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WEEKEND

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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

City earmarks P5.1 million for medical assistance to BGHMC

BAGUIO CITY - The City Council approved a resolution allocating the amount of P5.1 million as medical assistance of the city government to the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC), especially for patients who are bonafide residents of the city's 128 barangays.

The resolution authored by all members of the local legislative body stated that for this year, the city government has an appropriation for financial assistance to the BGHMC, a government tertiary hospital catering to the needs of patients from different parts of Northern and Central Luzon, in the amount of P12.6 million.

Of the said amount, P7.5 million was programmed by the city government for

the purchase of medical equipment to augment the existing units of medical equipment in the said hospital, while P5.1 million is for medical assistance for indigent patients as determined under Resolution No. 099, series of 2009.

Under the approved resolution, the amount shall be allocated for the disposal of the concerned city officials, specifically the City Mayor - P550,000, the City Vice Mayor - P350,000 and the 14 members of the local legislative body - P3000,000 each.

Resolution No. 099, series of 2009 provides that the medical assistance shall be only for indigent patients who are bonafide residents of the city.

Further, the assistance shall be **Cont. on page 3**



TEST DRIVE - Mayor Benjie Magalong joins the Modern PUV Caravan while threshing out the issues and concerns during an open forum with public utility vehicle drivers and operators where some are oppose the PUV Modernization program of the DOTr and LTRFB.- By Bong Cayabyab

Usto dayta ta ni, nagngina nga agpaysu ti agpa-ospital. Salamat apo konsehales!



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To prevent Dengue page 8

Suspension of wearing of skirts recommended

City schools ordered to comply with immunization program page 7

Magalong tells LTRFB to revoke 400 taxi franchises in Baguio page 2

DPWH-CAR to turnover convention center to city by August 15 page 8

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Danao City, iiwasan ng mga turista

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



Council authorizes mayor to page 3

negotiate Asin hydro contract

Sablan declares state of emergency due to rabies page 3

City moves to protect busol watershed page 6

Barangays ordered to do inventory of deep wells page 3

DISPATCH FROM CRAME

On the Killing of another HRD, Atty. Trinidad, and on the threats to impeach VP Leni

BY: SEN. LEILA DE LIMA

Magalong tells LTFRB to revoke 400 taxi franchises in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong urged the Land Transportation Franchising Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to immediately revoke the 400 taxi franchises that it previously opened for interested applicants in the city because of its expected serious repercussions to the current traffic woes of the city.

The local chief executive questioned the wisdom of the LTFRB in unilaterally approving the opening of the taxi franchises in the city without coordinating with the local government on whether or not there is still a need to open more taxi franchises for applicants of taxi units in the city.

“LTFRB is not the one managing the traffic in our city that is why it should be inherent on the regulatory body to first coordinate with the local government to evaluate and assess whether or not there is still need for more taxi units to ply the city’s limited routes,” Mayor Magalong stressed.

Earlier, the LTFRB reportedly authorized

the opening of some 200 taxi franchises that will be on fleet management and reportedly approved another 200 franchises in lieu of the 195 taxi units that have already ceased to exist.

According to him, he already voiced out the opposition of the local government to the approved opening of the 200 taxi franchises on fleet management which was supposed to have been considered by LTFRB authorities but the same did not act on the matter as the regulatory body again approved another 200 franchises for the ones that ceased operations in the city.

The city mayor was saddened on the alleged refusal of LTFRB authorities to listen to the plight of local officials who are the ones that are aware of the expected negative impact of the additional taxi units that will operate in the city considering the status of roads and the increasing number of motor vehicles that are on the roads daily.

He stated that it is unfortunate that there are national agencies like

the LTFRB that refuses to coordinate with the local government on the grant of franchises to applicants for issuance of franchises for public utility vehicles when it is the local officials who are aware of the prevailing situation in their areas of jurisdiction and who know on whether or not there is a need to approve more franchises for taxis, jeepneys, buses and garage vans in their places.

Based on the data obtained from the LTFRB, there are some 5,215 registered public utility jeepneys, 3,246 registered taxis, 459 public utility van express and 345 buses.

Magalong explained that the initial opposition that he raised should have been a clear message to the LTFRB to reconsider its initial decision to approve the 200 taxi franchises on fleet management but higher authorities seem not to have listened to the valid points that were raised against such action and instead approved another 200 taxi franchises in lieu of the ones that ceased operations thereby casting doubts on the LTFRB on the efforts



STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART Baguio First Lady Arlene Magalong, wife of City Mayor Benjamin Magalong hands over bags and school supplies, including about 70 pairs of shoes for City Hall Day Care Center pupils on a joint project with the City Mayor’s Public Information Office. July 29. The Tom’s Shoes were donated by University of the Cordilleras’ Project HELEN headed by Project Director and VP for Administration Dr. Leonarda Aguinalde entrusted to this photo journalist. - By Bong Cayabyab.

of local officials to ease the worsening traffic congestions in their areas of jurisdiction among other reasons.

He expressed optimism that the LTFRB will reconsider its decision on the approved taxi franchises because the eventual operation of the approved additional taxi units will definitely create a nightmare on the city’s traffic woes considering the enormous number of motor vehicles that will exist on the city’s roads./ **Dexter A. See**

of the presence of south-bound buses.

He disclosed the city government needs around 4 hectares of the ceded property purposely for this facility as a 3-hectare

3 firms to join Baguio terminal projects

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong announced that three Manila-based terminal operators have already signified their intention to participate in the city government’s plan to put up a south-bound terminal within a portion of the 8-hectare lot ceded to the city by the agriculture department through

a deed of usufruct.

The city chief executive said that Shoemart, Megawide and Robinsons, three of the biggest terminal operators based in Metro Manila, already informed him of their intention to cooperate with the city government for the realization of the south-bound bus terminal to help decongest the city’s central business district

portion will be for the establishment of the proposed waste-to-energy plant while the remaining 1 hectare will be for a multipurpose use which will be determined by the city.

Earlier, Magalong revealed the city government intends to put up some 6 terminals and parking structures in strategic areas

Cont. on page 6

Informal settlers invade 8-hectare city property in dairy farm

BAGUIO CITY – The City Legal Office and the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) confirmed the presence of hundreds of informal settlers who intruded into portions of the 8-hectare lot within the Baguio Dairy Farm that was ceded to the city government by the agriculture department which should be used for the city’s priority projects.

Lawyer Rheenan Diwas reported during the regular management committee meeting presided by Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong that the informal settlers reportedly belong to the Cordillera Knights of the Old Cove, an urban poor association in the city through the years and whose members were the owners of structures that were earlier demolished by the local government

a few years ago. He claimed

some of the owners of the previously demolished shanties alleged re-built their structures in the area as confirmed by the social preparation report of CSWDO accounting for a significant increase in the number of informal settlers therein since the demolition of the illegal structures temporarily stopped following a series of restraining orders issued by local courts.

Cont. on page 6

Magalong orders closure of Session Road to vehicles every Sunday

BAGUIO CITY – The whole lane of Session Road from the frontage of the Development Bank of the Philippines going up Session Road Rotunda is closed to vehicular traffic

every Sunday starting August 4, 2019.

Meanwhile, vehicles going down from Session Road Rotunda to Malcolm Square as well as those

Street will be allowed according to City Director Allen Co of the Baguio City Police Office.

Vehicles going up from Calderon Street will not be allowed to enter Session Road, Co said.

The road closure was upon the order of Mayor Benjamin Magalong for the experimental plan to pedestrianize Session Road as part of his agenda to provide effective traffic management system in the city by encouraging and promoting walking especially at the central business district.

With the experimental

Cont. on page 3

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Sablan declares state of emergency due to rabies

BAGUIO CITY-- The local government of Sablan town in Benguet has declared the municipality under a state of emergency due to a spike in rabies cases, an official said on Friday.

"The purpose of declaring the municipality under the state of emergency is for us to adopt measures and strategies to contain the further spread of the rabies virus in the municipality and likewise in the adjacent municipalities of Benguet and the province of La Union," Sablan vice-mayor Arthur Baldo said during a press conference.

Town records showed that there were 43 persons recorded to have been exposed to the virus.

"There were three confirmed cases of rabid dogs in particular at Poblacion as reported by the municipal agriculture office and the rural health unit as confirmed by the regional animal disease diagnostic laboratory," the council resolution 19-142 approved during a special meeting on July 24 read.

Sablan is the last town along Naguilian, adjacent to Burgos town in La Union leading to the Ilocos provinces.

The first case involved a dog that bit three persons. The incident led to the exposure of eight persons.

The second case involved a dog that bit two persons which led to the exposure of 35 people.

The third case involved a "rabid dog" but the animal did not bite anyone.

Those exposed were the technicians who handled the dogs without protective gear, the drivers of the vehicles that delivered the dogs to the laboratory.

Baldo said those bitten were given anti-rabies vaccines and the dog was brought to the laboratory for examination.

The 43 people who were exposed to the virus were also given vaccines, he added.

Baldo said Sablan did not have any rabies case for several years as the town conducted an annual anti-rabies vaccination of dogs and cats. They are able to do the activities with funds allotted in the annual budget for the purchase of vaccines.

"We have been regularly awarded for being the only town in Benguet that is able to annually implement a 90 percent vaccination of cats and dogs. We have been doing this for several years as a preventive measure," he said.

However, with the spike in rabid bites and exposure of over 40 people, there was a need to immediately address the situation, Baldo said.

The declaration of the state of emergency was to allow local officials to access the Quick Response Fund (QRF) for the purchase of anti-rabies vaccines that cost

PHP1,000 for each shot and given four times to a person who is bitten by a rabid dog.

He also said they will also purchase dog collars and leash to contain all stray dogs and cats.

With the help of the provincial veterinary office and the Department of Agriculture, they have also conducted a mass vaccination of around 1,700 cats and dogs located five-kilometer radius from where the dog bites were recorded on July 27 and 28. This will be extended to the seven other villages of Sablan.

A massive information campaign on rabies was also done with the help of the barangay officials, the village watchmen and midwives to contain the problem.

Baldo said they have also disseminated the information to the local governments of Burgos, La Union and the town of Tuba and Baguio.

He said they will continue with anti-rabies vaccinations as he urged the public to bring their pets to the municipal veterinary office.

Sablan has a population of 11,457 and there have been 1,700 cats and dogs already vaccinated.

"Some households have 10 pets. Sablan people are animal lovers," Baldo said.

Sablan has an ordinance prohibiting all stray animals but it is difficult to implement. However, with the recent development, town officials have approached residents to tie their animals or keep them in a cage, he added.

"At present, we are trying all means to contain the further spread of the rabies virus in the municipality and I believe with this help of the provincial vet, the regional office, and even you the media, to spread the information that everyone should have to take care of their pets. We can positively contain the spread of the virus," Baldo said. /Liza Agoot (PNA)



ANTI PUV MODERNIZATION - Baguio public utility vehicle drivers and operators opposes PUV Modernization Plan of the DOTr and LTRFB at the City hall grounds July 30. - By Bong Cayabyab

Barangays ordered to do inventory of deep wells

BAGUIO CITY - Mayor Benjamin Magalong directed punong barangays in the city to conduct an inventory of deep wells in their areas of jurisdiction for the city to come up with a database of such water supply facilities to provide or augment needed information on underground water utilization and management.

In a memorandum dated July 16, the mayor said this is in support of the ongoing inventory of deep wells being undertaken by the Water Resource Utilization Section (WRUS) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Cordillera

(DENR-CAR) to address the depletion of the city's underground aquifer.

"The list shall include the name of the operator or owner or beneficial user of the wells whether private or public in nature as well as a map indicating its location within the barangay," the mayor said as he gave them until Sept. 30 to comply.

The mayor in a meeting with DENR-CAR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo expressed concern on the continued exhaustion of the city's groundwater citing findings that these sources were not recharging despite the rains.

Pablo said the inventory initiated by the

DENR-CAR and to be conducted in collaboration with the city government aims to gather data to establish the extent of these deep wells' effect on the aquifer and determine what measures can be undertaken to address the problem.

Baguio Water District (BWD) General Manager Salvador Royeca had earlier affirmed that private wells in the city contribute to the dwindling of the water drilled from the aquifer especially during the summer when there was scarce supply and residents resort to "over-pumping" of their wells.

He said the BWD had

Cont. on page 6

Magalong orders closure of...

from page 2

road closure, Magalong also eyes to achieve his target in revitalizing the environment by improving quality of air at the central business district and lower the amount of vehicular emission of air pollutants.

The BCPO assumed moderate to heavy traffic along other major roads at the CBD such as Harrison Road, Magsaysay Avenue, Legarda Road, Assumption Road, Bonifacio Street, City Hall Loop

towards Bautista Drive, Otek Street and Abanao as a result of the partial closure of Session Road.

Police personnel, traffic aides of the city government and the Public Order and Safety Division (POSD) are mandated to man traffic flow during the experimental road closure as well as the installation of advance traffic advisory within the major thoroughfares in the city. /Jessa Mardy Samidan

Council authorizes mayor to negotiate Asin hydro contract

BAGUIO CITY - The local legislative body approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong to negotiate and enter into re-contract with the energy department for the renewal of the service contract of the city-owned Asin mini-hydroelectric plants.

The resolution authored

by all members of the local legislative body stated one of the legal requirements needed by the energy department is the submission by the local government of a resolution authorizing the local chief executive to enter into a re-contract with the energy department for the renewable service contract of the city-owned Asin

minihydro power plants.

The resolution stipulates that the city government is the lawful owner of a series of hydroelectric plants located at barangay Tadiangan, Tuba, Benguet which are currently non-operational due to the absence of a special permit from the energy department.

The three minihydro

Cont. on page 7

Applause for death, drugs, sex jokes – that is the State of the Nation

By: Ana P. Santos (www.rappler.com)

Every July for 3 years now, President Rodrigo Duterte drags us down a cesspool of rambling profanity, lasciviousness, and threats that, aided by film directors and creative camera angles, has been passed off as the State of the Nation Address (SONA).

It is easy to say that his speechwriters lack the imagination to draft political thought prose that would merit the use of a compound sentence, but Duterte has always gone off script. He can only manage to read a few lines from prepared text before going into terrain that is familiar to him: vulgarity, brutality, inanity, and duplicity masquerading as governance.

Of course, one can argue that Duterte always disintegrates into a verbal septic tank, spewing absurdities at geyser levels, whenever he makes a speech, but translating this into a State of the Nation Address makes the tirade into an official report card of the administration's "achievements." This is the official platform which is supposed to serve as the administration's report of its accomplishments, justification that it is upholding its social contract with the citizens, and a roadmap to tell us where it is we're headed. But his 4 SONAs have been issued through a standard 3-trope template:

Drugs: The cause of all our problems and are to blame for destroying our country, our children, and everything that we hold dear.

Threats: Direct threats like bombing lumad schools or indirect ones like

EDITORIAL

encouraging you to slap a government official who is asking for a bribe, are hung over our heads like a punishment for not following Duterte's Law. The threats are a jumble of words that go something like: "Do what I say or I swear to God and my mother's grave, I will kill all of you mother fuckers." It kind of sounds like what my father used to say when I was a kid: "Do it or else..."

Comic relief: A sexually-loaded "joke" targeted at women to make people laugh but effectively reduce women to caricatures. The ambitious bitch who was too smart and had it coming, the whore, the slut waiting under the Boracay sun for a foreign gentleman to come and visit. (Although based on the transcripts, it is unclear if Duterte was actually referring to foreign female tourists lounging under the sun. It is difficult to decipher, but Duterte has always had a penchant for foreign women. Case in point: his rape "joke" about the Australian nun.)

But most disturbing is how this trifecta template is met with applause and laughter even after 3 years of Filipinos hearing the same thing. Sycophants and minions were only too eager to do the President's bidding, clapping their hands and wagging their tails, overshadowing the protestors on the streets just outside the congressional hall. Some legislators were seen on camera snoozing through parts of the 93-minute verbal meandering. It is another indication that they don't take him seriously. Maybe they know that they just have to sit through this to get their program budgets – much like that drunken old uncle at Christmas that you detested but endured as a child because he would always give you a present anyway.

In our homes, in our offices, or on jampacked trains or in a van – wherever we are watching the SONA – we look away, we keep our head down, change the channel, or swipe up. Some may applaud or chuckle. Our silence, our indifference, is our version of acceptance, of approval.

This is how we make the unacceptable acceptable, even laughable and worthy of applause. What else can we do, we tell ourselves? Isn't it better that we can just go about our business working or whatever it is that we do in our own way to make life a little easier for ourselves and our families? It is easy to question the point of outrage when trolls and bots are already at the firing line ready to echo the administration's message and question, shoot down, and vilify anyone on social media who dares to express a different opinion.

Meanwhile, our sense of what is wrong and what is right are reset, recalibrated according to a standard that we had once considered abhorrent. Our norms and decency disappear into a dark place, safe from the scorn of others and the tugging of our conscience.

"Three more years to go," many have said, between gritted teeth.

Is that the way to cope with this madness? Or should we look at what has happened in just 3 years?



KAKAMPIMO ANG BATAS

Danao City, iiwasan ng mga turista

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY: "... `Ako ang mabuting pastor. Iniaalay ng mabuting pastor ang kanyang buhay para sa mga tupa'..." (si Jesus, ang ating Diyos at Tagapagligtas at Siyang Diyos Ama, Anak, at Espiritu Santo, sa Juan 10:11, Bibliya).

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DANA O CITY, IIWASAN NG MGA TURISTA: Pasensiya na pero hindi ako hihingi ng paumanhin sa aking pahayag sa Facebook: Sa Danao City, Cebu Province, may ilang mga residente sa lungsod na iyon na kasama sa parada upang ipagdiwang ang isang piyesta doon noong gabi ng Julio 31, 2019 ang tunay namang mga lasing na, sa dami marahil ng kanilang nainom na, at nawala tuloy sila sa katinuan ng isip.

Kasama ko ang aking maybahay noon, at ilang mga kaibigan sa Cebu, noong pinahinto ang aming sasakyan sa National Highway, sa malapit sa tinatawag nilang "tinapaan" (o mga kainan ng mga isdang inihaw sa gilid ng kalsada) sa Danao City, upang bigyang-daan ang parada. Nagulat na lamang kaming lahat noong pinaghahampas ng mga kasama sa parada, na kitang-kita na mga lasing na, ang sinasakyan naming kotse.

Ganundin ang ginawa ng iba pa sa mga lasing na ding kasama sa parada sa mga sasakyang gaya namin ay nakahinto din sa gitna ng highway. Nagdulot tuloy ito ng takot at pagkabalisa sa marami, lalo na at walang pulis o iba pang autoridad na dapat ay nagbantay para sa kaayusan ng ganoong mga pagdiriwang. Sa halip na maka-anyaya ng mga turista, lokal man o dayuhan, tiyak iiwasan na ang Danao City dahil sa mga ganoong kaguluhan.

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KAHANDAANG MAGPATULOY SA TRABAHO, DULOT AY BUWENAS SA BUHAY: Sa maraming pagkakataon sa buhay, ang sinumang may angking kakayahan o talino at walang takot magpatuloy sa trabaho kahit wala na sa kaniyang tungkulin ang pagpapatuloy sa iba pang mga gawain ang madalas ay siyang nakakatanggap ng paghanga at paggalang ng kaniyang kapwa, di man nila layon ang sila ay hangaan at bigyang-galang.

Ganitong tao si Cris Aldaya ng Acqua Restaurant sa Shangrila Mactan, sa Lapulapu City, Cebu. Isa siyang bartender sa hotel, pero tumutulong din siyang mapagsilbihan ang mga nag-aalmusal doon. Hindi na lamang pinagsusumikang tiyakin ni Cris na mainit lagi ang kape ng kanilang mga customer. Nagsusumikap din siyang tugunan ang iba pa nilang pangangailangan, gaya ng pagpili ng iba pang mga pupuwedeng kainin o tikman man lang.

Cont. on page 5

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Kakampi mo ang Batas... from page 4

Tapos, maituturing ding “sharpshooter” si Cris---maayos at mahusay ang mga litratong kinukuha niya para sa mga customers ng hotel na humihiling sa kaniya na sila ay malitratuhan. Kung tutuusin, hindi na nga naman gawain ni Cris ang kumuha ng mga litrato para sa mga customers, pero lagi siyang nagpapaunlak, ng may kasama pang ngiti sa mga labi. Ito ang mga malayo ang mararating.

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BOGO CITY, BAKA GUSTONG PASYALAN NI GOV. GWEN AT SEC. MARK: Marahil, nanaisin ni Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia at Secretary Mark Villar ng Department of Public Works and Highways na pasyalan, kung magkakaroon sila ng oras bagamat napakadami nilang mga gawain sa kani-kanilang mga tanggapan, ang Hall of Justice ng Bogo City, Cebu, na isa sa mga lugar kung saan ang mga hukuman ng Seventh Judicial Region ng Korte Suprema ay nakalagay.

Nagtungo kami doon sa Bogo City ng aking maybahay, si dating Judge Angelina Domingo Mauricio, at ng ilang mga kaibigang may kailangan sa Hall of Justice, at nakita namin ang hindi maayos na daanan patungo sa gusali ng mga hukuman mula sa National Highway sa lunsod, bagamat wala pang limang daang metro ang pagitan.

Tapos, doon mismo sa paligid ng Hall of Justice, lupa at mga bato ang nandodoon. Tiyak, pag umuulan, putik ang magiging hitsura ng kapaligiran ng hukuman. At kung tag-init naman, tiyak na mapupuno ng pulbos na alikabok ang lahat ng may mga transaksyon doon. Gov. Garcia at Sec. Mark, baka naman may magagawa kayo para sa hukuman sa Bogo City?

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REAKSIYON? Tawag po sa 0977 805 9058, 0918 574 0193, 0933 8251308 o sa aking Messenger account sa Facebook: Melanio Lazo Mauricio Jr. Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com, mmauriciojr111@gmail.com. Maaari din po kayong mag-post ng inyong mga reaksiyon sa aking Facebook page, www.facebook.com/attybatas.

Editorial

from page 4

The blood of more than 27,000 has been shed in the name of cracking down on illegal drugs, the youngest victim being 3-year-old Mica, who ran into her father's arms during another drug bust that “went bad.”

Close to a hundred have been killed in violence sweeping the Visayas in central Philippines.

Violent extremism is positioning itself as an option, as a form of resistance, as Marawi remains in ruins and thousands still live in tents two years after the military took back control of the city.

Our fishermen cannot fish in our waters without fearing that a Chinese vessel will ram and sink their boat and leave them to drown in the →

City earmarks P5.1 million... from page 1

extended to patients who are confined at the charity ward of the BGHMC for expenses for drugs, medicines, medical services, professional fees, laboratory tests, ECG, x-ray, surgery, and other medical or laboratory procedures, directly provided by the government hospital.

For out-patients and emergency patients, the resolution stipulated the funds may cover the same expenses as the above, but limited to what is directly provided by the hospital.

The approved resolution outlines that the councilor or official shall identify and recommend, through a letter, the indigent and deserving patient who may avail of the medical assistance and that the letter which will be addressed to the BGHMC medical center chief should indicate the maximum amount the patient can avail of under the fund.

Moreover, the guarantee letter should be accompanied by proof that the beneficiary patient is a bonafide resident of the city and proof that the patient is an indigent.

In emergency cases, the aforesaid requirements may be waived or submitted later by the patient after undergoing the emergency procedures.

The resolution adds that the BGHMC, through its credit and collection office, shall furnish each official on a quarterly basis, the list of patients who have availed of the medical assistance program, including the amount of assistance extended for monitoring and recording purposes.

The grant of financial and medical assistance to the deserving indigent patients has been a continuing program of the local government that trace back to the previous administrations considering the growing need for the said assistance from the indigent patients confined in the said hospital who come from the city's 128 barangays./Dexter A. See

City earmarks P5.1 million... from page 1

The Supreme Court in a decision dated February 4, 2009 sustained the city government's bid to demolish said structures by alleged ancestral land claimants.

The High Tribunal sustained the city government's contention that the city is governed by its charter and “thus, (lot occupants) cannot claim their alleged ancestral lands under the provisions of the Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA).”/Aileen P. Refuerzo

open sea.

Ousting a chief justice of the Supreme Court is faster than getting an annulment.

The Vice President and others have been charged with sedition.

The list goes on and on.

Simultaneously, a former police chief and architect of the war on drugs is an elected senator set to conduct an “independent” investigation into drug operations, extinguishing any hope of justice for those killed.

A dictator we fought against is buried among heroes who fought for our freedom; his children and grandchildren are back in power, pulling the strings of government to work in their favor.

The ramifications of these will outlast the next 3 years. Our institutions are compromised and, along with it, our values as a people with a proud history of fighting against oppression and dictatorship have been reset to apathy and passive disagreement.

Looking away and bowing our head →

DISPATCH FROM CRAME
On the Killing of another HRD, Atty. Trinidad, and on the threats to impeach VP Leni
BY: SEN. LEILA DE LIMA

A day after the President spewed rhetoric on a better life for Filipinos, another human rights defender was shot dead in Negros. It seems that this administration's idea of a better life for Filipinos is one without its critics – where peace comes from the barrel of a gun.

Atty. Anthony Trinidad, a lawyer for political prisoners in Negros, was reportedly among the names in a hit list by an alleged anti-communist group. This recent spate of killings in Negros is aggravated by the President's Memorandum Order No. 32 which puts the entire Negros island under increased military deployment.

Recall that in 2018, human rights lawyer Atty. Benjamin Ramos, who provided assistance to families of slain sugarcane farmers in Negros became the 34th lawyer killed under the Duterte administration. In April 2019, another human rights defender, Bernardo Patigas, was killed in Negros Occidental.

In the last 3 years of the Duterte regime, attacks on critics and the poor will be relentless. But so is our resolve to put an end to this terrible nightmare. This latest incident underscores the compelling necessity and urgency for the passage into law of the Human Rights Defenders' Protection bill, which I refiled this 18th Congress.

Hustisya para kay Atty. Trinidad! Stop the attacks! Stop the killings! Tuloy ang laban!

oOo

What “Betrayal of public trust” is Presidential Anti-Corruption Commissioner Manuelito Luna talking about when Vice President Leni Robredo supported the UNHRC Resolution? It's what any self-respecting statesman would do. It should be what any President who has nothing to hide would also do.

Nakanap na naman ang administrasyon ng isa pang mouthpiece para pagtakpan ang patong-patong na kasalanan nila sa bayan. For his brownie points, Commissioner Luna is more than happy to be one, arrogantly warning the Vice President of the Republic to temper her statements on the human rights situation in our country, or else...

Calling for the impeachment of the Vice President is also a diversion from the real accountability that President Duterte has to answer. Because the world has spoken once more, the Duterte regime is once again scrambling for a scapegoat for its lack of commitment to uphold human rights. VP Leni is on the receiving end of this dirty trick.

Ang tunay na nagtaksil sa kanyang mandato na protektahan ang mamamayang Pilipino ay si Rodrigo Duterte at ang kanyang administrasyon.

down until this is all over will not change any of that.

But I do agree with Duterte when he said that we were entering a period of consequences and said: “I have met the enemy face-to-face and, sadly, the enemy is ‘us.’ We are our own tormentors...we are our own demons, we are as rapacious predators preying on the helpless, the weak, and the voiceless.”

If the SONA serves as a roadmap of what we have done and where we are headed, when all of this is supposed to be over, will we still recognize the enemy when the enemy is us? – *Rappler.com*

Barangays ordered to do...
from page 3

been hoping that the National Water Resource Board (NWRB) will stop issuing permits for the drilling of private wells and had opposed new applications to prevent the further depletion of the city's natural water source.

Royeca said they will continue to air this concern to the national government and the NWRB in cooperation with the city government and other concerned

agencies.

Magalong assured that this concern will be brought to the attention of these agencies for proper action.

During his term, former mayor Mauricio Domogan sought the devolvement of the NWRB function to regulate and issue permits to deep wells to the local governments to stem the proliferation of illegal deep wells that deplete the city's water supply and damage its aquifers.

Informal settlers invade...
from page 2

Diwas admitted that the 3 lots having a total land area of over 8 hectares ceded to the city government for public use is squatted upon by an increasing number of informal settlers, thus, the need to institute appropriate measures further increase informal settlers that will complicate the problems of the city in the future.

Earlier, the Municipal Trial Court in Cities Branch 2 issued a Special Demolition Order for the dismantling of some 344 illegal structures within portions of the 94-hectare Baguio Dairy Farm but some property owners secured restraining orders that spared the big structures from being demol-

ished up to date.

In her social preparation report, CSWD Officer Betty Fangasan disclosed there are some 147 shanties discovered in the area wherein the same were made up of light materials.

Of the said number of illegal structures, 112 are occupied by families while 35 are unoccupied whose owners only visit the area during scheduled meetings as some of them allegedly own houses in the different parts of the city.

Fangasan added the area where the structures have been erected is considered hazardous that pose a serious threat to the safety of the people living in the temporary shanties

3 firms to join Baguio...
from page 2

around the city for the parking requirements of buses plying different destinations outside the city aside from providing adequate parking spaces for motor vehicles coming from different areas.

Apart from the proposed south-bound bus terminal, the other proposed terminals and parking structures will be located within the 8,000-square meter property of Dwight Nicolas Bello in Irisan for west-bound buses, the Slaughterhouse bus terminal for north-bound buses, the State-owned Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) property that will serve as a central bus terminal and parking structure and the proposed P200 million multi-level parking structure at the back of the Baguio Convention Center.

Magalong ordered the concerned offices of the city government to fastrack the survey of the Baguio Dairy Farm to ascertain the areas ceded to the city and for the immediate completion of the comprehensive master development plan as there are two major strategic projects planned for the said area.

Former Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan negotiated with Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol for the

City moves to protect busol watershed

BAGUIO CITY - The city government began its planned series of actions to protect the critical Busol

The former mayor bemoaned that the NWRB seemed to be oblivious to the city's true situation and even ignored valid petitions and oppositions lodged by the BWD and individuals over some applications for water rights in the city./*Aileen P. Refuerzo*

that were constructed by the occupants.

Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong claimed the city government urgently needs the available lot for the city's 2 strategic projects needing substantial spaces, specifically the waste-to-energy project needing a total land area of 2.6 hectares and the proposed south-bound bus terminal requiring at least 4 hectares.

He claimed one of the good news for the informal settlers is the proponents for the 2 major projects are willing to provide the needed employment to the informal settlers for them to have sustainable sources of livelihood for their families who had been in the area for quite along period of time./*Dexter A. See*

ceding of an 8-hectare portion of the 94-hectare Baguio Dairy Farm property of the agency to the city government purposely for the priority projects of the city through a 50-year deed of usufruct.

Initially, the city's temporary waste transfer station was constructed in a 5,000-square meter portion of the ceded property after a La Trinidad court barred the local government's hauler in using his property in Longlong, Puguis, La Trinidad, Benguet as a staging area for the city's residual waste prior to being hauled out to the Urdaneta City, Pangasinan engineered sanitary landfill./*Dexter A. See*

watershed, the city's biggest source of potable water, against further intrusions.

Mayor Benjamin Magalong in a press briefing Aug. 2 bared that the city through the City Buildings and Architecture Office (CBAO) issued cease and desist notices to about five owners of ongoing constructions within the forest reservation.

The mayor said this would be followed through with succeeding notices for them

to voluntarily dismantle their structures but if they will defy the orders, then the city will be forced to undertake the demolition in the coming days.

Magalong said all ongoing structures will have to go as the city's first wave of action to save the watershed.

Those entangled in court cases will be dealt with eventually through joint actions with the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources Cordillera (DENR-CAR).

The city will also collaborate with the DENR-CAR

to pursue the reversion procedures to reclaim the 7.8 hectare lot within the Busol watershed that was allegedly illegally titled by unscrupulous individuals.

The filing of the case for reversion rests with the Office of the Solicitor General and up to now since the matter was discovered in 2015, the procedure has not been started despite several follow-ups done by the city and the DENR-CAR.

The City Legal Office said they plan to ask the mayor to invite the OSG to the city for a dialogue to further explain the situation.

Asst. City legal officer Melchor Carlos Rabanes said the city government as early as July 28, 2014 forwarded the matter to the OSG for the filing of reversion case to cancel the Original Certificate of Title No. 018-0-162 covers an area of 77,849 square meters which was subdivided into 22 lots with duly issued Transfer Certificates of Title (TCTs).

Also on Sept. 6, 2013, the city also filed an affidavit of adverse claim for annotation to the contested title and the 22 derivative ones

In 2013, then city assessor Nilda Navarro discovered the spurious titles upon review of applications for tax declaration covering the subdivided lots and noticed the lack of revalidation before its subdivision.

The subject lot is covered by a 211 title or part of those titles issued under Civil Reservation Case No. 1 Record 211 and which were declared void by the Supreme Court because the court that issued the same had no jurisdiction. The said titles can be legalized only upon undergoing validation proceedings.

The Baguio Regreening Movement (BRM) chaired by former city prosecutor Erdolfo Balajadia also planned a joint action with the city government, DENR-CAR and the Baguio Water District to pursue the reversion process to cancel the irregular titles along with the court case against those responsible for the illegal titling and the filing of a petition for the issuance of a temporary environmental protection order (TEPO) or a Writ of Kalikasan to protect Busol.

Another issue on Busol which the mayor is expected to address soon is the structures up for demolition covered by Demolition Order No. 33 series of 2005 of former mayor Braulio Yaranon.

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

PAUL LUMAS-E
Applicant
CASE No. 2016-CAR-171
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on July 12, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CAR with the use of one (1) unit.

NOTICE is hereby given that this Board shall hear this application on August 20, 2019 at 2:00 PM the LTRFB Office, Pacdal Baguio City in which date and time 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) daily newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written oppositions supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and 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 Engr. LALAIN E. SOBREMONT E, OIC-Regional Director, this 29th day of JULY 2019, Baguio City.

ATTY. JESSIE C. BALAGOT
Hearing Officer

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

LYNDON JOSE RIMORIN
Applicant
CASE No. 2006-CAR-129
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on July 12, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CAR with the use of one (1) unit.

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ATTY. JESSIE C. BALAGOT
Hearing Officer

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

LUGENIA NITRON
Applicant
CASE No. 2011-CAR-586
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application filed on July 12, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TX Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CAR with the use of one (1) unit.

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ATTY. JESSIE C. BALAGOT
Hearing Officer

City schools ordered to comply with immunization program

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Benjamin Magalong on July 29 ordered all public and private pre-school and elementary schools until Grade 7 to comply with the school-based immunization program of the Dept. of Health (DOH) to ensure the eradication of vaccine-preventable diseases in the city.

In Executive Order No. 30-19, the mayor noted the low immunization coverage in the city which makes the children susceptible to diseases and risks the development of outbreaks and epidemics despite the availability of free, potent and high quality vaccines.

“Since the year 2000, Baguio City has recorded five measles outbreak, the recent was during the first quarter of 2019,” the mayor said.

“Immunization coverage based on health centers’ report of Field Health Service Information System of Fully

Immunized Children (FIC) from 2004 to 2017 was from 41 percent to 71 percent far from the 95 percent target set by the (DOH).”

The mayor also highlighted that in the recently conducted School-Based Immunization, Baguio City recorded the lowest in the whole Cordillera Administrative Region which was attributed to factors like the dengvaxia scare.

He said the achievement of 95 percent fully immunized schoolchildren rests on the “unified commitments of the national government, local government unit, school heads, health workers, communities, parents and all sectors of society.”

In his order, the mayor directed the continuation of measles outbreak response vaccination and the regular school-based immunization nationwide to all eligible schoolchildren from pre-school to

Grade 7 as per Department of Education Memorandum 08-0518-0181.

He also ordered the mobilization of the city government, school boards, school heads and other sectors to support the program and spelled out the tasks of the implementing agencies – the DOH Center for Health Development Cordillera as lead agency, the Department of Education, Division of Baguio and the city government through the Health Services Office and the Parents, Teachers and Community Association.

The DOH CHD-CAR will implement the programs, formulate, disseminate guidelines, provide technical assistance, conduct school-based advocacy and social mobilization activities, complement health human resource gaps and monitor submission of required reports.

The City Schools

government to submit a 5-year work and financial plan with the corresponding financial commitments, topographic map and curriculum vitae of the management and technical personnel, aside from submitting the audited financial statement for the last 2 years, current unaudited financial statement, current bank certificate and projected cash flow statement for 2 years.

The energy department mandated the local government to submit all the requirements within 30 days from receipt of the response, otherwise, the city’s application for renewable service contract application for the said sites will be deemed disqualified.

The local government bid out the operation of the power plants that resulted to the declaration of Kaltimex Energy Philippines as the complying bidder but the company failed to operate the same for still unknown reasons to date./Dexter A. See

Division will ensure that all eligible learners for the year 2019-2020 with zero or one dose of measles containing vaccine will receive the anti-measles dose and the tetanus – diphtheria vaccine, inform learners and parents or guardians on the program and retrieve the notification letters, conduct screening by checking immunization records or school health records, ensure that learners with incomplete immunization will coordinate with the health centers to complete the same and submit report the City National Immunization Program on a weekly basis.

The Health Service Office for its part will initiate micro planning with DOH, DepEd, private schools and HSO staff and carry out plans, ensure provision of cold chain guarded vaccines to all schools, provide health human resource complement during the campaign, report and investigate any adverse event, collate and submit reports from schools on a regular basis and conduct post-evaluation of the program.

The PTCA will help in the promotion of the program and will include in their agenda the information campaign for the immunization campaign in their regular meetings./Aileen P. Refuerzo

City streamlines issuance...

from page 8

ances.

If the concerned offices will not act on the request for online validation of the clearances within one hour, the applied business permit will be deemed approved and that the same will be printed upon payment and the same will be subsequently released to the applicant.

On the issuance of building permits, the CBAO is mandated to issue applications for simple building permits in 7 days, medium complex building permits in 22 days and complex building permits in 32 days inclusive of the signing of the permits by the city building official.

Dela Peña disclosed that simple building permits are for structures below 3 stories, medium complex permits are for structures 3 to 8 stories but less than 10,000 square meters floor area while complex building permits are for structures having over 10,000 square meters.

According to him, there will be personnel of the CBAO who will first evaluate the application for issuance of building permits and if the applications will be returned to the applicant for lack of requirements, the counting of the number of days will not start until such time that all the requirements will be completed.

Notice of Extrajudicial Settlement of the Estate of the Late Tomas Juico De La Peña with Waiver of Hereditary Rights

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Tomas Juico De La Peña who died intestate on June 20, 2019 at Pines City Doctors Hospital, Baguio City involving his PNB savings account is the subject of an extrajudicial settlement among the heirs and entered into the Notarial Register of Notary Public Robles G. Calabias as per Doc. 302; Page No. 61; Book No. XXXV, Series of 2019 of Baguio City

July 27 and August 3 & 10, 2019

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH SIMULTANEOUS WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ESTHER DUMANGENG, who died intestate last June 5, 2019 at the Baguio General Hospital, Baguio City, pertaining to a stall bearing No. 214, Block 4 Relocation, City Market, Kayang, Hilltop, Baguio City, which have been the subject of an Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate with Simultaneous Waiver of Rights by her heirs as per Doc. No. 137; Page No. 28; Book No. 26 and Series of 2019 of the Notarial Registry of Atty. Meshack C. Macwes on July 22, 2019 at Baguio City.

July 27 and August 3 & 10, 2019

DPWH-CAR to turnover...

from page 8

center include the upgraded sound system, increased seating capacity, refurbished seats, improved aesthetics among others.

The Baguio Convention Center was constructed by the Ministry of Human Settlements in 1978 to serve as the venue for the world chess championship match between world champion anatoly Karpove and Victor Korchnoi.

The local government was able to acquire the property from the State-owned Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in 2012./Dexter A. See

He added that the local government will have to make do with the streamlined issuance of business and building permits for the meantime but efforts are being done to find ways on how to further improve the same pursuant to the pertinent provisions of the law on the ease of doing business in the country.

He urged the transacting public to be patient in transacting business with the different offices of the local government because the present administration is trying to look for every opportunity to provide them with efficient and effective services that will warrant their utmost satisfaction./Dexter A. See

Council authorizes mayor to... from page 3

power plants were operated and managed by the local government for several years after the expiration of its 25-year contract with Davao Lights in 2006 that yielded additional income for the city before it was issued a cease-and-desist order by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) for alleged lack of certificate of compliance in October 2012.

Mayor Magalong recently expressed the urgency of reactivating the operation of the city-owned power plants and has initiated the process of applying for the issuance of a special permit by the energy department to operate the Asin minihydro power plants to maximize its potentials of generating added resources for the local government.

The local chief executive inquired from the energy department on the appropriate guidance on how to fast-track the processing of the renewable energy service contract application of the local government for its Asin minihydro power plants.

In response, Director Mylene C. Capongcol, officer-in-charge of the energy department’s renewable energy management bureau, explained that as per guidance from the agency’s centralized review and evaluation committee, the city government is required to submit its renewable energy service contract application together with the needed documentary requirements, such as copy of the city charter, original copy of the resolution authorizing its representative to negotiate and enter into re-contract with the energy department, and organizational structure of the city government indicating the specific office occupying the position in the table of organization in the city government profile.

The energy department also required the local

DPWH-CAR to turnover convention center to city by August 15

BAGUIO CITY – The Cordillera office of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH-CAR) and the contractor will be formally turning over to the local government the newly refurbished city-owned Baguio Convention Center (BCC) by August 15, 2019 in time for its use for the 110th Charter Day anniversary of Baguio City on September 1, 2019.

City Administrator Engr. Bonifacio dela Peña said that he already had initial talks with DPWH-CAR regional officials and the contractor on the current status of the ongoing rehabilitation of the city-owned property where he was assured that the facility will be ready to be turned over to the city on the aforesaid date.

However, he disclosed that a portion of the property will be used by the contractor to temporarily stockpile the units of heavy equipment that were used in the rehabili-

itation of the city-owned convention facility while awaiting their being trans-

ported to their other project sites.

The city administrator claimed that the local government will have the first crack in using the newly rehabilitated convention center considering that it will serve as the venue for the main program of the 110th Charter Day anniversary on September 1, 2019.

“We remain optimistic that the scheduled turnover of the convention center to the city will be realized so that the facility will be used for the main program of the Charter anniversary of Baguio,” dela Peña stressed.

The theme of this year’s Charter Day anniversary celebration is Baguio@110; Breath of Fresh Air.”

He added that President Rodrigo R. Duterte is being eyed as the guest of honor and speaker during the city’s special day but there are other alternative speakers that are in the pipeline once the Chief Executive will

not be available to be in the city on September 1,

2019 to celebrate with the people and officialdom of the city.

In 2018, the local government was able to access some P180 million from the public works department through the initiative of former Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan and City Planning and Development Officer Engr. Evelyn G. Cayat, who is a close acquaintance of Public Works Undersecretary Maria Catalina Cabral, for the rehabilitation and upgrading of the city-owned Baguio Convention Center which was built over 4 decades ago.

The rehabilitation project was implemented in March 2018 and was supposed to be completed in February this year but the same was delayed because of numerous intervening events that led to the delayed completion of the project.

Part of the improvements that were implemented in the city-owned convention center on page 7

City streamlines issuance of business, building permits

BAGUIO CITY – The local government was able to streamline the period for the issuance of business and building permits by the concerned offices pursuant to the mandate of President Rodrigo R. Duterte for local governments to fast-track the grant of permits and licenses to their clients based on the provisions of

the law providing for the ease of doing business in the country.

City Administrator Engr. Bonifacio dela Peña, upon orders of Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong, worked with the City Treasury Office, the City Buildings and Architecture Office (CBAO) and the Permits and Licensing Division under the City

Mayor’s Office to further reduce the waiting period on the issuance of business and building permits being applied by residents for their businesses and structures in the different parts of the city.

Under the newly adopted set up, applicants for the issuance of business permits can get the permit that they have applied for in less than

an hour, provided that, all the required permits have been given due course by the concerned offices aside from the fact that they have settled the prescribed payments with the treasury office.

Further, concerned offices are given a maximum of 2 days on the appli-

To prevent Dengue - Suspension of wearing of skirts recommended

BAGUIO CITY – The City Health Services office is recommending to the local government and the education department the possible suspension of wearing of skirt uniforms by female elementary and secondary students as one of the preventive measures to abate the tremendous increase in dengue fever cases in the city during the rainy season.

Dr. Donnabel Tubera, infectious cluster head of the City Health Services Office, said that the wearing of skirts by female elementary and secondary students attending classes in the different public and private schools in the city serve as a potential risk for them to be bitten by the dengue carrying aedes mosquito thereby acquiring the illness that will pose a serious threat to their health condition.

Earlier, she reported that dengue fever cases in the city increased by 24 percent from January 1 to July 29 this year wherein there were 280 cases compared to the 220 cases that were reported during the same period last year.

Further, there was one dengue-related death this year compared to the

zero dengue-related death during the same period last year.

The medical officer advised female students to refrain from wearing the thin leggings because it will defeat the purpose considering that the dengue carrying mosquito can bite through the thin cloth, thus, females should wear thick pants, socks and long sleeved clothes so that the bite of the mosquitoes will not penetrate the same.

According to her, proper coordination is being done by health authorities with the concerned education and city officials for the issuance of the required advisory temporarily suspending the wearing of skirt uniforms among female students as part of the identified preventive measures that will abate the continuous increase in dengue cases in the different parts of the city.


Tubera warned the public against the expected increase in the dengue cases in the city, especially during the rainy season, that is why residents should adhere to the advises of health authorities for them to search and destroy the breeding ground of the aedes mosquito which is clear and stagnant

water, seek early medical attention for their fever for at least 2 days, secure oneself by keeping themselves healthy and support misting activities to drive away the dengue carrying mosquito in their places.

She also urged residents who will be experiencing fever for 2 days to immediately visit the nearest district health center in their area to avail of the free dengue test being provided to the people interested to avail of such service for them to be provided with the appropriate medical attention rather than going on self-medication which will surely compromise their health condition.

Tubera also claimed that only 5 percent of those being diagnosed for dengue fever land in the different hospitals in the city that is why it is still best for everyone to seek early consultation for whatever illnesses that they are suffering from considering that the early detection of the illness will translate to early recovery rather than await for their situation to worsen that will have a serious negative impact to one’s health condition. / *Dexter A. See*

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Cont. on page 7