

THE JUNCTION

WEEKEND P8.00

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DOJ bares loopholes in Anti-Human Trafficking Law; enlists NGO's to join fight



DESECRATION OF IGOROT CULTURE
Shameless members of gangs, fraternities and

individuals vandalized the "Kalasag" at Sunshine Park representing the seven provinces of the Cordillera Administrative Region's logo featuring its great tradition, arts and culture./By Bong Cayabyab

BAGUIO CITY – Representatives from the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) last week admitted the law preventing human trafficking and prosecuting those responsible for the same may need some tinkering to avert a long-drawn-out war.

While citing modest accomplishments in apprehending those who aid traffickers, IACAT representatives claimed Republic Act (RA) 9228 may need some amendments to enable law enforcers to 'catch the bigger fish.'

RA 9228 is "An Act Instituting Policies to Eliminate Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children."

During a press conference co-staged by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at the Prince Plaza Hotel, March 11, Atty. Ramoncito Ocampo claimed desistance on the part of the victim tops the list of why human trafficking cases get dismissed.

Ocampo is concurrent assistant city prosecutor of Quezon City and head of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Task Force Against Human Trafficking (NAIA-TFAHT).

He said, "While it is true that desistance is prohibited in

trafficking cases, victims are mere wit **Cont. on page 11**

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tamaan kayo ng hiya. Bawas-
bawasan ang pango-ngorap!!!*

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

*How not to be raped
according to rapists*

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

*ANO NANAMAN ANG
PROBLEMA SA DOTC-CAR !?!*
Part 2

BY : ODELL P. AQUINO
Email: aquino_odel@yaho.com



ERC, Gas Firms Asked to Shed Light on Event Sponsors Should Prove Oil Prices Financial Capability First

BAGUIO CITY – The city council will invite to its session on March 28 key personalities from the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), various oil companies and gasoline stations, transportation groups and concerned motorists to shed light on why oil prices in the city are higher than the prevailing costs in lowland provinces.

The body approved the resolution proposed by Councilor Fred Bagbagen who stressed the need for such forum

to enlighten the body on why there is a big disparity in the oil prices.

"The prices of crude oil are inevitably constantly and sharply rising at phenomenal rate having a disproportionate effect on prime commodity goods and other necessities indispensable to everyday living burdening every human being," Bagbagen noted.

"Because of our heavy dependence on the usage of crude oil, it made us submissive to the dictates of the fluctuating oil price mostly going up," he

said.

"It is observed that prices of gasoline, diesel and other oil products in the Cordillera especially here in the City of Baguio are disproportionately higher than those of Baguio neighbors in the lowlands," Bagbagen stressed.

Among those to be invited are representatives from the Shell, Petron, Caltex and other key players in the oil industry along with the members of the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association (FEJODA) Baguio –Benguet chapter./A Refuerzo

BAGUIO CITY – Individuals or groups intending to co-sponsor major events with the city government will now be required to first prove their financial capability before they can be allowed to do so.

The city council approved Resolution No. 46 series of 2011 authored by Councilor Philian Louise Weygan-Allan for this purpose.

The measure was meant to avoid incidents where the promised amenities like prizes, monetary and in kind and other perks were not delivered which puts the city government in bad light.

Weygan said it has been a practice that nongovernmental associations or business organizations submit proposals to the City Government of Baguio intending to conduct activities with the city's major events like the Baguio Flower Festival, Christmas Celebration, Cordillera Day, Baguio Day and other events but these proposals are usually approved without verifying the financial capability of the proponents.

per the measure, these individuals and groups will now be required to provide the city the basic requirement to aid the

City Council in their decision in approving proposals for various activities.

Said requirements are:

*For trade fair purpose, they should comply with the Trade Fair Ordinance of 1994, as amended; and

*Audited financial statement of the business organization or association for trade fair participants as well as other major activities.

The said organizations and associations should present their financial statement and government registration papers as attached to their application/proposal./A Refuerzo

OWWA-CAR released P1.06 M financial assistance to Libya repatriated OFWs

BAGUIO CITY, – The government's crisis management team is continuously working hard to provide assistance to the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) displaced by the on-going turmoil in Libya. Repatriation are on-going for those who wants to go back to country, while relocation assistance are given to those who wish to stay or to those who are far away from the conflict areas.

Locally, concerned government agencies are also busy catering to the needs of those who are repatriated and planning what other assistance the government could provide them.

For the Overseas Workers and

Welfare and Administration (OWWA) Regional Welfare Office, located here in Baguio, as of Thursday afternoon, it has already released P1.06 Million for the 106 repatriated OFWs who reported to OWWA. The Repatriation Assistance program (RAF) provides P10,000 financial assistance to each repatriated OFW.

In an interview, OWWA-CAR OIC Regional Director Evelyn Laranang stressed that since they have received the directive and guidelines for RAF, their office have been busy catering to repatriated OFWs from Libya, not only those who are residing in the region but to the nearby provinces as

well, who seek assistance from their office.

Aside from the RAP, OWWA-CAR also maintains a 24/7 hotline and assistance center to cater to the requests and to provide assistance to the next-of-kin or relatives of other OFWs that are yet to be repatriated or of those who remain in relocation or safe areas in Libya, so as to help give update on the status or conditions of their loved ones.

OWWA-CAR also maintains a 'Libreng Tawag' and public assistance desk in their office, not only for the relatives of OFWs in Libya, but also for those in the other troubled countries

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Japan turns over compost facility to LTB

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - The Japanese government turned over the newly built compost facility to the municipality of La Trinidad on Wednesday.

Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Makoto Katsura led the turn over and inauguration of the Improved Organic Composting Facility in barangay Alno in la Trinidad.

The ceremonies were witnessed by local officials led by Governor Nestor Fongwan, Mayor Gregorio Abalos and the municipal councilors of La Trinidad and Japan Agricultural Exchange Council representatives.

According to Amb. Katsura, the project which is worth US\$ 89, 993 or approximately P4.1 million is funded under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Humans Security Project (GGP).

Katsura said that the goal of the compost facility is to rid the town of vegetable trimmings and convert them into organic fertilizer that would be beneficial for the farmers of the municipality and the province as well.

Katsura adds that the project also aims to address the need of farmers for vast quantity of affordable organic fertilizer. This will increase the vegetable production of the

province with the full blast operations of the facility.

Katsura adds that the compost facility would also be helpful in the campaign against global warming and the mitigation of environmental concerns.

The ambassador stressed that the turn over and inauguration of the facility will serve as another milestones for the strong partnership of the two countries that started with the building of the Kennon Road a century ago.

Meanwhile, Fongwan said that the compost facility would be a great help especially with the problems on veg

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THE JUNCTION

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(SGD) Odell P. Aquino The Junction-OIC

PNP Cordillera doing continuing back to basics training

BAGUIO CITY, A total of 45 uniformed personnel of the Police Regional Office-Cordillera (PRO-COR) who are undergoing the criminal investigation course will graduate this coming March 21.

The training is part of the PNP's Eight Foundation Initiatives (EFI's) particularly on "training on the basics."

This was announced by Police Regional Office (PRO) Cordillera Information Officer-Police Superintendent Leon Talleo during the regular Talakayan sa Issue ng Police (TSIP) over Radyo ng Bayan

last week.

Talleo reiterated this back-to-basics training thrust of the PNP Chief Raul Bacalzo. "We will train and re-train our personnel to do his basic job with competence. At the same time, we will intensify training on basic capabilities like investigation, proper first-responder actions and procedures, crime scene preservation and management, case build-up, proper use of firearms, arrest and handcuffing techniques, and the like."

On the same day will be the opening of the municipal police stations unit

training.

Another activity called the Special Counter-insurgency Operations Unit Training (SCOUT) for new PNP recruits which will start March 15.

Talleo said new PNP recruits who recently finished their Basic Recruit Course will have to undergo SCOUT before

they can be assigned to the different police stations.

This back-to-basics training is a continuing activity. Other police stations will soon conduct the training for their respective personnel, he added. /Mari Cruz/PIA-CAR



"WOMEN'S DAY" – thousands participate in the Kababaihan Festival spearheaded by the City Government of Baguio last March 8 as part of the Women's Month celebration./ Photo by paul rillorta

Dads Raise Objections to Legalization of Irregular CPCs

BAGUIO CITY—"Would the City Council finally approve a possible 'taxi festival' in the city after years of resisting the same?"

Seems unlikely. The City Council virtually disapproved a proposal to legalize illegal vehicle franchises during their March 7 meeting at the session hall... even without casting a single vote.

Earlier, Coun. Richard Cariño proposed "legalization of irregular and illegal franchises of public utility vehicles (PUV) in Baguio City and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), subject to conditions."

The measure apparently addresses innocent purchasers of Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) certificates of public convenience (CPC) victimized by fixers resulting to the infamous 'kabit system'.

In a kabit system, several public utility vehicles (PUV) are registered

under one CPC, resulting into the proliferation of illegal franchises.

One Atty. James Valeros who claims advocates approval of the measure, in a December 14, 2009 letter to the council, revealed there are about 3-thousand illegal franchises issued by LTFRB but only around 700-signified intentions to have their spurious CPCs legalized.

As early as 1992, the City Government had been asking the LTFRB to suspend issuance of new taxi franchises. Since then, various resolutions totalling to about 13, all urging LTFRB to suspend the issuance of franchises were passed.

Curiously however, taxis continue to proliferate despite moratorium suspending the issuance of franchises issued by the LTFRB as early as January 10, 1996 via its Memo Circular 96-002.

Records show, through the years, Valeros had been one of the more consistent advocates

Legalization

against proliferation of illegal CPCs in the city, pointing out alleged irregularities committed by LTFRB.

There are about 28-thousand private vehicles registered in the City of Baguio according to reports from the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of Baguio, Benguet and La Union (FEJODABBLU). On top of this, there are about 4-thousand PUVs with perfect franchises.

During the council discussion, there is an apparent dissent from aldermen regarding the proposal.

For one, Coun. Fred Bagbagen who chairs the Council Committee on Public Transport already expressed doubts in the committee's report saying, "Is it [even] possible to legitimize illegal franchises?"

In stern language he declared, "It is not proper for the council to become a vehicle for the legalization of illegal franchises."

During council

POEA intensifies campaign vs illegal recruiters, Human and Drug Trafficking

BAGUIO CITY, Illegal recruitment, human trafficking and the lately, drug trafficking, will remain perennial problems in the country until government can stop the migration of Filipinos abroad in pursuit of a greener pasture.

In a Kapihan forum Wednesday at the Philippine Information Agency Conference Hall, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Regional Director Delfina Camarillo stressed that illegal recruitment cases, though fluctuating, is always a concern year in and year out.

"The fight against illegal re-

cruitment is a continuous effort for the government," Camarillo said.

For the last quarter of 2010 alone, Camarillo affirmed that they have recorded 54 illegal recruitment cases. Illegal recruiter swindles money from their victims and amount involved varies from about a few thousand pesos or even goes up as high as millions of pesos.

Camarillo said they have a case in Benguet where an illegal recruiter demanded P280,000 per head from their victims for a supposed employment opportunity in Australia and Canada. She also cited a case involving a P10 million

fee.

According to Camarillo, they have convictions or successful cases against illegal recruiters, and she stressed that the complainant's support as a witness is always a vital factor for such convictions.

Camarillo also affirmed the emerging concern on human trafficking and drug courier cases. Many Filipinos are being smuggled or being illegally brought to other countries and what makes this worse is that most of them become prostitutes or drug mules, she pointed out.

Thus, Camarillo stressed that they have already intensi

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Duque enjoins CAR executives, public to help improve Gov't service

BAGUIO CITY, The Civil Service Commission (CSC) conducted a forum for the Cordillera Association of Regional Executives (CARE) with no less than CSC Chairman Francisco Duque III as the guest speaker last Thursday afternoon, at the El Cielito Inn here.

In his inspirational message to the more than 50 regional line agency executives who attended the forum, Duque calls for an enduring and meaningful partnership with CARE in the attainment of the goals and programs of the government and in building the capabilities of public officials and employees.

According to Duque, the first thing he did when he assumed stewardship of the commission early last year was to review the vision, mission and programs of the CSC that resulted to the crafting of the CSC's Roadmap for Reforms and Development. This roadmap identifies the commission's strategic priorities for the next five years.

Included in the six strategic priorities is 'Building Partnership and Strengthening Linkages', Duque informed. "As the CSC enjoys a wide range of partnership with local and international groups, we also hope to build an enduring and meaningful partnership with you," he stressed.

"Truly much is being done in order to get the affairs of the civil service in order and we continue to

Cont. on page 11

Inferno's Highway?

The "reproductive health (bill) means the road to hell," Freeman columnist Valeriano Avila asserts. "That's in store for people who kill innocent babies inside their mother's womb."

Who? Me? We back a reproductive health bill. So do other people: former Secretary Vicente Paterno, demograher Mercedes Concepcion, Ernesto Pernia of UP School of Economics, among others. No one argues for the draconian version that Rep. Edcel Lagman & Co. peddle.

The RH bill has many faces," constitutional scholar Joaquin Bernas notes "That makes it difficult for many, myself included, to be totally for or totally against the RH bill.

"There are provisions which run counter to the moral beliefs of some", Fr Bernas continues. (Some) "provisions seek

to answer the crying needs of women and... young people,

EDITORIAL

especially among the poor".... We must "reason together.. We should not allow our nation to be divided by God."

Lasciate ogne speranza voi ch' entrate is carved on the gates of Hades, poet Dante Alighieri wrote. "Abandon all hope you who enter here." None have been consigned, so far, to that state where the "worm dieth not". We can still speak?

President Benigno Aquino didn't include RH among priority measures he submitted to Congress. The Lower House will debate this issue, once it's air-conditioners are repaired. (No allusion to "fire that is never quenched.")

Following introduction of other bills, the original HB96 morphed into HB4244. Consider these realities that may shape the debate (a) a population of paupers; (b) a stalled demographic transition; and (c) abortion's "silent scream".

When P-noy became president, there were over 92 million Filipinos. That's the size of 20 Singapores, population-wise. The pre-World War II census counted 19 million plus.

Momentum of population growth ignores presidents, legislators, even bishops. Thus, when Aquino leaves Malacanang, in 2016, there'll probably be 101.6 million of us.

"Large numbers start dying after they are born", says the new report "Winning the Numbers, Losing the War". Scrawny stunted kids are "comparable to the prevalence of underweight children, under 5 year of age, in Sub-Saharan Africa". Over 28 million scrounge below the poverty line.

Most Asian countries, meanwhile, completed their "demographic transitions". They've shifted from a situation of high fertility and high mortality to one of low fertility and low mortality."

East Asia's "economic tigers" reaped, in the process, two "demographic dividends". The first jacked up per capita income. The second: provided a retirement buffer and extra capital, as. South Korea and Japan show.

There's a "Goldilocks period": a generation or so in which fertility rate is neither too high or low, before slipping to replacement levels. (2.1 percent) The Philippines hasn't reached that point. Otherwise, the ranks of indigents would have been whittled by about 3.6 million, a comparison of 80 countries reveals.

Laos and Cambodia will benefit this transition soon, economists Arsenio Balisan, Dennis Mapa and Jose Corpuz foresee. "The Philippines (is) the only country in all of Asia...where the population issue remains controversial to this day."

"A conspiracy of silence" shrouds women who —denied information and family planning services —induce abortion, Ateneo's Mary Racelis notes. In a Metro Manila study, by Josefina Cabigon of UP Population Institute, 17 percent of 1,169 women surveyed admitted having had an abortion.

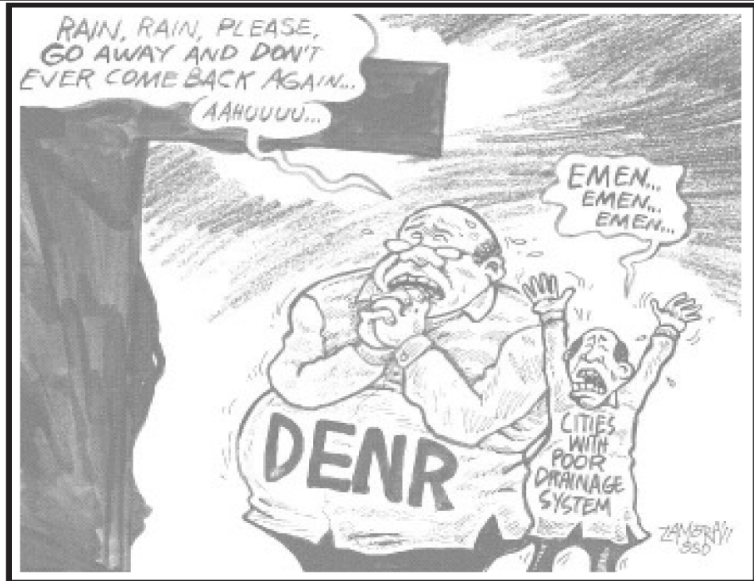
Yearly, do as many as 600,000 women undergo abortion in illegal "clinics" here? Who knows. Abortionists slink in illegality's murky world.

At sino ba ang babaye magpapalista na nagpa-aborsyon siya?, Racelis quotes a Catholic Bishops National Rural Congress participant. "What woman, in her right mind, would admit she had an abortion?"

Reports by 1,658 hospitals provide hard data on consequences. Over 105,000 women were hospitalized due to abortion complications. And 12,600, died. How many never made it to a hospital?

Substantial numbers remain hostages by hilots. "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation," Matthew wrote. "Rachel weeping for her children, because they were no more."

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

How not to be raped according to rapists

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



A note attributed to Jim Paredes is circulating in the internet. Supposedly, a group of rapists was interviewed on how they work and the results of the interview ere translated into a set of tips on how not to be raped. The following are some of the key results of the interview. These are supposedly for international women's day but the points herein are relevant for any day.

Rapists tend to go after women in ponytail, braid, or hairstyle that can easily be grabbed. Women with short hair are not the common targets.

Women with clothing that can easily be removed or destroyed are among the priority targets. Many rapists supposedly carry scissors to cut clothings easily.

The rapists said they would not pick on women with umbrellas or other similar objects in their hands which they can use from a distance.

When you sense that someone is intending to harm or rape you, look at them in the face and make them know you are looking at them in the face, ask a question, or make a small talk. When the rapist knows you have seen his face and have familiarized yourself on his face, you lose appeal as a target and he will likely choose a target better than you.

If you are grabbed around the waist from behind, pinch the attacker under the arm between the elbow and armpit or in the upper inner thigh of the arm. Try pinching yourself in these areas to know that the pinch really hurt.

When a rapist puts his hands on you, grab one or two of his fingers and bend them as far back as possible. Try this and see how painful this is.

The elbow is stronger point in your body. If you are close enough to the attacker use it.

After the first hit, follow this up with an attack on his groin. This is extremely painful. Do this because the rapist wants a woman who will not cause him a lot of trouble. Cause him trouble so he will be driven away.

If a robber asks for your wallet or purse, do not hand it to him but toss it away from you because he is likely to be more interested in your wallet and/or purse and will go for it. As you throw the wallet or purse, RUN FAST INTO THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

If you are in the trunk of a car, kick out the back tail-lights, stick your arms out in the hole, and wave your hands. The driver will not see you but everybody will. This techniques has been claimed to have saved lives.

Before riding your car (as applicable) or before riding a taxi, peek into the taxi or car, inside the passenger side floor, and in the back seat. An accomplice of the rapists or evil-doer may be hiding in the car or taxi even prior to your ride.

If an evil-doer has a gun and you Cont. on page 9

PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

ANO NANAMANANG
PROBLEMA SA DOTC-CAR !?!?

Part 2

BY : ODELL P. AQUINO

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Tunay na nakadidismaya ang kasalukuyan pamunuan ng DOTC –CAR. O-Y, O-Y, Vhakkiiitt? Halos isang buwan na ng ating pinadalan ng isang liham ang pamunuan ng DOTC-CAR kung bakit hangang sa ngayon ay kanya itong dini-dedma. Basahin ang LG Komentaryo sa page 7 ng pahayagang ito. Marahil sa puntong ito ay maganda sigurong paalalahanin ang ating mga magagaling na public servants hingil sa RA 6713 [Code Of Conduct and Ethical Standards of Public Officials and Employees] .

REPUBLIC ACT No. 6713

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CODE OF CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, TO UPHOLD THE TIME-HONORED PRINCIPLE OF PUBLIC OFFICE BEING A PUBLIC TRUST, GRANTING INCENTIVES AND REWARDS FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE, ENUMERATING PROHIBITED ACTS AND TRANSACTIONS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

(e) "Loan" covers both simple loan and commodatum as well as guarantees, financing arrangements or accommodations intended to ensure its approval.

(f) "Substantial stockholder" means any person who owns, directly or indirectly, shares of stock sufficient to elect a director of a corporation. This term shall also apply to the parties to a voting trust.

(g) "Family of public officials or employees" means their spouses and unmarried children under eighteen (18) years of age.

(h) "Person" includes natural and juridical persons unless the context indicates otherwise.

(i) "Conflict of interest" arises when a public official or employee is a member of a board, an officer, or a substantial stockholder of a private corporation or owner or has a substantial interest in a business, and the interest of such corporation or business, or his rights or duties therein, may be opposed to or affected by the faithful performance of official duty.

(j) "Divestment" is the transfer of title or disposal of interest in property by voluntarily, completely and actually depriving or dispossessing oneself of his right or title to it in favor of a person or persons other than his spouse and relatives as defined in this Act.

(k) "Relatives" refers to any and all persons related to a public official or employee within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, including bilas, inso and balae.

Section 4. Norms of Conduct of Public Officials and Employees. -

(A) Every public official and employee shall observe the following as standards of personal conduct in the discharge and execution of official duties:

(a) Commitment to public interest. - Public officials and employees shall always uphold the public interest over and above personal interest. All government resources and powers of their respective offices must be employed and used efficiently, effectively, honestly and economically, particularly to avoid wastage in public funds and revenues.

(b) Professionalism. - Public officials and employees shall perform and discharge their duties with the highest degree of excellence, professionalism, intelligence and skill. They shall enter public service with utmost devotion and dedication to duty. They shall endeavor to discourage wrong perceptions of their roles as dispensers or peddlers of undue patronage.

(c) Justness and sincerity. - Public officials and employees shall remain true to the people at all times. They must act with justness and sincerity and shall not discriminate against anyone, especially the poor and the underprivileged. They shall at all times respect the rights of others, and shall refrain from doing acts contrary to law, good morals, good customs, public policy, public order, public safety and public interest. They shall not dispense or extend undue favors on account of their office to their relatives whether by consanguinity or affinity except with respect to appointments of such relatives to positions considered strictly confidential or as members of their personal staff whose terms are coterminous with theirs.

(d) Political neutrality. - Public officials and employees shall provide service to everyone without unfair discrimination and regardless of party affiliation or preference.

(e) Responsiveness to the public. - Public officials and employ-

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

LGUs' role in academic
excellence

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATION: "...Train the child in the way that he should go, and he will never depart from it even when he grows old..." (Proverbs 22:6, the Holy Bible).

-ooo-

LGUs CAN IMPROVE THEIR STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE: Our colleague from the Publishers' Association of the Philippines, Johnny Nunez, sent me a report which proves that local government units can do miracles to improve the academic performance of students from their localities, if and when they set their hearts and minds to it.

Here is Johnny's report: "Albay has posted a 42-step leap in the Department of Education's 2010 National Achievement Tests (NAT), the results of which were released only recently. It has now entered the top 22 percentile of ranking NAT performers.

"From 106th in 2009, Albay now ranks 64th in the tests among the DepEd's 205 Division Offices nationwide. Its new position is a long way up or 113 slots away from the 177th place it occupied in 2007 when Albay Gov. Joey Salceda first assumed the leadership of his province.

-ooo-

SALCEDA LAUDS ALBAY'S TEACHERS: "Salceda earlier said they were mighty proud in winning the championship of recent 2011 Palarong Bikol after 26 long years, but Albayanos will even be prouder if their province perform more exceptionally in the NAT.

"`Despite the disasters that deprive our schoolchildren of instruction when we suspend classes or use classrooms for evacuation centers, and despite the initial 39% high poverty incidence which curtailed our capacity to provide greater learning resources, the collaboration of all education stakeholders in Albay must be credited for this grand performance,' Salceda said of Albay's splendid NAT performance.

"The governor congratulated the Albay Division Office and its officials led by Superintendent Alice Terell and the `hardworking and passionately committed corps of Albayano teachers.'

-ooo-

FOCUS ON IMPROVING STUDENTS' PERFORMANCE: "The feat, Salceda noted, proves the value of the institutionalization of the Provincial Education Department by their Provincial Board led by Vice Gov. Harold Imperial.

"`The consistent execution of our recognition programs such as TOTAL, SEAL, TROPICAL, 'Top sa NAT,' Kadunong, and now 'Kabakas' to engage our barangay officials, has also greatly contributed to this achievement,' he added.

"`All told, it demonstrates the benefit of adopting the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) as our own, and giving our NAT objective a laser-focused effort. Make it a serious

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ees shall extend prompt, courteous, and adequate service to the public. Unless otherwise provided by law or when required by the public interest, public officials and employees shall provide information of their policies and procedures in clear and understandable language, ensure openness of information, public consultations and hearings whenever appropriate, encourage suggestions, simplify and systematize policy, rules and procedures, avoid red tape and develop an understanding and appreciation of the socio-economic conditions prevailing in the country, especially in the depressed rural and urban areas.

(f) Nationalism and patriotism. - Public officials and employees shall at all times be loyal to the Republic and to the Filipino people, promote the use of locally produced goods, resources and technology and encourage appreciation and pride of country and people. They shall endeavor to maintain and defend Philippine sovereignty against foreign intrusion.

Cont. on page 7

1st-APLUMA!

Libanan could have made P-Noy prouder

I FEEL bad for President Aquino, who cannot catch a breather from controversies.

This is because some of the President's men are making the Chief Executive looks bad due to their poor decision making and half-baked advises.

Already in a quandary, Malacanang found itself in deep trouble anew after the 14 Taiwanese earlier deported to Mainland China were acquitted by no less than the Department of Justice.

State Prosecutor Gerard Gaerlan issued a resolution finding no probable cause on the fraud case against the 14 Taiwanese nationals.

The government's decision to deport the 14 foreigners to Mainland China earned the ire of the Taiwanese government, which demanded no less than an apology from the Philippine government due to the grave error it committed.

This development may force President Aquino to apologize to Taiwanese government, for the sake of saving the jobs of more than 100,000 overseas Filipino workers who are bearing the brunt of Taiwan's anger.

-000-

P-Noy should not let this fuss just pass and he should let some heads roll, especially officials of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) who committed the blunder.

Senator Chiz Escudero believes that BI officer-in-charge Ronaldo Ledesma must be axed for mishandling the deportation of 14 Taiwanese for failing in his duties and misleading authorities, including President Aquino.

Escudero is convinced that Commissioner Ledesma did not give the full factual account surrounding the deportation proceedings of the 14 Taiwanese. He said some facts provided by the BI were either embellished or neglected.

The senator added he also has reasons to believe the Department of Justice might have also misinformed the President based on the wanting report submitted by the BI to the department.

Escudero, who heads the Senate committee on justice and human rights, said there was a clear absence of due process and violation of Philippine laws with the way the issue was handled.

The senator said there were valid documents to show the Taiwanese were documented, contrary to the BI's claim they entered the country without passports and visas.

Escudero said P-Noy cannot afford that "a single entity jeopardize our own judicial rules and processes, not to mention the risk he posed to hundreds of thousands of overseas Filipino workers earning their living in Taiwan".

Now, they are thinking out loud, former BI Commissioner and Eastern Samar representative Marcelino "Nonoy" Libanan, who's a lawyer by profession, could have made P-Noy prouder and maintained better the cohesion needed in a bureau like the BI.

Anti-peddling men trade complaints vs. 'reporter' over 'illegal noodles'

BAGUIO CITY — If you're camera is within range... so are you.

Members of the local government's Anti-Illegal Vending Task Force (AIVTF) criminally charged an alleged 'mediaman' for "resistance and disobedience to persons in authority or the agents of such persons."

This, on top of violating Ordinance 68-1986 (the anti-illegal vending ordinance).

SPO1 Reynaldo

Badua, Police Auxiliary (PA) Honorato Gallegos, and PA Julius Albano in a February 21 complaint claimed one Peter Valencia interfered and disobeyed lawful orders during an easement clearing drive at the City Market.

It could be remembered mayor Mauricio Domogan ordered an investigation of the three members of the anti-peddling team on charges of Valencia "for illegal arrest and

detention, harassment, robbery and intimidation."

This, after Valencia filed a complaint on the incident with National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) claiming the episode demeaned and humiliated him personally and his status as a member of the media.

He claimed the three accosted him in front of Cuevas Bakery along 1st Kayang St. here

Cont. on page 9

Tinglayan town organizes responsible parenting Movement

TINGLAYAN, Kalinga, The local government here has organized its Responsible Parenting Movement (RPM) team as the core group responsible in formulating strategies in bringing the program to the grassroots in the area.

According to Kenneth Atiwag, OIC Population Commission (POPCOM) Officer, n Mayor Fernando Abay chairs the re-organized team with Sangguniang Bayan Roger Baculi as the Vice Chairman.

The members include the Municipal Population Program Officer Teresita Atalli, Chief of Police P/Insp Julio Nalliw, Public Health Nurse Conception Osleg, Mr. Rafael Yag-ao of the Assessor's Office, Pastor Andy Angdason and Pacita Dangi.

Atiwag said that the organization of the RPM team is one of the four pillars of family planning. This has become a policy pronouncement on population control as strategy for its hunger mitigation program.

The team he said will spearhead the advocacy on responsible parenthood along with other stakeholders encouraging married couples in the barangays to take up classes on practice birth-spacing through natural family planning, values and practices of responsible parenting, family relationship and home management.

In the province, the POPCOM Office through their municipal counterparts already reached 4,077 couples out of the 6,330 target involving them to undergo Responsible Parenthood-Natural Family Planning (RP-NFP) classes.

Said endeavor, he said, supports the 1987 constitutional mandate for the state to defend the right of spouses to found a family in accordance with their religious convictions and the demands of responsible parenthood./Gigi Dumalig/PIA CAR/Kalinga

Bauko celebrates "Begnas" festival

B A U K O, Mt. Province - The municipality is celebrating its town fiesta called Begnas Festival on March 10—12 with the theme, "Nurturing Cultural Heritage to Sustain Peace, Unity and Progress".

Mayor Simon Lacwasan, in his message, said that they are celebrating a meaningful and yet simple Begnas, reminiscing the good imprints of their leaders in the yester-years while reminding them who and what they are now.

'We do have the bayanihan sys-

tem or "ug-ugbo" that mirrors unity, the "tongtongan" and "bodong" that manifest our love for peace, and "kanyaw" which presupposes progress and these make us strong to face the challenges of life,' Lacwasan said.

A street parade started the festivities joined by the people from the different barangays donned in native attires while dancing.

Ground demonstration put on show the different cultural presentations showcasing the rich culture and participated by young and old alike.

Baguio City

Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan was the guest of honor and speaker for the opening day, where he shared his memorable encounters in the municipality.

He congratulated the people of Bauko for their rich culture which has been passed on from generation to generation and urged them to preserve it.

'I ask the young people to continue practicing the rich culture and be proud of wearing your native attire, the g-string, and the rich tradition as we help each other for economic progress,' Domogan said./Joseph Zambrano/PIA CAR

Pinupuna at Pinapansin.....

.....from page 5

(g) Commitment to democracy. - Public officials and employees shall commit themselves to the democratic way of life and values, maintain the principle of public accountability, and manifest by deeds the supremacy of civilian authority over the military. They shall at all times uphold the Constitution and put loyalty to country above loyalty to persons or party.

(h) Simple living. - Public officials and employees and their families shall lead modest lives appropriate to their positions and income. They shall not indulge in extravagant or ostentatious display of wealth in any form

(i) The Civil Service Commission shall adopt positive measures to promote

(1) observance of these standards including the dissemination of information programs and workshops authorizing merit increases beyond regular progression steps, to a limited number of employees recognized by their office colleagues to be outstanding in their observance of ethical standards; and

(2) continuing research and experimentation on measures which provide positive motivation to public officials and employees in raising the general level of observance of these standards.

Section 5. Duties of Public Officials and Employees. - In the performance of their duties, all public officials and employees are under obligation to: *lawphi1.net*

(a) Act promptly on letters and requests. - All public officials and employees shall, within fifteen (15) working days from receipt thereof, respond to letters, telegrams or other means of communications sent by the public. The reply must contain the action taken on the request.

(b) Submit annual performance reports. - All heads or other responsible officers of offices and agencies of the government and of government-owned or controlled corporations shall, within forty-five (45) working days from the end of the year, render a performance report of the agency or office or corporation concerned. Such report shall be open and available to the public within regular office hours.

(c) Process documents and papers expeditiously. - All official papers and documents must be processed and completed within a reasonable time from the preparation thereof and must contain, as far as practicable, not more than three (3) signatories therein. In the absence of duly authorized signatories, the official next-in-rank or officer in charge shall sign for and in their behalf.

(d) Act immediately on the public's personal transactions. - All public officials and employees must attend to anyone who wants to avail himself of the services of their offices and must, at all times, act promptly and expeditiously.

(e) Make documents accessible to the public. - All public documents must be made accessible to, and readily available for inspection by, the public within reasonable working hours.

Section 6. System of Incentives and Rewards. - A system of annual incentives and rewards is hereby established in order to motivate and inspire public servants to uphold the highest standards of ethics. For this purpose, a Committee on Awards to Outstanding Public Officials and Employees is hereby created composed of the following: the Ombudsman and Chairman of the Civil Service Commission as Co-Chairmen, and the Chairman of the Commission on Audit, and two government employees to be appointed by the President, as members. It shall be the task of this Committee to conduct a periodic, continuing review of the performance of public officials and employees, in all the branches and agencies of Government and establish a system of annual incentives and rewards to the end that due recognition is given to public officials and employees of outstanding merit on the basis of the standards set forth in this Act. The conferment of awards shall take into account, among other things, the following: the years of service and the quality and consistency of performance, the obscurity of the position, the level of salary, the unique and exemplary quality of a certain achievement, and the risks or temptations inherent in the work. Incentives and rewards to government officials and employees of the year to be announced in public ceremonies honoring them may take the form of bonuses, citations, directorships in government-owned or controlled corporations, local and foreign scholarship grants, paid vacations and the like. They shall likewise be automatically promoted to the next higher position with the commensurate salary suitable to their qualifications. In case there is no next higher position or it is not vacant, said position shall be included in the budget of the office in the next General Appropriations Act. The Committee on Awards shall adopt its own rules to govern the conduct of its activities.

Section 7. Prohibited Acts and Transactions. - In addition to acts and omissions of public officials and employees now prescribed in the Constitution and existing laws, the following shall

constitute prohibited acts and transactions of any public official and employee and are hereby declared to be unlawful:

(a) Financial and material interest. - Public officials and employees shall not, directly or indirectly, have any financial or material interest in any transaction requiring the approval of their office.

(b) Outside employment and other activities related thereto. - Public officials and employees during their incumbency shall not:

(1) Own, control, manage or accept employment as officer, employee, consultant, counsel, broker, agent, trustee or nominee in any private enterprise regulated, supervised or licensed by their office unless expressly allowed by law;

(2) Engage in the private practice of their profession unless authorized by the Constitution or law, provided, that such practice will not conflict or tend to conflict with their official functions; or

(3) Recommend any person to any position in a private enterprise which has a regular or pending official transaction with their office. These prohibitions shall continue to apply for a period of one (1) year after resignation, retirement, or separation from public office, except in the case of subparagraph

(b) (2) above, but the professional concerned cannot practice his profession in connection with any matter before the office he used to be with, in which case the one-year prohibition shall likewise apply.

(c) Disclosure and/or misuse of confidential information. - Public officials and employees shall not use or divulge, confidential or classified information officially known to them by reason of their office and not made available to the public, either:

(1) To further their private interests, or give undue advantage to anyone; or

(2) To prejudice the public interest.

(d) Solicitation or acceptance of gifts. - Public officials and employees shall not solicit or accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, favor, entertainment, loan or anything of monetary value from any person in the course of their official duties or in connection with any operation being regulated by, or any transaction which may be affected by the functions of their office. As to gifts or grants from foreign governments, the Congress consents to:

(i) The acceptance and retention by a public official or employee of a gift of nominal value tendered and received as a souvenir or mark of courtesy;

(ii) The acceptance by a public official or employee of a gift in the nature of a scholarship or fellowship grant or medical treatment; or

(iii) The acceptance by a public official or employee of travel grants or expenses for travel taking place entirely outside the Philippine (such as allowances, transportation, food, and lodging) of more than nominal value if such acceptance is appropriate or consistent with the interests of the Philippines, and permitted by the head of office, branch or agency to which he belongs. The Ombudsman shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this subsection, including pertinent reporting and disclosure requirements. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to restrict or prohibit any educational, scientific or cultural exchange programs subject to national security requirements.

Section 8. Statements and Disclosure. - Public officials and employees have an obligation to accomplish and submit declarations under oath of, and the public has the right to know, their assets, liabilities, net worth and financial and business interests including those of their spouses and of unmarried children under eighteen (18) years of age living in their households.

(A) Statements of Assets and Liabilities and Financial Disclosure. - All public officials and employees, except those who serve in an honorary capacity, laborers and casual or temporary workers, shall file under oath their Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth and a Disclosure of Business Interests and Financial Connections and those of their spouses and unmarried children under eighteen (18) years of age living in their households. The two documents shall contain information on the following:

(a) real property, its improvements, acquisition costs, assessed value and current fair market value;

(b) personal property and acquisition cost;

(c) all other assets such as investments, cash on hand or in banks, stocks, bonds, and the like;

(d) liabilities, and;

(e) all business interests and financial connections. The documents must be filed:

(a) within thirty (30) days after assumption of office;

(b) on or before April 30, of every year thereafter; and

(c) within thirty (30) days after separation from the service. All public officials and employees required under this section to file the aforesaid documents shall also ex-

Cont. on page 10

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I believe that a journalist should write only what he holds in his heart to be true. I believe that suppression of the news, for any consideration other than the welfare of society, is indefensible.

I believe that no one should write as a journalist what he would not say as a gentleman; that bribery by one's own pocket book is as much to be avoided as bribery by the pocketbook of another; that individual responsibility may not be escaped by pleading another's instructions or another's dividends.

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REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPAL
TRIAL COURT OF
LA TRINIDAD
FIRST JUDICIAL
REGION
Benguet Province

CHRISTINE
WANGDALI,
Rep. by MONICA W.
ORAS,

Plaintiff,

-versus-

BERNARDO
MANIS,

Defendant.

CIVIL CASER-1144

For:

Sum of Money

PUBLICATION OF
DECISION

WHEREAS, on 19 July 2010, the Court rendered a Decision in the above-entitled case, and quoted as follows:

"Through the instant action file on June 24, 2009, plaintiff Christine Wangdali through her Attorney-in-Fact Monica W. Oras (Annex "A" to the Complaint) wants to collect from the defendant Bernardo Manis, the sum of P80, 000. 00 representing the principal amount of the loan secured by the latter from the former sometime in April 14, 1994. In her Complaint, plaintiff likewise prays that defendant pay her interests at the legal rate, moral damages and attorney's fees.

The summons and a copy of the Complaint were returned un-served to the defendant for the reason that he is unknown at the given address. Plaintiff thus availed of summons by publication and despite the publications made on February 14 and 21, 2010 in the Northern Philippine Times, a newspaper of general circulation in Northern Luzon and in the Province of Benguet, defendant failed to file his Answer within the period prescribed by law which is sixty (60) days from the last publication and up to this time. Plain-

tiff submitted to court copies of the newspaper publications and the Affidavit of publication executed Alfred Dizon, the publisher of Northern Philippine Times.

This being covered by the Rule on Summary Procedure, the plaintiff submitted her Position Paper attaching therein her documentary evidence.

According to plaintiff, defendant Bernardo Manis, through his Attorney-in-Fact Armie Akia, and the latter by virtue of a Special Power of Attorney (Exhibit "A"), obtained from plaintiff a loan in the sum of P 80,000. 00. The loan is payable within a period of six (6) months from April 14, 1994 or until October 14, 1994. To guarantee the payment of the said loan, defendant through hey said Attorney-in-Fact executed a Real Estate Mortgage (Exhibit A-1) over that parcel of land covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 34836 of the Registry of Deeds of Baguio City with an area of 2,453 square meters, including the improvements thereon. The debt of the defendant has long become overdue, but defendant failed to pay the same despite demands. The last written demand was sent to the defendant through registered mail on October 28, 2008 (Exhibit "B").

Instead of foreclosing the mortgage property, plaintiff opted to file this collection case in court and had to resort to serve the summons through publication because defendant could not be located and seemed to have become unreachable.

The Real Estate Mortgage (Exhibit "A-1") was executed by the defendant through his Attorney-in-Fact Armie Akia as Mortgagor, in favor of the plaintiff as mortgagee before the faith of Notary Public Ramil Lopez as Doc No. 15, Page no. 03, Book No. 01, Series of 1994. Apparently, defendant Bernardo Manis himself even signed as a witness to the docu-

ment. The Indebtedness incurred by the defendant through his Attorney-in-Fact is clearly spelled out in the said Real Estate Mortgage, to wit:

That the Mortgagor is indebted to the Mortgagee in the sum of Eighty Thousand Pesos (P80, 000. 00) Philippine Currency, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged and confessed payable within a period of six (6) months from April 14, 1994 or until October 14, 1994."

The court holds of Real Estate Mortgage is the law between the parties and must be enforced accordingly. This is in accord with the Article 1159 of the New Civil Code, which provides that, obligation arising from contracts have the force of law between the contracting parties and should be complied within good faith." Plaintiff meanwhile has the option to choose as to what remedy to take, either to pursue a collection case or to foreclose the property subject matter of the mortgage.

The rule is settled that a mortgage creditor may, in the recovery of a debt secured by a real estate mortgage, institute against the mortgage debtor either a personal action for the collection of the debt or a real action to foreclose the mortgage. These remedies available to the mortgage creditor are deemed alternative and not cumulative. An election of one remedy operates as a waiver of the other. (Suico Rattan & Buri Interiors, Inc. et al vs. Court of Appeals and Metro Bank, G. R. No. 138145, June 15, 2006, citing Bank of America NT & SA vs. American Realty Corporation and Court of Appeals, 378 Phil 1279, 1290-1291 (1999), 321 SCRA 659, 668).

The liability of defendant Bernardo Manis for the indebtedness contracted by her Attorney-in-Fact, Armie Akia under the Real Estate Mortgage dated April 14, 1994 is provided under Article 1910 of the New Civil Code, thus:

Art. 1910. The principal must com-

ply with all the obligations which the agent may have contracted within the scope of his authority. As for any obligation wherein the agent has exceeded his power, the principal is not bound except when he ratifies it expressly or tacitly.

In the present case, defendant Bernardo Manis even signed as witness in the Real Estate Mortgage, which only shows that he has expressly consented in the obligation being contracted by his Attorney-in-Fact Armie Akia.

The Latin expression, *Que per alium facit per seipsum facere videtur* - "He who does a thing by an agent is considered as doing it himself", says it all. (Prudential Bank vs. Court of Appeals, et al G. R. No. 108957, June 14, 1993).

Since defendant did not file any answer, this is likened to judgment rendered against a party in default, hence, the court cannot award unliquidated damages like moral damages being claimed by the plaintiff. However, since plaintiff was constrained to seek the services of the counsel in order to collect from defendant a monetary obligation which was past long overdue, plaintiff is entitled to a reasonable amount by way of attorney's fees, which the court hereby fix at P 20, 000. 00.

Wherefore, premises considered, judgment is rendered ordering defendant Bernardo Manis, to pay plaintiff Christine Wangdali the sum of P 80, 000. 00 representing the monetary indebtedness contracted by his attorney-in-fact Armie Akia as evidenced by the real estate mortgage dated April 1, 1994, with legal interest computed from the time of judicial demand until fully paid and the sum of P 20, 000. 00 by way of attorney's fees. Costs de officio.

So Ordered."

Whereas, on 09 February 2011, plaintiff filed a Motion

praying that the aforesaid Decision be affected upon the defendant by publication which the court granted per Order dated February 21, 2011, considering that summons to the defendant was also made through publication.

Whereas, pursuant to and in compliance with the Order of the Court dated February 21, 2011, this publication is being made for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Benguet

and suburbs. Copy of this publication was likewise sent to the last known address of the defendant.

Witness the HONORABLE DELEILA H GONZALES-MONUZ, Presiding Judge of this court, this 28th day of February, 2011 at La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

By: (SDG) JENNIFER N. PALAEZ
Clerk of Court II

Publication Dates :
March 12 and 19,
2011

The Peace Combatant

.... from page 4

are not under his control, RUN. The evil-doer will be able to hit you but, most likely, the hit will not be on a vital organ. YOU WILL PROBABLY LIVE, RUN!

As a woman, you may be always sympathetic. Jim said, STOP IT. It may get you raped or killed. Many serial killers have used a woman's sympathy and pretended to be limp, lame, and shouted for help to get their victim's attention.

The tips from Jim Paredes are highly relevant. In Baguio City, however, we need to have the pattern of how raped is committed in the City and, perhaps, the local police can provide details of how cases of rape happen in the City. That way we can protect ourselves better.

(The author can be contacted through artboquiren2040@yahoo.com, 0927-536-8431, and Facebook)

Anti - pending men

.... from page 6

about 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 21. They were reportedly with around 10-members of the AIVTF who were confiscating goods of vendors in the area when they cuffed him.

Valencia said he was about to take a photograph of Gallegos who was about to load confiscated pots full of cooked food at the back of a police mobile when the latter tried to grab the former's camera.

At the police station, Gallegos reportedly forced Valencia inside a detention cell and locked him inside for some 2-hours.

But according to records filed with the City Prosecutor's Office, Valencia apparently interfered with AIVTF operations to save goods allegedly belonging to him and maintained by a female attendant.

In their joint complaint, the law enforcers claimed it was Valencia who arrogantly demanded the goods be released claiming he was member of a local media outfit.

Badua said he recalled Valencia saying, "In case you've forgotten, allow me to remind you I am a member of the local media."

When Badua tried to explain AIVTF was merely implementing orders pursuant to Ordinance 68-98, Valencia allegedly pushed him and hurled humiliating invectives instead.

The case, based on the complaint by the AIVTF members, has been elevated to Municipal Trial Court Branch I./isl

DOST-CAR extends consultancy services to SMEs

LATRINIDAD, Benguet, The Department of Science and Technology – Cordillera Administrative Region (DOST-CAR) extends consultancy services to upgrade the capabilities of the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and increase their productivity.

DOST-CAR Director Ben Ladilad announced this saying SMEs play a vital role in the development of the country's economy representing a major share in the business sector.

There are four programs under the consultancy services such as the Manufacturing productivity extension program (MPEX), Consultancy agricultural productivity enhancement program (CAPE), Science and technology experts volun-

teer program (STEVPP), and the DOST-Academe Technology-based Development Program (DATBED).

MPEX aims to assist SMEs in the manufacturing sector to attain higher productivity.

According to Ladilad, experts from various fields will be invited to share good practices and proper process management to a pool of manufacturing firms. They will undergo training to enhance manufacturing practices.

Intended to institutionalize effective farm management strategies to improve agricultural productivity, the CAPE program targets agricultural entrepreneurs.

CAPE program also encourages the private sector to tap government generated S & T innovations in agriculture.

The STEVP

Program aims to provide technical assistance for the effective transfer, assimilation and commercialization of technologies in the countryside. This is encouraged among co-operatives, non-government organizations, local government units, state colleges and universities and other interested parties.

The DATBED program aims to develop entrepreneurial competencies among students, young professionals including out of school youths in partnership with institutions and non-governmental organizations.

The recipients to the program will be creating income generating projects for the institution.

Ladilad said they will also be given a start up capital expected to be returned to the institution for other takers.

/Susan Aro/PIA CAR

Private-Public Deal Eyed for City Gov't Housing

BAGUIO CITY – A private-public deal is eyed for the housing project for employees of the city government.

Vice mayor Daniel Farinas proposed a resolution recommending that the city government enters into a private-public partnership with the Asia Pine Hills Development Corporation to avail of its lots at Cypress Village in Irisan barangay as site of its housing project for its employees.

Farinas said the city government has for a long time been scouting for a site for the employees' housing project but efforts proved futile.

"The City Government of Baguio recognizes the need to provide decent and affordable housing to its employees in rela-

tion to its commitment to uplift the lives of its loyal and dedicated employees (but despite the efforts) it was unsuccessful in identifying an LGU-owned land suitable for housing project," he said.

"Because of the limited capacity of the local government to undertake the development of a housing project, the City Government of Baguio should partner with a reputable developer that is capable and willing to provide real property and technical services and even bridge financing support for a housing project," Farinas said.

He said the Asia Pine company has four titled lots at Cypress Village with a total area of 8,204 square meter suitable for a housing

project and the city government should cease the opportunity to deal with the company to pursue the project.

During the project's presentation to employees last week, Mayor Mauricio Domogan expressed the city's willingness to support the project and pledged subsidy for the development of the road in the site.

Asia Pine owner Peter Santos for his part committed to assist the employees by providing easy terms in the lot sale and even in the construction of houses, if so desired by the beneficiaries.

At present, the City Housing and Urban Development Board is finalizing the number of employees who manifested interest in availing of the housing project. /A Refuerzo

DENR Kalinga suspends transport permit on wood

PINUKPUK, Kalinga, – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here suspended the issuance of transport permit on wood products without proof being extracted from legal source.

In compliance to EO 23 declaring a moratorium on the cutting and harvesting of timber in natural and residual forests, wood-base industries in Kalinga are required to register with DENR their legal source of lumber.

EO 23 was issued by President Aquino to help control climate change; prevent further destructive effects on humans, properties and the environment; protect watersheds and river systems supporting existing hydroelectric power facilities and

irrigation.

Severino Dalutag, Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer here said tree cutters and buyers must register with their office the source of lumber they use in their furniture shop.

DENR has coordinated with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to deny application for business permit on wood base industries if they do not show clearance from DENR.

Local government units issuing Mayor's and barangay permit to operate business were also given notice about the matter.

"This will ensure that the necessary legal source of wood and lumber are identified and monitored," Dalutag said. Meanwhile, Senior Forester Noel

Barrientos said one advantage of identifying and legalizing source of lumber is to have guarantee of DENR's assistance and access on development projects, especially if the area is covered by a tenurial instrument.

Owners of plantations are also encouraged to register their forest to DENR in order not to be questioned by law during harvest time and transporting since a legal source is already established, he said.

Admitting they are sometimes helpless when it comes to stopping illegal transport of lumber, Barrientos said their office maintains only mobile checkpoints. But he pointed out that transport of lumber to other provinces dwindled since a permanent checkpoint was established at Talaca in Agbannawag here. /Peter Balocnit/PIA-CAR/Kalinga

Pinupuna at Pinapansin

..... from page 7

ecute, within thirty (30) days from the date of their assumption of office, the necessary authority in favor of the Ombudsman to obtain from all appropriate government agencies, including the Bureau of Internal Revenue, such documents as may show their assets, liabilities, net worth, and also their business interests and financial connections in previous years, including, if possible, the year when they first assumed any office in the Government. Husband and wife who are both public officials or employees may file the required statements jointly or separately. The Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth and the Disclosure of Business Interests and Financial Connections shall be filed by:

(1) Constitutional and national elective officials, with the national office of the Ombudsman;

(2) Senators and Congressmen, with the Secretaries of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively; Justices, with the Clerk of Court of the Supreme Court; Judges, with the Court Administrator; and all national executive officials with the Office of the President.

(3) Regional and local officials and employees, with the Deputy Ombudsman in their respective regions;

(4) Officers of the armed forces from the rank of colonel or naval captain, with the Office of the President, and those below said ranks, with the Deputy Ombudsman in their respective regions; and

(5) All other public officials and employees, defined in Republic Act No. 3019, as amended, with the Civil Service Commission.

(B) Identification and disclosure of relatives. - It shall be the duty of every public official or employee to identify and disclose, to the best of his knowledge and information, his relatives in the Government in the form, manner and frequency prescribed by the Civil Service Commission.

(C) Accessibility of documents. -

(1) Any and all statements filed under this Act, shall be made available for inspection at reasonable hours

(2) Such statements shall be made available for copying or reproduction after ten (10) working days from the time they are filed as required by law.

(3) Any person requesting a copy of a statement shall be required to pay a reasonable fee to cover the cost of reproduction and mailing of such statement, as well as the cost of certification.

to be continued

DOJ bares loopholes in Anti-Human Trafficking Law; enlists NGO's to join fight.....from page 1

nesses in these cases.”

“Once affidavits of desistance are issued, nailing traffickers no longer is viable for want of witnesses against them,” he added.

Ocampo is joined in the panel by assistant regional prosecutor Maribel Uminga, prosecutor Glenda Soriano, and former DOJ assistant undersecretary now IACAT consultant Teresita Domingo.

Meanwhile, Ocampo said a study should likewise be made a propos trafficking involving minors.

He added there might be a need to amend the law making falsification of documents punishable under the Act to act as deterrent for minors being swayed to fake travel documents.

Meantime, Domingo revealed Section 6 of RA 9228 provides a legal bar media to cause publicity of any case of trafficking in persons.

“This,” she said, “prevents the IACAT from publishing data regarding those who are accused of trafficking which could have otherwise been used to forewarn the public.”

Ocampo and Domingo however agreed publication of traffickers under the Anti-Illegal Recruitment Law may be used by the Department of Labor and Employment as a means around the confidentiality provision of RA 9228.

The panel meantime called on non-government organizations to pool resources in order to extend shelter, livelihood and moral support to victims of human trafficking.

This, they claimed, might be the only way victims could be convinced to aid the government in reducing if not eradicating the trafficking problem.

Prosecutor Gloria Agunos, citing difficulty in convincing victims to pursue their cases in court for her part, reported there are six trafficking cases filed since 2006.

“Due to witnesses issuing affidavits of desistance however, only two are currently being heard in court,” she added.*/isl*

OWWA-CAR

.... from page 2

like Bahrain and Yemen, as well in New Zealand.

Laranang also stressed that they also provided an orientation to the repatriated OFWs, particularly OWWA active members who reported to their office, to brief them on the other OWWA programs that they could avail.

Based on OWWA records, there are 321 active (OWWA member) OFWs in Libya from Cordillera of whom 221 are from the Baguio-Benguet area.

In the national level, OWWA records show there are 5,954 active OFWs working in Libya, but based on the government's estimate there as much as 26,000 to 30,000 OFWs who are working in the said troubled country./Lito Dar/PIA CAR

Japan turns over

.... from page 2

etable trimmings in the La Trinidad Trading post and those being thrown along the Halsema highway.

Fongwan thru the municipal government of La Trinidad will make sure that the facility and the fertilizer that will be produced will be put to good use.

Japan, as the top donor of the official development assistance for the country, launched the GGP here in 1989 for the purpose of reducing poverty and helping communities engaged in grassroots activities.

As of February 2011, 440 grass roots projects funded by GGP have been implemented by local government units and other private organizations with a total grant of almost US\$ 20 million./Redjie Cawis/PIA-CAR

Dads Raise Objections

.... from page 3

discussions, he added environmental concerns should likewise be considered in whether or not the measure should be approved.

Coun. Erdolfo Balajadia meantime said, “[It is as if] we are agreeing to illegal acts if we were to approve [the measure].”

Further discussions on the matter were suspended until the next session for the meantime.

For now, the rest of the city's constituents can be assured, a ‘taxi fest’ is far from being approved./Glaisa San Gabriel and Geraldine Solicfian

POEA intensifies campaign

.... from page 3

fied their campaign against illegal recruitment, as well as in advocating their Anti-Trafficking in Person (ATIP) program. In addition they are also now including in the campaign the advocacy against illegal drug couriers.

Relative to this, Camarillo announced that they will be conducting an Anti-illegal recruiter, ATIP and anti-illegal drug mule seminars in Bontoc, Mountain Province and Lagawe, Ifugao, on March 15 and 17, respectively. Invited participants in the seminar are government lead agencies, police personnel, Public Employment Service Officers, academe and local media./Lito Dar/PIA CAR

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING
AND REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City
DENVER M. OCAMPO
Applicants
Case No:2004-BAG-CAR-0308
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation and passengers and freights on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - GREEN VALLEY and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) Unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on April 8, 2011 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paodal, 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 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 9th day of March 2011.

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

DUQUE enjoins CAR

.... from page 3

work through rational and realistic parameters. Having committed and dedicated to government managers, as embodied by the officials and members of CARE, as our reliable partners, we shall realize our goal of reform and development. The CSC banks on your expertise and experience to competently lead state employees into new heights in service delivery,” Duque added.

In a separate interview, Duque also expressed his confidence to President's Benigno Aquino III's effort to clean the government bureaucracy of corruption. “Ang kinakampanya ng ating Pangulo ay tungo sa ‘tuwid na daan’ kaya dapat ito ay suportahan natin. Dapat luminya tayo dito sa panawagan ng ating pangulo so dapat, ang matuwid na daan na dapat nating ipinamamalas sa pagbibigay ng serbisyo at tigilan na ang mga katiwalian,” Duque said.

“Ang mga mamamayan naman dapat din na tumulong. Magsumbong, kung mayroon silang alam na mga katiwalian, at idulog sa mga kinauukulang ahensiya tulad ng CSC, Ombudsman at Commission on Audit. Magtulungan tayo upang maging malinis, maging matuwid at maiwasan ang baluktot na pamamalakad sa gobyerno,” Duque added.

In the said forum, CARE president and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Director Liza Fangsilat welcomed Duque in behalf of the association's members. Meantime CSC-CAR OIC Regional Director Fernando Porio did the honor of giving the welcome address and in introducing the Duque as the guest speaker./Lito Dar/PIA CAR

Editorial

.....from page 4

Catholic advocacy groups, like Dilaab, bristle at controversial provisions like Section 28 of HB4244. This shotgun clause would penalize “any person who maliciously engages in misinformation” about the HB program. “Family planning supplies are essential medicines”, it says Including abortifacients?

Philippine Medical Association backs the RH bill. It does not endorse making contraceptive devices/services available in schools. The doctors support informed choice and insist on their “rights to do what is best medically for their patients.”

Focus on the poor, suggests a cluster from business groups, from Management Association of the Philippines, Makati Business Club to Bishops-Businessmen's Conference. Family size from 6 kids per mother in 1971 did drop to a little over three by 2007.

“The decline has taken place mainly among the wealthier and educated,” they point out. Among the poor, actual family size remains at five children. Most want three, given their dire straits from joblessness to “Smokey Mountain replicas.”

Aside from Catholics, there are Muslims, Buddhists, atheists. All must be given access to free and informed choice of means to plan their families.

RH “challenges our capacity to deal with the balancing task.” Fr Bernas adds. If Congress flubs, “the bill runs the risk of a presidential veto or it will spawn intensive litigation.”

Ordinary folk, like us, can take comfort meanwhile that the Master once said: that even “publicans and prostitutes” can enter the kingdom too./Juan L. Mercado

Baguio-Benguet nutri-diet chapter makes it to National hall of Fame

Baguio-Benguet made it to the Hall of Fame in the annual search for the outstanding chapter of the Nutritionist-Dieticians' Association of the Philippines (NDAP) after capturing the national title for the third straight year at the 56th NDAP convention last March 3 at the Sofitel Hotel in Manila.

NDAP officers led by president Nieves Serra and Health Undersecretary Gerardo Bayugo presented the award to the chapter headed by Angelita Tayaban-Sabado, also the city nutritionist of Baguio.

Chapter director Imelda Degay was also cited as outstanding nutritionist-dietician for education and research.

With them were chapter treasurer Jasmin Abing and members Julie Calpotura, Joan Bordeos, Anna Ota-ot and Agnes Aspen.

The outstanding chapter was cited for its continuous participation in nutrition programs of local government units and in conducting nutrition assessment, diet counseling and food demonstrations in medical missions and on invitation of various agencies.

The members have been in partnership with the Department of Health, Department of Labor and Employment, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Civil Service Commission, Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry, and social welfare offices.

They conduct nutrition seminars and, for the past three years, have been tapped for the review courses of nutrition-dietetics graduates, resulting in higher board ratings of graduates the Benguet State University, the lone school in the region that offers the course.

They had participated in the "Enhanced Balili Feeding Project" and sponsored "small angels" or underweight children under the "Love Project" of the Health Services Office and the Baguio City Nutrition Council.

The chapter also recently recognized the best performing barangay nutrition scholars of Baguio and Benguet, aside from providing technical support to Kibungan and Bakun towns.

They are ready to expand their services to other localities in the Cordillera, reason enough for the chapter to consider changing its name to NDAP Cordillera Chapter./RDacawi.

Council Okays Fund for Panagbenga Winners

BAGUIO CITY – The city council last Monday approved the allocation of P4 million as subsidy for the various events under the Baguio Flower Festival or Panagbenga 2011 calendar of activities.

Of the amount, a total of P2,057,000 will serve as subsidy for certain events while a total of P1,903,000 will be used to defray the prizes of the winners in the various

events. The remaining P40,000 was allotted for the entertainment aspect of the festival.

The P2,057,000 subsidy is broken down as follows: P80,000 for the Mr. and Ms. Panagbenga Philippines Contest; P100,000 for the Bombo Radyo Event; P75,000 for the Barangays' participation in fluvial parade; P25,000 for the Scrabble Tournament; P24,000 for the CAR Taekwondo Association;

P48,000 for the Run Baguio Run; P150,000 for the Pony Boys Day; P100,000 for the Alay sa Kalinisan; P105,000 for Ipitik; P300,000 for the 25 landscaping contest participants; P450,000 for the 15 elementary division elimination participants; P270,000 for the nine elementary division finalists and P330,000 for the 11 high school division participants.

The P1,903,000 will fund the prizes for the winners in the following contests: Landscaping Competition; Fluvial Pa-

The JUNCTION

Pahayagang Palaban!!!



"LET'S GET PHYSICAL" – members of the Baguio's *Finest* enjoy the early morning sun while keeping themselves physically fit during routine exercises in front of city hall. Photo by paul rillorta

5 Cordillera women in danger after being tagged as Drug mules in China

BAGUIO CITY, March 11 (PIA) - With the cases of the three Filipinos scheduled to be executed in China last month for drug trafficking, more cases of Filipino drug mules abroad are coming out in the open.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration reported that there are five Cordillera women whose lives are in danger after being tagged as drug mules in China.

OWWA regional director Evelyn Laranang said that they have received a report that four of the five women from the Cordillera region are under going trial while the other one was given a guilty verdict and she is now serving life imprisonment.

Laranang said that the ladies were caught by authorities delivering drugs to different areas in China particularly in Shanghai and Beijing and in Macau in 2009.

Laranang said that of the five suspects, two came from Baguio City, two from Benguet and one from Ifugao.

She added that OWWA is working with the Department of Foreign Affairs for further inquiry and appeal to the cases.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency reports that most drug syndicates are using woman as drug mules abroad. Fama explained that ladies have more places to hide drugs than men.

PDEA public information officer Emely Fama said that women are easier to be recruited. Mostly, Filipinas are being recruited thru the internet, by the social networking sites, as employees abroad or as made to order brides.

Some cases reported by the PDEA were foreigners having Filipina girlfriends or wives who later become drug mules Fama added.

Fama said that drugs being transported are cocaine, heroine and shabu./Redgie Cawis/PIA CAR

rade Contest; Barangay Clean and Green Contest; School-based Landscaping Contest; Streetdancing Contest; Float Competition; and Drum and Lyre Competition.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan earlier assured that the city will secure funds as its counterpart for the festival to ensure that all the promised prizes and subsidies will be delivered to the participants and winners in the festival./ Glaisa San Gabriel and Geraldine Solicfian-PIO Interns

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