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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

"Please call me Benjie"

BAGUIO CITY – "Good Morning everybody. Please call me Benjie."

This was the opening salvo of newly-elected Mayor Benjamin Magalong during his brief message in Monday's flag-raising rites at City Hall – his first since assuming office.

As expected, his statement brought some laughter, a lot of smiles and even a few sighs of relief from among the audience who were expecting a certain stereotype that being a retired General, Magalong would be somewhat "all business", "rigid" or even "humorless". His words changed all that.

In attendance were local officials headed by re-elected Rep. Mark Go and newly-elected Vice-Mayor Faustino Olowan, city councilors, department heads, police, jail and fire department personnel, city employees and other guests.

A dyed-in-the-wool Baguio boy, the local chief executive appealed for unity and reminded City hall officials and workers that they "are one family" and should work together in achieving their collective vision of a greener, cleaner, safer and more progressive Baguio for everyone.

In an earlier briefing with city department heads, Magalong assured that his management style at City Hall will not mirror his military **Cont. on page 3**



NO PARKING AND THEY 'NEIGHED' - These horses who were part of the funeral entourage for newsmen and sports lover Ramon Dacawi found a wrong place to rest. But if forced to take a parking ticket, they are prepared to say "neigh" read "nay" as the ordinance only applies to their motorized counterparts. — Aileen Refuerzo

Ala,
sige, Benjie, General,
Mayor, Ser. Sapay kuma ta
mas pumintas nan Baguio
is nan term. You have our
cooperation Mayor
Ser!



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DISPATCH FROM CRAME

On Jueteng and Bato Dela Rosa's "shit happens" mindset

BY: SEN. LEILA DE LIMA

Aggressive campaign against stray dogs ordered

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong directed the City Veterinary Office to conduct an aggressive month-long campaign against stray dogs in the city's 128 barangays to ensure residents confine their dogs in their backyards.

The new local chief executive also ordered the concerned department to study the possibility of significantly increasing the penalties for owners of stray dogs to force them to confine their dogs in their homes or backyards instead of allowing their pets to loiter along roads posing serious threats to the public passing through where the dogs often play and scatter their animal waste.

He agreed to the request of City Veterinarian Dr. Brigit P. Piok for the rehiring of job orders to compose another team of impounders that will around day and night to impound stray dogs that loiter in the city's barangays.

"We have to ensure a sustained and aggressive campaign against stray dogs in all the barangays to make sure residents

confine their dogs inside their houses and backyards and prevent them from inconveniencing the public," Mayor Magalong stressed.

Piok claimed the local government has currently one team of impounders as the job order contracts of members of another team helping in impounding stray dogs are expiring.

According to him, the aggressive campaign against stray dogs will start in Purok 17, Irisan and the same will be replicated in other barangays to rid the roads and streets of stray dogs for the safety of the public.

Magalong instructed the City Veterinary Office to consider conducting their operations at night so that all stray dogs will be impounded and for the owners to learn their lesson and confine their pets inside their houses and backyards to prevent the scattering of their waste along streets and public places.

Magalong also sought the cooperation of barangay officials in the aggressive campaign against stray dogs to maximise the results of the said campaign which should be felt by

most people the soonest possible time.

Piok disclosed the dogs that will be impounded will be brought to the common impounding area within the Slaughterhouse compound for the owners to retrieve.

Magalong claimed dogs that will no longer be claimed by the owners will be euthanized and buried in the identified common burial ground of euthanized animals.

Irisan punong barangay Arthur Carlos and Asin punong barangay Candido Jaime assured their support to the pronouncement of the local chief executive for the City Veterinary Office to immediately launch a month-long aggressive campaign against stray dogs in all the city's barangays to help in clearing the roads and streets of dog manure that are an eyesore to residents and visitors alike.

Documents for the hiring of the job order impounders will be finalized the soonest and submitted to the city mayor for signing to guarantee the immediate reactivation of the second impounding team to carry out the marching orders./ **Dexter A. See**

Smooth turn-over, seamless transition done

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Benjamin Magalong during the turn-over ceremonies last June 28 reminded city officials and employees to render public service

with humility, selflessness and grace.

Respect for others, putting others' needs above self and embracing change for a better Baguio should also

be the norm, the newly-installed mayor emphasized. The future of our city gravitates in part, around us, he added.

Magalong, a retired member of the Philippine National Police (PNP) with the rank of general, received the city's symbolic key and important documents from outgoing city executive Mauricio Domogan as witnessed by city officials, employees and other line agency officials at the city hall lobby.

Even as Magalong admitted that being the mayor entails "really, really hard work," he vowed not to fail the city and its people, and stand by his personal conviction "work for a cause, not for applause, not to

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SIDEWALK RECOVERY – The City Engineering Office under Engr. Edgar Olpindo actively pursues the recovery of sidewalks especially along school zones to provide schoolchildren and pedestrians a safe and convenient access and mobility along walkways and roads. In some areas, the office undertook partial recovery by designating a walkway with paint and symbols that signify that that strip is off limits to vehicles as shown in the photo. – **Aileen Refuerzo**

Magalong orders implementation of safety standards in project sites

BAGUIO CITY – Effective July 1, the safety standards and procedures will be strictly implemented in all construction sites in the city.

Mayor Benjamin Magalong directed the City Engineering Office and the City Buildings and Architecture Office (CBAO) to ensure that all workers in ongoing projects are wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) like protective clothing, helmets, goggles or other garments or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury or infection.

Contractors will be held accountable for violation of the directive, the mayor said.

The directive was also part of the mayor's marching orders in his oath-taking speech last June 30.

City Engineer Edgar Victorio Olpindo said they have notified all the private contractors undertaking projects and no one objected.

He said he was told that most of the companies have started to comply by procuring the PPE for their workers.

The mayor personally went around some ongoing project sites and advised

foremen to comply with the safety requirements.

He said this is to prevent unnecessary accidents and even death caused by non-observance of safety standards in construction sites.

Ordinance No. 3 series of 2019 approved last Jan. 14 by the city council requires all construction companies conducting business in the city to provide an independent construction safety officers at their project sites to ensure compliance with the safety standards.

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Balete trees at Session Road up for pruning

SAFETY FIRST says a personnel of the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO) as they announce their plan to prune at least 72 balete trees that serves as a divider at the center of Session Road following the Philippine weather bureau's advisory on the

official start of the rainy season.

CEPMO Public Services Officer III Arturo Killip, Jr. said they are now processing the Pruning Permit for the balete trees as they plan to start the trimming works this month before heavy rains will cause damage to the trees.

"The balete trees have overgrown at 10-12 feet

high so we need to prune them before the electric lines are compromised," Killip explained.

He said the balete trees have to be cut down to one foot in an alternate method to allow rejuvenation of new branches while those in between will only be pruned for

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Beyond Borders Reporting

Use of mobile devices while crossing city's streets okayed

BAGUIO CITY – The City Council approved on third and final reading a proposed ordinance prohibiting and regulating the use of mobile devices and other destructive devices and items while walking and crossing the streets and sidewalks in the city.

The ordinance authored by members of the local legislative body that was culled from a proposal of Scout Councilor Eriko R. Coscoluela stated the local government recognizes it has the responsibility to enact ordinances to promote the public health and safety of everyone riding and traversing the city.

Under the approved local legislative measure, the prohibited acts include texting or reading text messages while crossing a pedestrian lane or street; reading any material while crossing a pedestrian lane or a street; texting or reading while traversing a sidewalk which causes delays in the mobility of

other pedestrians and using a mobile device while crossing a pedestrian lane or the street wherein the line of sight is directed or focused to such devices.

The ordinance stipulated violators of the measure shall be penalized with a reprimand by the person-in-charge or officer on duty for the first offense; a fine of P1,000 or community service for the second offense; a fine of P2,000 or community service or penalty of 1-10 days in jail depending on the decision of the court for the third offense and a fine of P2,500 and community service or imprisonment of 11-30 days depending on the decision of the court for the fourth and succeeding offenses.

The ordinance tasked the City Public Order and Safety Division (POSD), the Baguio City Police Office-Traffic Management Unit, barangay police and enforcers to

be the authorized agencies in charge of implementing the measure.

The ordinance added authorities should exercise due diligence, patience and maximum tolerance when reprimanding and advising potential violators of their blatant violations.

The ordinance allowed the use of closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras installed by the BCPO and barangays in the proper monitoring and proof of violation of the newly approved measure.

Further, offenses that will be charged to the violators may be contested through the presentation of footages and that the absence of proof can be construed as grounds for the outright dismissal of the case.

The ordinance stipulated fees collected from violators of the said measure shall form part of the city's special education fund.

The ordinance noted the State exercises its inherent powers, one of which is the police power wherein certain rights are curtailed to govern, and to make, adopt, and enforce laws for the protection and preservation of public health, justice, morals, order, safety and security, and public welfare./*Dexter A. See*

“Win-win’ solution for proposed tax hike eyed

BAGUIO CITY – The executive and legislative branches of the local government are looking into the possibility of having a ‘win-win’ solution in the proposed increase of taxes being pushed by the city's finance officers as the existing tax rates are already antiquated.

Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong advised the members of the local finance committee to study the proposal of the members of the City Council for minimal and staggered increase in the existing tax rates so that the

Stability of Irian dumpsite retaining wall assured

the filing of the writ of kalikasan

BAGUIO CITY – Newly-appointed City Administrator Engr. Bonifacio dela Peña assured the residents living below the Irian controlled dump facility that the retaining wall was constructed by the local government to prevent the overflow of garbage from the closed facility is safe and the stability of the structure is guaranteed.

The new city administrator made the commitment to barangay officials of Asin and Irian who brought to the attention of Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong the fear of residents living below the structure on the possible repeat of the 2012 deadly trash slide that claimed innocent lives below the dump facility.

“We were personally

involved in the designing of the structure after the deadly trash slide in 2012 thus the safety and stability of the structure is guaranteed and there will no repeat of the said incident because of the planned conversion of the former open dumpsite to an eco-park,” dela Peña stressed.

He also assured that the local government will not add up to the existing stockpile of raw compost produced by the previous operation of the two environmental recycling system (ERS) machines as the same will be re-processed to compost fertilizer by the partner of the city, Rapport Innovations.

The trash slide that happened during the wrath of Typhoon Mina on August 27, 2012 led

against the city resulting to the eventual closure of the Irian dumpsite and the temporary hauling of the city's residual waste to the engineered sanitary landfill to the lowlands.

Based on the inventory of the City General Services Office on the stockpiled raw compost, there are over 40,000 cubic meters of raw compost generated from the operation of the 2 ERS machines over the past 8 years.

Rapport Innovations engineers claimed that the 2 ERS machines purchased by the local government in 2011 are good units of equipment but they deteriorated over time and are undergoing repairs for their possible full blast operation by July 20, 2019.

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Declaration of Baguio as mining-free backed

Earlier, the City Mining Regulatory Board (CMRB)

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong and some members of the local legislative body support the proposal of some sectors to declare as a mining-free city to help lessen the threats to the city's environment.

The new local chief executive underscored people from all walks of life are aware of the adverse effects of mining to the environment thus it is best for

the local government not to allow the small or large-scale mining in the city considering its already threatened environment.

Proclamation No. 414 and Proclamation No. 572 declare some parts of Baguio, specifically Loakan-Apugan, Atok Trail, Kias and some parts of Mines view and Gibraltar, respectively, as mineral zones that may allow mining activities in the city.

passed a resolution seeking the possible repeal of the said proclamations to prevent the conduct of mining operations in the city that might pose a serious threat to the state of the environment as some of the declared mining zones fall under declared geohazard areas in the city.

Mineral zones are not also contained in the city's Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), thus, the bid to declare the city as mining-free to prevent enterprising individuals and companies from prospecting and mining in the mineralized areas which are now actually heavily populated.

Some legislators also expressed their support to the declaration of Baguio as a mining-free city as some of the small-scale miners enter the territory of the city through the towns of Itogon and Tuba.

According to them, the declared mineral zones no longer serve their purpose as some of the said areas are already heavily populated, thus, it must instead be declared as alienable and disposable and subsequently awarded to the qualified home lot appli-

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Balete trees at Session Road... from page 2

topiary and aesthetics. He said the pruning works will be completed in a span of three years with the goal that the trees will have an even height at 3-4 feet bonsai effect by the fourth year.

“We also need to prune the trees into bonsai height for easier management, aesthetics, and to protect the plant boxes from being overgrown by the balete roots, remember these trees are in the center of a very busy road,” Killip furthered.

The CEPMO personnel explained the balete tree belonging to the genus *Ficus* specie are capable of regrowing and are supposed to be pruned regularly to avoid branches from obstructing passageways or compromising service lines.

He said CEPMO will follow procedural rules in seeking the pruning permit from the city mayor as well as the necessity to inform the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Cordillera.

Meantime, Mayor Benjamin Magalong told CEPMO that he will have to consider public acceptability of the plan to prune the balete trees before acting on the request./*Jessa Samidan*

“Please call me Benjie”... from page 1

background, but will gear towards establishing a good rapport with the employees.

The Mayor pointed out that just because he came from the military does not mean he will govern the same way because he intends to run things in a different manner. Magalong emphasized that he does not want employees to feel uptight or nervous around him but wants them “working inspired, motivated, incentivized, and professionally cared for.”/*Gaby Keith*

The importance of integrity

By: Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio
(www.rappler.com)

Rappler Editor's Note: Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio delivered this speech at the University of the Philippines College of Social Sciences and Philosophy for its Recognition Day on Saturday, June 29.

Chancellor Michael L. Tan, Dean Maria Bernadette L. Abrera, members of the faculty, students of the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy who are being recognized and honored this morning, their parents, relatives and loved ones, friends, magandang umaga sa inyong lahat.

Let me congratulate all the students being recognized and honored here in this hall. Your perseverance and hard work have brought you to the finish line as you will now graduate from this university to start a new phase in your lives. Many of you will work in the private or public sector, while some of you will start your own businesses. Others will proceed for further studies. There will also be those who will seek work abroad.

Whatever you do, wherever you may go, there is one element that will define you as a person, before your coworkers, before your colleagues in business, before the community, and before the public at large. And that is your personal integrity.

Integrity simply means being consistently honest and truthful in your actions regardless of the consequences, even if it means self-sacrifice on your part. This means doing an act because it is the right thing to do, even if you are alone against many. This means firmly standing by your principles,

EDITORIAL though the heavens may fall. It is not easy to be a person of personal integrity, to do what is right, and to stand by your principles, when it is so much easier to simply go with the flow and stay under the radar. So why be a person of personal integrity and make life hard on yourself?

The Constitution expressly requires that all public officials and employees must serve with utmost integrity. In the private sector, employers conduct, in varying degrees, background checks on the personal integrity of an applicant before accepting an applicant for employment.

As you go up the ladder in the public or private sector, you will always be evaluated based on your personal integrity. There will always be objectors against those with questionable personal integrity, while those with known personal integrity will find little or no opposition. Employers will almost always never employ anyone with known questionable integrity no matter how competent the person may be.

In your daily life even as a student, you always evaluate people based on their personal integrity. If a classmate or schoolmate wants to borrow from you, be it money, a book or anything of value, you always ask yourself: can I trust this person to pay me back or to return what he has borrowed? You are actually evaluating the personal integrity of the person.

In banking, there is what is called a character loan. The branch manager may lend you money without any collateral, at low interest, if he knows you have personal integrity. This means the branch manager believes you when you promise to pay the loan on a certain date. You are known as a man of your word.

If you have a questionable personal integrity, the branch manager will most likely not lend you at all. Or if ever he lends you, he will surely require that you put up a collateral – hard assets like land or condominium. And you will most likely be charged a high interest rate for being a credit risk.

In the academe, the worst offense you can possibly commit, in my opinion, is to cheat in exams. Cheating is mental dishonesty. To cheat is the complete opposite of honesty and truthfulness. That is why the penalty for this offense may be dismissal or even expulsion.

If you lose your personal integrity, many doors will close on you. Your friends will be wary of you, your business associates will hesitate to transact with you, your superiors will not trust you, and the public will be skeptical with whatever you say or do. There is a heavy price to pay for losing your personal integrity.

If you lose your personal integrity, it will be a very long and hard climb back to recover your personal integrity, if ever you

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KAKAMPIMO ANG BATAS

An encounter written in the stars

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh..." (Genesis 2:24, the Holy Bible).

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AN ENCOUNTER WRITTEN IN THE STARS: It was, by all indications, an encounter written in the stars. The man, in 1956, was then working as a clerk-typist at a law firm in Sampaloc, Manila. He was 22 years of age, was still unmarried, and was carefree and enjoying his bachelorhood. He had, in fact, just come from the province, trying to find his destiny in the city with his knowledge of typing and a little stenography.

The young lady was just starting to bloom into full womanhood at 20 years of age, even as she was about to graduate from a normal school in Manila, clinching a degree in elementary education in the process. She has barely left her child-like demeanor, cloistered and sheltered as she was by her close relatives from the North, but this did not prevent her from venting her displeasure over the loud talking that a man and a fellow passenger was making in the bus she had taken to bring her home in the house of her parents in Quezon City that fateful day.

"Your voices are way too loud," the young lady told the man who was then sitting at the seat directly at her back. When she said this, she tried to glance at the man, and she saw that he was wearing a white long-sleeves polo, white slacks, and white shoes. He was talking to the man seated next to him, in her own dialect which was the language of her people from the North, the Ilocano dialect.

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STORIES OF YOUNG LOVE IN A PASSENGER BUS: "It seems to me you are also Ilocanos, so why are you talking so loud?" the lady asked in Ilocano, directly addressing the man who, she thought then, could have been someone who was modeling a white attire. At that point, the man apologized, in Ilocano too, to the young woman. He then hurried to explain, rather sheepishly, that he and his friend were talking in loud voices because they wanted precisely to grab her attention.

When she heard what the man said, the young lady blushed, telling him and his friend that what they were doing was distracting her attempt to study while she was travelling in the bus. She said she had to study even while she was on board the bus because she was then preparing for her final exams before her graduation ceremonies. The man again offered his apologies, and then maintained his silence.

When the bus reached a place in Quezon City, the woman alighted, and the man strained his neck to look at the place, which

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Kakampi mo ang Batas...*from page 4*

was an apartment in Project 3, Quezon City. While the young woman was going into the apartment, the man saw that she looked back to where he was, and, to his amazement, she threw a demure smile at him. The man's heart suddenly overflowed with a joy previously unknown to him, leading him to make a vow to wait for the lady once again to board her bus for home the following day.

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A PLEA FOR A PRAYER OR TWO FOR OUR PARENTS:

The man and the young lady became good friends since. And as the days progressed into weeks, and weeks into months, they found themselves meeting more often. In one of their meetings, the man confessed that he, in reality, had been endeavoring to wait on her everyday at the same bus stop, riding the same bus without her knowing that he was also there, from the very first time he had laid his eyes on her.

The frequent meetings between the two blossomed into something more beautiful than mere friendship. At their young ages, their desire to be with one another all the time grew stronger by the day, until they could no longer deny that their hearts have started beating as one---truly enamored and in love with each other. By God's design, they got married on July 08, 1956, and thereafter stuck with each other literally through thick and thin, surmounting even the gravest of marital problems, until they both departed from this world. The man died in 2016, while the woman followed him to heaven in 2018.

On July 08, 2019, some 63 years have lapsed from the very day they tied the knot. And although they are no longer around nowadays, we, their children, continue to recall with fondness and love their marital union, because we know that the two (Mr. Melanio Pauco Mauricio Sr. and Mrs. Salvacion Lazo Mauricio), fully discharged their duties and responsibilities towards each other, and as our parents. I am asking our dear readers here to offer a prayer or two for them. Thank God in His Name of Jesus, Amen!

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REACTIONS? Call 0977 805 9058, 0918 574 0193, 0933 8251308, or my Messenger account in Facebook, Melanio Lazo Mauricio Jr. Or you could email me at batasmauricio@yahoo.com, mmauriciojr111@gmail.com, or send your comments or queries at www.facebook.com/attybatas.

Editorial...*from page 4*

can recover. You may be able to recover, but the odds may be against you.

That is why you should always protect your personal integrity, and safeguard it like you are safeguarding your very own life. Your personal integrity is your face to the world, it is how the world sees you. Surely, you do not want to present a face that drives people away from you.

Territorial integrity

There is another kind of integrity that →

is also of utmost concern to all of us Filipino citizens. This is an integrity that you must also protect and safeguard with your own life, if necessary. I am referring to the territorial integrity of our country.

Under the Constitution, our national territory includes submarine areas over which the Philippines exercises jurisdiction, and that includes our exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the West Philippines Sea.

The Constitution mandates that the State shall protect its marine wealth in its exclusive economic zone. The essential elements of a State are territory, government, people, and sovereignty. The government and the people are the two groups of actors in these 4 essential elements.

The government and the people are the ones tasked to protect the nation's marine wealth in its exclusive economic zone. Thus, the Filipino people, citizens like you and me, have the constitutional and civic duty to protect our territorial integrity in our exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea.

The area of our exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea, as affirmed with finality by the arbitral tribunal at The Hague, is larger than the total land area of all our islands put together. All the fish, oil, gas and other mineral resources in this huge maritime area belong exclusively to the Filipino people.

The Constitution mandates that the "use and enjoyment" of these resources shall be reserved "exclusively" for the Filipino people. The "use and enjoyment" of these resources cannot be shared with, or given away, to foreign nationals.

This exclusivity is not a "thoughtless and senseless" provision in our Constitution as President Rodrigo Duterte has unfortunately characterized. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea or UNCLOS has been ratified by 167 States, including China, representing an overwhelming number of members of the United Nations, accounting for at least nine-tenths of the world's population.

UNCLOS has reserved the use and enjoyment of all the natural resources in all the EEZs of the world exclusively to the respective adjacent coastal states. The framers of our Constitution have incorporated this exclusivity in our Constitution. Even the small minority of states that have not ratified UNCLOS, like the United States of America, have adopted this exclusivity. International tribunals have declared this exclusivity as part of customary international law – which means it is the governing law for all states of the world.

China itself reserves all the natural resources in its own EEZ exclusively to Chinese citizens. Why will we not accept and protect this exclusivity when the rest of the world is accepting and protecting this exclusivity? Surely, this exclusivity in the use and enjoyment of the resources in the EEZs, being the accepted norm in all civilized states of the world without exception, is not "thoughtless and senseless."

We must protect this enormous wealth in our exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea for the benefit not only of the present generation of Filipinos, but also of future →

DISPATCH FROM CRAME

*On Jueteng and Bato Dela Rosa's
"shit happens" mindset*

BY: SEN. LEILA DE LIMA

President Duterte and Sen. Bato dela Rosa support jueteng as the lesser evil. They actually entertain "going easy" on the illegal numbers game because it is a crime that "feeds people" rather than one that kills them. This is the reasoning used by public officials to justify their acceptance of a monthly payola from jueteng lords, in exchange for "going easy" on jueteng. You go easy on illegal drugs, chances are you are on the payroll of drug lords. The same is true with illegal gambling.

Even Dela Rosa's comparison of jueteng and drugs is misplaced. Duterte is not even against drugs, after he has gone easy on the smugglers of billions of pesos and tons of shabu in the past 3 years. He is actually against the poor. He has ordered their murder whether or not they use drugs. Three (3)-year old Myka could not have been using drugs when the police shot and killed her. It is being made to appear that she was killed for obstructing justice after she let her father use her as a human shield, a story that is doubtful in itself as it is absurd. Dela Rosa might as well introduce legislation lowering the age of criminal responsibility to "at birth" because, anyway, "shit happens".

Jueteng is always a syndicate, an organized crime which involves other crimes like money laundering, drugs, guns for hire, etc. There's no such thing as "only jueteng". It is always connected to other crimes because the infrastructure, network, and culture of crime, including payoffs to police, judges, prosecutors, local and national officials, is reinforced by jueteng. Those who say that jueteng is a lesser evil are most probably connected to it.

In driving out the illegal street vendors of Divisoria and Carriedo, Mayor Isko Moreno told the public that if the illegal vendors ever return to occupy the thoroughfares again, then that only means that he has accepted the reportedly astonishing daily payola of 5 million pesos from the illegal vendors syndicate. So Mayor Isko definitely did not go easy on the illegal vendors, even if their activity "feeds people" and did not kill anybody, because there is a law and Mayor Isko chose to enforce the law.

For a public official, especially a President and a former PNP Chief, enforcing the law is not even a choice. It is a duty and a mandate. Duterte and Dela Rosa only have two choices. Enforce the law against jueteng or legalize jueteng altogether. Of course, legalizing jueteng means the end of payola to jueteng's protectors in government. So better to keep it illegal and just "go easy" on it, to keep the payola flowing to these protectors.

Shit does happen, but it happens more often because we have a President and public officials who are more gangsters than law enforcers.

generations of Filipinos still to come. It is the duty of this present generation of Filipinos to protect this marine wealth, and hand it over to the next generation of Filipinos, who **Cont. on page 6**

City gets titles for 4 properties

BAGUIO CITY – The City's Registry of Deeds formally issued 4 separate original titles covering the ownership of the local government over some properties in the city.

Special Patent No. SP-LGU-BEN0019 was issued to the local government covering 233 square meters in New Lucban, barangay which is currently the site of the New Lucban barangay hall.

Further, SP-LGU-BEN-0021 was also issued in the name of the local government covering an area of 621 square meters which is currently the site of the building of the Office of the Civil Registry.

On the other hand, SP-LGU-BEN-0022 was also issued in the name of the local government covering an area of 4,026 square meters which covers the compound of the City Health Services Office.

SP-LGU-BEN-0020 was issued to the local govern-

ment covering some 1,209 square meters located in barangay New Lucban which is being occupied by the compound of the City Environment and Parks Management Office (CEPMO).

Under the issued special patents to the local government, the same shall not be disposed by the grantee without the authorization of Congress if owned by a national agency, or authorized by the Sanggunian concerned through an approved ordinance, if owned by a local government unit pursuant to Section 4 of Republic Act (RA) 10023.

City General Services Officer Eugene Buyucan said the issued special patents or original certificate of titles were part of those that were applied for by the local government tracing back to the previous administration of former Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan.

The special patents were entered into the books of the Registry of Deeds of Baguio city on May 15, 2019.

He pointed out the plan of the local government to have its properties titled is gaining ground thus the said office is

exerting all efforts to ensure that all city properties will be titled to ensure they spared from being grabbed by other individuals.

According to him, the City General Services Office is still pursuing the titling of other city-owned properties, including the City Hall compound, for the city government to have legal possession over its properties.

Earlier, the Registry of Deeds issued separate special patents for some of the properties owned by the city government located in the different parts of the city pursuant to its mandate to ensure the protection of the properties from possible encroachments by informal settlers.

One of the major plans of the former and present administration is to secure all the city-owned properties earned by the local government through the years as even government properties are now being invaded by informal settler. **/Dexter A. See**

Editorial

from page 5

will also protect it for the next generation of Filipinos after them. This is the intergenerational duty of every generation of Filipinos in protecting our territorial integrity.

My generation has built a strong foundation to protect our territorial integrity in our exclusive economic zone in the West Philippines Sea when the Philippines won in July 2016 the landmark victory at The Hague arbitration. Future generations of Filipinos, including your generation, must build on this foundation.

Defending integrity

Our territorial integrity is just like our personal integrity. We must maintain, protect, and defend both with all the power at our command because they are priceless. To protect our territorial integrity requires doing what is right in service to the Filipino people regardless of the consequences. To protect our territorial integrity requires personal integrity.

If we fail to protect our territorial integrity in the West Philippine Sea and lose it to China, we will lose our exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea forever. There is no recovery once we lose this huge maritime area to China.

If we lose our personal integrity there is still a chance of recovering our personal integrity, no matter how long and difficult it may be. But if we lose our territorial integrity, there can be no recovery unless we defeat a nuclear armed China in a war, which is of course impossible.

War, in the first place, is not an option and has never been an option. Under the Constitution, the Philippines has renounced war as an instrument of national policy. This means the Constitution prohibits the government from going to war to enforce The Hague arbitral ruling.

Besides, the United Nations Charter has outlawed the use or threat of force to settle territorial or maritime disputes between states. A country that violates this is an international outcast, and can be sanctioned by the Security Council.

Of course, we also know that if we go to war with China to enforce the arbitral ruling, we will lose and lose badly. Only a fool will go to war with China. It is clear that the specter of war is being raised →

Waste-to-energy to be...

from page 7

primarily for the establishment of the proposed integrated solid waste disposal facility.

Domogan and Magalong expressed their gratitude to the PNOC board and Secretary Cusi for shouldering the required amount for the completion of the ongoing feasibility study for the said project that will help address the garbage disposal problem of not only Baguio city but also the neighboring towns of Benguet such as La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay.

BC entered into an agreement with former Mayor Domogan to cede some 29.111 hectares of its Antamok property to the local government to be used for free for a maximum period of 50 years primarily to establish an integrated solid waste disposal facility that will include a waste-to-energy plan to produce renewable energy from

garbage.

Magalong revealed he will personally talk to Itogon Mayor Victorio Palan-gadan to discuss the matter as the establishment of the waste-to-energy project will be beneficial in addressing the garbage problems of the different local governments within the Baguio-La Trinidad-Itogon-Sablan-Tuba-Tublay (BLISTT) area in compliance with Republic Act (RA) 9003 or the ecological Solid Waste management Act of 200.

Part of the more than 8 hectares ceded by the Department of Agriculture (DA) to the city within the Baguio Dairy Farm will be used initially for the installation of the demo unit to ascertain the put up of the waste to energy facility in the city or its neighboring towns of Benguet. **/Dexter A. See**

over time.

The contractor took over the operation of the ERS machines last May 2019 after the local legislative body confirmed the memorandum of agreement for Rapport Innovations to operate the facility with almost no expense to the city.

The ERS machines were intended to convert the biodegradable waste to compost fertilizer as an income-generating project of the city government but this did actually materialize due to the unreported defects in their operations through the years. **/Dexter A. See**

Stability of Irisan dumpsite...

from page 3

Magalong claimed based on the assessment of scientists from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Adamson University, there was something wrong in the operation of the ERS machines but those in charge of the same did not report the discovered defects to the local government for immediate correction of the said problem but instead, still put them in full operation causing their rapid deterioration →

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late MEDARDO G. BIDES who died on April 27, 2005 in Sacramento, California, USA has been extra judicially settled by way of an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication executed by his widow, Avelina V. Bides as evidenced by Doc. 225, Page no. 065, Book no. XX, Series of 2019 of the Notary Public atty. Valdoboyd T. Ngipol of Baguio City Dated June 24, 2019

June 29, July 6 & 13, 2019

only to intimidate the Filipino people into submitting to China's encroachment of our EEZ.

The correct recourse is to protect our territorial integrity through the rule of law. That is why when China seized Scarborough Shoal in 2012, we did not send the Philippine marines to retake Scarborough Shoal. We sent our lawyers to The Hague to protect our territorial integrity by invalidating China's 9-dash line before an arbitral tribunal under UNCLOS.

We brought the resolution of the dispute to a forum where warships, warplanes,

missiles, and nuclear bombs do not count, and where the dispute would be resolved only in accordance with the rule of law. And we won an overwhelming victory. We thus protected our territorial integrity through the rule of law.

We should therefore continue resorting to the rule of law in protecting our territorial integrity in the West Philippine Sea. We must use the rule of law wisely and creatively, exploring and pushing the limits of international law to maintain our territorial integrity.

So, dear students of this great institution of learning, as you

leave the portals of this University, remember to always maintain, defend, and protect your personal integrity and our nation's territorial integrity, and safeguard and uphold them as you would your very own life.

Upholding your personal integrity and our territorial integrity is faithfully adhering to our alma mater's motto: Honor and Excellence, in everything we do.

Thank you and once again, congratulations to our honorees. Mabuhay ang Republika ng Pilipinas, mabuhay ang Unibersidad ng Pilipinas, mabuhay tayong lahat. — **Rappler.com**

Waste-to-energy to be...**from page 8**

waste-to-energy plant visited by the President in Japan and that the same will be pilot tested in the city.

Earlier, PNOC officials visited former mayor Mauricio G. Domogan and informed him and Magalong that energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi, Jr. approved the grant of P6 million

to bankroll the finalization of the ongoing feasibility study for the put up of a waste-to-energy facility within the property of the Benguet Corporation (BC) that was ceded to the city government **Cont. on page 6**

Magalong outlines 10...**from page 8**

working from below, rather than above, the people, wherein the needs of others will always be above his own and at all times, he will hold the value of humility over authority, of character over career, of honesty and handwork as hallmarks of effective leadership, in consonance with his mandate and in fostering public transparency and accountability./Dexter See

"Win-win solution for...**from page 3**

values for real property taxes every three years while business taxes should be updated every five years.

Earlier, the Department of Finance (DOF) included Baguio city in its list as one of the local governments that has an antiquated tax ordinance as the city failed to update its revenue ordinance pursuant to the provisions of existing law, rules and regulations.

During an earlier briefing with department heads of the local government, Magalong vowed to pursue the implementation of programs, projects and activities that will be for the greater welfare of the people even if the decision to do so will be unpopular.

The new local chief executive underscored that his leadership will be decisive on the matter as he is not mindful of his image as a politician as he projected that he will be in the city for a 3-year term only.

For this year, the local government has an annual budget of P2.179 billion where more than P1.9 will come from internal and external sources and over P20 million will come from

consideration.

Magalong assured residents and visitors alike he will be

the beginning balance or the unspent appropriations of the previous budget.

Last year, the local government operated on a P2.056 billion annual budget which was the first time that its budget reached the P2 billion mark.

Local officials admitted that taxes are the lifeblood of government because it is the source of funds that bankroll the implementation of high impact development projects to improve the economic activities and sources of livelihood, and enhance the basic services for the people, especially those living in the countryside./Dexter A. See

Declaration of Baguio as...**from page 3**

cants due to the growing needs for lands for housing in the different parts of the city.

Aside from being heavily populated, the declared mineral zones are also part of the geohazard areas because of the reported presence of sinkholes that will pose a serious threat to the safety of the people living in the said communities, especially when there will be an enormous growth in the number of inhabitants in the future.

Local legislators will study the options to be undertaken by the local government on how to declare the city as a mining-free zone in response to the snowballing clamor from the city's populace to ensure the preservation and protection of

the city's environment from the adverse effects of mining, an environmentally critical endeavour.

Itogon and Tuba towns in Benguet are mineral-rich communities that derive most of their income from their share of the taxes paid by the mining companies within their areas of jurisdiction which gives them their first class status./Dexter A. See

Smooth turn-over, seamless...**from page 2**

impress." As a persevering public servant tried, tested and transformed through "sacrifice, humility and a dose of daily prayers," Magalong gave up his personal aspirations, dreams and ambition for the sake of truth, transparency and accountability. In the course of focusing on service, he had to accept his limitations and things beyond control, as a leader.

He lauded Mayor Mauricio Domogan's sterling brand of leadership, dynamism and competence worthy of emulation, which garnered numerous awards for the city; and on a personal note, humility as a standpoint for excellent public service.

Department of Interior and Local Government Regional Director Marlo

Iringan witnessing the even with office heads, gave a message which focused on the gravity of responsibilities of city officials, through the local government code, and numerous issuances, existing laws, and even local ordinances.

Election promises are expected to be fulfilled, and elected officials need to learn how properly wield power, with the highest standards and norms of public service, Iringan said.

A smooth transition of power, position, authority and responsibilities through resources and documents for the success of the next three years, is a basic strategy, which Mayors Magalong and Domogan very satisfactorily abided with, he added.

On his last working day at city hall, Mayor Mauricio Domogan expressed gratitude for the privilege to serve the people who has cooperated and supported him for years.

A new season has come to turn over the baton of leadership and servanthood to the able hands of Mayor Benjamin Magalong, Domogan said, whom he has observed to have eagerness and passion to serve.

He appealed for cooperation to the new administration, as the symbolic key to the city and component documents which serves as guide for the continuing delivery of public services in the city.

There are new doors to be opened, opportunities to serve, solutions to issues and challenges, and that no one is left behind, he also said./Julie G. Fianza

6 'elderly' artists in a month-long exhibit in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY - Six "aging" artists from Baguio mounted another month-long exhibit on Wednesday at the Fred's Gallery in barangay Greenwater here.

Noted Baguio artists Roland Bay-an, Fredi Agunoy, and Salvador Cabrera are joined by Mario M. Calub, Camilo Santiago and newcomer Carlos Oseo in the Emerging Figure, an exhibit "that will continue for a month."

The 64-year old Bay-an leads the exhibit with his series of Ibaloy women on display as the veteran artist traces his local roots anew in the exhibit with his friends and painters they fondly call the "Salonpas" artists.

"Salonpas because we are a bit veteran and usually need that band to battle aching joints or muscles," said Bay-an, the oldest of the original three that include Agunoy.

Agunoy, an architect, dabbles in sculpture with his works also on display at his family-owned Fred's Apartelle where the gallery and the exhibit are staged.

Agunoy was recently with the Dingalan Artists Guild in Dingalan, Aurora where they staged a festival at his farm in the said town that is now the arts group's village.

He is also into pintula, a



'SALONPAS' ARTISTS. Four of the "Salonpas" artists pose in front of the Fred's Gallery in Baguio where their month-long exhibit was opened on Wednesday (July 3, 2019), each holding a sample of their work. From left, Roland Bay-an, Camilo Santiago, Fredi Agunoy and Buddy Cabrera./PNA photo by Pigeon M. Lobien)

funny lyrical painting, some of which he puts on display in the Emerging Figure exhibit. Among his works on display is "Isda ni Juan" which is coupled with some verses that include this: "Tatay ko wag kang magalit/Sa kapi-rasong isda at pusit/Sa dagat na maalat/Aking nalambat (roughly translated: Father don't get mad/With the few fish and squid/From the salty sea/I netted)."

"I use to do that in college and I have more than a hundred of it. It is only now that I try to come back to it," said the youngest of the original three, who is not yet in his 60s.

Cabrera is a nephew of national artist Benedicto Cabrera and his works reflect the Cabrera style which his father Salvador Sr.

started and made popular by the national artist.

The octogenarian Santiago is a retired police general who only comes to Baguio to paint with his Salonpas friends.

The youngest member is Calub, another architect who teaches at the Saint Louis University School of Architecture.

"I was just a hanger-on and lucky enough if I get to buy a Bay-an work at a very, very friendly price," said Calub, who last year succumbed to the lure of brush and paints and the proddings of Bay-an and Cabrera.

"Now I paint in my spare time and with these guys," said the mind-50-ish architect./PNA - Pigeon Lobien

Magalong orders...**from page 2**

city government.

It requires the employer or contractor to employ at least one independent construction safety officer possessing the necessary qualifications and competencies on the construction site depending on the number of workers.

As per procedure, the contractor will have to notify in writing the City Building and Architecture Office (CBAO) of their construction oper-

ations/activities including the employment of a safety engineer within 15 days after any construction operations have commenced.

The CBAO in coordination with the City Engineering Office will conduct a concentrated inspection/enforcement campaign in areas where reports of construction is in danger or at high risk.

Violators will be fined P5,000 and will face imprisonment of six months or both./Aileen P. Refuerzo

DENR reopens Irisan...**from page 8**

their business of gathering recyclable waste and earning livelihood from the same.

According to him, the relocation of the volunteers near the Baguio Dairy farm waste transfer station will be done within a 3-month period so that the area where recyclable items are stockpiled will be cleared pursuant to the directive of the environment department.

Aside from ensuring the sustained development in the area where the operation of the ERS machines are situated, Magalong directed the operator to produce its own bio-enzyme to lessen the huge expenses of the city government

for such purpose and ensure there will be transfer of technology for city government personnel to be trained to operate the ERS machines.

Upon receipt of the cease and desist order, former mayor Mauricio G. Domogan wrote the DENR on June 28, 2019 to reconsider their position on the matter considering its serious negative impact to the garbage disposal of the city./Dexter A. See

Magalong outlines 10-point agenda for Baguio

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong presented to the city residents and visitors his 10-point agenda in the next three years that will transform the country's undisputed Summer Capital into a better Baguio.

The new city chief executive underscored the need for the people to bear in mind the needs of the youth, thousands of young men and women eager to start a career, a profession or a business but just could not get it going.

"Let us think of the workers who toil each day fighting off the traffic congestion in our roads. Let us man the frontline of service in protecting and safeguarding our environment," Magalong stressed.

He said that doing his homework right after the May 13, 2019 mid-term elections, he felt grateful that Baguio has a special place in the hearts and minds of the national leaders as he expressed his gratitude to President Rodrigo R. Duterte for the many doors that had been opened, the many

opportunities harnessed for all the help that Baguio needs.

According to him, in the next 3 months, scores of national agencies will visit Baguio to assess how best national government support can be accessed at possibly low or no cost to the city.

Magalong assured that his 3-year tenure will be characterized by implementing actions crafted from policies that will be forged between the executive and legislative departments for the city government to attain measurable results in speeding up government action, revitalizing the environment, innovating peace and order conditions, aggressive traffic management, responsive education, empowering the youth, expanding health and social services, responsible tourism, enlivened culture, arts, crafts and heritage, and modernizing the city market.

For now, he claimed the city government should be ready to provide the visiting technical experts all the facts and numbers needed to push forward the different programs, projects and activities, specifically an integrated command center to effectively manage peace

and order, traffic and disaster response, transport terminals and multi-level parking

buildings; tenement-type buildings for socialized housing; waste-to-energy facility; zero waste facility; sewer and water treatment plants and sewerage system; modernized market; free wifi connectivity in public places; automation system of the City Hall; cooperative-based livelihood program; preventive health care system, and green enterprise.

He pointed out that at the appropriate time, specifics of the said programs will be submitted to the city council for due consideration and the proper initiating authority to proceed in recognition of their executive and legislative roles in the policy-making functions of good governance.

Magalong emphasized his good governance principles will be anchored on ethics and integrity, on transparency and accountability, on competence, on fairness, on purity of intentions, and most importantly, on humility.

Upon the said standards will his decisions and actions be measured with no less than the greater good as the ultimate

Cont. on page 7

Waste-to-energy to be pilot tested in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong disclosed that the State-owned Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) will be bringing to the city a waste-to-energy demo unit to pilot test its operation near the temporary waste transfer station within the Baguio Dairy Farm to ascertain its feasibility when adopted by the city government as a solution to the prevailing

garbage disposal problem.

The new city chief executive said that the waste-to-energy demo unit will be brought in to the city by PNOC, together with Japanese waste-to-energy experts, and install the same within a 1-hectare area near the waste transfer station for pilot testing purposes as it was the waste-to-energy facility that was seen

and preferred by President Rodrigo R. Duterte when he visited Japan two months ago.

Initially, the Japanese experts will conduct an ocular inspection of the proposed for the demo unit to make the necessary recommendations on how to improve the area prior to the delivery of the said unit to the city.

"We will test the waste-to-energy demo unit in the city to ascertain its feasibility as a prelude to its installation in Antamok once the PNOC feasibility study on the waste-to-energy project is positive based on the ongoing feasibility study," Mayor Magalong stressed.

He stated the demo unit is one of the two units provided by the operator of the Japanese

Cont. on page 7



GROUP SELFIE WITH MAYOR BENJIE – Mayor Benjamin Magalong gamely joins for a group selfie with the boy and girl scouts during the Filipino-American Friendship Day celebration held at Malcolm Square (People's Park).
–By Bong Cayabyab

DENR reopens Irian dumpsite in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY – The Cordillera office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) granted the request of the local government to reopen the Irian dumpsite, specifically the operation of the two Environmental Recycling System (ERS) machines, to prevent the possible occurrence of a garbage crisis in the city following the piling up of the uncollected non-biodegradable waste in the different parts of the city.

DENR-CAR regional director Ralph Pablo informed Mayor Magalong that the agency decided to reopen the closed dump facility provided that the local government must ensure that the debris and mixed waste

Undersecretary Benny Anteporda issued a temporary cease and desist order last Thursday that prevented the local government for continuously operating the 2 ERS machines because of alleged violations of the pertinent provisions of environmental laws and gave the City General Services Office 24 hours to justify the non-continuation of the stoppage order.

Among the other conditions in the lifting of the cease and desist order will be the collection of biodegradable waste and the conversion of the area into an eco-friendly park by December 31, 2019.

Magalong explained that the timetable of the local

government in the use of the facility is to ensure that the over 40,000 cubic meters of raw compost stocked in the area will be converted into compost fertilizer by the third quarter of next year so that works on the land development will start by the fourth quarter of next year in preparation for its total rehabilitation and conversion into an eco-park by the first quarter of 2021.

He claimed that the 11 small-scale recycling volunteers in the area will also be transferred near the city's temporary waste transfer station at the Baguio Dairy Farm area where the same will be improved and developed for them to continue

Cont. on page 7

in the area will be collected by the end of the month aside from the fact that the installed machines for the conversion of the biodegradable waste will be operational by July 31, 2019.

However, during a meeting in the dump facility, Magalong directed the partner of the local government, Rapport Innovations, to ensure the completion of the ongoing upgrading of the machinery in the area so that the same will be operational by July 20, 2019.

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