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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

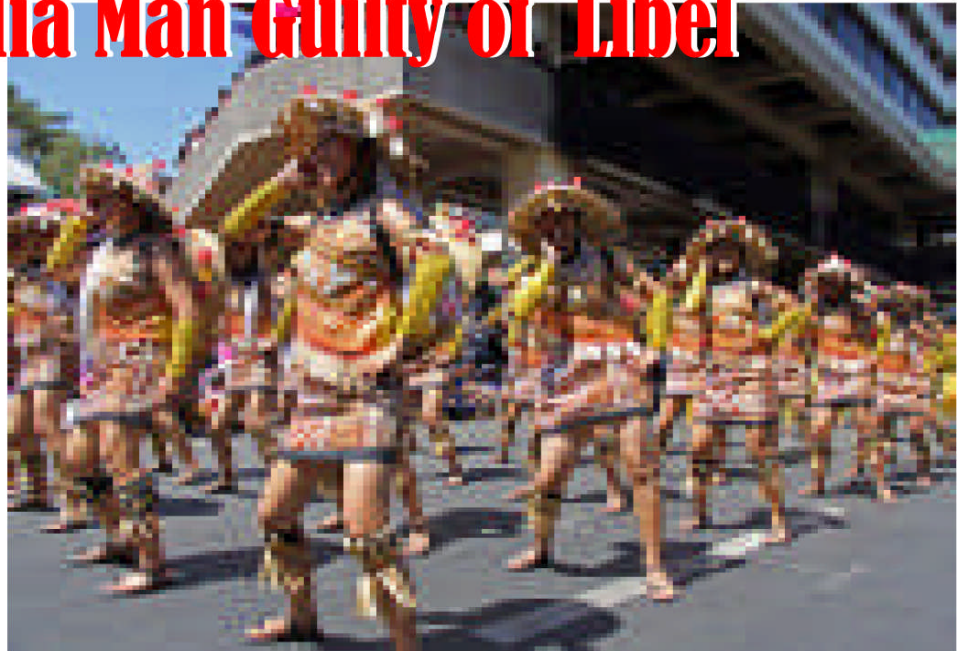
BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

# Court Finds Media Man Guilty of Libel

(Baguio City) - In a court decision and promulgation for Criminal Case No. 27762-R dated February 5, 2015 by the Hon. Cecilia Corazon S. Dulay- Archog of the Regional Trial Court, Baguio City, the accused Odell P. Aquino, media man and former OIC of The Junction Newspaper and now Consultant of The Junction Newspaper was found guilty of the crime of Libel. This case stemmed from the column written by the accused on September 30, 2006 at The Junction Newspaper, when he stated the following "MGA IBANG PNP BALIK SCHOOLING DAPAT - Alang hiya naman talaga oo, kung bakit ang lebel ng ibang mga nakapasok sa PNP ayubod ng BOBO at kung sabihin nyi Pareng Danny ay mga BORNOK o PATAY NA LUKAN. Sa mga darating nating kolum ay ating ibubunyag ng detalyado ang mga Gawain/kabobohan ng ilan sa ating kapulisan na siguro ang nararapat nilang agwin ay magbalik schooling. Huwag ninyo ng tanungin sa akin kung anong schooling sapagkat kung ako ang tatanungin ay dapat sa Grade 2 or 3 and balikan nilang schooling lalong lalo ang sinasabing GMRC, hindi ba Tagulao at Fernandez? Hindi maganda ang masabi na ang ibang mga pulis ay pulis patola or baka naman pulis

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**PANAGBENGA STREETDANCING CHAMPION** - The Pamulinawen Street Dancers from Laoag City, Ilocos Norte perform their synchronized dance number which captivated the audience and led to their bagging the championship in this year's 20th edition of Panagbenga Street Dancing contest./By Bong Cayabyab

*Matagal ng napapanahon na dapat lang na idecriminalize ang libel katulad ng libel laws sa karamihan ng mga demokrasya ay civil offense at hindi criminal offense!!!*



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## Lawmaker to MILF: Congress is Legislating, Not Dictating

Senator Chiz Escudero said Congress will not simply rubber stamp the draft Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) without sifting through its facts to resolve contentious issues, as what the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) seems to fancy from the legislators.

"Let the MILF be reminded that we in Congress are not dictating, we are legislating," Escudero said, in reference to a statement attributed to MILF's Mohagher Iqbal cautioning Congress against imposing preconditions to clear the way for the approval of the BBL.

The senator underscored the need for a thorough review of the BBL draft since Congress has no participation in the crafting of the proposal put together by Philippine and MILF negotiators.

"Sila-sila lang ang nag-uusap nung ginagawa ang lamaninayan. We were actually kept in the dark, and now they give us this take-it-or-leave-it stance. This is demanding; they are the ones demanding," said Escudero, chair of Senate Committee on Finance.

Escudero scored government negotiators for not doing their job and has put them to task to relay to the MILF the work Congress needs to do in as far as the negotiated draft agreement is concerned. He said they should also be forth-

right about the limitations of their negotiating jurisdiction.

"Nung may sulat na lumabas na ang pagkakaintindi ng MILF nung nakikipag-usap sila sa GRP panel, ang kausap nila ay buong executive, legislative at judiciary. Ito ba ang ipinaunawa sa kanila ng ating mga negotiators? Ni walang pumalag sa ating panel at sinabing hindi ganyan yan. Ngayon nakuha na lahat ng MILF ang gusto nila tungkol sa BBL kaya hindi na naming pwedeng baguhin?" Escudero pointed out.

Escudero was referring to a December 29, 2014 letter from MILF chair Al Haj Murad Ebrahim to the House of Representatives, as cited by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano in the Senate Mamasapano hearing last February.

In a letter dated Dec. 29, 2014, MILF chair Al Haj Murad Ebrahim told the House of Representatives that when they negotiated the peace agreement they had "the understanding it was negotiating with the totality of the Philippine government or the 'whole of government' especially since the Commander-in-Chief powers of the President allow him to bind the whole government including its different branches."

"It's now up for Congress to clean up the mess our government negotiators have created. Now let OPPAP

## Enriching Ibaloi Culture

BAGUIO CITY— Onjon Ni Ivadoy Association, Inc. celebrated its 6<sup>th</sup> year at the Ibaloi Heritage Garden at Burnham Park on February 21 to 23, 2015.

Jackson Chiday, Onjon Ni Ivadoy Association, Inc. President, said the Ibaloi are known as the first settlers in Baguio. The said association was also started by the late Cecile Afable, one of the three witches in Baguio City.

In a highly urbanized city, the association wanted to let the people know that they exist in their cultural heritage.

One of the purposes of the celebration is to enrich the younger generation of Ibalois to their own culture and to teach them on how to love and be proud of it. It also serves as a venue where Ibalois around the country gather together to develop unity and a stronger bonding.

From last year's a month celebration, this year only had three days because they failed to make the project proposal to the National Commission for Culture and Arts (NCCA) which was one of their major sponsors last year.

However, with the aid of the officers and members of the association, the local government unit of Baguio which institutionalized it and Jacks restaurant, they still had a bountiful celebration which had about 5,000 participants.

One of the new things that they had in the said celebration is their performance of Sapnak ni Bangkilay and Sapnak ni Indutsek.

Sapnak means repetition. The Kape ni Bangkily and Kape ni Indutsek can be performed repeatedly through the Sapnak ni Bangkilay or Sapnak ni Indutsek./ *Katrina B. Tabas/Liezel C. Ocomen*

(Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process) and the GRP panel work and impress upon their counterparts that Congress reviewing the draft BBL and amending provisions is fairly part of our democratic process," Escudero said./OFFICIAL

## Police Anti-Crime Plan Endorsed

BAGUIO CITY – The updated Anti-Crime Action Plan (ACAP) of the Baguio City Police Office has gained the support of the city council committee on public protection and safety.

Committee chair Councilor Roberto Ortega has proposed to the city council a resolution commending and supporting the plan which was updated "to further enhance and strengthen their campaign against criminality, insurgency, terrorism and other related threats or violence; and to ensure that the City of Baguio remains to be a safe place to live, visit, work, study and do business."

The ACAP lays down the operational programs or strategies to be undertaken by the BCPO "to enhance the campaign on crime prevention and control with the involvement of the various sectors of the community in relation to the implementation of the Police Integrated Patrol System (PIPS) and other crime prevention efforts."

Ortega said this will address the needs of the city where the crime situation "is still controllable, however, some crimes against person and property, such as physical injury, rape, theft and robbery are still prevalent."

City police officer-in-charge Police Sr. Supt. Rolando Miranda submitted the updated ACAP to the city council in September last year for the body's endorsement and subsequently for approval by Mayor Mauricio Domogan.

Miranda said the plan is anchored on two-fold functions particularly law enforcement and community service.

"Likewise, innovative approaches and best practices in policing have been infused guided with the emerging concept of good governance as espoused by the Performance Governance System and the PNP P.A.T.R.O.L. Plan 2030," Miranda said.

In the plan, the police spelled out the anti-crime strategies on police operation

## Dads to Look Into PUV Overloading Complaints

BAGUIO CITY – The city council will look into claims of overloading by many public utility jeepneys (PUJs) in the city as reported by commuters.


The body summoned the heads of the various PUJ associations and the president of the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of Baguio-Benguet-La Union (FEJODABBLU) to its session on Monday to explain their side on the issue.

Councilor Fred Bagbagen initiated the invitation following complaints from the riding public that many PUJ drivers load their units with more than the number prescribed capacity.

"(This practice causes) discomfort and inconvenience (and entails) sacrificing the safety and protection of the passengers," he said.

He said this practice violates Memorandum Circular No. 2011-004 which provides that no PUV (public utility vehicle) operator will carry passengers in excess of the capacity fixed by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB)./ *A Refuerzo*

prioritization, inter-operability of units, special operations, enforcement of city ordinances, beat patrol and mobile patrol, mobilization and utilization of force multipliers, operational dashboard, involvement of the local government unit and other sectors, implementation of the PIPS in focus areas, OPLAN Night Watch, integrated barangay defense system (IBDS), strengthening responsible parenthood, installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras and implementation of Oplan Baguio Shield or three-layered security rings./ *A Refuerzo*



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## Citizens Mull Plans for "The Baguio We Want"

BAGUIO CITY - "We, the people of Baguio, want a city where residents' well-being is paramount, where governance is built on genuine consultation with and active and continuous participation of the people."

So reads an excerpt of the draft statement from the people's summit dubbed "The Baguio We Want", held at the University of the Philippines Baguio last February 25 on the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the People Power revolution. An estimate of 500 people attended the summit, the participants ranging from private citizens, activists, government workers, government officials, representatives from the religious sector, and the youth.

One of the issues discussed during the People's Summit is the degradation of the environment because of the expansion of commercial businesses in the city. Lands and areas in Baguio are being used for commercial purposes which lead to the loss of the environmental sense of the city, said Tracy Anne Dumlao of Tongtongan Ti Umili-Cordillera People's Alliance. As businesses like condominiums and malls are established, the forest and watershed areas decrease. This phenomenon even leads to the degradation of air and water quality. Dumlao cited the issue on tree cutting in Mt. Sto. Tomas and Luneta Hill.

The participants were then broken for focus group discussions on current issues and concerns of Baguio such as environment, water, waste management, land use, BLISTT (Baguio-La Trinidad-Itogon-Sablan-Tuba and Tublay), local business and tourism, heritage, governance and legislation, community participation and barangay inter connectivity, and well-being and sustainability. The guiding questions for each workshop were: What are the problems?, What do we want?, and What do we do?

One participant said the government over-emphasizes tourism that leads to locals being taken for

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## Water Regulatory Commission Bill Hurdles Committee Level

Baguio Representative Nicasio M. Aliping, Jr. announced the joint committee approval of a bill creating Water Regulatory Commission by the Committee on Public Works with the Committee on Government Reorganization.

Cong. Aliping is a co-author of House Bill 3303 entitled "An Act Rationalizing the Financial Regulation of Water Utilities, Creating the Water Regulatory Commission and For Other Purposes."

Aliping said there is an urgent need to upgrade the water utilities in the country.

The explanatory note said "the main responsibility for this task lies with the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA). The reality, however, is that the capital requirements of the Water Utilities Sector are so large that the LWUA is unable to fulfill its mandate. LWUA depends on government funds, which are limited, as well as Official Development Assistance funds which are likewise limited."

Aliping said that "the alternative source of financing for water utilities is the private sector."

"However, there are no regulations and in-

## Mayor Recognizes Groups Behind the Grand Street Dancing and Grand Float Parade's Success

BAGUIO CITY - Through the years, the Panagbenga has been a working coordination between the city government here, private sectors and the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation, Inc. (BFFFI).

After the grand street dancing and grand float parade last weekend, mayor Mauricio Domogan considered that this year's Baguio Flower Festival is another success.

"The success of our festival is because of the teamwork showed by the different organizations, volunteer groups as well as the adjoining municipalities of the city," stressed mayor.

Domogan recognized the full support and participation of the Benguet-La Trinidad-Itogon-Sablan-Tuba-Tublay (BLISTT).

He also acknowledged the collective efforts of the different communications and civic organizations, different volunteers including the students.

Mayor Domogan gave credit to the Baguio City Police Office and volunteers/students for being able to have a well-managed and organized crowd control during the two major events of the festival and at the same time the traffic problem was minimized because of the effective scheme used by the Traffic Management Bureau.

Accordingly, based on feedbacks and observations of the different photographers and media outside the city taking coverage to the different festivals entire the Philippines, the Baguio Flower Festival is the most disciplined and organized festival entire the country.

Domogan expressed his delight with the observations made giving emphasis to the collective efforts of the different groups in the maintenance of the different park and greening the city space in general as well as sustaining the peace and order of the city.

"Of course there were also minimal problems encountered by the city which could be improved next year," added the mayor.

The grand street dancing parade along session road awed many tourists with the active participation of nine elementary schools, four high schools and three open universities.

On the other hand, the 16 competing floats and three none competing floats made of flowers amazed thousands of visitors making them wonder what the Filipinos are capable of when it comes to creating ideas to showcase the beauty of the city of pines.

This year's panagbenga closing ceremony will be on March 8 at the Athletic Bowl and spectators will have a chance to win in the raffle draw. After which, there will be a grand fireworks display in the various areas of Baguio City./Jho Arranz

centives to rationalize the sector thereby investors are adamant to pursue any undertakings outside of urban areas," said Aliping.

"The main objective of the proposed bill is the creation of a Water Regulatory Commission to rationalize the financial regulation of water utilities, thereby paving the way for more private sector investment," Aliping said.

The Commission will be authorized to promote the expansion, improvement and efficient provision of Piped Water Supply and Sewerage Services throughout the country.



**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT** - SP chairperson on Social Services, Women and Urban Poor Cpouncilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda and City City Social Worker and Development Officer Betty Fangasan answer queries from the local media on various issues and concerns in protecting the rights of women during Kapihan sa Baguio presscon coinciding the observance of National Women's Day celebration./By Bong Cayabyab

## Lawmaker : Justice First Before BBL Passage

Zamboanga City - Peace not imbued with justice is not genuine peace.

Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter S. Cayetano, who was in Zamboanga City on Thursday attending the 40th day mass for Capt. Ryan Pabalinas, said giving justice to the families of the 44 Special Action Force (SAF) operatives in the Mamasapano massacre should be the priority, vis-à-vis the ongoing peace process.

"Lahat naman tayo ay naghahanap ng kapayapaan. Pero walang tunay na kapayapaan kung walang katarungan. All throughout history, iyan po ang magkatugma, katarungan patungo sa kapayapaan," Sen. Cayetano said after attending the 40th day memorial mass for slain SAF member Ryan Pabalinas in Zamboanga City.

He noted that Moro Islamic Liberation Front leaders remain defiant and refuse to surrender those involved in the January 25 encounter. Cayetano said this does not bode well with the MILF, as they could not even hold their members accountable for the incident.

Looking at the bigger picture, paano natin sila pagkakatiwalaan sakaling maipasa ang BBL (Bangsanoro Basic Law)? Ngayon pa lang, pinagtatakpan na nila ang kanilang mga miyembro at hindi papanagutin sa pagpatay ng ating SAF troopers," Cayetano said. "At kahit pa nga sa maliit na bagay, paano tayo magtitiwala? Forty days na, ni cellphone at pitaka ng SAF 44 hindi maisoli."

Cayetano also revealed that he received information that the MILF is conducting massive recruitment not for its political party, but combatants for its armed wing.

In addition, he noted that the MILF has not given any credible and concrete answers during the Senate hearings, especially on its alleged links to terrorists.

Given these, Cayetano appealed to his colleagues not to rush the passage of the proposed BBL.

"Bakit naman ang ating gobyerno, sobrang nagmamadali sa BBL at nakalimutan na ang katarungan? Paalala natin sa mga kasamahan natin sa Kongreso at Senado - ipinangako natin noong dinala ang SAF 44 sa Camp bagong Diwa, na uunahin natin ang Mamasapano hearing, ang hustisya. Doon lang tayo makikipag-usap sa MILF pagkatapos."/Office of Senator Alan Peter Cayetano

It will be tasked to provide an environment conducive to the adequate financing provided by public and private sector Licensees in order to facilitate financially viable Piped Water Supply and Sewerage Services.

The commission will protect the legal and valid interests of consumers and to promote efficient competition in order to benefit consumers and prevent misuse, monopoly or market power./Carl C. Taawan



## Before 'adios'

"Gracias, Pepe," blare the billboards plastered all over the Latin American country of Uruguay this month. ("Salamat, Peping" would be the Filipino translation of that message.)

Thanks poured on the man often dubbed "the world's poorest president: Jose 'Pepe' Mujica," wrote BBC's Rio de Janeiro correspondent Wyre Davies.

Married to Lucia Topolansky, his former corevolutionary, Mujica and his wife live in her ramshackle farmhouse. They work the land themselves, growing flowers. He thumbed down the luxury of the presidential palace.

Pepe gives away 90 percent of his salary to the poor. That's \$12,000 (or roughly 528 in Philippine pesos) to charity. "I have no need for it," he shrugs.

His donations—which benefit poor people and small entrepreneurs—trim his salary down to that of the average Uruguayan.

"But I don't feel poor. Poor people are those who always want more to keep an expensive lifestyle," Pepe gripes to Vladimir Hernandez of BBC

## EDITORIAL

Mundo in Montevideo.

"Laundry is strung outside the house. The water comes from a well in a yard overgrown with weeds. Only two police officers and Manuela, a three-legged dog, keep watch outside."

Few politicians the world over come anywhere close to Mujica's austere lifestyle. Certainly, not Philippine Vice President Jejomar Binay and his family, with their luxurious Makati penthouse, farms, etc.

Binay is neck-deep in unanswered allegations that he enriched himself in office. Up to now, he scrams at the prospect of appearing before the Senate subcommittee looking into allegations that structures were built at an overprice when he was mayor of Makati City.

As early as 1988, Newsbreak magazine said Binay's declared family net worth was P2.53 million—then.

By 2008 it had ballooned to P44 million (HK\$7.37 million) in declared assets and an estimated P80 million in undeclared land holdings. His earnings as mayor totaled about P5 million. And today?

Binay slices through traffic in an official limousine with a convoy of guards. Mujica tools around in a battered Volkswagen Beetle, sans bodyguards. His Beetle is probably the most famous car in the world today.

The then mint-new Pope Francis sidelined Vatican limousines. Instead, he rides around in a modest car. He took a quick look at the sprawling papal apartments in the Vatican and snorted: "I don't need all this space." Instead, he lodged in a spare two-room hostel. Often he queues up in the cafeteria and pays for his meals. He works in a simple office.

Elected president in 2009, Mujica spent the 1960s and 1970s as a guerrilla in Uruguay. He was shot six times and spent 14 years in jail. He was freed in 1985, when Uruguay returned to democracy.

Mujica recalls two years sleeping in an old horse trough. "The day they put me on a sofa I felt comfortable!" he jokes. "I wasn't even allowed to read a book for seven, eight years."

He is perplexed by those who question his lifestyle. "All I do is live like the majority of my people, not the minority."

Uruguay is often referred to as the most liberal country in South America, as economic and political turmoil threatens to engulf the neighboring giants of Brazil and Argentina. "But, this country of just three million people certainly feels like a refuge."

Mujica leaves office with a relatively healthy economy and a social stability that its bigger neighbors can only

Cont. on page 8



**Benjamin Netanyahu,**  
Israel Prime Minister  
ISANG TUNAY NA  
LEADER NA  
MAASAHAN NG  
KANYANG  
MAMAMAYAN!!!

**BSAQUINO,**  
Philippine President  
\*7%\$#?/  
@%5+#+%\$#?/  
@%5+#+

**King Abdullah II**  
of Jordan- TUNAY NA  
LEADER NG JOR-  
DAN NA  
MAAASAHAN NG  
KANYANG  
MAMAMAYAN !!!

## ADVOCAY MINDANOW

### MAMASAPANO 'STRIP- TEASE' & CATHARSIS

BY: JESUS DUREZA



This kind of "striptease" does not tantalize nor excite. It angers. The way the Mamasapano actual facts had been exposed slowly piece-by-piece is not scintillating at all. If only all those involved immediately bared all and gave full disclosure at the outset, the nation would have been spared this agonizing and divisive disrobing. Sad, but it seems we have all forgotten the fact that it was indeed "mission accomplished". We got Marwan — although at terrible costs. We are doing "self flagellation", whipping ourselves. We have squandered the gains of years of seeking peace. Our focus to peace is now diverted. And worse, we are now a deeply divided and polarized people. In the meantime, I am hearing the rolls of the drums of war.

**CATHARSIS** — This excruciating process of truth seeking is the catharsis we all need. Over the days, we have witnessed steeled, uniformed gentlemen and officers, public officials and ordinary mortals unabashedly shedding or holding back tears in public. A nation in tears is one way of exorcising. We need a national catharsis — a purging of bad vibes and the relieving of pent-up negative emotions of distrust, grief or anger — to regain our lost bearings. We are all in this together, whether policemen or soldiers, pro administration or anti PNoy, MILF or MNLF, Muslims or non-Muslims alike.

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**NEW BBL** — With what is happening in Congress and the expressed sentiments and public statements I am hearing, I can foresee that the next best thing that can happen to BBL is that it will become a NEW BBL. Obviously, Congress will definitely not take the original draft of the BBL "as is" as painstakingly crafted by both the GPH and MILF peace panels. But we cannot just let go. We need to recover from the distractions and re-focus. I say again with more clarity: we need a peaceful settlement to address the generational aspiration of the Bangsamoro. Given the shattered peace equilibrium and the ensuing distrust — deserved or undeserved — spawned by Mamasapano, there is much work to be done.

**"INCLUSIVE"** — Now, I think it's not only just removing the so-called unconstitutional provisions from the BBL. We all have an opportunity to also enhance and make the new BBL more "inclusive". This is not easy to do I know but there is now a strategic opportunity to again try and unify the deeply divided Bangsamoro factions. The MILF's Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) can be consolidated with MNLF's 1996 Final Peace Agreement and the Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA LAW). I can tell from my experience that this is difficult to do, given what had happened before. The feudal, ethnic and historical divides are there but I trust these can be breached in time. The best-case scenario is: a roadmap for all Bangsamoro. This was the original roadmap. We can return to that route.

**ALTERNATIVE** — Hence, instead of totally dismantling the ARMM and repealing its enabling law, Republic Act 9054, the better way forward, considering realities, is for the new BBL to build on the gains and foundations of the original and amended

Cont. on page 8



## KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

**PNoy Blaming Purisima has Precedent**

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



**LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS:** "...For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors..." (Isaiah 53:12, the Holy Bible).

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**SCANDAL ERUPTS ON PNOY BLAMING PURISIMA:**

For the record, many feel scandalized by the attempts of President Aquino and Malacanang to blame resigned Philippine National Police chief, Gen. Alan Purisima, for the Mamasapano massacre where 44 officers and men of the Special Action Force were brutally killed by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters on January 25, 2015.

Did not Aquino say, early on, that Purisima could not be blamed nor be held liable in anyway for the death of the SAF commandos, people are asking. And, people are also wondering aloud, did not Purisima already declare publicly, in an act perceived by many as gallantry of the highest order, that he was taking full responsibility for the Mamasapano massacre, in an obvious ploy to clear Aquino?

So, how come Aquino suddenly made a turn around, as he is now singing a different tune about Purisima's liability over the Mamasapano operation, to the effect that the former PNP chief must take all the blame for this blot in the nation's history because he lied to the President?

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**PNOY, PURISIMA: BREAKING POINT:** Your guess is as good as mine, but I think that the presidential change-of-mind was prompted by Purisima's public denial, through a statement issued by his lawyer-relative, that he lied to the President about the help for the SAF policemen. Purisima disputed the President's accusation that he lied, saying that he never lied at any point in his career as a policeman, and during all the time that he was considered as the best friend of Aquino.

That denial was perceived by Aquino and his spin masters as Purisima's breaking away from his long friendship with his long-time friend and benefactor and, as a veiled attempt as well to already implicate the President in the Mamasapano debacle. When Purisima made that public denial, he became an urgent target for character assassination, to take away his credibility, if and when he found himself disclosing the truth about Mamasapano.

But as we wrote the other day, the only thing that Purisima can do now to defend himself is to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as to how the Mamasapano operation came about, who ordered its execution on January 25, 2015, and who was really in charge of the whole operation all along.

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**PNOY BLAMING PURISIMA HAS PRECEDENT:**

If Purisima does this, he is not going to be alone. As far as I can recall, there is already a precedent of an official of an Aquino government spilling the beans, so to speak, after being dropped like a hot potato, on account of that official being perceived to be moving against the interest of the powers that be. I am of course referring to the case of former Agrarian Reform Secretary and now Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Miriam's case as a Cabinet member of the Cory Aquino government is in fact documented by Wikipedia, which reported: "President Aquino was chair of the Presidential Agrarian **Cont. on page 8**

## DIMENSIONAL ROAD

**Terrorism Builds No Safer Place in the Planet**

BY: MARVIN WACNAG LIDAWAN



**"The purpose of terrorism lies not just in the violent act itself. It is in producing terror. It sets out to inflame, to divide, and to produce consequences which they then use to justify further terror." - Tony Blair**

In the Philippine Archipelago, the month of February is characterized by a significant tragedy that shook the Philippine populace as it reverberated to the whole part of the globe where even Filipinos, based away from their countries, grieved. The main cause of this tragedy that took the lives of these men has recurring patterns of occurrences in the Southern Philippines which were done by leftist called Islamic extremists who can never solve the country's dilemma emerging constantly. The aggressive form of their solidarity couldn't change the course of Philippine history to be a better society for the cause they are fighting complicates the multiplicity of current problems in the country. They who have joined their heads together and condemned "farewell- to -arms -for- peace movement" can never aid in the erection of a sturdy society with tremendously opposing ideologies, impossible to be integrated in the foundation of a society that needs peace for stability. They are the lost souls incapable of realizing that societal change must emanate from every individual. This is a group who assumes that the only ideology that leads to the right path of prosperity and favorable change is their own credence and that interference of their unsanctioned affairs means death to those who attempt.

This is the Abu Sayyaf Group, also known as al-Harakat al-Islamiyya which is one of several militant Islamic-separatist groups based in the southern islands of the Philippines. These Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas were involved in the killing of 49 dispatched Special Action Force (SAF) commandos, recently.

Before this tragedy in the Philippine soil took place, many countries around the world have one appalling thing in common. Mass destruction of human lives from other nations has been taking place. The dreadful events disturbing the world's populace damage the peace of nations who yearn for tranquility of survival despite the adversities of life. These deeds created by co-mortals become the deadliest experiences all man in this planet could ever have. Man-made disasters are deadliest than natural calamities. Bombings, beheadings, hostage-taking, shooting, ambush, burning, deceptions, hanging, abducting, revenge, flogging, imperialistic moves, and even lone wolf attacks

lead to genocides. Man is subjected to physical and psychological ordeals. These are forms of terrorism which are called apocalyptic visions as CNN (Cable Network News) points out.

It is depressing to note that terrorism around the world is always associated with Islam. Terrorism damages the image of true Islamism which means peace. It is so disappointing to point out that unscrupulous entities continue to massively thrive and destroy human lives. United Nations' research of these consecutively annoying events manifested too that other tactics of the Islamic Extremists' operations are through suicide attacks, hijacking, kidnappings, summary execution and even Internet recruiting.

The World's destruction of human lives is as old as mankind and continuous to thrive from the first quarter of the 20th century to the present. Other than those early horrendous events, the 21st century has much to convey that made headlines created by extremists who have set "society-unsanctioned- norms" through their evil operations.

The following extremist groups are anti-militant groups that made headlines through their peace- disturbing movements could be specifically pointed out from varied countries around the world from our source.

The Philippines' Moro Islamic Liberation Front or the Abu Sayyaf group, also known as al-Harakat al-Islamiyya, is one of several militant Islamic-separatist groups; Pakistan and Afghanistan's Taliban and Hezb-e-Islami Gulbuddin forces; Tajikistan and Uzbekistan's IMU (Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan); Russia's Shamil Basayev's Islamic-nationalist rebel faction or Dokka Umarov's pan-Islamist movement Caucasus Emirate; Turkey's Hezbollah in Turkey not connected to the Shia Hezbollah in Lebanon; Iraq, Syria and Yemen's Al-Qaeda which is the biggest threat to Canada and the United States; Israel and the Palestinian territories' Hamas called Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya; Palestine's Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine; Lebanon's Hezbollah known as Fatah al-Islam; Algeria's The Armed Islamic Group; Bangladesh's Bangladesh Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh; India's Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed and Nigeria's Boko Haram. There are other emerging Islamic extremist groups underground which are to be defined as time emerges more discoveries.

We are never alone in a world of condemning tragedies. Many have more sufferings than what previously confronted us. The world's populace has now sensed continuous perils ever since which justify the freedom to say that there's no safer place on earth to stay.



## Quick Response Noted in Combating Fires

BAGUIO CITY – the launching of Fire Prevention Month in this mountain resort comes with good news during Mondays Flag Raising Ceremony with a reported notable decrease in structural fire damage here.

Fire Officer 1 Blessie Marconi announced March 2 in the presence of City Officials headed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Vice Mayor Edison Bilog, a significant decrease in fire damage.

Marconi said, "comparing the first two months of 2014 with 2015 where they responded to the same number of structural fires, the estimated cost of fire damage decreased by 82.15%."

"Resulta po ito ng mas mabilis na pagresponde ng ating mga bumbero at maagap na rin pong tumawag ng bumbero ang ating mamamayan," she said.

The Baguio Fire Station responded to 33 structural fires, 39 forest fires and 8 vehicular fires in 2014.

The estimated cost of damage for structural fires amounted to P4.1 million, a 73.19% decrease as compared to 2013 where the estimated

cost of damage for structural fires reached a staggering P15.5 million.

As per capability enhancement, they continue to conduct seminars, trainings, drills and workshops to personnel, volunteers and the community.

Marconi said, "they have tapped 216 group participants or 16,066 individuals for such enhancements which include local government funded trainings for the School Disaster Risk Reduction Management Committee (SDRRMC) and the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Management Committee (BDRRMC)."

"We also launched the first School Fire Olympics last November and we hope that the legacy will continue," she said.

Moreover, the bureau was able to inspect 8,492 establishments within the city and have issued 8,813 Fire Safety Inspection Certificates (FSIC) resulting to the collection of P3.6 million in Fire Code Fees.

It was also highlighted that as per statistics that residential occupancy is fire prone which mandated their agency to focus more on the prevention of residential

Cont. on page 8

## Search for the Most Outstanding Kagawads Set

BAGUIO CITY - The Association of Barangay Kagawads Inc. together with the rotary Club of Downtown Session will be conducting a search for the Most Outstanding Kagawads in the city of Baguio.

The search aims to encourage the kagawads to reinforce their role as partners of the government in strengthening the community and to professionalize as well as improve the level of competence of every kagawad.

The barangays are encouraged to join the said search by nominating their best performing kagawad.

The criteria to be considered for nominating are as follows: 1.) at least three years continuous service as barangay kagawad; 2.) submission of current NBI, police and court clearances; 3.) submission of good moral character duly endorsed by punong barangay or any reputable constituent of the barangay; 4.) barangay council resolution endorsing the nominee; 5.) submission of comprehensive resume to include awards, achievements, recognitions related to his/her work as barangay kagawad and recognitions related to his/her work as barangay kagawad; 6.) attach 2x2 ID pictures and photocopies of certificates, award and recognitions; 7.) submission of a brief essay on personal and professions life and advocacies on his/her personal and professional life and advocacies.

Nominations must be submitted on or before March 15 to Karl Gabaen, president of the Rotary Club of Downtown Session as the Baguio's Finest Security Agency, DOTC-TEL OF Building, Post Office Loop, Upper Session Road.

The awarding ceremony will be held during the 18th Charter Anniversary celebration of the Rotary Club Downtown Session on April 23, 2015 at the Newtown Plaza Hotel ballroom with Honorable Senator Grace Poe as guest Honour and Speaker.

For more information and queries, interested barangays can contact ABK President Eva Marie Fianza (09175072733), ABK Secretary Allen Joanne Zapanta (09062196933), Mike Limbo, Jr. (09175071958), Atty. Edgar Avila (09175071414) and Jean del Rosario (09063578880)./Jho Arranz

## City Gears Up for SUMVAC 2015

BAGUIO CITY - With the summer vacation fast approaching, mayor Mauricio Domogan last week re-organized the working committees for the Summer Vacation (SUMVAC) 2015 in this mountain resort through Administrative Order No. 022, series of 2015 in the preparation for the city's summer offering.

He will chair the committee with Representative Nicasio Aliping Jr. as honorary chair, Vice Mayor Edison Bilog will act as the vice chair.

Sangguniang Panlungsod Committee on tourism and special events chair Councilor Elmer Datuin and city administrator Atty. Carlos Canilao will serve as action officers.

Various working committees were also formed for the activities to complement the SUMVAC operations to wit:

- Araw ng Kagitingan, Liberation of Baguio and Kafagway to be chaired by Councilor Peter Fianza, members include City Social Welfare and Development Officer Betty Fangasan, Dr. Cesar Francis Bringas and Public Information Officer Ramon Dacawi;

- Summer Arts Expo, Cultural Show, National and Regional Summer Tourism program, Summer Sports activities to be chaired by Councilor Datuin with Supervising Tourism Officer Benedicto Alhambra as co-chair, members are Councilor Richard Cariño, City Planning and Development Officer Evelyn Cayat, Executive Assistant Rafael Tallocoy and Sports Coordinating Officer Gaudencio Gonzales;

- Summer Health and Environment Programs to be chaired by Dr. Rowena Galpo with co chair City Environment and Parks Management Officer Cordelia Lacsamana and City Veterinarian Brigit Piok;

- Market and Exposition to be chaired by Coun. Elaine Sembrano together with city treasurer Alicia Onoza as co-chair;

- Job's Fair/Labor Day Activities to be chaired by City Human Resource Management Officer Estrella Bisquera with Executive Assistant Jose Atanacio as member;

- Communications Groups, peace, Security and Traffic Assistance to be chaired by PS/Supt. Rolando Miranda with Councilor Roberto Ortega as co-chair, members include Coun. Fianza and City Administrator Carlos Canilao;

- Media Relations Search for Lucky Summer Visitors to be chaired by Helen Tibaldo and Ramon Dacawi as co-chair with members CSW Officer Fangasan and Baguio Corresponding and Broadcasting Club's president Dhubie de Guzman;

- Church/Holy Week Activities to be chaired by Coun. Isabelo Cosalan, Jr. with various religious institutions as members;

- Councilor Michael Lawana will chair the Barangay Fiesta together with Community Affairs Officer Noel Mabutas as co-chair;

- Streamer Road Signs' Maintenance to be chaired by Arch. Johnny Degay with members city engineer Leo Bernardez Jr. and Baguio City district engineer Alexander Castaneda;

- Physical Arrangements and Logistics will be chaired by General Services Officer Romeo Concio and CEPM Officer Lacsamana and member Eugene Buyucan;

- Secretariat will be the Officer

Cont. on page 8



## CATHOLIC FAITHFUL SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, INC.



### Wanted Immediately Ticket Sellers

Male/Female who are willing to SELL Entrance/Donation Tickets for the "Panata," the re-enactment of Christ's crucifixion. The event will be held on Good Friday (April 3) at the Santuario dela Sagrada Catolica at Itogon, Benguet (Ambuclao Rd). This event is the first in the Cordillera, where ticket holders can witness the LIVE CRUCIFIXION of a penitent/devotee to celebrate the passion of Christ. Sellers can expect generous commissions and sales support. This is open to individuals and store/business owners.

Email resume or letter of intent to catholicfaithfulorg@yahoo.com.

Visit our website: www.catholicfaithful.asia for more details.

Tel: (074) 422-4215 / 0917-5061005



## Court Finds...

from page 1

sayote???".

Notably contained in the court decision is a portion of the testimony of the main witness and complainant PO3 Donato Fernandez and quoted en toto as follows: "Pros. Tagudar

Q Mentioned in these articles which you said are connected with each other, am I right?

A Yes, Ma'am.

Q Talks about you as being "bornok", together with Police Officer Tagulao?

A Yes, Ma'am.

Q What is "bornok", if you know?

A I don't know, Ma'am. What I know is, it's a word on the mountain. People from the mountain. "Parang si Barok".

Q And what is derogatory about being called "Burnok" or "Barok"?

A It was his own term, Ma'am. I don't know what it meant.

Q So, you don't know actually the meaning of "Bornok" aside from the fact that you believed it means people from the mountain like "Barok"?

A I don't know that, Ma'am.

Q How about this "patay na lukan", you know what that mean?

A I don't know that word, Ma'am, only the word, "patay".

Q I see. So, what is derogatory being called, "patay na lukan"?

A Because it is in his own version, Ma'am.

Q When you read it, is it in this words, "Bornok" or "patay na lukan" that you believed is libellous or malicious?

A "Patay na lukan", my first reaction, Ma'am, it is just a chicken which is suddenly dead. "Patay na lukan, patay sa manukan, parang ganun", Ma'am.

Q A chicken that is suddenly dead?

A "Pata na lukan, parang sa manukan, ganun".

Q Okay. Aside from referring to you and Tagulao as "Bornok" or "patay na lukan", in the first article, what other words can you point to as also derogatory?

A There are many, Ma'am. "Salitang Bastos, ugaling basto".

Q So what is derogatory of being referred to as, "bastos"?

A "May ugali kaming bastos. Akala nila kami ay hari porke may baril kami".

Q So what is derogatory about called "bastos", referring to you?

A "Bastos", it is derogatory because of our character.

Q Why, what do you understand by the word, "bastos"?

A "Bastos", more than words of undisciplined, Ma'am.

Q Undisciplined. Okay. What else are the words that you find derogatory in Exhibit B, aside from the word, "bastos"?

A "May ugaling di maganda".

Q Start from top

A "Ang may ugaling hindi maganda, pulis patola"

Q Okay. Let's go to "Pulis patola", what to you is the meaning of "Pulis patola"?

A All I know, that was already used as a common words for all, even in movies, that when you are called, "Pulis patola", you are the most degraded person, Ma'am. Degraded policeman, Ma'am.

Q Why?

A "Pulis patola", Ma'am.

Q What to you is the connotation if you

are referred to as "Pulis patola"?

A As if it degraded my knowledge. It was only referred to a "patola" vegetable, Ma'am.

Q And what is degrading about "patola"?

A They all knew that already, Ma'am.

Q Who? You are the one being degraded, so, what to you is the meaning of "Pulis patola" being ascribed to you?

A As if I am related to a kind of vegetable thinking, Ma'am.

Q I see. What is the other word you mentioned earlier?

A "Unghang na Pulis".

Q "Hung-hang na Pulis". You believe that this was describing you also?

A Yes, Ma'am.

Q What is "hung-hang na Pulis"?

A "Hung-hang", as if they are calling me, "mangmang", as if like that, Ma'am.

Q What is "mangmang"?

A "Hung-hang ka", very common words, Ma'am.

Q Which means to you?

A "M a n g m a n g", Ma'am.

Q "Mangmang"?

A Yes, Ma'am.

Q In English?

A No intelligence at all, Ma'am.

Q And you believe even to this day that this article which you bracketed and read refers to you?

A Yes, Ma'am."

In an interview with the accused Aquino, he maintains that there is nothing libelous about what he had wrote in his columns and that he was merely stating the facts and providing a fair albeit candid opinion on what he had witnessed to have been the conduct unbecoming of the PNP Police complainants in the performance of their duties. Ironically, one of the complainants PO 2 Rolando Tagulao, according to a reliable source has already been dismissed from the PNP service. Aquino, further stated that for now his conviction is an empty victory for the complainants as he will not pay the fine and penalty imposed by the court which is P 6,000.00 and P 5,000.00/each for the two (2) complainants as moral dam-

Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Transportation and Communications  
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING  
AND REGULATORY BOARD  
Cordillera Administrative Region  
Baguio City  
ALEXANDER MALAYO  
Applicant(s)  
Case No: 2011-CAR-753

## NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an Application for the Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI SERVICE for the transportation of passengers and freight on the Line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CAR and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on March 18, 2015 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paochal, 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 by 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 CELINA B. CLAVER - Regional Director this 12th day of February, 2015.

(SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR  
Hearing Officer

Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Transportation and Communications  
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING  
AND REGULATORY BOARD  
Cordillera Administrative Region  
Baguio City  
RAQUEL A. BUSTAMANTE  
Applicant(s)  
Case No: 2013-CAR-311

## NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an Application for the Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI SERVICE for the transportation of passengers and freight on the Line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CAR and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on March 18, 2015 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paochal, 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 by 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 CELINA B. CLAVER - Regional Director this 3rd day of March, 2015.

(SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR  
Hearing Officer

Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Transportation and Communications  
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING  
AND REGULATORY BOARD  
Cordillera Administrative Region  
Baguio City  
WILSON TAQUIO - Vendor  
PASDONG FARMERS MULTI-PURPOSE  
COOPERATIVE - Vendee  
Represented by: Primitive Silog  
Applicant(s)  
Case No: 2003-CAR-1137

## NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an Application for the Sale and Transfer of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ-Jitney service for the transportation of passengers and freight on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - TOPDAK-PASDONG, ATOK and Vice Versa, with the use of one (1) unit

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on March 18, 2015 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paochal, 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 by 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 CELINA B. CLAVER - Regional Director this 12th day of February, 2015.

(SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR  
Hearing Officer

Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Transportation and Communications  
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING  
AND REGULATORY BOARD  
Cordillera Administrative Region  
Baguio City  
FERNANDO CONGO-O  
Applicant(s)  
Case No: 91-CAR-216

## NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an Application for the Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ-Jitney for the transportation of passengers and freight on the Line: Baguio Plaza Bakakeng Norte/Sur and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on March 18, 2015 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paochal, 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 by 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 CELINA B. CLAVER - Regional Director this 12th day of February, 2015.

(SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR  
Hearing Officer

ages for a total penalty of P 16,000.00. The dispositive portion of the decision reads as " WHEREFORE, in the light of the facts obtaining the laws aforesaid, judgment is hereby rendered finding accused Odell Aquino guilty beyond reasonable doubt for the crime of Libel defined in Article 353 of the Revised Penal Code, hereby sentencing him to pay a fine of P6,000.00. Accused is likewise ordered to pay P5,000.00 as moral damages to each private complainant."

Instead, Aquino stated that he will avail of the legal remedies at his disposal and elevate the case to the Court Of Appeals (CA) and if the decision will not be reversed by the CA he will once again elevate it to the Supreme Court (SC). Aquino is respectful and also thankful to the Honorable Archog for having rendered the decision which he said could have been a harsher penalty to include imprisonment, which however was not the case and for her judgment he is thankful to the Honorable Archog. Aquino further stated that " it is high time for the present

## Punong Barangays...

from page 10

lar requests are expected to flood the city government in the coming days.

Because of the predicament, the league thought of conducting the two-month trade fair as the "most convenient, reasonable and practicable readily available means... albeit provisionally and temporarily" that the city government can help the barangays raise the needed funding.

"There is a need for a tripartite action from the city government, the 128 barangays and the Liga to work hand-in-hand to possibly end the said concern," they said./A Refuerzo

Philippine Libel law to be decriminalized as is the case in most democratic countries, as there is no room for union skinned government and public officials who do not want to be criticized despite their abusive and/or incompetent behavior and conduct ". For his appeal Aquino will be represented by the Law Office of Atty. Alex Katigbak./By: Sermi Agus, The Junction Reporter/Researcher



## Editorial

...from page 4

envy.

*In addressing the Rio+20 summit, he asked: What would happen to this planet if Indians would have the same proportion of cars per household than Germans? ... Can we have the same level of consumption and waste that today is seen in rich societies?*

*Mujica could have followed his predecessors into a grand official residence. But however large the gulf between the vegetarian Mujica and these other leaders, he is no more immune than they are to the ups and downs of political life.*

*"Many sympathize with Mujica because of how he lives. But this does not stop him from being criticized for how the government is doing," says Uruguayan pollster Ignacio Zuasnabar.*

*The opposition says Uruguay's recent economic prosperity has not resulted in better public services in health and education.*

*But Mujica doesn't have to worry too much. He is not allowed to seek reelection.*

*When he steps down, as he has, he will be eligible for a state pension—and unlike some other former presidents, he may not find the drop in income too hard to get used to./Juan L. Mercado*

## KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

...from page 5

Reform Council. As secretary, Santiago was the vice-chair. The media pointedly asked her if the hacienda belonging to the president's family should be covered by agrarian reform.

"(The Cojuangco family had opted for corporate farming by retaining the land and paying the farmers in the form of corporate shares, thus exempting themselves from the agrarian reform law.) When Santiago said that the family's hacienda should be distributed among the farmers, it was not long before President Aquino accepted Santiago's resignation..." Santiago later publicly disclosed this experience of hers with the first President Aquino.

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PLEASE LISTEN: DZEC1062 kHz Manila, 1080 kHz Dagupan City, 711 kHz Naga City, 1260 kHz Lucena City, 1224 kHz Davao City, and www.eaglenews.ph Mondays to Fridays, 6 a.m.; DYKA 801 kHz Panay Island, Yes Radio 88.3 FM, Barobo City, Surigao del Sur, Yes Radio 93.9 FM, Cagwait, Surigao del Sur, Mondays to Fridays, 10 a.m.; 92.7 Smile FM.

## Advocacy Mindanow

...from page 4

ARMM law. We should cast out what did not work with ARMM. But let's not totally dismantle it. Let's not pretend the ARMM did not exist. Let's not throw away what had been built over the years with the ARMM. For all its perceived and real faults, let's preserve and build on its gains. Let's not reinvent. Instead let's consolidate. The bottom line in this alternative plan is to have one "Bangsamoro road map" for all. In short, the BBL can metamorphosize into an enhanced revised or amended ARMM LAW.

**DONORS** — One final word. Our international partners must not sulk and close shop in the face of these challenges. In fact, they are most needed now more than ever. Improving the lives of the deprived and the miserable should not wait for peace agreements to be signed first, although no doubt they provide an enabling environment for development work in conflict affected areas and the poor communities.

**SECRET FORMULA** — I will not get tired repeating again and again the counsel of former President Ramos, whenever the going went rough in our negotiations with the CPP/NPA/NDF years ago when I served in the government panel. According to him, a peace negotiator must have three secret qualities: 1. Patience; 2. More patience; and 3. More, more patience. This can apply to all of us now as we still recover our true bearings for peace.

**DREAMING** — My dream is to exorcise ourselves of Mamasapano, convert this national calamity into an opportunity and, by seizing the moment, we all move on. Perhaps, Mamasapano was really meant to be.

Yes, easier said than done. But I can still dream, can't I? **ADVOCACY MINDANOW FOUNDATION, INC.** (AMFI)/Follow us at Twitter: AMFI\_Mindanow/Email us: info@advocacymindanow.org/Visit us: www.advocacymindanow.org

## Quick response...

from page 6

fires.

The bureau also continue to widen its coverage in the inspection of establishments for fire safety requirements and boasts of a 209.38% increase in number of establishments issued with Fire Safety Inspection Clearance.

March is declared 'Fire Prevention Month' by virtue of Presidential Proclamation 115-A and this year's theme is 'Kaligtasan sa Sunog; Alamin, Gawin at Isabuhay Natin' with the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) as the lead agency.

Meantime, the mayor thanked the BFP for their dedication to service and highlighted the harmonious collaboration of the bureau with the local government and other agencies, barangays, private sector entities, volunteers, schools, and the media among others for reminding the community the value of preventive measures in avoiding any disaster caused by fires. /Paul Rillorta

## Cordillerans Pour...

from page 10

checked the account and found fresh contributions totaling P444,239.30," he added.

Most of the Samaritans were Cordillerans here and abroad, either through their BIBAK chapters, church and civic organizations, clans or on their own.

"Many wanted to remain anonymous, saying what matters is they were able to contribute to easing the gnawing pain of loss and uncertainty of the future of the orphaned families," Bangsoy said.

Other signatories of the bank account are Fr. Andrews Cosalan of the Catholic Vicariate of Baguio, Bishop Joel Padchao of the Episcopal Church and Bishop Peter Mayyam of the Evangelical Churches in the region.

Those who still want to donate may deposit in through BPI Session branch bank account 0573354583 with SWIFT CODE BOPIPHMM.

There is also a Smart Money account for those who are not able to send their donations via BPI joint account. The Smart Money account number is 5299-6756-4277-7104 or they can send donations via Smart Money using the phone number 0920-278-9000.

Another fund-raiser, this time a folk

## City Gears...

from page 6

for Administration and City Tourism and Special Events Division.

It is the function of the heads of the various committees to implement the various activities set under SUMVAC 2015, to organize working committees by selecting individuals from the private and public organizations and offices that would plan out and rationalize programs especially assigned to them, to call meetings in order to plan out ways to ensure the success of their respective endeavors, to seek ways and means that all activities are properly supported and to head their respective committees in preparing policies, guidelines and measures that would ensure the success of their respective programs./Jho Arranz

and country music concert tribute to the 14 Cordillera heroes, has been set by the Police Regional Office-Cordillera under Chief Supt. Isagani Nerez and the Baguio Correspondents and Broadcasters Club led by ABS-CBN news anchor Dhubie de Guzman on March 28 at the University of Baguio gym./Ramon Dacawi.

**Branded o hindi, lahat made in China, BAKIT..... magtitiis sa high Price branded merong low Price RUSI naman.**

**Trade-in accepted**

**RUSI BAGUIO-BENGUET**  
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CP Nos: 0988-9731349

**RUSI TUBA, BENGUET**  
Brgy. Cadmangan, Tuba, Benguet  
CP No.: 0988-885-0843

**RUSI BUGUIAS, BENGUET**  
Brgy. Abatan, Buguias, Benguet  
CP No.: 0947-995-1609



**Lawmakers: We Want...****from page 10**

the BBL is passed, the MILF will be given at least P75 billion aside from the annual Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) and the Bottom-up budget (BuB).

"Sa totoo lang, ang galing ng panig at panel ng MILF. Nakuha nila lahat ng pwede at gusto nilang makuha sa BBL at sa mga kasunduan. Ang tanong ko: Anong mapapala ng pamahalaan at ng nakararaming Pilipino?" the senator asked.

The fund is even larger than the P70 billion budget of the PNP and is close to the P90 billion allocation for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). According to Escudero, if taxes and other fees and charges will be added, the MILF will have a spending package bigger than that of the country's military.

Escudero explained that the Mamasapano clash, which resulted in the deaths of 44 SAF troopers, served as an eye-opener for lawmakers to further scrutinize the provisions of the BBL.

"I believe we should be grateful to the SAF 44 who gave up their lives for the country and pave the way for us to look into the details of the peace process because if this incident did not happen, the BBL could have been passed effortlessly and we will be bombarded with this problem one day," Escudero said.

He cited a provision in the BBL that the Shari'a High Court's decision is final and executory, which the senator said is totally in violation of the Consti-

tution which provides that the country's Supreme Court (SC) has the final say and has the sole right to review all cases.

Escudero also scored a provision that says that the Judicial Bar Council created under the BBL has the authority to discipline a Shari'a judge. "The rule of judicial procedure solely lies within the power of SC, as provided by the Constitution. Not even Congress can pass a law to interfere with the Constitution."

However, Escudero still expressed support for the peace process while highlighting the importance of setting the bars high in crafting the provisions of the BBL and seeking justice for the slain SAF troopers – a move that is beneficial to parties involved in the peace agreement.

"Wala namang may ayaw na matuloy ang peace process, wala namang may ayaw ng kapayapaan sa Mindanao. Wala namang may gusto ng giyera at kaguluhan sa Mindanao. Subalit ang tanong, paano natin makakamit ang kapayapaan? Ano yun paraan para marating natin ang kapayapaan? At dapat timplahin at sabayan ng hustisya ang kapayapaan isinusulong ng gobyerno at hinahangad natin sa Mindanao. Hindi pwedeng puro kapayapaan na lamang, maski papaano makamit yan at maski ano at sino masagasaan. May halaga na kailangan nating pagbayaran nito," Escudero said.

**Local Expat...****from page 10**

compositions. At \$12 "or any amount will do", he came up with a \$1,300 collection from pledges, cash and checks from 62 fellow Cordillera expatriates.

The twin initiatives were for Quakelyn Lisayen, a 24-year old former volunteer rescuer who, the other year, found the shoe was on the other foot. That was when she was diagnosed for kidney failure and told to undergo thrice-a-week hemodialysis treatment for life.

Not content with hemodialysis, she went against the grain, against financial odds, and worked out an organ transplant, with her younger brother Jason as donor.

"I feel so lucky as the tissue matching we had with my brother went beyond expectations on compatibility," she texted last week from Metro-Manila where, for months, she was working out a semi-charity arrangement with a transplant facility.

It took a village - folksingers, police officers, lawyers, rescuers, barangay officials and tanods, teachers, together with other dialysis patients and their relatives - to mount the concert for Quakelyn and four other dialysis patients from Irian.

Aside from sending the police regional office combo to perform, regional police director, Chief Supt. Isagani Nerez provided free use of sound and musical instruments, thereby whittling down on expenses. He topped it with a P10,000 donation from his command.

The BENECO saw to the stability of the power wirings at

the venue and added P10,000 to the fund, 50 percent of which will go to Quakelyn and the other half to be divided equally divided among the four other patients.

An anonymous soul regularly responding to appeals for help coursed by patients through the media, contributed P7,500 which he coursed through Conrad.

While lead singer Mhia was printing the tickets and souvenir T-shirts in Singapore where she was based, Conrad, her fellow lead singer in the now disbanded Foggy Mountain Band, arrived here to coordinate the show with fellow musicians Jose "Bubut" Olarte, Zeny, Kenneth, Alma, Liza, Dolfo, Arsen, the Seldom Seen group of March Fianza and Dick Oakes, Slow Speed band led by Serafin Marzan and other pro bono performers.

A five-member volunteer committee headed by former city prosecutor Gloria Agunos earlier opened BPI-Harrison bank account number 0563845279 through which Samaritans may course their donations.

Donors may contact Quakelyn (09393559927), Agunos (09176556201), committee members, former assistant city prosecutor Evelyn Tagudar Tagudar (09175069481), regional director Helen Tibaldo of the Philippine Information Agency (09175088534), city social welfare officer Betty Fangasan (09175041892) Irian punong barangay Thomas Dumalti (09465971520), or this writer (09167778103).

Earlier in San Di-

ego, Bob, elder brother of Baguio Rep. Nicasio Aliping Jr., raised \$230 from his CD compositions and sent the amount for 19-year old peritoneal dialysis patient Shaly Cris Bantas.

Rep. Aliping also set the tone of the community fund drive by allotting P200,000 from his Priority Development Assistance Fund for Quakelyn's fund drive. The girl needs at least P640,000 for the transplant and more than P1 million for the maintenance, purposely to prevent rejection of the implanted kidney.

Cordillerans in the United States who pooled the P1,300 sent by Bob were Tony Siak, Ed Briones, Jeremy Abeya, Nover Velasco, Helen Balitang, Lyn Baroy, Judith Lino, Roger Sabatchi, Marie Badol, Ramon Chaong, Jones Domingao, John Cosalan, Lando Ganasi, Rick Nabus, Lalit Osio, John Tarnate Jr., John Pulsingay, Marshall Wandag, George Cleope, Ron Tello, Gary Adamos, John Allan, Larry Senato, Carol Cosalan, Crismar Dirige, Edith Esteban, Edwin Macayo, Patrick McDonough, Foest Comafay, Erol Becasen, Elvis Becasen, Marie Aguelba Staiger, Elmer Angadol, Art Butic, Gloria Maoguet, Cecilio Zabala, Edwin Abeya, Jun Panganiban, Gumz Salupen, Willy Matundan, Mitzy Yee, Nick Lamsis, Joseph Bangao, Audy Cabico, Phylis Cachero, Leon Bugtong, Gus Yturalde, Rufus Bibiana La Vega, Marilyn Maravillas, Edgar Sagubo, Marge Heo

Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Transportation and Communications  
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING  
AND REGULATORY BOARD  
Cordillera Administrative Region  
Baguio City

**RAQUEL A. BUSTAMANTE**

Applicant(s)  
Case No: 2013-CAR-420

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an Application for the Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI SERVICE for the transportation of passengers and freight on the Line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CAR and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on March 18, 2015 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paoal, 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 by 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 CELINA B. CLAVER - Regional Director this 3rd day of March, 2015.

(SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR  
Hearing Officer

**Citizen Mull...****from page 3**

granted. She said the money produced from tourism-boosting projects was not being properly used. The government lacks more social services, she added. Transparent transformation of funds to services is needed.

A green architect suggested widening of sidewalks to avoid using private cars and walk instead. According to him, bricks are best for sidewalks instead of plain cement to avoid floods. The water will sink into the land below the bricks. "Bricks in Session Road are useless," he said. The bricks put in Session Road were planted in cement therefore no soil to sip rain water.

These were just some of the suggestions and some of the answers to the main question—"What do I/we do?" to achieve what the people want for Baguio City.

Meanwhile, Baguio City Mayor Mauricio Domogan, in his weekly press forum, called the summit a "welcome development" where private citizens are involving themselves as long as the intention is not parochial, but for the welfare of Baguio. Speaking on behalf of the City Government of Baguio, Domogan said he is open to work with the summit's participants on how to implement their doable recommendations.

He also stressed the needed to strengthen teamwork among the government and the citizens, saying "If you do not trust those in government, nothing will happen." /JDP/Pryce E. Quintos with Aletheia Palupidan, Aprilyn Velasco—PIA/UPB interns

Marines, Amy Estandian, Lester Dulnuan, bobby Bacasen, Elvis Cagas, Annie Leyaley, Jun Velasco, Liza Sagudan, Nestor Yodong, Ellen Tanacio, Juanito Pengdaden.

Contributors may course their support through BPI-Harrison bank account number 0563845279. They may contact the following: Quakelyn (09393559927), Agunos (09176556201), Tagudar (09175069481), Tibaldo (09175088534), Dumalti (09465971520), this writer (09167778103). /Ramon Dacawi.





**NEW SET OF BAGUIO CORRESPONDENTS AND BROADCASTERS CLUB (BCBC) OFFICERS** take their oath of office before mayor Mauricio Domogan during simple rites at the Kapihan Sa Baguio. From left to right are Dhobbie de Guzman of ABS-CBN, president; Doddie Mendillo, VP for television, Jordan Tablac, VP for radio; Thom Picana as board of director; Ofelia Empian, auditor; Larry Fabian, treasurer; Migs Velarde and Roderick Osis, board of directors and outgoing president Frank Cimatú as ex-officio member./By Bong Cayabyab

## Punong Barangays Want Own Trade Fair

BAGUIO CITY – Punong barangays here urged the city government to allow the Liga ng mga Barangay Baguio City chapter to conduct a trade fair at Juan Luna Drive on March 15 to May 15 to raise funds for the honorarium of barangay tanods and streetsweepers assigned at the barangays.

The city council on Monday referred the league's board resolution No. 09 series of 2015 to the committee on market, trade and commerce under Councilor Elaine Sembrano for study and recommendation. The city has an ordinance totally disallowing the conduct of trade fairs in parks and government-owned facilities.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said that the only exception is the annual Baguio Blooms exhibition held at Burnham Park being an institutionalized activity of the Panagbenga, the city's biggest official tourism

event. In their resolution, the league headed by Councilor Michael Lawana lamented the need to find other means of paying the honoraria of their barangay tanods and streetsweepers in view of the recent directive from the Commission of Audit (COA) mandating that remuneration for said workers be charged from the barangays' personnel services instead of the maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE).

"Owing to that COA directive, numerous if not all the 128 barangays in the city could no longer apportion an allocation for the honorarium of their respective appointees for they are tied with their limited and meager budget," the liga noted.

They said this prompted a number of barangays to prod some councilors to work out the possibility of asking the city government to subsidize the honorarium of the said workers and similar

Cont. on page 7

## Cordillerans Pour P1.2 Million into SAF Heroes' Account

Cordillerans from all over – either by birth, blood, sentiment or choice – kept alive the sense of community that has been the strength of this upland region's villages for generations, pooling over P1.2 million through an instant fund drive for the orphaned families of the 14 Cordillera police officers killed in Mamasapano, Maguindanao last Jan. 25.

"The spontaneity of support is simply overwhelming," noted businessman-lawyer Alex Bangsoy who co-opened a bank account through which people can course their support to the slain officers' families.

"At the supposed end of the month-long fund campaign last March 2, the volunteer group managing the fund turned over the P1,279,501.21, broken down to P90,000 per family of our fallen heroes," Bangsoy said.

"The following day, we Cont. on page 8

## Local, Expat Folksingers Raise Over P100,000 for Ailing Irian Girl

Cordillera-bred musicians here and abroad turned to folk and country, raising over P100,000 from fellow Cordillerans to boost an ailing girl's chances for a kidney transplant.

Expat soloist Conrad Marzan flew in from Northern California and female vocalist Mhia Tibunsay came in from Singapore for "A Walk Down Memory Lane", a reunion concert that netted over P50,000 last March 1 at the covered court of the Quirino Elementary School at Irian Barangay here.

Over in San Diego, California, Baguio boy Bob Aliping, a retired U.S. Navy serviceman, got wind of the local effort and went on a house-to-house delivery of his "Booba Songs" CD of his personal Cont. on page 9

## The JUNCTION

### Lawmakers: We Want Peace for Mindanao Not Just with MILF

Senator Chiz Escudero said the present form and shape of the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) may seal the peace deal with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) but this would not necessarily translate to peace in the entire Mindanao region.

Escudero, chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, said the government should take a hard and close look into the leadership composition of the MILF who sits in the negotiating table for the BBL following the blood-bath in Mamasapano, Maguindanao last January 25.

"The BBL will be hard pressed to get the Senate and Congress' nod after this fatal incident that gave away the leadership or lack thereof of the MILF over the area," the senator said.

Putting a timeframe to pass the proposed legislation is unlikely at this point after many questions cropped up as a result of bloody clashes between the elite Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police and the MILF, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) and private armed groups operating in Mamasapano.

"Are we talking to the right people for dealing with the entire community of the BBL area and its residents?" Escudero said. "I once said that I have doubts if the MILF can truly represent the BBL area and its residents, including the indigenous peoples, the Christians and other groups also endemic to the area."

He added: "Now more than ever we should press for the scrutiny of the MILF's capability to supervise and control their ranks after the Mamasapano massacre. Do they have influence over the entire MILF, the BIFF and other private armed groups?"

According to Escudero, if Cont. on page 9

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