

THE WEEKEND JUNCTION

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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Pahayagang palabanan!!! Women OFWs many, but remit less than men



BAGUIO CITY -- The very controversial more than P4 million Session Road sidewalk repair which according to critics was overpriced to satisfy the greed of those involved, is almost one month in the making. It is hoped to be completed after another month. Critics however vow to charge people at city hall for the project that accordingly contained irregularities like Environmental Impact studies aside from it being overpriced. Project proponents however claim that it is not anymore overpriced, in fact the budget measily with the jacking up of construction materials. Such however might be another of those substandard projects, hope not.- Ace Alegre

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—FOR 12 years, Rita’s family in the Philippines was fed through two shoe-box sized containers at her feet.

The rectangular matte-black boxes, scuffed with use, contain Rita’s tools of the trade: nail clippers, nippers, two-inch tall bottles of silver, gold, and red nail polishes, blush-on brushes and mascara.

For more than a decade, Rita relied on her being a manicurist and pedicurist, enabling her to send money to her family in Bansalan, Davao del Sur. Rita is one of millions of female laborers and unskilled workers who remain the leading number of OFWs in the annual Survey on Overseas Filipinos (SOF) of the National Statistics Office. But their meager salaries abroad have not made them the top remitters compared to their counterpart male low-skilled workers. While not revealing how much she sends monthly, Rita says she earns an average 100 ringgits (a minimum of P1,365.40 at current exchange rates) a day.

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Marami nang nakain na pera ang Session Rd. na 'yan!

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

BWD and MERALCO: similarities

BY ARTURO BOQUIREN



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KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Pagsunod sa Diyos, susi ng tagumpay at yaman

BY. BATAS MAURICIO



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Dads ask Airline Firms to Provide more flights to Baguio

BAGUIOCITY— The city council renewed its call for the Philippine Airlines, Cebu Airlines and other airline companies to provide additional air transport services to the city.

This came on the heels of the body's move to also reiterate to authorities its desire to allow the continued operation of the Loakan airport here amid reports of plans to close the same to give way to the expansion of the Philippine Economic Zone.

The body reiterated Resolution No. 245 series of 2006 where the council first aired their appeal to the various airline firms to consider the city in their route to further improve air transport services to the city and further rev up the city's tourism industry.

"The Officer-in-Charge, Air Transportation Office, Baguio Airport, Baguio City, in her letter dated 29 April 2008 sug-

gested that representations be made to request airline companies to come and service the City of Baguio like the Philippine Airlines (PAL) and Cebu Pacific that recently acquired smaller aircrafts like Bombargers and ATP to service smaller airports," the resolution noted.

The council move was based on the recommendation of the council committee on public utilities, transportation and traffic legislation.

In approving the
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Oct. 1 lot Probe elevated to solgen; public warned of buying lots

BAGUIOCITY— The city council last Monday decided to elevate the investigation into the controversial Original Certificate of Title No. 1 to the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) following findings that several land titles issued to various entities have overlapped with that of the said mother title.

OCT No. 1 in the name of the Insular Government of the Philippines covers a prime and expansive lot that straddles Governor Pack, Harrison Road and the Government Center.

In a resolution proposed by Councilors Fred Bagbagen, Betty Lourdes Tabanda and Isabelo Cosalan Jr., the city council urged the OSG to also annul the extraneous titles if proven that these indeed overlapped with OCT No. 1.

In their measure, the proponents said it was found out that the titles issued to SM Baguio, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the heirs of Carantes and others have overlapped with OCT No. 1.

They said surveys have been conducted of the property by the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources and the city assessor's office.

During the department heads meeting last Monday headed by Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr., Register of Deeds Juanito Ampaguey issued a warning to the public against buying lots covered by titles that appear to overlap with OCT No. 1.

He said these titles may be valid as these were issued by legitimate agencies but these may be a cause of trouble eventually especially with the problematic situation of OCT No.

"Oct No. 1 is very controversial and we advise the buyers not to deal with people who sell these lots," he said.

Tabanda during the meeting reported that prospective buyers of said lots came to her office inquiring on the legitimacy of the title. She cautioned that if the title holders succeed in selling the lots covered by said extraneous titles, then the city will face more serious problems eventually.

The OCT No. 1 problem has been the subject of an investigation by a city council committee headed by Councilor Isabelo Cosalan Jr.

The investigation was prompted by revelations made by Councilor Rocky Thomas Balisong in a privilege speech on the apparent indiscriminate titling and parceling of lots embraced by OCT No. 1.

The council the
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Ordinance for protection, enhancement of stude welfare approved

BAGUIOCITY— An ordinance that seeks to harmonize all efforts in enhancing student welfare has passed final reading at the city council.

Ordinance No. 53 series of 2008 or Student Welfare Act of the City of Baguio authored by Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda mandates the creation of the Council for Student Welfare (CSW) to handle the task of coordinating efforts, both public and private, in enhancing student welfare and in optimizing the training opportunities which are available in the city.

It also seeks the

establishment of a student welfare desk under the Office of the City Mayor to accept and respond to student concerns and grievances.

"With the presence of the various colleges/universities, high schools and vocational and technical schools in the city, Baguio has established itself as the educational center of the north. The student population is a major sector of our population and a major contributor to our economy. Sadly, however, government efforts to address their needs and

concerns have not always been very adequate," Tabanda noted.

The CSW will be composed of the following: the City Mayor as the Chairperson; the City Vice Mayor; the Chairperson of the Sangguniang Panlungsod (City Council) Committee on Education; the president of all colleges/universities in the city; the principals of all high schools in the city; the presidents of the central student governments of all colleges/universities/ high schools in the city; the City Schools Superintendent, Division of Schools, Department of

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THE JUNCTION

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J U E T E N G

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(SGD) Odell P. Aquino
The Junction- OIC

Dads push for forbes park retention as forest reservation

BAGUIO CITY – The city council last Monday called for the retention of the Forbes Park area along South Drive here as a forest reservation following confirmation by the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources regional office (DENR-CAR) here that some portions of the reservation has been declared as alienable.

The body also requested the DENR-CAR to cancel all townsite sales applications made by private entities over said lot and to immedi-

ately resolve the ancestral land issued in the area to retain the area as a pinestand and safeguard its forest cover.

Victor Carantes, officer-in-charge of the office of the regional technical director for lands of the DENR-CAR confirmed before the body that some portions of the 29-hectare Forbes Park I have been reclassified as alienable or disposable as per Proclamation No. 773 and Republic Act No. 8963.

The body was deliberating on a proposal by Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas to turn over Forbes Park I to the city government for development into a regular campsite.

Carantes said the

DENR-CAR would interpose no objection to the proposal but this would have to pass through the Office of the President and the Congress.

Carantes said there were areas approved for disposition but there were also townsite sales applications over Forbes Park lots that were disapproved by the DENR like the applications of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines and the ancestral claimants.

The council nevertheless was concerned that there were portions declared open for disposition thus it moved to declare it

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BURNING POT... The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency - Cordillera burns P2.1-million worth of marijuana at the Melvin Jones, Burnahm Park enough to make a whole city feel "high", June 27, marking International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking participated in by officers from Precinct 2 of the Baguio City Police Office, Kapangan Municipal Police Office and beat-patrollers from Kapangan. Curiously, while the yearly celebration is highlighted by the burning, there is an existing ordinance prohibiting the burning of leaves in the City of Baguio./ Monch David

City requires safety measures for excavations

BAGUIO CITY – The city will now require road contractors and excavators to provide enough safety measures on their road digging or excavation work.

The city council approved on final reading Ordinance No. 54 series of 2008 authored by Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas for said purpose.

In his measure, Farinas said road repair and excavation works have become periodic occurrences in the city necessitating the creation of canals and other road easements such as

manhole openings according to their engineered purposes.

"Such canals and pits when left unchecked or unguarded may, and have caused accidents and property damages to innumerable people. These accidents are likely to occur during nights, rainy weather, when vehicles back-up and the visibility of the roads are very difficult to estimate," he noted.

"The provision of concrete coverings and iron grids to prevent such disasters must be imposed upon contractors and road excavators as a measure to put a stop to such occurrences. There has been so much uncalculated amounts put to waste for damages and injuries spent by innumerable victims for such a

persisting problem that only takes a simple solution that this legislative measure aims to correct," the measure said.

As per the ordinance, "all road contractors and/or excavators shall provide a temporary concrete coverings and/or steel grills when excavations are on-going and a permanent concrete coverings and/or steel grills after construction has been fully completed on all canals, manholes and other pits that pose danger to vehicles and pedestrians."

Violators will be penalized as follows on government projects: first offense – reprimand;

second offense – revocation of contract in any government projects; and third offense – contractor will be barred from any government projects.

In case the project is private in nature, the following penalties will be imposed: first offense – reprimand; second offense – suspension of business permit within six months; and third offense – revocation of business permit.

For government project undertaken by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the City Engineering Office (CEO), the Baguio Water District (BWD) and the Benguet Electric Cooperative (BENECO), the officials concerned shall be sanctioned as follows: first offense –reprimand;

second offense – suspension of one month without pay; and third offense – suspension for three months without pay.

Any private individual or contractor and/excavator who has no license to operate found to be violating the

provisions of this ordinance shall be penalized as follows: first offense – fine of P1,000 and reprimand; second offense – fine of P1,500; and third – fine of P2,000 or three days imprisonment or both at the discretion of the court./ Aileen P. Refuerzo

PROBLEMA Sa Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB-CAR)?

Send us an email at info@hlurb.net or text/call 0917-5069123 and we will post the information at www.hlurb.net.
Magsumbong at mag-ingay para mabawasan ang katiwalian sa Gobyerno!!!

We believe that the Golden Rule applies to animals, too. We don't accept the prevailing notion that "people come first" or that "people are more important than animals." Animals feel pain and suffer just as we do, and it is almost always humans making animals suffer and not the other way around. Yet in spite of how cruelly people behave towards animals – not to mention human cruelty to other humans- we are supposed to believe that humans are superior to other animals. If people want to fancy themselves as being of greater moral worth than the other creatures on this earth, we should begin behaving better than they do, and not worse. Let's start treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves.

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno

www.linisgobyerno.org

From Regret to Hope

Here's a new tightly-edited book that portrays 53 striking Filipino faces. Most say: "If we don't do the impossible now, we shall face the unthinkable soon."

"Forest Faces: Hopes and Regrets in Philippine Forestry" is co-published by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization and Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) at Ateneo University.

"In few countries has forest management's successes and failures been played out so dramatically as in the Philippines," writes FAO's He Changchui. "The scale of forest loss...irrevocably altered the identity of many Filipinos."

This book "gives a face" to the interplay between

Filipinos and forests. "Not all embrace the value and indispensability of trees and forests," it says "Currents of regret for what has gone before and cautionary notes for what may yet be to come" resonate throughout.

EDITORIAL

"Forestry is not about trees," the legendary forester Jack Westoby taught. "It is about people." And "Forest Faces" hews to Westoby's insight in thru striking photographs and interviews. These were arranged by FAO's Christopher Brown and Patrick Durst with ESSC's Peter Walpole.

Interviewees include "the weak and the powerful, unknown as well as most influential" Filipinos. Among these are indigenous lumads, rebel commanders, forest guards to a climatologist, a cardinal, a European Union diplomat and policy-makers.

"No more dirges for Philippine forests," songwriter Joey Ayala insists. In Mount Banahaw's forests, he gathered material for his songs. Ayala "dreams of a time" when his songs and poems will no longer be elegies of treasures we lost as a people, but rather hopes turned real."

"Hunger defines our lives," says South Cotabato's T'boli leader Timbang Tungkey. His photo, with mop of silver hair and firm lips, are superimposed on a satellite montage of deforested Mindanao gullies. These grace the book's cover.

Tungkey's people used mountain forests down to Allah river—until lowland migrants shoved them off the land. Tungkey, his Hilongo wife and 24 children recall gutom (hunger), stretching over months. His family was not spared from high infant death rates that chronic hunger spawns. Now, gutom is seasonal.

"One can distinguish tree species from sawdust washed up on river banks," says historian Gregorio Hontiveros. In his book "Butuan of a Thousand Years", he documented the province's history as a pre-Spanish trading port up to World War II. A historian's eye notes the devastated landscape that unchecked logging caused—plus exodus of loggers and their families. What was one a thriving timber export center now imports wood for a few miniscule mills.

"Today's degraded forests reflect a history of logging and abandonment", writes Walpole in an overview that distills scientific assessment in lucid readable style. Degradation of vital watersheds continue. Encroachments wreck ill-protected areas 'though they are at the core of receding biodiversity.' And we've moved to mining as a national model for joining new rich nations of Asia.

"All is not lost," he adds. "Regeneration is taking place...as the old secondary forests regain their original stature. Cogon (imperata cylindrica) fields, that blanket logged-over areas, shelter a new generation of pioneering seedlings. "(This) is a phoenix forest that could restore and regenerate our landscape." There is hope. Bit it "needs a nurturing hand."

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KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Pagsunod sa Diyos, susi ng tagumpay at yaman

BY. BATAS MAURICIO



ANG PAGSUNOD sa mga utos ng Diyos ay walang-salang siyang susi ng lahat ng tagumpay at yaman ng tao, samantalang ang pagsuway sa mga utos na ito ay siya namang ugat ng lahat ng kapahamakan, kahirapan, kaguluhan at kabiguan sa lahat ng bagay.

Ito ang siyang natatanging mensahe sa kabuuan ng Bibliya, mula sa mga unang pahina nito hanggang sa pinakahuling tulok ng mga Kasulatan.

Dahil diyan, kung gusto nating maging matagumpay ang buhay natin at ng ating mga anak at mga kaapo-apuhan, kailangan nating magbasa ng Bibliya, alamin ang mga utos at tuntunin ng Diyos at isabuhay ang mga ito.

Sa Mateo 6:33, maliwanag ang utos: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all of these things shall be added unto you." Pagsumikapan muna nating pagharian tayo ng Diyos at hanapin ang kanyang katuwiran, at ang lahat ng kailangan natin sa ating buhay ay ibibigay sa atin.

Sa Deuteronomio 28:1, na nauna na nating nabasa sa pahayagang ito, sinasabing ang sinumang susunod at tatalima sa mga utos at tuntunin ni Yahweh na ating Diyos ay itatampok sa lahat ng mga bansa at magkakamit ng mga pagpapala at biyayang mula sa langit.

Sa Kawikaan 3:1-2, naririto naman ang sinasabi: "Anak ko, ang aral ko ay huwag mong lilimutin, lahat ng aking utos sa isipan mo'y itanim; upang ang araw mo'y tumagal, humaba ang iyong buhay, at maging masagana sa lahat ng bagay."

Ang katotohanang di maitatwa ay ito: ang sinumang nagbabasa ng Kasulatan o ng Bibliya, ay nagbabasa ng mga kinasihan ng Diyos sapagkat, ayon sa 2 Timoteo 3:16, ang lahat ng Kasulatan ay kinasihan ng Diyos.

At dahil nagbabasa tayo ng mga kinasihan ng Diyos, tayo may ay kakasihan din. Magiging kakampi natin ang Diyos, at, ayon sa Roma 8:31, kung ang Diyos ay kakampi natin, sino ang laban sa atin?

Kung kakampi natin ang Diyos, hindi tayo dapat nag-aalala o nababalisa tungkol sa anumang bagay, kagaya ng utos sa atin ng Filipos 4:6. Sa halip ay hingin natin sa Diyos ang lahat ng ating kailangan, sa pamamagitan ng panalanging may pasasalamat.

Ang sinumang nag-aalay ng panalanging may pasasalamat sa Diyos at sumusunod sa Kanyang mga utos ay makakaasa na tutulungan ng Diyos, sapagkat hindi nga Niya ipinagdamot ang Kanyang Bugtong na Anak para sa ating kaligtasan, ipagkakait kaya Niya ang iba pang bagay (Roma 8:32)?

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TANONG: MR KO PO AY KANO AT KASAL KAMI SA PILIPINAS. MAY KINAKASAMA NG IBANG BABAE SA MIDELE EAST. ANG MR KONG KANO AY HUMIHINGI NG DIVORS. PWEDE PO BA YON?

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

*BWD and MERALCO:
similarities*

BY ARTURO BOQUIREN



This year, MERALCO became a target of attack by several sectors of society and by no less than GSIS Chief Winston Garcia. Some of the key issues:

1. MERALCO has been charging the public "systems losses" up to 9% of the total bill. Consumers consider this unjustified and say that will encourage inefficiency. Not even the ad of Judy Anne Santos helps. In the ad, Judy Anne compares systems losses to buying ice: you buy ice but ends bringing home less ice because of melting. Critics say that if we allow systems losses, inefficiency is promoted because the buyer can bring ice buckets. If we allow charges for systems losses, there will be no incentive to develop technologies that eliminate or reduce systems losses. Analysts estimate systems losses of MERALCO at around P500 million annually.

2. In 2003 and 2004, reports say that the Supreme Court suspended MERALCO for overcharging and ordered a refund of the P300 billion in income taxes it had passed on to the consumers from 1994 to 2002.

3. Further, reports say that the Supreme Court voided the provisional increase collected by MERALCO in 2004 without the benefit of public hearings.

4. On the other hand, GSIS Chief Winston Garcia finds it strange why MERALCO rates are higher than in the Visayas. He says that GSIS should be allowed to purchase the Lopez's share of 33% in the MERALCO. Once GSIS becomes a majority (GSIS currently owns 23% of MERALCO), he can bring down MERALCO's rates and will resign if he fails to do so.

Other critics claim that the attacks against MERALCO were instigated by the Gloria-Macapagal administration to divert attention from charges of corruption against the administration on the ZTE deal. Nevertheless, whether this particular accusation is valid, the issues against MERALCO have their merits. Of course, it is also true that VAT is a main contributor to the power rates.

BWD is not yet in the eye in the center of a people's storm but it deserves to be one. This is because of the following:

1. Like MERALCO, BWD water rates are higher than those in Manila.
2. BWD is not properly conducting public hearings and, thus, there is a basis to void the rate increases it had approved in the past. Like in the Supreme Court decision on MERALCO, consumers may even be entitled to refunds.

3. Not only is BWD inefficient (because its rates are higher when the region is home to headwaters), its rates policies promote wastage. Even if one consumes only 1 cubic meter, a household is charged at 10 cubic meters or thereabouts.

Public criticisms on the BWD are not yet fully developed in Baguio City. Economists usually explain the phenomenon as a situation wherein, on a per consumer level, so little is at stake: only a few pesos per family even if the overall pesos involved can be millions. Nevertheless, history demonstrates that the dragons in a citizenry can be roused from their sleep even if the monetary stake involved is little. In the oil price hikes of the 1970s, for example, a few centavos of oil price hike contributed to the emergence of a Diliman commune where students barricaded the UP campus to stage political uprisings. Of course, THE PEACE COMBATANT prefers a far more peaceful resolution of the issues it is raising against the BWD. From hereon, THE PEACE COMBATANT will explore other avenues so the public can face up the BWD and obtain redress.

In days to come, however, THE PEACE COMBATANT will tackle other issues in Baguio City in the Cordillera. The BWD is an important issue but there are other issues that are equally important that must be addressed as well by THE PEACE COMBATANT. We will have to tackle the BWD issues only occasionally and, besides, the articles in THE PEACE COMBATANT will be available in the internet soon so readers will just have to refer to the internet for the earlier write-ups. The PEACE COMBATANT and the WEEKLY JUNCTION will continue to dedicate themselves to upholding people's welfare in Baguio City and outside the territory.

(The author maintains a website at www.geocities.com/arturoboquiren and can be contacted through artboquiren2040@yahoo.com and 0927-536-8431)

PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

*Gentlemen's Agreement !!!
Anti Gambling Daw Sila !!!*

BY: ODELL AQUINO
Email: aquino_odell@yahoo.com



(This is a Re-Print of last issues Column)

GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT – Ano ba talaga ang ibig sabihin ng salitang gentlemen's agreement? Ito ba ay puwedeng pagka sunduan ng mga babae at baka ang dapat na itawag ay ladies agreement. O puwede bang magkaroon ng isang kasunduang gentlemen's agreement ang mga bakla, o dapat ay bakla's agreement o gay's agreement ang dapat na itawag dito? Marahil ay masyado akong nagiging literal sa aking pag-unawa ng isang gentlemen's agreement, ngunit sa aking pagkakaunawa ay kahit na sino o ano man ang kanyang gender ay puwedeng magkaroon ng isang gentlemen's agreement kung sila ay pumapasok sa isang pagkakasundo o agreement na may marangal na layunin at hangarin. Ang sinasabing gentlemen's agreement, kadalasan ay ipinagkakasundo sa salita at sa isang handshake kung saan ang salita at hand shake ay sapat na at siyang binibigyan ng napakalaking importansya na mahigit pa sa isang dokumentong linagdaan at pinirmahan ng mga partido o ng mga nag-agree. Katulad halimbawa ng sistema sa Japan kung saan halos wala kang makitang mga abogago este abogado at parating gentlemen's agreement ang siyang pinag babasehan ng mga pag kakasunduan ngunit na paka unlad at mapayapa ang Japan at mga hapones hindi katulad sa atin sa Pinas na puros abogago este abogado, tatlo singko nga ang mga abogado sa Pilipinas ngunit na pakagulo ng sistema sa Pilipinas; marahil ay sa walang pagbibigay galang at karangalan sa sinasabing gentlemen's agreement!

Kaya mga dear readers, tularan natin ang sistema ng mga Hapon at mga ibang mauunlad na bansa kung saan kanilang binibigyan kahalagahan ang sinasabing gentlemen's agreement (or maari natin masabing word of honor) hindi katulad ng maraming mga opisyal sa Gobyerno kung saan binabalewala ang kanilang salita kaya tuloy masyadong magulo ang sistwasyon natin maging sa Hudikatura, Pulitika, Prosekusyon at iba pa.... Sa susunod kong kolum ay aking kokomentaryohan ang sinasabing Honor Among Thieves na kung sana ay kahit man lang ang isang honor code among thieves ay sinusunod ng mga tulisan sa gobyerno ay hindi sana ganito ka dumi at kakorap ang ating kasalukuyang sitwasyon.

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MGA IPOKRITO BA SILA???- Talaga naman mga dear readers, kung bakit sa headline story ng pahayagang ito lumalabas na maraming mga kontra kuno sa pagkakaroon ng STL sa lungsod at kontra din sila kuno sa operasyon ng Jueteng. **OH C'MON**, lumang tugtugin na yan. Mabuti pa sana ay manahimik na lang kayo at huwag ng mag pa kontra-kontra kuno sapagkat alam naman nating lahat na kung talagang ayaw ninyo ng jueteng at ibang uri ng sugalan ay nuon pang napatigil ang mga iligal na sugal sa lungsod ng Baguio. Dapat ay consistent kayo sa lahat ng uri ng sugal maging iligal o ligal (jueteng, video karera, drop ball, bingo teng etc...) kung ang moral at ispirital na aspeto ang inyong concern lalo na kung ang mga nabibiktimahan ay ang mga dukha at mahihirap. Eh bakit mukhang selective kayo at kung ano pa ang ligal ay yun pa? kunwari ang inyong tinututulan? **Bakit kaya, magkano kaya, magkano, magkano, magkano, magkano???** Magkano kaya ang mawawala na buwis at pakinabang sa lungsod kung wala ang STL at lalong magkano at mas malaki ang nawawala sa buong sambayanan at sa lungsod dala ng inyong katahimikan hinggil sa operasyon ng Jueteng at Bingo Teng etc...??? He!he!he! ano ba naman yan, **MAGSITIGIL NGA KAYO JAN AT HUWAG KAYONG PARANG MGA IPOKRITO**. Kung ibabawal ninyo ang isang sugal na katulad ng STL na siyang isang ligal na sugal ay dapat na mas ipagbawal ang mga iligal na sugal, hindi ba mga Honorbale Civic and Religious Leaders, Ladies and Gentlemen?!?!!

AFTERSHOCKS

*The Perks Of Being a Congressman
In The Philippines 1st of 2 Parts*

BY: ANNABELLE PEDRONIO



(This is a Re-Print of last issues Column)

DAYS before the 14th Congress opened, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. had humored the neophyte members of the House of Representatives about the enviable perks enjoyed by lawmakers. The former representative of Camarines Sur who once chaired the powerful House appropriations committee was invited to orient the first-term legislators on the budgeting process. During his talk, he remarked how wonderful it is to be a congressman: 'You have flexible time. Pwede kang pumasok, pwedeng hindi (You may or may not go to work) yet still get your salary.'

Then, he warned them not to make the mistake of paying for meals and drinks at the Batasan Pambansa's South Lounge as it is their privilege to be served free food.

Andaya may have meant everything as a joke, only that speaking of the privileges that legislators enjoy in such manner was hardly amusing, especially given a quorum-challenged legislature that has been passing fewer and fewer laws each year despite the ever increasing budgetary allocation to lawmaking. When the 13th Congress formally closed last June 30, it managed to pass only 148 laws, setting a new record-low in the history of the Philippine legislature. That is no laughing matter.

Yet apparently, the mention of perks was the very cue Jose de Venecia Jr. had also waited for. When came his turn to give the freshman legislators a briefing, the just elected House Speaker announced even more entitlements for members of the Lower House, in particular, an annual P1-million foreign travel allotment, and allocations for additional staff and maintenance of their respective district offices. There's even a new building in the works to house new offices for the congressmen.

What the public commonly knows is that his or her district representative gets a monthly salary of P35,000, plus, of course, yearly pork-barrel allocations amounting to P70 million — P20 million in Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) and P50 million as congressional allocation for public works projects.

What is seldom known are the amounts corresponding to their other entitlements, apart from salary and pork barrel. As gleaned from the Commission on Audit's annual published itemized lists, these include expenses for district staff allocation, contractual consultants, research, consultative local travel, communication, and supplies. There are also allocations for a public affairs fund, central office staff, equipment/furniture and fixtures, and other maintenance and operating expenses (MOE).

COSTLY CONGRESSMEN What the Public Spent for the Upkeep of Each Member of the House of Representatives for the year, 2005

EXPENSE ITEMS*	AMOUNT
Basic Salary	420,000.00
Foreign Travel	220,867.70
District Staff Allocation	650,000.04
Contractual Consultants	120,000.00
Research	396,000.00
Consultative Local Travel	788,763.71
Communication	129,600.00
Supplies	120,000.00
Public Affairs Fund	308,400.00
Central Office Staff	1,982,033.58
Equipment/Furniture and Fixtures	21,537.84
Other MOE	600,000.00

Source: Commission on Audit

*Figures for Foreign Travel, Consultative Local Travel, Central Office Staff and Equipment/Furniture and Fixtures are average amounts. The rest are uniform for all congressmen.

The COA lists are not at all comprehensive and do not even include expenses of legislators as committee members and officers which, in 2005, amounted to over P92 million. In 2004, the House spent about P77 million on these expenses.

Source: <http://pagodkanaba.blogspot.com/2008/01/perks-of-being-congressman-in.html>

In the of sea tragedy, Chiz to congress: want to help, support coastguard bill

Amid the sea tragedy that struck the country, opposition senator Chiz Escudero today said all help is needed and should be welcomed for victims of the ill-fated Princess of the Stars. This he said as individuals, groups and fellow members of the Congress signified intention to help in the midst of the crisis.

Escudero reiterated his stand that any form of investigations surrounding the sinking of the ship should be put on hold while all ef-

orts are focused on the search, rescue and retrieval operations. "I don't agree to any form of investigation for now while we are still in the middle of putting things in order. We should give the government a chance to do its job first and after that, then we can proceed with finding who are responsible for this tragedy and make them face our proper courts."

However, Escudero said people especially his fellow legislators could provide real and enduring help to all seafarers by supporting the Coast Guard Reor-

ganization Bill which is currently pending before both Houses of Congress.

Senate Bill No. 1238 or "The Philippine Coast Guard Act of 2007" which is pending in the Senate has been filed by Escudero last year. The bill seeks to reorganize the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) as a separate and distinct uniformed commissioned service under the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

At present, the PCG is existing in limbo because its inception to the DOTC as a non-military organization was created through Executive Order 477, which

Cont. on page 9

Ambitious zero-illegal recruitment bid faces many hurdles in La Union

MANDALUYONG CITY—A BID to stomp out illegal recruitment in La Union province within a year got off on a slow start, with the nonprofit group leading this ambitious project bracing itself for "booby traps" along the way.

Marge Madiguid of Kanlungan Centre Foundation Inc. said there was no formal launch yet for its "zero illegal recruitment campaign," planned to start this June.

The campaign won for Kanlungan a P0.92-million grant in May from the World Bank-sponsored contest called "Panibagong Paraan".

Madiguid told the OFW Journalism Consortium

that while there's no formal launch for the project, they have met and discussed the campaign with local government and non-government groups and agencies.

She's hoping that all committees they plan to organize for the campaign would be formed before July.

But the slow start is the least of Kanlungan's problems as Madiguid said a lot of hurdles await the project.

The biggest hurdle, she said, is the alleged links between recruiters and executives of the local government, which is one of Kanlungan's partner in the project.

La Union, some 235 kilometers north of Manila, hit the headlines in 2006 when former Agoo assistant provincial

prosecutor Catalino Pepi was reportedly sentenced to life imprisonment for illegally recruiting factory workers bound for South Korea.

The conviction decision of the Regional Trial Court in Agoo read that Pepi connived with a Manila recruitment agency, and even used his office, to collect placement fees ranging between P40,000 to P150,000 from each applicant.

Another news report cited the arrest of provincial board member Pablo Olarte after three people filed a case against the former mayor of Agoo, La Union, for not being sent overseas.

A 2006 POEA release cited Olarte as proprietor of Sabloak Philippines, a consultancy firm offering paid services for jobseekers wanting to meet immi-

Cont. on page 8

Big establishments now required to provide segregated waste bins

BAGUIO CITY – Owners of big establishments like shopping malls, hotels and restaurants here are now required to provide their own large garbage bins that would effect the segregation of wastes.

The city council has approved on final reading Ordinance No. 52 series of 2008 and authored by Vice Mayor Daniel Fariñas.

The measure was meant to compliment the city's waste segregation policy since these establishments are also considered as major waste generators.

"It has been observed that although there are business establishments that are now complying with the solid waste segregation process some have their solid wastes accumulated at their vicinities while awaiting the garbage trucks to pick them up. This kind of situation is not only an eyesore but there arises a tendency that these segregated gar-

bage may be scattered by stray animals," the ordinance noted.

"If there were big garbage bins sufficient to accommodate the accumulated garbage of each of these establishments, this kind of situation can be prevented, including the infestation by insects such as flies, cockroaches, and other vermins aside from the diseases that may arise from such." As per the ordinance, "proprietors, owners, and/or managers of large business establishments such as, but not limited to, hotels, restaurants, malls and the like, are hereby mandated to provide big garbage bins sufficient to accommodate the volume of their segregated garbage collections.

Large business establishments would refer to "busi-

nesses not considered micro-, small and medium enterprise based on capitalization.

However, although the business establishment falls under such brackets according to capitalization, a business establishment may still be considered 'large' if the volume of their garbage would approximate the equivalent volume of segregated garbage by other businesses considered large as determined by the Solid Waste Management Office and/or the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO).

These establishments may include as schools, manufacturing plants and all other establishments with large volumes of segregated garbage.

'Big' garbage bins, meanwhile, would refer to containers that are "sizeable" or "must bear dimen-

Cont. on page 8

Alarm system proposed for business establishments

BAGUIO CITY- Vice-mayor Daniel Farinas has proposed an ordinance requiring business establishments to provide efficient, effective and working alarm systems within their premises to be used during emergency situations.

According to the vice-mayor, the system would be needed for times of natural calamities such as earthquakes, accidents such as fire and medical emergencies, or man-made calamities such as theft or robbery.

Where help and rescue is a dire necessity, it is vital to notify authorities and neighbors for help, the vice-mayor stated in his proposal.

"Lives may be saved and consequent danger thwarted," if we have these alarm systems installed, vice-mayor Farinas said.

To implement the proposal, a task

force would be created with members from the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), City Building and Architecture Office (CBAO) and Engineer's Office (CEO). The body would conduct ocular inspections in business establishments to determine which ones would require alarm systems.

Businessmen would then have an option for the simple or combination alarm systems. The simple alarm system would be of sound only, or lights only, or the combination alarm, which is of sound and corresponding blinking lights.

The vice mayor made it clear that the use of commercial, expensive or sophisticated alarm systems is not the primary concern of the proposal, but with the purpose of notifying nearby indi-

viduals of the need for help.

In installing the alarm system, the following should be considered: degree of difficulty in notifying a response for emergency, or imminent threat; distance between establishment and nearest help available; number of lives at stake; ages of lives involved; time for rescue to arrive; amount of cash inflow at any given time; value of items; and other important considerations, which would include the arrangement between owner of commercial buildings and lessors or stall holders, and the permanence of stalls or spaces involved.

If finally approved, penalty for non-compliance would include non-renewal of business permits.

The proposed ordinance has been approved on first reading and endorsed to the appropriate committee for study./Julie Fianza

Free impounded funds for disaster work, Chiz tells PGMA

Sen. Chiz Escudero today asked President Arroyo to free billions of pesos in impounded funds in the national budget which can be used to help people and places hit by Typhoon 'Frank.'

Escudero identified at least P6.6 worth of funds which if added to the Calamity Fund of P2 billion for the year can aid typhoon victims and repair damaged public infrastructure.

"There is no reason why aid should come in trickles to flood-hit areas when there are certain segments in the national budget, other than the Calamity Fund, which can be tapped for disaster work,

"Escudero said.

These funds, he said, are:

P2-billion Kilos Asenso Fund

P3.6-billion Financial Subsidy to Local Government Units

P1-billion Kalayaan Barangay Fund

"The release of these funds is contingent on the President's approval. She should dig into these funds so there will be more resources available for relief work", Escudero said.

"This is bigger than the \$100,000 aid the President got from the US State Department, one which

was met with profuse thanks from her, as if she had won the lotto, when in fact she has at her easy disposal all the above-mentioned funds to use in times like this" he said.

He added that the funds are classified as "lump-sum" funds and have not been earmarked for any particular area, "so there is flexibility and wider latitude on where to apply these."

The senator, however, clarified that he is not calling for the "full diversion" of the funds to calamity areas, "only that the latter be prioritized in the allocation."

"Or if there is formula being followed in

the apportioning of these funds, then maybe Iloilo's share be given in advance," Escudero said, referring to the Western Visayas province hardest hit by "Frank." Escudero said "local government leaders I canvassed have told me that they have yet to receive any allotment from Kilos Asenso or Kalayaan Barangay which means that these funds technically are still on embargo."

Cong. Ferjenel Biron of Iloilo's fourth district and Vice Gov. Rolox Suplico both decried slow government response to the devastation in their province.

The P2-billion

Kilos Asenso Fund is included in the P228.2-billion Allocations for Local Government Units (ALGU) item in Republic Act 9498, or the General Appropriations Act for 2008. The biggest component in this block is the P210.7 billion earmarked for Internal Revenue Allotment of LGUs.

Also included in the ALGU is some P3.6 billion in "Financial Subsidy to LGUs", which is designed to partly fund the premium contributions of local governments in the Phil Health enrollment of their indigent constituents.

"This can be used to address pub-

lic health challenges which arose from the calamity, which include repair of hospitals, replenishment of medical stocks, and settlement of Phil Health claims, usage which meets the congressional intent about this particular expenditure", he said

The Kalayaan Barangay on the other hand, forms part of the P51 billion budget of the Department of National Defense. To be implemented by the Armed Forces, the P1-billion fund is intended for the development of dissident-threatened villages./Office of Senator Chiz Escudero

Editorial.....

.... from page 4

That "nurturing hand" is exhibited in by many in the book. There's forest guard Raul Zapatos. He spent 23 months in prison because he impounded illegally-cut logs. The Supreme Court reversed the vendetta by people whose pocketbooks he hurt. "May be this has changed?", Zapatos asks 17 years after that bruising incident.

"I don't go to the forests anymore," says 60-year old farmer Juanito Saday. "There used to be a lot of trees here. But PICOP, a logging company that operates in the area cut them. (Catholic social action officials have assailed PICOP for continued deforestation). Saday and others have "left-over memories of forests replaced by what the land can still grow..."

"Rainfall is changing in Mindanao," says climatologist and Jesuit priest) Jesus Ramon Villarín. His major work focuses on monitoring air quality through light detection and ranging lasers. He has explored rainfall patterns in Mindanao over the last 50 years. Their impact on croplands on Cotabato and other major river basins like Cotabato will be considerable.

Accounts of other contemporary environmental leaders, like then Bukidnon bishop (now Manila 's cardinal) Gaudenico Rosales, former DENR secretary Victor Ramos and Datu Michael Mistura are engrossing.

Thus, Story No. 32 "Talisay Home Forest" can jolt. It turns out to be English translations, by Nick Joaquin, of Jose Rizal's poems of forests in the 16-hectare farm in Talisay, Dapitan and as well in as in Mount Makiling. "The forest always had a human face to it," writes development planner George Aseniero "And it was always Rizal's forest."

Do the challenges exceed our capacity? "We spend more on a 'fiesta culture.'" This does not shape strategic coherent action, Walpole writes. We lack "a common perception as to what lessons (were) learned," let alone the commitment needed for decisive action. "We live by anecdote and the hope of sunrise."

Filipinos must define a new path of responsibility for the common good and preserve it in perpetuity. Otherwise, inaction "will allow the prophets of doom to prevail... We must reckon with decisions needed to transform hopes and regrets to resolute action."/J.L. Mercado

Big establishments..

.... from page 7

sions sufficient enough to accommodate the volume of segregated garbage and enough to hold such for the period before their next collection."

Violators of this measure would be subject to the following penalties: written notice informing the establishment to comply for first offense; fine of P1,000 for the second offense; and P2,000 fine for third offense. A P500 fine would be meted for every succeeding violation./Aileen P. efuerzo

Batas.....

.... from page 4

(639164415766)

SAGOT: Salamat po sa tanong na ito, na ipinadaan sa text. Ang isang banyaga na nakapag-asawa ng isang Pilipino o Pilipina ay nananatiling nasasakupan ng mga batas sa kanyang sariling bansa.

Ang ibig sabihin nito, kung ang bansa ng banyagang asawa ng isang Pinoy ay pumapayag magkaroon ng diborsiyo, patuloy ang banyagang asawa ng karapatang idiborsiyo ang kanyang asawang Pinoy, kahit walang batas ng diborsiyo sa Pilipinas.

Sa sitwasyong ang banyagang asawa ay nakakuha ng diborsiyo sa kaniyang sariling bansa laban sa kanyang asawang Pinoy, ang diborsiyong ito ay kikilalanin na dito sa Pilipinas mismo. Ito ang isinasaad ng Artikulo 26 ng Family Code of the Philippines.

Batay sa artikulong ito, itinuturing na hindi maganda na ang isang Pilipino na nadiborsiyo ay ituturing na kasal pa rin sa kanyang asawang banyagang bagamat nakakuha na ang banyagang diborsiyo.

Lilitaw kasing bagamat natapos na ang relasyon ng banyagang asawang Pinoy, nananatili namang kasal ang Pinoy sa banyagang asawa. Ayon sa Family Code, hindi maganda ang ganitong sitwasyon, kasi unfair sa isang Pilipino.

-ooo-

BATAS PARTY LIST: Maaari na po kayong maging kasapi ng BATAS Party List, o ang Bagong Alyansang Tagapagtaguyod ng Adhikaing Sambayanan. Ipadala po ang inyong mga pangalan at kompletong address sa text 0919-609-64-89, o tawag sa (02) 433-74-49, (02) 433-73-53, o sa email sa batasmauricio@yahoo.com, at sa sulat sa 18 D Mahiyain corner Mapagkawanggawa, Teachers Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

Ambitious..

.... from page 6

gration requirements for Canada.

Madiguid, however, defended Olarte, describing the government officials as a "victim, too."

She added that Olarte, the former mayor of Agoo, is a pro bono lawyer for three illegally-recruited provincemates. That explains his attachment to recruitment regulations, Madiguid said. Olarte apparently lobbied for the provincial ordinance requiring recruiters to apply for license from the provincial government before practicing their trade. Still, she thinks the project will "test his sincerity". Union

LA UNION has the largest number of recorded illegal recruitment cases for the Ilocos region, according to government data.

Kanlungan Centre, a 20-year-old counseling center for domestic workers, has provided service to more than 300 IR cases in La Union over an 11-year period.

This meant on the average, the Quezon City-headquartered group's satellite office in La Union, handled 27 cases a year.

Deployment data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) in 2006

showed that La Union was the birthplace of some 9,677 land-based and 1,717 sea-based temporary contract workers. On the other hand, 1988-2005 data of registered emigrants from the Commission on Filipinos Overseas revealed some 15,343 permanent residents abroad came from La Union. According to Madiguid, some 30 recruitment agencies are active in the province.

POEA's directory of licensed agencies shows that La Union has a homegrown recruitment agency, Beldevere Manpower, and nine Metro Manila-headquartered licensed recruitment agencies that have branch offices in the province.

Ten of these are in San Fernando City: 2000 Miles Placement Agency; Active Works Inc.; Aim High International Placement Corp. (two branches); Greenworld Placement Services; Humania International Inc.; Interworld Placement Center; and, St. Georges Recruitment International (two branches). Another recruitment agency, AD's Overseas Placement Agency, has a branch office in the municipality of Bauang, Beldevere Manpower (www.beldeveremanpower.net), for its part, even has extension offices in Manila and in London, United Kingdom. The La Union provincial government website showed that Beldevere and three Metro Manila-based recruiters placed job orders in 12 countries through the provincial government's Public Employment Services Office (PESO).

The PESO hosts job fairs for local and overseas jobs. In a State of the Province Address, Governor Pablo Ortega reported that in 2006, the PESOs tapped 250 firms, recruitment agencies, and government offices for local and overseas jobs. Out of 3,589 applicants for local and overseas placement, some 1,713 were employed, Ortega reported. However, the website of the Labor department's Bureau of Local Employment noted that a dozen of the 21 PESOs in La Union are "non-operational".

Four of the nine areas of Kanlungan-La Union's project sites, namely Bagulin, Naguilian, Santol, and Sudipen, have non-operational PESOs.

"They do not screen the companies involved in their job fairs," said Madiguid. She cited an IR case that Kanlungan handled wherein the potential OFW learned about an overseas job opening through the PESO. /JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO/www.ofwjjournalism.net

RESEARCH & STATISTICS

·implementation of research or research job outsourcing
·statistics encoding, computation, construction of statistical tables, interpretation, analysis
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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 59
Baguio City

mother LILIBETH LAOYAN ESPIRITU,
Petitioners,

-versus-

THE OFFICE OF THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF BAGUIO CITY and
PATRICK PAGAWAY LOGASPI,
Respondents.

SPL.PROC CASE NO. 1828-R

ORDER

A verified amended petition filed by petitioners through counsel alleged, among others, that:

1. The petitioners were born on March 28, 1993 and March 10, 1995, respectively

at Baguio City and such facts were duly registered with the Office of the Local Civil Registrar of Baguio City as evidenced by the machine copies of their Certificate of Live Birth which are marked and attached hereto as Annexes "A" and "B".

2. The parents of the petitioners - Lilibeth Laoyan Espiritu and Patrick Pagaway Logaspi are not married to each other under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines evidenced by a certificate to that effect issued by the National Statistics Office and marked as Annex "C" hereof.

3. However, in the certificate of live birth of minor Pia May E. Logaspi, the entry with regard to the date and place of

marriage of her parents were mistakenly and erroneously supplied therein as "JANUARY 12, 1989" and "LA TRINIDAD BENGUET". The same mistake and error appears in certificate of live birth of Milton E. Logaspi as the entry was supplemented to read as "JANUARY 5, 1989" and "TUBA, BENGUET".

4. Considering that the parents of herein petitioners were not legally married to each other, the entries with regard to the date and place of marriage of petitioners parents as appearing in their certificates of live birth should be corrected and deleted to conform to the true facts.

On the basis of the foregoing, the petitioners pray that the petition be granted

and cause the correction of entries in the certificates of live birth of petitioners by ordering the deletion of the entries with respect to the date and place of marriage of their parents.

Finding the amended petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the same be heard before this court on October 29, 2008 at 10:30 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 petitioners in The Junction, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Baguio

and Benguet province once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

Likewise, let a copy of this Order, together with a copy of the petition and its annexes, be furnished the Honorable Solicitor General, Makati City, Metro Manila; the City Prosecutor of Baguio; the Local Civil Registrar of Baguio City; and respondent Patrick Logaspi.

SO ORDERED.

DONE IN CHAMBERS, this 23rd day of June, 2008 at Baguio City, Philippines.

By: (SGD)

ILUMINADA P. CABATO

Judge
June 28, July 5, & 12, 2008

IN THE MATTER FOR THE CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF THE MINOR CHILDREN PIA MAY ESPIRITU LOGASPI and MILTON ESPIRITU LOGASPI

PIA MAY ESPIRITU LOGASPI and MILTON ESPIRITU LOGASPI herein represented by their

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City
NOEL CADANGEN - Vendor
CARMEN L. MALECDAN - Vendee
Applicant
Case No. 91 - CAR- 222
NOTICE OF HEARING
This is an application for Sale and Transfer of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA - CAMP 8- POLIWES-SAN VICENTE and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.
Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on July 8, 2008 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.
At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant/s shall publish the NOTICE once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.
Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so desire, appear during the hearing.
This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.
WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 23th day of June 2008.
(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
Hearing Officer

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City
FRANCISCO LAVARIAS
Applicant
Case No. 88-01-2098
NOTICE OF HEARING
This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA - TAM-AWAN via QUEZON Hill and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.
Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on July 8, 2008 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.
At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant/s shall publish the NOTICE once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.
Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so desire, appear during the hearing.
This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.
WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 23th day of June 2008.
(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
Hearing Officer

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City
LEON MALECDAN
Applicant
Case No. 97-BC-823
NOTICE OF HEARING
This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA - BGH- CAMPO SIOCO and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.
Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on July 8, 2008 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.
At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant/s shall publish the NOTICE once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.
Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so desire, appear during the hearing.
This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.
WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 23th day of June 2008.
(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
Hearing Officer

In the of sea.....

.... from page 6

can be reverted anytime.

Once approved, the Coast Guard Bill will institutionalize the organization, whose stability and permanence as a distinct, sea-going, uniformed commissioned service will enable it to develop its own fleet and personnel.

The bill seeks to maintain PCGs personnel strength of not less than the total number of coastal barangays in the country. At present, the PCG has only 5,000 personnel servicing a country with 7, 100 islands.

In the same bill, the Coast Guard shall

have the following powers and functions:

- a.) enforce laws, promulgate and administer rules and regulations for the promotion and safety of life and property at sea and the protection of the marine environment and resources
- b.) render aid to persons and vessels in distress and conduct search and rescued in case of marine accident within the maritime jurisdiction of the country
- c.) enforce and assist in the enforcement of laws on fishery, immigration, tariff and customs, forestry, firearms and explosives, dangerous drugs, trafficking of women and children
- d.) enforce and assist in the maintenance of maritime law enforcement and se-

curity based on the applicable laws.

As this developed, Escudero continued to call for the approval of a supplemental budget for PAGASA for the acquisition of the latest technology to enable them to capably discharge their duties.

"Latest technologies would allow PAGASA to advice and alert people ahead of an imminent disaster. A notice a few days ahead would go along way for people to prepare and get themselves ready against disasters."

He went on to say that strengthening and modernizing PAGASA is a must for a tropical country like ours./Office of Senator Chiz Escudero

Women OFWs....**.... from page 1**

Notably, that is still below the RM150 daily cost of living allowance that the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) said the government provided to public sector employees last year.

Malaysia, where Rita is, hosts some 244,967 Filipinos there, according to newly released stock estimates of the government-run Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

Of this number, the CFO estimates nearly half are undocumented; the rest have declared Malaysia their permanent home (26,002) while the remaining are temporary migrants with legal travel and working documents.

The CFO data, sadly, is not gender-disaggregated. The SOF, however, is. In 2006, it affirmed there were more women OFWs: 764,000 versus 751,000 men working and living outside the Philippines. That year, they poured into the Philippines an estimated P102 billion in cash and in-kind remittances. Cash remittances refer to those sent from host countries, as well as money that OFWs brought home.

That estimated total cash and in-kind remittances was higher than the PhP85.1 billion total in the 2005 SOF. For cash remittances, the 2006 SOF saw OFWs remitting nearly P76 billion from April to September that year.

But while there are more women OFWs, male migrant workers sent more during that period: nearly P51 billion as against the P26 billion by women. Analysts expect remittances from women to drop as there was a decrease in the deployment of Filipino domestic helpers last year. Tooled

WHILE laborers and unskilled workers were the most number of OFWs from the 2001 to the 2006 editions of the SOF, two occupational groups of male workers have been the leading remitters. From 2001 to 2005, male "plant and machine operators and assemblers" have been the top remitters —from nearly P8 billion in 2001 to just above P10 billion after five years. Two years ago, male "trades and related workers" grabbed the top spot by remitting some P13 billion. The NSO survey aims to know remittance amounts and channels by OFWs by age, sex, country of work, and region of origin in the Philippines. Female laborers and unskilled workers alone make up the largest OFW group by type of occupation and gender. Of the estimated 1.515 million OFWs in the 2006 SOF survey, a third of them are laborers and unskilled workers —including some 313,000-plus females. There were some 268,000 female laborers and unskilled workers in the 2003 SOF.

OFWs categorized as "trade and related workers," are those who "apply their specific knowledge and/or skills in the field of mining, construction, form metal, set machine tools, or make fit, maintain, or repair machinery, equipment or tools produce or process food stuff, textile or wooden, metal and other articles".

"Plant and machine operators and assemblers" are workers who "operate and monitor industrial machinery and equipment on the spot or by remote control, drive and operate

trains, motor vehicles and mobile machinery and equipment, or assemble products from component parts".

Laborers and unskilled workers are made up of those workers "who perform simple tasks which mainly require the use of hand-held tools and often some physical effort". Rita is under this category. For 12 years, Rita has provided manicure and pedicure services to Filipino, Malaysian and foreign customers at a shoe store inside Kota Raya mall. Her "office space" is a half-square-meter floor filled to the ceiling with boxes of shoes that she also sells.

She shares the space with a Malaysian with a dining table for two customers.

She and women and unskilled OFWs like her have the lowest six-month average cash remittance sent, according to the SOF. The average monthly remittance by female laborers and unskilled workers was pegged by the SOF at P36,000. The 2001 to 2006 SOF results showed laborers and unskilled workers, trade and related workers, and plant and machine operators and assemblers always outnumbered professionals in terms of actual worker count and remittance volumes. /JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO/ www.ofwjournalism.net

Dads aks Airline....**.... from page 2**

resolution for the retention of the operation of the Loakan airport, the body agreed that the airport should be maintained as it remains to be an important support system to the city's tourism industry.

They sought to reiterate city council Resolution No. 157 approved by the body last year which expressed the residents' "desire for the continued operation of the airport... and to make known the opposition to any planned closure and/or conversion to an extension area of the Baguio City Economic Zone."

Resolution authors Councilors Galo Weygan and Perlita Rondez said the problem on the safety of residents traversing the runway to get to their barangays could be addressed by constructing an alternate passageway for the people's use.

The airport's retention was supported by the Baguio Tourism Council which even appealed to the city government and stakeholders to mount a campaign to stop the plan.

The closure's negative sociological, financial, cultural and environmental impacts should not be discounted, according to the body.

Resolution No. 157 series of 2007 cited numerous resolutions adopted in the past that support the continued operation of the airport.

The council also held a public hearing on the matter last year where many groups including the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Baguio (HRAB), the Baguio-Benguet Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BBCCI), the Baguio Association of Hotels and Inns (BAHAI) and the Baguio Conventions and Visitors Bureau Baired opposition to the closure plan. / Aileen P. Refuerzo

Oct. 1 lot....**.... from page 2**

other week also asked for a formal survey of the lot to establish its metes and bounds to be conducted by the DENR in coordination with the City Government of Baguio, the Department of Public Works and Highways and with the presence of the representatives of SM Investment Corporation, University of the Cordilleras, Philippine Tourism Authority, Department of Education and all other parties with approved plans or titles within OCT No. 01.

According to the measure, a plan prepared by the assessor's office and the DENR showed there are several Survey Work Orders issued for the subdivision of some portions of OCT No. 01, some of which were already approved by the DENR.

The resolution also said that there are proclaimed areas for various public purposes as well as portions with individual original certificate of titles issued within OCT No. 01.

Furthermore, the resolution said that according to the Office of the City Assessor there exist 53 Tax Declarations on their record covering several subdivided lots within the said titled government property in the names of either government agencies or private entities who are either owners or beneficial users.

OCT No. 1 cover lots now occupied by the Commission on Elections, University of the Cordilleras, Social Security System, Girl Scouts of the Philippines, Baguio City National High School, part of the University of the Philippines, the People's Support and the forested area near the Baguio Convention Center which SM is eyeing for its condotel project. /Aileen P. Refuerzo

Ordinance....**.... from page 2**

Education (DepEd), Baguio City; the Regional Director of the Commission on Higher Education-Cordillera Administrative Region (CHED-CAR); and the youth sector representative.

The Council will serve as the clearinghouse of all issues on student welfare, such as tuition fee, student housing, and scholarship funding and recommend policies, programs and activities and legislative measures to the City Council and other concerned offices which will enhance and enrich student life in the city.

The Council shall meet en banc at least once a year, while the sub-groups of tertiary and secondary education shall meet at least twice a year.

On the other hand, a student welfare desk under the Office of the City will be manned by a staff from the Office of the Mayor duly designated to act as such.

A student welfare officer will be designated and will be responsible for receiving all complaints from the students, coordinating and networking to provide solutions; for implementing/ coordinating the implementation of all programs/ activities relative to student welfare and will serve as the secretary of the CSW.

"Students shall be accorded the opportunity to have access to quality goods and services," the ordinance mandates. / Aileen P. Refuerzo

Ordinance....

.... from page 3

a policy of the city government to retain the areas as a forest reservation.

The body also requested the DENR to provide the city with an updated map delineating and pinpointing areas that remain as forest reservation vis-à-vis the areas declared as alienable.

In 2005, then mayor Braulio Yaranon made the same move asking the DENR-CAR to cancel all the miscellaneous and townsite sales applications over lots within the Forbes Park and asked the recall of the fencing, building and such other permits issued to any person or entity applying for said lots located along South Drive from the Military Circle towards the Girl Scout area.

The mayor's move was prompted by reports that TSA and MSA lot applications over said lots have been approved by the AO 504 committee with the applicants claiming that the lots are part of their ancestral domain.

That same year, city officials opposed House Bill No. 3172 which seeks to exclude a portion of land at Parcel 2 of the Forbes Forest Reservation in Gibraltar here from the Baguio Townsite Reservation and from Proclamations No. 10 and 63 declaring the area as forest reservation and instead declare the subject area open for disposition to qualified applicants.

Mt. Province Rep. Victor Dominguez, who authored by measure eventually withdrew the bill in deference to the city officials' wishes. /Aileen P. Refuerzo

CJH locators....

.... from page 12

erring business establishments in line with the efforts of the city government to enforce compliance with Ordinance 2000-001 (the tax ordinance of the city)."

Section 1 of Ord. 2000-001 provides, "For proper enforcement of existing laws and ordinances, and the supervision of businesses... [in the city], it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in such business... without first obtaining a business permit and paying the taxes, fees and such other charges required therefore."

Quoting Sec. 178 of the same ordinance the CLO added, "Those who violate our tax ordinance shall be liable for fines amounting to P1,000 to P5,000 and/or imprisonment of not more than 6-months."

"If the violation is committed by a corporation, the chairman, president, or manager shall be held liable," Rabanes said.

Earlier, Rabanes dispelled claims enterprises within CJHEZ are not required business permits from the Baguio government.

In a legal opinion addressed to city treasurer Thelma Manaois dated June 12, he said, "There are neither statutes nor case laws conferring the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) or John Hay Management Corporation police power to control, supervise and regulate businesses within CJHEZ."

This, in reaction to a JHMC letter dated March 26, 2007 to Manaois wherein JHMC

claimed businesses within the ecozone were excused from the burden of local government taxes.

JHMC in the letter said "pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 1191, John Hay has been declared as a Special Tourism Economic Zone within the purview of Republic Act (RA) 7916 or the Special Economic Zone Act of 1995."

"As an offshoot, a registration agreement was executed between the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) and JHMC. The agreement provided that JHMC as developer-operator of the ecozone is authorized, among others, to administer, manage, and operate the ecozone."

Rabanes however said JHMC should distinguish between the exercises of the power of taxation contra police power granted to LGUs via the Local Government Code.

He said, "The police power exercised by a local government treats of its power to prescribe regulations to promote the health, morals, peace, education, good order or safety and general welfare of the people."

It is essentially regulatory in nature and the power to issue licenses or grant business permits, if exercised for a regulatory and not revenue-raising purpose, is within the ambit of this power relegated to the chief executive.

"The authority of city to issue or grant licenses and business permits is beyond cavil... It is provided for by law." the CLO said. /ISL

Baguio "hikes....

.... from page 12

The mayor renewed his push for converting Session Rd., the city's main street, into a walking promenade and ordered a study for a six-day-a-week ban on vehicles within the central business district instead of the one-day-per-week provided in the "number coding" ordinance.

Vice-mayor Daniel Farinas has also proposed every Friday as car-less day so private vehicle owners would walk, take the cab or jeepney in going to and from their work.

The car-less day concept was successfully implemented about eight years ago in Bogota, the capital of Colombia, under the leadership of then mayor Enrique Penalosa.

"A city is made for people, not for cars," Penalosa said when he presented the Bogota Model during the World Urban Forum in Sweden in 2005.

City administrator Peter Fianza, action officer of "Walk, Baguio, Walk" has proposed that vehicles of city employees covered by the number coding scheme should not be parked within the city hall premises to allow space for the public.

The next "Walk Day" will rally workers and officials to again walk to the city athletic bowl for a flag-ceremony and to their offices and to their residences. Those who can't are encouraged to leave their cars at home and ride the taxi or the jeep, thereby helping reduce pollution and loosen up traffic congestion.

Participants will again be asked to submit

practical and do-able suggestions, including what they are doing and will undertake to improve the urban environment.

"Phase out old vehicles emitting smoke," one participant wrote last June 2. Another called for a more aggressive crackdown on smoke-belching vehicles. Another sought the removal of obstacles along sidewalks "for 'Walk, Baguio, Walk' to really work".

The district office of the Department of Public Works and Highways vowed to use coconut made from coconut fiber in its slope protection and erosion control projects.

In the eyes of a child, sustaining the walk rally would also strengthen family bonding while helping clear the urban air.

"If you do care for us, I hope that you adults could start showing us you really do by leaving your cars at home," said 11-year old Iszkra Samara Liporada in her message at the program launching.

"Walk with us...walk with your children so we could get to know you, our parents, better," she pleaded. /RSD

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING
AND REGULATORY BOARD
 Cordillera Administrative Region
 Baguio City
JUANITO CABANES
Applicant
Case No. 99-01-2342
NOTICE OF HEARING
 This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO CITY - NANGALISAN and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.
 Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on July 8, 2008 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.
 At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant/s shall publish the NOTICE once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.
 Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so desire, appear during the hearing.
 This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.
 WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 23th day of June 2008.
 (SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
 Hearing Officer

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING
AND REGULATORY BOARD
 Cordillera Administrative Region
 Baguio City
ALEXANDER SUELLO
Applicant
Case No. 88-01-2587
NOTICE OF HEARING
 This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO PLAZA - STO. TOMAS PROPER and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.
 Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on July 8, 2008 at 9:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her evidences.
 At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant/s shall publish the NOTICE once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.
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 WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 23th day of June 2008.
 (SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
 Hearing Officer

"CJH locators face heavy fines, penalties for failure to pay city fees" - CLO

BAGUIO CITY – "When the interest of our city and its inhabitants are affected, the duty to enforce laws have always reserved to the local government and not government corporations operating within its jurisdiction."

Thus said city legal officer (CLO) Melchor Rabanes last week as he keyed in words to his computer that may spell more revenue for the city coffers and consequently, "slumps and bumps" for businesses in the "bour-

geoisie" capital of Baguio – Camp John Hay.

Rabanes in a June 26 letter, requested the Public Order and Safety Division (POSD) and the City Treasurer's Office (CTO) to investigate businesses within the Camp John Hay Economic Zone (CJHEZ) who have failed to pay necessary regulatory fees and secure business permits from the city.

He explained, "Businesses in CJH are subject to city

government regulations. When there are disturbances within the CJHEZ, it will still be our concerned departments that will run to the rescue."

"As thus," he added, "it is only fair that business proprietors must pay for the cost of regulation in exchange for a peaceful business environment secured for them by the city government."

In his letter to POSD head Gregorio Deligero and treasurer Thelma Manois he said, "The CLO intends to pursue prosecution of

Cont. on page 11

Baguio "hikes the talk" as July "walk" gains steam

"Walk, Baguio, Walk", Baguio's push to promote walking as an entry point in rallying its residents to actively support environmental thrusts for a more wholesome urban landscape, will be renewed with the next "Walk Day" set on July 14.

The medical sector, through the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center headed by director Manuel Factora, will take the lead this time, as announced during the launching program last June 2 at the city's athletic oval.

For July, the "Walk 2" multi-agency organizing committee led by BGH-MC, the City Government, Baguio Regreening Movement, the National Economic Development Authority, De-

partment of Transportation and Communication, and the Cordillera Association of Regional Executives are likewise firming up consolidation of plans for the implementation of Fil-Am Friendship Day, the Cordillera Month; the Anniversary of the 1990 Earthquake; and Disaster Consciousness Month to ensure full participation of all government agencies in stationed in Baguio.

Since the kickoff that drew some 2,000 participants, officials at city hall have initiated measures to sustain the drive, topped by a decision by mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. against lifting the "number coding scheme" designed to ease traffic within the central business district.

The mayor has

also ordered a "no parking policy" this month within the city's university belt, thereby clearing roads leading to and from schools with the opening of the academic year.

Cont. on page 11

THE WEEKEND JUNCTION



Taba, Benguet -- Precious spring water just going to waste! Tuba town native Roger Batuna displays a grin but is struck in awe as tons and tons of refreshing spring water just goes to waste from a reservoir at Bali Irtisan Resources Inc's (BIRI) property here because of its former owner's infighting. At least 1,000 cubic meters (or 254 gallons per minute) is wasted everyday from the rich spring which was discovered in the 1950's because it remains unmaximized for potable water supply to Mr. Batuna's village in Tadiangan barangay here and Baguio City, which is still dying to have water sources just like this spring. Perhaps this spring is one of the few now producing huge amounts of potable water elsewhere in Benguet.--Artemio A. Dumlaog

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