the P15.5 million to be provided by the city government to allow the staging of the CARAA in the city next year, the education department will provide a P600,000 counterpart to defray expenses needed in hosting the regional sports competition.

From 2015 to 2017, Baguio city hosted the CARAA for 3 consecutive years followed by Abra in 2018 and Apayao during the staging of the 2019 regional sports competition which is supposedly conducted around the different local governments comprising the CAR./Dexter A. See

P22B needed to complete rehab of water, waste water plants

ants in the different river systems.

BAGUIO CITY – The city government needs at least P22 billion to complete the proposed rehabilitation of the city's water and waste water treatment plants to significantly reduce the volume of pollut-

ronment.

He said one of the international financial lending institutions that signified its intention to provide the city government with grants and soft loans for city's water and waste water treatment plants is the Asian Development Bank (ADB) that will hold its annual board meeting in the city by the first or second quarter next

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