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WEEKEND

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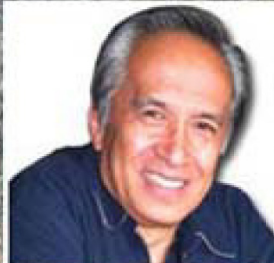
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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

'No basis for Corona to Inhibit from GMA cases'



Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday reiterated the dangers to the country's democracy of calls for Chief Justice Renato Corona to inhibit himself from the cases involving former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"If all appointees of the president must inhibit when the case is involving that president ... then you have no Supreme Court. What kind of system are we going to have?" Enrile said at a weekly media forum at the Senate.

"I am not defending anyone. I'm just scrutinizing the logic. If that is the case of GMA, then it is the case of the incumbent of the president like Justice (Bienvenido) Reyes and others. But based on that presumption, there are justices partial to the former. I don't think that is the correct presumption," he said.

He stressed the need to consider the international audience in dealing with the issue.

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WRIT OF KALIKASAN ISASAMPA NA RIN SA WAKAS. MABUHAY KAYO BENGUET CONGRESSMAN RONNIE COSALAN at ATTY. PABLITO SANIDAD !!!/Photo by Grace Bandy

Mayor on Miranda case: No Bias just part of Due Process
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'City-BENECO to sign compromise over Asin payables soon' - MGD.....p2

Writ Of Kalikasan, Civil Case, Graft Cases etc..., Isampa na ninyo lahat ang gusto ninyo isampa . Hindi ninyo kaya si Mayor Domogan!!!

Indigent Surgical Patients may now Register at the BGHMC **page 2**

Tourism Congress Pushes for a more Participative Effort from Private Stakeholders **page 3**

Baguio CSWDO Cautions Alms Giving to Beggars, Advises Carolers get Permits, As 'Silahis ng Pasko 2011' opens **page 12**

Police Beef up Security **page 12**

MOSH PIT



Listahan po ng mga HUHUKAYIN sa sunod na taon, Baguio City saan paroroon... Sangkatutak na pera sadyang tinatapon... Do you want the traffic and stress to go on and on and on??!!!!

BY: GRACE BANDY



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PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

Writ of Kalikasan

BY: ODELL P. AQUINO



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Indigent Surgical Patients may now Register at the BGHMC

Indigent patients in need of non-emergency surgery may now register at the out-patient department of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center which will host a Canadian mission that will conduct a 10-day free surgical service early next year.

Medical center chief, Dr. Manuel Factora said the BGHMC Social Service will evaluate and qualify patients who will avail of the surgical program of GO-MED (Greater Outreach Medical/Educational Destinations), a medical outreach group based in Vancouver, Canada.

The visiting team will do laparoscopic and open cholecystectomies, thyroidectomy, hernia repair, mastectomy, ovarian tumor excision, abdominal and vaginal hysterectomies and bilateral tubal ligation from Jan. 30- to Feb. 10.

This will be the third straight year that GO-MED will conduct its mission at the BGHMC since it was founded in 2009, according to Factora.

The group headed by Dr. Peter Blair, a general surgeon who was elected GO-MED president in May last year, had already donated two operating room beds, two anesthesia machines, 30 hospital beds and assorted surgical and medical supplies to the BGHMC.

As in the previous missions, members of the team are expected to be led anew by Blair and nurse Shirley Pinlac-Maas, a native of Baguio and graduate of the BGH School of Nursing and the Baguio City National High School. Composed of a mission leader, surgical leader, anesthesiology leader, nursing leader, surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and support staff and other volunteers, the outreach members will personally shoulder their transport, food and billeting expenses.

GO-MED will also bring in the surgical and medical supplies, together with the medicines needed, and will donate the unused items to the medical center.

To raise support budget for the mission, the volunteers sponsor and host dinners, dances, walks and other fund drives.

"We're looking forward to meet and work with you again," mission logistics coordinator Miechiel Maas wrote Factora last October to firm up the outreach.

GO-MED's website said it is guided by the principles of PROFESSIONAL CARE (Professionalism, Respect, Openness, Flexibility, Ethics, Standards, Supportiveness, Integrity, Observant, Neighborly, Appreciation, Laughter, Courtesy, Acceptance, Responsibility and Empathy)./Ramon Dacawi

Mayor on Miranda case: No Bias just part of Due Process

BAGUIOCITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan last week denied being

partial on the case of embattled punong barangay Helen Miranda of Bakakeng Central, saying he was merely following due process in the barangay head's

suspension over cases of grave misconduct and abuse of authority filed against her.

The mayor, during the department heads' meeting Monday morning, asked the city police not to implement a barangay resolution urging the city police

to enforce Miranda's suspension and urged Dept. of Interior and Local Government (DILG) City Director Evelyn Trinidad to clarify the intent of the certification she issued last week recognizing Miranda's next-in-rank, barangay councilor Ariel Amino, as acting

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'City-BENECO to sign compromise over Asin payables soon' - MGD

BAGUIOCITY – All that remains is the inking of the pact.

The score on the paperless Baguio-Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco)-Baguio government deal is set to be ironed-out soon with Beneco tasked to draft a formal agreement to end nearly two years of dispute as to how much one owes the other.

Thus revealed mayor Mauricio Domogan during the weekly

Ugnayan forum with media hosted by DZRH 'Radio ng Bayan.'

Domogan said the parties' joint technical team (JTT) finally came up with common formula to compute power purchased by Beneco vis-à-vis the city-led operations of the Asin Mini-hydro-electric Plants (AMP) after a meeting, November 29.

The mayor earlier opined the deduction of 18-percent "systems loss" in the payment of

purchased power by Beneco to the local government.

He expressed hope some adjustments could be made in the billing computations to squeeze out a bit more doe from the 86-year old AMP.

Domogan revealed, "During the November 29 meeting, Beneco General Manager Gerardo Versoza accepted reduction of systems loss from 18.5-percent to 8.5-percent."

The reduction,

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Boy's Bleeding Plugged; Another Kid Ends Battle Against Cancer

Samaritans delivered relief and hope to a family beset with medical woes and condoled with another whose four-year old boy had just lost his brave and protracted battle against cancer.

Construction worker Famorca Bannog last Wednesday brought home to Banaue, Ifugao his 14-year old son Frederick, a week after specialists at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center led by Dr. Rommel Palaganas tied up three bleeding veins on the boy's esophagus to prevent further hemorrhage.

Back here in Baguio, Franz Asher Flores, who turned four last February, ended his over two years fight against leukemia before

dawn last Sunday.

"Franz is no longer in pain," his father Ferdinand, a retreat coordinator on leave from Assumption Sabbath Place at Crystal Cave, texted relatives and Samaritans who stood by the family.

He was diagnosed for cancer of the blood when he was barely two. Since then, he had been in and out of the hospital where he underwent over 20 chemotherapy cycles. He bravely fought on despite four relapses that saw his treatment raised from Standard to Salvage protocol.

His parents never gave up. Ferdinand took a leave from his religious work to borrow, knock on doors for fund and blood

donations, monitor the treatment.

His wife Juvy gave up her work in a hardware store to be at her boy's hospital bedside.

"We had long been drained financially but we're not giving up on Franz," Ferdinand said in a letter-appeal addressed to would-be Samaritans last August. "With your prayers and support, there is a big chance that he will be cured."

It wasn't to be. After the five-day wake, his family retrieved his photo lying on top of his coffin glass and his toys lined up on the side of the casket for the funeral this Saturday morning at the Heaven's Garden in Loakan.

Frederick, who was diagnosed for cerebral palsy

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THE JUNCTION

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(SGD) Odell P. Aquino The Junction-OIC

Mayor Leads Destruction of Over P2.6 M Worth of Marijuana

BAGUIO CITY — Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan led the destruction of P2,639,992.50 worth of marijuana at the Melvin Jones grounds here on November 29 to highlight the Drug Abuse Prevention & Control Week (DAPCW) program of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) – Cordillera.

The over P2.6 million worth of cannabis weighed a total of 105,5997 kilos, which were in 70 bricks, particularly in block form. These consist of 58,789.70 grams or 29 marijuana blocks that served as pieces of evidence in two different drug cases filed by PDEA – CAR and the Police Regional Office – Cordillera (PRO – COR) in 2010, and are now deemed decided; and 46,810 grams or 41 blocks of cannabis, which were seized in five various drug law enforcement operations without arrested persons, in April to September 2011.

The burning was witnessed by Cordillera Police Regional Director, Chief Superintendent Benjamin B. Magalong and local officials of the city.

Domogan, who is the Chairman of the City Anti-drug Abuse Council (CADAC) also served as keynote speaker during the awarding ceremonies for teen-age drug busters, and the Baguio Special Enforcement Team (SET) and Benguet SET of PDEA – CAR.

The yearly observance of anti-drug week is sanctioned by Presidential Proclamation No. 124 issued on November 26, 2001. This year's theme is "Global Action for Healthy Communities without Drugs".

Meanwhile, PDEA explained that the immediate burning or destruction by the Court, through PDEA, of confiscated, seized and/or surrendered dangerous drugs, plant sources of dangerous drugs, controlled precursors and essential chemicals, instruments or paraphernalia or laboratory equipment is provided for under Section 21 of Republic Act (RA) 9165 or The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

The PDEA occasionally conducts ceremonial burning of dangerous drugs to clearly show the public where such millions worth of confiscated prohibited drugs go./PIA CAR/PDEA CAR



“WORLD CLASS” – contestants of the Baguio Association of Restaurants and Bars (BARS) beauty contests wearing beautiful costumes highlights the celebration of the World Aids Day in the city last December 2 at the Baguio Convention Center./ Photo by paul rillorta

DOH warns Public Against Harmful toys

BAGUIO CITY - children, Christmas will not be the same without gifts of toys. But parents are being warned of harmful toys for their kids.

The Department of Health – Food and Drugs Administration is warning the public on harmful toys being sold in the city especially that Christmas bazaars and trade fairs are mushrooming in and around the city.

DOH-FDA Cordillera head Dr. Erwin Baclig said that several toys could be harmful to the health of children especially those containing harmful chemicals like lead.

Baclig said that although they have not yet received report of such incident in the region, they are issuing warning to the public particularly the parents to buy safe toys from accredited and legal stores only.

Baclig said that parents should always look for the FDA accredited stickers and serial number on toys to be sure that it is safe from lead and other toxics.

The DOH also warns the public to buy only toys that are labeled “nontoxic” and to read the fine prints about the chemical contents to ensure that these have no lead.

Toys that are very shiny and with paint that rubs off on hands may have lead, he informed. Baclig said that chemically treated toys did not pass the official process and documentation because mostly these are smuggled goods being brought here illegally.

The DOH also advised parents to make sure their children wash their hands thoroughly after playing with their toys.

Baclig clarified that the DOH-FDA cannot confiscate toys which are toxic since they have no “police powers.”/JDP/RC-PIA CAR

Tourism Congress Pushes for a more Participative Effort from Private Stakeholders

BAGUIO CITY - Bring in the issues and concerns that hound the country's tourism sector and actively participate in addressing such issues and concerns, by all private stakeholders and enterprises, especially the major players who are involved in tourism-related businesses in the Tourism Congress.

Thus was the call of Tourism Congress Vice President for Luzon Anthony De Leon, who is also the president of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of

Baguio (HRAB), to tourism stakeholders in a kapihan media forum at the Baguio Country Club, here.

According to De Leon, the Tourism Congress which was established in virtue of Republic Act RA 9593 or the tourism Act of 2009, is composed solely of private tourism stakeholders which objective is to partner with the Department of Tourism (DOT), as a consultative body and as such, aside from policy formation, the Congress is also responsible for nominating qualified

board of directors to DOT attached agencies as that of the Promotions Board of the Philippines, the Tourism Infrastructure Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and the Duty-Free Philippines.

De Leon stressed that as the newly elected VP for Luzon, it is his primary objective to gather all the tourism private stakeholders, starting here in Baguio, to gather their support and active participation and membership to the Congress, so as a consultative body, in partnership with the

Guidelines on Sale, Use of Fireworks Adopted

BAGUIO CITY – The city council has set the “guidelines on the distribution, sale and use of fireworks and pyrotechnic devices in the city.”

The guidelines were culled from the deliberations and on the report and recommendations of the committee on market, trade and commerce and was contained in guidelines approved Resolution 418 series of 2011 approved by the body last Nov. 21.

The guidelines are as follows:

“*The distribution, sale and use of firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices in the City of Baguio, as enumerated under R.A. No. 7183, entitled, “An Act Regulating the Sale, Manufacture and Distribution and Use of Firecrackers and Other Pyrotechnic Devices” specifically Sec. 2 thereof shall be ALLOWED, except

as otherwise provided in paragraph 2 hereof;

“*All other firecrackers and pyrotechnics, including and especially those of such explosive content that may endanger life and limb, such as BAWANG, BABY ROCKET, SMALL TRIANGLE, JUDAS BELT, PULLED FIRECRACKERS, LUCES, JUMBO REGULAR AND SPECIAL, WHISTLE BOMB, FIVE STAR, SAWA, ATOMIC BIG TRIANGULO, SUPER LOLO, KWITON (giant kwitis), and WATUSI when ingested is hazardous or fatal and their equivalents, ARE HEREBY PROHIBITED;

“*Therefore, the following firework/pyrotechnic devices, such as sparklers or any of its kind except luces, roman candles, fountains and the like, trompillo, kwitis,

pailaw, pop pops, aerials like Dragon, Tiger and Platinum Products, are ALLOWED (Item 3 of the guidelines);

“*The City Police Director, Philippine National Police, Baguio City, the City Fire Marshal, Baguio City Fire Bureau, the Emergency Medical Service, the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, and other volunteer emergency assistance groups, are hereby requested to strictly implement these guidelines;

“*A “Task Force Paputok” is requested to be created by the City Mayor whose task shall be to inspect the quantities and kinds of firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices sold and held in stock by or in the possession of every licensed distributor, retailer or wholesaler, and to conduct an inventory of same to ensure that the stor-

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Burnishing "Bona Fides"

In Sunday's Inquirer, Columnist Randy David recalled the "Mang Pandoy" tragedy. On a 1992 TV show with 11 squabbling presidential contenders, this dirt-poor gardener offered a startling swap: his life for cash. His kids could then finish studies and break free of poverty that sapped his own life.

The nation was haunted by a man "whose unspeakable despair stood as an indictment of the sharp inequalities and poverty in our society," David wrote. President Fidel Ramos hired the gardener as his anti-poverty program icon. "Mang Pandoy's circumstances never improved". He died as poor as he was before plucked from anonymity.

Multiply "Mang Pandoy" by 12 million plus. That's roughly the "Lumads" or indigenous people in 19 provinces.

EDITORIAL

used to assert native title over swathes of land as their "ancestral domain."

Waves of migrants, spurred by resettlement programs over the years, shoved "lumads" into eroded uplands with thin forest cover. There are 18 tribes, from the B'laan in Davao del Sur and South Cotabato, Manobos in Agusan del Sur, Davao, and Bukidnon to Subanons in Zamboanga peninsula.

Their predicament is carved into in "Timbang Tungkay's" face. He heads a T'boli village of 14 families, by Allah River in South Cotabato. "Hunger defines our lives," this father of 24 children told researchers from Environmental Science for Social Change at Ateneo and United Nations.

Many of his children "died from coughs, fevers and bad stomachs", his interview says in the book "Forest Faces: Hopes and Regrets of Philippine Forestry." Before, there were "many months that we were hungry. Now, it is seasonal."

Landless Hilongo migrants came to settle. "They did not have money, so the T'Bolis let them use the land—which the migrants now claim as their own... The T'Boli were elbowed into plowing remaining areas not occupied by migrants."

"The need is for children to go to school," Timbang Tungkay adds. How they continue as T'Bolis is not clear. There is need for our children to "be conscious they are T'Boli."

Today, lumads find their future teetering again in the jerky peace talks process between government the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"If and when a settlement is reached, thorny questions about protecting the (lumad's) distinct identity and land, (must be) addressed," the Brussels-based International Crisis group cautioned last week. Ignoring overlapping claims "will be a shaky foundation for peace" and stoke "further claims of injustice."

Lumads "will benefit from a political settlement" that'd end armed rebellion", MILF asserts. "On surface, it seems natural that Moros and lumads would share common interest. Both were pushed off their land as Mindanao was incorporated into the Philippine state."

This solidarity does not smudge the differences among tribes. Some see themselves as distinct. They resolutely oppose being included in an expanded Bangsamoro homeland. "Others are resigned to their fate".

"In practice, relations are uneasy," notes Asia Report No. 213, released by the Group's Jakarta office. Tribal leaders recall enslavement by some Moros. Will lumads be better off under a Moro sub-state? Many doubt it, "especially if it will not respect existing land titles... And "other indigenous rights, in national legislation, could be curtailed."

"Lumads are also frustrated by government's flawed implementation of the 1997 Indigenous Peoples Rights Act. In any case, IPRA does not apply in the sleaze-bugged Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, now being overhauled by President Aquino

Since PNoy took office, GRF and MILF held consultations with Lumad leaders. "But these efforts have neither dispelled the fears of Lumads. Nor have they reassured them that their rights will be guaranteed after a settlement."

Both GRP and MILF "must address the issue of land because it is the bedrock of tribal identity and self-governance. The Aquino administration ought to prioritize implementing indigenous rights in ARMM

Specifically, "applications for ancestral domain titles from tribes, who live in areas that may be included in an expanded Bang-samoro homeland should be

Many cluster in the conflict-torn Mindanao. There, they

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PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

Writ of Kalikasan

BY: ODELL P. AQUINO



Para sa atin mga dear readers na hindi alam kung ano ang writ of kalikasan, base sa akin na research sa internet inyong mababasa kung ano nga ba itong writ of kalikasan na ito na handang handa na raw na isampa ni Apo Cong. Ronnie Cosalan at ni Apo Atty. Pablito Sanidad naman daw ang siyang hahawak ng kaso. Sa ngayon hangat hindi pa natin nababasa kung ano nilalaman at mga kahilingan ng nasabing isasampa na reklamo ay wala pa tayong magagawang komentaryo o di kaya ay kung anoman benepisyo ang siyang matatangap o maidudulot sa kalikasan kung ang writ na ito ay ibibigay ng korte suprema sa mga nagreklamo.

What is a Writ of Kalikasan?

In a nutshell, a writ of kalikasan is a legal remedy designed for the protection of one's constitutional right to a healthy environment.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution proclaimed, as one of the policies of the State, the protection of the environment. Section 16, Article II of the Philippine Constitution provides that "the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

This provision, however, is deemed as non self-executing. A non self-executing provision refers to one that cannot be invoked before the courts as it is. There must first be an enabling legislation or some other legal means by which the same can be effectuated and be a basis of a legal cause of action. (See: Tanada v. Angara, G.R. No. 118295, May 2, 1997)

The Philippine Supreme Court then took the initiative in giving flesh to this constitutional mandate. It provided for the writ of *kalikasan* as the legal means.

Writ of Kalikasan, defined

The Writ of *Kalikasan* means a legal remedy available to any natural or juridical person, entity authorized by law, people's organization, non-governmental organization, or any public interest group accredited by or registered with any government agency, on behalf of persons whose constitutional right to a balanced and healthful ecology is violated, or threatened with violation by an unlawful act or omission of a public official or employee, or private individual or entity, involving environmental damage of such magnitude as to prejudice the life, health or property of

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ADVOCACY MINDANOW

*Maguindanao Massacre Two
Years Ago (Day Two)***BY: JESUS DUREZA**

(NOTE: Part 2 of a 4-day series recalling 4 critical days of the so-called Maguindanao massacre authored by Dureza, former presidential adviser for Mindanao and now Publisher of Mindanao TIMES daily newspaper and managing Advocacy MindaNow Foundation in the private sector.)

DAY TWO – Nov 24

At the break of dawn, Sec Bert Gonzales and I took the earliest flight to Gen Santos City. The medical checkup could wait, both I and Beth agreed. She's been used to this kind of "sudden take off" schedules since my work as newsmen in the 70's and worsened by being in the presidential beck and call since President Ramos up to President Arroyo.

We motored from Gensan to Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat. It's less than an hour drive. At the 601st Army brigade headquarters in Tacurong, a noisy crowd was milling within the barbed wire premises. Hoards of mediamen whom I personally knew were there at the gate. I told the guards to let everybody in.

10 AM —Briefings were held. Also present were PNP Chief Jess Versoza, EASTMINCOM Commanding General Deng Ferrer, Deputy AFP Chief of Staff Maclang, PNP Regional Chief Serapio. Brigade commander Col Geslani was our host. Initial photos of the carnage were flashed on the screen. Gruesome! At that time, only a few bodies were retrieved from the backhoed area. Sec Bert told the crowd that we were personally dispatched by the president to attend to the situation. The Mangudadatus were there seated across the long conference table: Toto Mangudadatu, his brothers Jong and Mayor Dong of Pandag, Sultan Kudarat Gov. Teng Mangudadatu, Toto's cousin and others.

They were tense and angry but otherwise trying hard to suppress and control their anger and anguish. They wanted to retrieve the bodies immediately. They demanded justice, immediately. The Ampatuans did it, they said. After Bert and I expressed government's resolve to do everything possible, Toto Mangudadatu spoke and related the events, how he spoke to his wife on the phone before she was murdered, identifying Datu Unsay Ampatuan as the lead perpetrator. But he ended by saying that, in the meantime, he had appealed to his relatives and followers to refrain from committing any retaliatory action and would leave the matter to the authorities to handle.

12 NOON – A teleconferencing call connected Bert and me to the Palace where the President was presiding over a hastily called cabinet security cluster meeting. They aborted the planned cabinet meeting in Boracay. This had been trademark President Arroyo. She personally would monitor crisis situations with her cabinet members providing inputs. Although I was "crisis manager", she was always there through texts and calls. She was giving specific instructions to me, Sec Bert, PNP Chief Jess and AFP Vice CS Maclang. Suggestions from the other cabinet members came. The main task was to do a swift investigation, bring in Datu Unsay and the perpetrators, attend to the victims and assist their families, and do pre-emptive steps to prevent all-out fighting from erupting among the contending parties.

1:00 PM – The crisis management committee was activated. Assisting me were Eastmincom Gen Ferrer, PNP 12 Director Serapio. DOJ Usec Ric Blancaflor's name was in the box to handle investigation through the NBI.

2:00 PM – Bert left to fly back to Manila. I set up base camp at the brigade HQ. A conference room (functional but hot), a small room with a bed to sleep in, etc were provided by Col Geslani, the commander. Anticipating that I might be in for a long haul, we bought 2 aircon units so the staff would stand the heat.

It was at this time that I operationalized an action plan which I initially formulated that evening for the crisis. It was an old-fashioned plan from past experiences.

3:00PM – Having talked with the Mangudadatus, I decided to go see the Ampatuans in Shariff Aguak. I felt confident. Both families were my friends. And I had direct access to them. Some quiet arrangements were made for my visit. Only with my staff and without military escorts, except for one military officer as guide, I motored to the Ampatuan enclave in Shariff Aguak. The media group which earlier wanted to join me did not follow my vehicle. I was relieved as I would not be able to help them in case something bad would happen along the way. I was not even sure of our own safety due to the tense situation with so many armed elements along the whole route.

3:45PM —I entered the Ampatuan fenced premises and the patriarch Gov. Andal Ampatuan, Sr was there waiting for me. It was my first visit to that house which was a bit

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MOSH PIT

*Listahan po ng mga HUHUKAYIN sa sunod
na taon, Baguio City saan paroroon...
Sangkatutak na pera sadyang tinatapon...
Do you want the traffic and stress to go on and
on and on??!!!!*

BY: GRACE BANDOY

MGA HUHUKAYIN NG DPWH FOR 2012!!!!

Brace yourselves for more traffic people of Baguio!

Abanao Street
Harrison Road
Gov. Pack Road and a separate area for reconstruction
Kayang Street and another area of the same street
Leonard Wood Road
Baguio-Bauang Road along Quirino Highway
and a reconstruction at another area of the same highway

Abanao extension
Chanum Street
Kisad Road
A. Bonifacio Road
Government Center Road
Manuel Roxas Road
PMA Military Cut-Off Road 1 at PMA Road
and Loakan Road.

As if kulang pa yung ginawang paghuhukay ni lolo Congressman Vergara sa mga kalsada ng Baguio, eto naman po ang DPWH doing the same seemingly stupid diggings that are bringing the people of Baguio to the brink of madness.

Sino naman po ang hindi kukulo ang dugo if you're stuck in traffic for a whole f*cking century?! Kalahati ng buhay mo nasayang lang sa pagiging stuck in a jeep waiting to death na makarating ka na sa pupuntahan mo! All dahil sa p*nyetang mga hinuhukay hukay na daan.

I personally don't have anything against fixing roads and creating bridges, overpasses, underpasses, flyovers, etc. na mahilig gawin ni lolo Vergara and ng DPWH na 'yan LALO NA PO IF THESE PROJECTS EH KELANGAN NAMAN PO TALAGANG GAWIN.

Ang ginagawa po naman kasi ng mga mokong na nag aayos ng mga kalsada is SINASADYANG SINISIRA ANG MGA MAAAYOS NA KALSADA and then aayusin din ulit. Common sense will tell us this is a really stupid thing to do hindi po ba?!!

Hindi po ba nila puwedeng tanghian ang millions na budget sa pag aayos ng kalsada kasi hindi naman po talaga kailangan ayusin para magamit naman po ang budget na yun ng ibang agencies who really need it, like the DSWD or other government agencies who are tasked to build hospitals, schools, roads and bridges in very rural areas who need it...puwede naman pong ipasa sa kanila kung gustuhin lang po nila.

And hindi ba't trabaho rin sana ng ating COA na tingnan and mag recommend kung ang isang area ay kailangan talagang i-rehabilitate?!! What are these COA people doing sa pagpayag na natatapon lang ang pera ng bayan sa sadyang pagsira sa mga maaayos namang mga kalsada?!!!!

Here are some of the comments of our taong bayan on all these mga mukhang senseless diggings!

BNB (on the roads na huhukayin for 2012), "those are roads na dinadaan ng mga turista or going to major tourist spots ah...and they whine about the drop ng tourist arrivals dito sa north..."

JBL says "with all the diggings and re-boring the DPWH is doing, what will the DOT, BCBV, HRAB and all tourism oriented offices and organisations do about the industry...???? Clearly, the DPWH does not care about the Tourism Advocacy of the LGU and related offices..."

Ned says "baka nanjan yung Yamashita treasure?"

RR – "...there's nothing wrong with the road they will repair. Just wasteful spending."

ZNI – "By DPWH standards, our concrete pavements are designed to last 25 years (read: no major repairs). Design life for asphalt overlay/pavement is 15 years. The present rate of repair rate and/or replacement for concrete pavement in Baguio/La Trinidad is less than 10 years and asphalt pavements are repaved after less than 5 years. Me ibang aspalto pa jan showing ravelling after 6 months. It has been going on for years now and those nitwits are still in office, lining

Cont. on page 9

1st-APLUMA!

CGMA's crown prince?

If Sen. Franklin Drilon's account on cases handled by Chief Justice Renato Corona is to be believed, chances are, CGMA's case on massive electoral fraud will be dismissed.

As everybody knew it, Chief Justice Corona, a crown prince, err, is an appointee of the former president meaning, his unwavering support will not just go down the drain amid the crisis that his benefactor is facing right now.

And this is the reason why Sen. Drilon is campaigning on for the Chief Justice to inhibit himself on CGMA's case.

According to the lawmaker from Iloilo, all of the previous 19 cases of CGMA handled by the chief justice perfectly went on the favour of CGMA, 19-0.

That's a strong basis.

"Chief Justice Renato Corona should inhibit himself in any case involving Gloria Arroyo," Sen. Drilon told the working media as he launched the inhibition campaign.

"The current score is 19-0. Chief Justice Renato Corona consistently voted in favor of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in all 19 cases brought before the Supreme Court. He never voted against her," Drilon was quoted as saying by national media.

The former president's petition questioning the legality of her indictment for electoral sabotage at the Pasay City Regional Trial Court was scheduled to be heard at the Supreme Court (SC) as of this writing Tuesday, 29 November.

Oral arguments on the constitutionality of the joint preliminary investigation by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Commission on Elections (Comelec) on poll fraud charges was expected to unfold at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

CGMA's petition was consolidated with those of former FG Mike Arroyo, and that of former elections chairman Benjamin Abalos.

Morong 43

Like a sledgehammer programmed to inflict a double blackeye, a Quezon City court has also ordered CGMA to answer a P15-million suit filed by the so-called "Morong 43" whom the military allegedly mistaken as members of the New People's Army (NPA) and were summarily detained.

CGMA and some military officials involved in the case have also been summoned to answer the civil complaint filed against them by the health workers who accuse them of wrongful detention.

The health workers claim they were arrested while attending a seminar in a private resort in Morong, Rizal.

The Morong 43 filed the complaint as early as April 2011 before Judge Ma. Luisa Quijano-Padilla of Regional Trial Court Branch 226.

Dilemma for de Lima

As if fighting law with law, a private lawyer, whom some quarters suspect to be a lackey of CGMA, has filed a petition asking the Supreme Court (SC) to order disbarment on Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

It stemmed from Sec. de Lima's reported defiance of the TKO, err, TRO on her travel ban on CGMA.

The said TRO could have served as CGMA's gateway to nowhere abroad to allegedly seek medical treatment for a rare degenerative disease in her cervical spine.

But then, the Justice Secretary from Bicol was quick to the draw and lowered the boom on CGMA instead with an arrest warrant courtesy of a Pasay RTC on electoral sabotage charges.

Slow growth

Sorry but a recent survey showed our dear Philippines have returned to its familiar place or role as a laggard in Southeast Asia.

Reports have it that the Philippines' economic growth has screeched to a dismal 3.2 percent in the third quarter that all but enabled us to take our familiar role.

Charged it to worse economic performance in the region in recent months and poor budget management sources say.

Sobrang pagtitipid or underspending on the part of the Aquino Administration and global economic crises has continued to drag PH economic growth in the third quarter, with gross domestic product (GDP) expanding by only 3.2 percent from the 7.3 percent "honey moon growth" a year ago.

This was culled from the revised 3.1 percent recorded in the second quarter of the year, the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) reported yesterday.

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Just compensation for Luisita

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives..." (2 Peter 3:10-11, the Holy Bible).

-000-

PERSPECTIVES ON THE EXECUTION OF ANOTHER OFW: Here is a perspective on the December 8, 2011 execution in China of another overseas Filipino worker (OFW) who was allegedly found guilty of drug trafficking in that country: the Bible warned that any nation whose people are no longer listening to God and who are no longer obeying Him will have its sons and daughters given to other nations and persecuted in foreign soils.

Here is that warning, taken from Deuteronomy 28:15 and 32: "However, if you do not listen to God and do not obey His commands, all of these curses will come upon you... Your sons and daughters will be given to other nations and you will wear out your eyes waiting for them, powerless to lift a hand..."

-000-

JUST COMPENSATION FOR HACIENDA LUISITA:

The issue of just compensation for the lands at Hacienda Luisita which were ordered distributed by the Supreme Court to some 6,000 of its 10,000 or so farm workers cannot be defeated by claims from militant lawmakers that the Cojuangcos must be paid only P1 per hectare because they already benefited anyway from the estate since 1958.

It would seem that if we are going to talk about "benefits" as the basis of resolving the Hacienda Luisita dispute, the records will show that, through the years, hacienda farm workers enjoyed perks and privileges while working with the Cojuangcos which appeared much, much more, when compared to the perks and privileges workers in other landed estates in any part of the country ever received.

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, reports about how the Hacienda workers were treated by Jose Cojuangco Sr. (known as Pepe) and his son-in-law, former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. (called Ninoy), when they were administrators of the company:

"Pepe and Ninoy introduced an almost social welfare state: free medicines and check up, scholarships to colleges, free education, free food, and equitable shares to the harvest, free child care and nutrition, free burials, a village with housing earmarked for the farmers, even free gasoline to the *tractoras*. Like the Paniqui Sugar Mills, not a single workers' strike was instigated during their administration..."

-000-

REAL STATUS OF LUISITA: This was the reason why, Wikipedia says, "Pepe barely made any money from the Hacienda Luisita. Understanding that the value of the Luisita is in the farmers who till it, he chose to rehabilitate the Filipinos who before were almost slaves under the Tabacalera.

Wikipedia continues: "He was able to sustain these losses due in part of his other more money making investments in the Bank of Commerce and First Manila Management which owned the Pantranco buses and the Mantrade group..."

This was also the reason why the employees of Hacienda Luisita became daily witnesses to the persistent desire of their neighbors who live in the periphery of the hacienda to be included as Hacienda Luisita employees, precisely because of their better standard of living, a Tarlacueno told me.

Notice To The Public

Want to know more about the cult -Jehovah's

Witness

visit the website <http://carm.org/jehovahs-witnesses>

This advertisement is paid for by Pastor Jules Samaniego of the Good Samaritan Everlasting Christian Ministry

Email : gsecministry@yahoo.com

Cordillera Regional Executives Spearhead fun run for Education

BAGUIO CITY - The Cordillera Association of Regional Executives (CARE), in partnership with Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Social Security System (SSS), will spearhead a fun run activity in line with their advocacy for education.

The event which is scheduled at 5:30 AM of December 18 at the Burnham Park, Lake Drive will include a 10K, 5K and a 3K category.

Interested individuals can personally register at the Land Bank Baguio (Harrison) or Trinidad branch. On-line registration is also open at www.renderfarmsports.com.

Cash prizes plus trophy are at stake for the top five finishers in each category. Top 15 finishers in the 3k and 5k, as well as the top 30 finishers in the 10k category will also be given t-shirts and all the race finishers will be given certificate of completion.

The proceeds of the event of the event will go to the association's scholarship program.

The CARE Scholarship Program (CSP), since its inception in 1996 already has a total of 68 grantees as of 2009. Some have already graduated and others are currently enrolled in various schools in Baguio and Benguet.

The CSP aims to provide opportunities for the less fortunate and improve the quality of life of people within the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). Specifically, the program seeks to provide educational assistance and employment opportunities to poor but deserving students in the region./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

Pinupuna at Pinapansin

.....from page 4

inhabitants in two or more cities or provinces. (Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases A.M. No. 09-6-8-SC Rule 7, Sec. 1)

"*Kalikasan*" is a Filipino word which in English, means "Nature".

This writ is an innovation of the Philippine Supreme Court as one of the legal means to combat the destruction of the environment. This writ is one of a kind, available only within Philippine jurisdiction. It is extraordinary in nature, meaning to say, that it can be resorted to only when other ordinary legal remedies such as injunction or damage suit are unavailing.

Features of the Writ of Kalikasan

Take note that the underlying condition for the writ to be issued is that, the magnitude requirement with regards to the destruction or imminent destruction of the environment which is sought to be prevented, must be present.

As to the entities to whom the writ can be directed against, the Rules provides that it could be anybody. They could be public officials, employees or even private persons, for as so long as it could be proven that they violated or threatened with violation the constitutional right to a healthy environment of other people.

The Rules likewise provides for various reliefs that could be granted by the courts under the writ which includes, among others, the issuance of order against the respondent to cease or refrain from committing acts violative of the rights of the petitioners asking for the writ. It can also be an order commanding the respondent to perform positive acts to preserve or protect the environment as well as to make reports of their compliance with these responsibilities. (Rules of Procedure for Environmental Cases A.M. No. 09-6-8-SC Rule 7, Sec. 15)

Writ of Kalikasan, applied

At present, there are at least two (2) instances wherein the writ of *kalikasan* were availed of. The first one was directed against an electric power distribution company and the second one was against an oil pipeline operator. The first case is still pending trial while the latter was successfully granted by the Philippine Supreme Court./Raymond Roque

MOA Signing for Enhance Peace and Order in Baguio City

BAGUIO CITY — A Memorandum of Agree-

ment (MOA) between the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) and the Air Force Group Reserved (AFGR) was forged to further enhance security operations and procedures in the effective delivery of service to the people of this mountain resort.

The MOA was signed between the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) headed by P/Sr.Supt. David Q. Lacdan and the 21st Air Force Group Reserved (AFGR) under Col. Alberto V. Reyes.

"The police force needs help in securing the over populated city especially our students and tourists," Lacdan said. This is the reason the assistance of civic organizations with good track record like the 21st AFGR is needed, he further said.

The city has series of activities the whole year round. As expected during the holiday season, tourists and businessmen come up to the city to enjoy the cool weather or hold seminars and conferences, thus, trained personnel are needed to help implement traffic and ensure safety, Lacdan explained.

In the MOA, both forces will jointly undertake and coordinate efforts and resources in maintaining peace and order in every event or activity and ensure visibility including crowd control, Lacdan added.

Reyes on his part said they can provide trained manpower for rescue operations

during disasters and calamities which the city is prone to.

"At any given time we can assist the Baguio's Finest in maintaining peace and order in the city. Our action is always under the supervision of the police," Reyes elaborated.SCA/JBZ PIA CAR

Police Nabs Suspect with .P880 Million worth of Marijuana

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet, Nov. 30(PIA)— An alert police officer caused the arrest of a suspect transporting about 16 kilos of marijuana valued at P880,000 last November 27 in Bontoc, Mt. Province.

Police Officer 1 Davis Falolo, a member of the Regional Public Safety Battalion based at Mt. Polis, Bontoc, Mt. Province, was on board a bus plying the Bontoc - Kalinga road when upon reaching Brgy. Botbot, Tinglayan, Kalinga, he smelled marijuana like odor emanating from the hand woven bag and one carton being hand-carried by a male person who was seated near him.

The suspect was identified as Domingo Agyao Macad aka Agpad, 25, married, native and resident of Brgy Bugnay, Tinglayan, Kalinga.

The suspect's hand-woven bag yielded six bricks of suspected marijuana while the carton contained 11 bricks of marijuana weighing 16 kilograms with estimated Dangerous Drugs Board value of P880,000.00.

The arrested suspect together with the physical evidence are now under the custody of Bontoc Municipal Police Station while pertinent documents are

being prepared for filing of appropriate charges in court.

The operation is in line with LOI "K O N T R A DROGA" of the Cordillera Police Office in efforts to deny the public of supplies of illegal drugs particularly marijuana./with reports from PROCOR

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC AFFIDAVIT OF SELF ADJUDICATION

That Ray Lecarte Bagano, of legal age, single, Filipino, being the surviving legal heir/son of the deceased Mary Lecarte Bagano who died on November 13, 2011 had left at her death a savings account deposit with the Bank of the Philippine Islands Burnham Branch, Baguio City with Account No. 0563-7796-67. That affiant Ray Lecarte Bagano executed on November 29, 2011 this Affidavit Of Self Adjudication before Atty. Nicasio Aliping and entered into the Notarial Registry under Doc. No. 329; Page No. 67; Book No. 50, Series of 2011.

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
(FAMILY COURT FOR BENGUET)
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
La Trinidad,
Benguet

IN RE: PETITION FOR DECLARATION OF ILLEGITIMACY OF LEHMAN C. BUCASAN AND CANCELLATION AND CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN HIS RECORD OF BIRTH,

LEHMAN C. BUCASAN,
Petitioner,
-versus-

THE MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET AND THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO), QUEZON CITY,
Respondents,

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASE NO. 11-C-1714

X——X

ORDER

Petitioner, through counsel, filed this verified petition praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, the court orders the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet to correct the following in his birth certificate:

First Name : from BABY BOY to LEHMAN
Middle Name : Cancel and leave it blank

Last Name of Mother : from LASTIMOZA to BUCASAN

Birthplace of Mother : from Tabuk, Kalinga Apayao to Itogon,

Benguet Date and Place of Marriage of Parents : Cancel the entry and leave it blank and declaring petitioner as an illegitimate Child.
WHEREFORE finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance the court sets it for hearing on February 16, 2012 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning before the Session Hall of this Court, Benguet Provincial Capitol, La Trinidad, Benguet and all persons interested may appear and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in The Junction Regional Newspaper, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province, once a week, for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made not later than November 20, 2011.

Furnish copies hereof together with a copy of the petition and its annexes to the Office of the Solicitor General, Makati City; the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet; the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet; The Junction Regional Newspaper; the petitioner and counsel.

SO ORDERED.

This 14th day of November 2011 at La Trinidad, Benguet.

By: (SGD) FRANCIS A. BULIYAT Sr. Presiding Judge

Publication dates on November 19, 26 and December 3, 2011.

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 10
La Trinidad,
Benguet

HOPE BACOLONG GUIAGI

Petitioner,

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF LA TRINIDAD BENGUET AND THE NSO OFFICE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL, QUEZON CITY

Respondents,

SP. PROC. CASE NO. 11-C-1716

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BAGUIO CITY

OFFICE OF THE EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY,

Mortgage,

-versus-

SPOUSES ALONZO ABIBUAG AND GLORIA AMPAGUEY-ABIBUAG,

Mortgagors,

SPOUSES ESWHER CASTANEDA AND ESTER AMPAGUEY-CASTANEDA, Borrowers,

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. 11-310-S

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL

FOR:

CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN ITEM NO. 2 IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH

X——X

ORDER

Petitioner, through counsel, filed this verified petition on 9 November 2011 praying that after due notice, publication, and trial, judgment be issued directing the Local Civil Registrar of the Municipality of La Trinidad, Benguet and the NSO to correct the entry as regards the gender of HOPE BACOLONG GUIAGUI from "FEMALE" to "MALE".

WHEREFORE, finding the petition

ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135 AS AMENDED

X——X

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Upon verified petition for extra-judicial foreclosure of real estate mortgage under Act 3135, as amended filed on October 28, 2011 by METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, through counsel, as the MORTGAGEE, for the satisfaction of the mortgage indebtedness of SPS. ALONZO ABIBUAG AND GLORIA AMPAGUEY-ABIBUAG, as the MORTGAGORS and SPS. ESWHER CASTANEDA AND ESTER AMPAGUEY-CASTANEDA, as the BORROWERS, the outstanding obligation, which as of August 31, 2011 amounts to EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ONE PESOS & 62/100 (Php 800,501.62) inclu-

to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for hearing on February 07, 2012 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before the Session Hall of this Court, 2nd floor, Justice Hall, Justice Hill, La Trinidad, Benguet and all persons interested may appear and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in The Junction Regional Newspaper a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made not later than July 10, 2011.

Furnish copies hereof together with a copy of the

sive of interest and penalty charges, but exclusive of attorney's fees, sheriff's fees and expenses incidental to the foreclosure proceedings, the undersigned or any authorized sheriff will sell at public auction on December 14, 2011 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the lobby of the main entrance of the Hall of Justice Building, Baguio City to the highest bidder for CASH and in PHILIPPINE CURRENCY, the real property together with all improvements existing thereon is more particularly described as follows:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-47094 REGISTRY OF DEDS., BAGUIO CITY

"A parcel of land (Lot 68-A-3-A-2 Psd-1-015075, being a portion of Lot 68-A-3-A, (LRC) Psd-153182, L.R.C. Rec. No. _____), situated at the Res. Sec. "J" City of Baguio, Island of

petition and its annexes to the Office of the Solicitor General, Makati City; the Administrator National Statistics Office; the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet; the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet; The Junction Regional Newspaper, the petitioner and his counsel.

SO ORDERED.

DONE IN CHAMBERS, this 11th day of November 2011 at La Trinidad, Benguet.

By: (SGD) EDGARDO B. DIAZ DE RIVERA, Jr. Presiding Judge

Publication Dates : November 19, 26 and December 3, 2011

Luzon. x x x x x ; containing an area of FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY SIX (526) SQUARE METERS . (Complete technical description appears in the title)

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the property and the encumbrances thereon, if there be any.

Baguio City, Philippines, November 14, 2011.

By: (SGD) ATTY. REMEDIOS BALDERAS - REYES Clerk of Court VI & Ex-officio Sheriff

By: (SGD) DELFIN E. ARIAGA Sheriff IV

This publication awarded by raffle to The Junction Regional Newspaper, Dates of publication - November 19, 26 and December 3, 2011.

Copy furnished all parties concerned.

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

'No basis for Corona to Inhibit from GMA cases'.....from page 1

"We are supposed to be the first democratic republic in Southeast Asia. And I hope we protect that image," he said.

Meanwhile, Santiago, a constitutional law expert and former regional trial court judge, said those calling for the inhibition of the Chief Justice "are trying to be a law unto themselves."

"They seek no less than the unconstitutional power to determine who will judge what cases. The Constitution does not grant that power to anybody, no matter how strident or self-righteous," she said in a statement issued from New York, where she is campaigning as the Philippine candidate to the International Criminal Court.

She said pressuring any judge or justice to inhibit himself from a case also violates the independence of the judiciary.

"If a howling mob is allowed to pressure the chief justice or any justice to inhibit, that would serve as a calamitous precedent. Any litigant would then be able to pressure an impartial judge to inhibit, in order to obtain a group decision from the substitute," she said.

"In effect, the pressure on Corona to inhibit is an effort to substitute him with Carpio. If it can be said that Corona might be biased in favor of Arroyo, it can also be said that Carpio might be biased against Arroyo. We cannot allow the composition of the Supreme Court in a certain case to be determined by an unelected exterior group on the basis of the group's own political biases," she added.

Santiago described as "arrogant and supercilious" the call of certain groups to force Corona to inhibit.

"This group is suffering from doctrinal confusion on the nature of a tripartite democracy. They want to be higher than the Supreme Court. It is improper for the political branches (executive and legislative) to influence the judicial branch. But this group thinks that it is a fourth branch. You have to admire their hubris," she said.

Santiago cited decisions of Philippine and US courts upholding the principle that judicial inhibition should be discretionary on the part of the judge and not forced on him by interested parties.

In the 2001 case of Soriano vs. Court of Appeals, she said the Supreme Court held that a litigant may not demand that a judge inhibit himself. She also cited the 2004 case of Dimo Realty and Development Inc. vs. Dimaculangan, where it was held that whether judges should inhibit themselves from a case "rests on their own sound discretion."

In the 2006 case of People vs. Ong, she said the Supreme Court affirmed the discretion of the judge to inhibit himself. She said the ruling said judges are in "a better position to determine the issue of voluntary inhibition as they are the ones who directly deal with the parties-litigants in their courtrooms."

She said a 1976 US court ruling states that a judge is presumed impartial, while another decision said prejudice merely based on, or growing out of, a business or professional relationship, or political or social relations ordinarily is not sufficient to disqualify a judge./

Philstar News Service,
www.philstar.com

Mosh Pit.....

.....from page 5

up for their hefty Christmas bonuses. Merry Christmas!!!"

RB - "...lahat na yata ng kalsada dito ay gusto nilang bakkakin."

MR - "...tama na...sobra na...waaaaaaa"

PEF - "...roads kasi yata me out-right SOP. pagf schools, dadaan sa school, pag waiting shed, dadaan sa barangay, pag ospital, dadaan sa DOH..."

ZNI - "...The minimum thickness of the asphalt overlay is two (2) inches. What was laid over in La Trinidad (Km. 4-Km. 3) and Magsaysay (From Ressurrection to Slaughter) is less than two inches. It's obvious. Sa gilid lang makapal. Diskarte ng mga contractor yan throughout the years"

RDC - "...Also, dapat magkaroon ng boring tests sa mga kagagawang mga concrete road. Ng malaman kung tunay nga nilang sinunod ang thickness ng concrete pavement. Dahil pwede rin silang magnakaw dito sa pamamagitan ng pag bawas ng volume ng concrete dahil sa hindi pareho ang thickness ng concrete pavements."

Advocacy Mindanow.....

.....from page 5

interior in location unlike the big palatial house along the main highway in the center of town. With him seated in a native kiosk on the sprawling grounds were several ARMM and Maguindanao officials and relatives. Armed followers were everywhere in full battle gear with armored personnel carriers parked in strategic areas.

As I got seated and with some brief pleasantries, I told Gov. Andal that my purpose in coming was because of the incident and that his son, Datu Unsay Mayor Ampatuan, Jr. was implicated. I said that while the Mangudadatus had given me their assurance that they would leave the matter to the authorities to solve, I told "Bapa" Andal that it would be best that the Ampatuans also "cooperate" and bring him in (Unsay) for an investigation. He immediately said: "OK. Kausapin mo sya. Basta kayo secretary walang problema." I then asked for the whereabouts of the son and he said he would call for him to join us. I told him I wanted to see Datu Unsay as I got reports that he was missing or had escaped. Bapa said: "Hindi yan totoo. Darating si Datu Unsay. Magpakita sya sayo secretary". Bapa Andal as usual, was a man of few words.

The last time I saw Mayor Unsay was several years ago when I personally went to his Datu Unsay town (evidently named after him) and led in the distribution of relief goods to evacuees due to intermittent fighting with MILF elements.

We waited at the kiosk but Unsay did not come. We then went inside the house to wait for his arrival. In the meantime, ARMM Gov Zaldy Ampatuan and Cong. Digs Dilangalen arrived from the airport. Energy Usec Sam Ampatuan, Atty Cynthia Guani Sayadi, ARMM attorney general and relative of the Ampatuans among others were there too. I felt a bit tense and uncomfortable. But I did not want to start talking about the incident until Unsay would arrive. We were chatting for about an hour trying to divert the issue and loosen up. A lively conversation centered on how many children some of their relatives sired. One relative had 70 children, etc. While we were chatting about other subjects, I sensed that we all shared some discomfort and unease.

4:30PM - We waited. I noticed that Atty. Cynthia, an aunt of Unsay was using her cellphone and taking pictures while we were chatting about that relative who had 70 children "but of course from several mothers". We would laugh although traces of tension were evident. It was while we were bantering when Unsay arrived and got seated to my left.

(GMA7 that same evening showed some still pictures on TV, me with the Ampatuans smiling. That was taken by Atty. Cynthia when we were bantering about that prolific Ampatuan relative. My wife Beth whom I suddenly had to leave behind in Manila and had since glued herself to the TV, texted me and called my attention immediately when she saw it: "That picture on TV makes you look insensitive" I agreed. That was not the end of it. The following morning, the president herself forwarded a text of similar tenor, some viewers criticizing my smiling photo. I did not respond anymore. (I shared President Noynoy's discomfort when he got the same treatment with his famous smile inspecting the hijacked tourist bus recently, remember?)

5:00PM. - I was becoming worried that darkness would overtake my return trip to Sultan Kudarat. I noted many armed and uniformed men on the highway. One could not tell from what group or unit. Mayor Unsay arrived a little past 5:00 p.m. It was about an one (1) hour since the father Bapa Andal talked to him on the phone asking him to come to the house where I was. He arrived sweating and his pants dirtied. He first went inside to freshen up. I knew then that he came from afar and not just within the vicinity. (This observation was material in my insistence later that I should exhaust all means to convince him to peacefully turn himself in. A premature assault without being sure that he was around and within range would be futile.)

When Unsay got seated, I immediately told him that I came because of the serious incident and that initial reports mentioned his name as involved. I told him my purpose in coming was only to be assured that he would cooperate and submit himself to an investigation. He looked at the direction of Gov Andal, evidently seeking guidance how to respond. But the father immediately said: "Walang problema, magcooperate kami, secretary". Then taking that cue, Unsay himself echoed saying: "Mag cooperate po kami". Forthwith, I then stood up and said I would contact them again soon. I also told them that they could get in touch with me anytime as I was staying in the area and not returning to Davao for the night. I gave my cellphone number.

On the way out, it was like "shooting the rapids". We motored back as if we were running scared. We arrived in Marbel already dark and stayed there for the night.

For all those hours that day, 4 PNP officers were subjected to restrictive custody and slated for investigation, 46 bodies were already retrieved, and a series of confidential action points were underway. PNP operatives were fielded to start documenting evidences etc. but none had been submitted as yet. Media briefings were conducted. Then I got a text message that the president issued a proclamation declaring a state of emergency in the area. She was becoming impatient at the slow progress of things.

In the meantime, the outrage over the incident had peaked as more bodies were recovered and a clearer picture emerged about the macabre mass murder. People were already getting angry and asking government why there were no arrests yet. I was nonchalant. Some even asked later: "why did you not arrest Unsay right there when he came to talk to you?" Funny thought but I was not even sure I could get back to Marbel safe and sound that night

City - BENECO

.....from page 2

the mayor said, translates into P8.5-million in payables arising from the baseless over-deduction of 18.5-percent systems loss discounted from the amount Beneco was supposed to pay the city had the same been pegged to 8.5-percent.

The P8.5-million shall be paid within a period of 27-months – the same length of time Beneco used the 18.5-percent systems loss as a way of discounting its payables to the city.

Domogan said, "I don't understand why Beneco even deducts as much as 18-percent [which could translate to bigger income for the city] when it is merely a buyer of the power we produce."

Beneco and the City Government, nil written agreement, likewise consented to an electric power exchange rate using National Power Corporation standard power tariff at P4.80 per KWH sometime in 2007.

"But records show us otherwise," Domogan claimed adding, "I don't see Beneco using NPC rates as basis of their computations."

Meanwhile, Domogan likewise revealed Beneco's apparent grunting over a provision in the bidding conditions for privatization of the hydros.

He related, "Beneco wrote the council saying they were allegedly discriminated upon with the condition that only cooperatives registered under the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) can join the bid."

"I explained however that, while they may be disqualified from bidding not being CDA-registered, they may bid as a National Irrigation Administration (NIA) – registered cooperative." ***isl

Ordered the City Engineering said the JTT will reconvene to audit and re-compute the basis for Beneco's purchase of power from the AMP which may yet again translate to cash for the coffers of Baguio./isl

Boy's

.....from page 2

shortly after birth, is also hardly out of the woods. He was recently confined for esophageal varices or dilated veins in the lower esophagus that triggered bleeding and duodenitis of inflammation of the first section of the first intestine.

At the BGHMC, the special kid was also diagnosed for "portal hypertension, glycogen storage disease versus mitochondrial disease". On top of these is the final diagnosis that renders fragile his family's relief and hope for deliverance: liver cirrhosis.

Second of five kids, Frederick was rushed to the Ifugao provincial hospital last October, three days after Emma, his 59-year old grandmother, was brought home from 26 days hospital confinement due to a stroke.

After his transfer to the BGHMC, Samaritans pooled resources for the purchase of the not-locally-available elastic band needed to plug the esophageal hemorrhage.

An appeal from the boy's dad triggered a hefty, P55,000 support from a woman who said she was bothered no end when she read of Frederick's plight in the local papers. She requested anonymity. So did a government official who contributed P7,000. A nursing intern added P1,500. In front of the Baguio Cathedral, a man handed over P1,000, and, along Session Rd., a sportsman gave P1,000.

Toddlers at the city hall day care center and their parents pooled P3,125 through teacher Lita Tomeldan after undergoing the city's "Eco-walk" children's environmental program at the Busol watershed.

The BGHMC under medical center chief, Dr. Manuel Factora, maximized the medical care benefits of the kid's father. That now allows Famorca to use the remaining donation for the boy's medication for cirrhosis, continuing medical attention for his grandmother and recovery of his aunt.

As soon as he brought the kid home last week, Famorca had to rush his 10-year old daughter Lovely and his 17-year old sister Julie Ann to the hospital as both were feverish. Lovely was given medication and sent home while Julie Ann was confined for dengue fever.

From Germany, former world traditional karate champion Julian Chees and Shoshin Kinderhelfe, a foundation he and his martial students established there, sent over P51,000 for the medical procedure to plug the kid's bleeding.

"Thanks to local Samaritans who acted swiftly, you can use what Shoshin sent for other indigent patients," Chees told a local representative of the foundation on his visit home last week to conduct a karate seminar-for-a-cause.

Last August, Shoshin sent P10,000 to prop up Franz's fight against acute lymphoblastic leukemia or ALS.

Chees established the foundation in 2004, at the end of which he travelled to Banaue with the late Baguio newsman Willy Cacdac. With the help of then town mayor Jerry Dalipog, they handed over P70,000 to two mothers who lost two kids in a landslide that buried their house at Christmastime.

Back as mayor, Dalipog renewed Famorca's membership with Philhealth, enabling the latter to apply medical care benefits for Frederick./Ramon Dacawi

Mayor

.....from page 2

barangay captain to dispel misconception that Amino can assume office.

Amina took his oath of office last week and served notice of assumption effective Nov. 21 on the strength of the DILG certification.

But the mayor said the moves were premature because Miranda's suspension was not yet final as the city council has to first resolve the motion for reconsideration filed by the punong barangay on the body's earlier decision imposing the six-month suspension.

"I am not favoring anybody here. There's due process and we have to follow it," the mayor said stressing that until everything has been resolved, the city would continue to recognize Miranda as barangay captain and that any transaction made by Amino will not be honored by the city government.

However that afternoon, the city council merely noted Miranda's motion for reconsideration of saying the matter is now beyond the body's jurisdiction and is now within the ambit of the Office of the President.

The body's move was tantamount to lack of action on the pending motion.

But the mayor said the city council should have made a categorical ruling on the motion. "The motion should have been acted on whether they like it or not," he

said.

Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas said the body's action was based on the procedures on resolving administrative cases involving barangay officials for highly urbanized cities as spelled out in the Local Government Code.

He said the city council has jurisdiction on original complaint which it resolved by adopting a resolution approving the six-month suspension of Miranda which he said can be considered as "final and executory."

"However, the respondent filed a motion for reconsideration and as per the procedures, the Office of the President has the jurisdiction on said appeal so the motion was resolved to be noted only since there is no jurisdiction on our part, the matter being moot and academic now," he explained.

He said that as a consequence, the body has no hand anymore on the case and on whether Miranda's next-in-rank can take over unless the parties decide to bring to the body again their questions or complaints on the manner of succession.

Domogan agreed that under the Local Government Code, the council's resolution on the suspension is final and executory but he said the same rule provides that it can be subject to appeal and Miranda has yet to file an appeal and instead filed a motion for reconsideration which technically is not an appeal.

The mayor said Miranda's motion stayed the implementation of the council resolution and the city council has the authority to decide on it.

He said that after the body denied the motion for reconsideration and Miranda filed an appeal, then the body can resolve the motion for execution pending appeal filed by the other barangay officials but which the mayor described as premature without Miranda's appeal.

Miranda was charged of grave misconduct and abuse of authority in Barangay Administrative Case No. 11-2010 filed by Alicia Pacsi-Dizon, Alfredo Buado et. al./A Refuerzo

Tourism

.....from page 3

government they could further boost the country's tourism industry.

According to De Leon, as major players in the country's tourism industry, it is high time that their voice be heard, actively participate and do away with the usual pin-pointing or blaming the government or any concerned agencies on any issue, concern or problem that affects the industry.

Relative to this, De Leon is spearheading an assembly of all HRAB members and other private tourism stakeholders in the city this week to give a briefing on what the Tourism Congress is all about, hear their concerns and to seek their membership, as well their active participation in advancing the tourism sector not only here in Baguio, or the rest of Luzon but for the entire country.

"The best way is for us to really network with the different regions and the different tourism destinations. Let us start promoting the Philippines, not just our respective destination. Let us look at the bigger picture. What can be good for our country can really also be good for Baguio or any tourism destinations in the country. This will be the approach that we want to make", De Leon said./JDP/LD-PIA CAR

Guidelines

.....from page 3

age of said materials is properly made so as not to endanger the lives and property of the people. The said inventory shall be submitted to the City Administrator for information/record purposes;

“*Only those persons/entities duly authorized by Special Business Permits to distribute and/or sell the firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices herein allowed are PERMITTED to distribute and sell such product in the City of Baguio;

“*The sole venue for the distribution and sale hereof shall strictly be inside the Old City Auditorium, Burnham Park, Baguio City and such distribution and sale shall be LIMITED to their registered place of business;

“*The duration of sale and distribution shall be from December 20 to December 31, 2011; and

“*Any violation of these guidelines shall be dealt with in accordance with Sec. 11 of the RA 7183 which specifically states that a fine of not less than P20,000.00 nor more than P30,000.00 will be imposed or; imprisonment of not less than six months nor more than one year or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court to include the revocation and or cancellation of the business permit/s.”

The resolution was approved by a majority of votes. Councilors Isabelo Cosalan, Philian Weygan-Allan and Joel Alangsab voted against while Councilor Peter Fianza abstained from voting. Councilors Nicasio Aliping Jr. and Karminn Cheryl Dinney Yangot were out during the voting./A Refuerzo

AIDS

.....from page 12

transplant, mother-to-child transmission, and sometimes drug use. The symptoms may be rashes, infections and ulcers seen in parts of the body, and confirmed through laboratory tests.

For the control, there should be abstinence, faithfulness to partner, drug-free living, care and use of condoms, early diagnosis when symptoms may be observed, and fear of God, or fear of AIDS infection. Those infected or those with suspected infection, are advised to go to the health, social hygiene, reproductive health, and wellness center, at the City Health Department or the Department of Health./juliegianza

Baguio CSWDO.....

.....from page 12

ment Officer Betty Fangasan issued the call in a Kapihan media forum last week during the launching of the ‘Silahis ng Pasko 2011.’

“These beggars can only be discouraged if there will be no people giving, that is the only thing we know that could stop them. Kung talagang walang giver walang beggars”, Fangasan said.

Fangasan also advised kind-hearted or generous people who are willing to give or share this Christmas to coordinate with them so that their office can link them to proper or authorized organizations or groups who are into gift-giving, Christmas treats or similar undertakings this yuletide season, as well as to pre-identified and more qualified indigent or sick beneficiaries.

Fangasan also stressed that, this is also

one reason why the CSWDO is in partner with the ‘Silahis ng pasko’ as most of their activities are geared towards helping the needy or indigent children, family and other groups.

Fangasan also warns beggars, especially those using children in their plight, against going into the city, as the CSWDO along with their various partners, is closely monitoring the city streets.

“We keep on telling them not to beg and go to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Offices for possible assistance, if they really need help, though there are still many who are hard-headed”, Fangasan said.

“We also do not want them to use kids or children in begging. The public can always coordinate with the police if they see one, so that we can arrest them and bring to our office. If these adults insist to be on the street, at least we could ensure that the kids are placed in our centers, either in the CSWDO or the DSWD”, Fangasan added.

In addition, Fangasan also advised carolers or solicitors to secure necessary permit before going around the city. “If they plan to go only around the barangay then they should get their permit from their respective barangay officials or those who plan to go hopping on different barangays, the permit should be from the city”, Fangasan stressed.

Moreover, as Christmas is just around the corner, the city is now all set for the 2011 month long celebration of ‘Silahis ng Pasko.’ The grand opening day extravaganza is slated this December 1, with (day care) children – parents Mardigras to be followed by a grand opening ceremony at the Melvin Jones, Grandstand.

The Silahis ng Pasko which is the longest and most meaningful and enjoyable Christmas Season offering in the city of Baguio and the Cordilleras, is now on its 38th year anniversary.

The event is being spearheaded by the National Correspondents Club of Baguio (NCCB) and the City Social Welfare and Development Office, in coordination with various partners and stakeholders headed by the Baguio Elderly Association.

Month long activities are scheduled for this year’s X’mas festivity which includes the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Cadet’s Day at Burnham Park on the morning of December 4 and PMA Band Concert at Malcolm Square (People’s Park) on the afternoon of the same day; the Quest for the Baguio Lucky Christmas Family 2011; Kafagway Sportfest; a Special Day for Special People; Children Palaro; Special Christmas treat for Children; and the annual search for the Baguio Lucky Christmas Baby 2011 and Lucky New Year Baby 2012./SCALD/PIA CAR

Aditorial.....

..... from page 4

processed without further delay,” the Group said.

MILF should clarify “whether IPRA would apply in a Bangsamoro sub-state”. That would dispel suspicions. How will overlapping ancestral domain claims be resolved? “The issues at stake cut to the heart of many concerns about how democratic a sub-state would be.

Lumads never took up arms against the Philippine government.

Is that why “they are not one of the parties at the GRP-MILF negotiating table”? Divisions within and between tribes make it also difficult for the Lumads to unify.

“The vast majority of Lumads are impoverished and marginalized,” the Group points out. The handful of leaders, who speak on their behalf, struggle to be heard.” Thus, their grievances and problems rarely blip on national radar screens. “Out of sight, out of mind,” Homer curtly says in “The Odyssey.”

President Aquino can burnish his bona-fides for lumads by jump-starting the stalled probe into the assassination Fr. Fausto Tentorio. The Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions priest, who served lumads of North Cotabato for 33 years, had been gunned down ironically in Indigenous People’s month.

Nailing Fr Tentorio’s assassin sooner, rather than later, will not only strengthen PNoy’s hand in MILF peace talks. It complies with his oath to do justice for vulnerable peace-makers./Juan L. Mercado

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

EMMANUEL ORDONA - Vendor

ALEXANDER MALAYO-Vendee

Applicants

Case No: 2001-01-15880

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Sale and Transfer of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI Service for the transportation and passengers and freights 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 December 14, 2011 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paddal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant/s shall publish the NOTICE once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so desire, appear during the hearing.

This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER-Regional Director this 21st day of November 2011.

(SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR
Attorney IV

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

WILSON CALOSING

Applicants

Case No: 2003-CAR-964

NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for the approval of Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI Service for the transportation and passengers and freights 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 December 14, 2011 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paddal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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(SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR
Attorney IV

Police Beef up Security

BAGUIO CITY — This mountain resort has stepped up security and peacekeeping efforts to effectively deter crimes especially with the onset of the Christmas season.

Pol Sr. Supt. David Q. Lacdan, City Director of the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) said they have increased police presence and now conduct high-visibility patrols around the city.

During the holiday season, our city is visited by so many visitors. At present the 62nd Fil-Am Golf Invitational is going on with golfers coming from the different parts of the globe of which BCPO is giving assistance for their safety.

"We are expecting more vacationers and bad elements are coming up to our city to take advantage of them, like the *bukas kotse gang* and the *akyat bahay gang*" Lacdan said.

"We are asking the general public to help us by reporting suspicious characters or doubtful movements so that we can act before a crime is committed," Lacdan said.

Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan reminded the police for its primary role in ensuring the full implementation of government programs and operations in addressing criminality and maintaining peace and order.

He also assured the PNP that the administration is behind the police force to help carry out its mission to serve and protect the public.

"Crime prevention is every day, we should be on our toes and not only on Christmas season," Domogan expressed.

Crimes could be prevented if more law enforcers are visible on the street and even encouraged precinct commanders to "go out and be in the field" to have a better assessment of the situation on the ground, he added./SCA/JBZ PIA-CAR

DTI tells consumers to buy Genuine Christmas lights

BAGUIO CITY — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) -

Benguet is intensifying its monitoring efforts to safeguard the safety of consumers against sub-standard Christmas lights this Yuletide season.

To guide the public in buying Christmas lights, DTI Provincial Director Freda Gawisan said posters are issued on the list of Christmas light brands and guidelines in buying and identifying genuine and fake Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) marks.

Posters are placed in retail outlets, hardware stores, department stores, particularly in establishments selling Christmas lights.

Gawisan urged the public to buy only Christmas lights certified by the DTI and look for the genuine ICC mark in the product.

Retailers and suppliers are subject to investigation if they sell sub-standard Christmas lights in the market, she stressed.

It is strongly recommended that Christmas lights, whether used or brand new should be tested before these are draped on trees and around the house.

The testing is needed particularly when several lengths are being strung together and plugged into only one electrical socket. Some consumers are unaware that certain lights are only for indoor use, Gawisan explained.

The consumers can also act against sub-standard Christmas lights according to Gawisan adding that they can return the defective Christmas lights and ask for refund of their money.

Consumers who also purchased uncertified Christmas lights are advised to file their complaints to the nearest DTI office or call DTI Hotline (074) 619-2722./SCA/JBZ PIA CAR

Baguio CSWDO Cautions Alms Giving to Beggars, Advises Carolers get Permits, As 'Silahis ng Pasko 2011' opens

BAGUIOCITY - The City Social

Welfare and Development Office reminded the public especially Baguio

Citizens to avoid giving alms to beggars who normally flock to the city this Yuletide season.

City Social Welfare and Develop-

Cont. on page 11

The JUNCTION

Pahayagang Palaban!!!



"MOMA" STAIN REMOVERS - City Tourism Coordinator Benny Alhambra supervises more than 200 volunteers from Burnham Park photographers, City Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council, PAGASA Youth Association of the City Social Welfare Development Office headed by Betty Fangasan, Baguio's Finest and the City Fire Department and City Environment and Park Management Office, and tourism student interns from University of the Cordilleras and Saint Louis University who scrubbed "moma" and other accumulated dirt with soap and water at Igorot Prak during a Massive clean up drive within city's premier park last Nov.27./ By Bong Cayabyab

AIDS Watch Observed in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY – With enthusiasm, health authorities, barangay officials and entertainers clad in pale yellow t-shirts filled the Baguio Convention Center last Friday, Dec. 2, to commemorate World AIDS day with the theme "Getting to 'Zero.'"

On its 6th year, the celebration's expanded theme would be: "Getting to Zero: Zero New Infection, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS." A conference is held simultaneously, with the theme, "Moving Towards Change, Moving Towards Clean Entertainment."

A beauty contest was also held, interspersed during the program where City Administrator Atty. Carlos Canilao stood in for Mayor Mauricio Domogan. In his speech, Atty. Canilao pointed out the various factors which may contribute to the increase of AIDS in the country.

Dr. Rowena Galpo, Office-In-charge of the City Health Department (CHD), however spoke about the World Health Organization tagging a decrease in AIDS cases internationally. But in the Philippines, she continued, there is an "alarming increase" of AIDS cases. For Baguio alone, she added, there are six (6) cases for 2011, as with 2010. This should be met with awareness and vigilance at all times, she said, we should be responsible for ourselves, and work against AIDS with unity and cooperation.

On a positive note however, Baguio was recognized as an "emerging champ," in the fight against AIDS, as awarded by the Local Government Unit (LGU) Academy and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and given a plaque and Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000). Said cash award, shall be used in other anti-AIDS programs.

Among others, anti-AIDS crusaders present were Councilor Phillian Weygan-Allan, AIDS watch council member Dr. Charles Cheng, Dr. Luisa Paran of the Department of Health (DOH), and Dr. Celia Brillantes.

An HIV-positive speaker also affirmed his observations about the city's supportive commemoration of AIDS day.

Postings about Human Immuno Virus and AIDS were seen at the lobby of the convention center. These made known the probable causes and control of AIDS; transmission through unprotected sex, through blood products, organ

Cont. on page 11

THE JUNCTION

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