

THE WEEKEND JUNCTION

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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!! BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Pahayagang palaban!!!

BCDA, JHMC Mum On City Demand For Payment of BCC

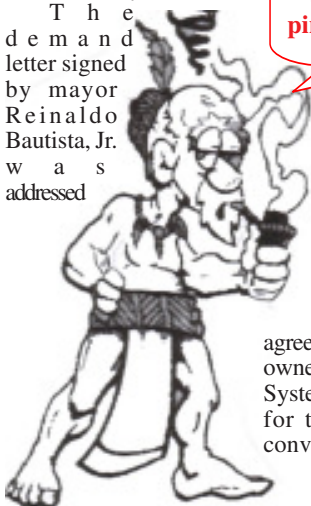
BAGUIO CITY –The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) has virtually filed every local legislation and payment demands under miscellaneous, observed local officials.

This time however, the city is bent on making positive steps to make “filing under miscellaneous” less than an option for BCDA.

“The city government is doing everything to protect its rights over the Baguio Convention Center (BCC),” city legal officer Melchor Carlos Rabanes guaranteed adding, “but we are definitely ready for legal battle in case diplomacy fails.”

Rabanes last week revealed the city in fact sent “formal demand” dated September 26 to Bases Conversion and Development Authority and its development arm, John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC), asking both entities to honor the January 23, 2004 BCC buy deal.

The demand letter signed by mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr. was addressed



Ang kapal naman talaga! dapat kasi matagal ng pinalayas yang JHMC eh!!

to BCDA president and chief operating officer Narciso Abaya and JHMC chair Ma. Cristina Corona.

It could be remembered that upon execution of the 2004 agreement, BCDA paid BCC erstwhile owner Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) P50-million as partial for the P250-million dilapidated convention center.

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Cordillera Regional Autonomy

BY ARTURO BOQUIREN



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PGMA wants possession of explosives non-ballable

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on Friday called for legislation that would make the illegal possession of explosives a non-ballable offense.

In her speech at the 33rd Philippine Business Conference at the Manila Hotel, the President said the Human Security Act (HSA) has enhanced the safety and domestic security of the country "by

giving us more legal power to prosecute those who commit any acts of terror on our people."

But to strengthen it, she said, "we are working with Congress on a bill to make the illegal possession of explosives non-ballable, with ample safeguards and penalties against planted evidence."

"Our message must be clear: if you are armed and kill

civilians, you will be prosecuted. If you are a communist terrorist, religious terrorist or even a rogue element of our own police or military, we will stop you," she said.

"We must be adequately empowered to crush the terrorist movement in the country and to transform our nation's response to political violence, ensuring that civil

rights and social justice are available to all Filipinos, not just a privileged few," she added.

She stressed the people deserve peace, order, political and economic stability.

"We must move on as a nation," she said, adding that "only a strong economy will lift our people out of poverty and expand our middle class." (PNA)

Migration, no guarantee out of rural poverty -WB

MANILA—CONTRARY to popular beliefs, migration, despite the volume of money it brings, has neither brought rural folks out of poverty nor is it a sure fire way for farm people to clamber aboard the prosperity wagon.

"Where migration is more or less permanent, income from migration depends on the success of the migrant and the reason for migration. So migration is not a guaranteed pathway out of poverty," the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development said in its recently released report debunking several myths on agricultural development.

The Washington, United States-headquartered IBRD, popularly known as The World Bank, cited in its 386-page report that "despite massive rural-urban migration, rural poverty will remain dominant for several more decades in Asia".

The bank's *World Development Report 2008* that focused on identifying ways for governments to lift some 600 million rural people from extreme poverty has said that while this has been achieved, it is not due to migration.

"More than 80 percent of the decline in rural poverty is attributable to better conditions in rural areas rather than to out-migration of the poor," the report titled "Agriculture for Development" said.

"So, contrary to common perceptions, migration to cities has not been the main instrument for rural (and world) poverty reduction," it added.

In fact, authors of the World Bank report noted that out-migration of people from rural

DA says investors keen in biofuels plants

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said yesterday more investors are now planning to build biofuels facilities all over the Philippines.

DA Secretary Arthur C. Yap said investors plan to set up plants in the Ilocos region, Cagayan Valley, Western Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern and Central Mindanao, and the Davao region either through straight purchases, lease arrangements, contract growing or joint ventures.

Yap also said the DA expects the growing global demand for crops-based alternative

clean fuels will further boost the Philippine farm sector, increasing the profitability of small stakeholders and reducing the country's dependence on imported energy sources.

Through the Philippine Agricultural Development and Commercial Corp. (PADCC), the DA has committed to promote the biofuels sector by generating awareness on the use of agricultural feed stocks for ethanol and biodiesel production.

Yap said the agency is now in the process of identifying private sector investments

with more than 400,000 hectares of land to plant crops that will be used as feedstock for biofuels production.

About 90,000 hectares are located in the North Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle; 10,000 hectares in Central Philippines; and 300,000 in Agribusiness Mindanao, he added.

Yap also said the lands being processed already represent 78 percent of the 600,000 hectares target for this year.

The lands will be planted to cassava, oil palm, coconut, sugarcane, jatropha, and other crops used as

feedstock for biofuels production.

Farmers stand to earn more through profit sharing, guaranteed income packages or straight purchases of harvested crops, and benefit from new planting technologies that will create more jobs and boost production, Yap added.

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SEE NO JUETENG, HEAR NO JUETENG, SPEAK NO JUETENG



JUETENG

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The Junction is printed and published by Farco Trimedia Ventures, Inc. (FTV, Inc.) every weekend, with office address at Ground Floor PCEC Bldg., Happy Homes, Campo Sioco, Baguio City. Mobile Phone Nos.: (0917)5069123; (0917)5069126; E-mail Address: thejunctionnews@yahoo.com Mailing Address P.O. Box 1588, 2600 Baguio City Entered as Second Class Mail at the Baguio City Central Post Office PCC-CAR 01-04-99

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City scores TKO as OP sacks Jadewell complaint

BAGUIO CITY – It only took a paragraph to wrap up things up... and it came like thief in the night without making the usual big splash in City Hall.

City legal officer Melchor Carlos Rabanes last week revealed that the Office of the President (OP) finally referred *Jadewell's* administrative complaint in OP Case No. 06-K-410 to the gutter, a month shy of a year after its filing.

It could be remembered that *Jadewell* spouses Rogelio and Norma Tan, November 13, 2006, filed a

complaint for “*culpable violation of the Constitution, Misconduct in Office and Abuse of Authority*” before the OP.

Impleaded in the case were then set of officials in the person of acting mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr., acting vice mayor Leandro Yangot, Jr., councilors Rocky Balisong, Faustino Olowan, Federico Mandapat, Jr., Perlita Rondez, Antonio Tabora, Jr., Jose Molintas, Rufino Panagan, Tenefrancia and city legal officer Melchor Rabanes.

OP deputy executive secretary for legal affairs Manuel B. Gaité, in an

order dated September 28 said, “In view of the recently concluded May elections where [some] respondents were [reelected], the case as recommended by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) is dismissed for being moot and academic.”

Gaité, in the order, cited the August 21, 1992 Supreme Court (SC)-decided case of then-Cagayan governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo against then-DILG secretary Luis Santos, et al.

Aguinaldo likewise faced similar wraps — *culpable*

violation of the Constitution, Misconduct in Office and Abuse of Authority – filed against him by three Cagayan mayors sometime in 1989, shortly after the December 1989 coup *d’etat* was crushed.

While the administrative case was pending in the OP, Aguinaldo once again ran for governor 1992 and won by landslide. The secretary subsequently found Aguinaldo guilty of the administrative charges and had him removed.

The SC however ruled, “When a people have elected a man to office, it must be assumed that they did this with knowledge of his life and character, and that they disregarded or forgave his fault or misconduct, if he had been guilty of any.”

The Tans hinged their OP complaint on alleged disregard by the impleaded city officials of resolutions of the courts pertaining to the Ganza area parking lot in Burnham.

In 2006, the Council through Resolution 204-06 tasked Rabanes to notify *Jadewell* of the city government’s intention to rescind the June 26, 2000 pay-par agreement. The resolution likewise tasked Rabanes to inform *Jadewell* to stop

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What Asean migrant’s rights agenda? –analysts

MANILA—ANALYSTS are far from getting their hopes up that migrant workers’ rights would spike interest among leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations who would meet next month in Singapore.

Expect follow-through to go slow, said many of 160 participants in a recent discussion on an eight-month-old Asean declaration for protecting and promoting migrant workers’ rights.

They were referring to the 12th Asean Summit in Cebu City, where advocacy on upholding the human rights of migrant workers in the Southeast Asian region reached two gains: a declaration and a committee to implement that declaration.

Groups involved in this advocacy found these gains “surprising” since these concern human rights, a bilateral discussion these groups’ leaders say usually takes much time.

It will possibly succumb to Asean’s nature of work that is slow-paced and non-binding, said most analysts who attended a recent Manila consultation on Asean and migrant workers.

The plus-factor for having those two gains happen, says William Gois of the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), is that the Philippine government pushed the Asean member-states to fast-track the migrant workers agenda.

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Health board, literacy body reorganized

BAGUIO CITY – Two important bodies were reorganized last week to make them more responsive to the needs of the times.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr., before leaving the country on official business, issued Administrative Order No. 139 reconstituting the membership of the local health board to include newly accredited non-government organizations.

The board is now composed of the following: the city mayor as the chair; city health officer as vice chair; and with the chairman of the city

council committee on health, representative of the Department of Health Cordillera and the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines Baguio-Benguet chapter as the non-government organization representative to the board.

The health board is tasked with the following:

*Propose to the city council annual budgetary allocations for the operation and maintenance of health facilities and services within the city;

*Serve as an advisory committee to the city council on health matters such as the necessity for and application of local appropriations

for public health purposes;

*Provide advice and recommend policies when necessary to the Health Services office and its committees on personnel selection and promotion, bids and awards, grievance and complaints, personnel discipline, budget review, operations review and other committees in accordance with technical and administrative standards of the DOH and other concerned agencies as may be applicable; and

*Acts as the coordinating team for

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PROBLEMA Sa Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB-CAR)?

Send us an email at info@hlurb.net or text/call 0917-5069123 and we will post the information at www.hlurb.net.

Magsumbong at mag-ingay para mabawasan ang katiwalian sa Gobyerno!!!

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

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno

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What's in the Bag?

Surprise of all surprises. Erap was granted pardon, clemency or whatever one may choose to call, the fact is Erap is now a free man, absolved of whatever sins he may have committed against the Filipino people, no forfeiture of his ill gotten wealth, with all his rights intact as though he was never convicted.

We knew, this was the game plan of this administration as this had been loudly telegraphed for some time now as the scenario. What we cannot understand though is why the haste? Why now and not six

EDITORIAL

months or a year after? We are not concerned

with the legality, impropriety and/or moral dimensions of this gesture extended to Erap that is for the academics to debate on. What concerns us is why was it done now at time when political tension in the administration camp is at its most stressful moment? Why now, when this is one move that will create more dissent and more stress with the remaining supporters of Pres GMA?

A move like this could have waited for a while. Releasing Erap in 6 months or a year from now when the political climate is more stable (hopefully) and the dust settles down, would make more sense. After all according to Erap, he had been wrongly jailed for the past 6 years, so what is another 6 to 12 months more? So, what gives? Why now when the political situation is in shambles?

At the outbreak of the ZTE sarzuela, our editorial echoed for us all to keep our political radars wide open and keep a close watch for the unfolding of events. With this latest scenario, we must listen and discern more keenly the political moves emanating from all sides of the fence. Things are getting hotter by the day, from the ZTE launch, to the 500K suhulan for the Congressmen and Governors, and now the Erap fast track pardon.

Something very sinister is cooking, who is cooking this very sinister plot, we can only hope will ultimately get burned to the crisp beyond recognition.

As far as how history will judge Erap is now a foregone conclusion- GUILTY AS HELL it is!!! He had his chance to remain in jail and stand his ground (and who knows he may have ended up as some kind of hero), he has survived for the past 6 years, what is a couple of years more 'till the advent of a new administration who may accord him true justice?

But again, only an innocent man who is wrongly accused will seek true justice no matter what, no matter where. Erap unfortunately is not in this league, he has asked for forgiveness and was given to him in a blink of an eye.

Pinoy, Pinoy, watch, watch the unfolding of events very keenly and discern. We are living in very interesting times!!! ZTE, 500K suhulan, Glorietta bombing, Erap's out, what's next? What's really in the bag?



DIRETSAHAN

Barangay at SK Eleksyon na Ginanapsa Baguio Central University, May Misteryo Kaya? Titser na Nagsilbing OIC, Dapat Paimbestigahan!

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Dapat magpaliwanag itong si SHIRLEY YAP-EO na umano'y siyang CHAIRPERSON noong nakaraang barangay at eleksyon sa may Baguio Central University. Siya ang itinuturo ng guardiya na si GEORGE CAOLI na siya umano ang nag-utos na huwag magpapasok ng media kaya hindi nakapasok kaagad ang isa naming kasamahan na siyang naatasan na mag obserba sa mga kaganapan ng bilangan. Kung hindi ko pa tinawagan ng pansin si Comelec Regional Director Atorní Armando Velasco, aba eh talagang hindi nakapasok ang aming kasamahan dahil sa mga UNGAS na ayaw talagang magpapasok ng media!

Ngayon, isang araw lamang matapos ang eleksyon, marami kaagad akong natanggap na reklamo na mayroon daw dayaan na nangyari noong eleksyon particular sa kagitingan barangay na ginanap sa BCU. Kung saan dito ayaw magpapasok ng media!

Ayon sa mga nagrereklamo, idinulog na raw nila ito sa local na comelec pero pinayuhan daw sila na ideretso nalang ang reklamo sa korte! Laba eh, kundi ba naman matatawag na inutil ang local na comelec at hindi man lang ipinatawag itong si SHIRLEY YAP-EO at pagpaliwanagin? At para saan na nandyan ang opisang iyan kung hindi naman nila aasikasuhin ang mga reklamang idinudulog sa kanila? Naku, ayaw kong isipin na mayroon ngang misteryo na nangyari sa eleksyon ng mga opisyal sa kagitingan barangay at maaring kasabwat ang isa o higit pa na taga comelec. Baka pwedeng busisiin nyo ito Director Armando Velasco at Officer Uminga, Pls!?

OOOO

JUETENG TULOY PA RIN. OPERASYON SA NAGUILLAN RD. TIKLO Natiklo ng mga operasyon ng BCPO STATION 7, ang isang Jueteng guerilla operation sa may Naguillan road noong araw ng Undas.

"kudos" ako kay INSPEKTOR David Mariano, hepe ng Station 7 sa kanyang walang takot na pagtiklo sa mga kubrador at pagkumpiska ng mga ebidensya!

Ibig sabihin nito ay talagang pinanindigan ni INSPEKTOR MARIANO at mga tauhan ang kanilang sinumpaang tungkulin kahit ang katapat nito ay ang maaring mga di kananais-nais na mangyari sa kanila.

Gayunpaman, saludo ako kina inspector David Mariano at ang kanyang mga tauhan!

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

Cordillera Regional Autonomy

BY ARTURO BOQUIREN



Last Friday, 26 October 2007, the National Economic Development Authority-Cordillera Autonomous Region (NEDA-CAR) continued its series of meetings to formulate a research agenda. The research agenda formulation was largely aimed at promoting a yes vote should a plebiscite on regional autonomy be held in the region. Unfortunately, the research agenda formulated do no even suggest that the research agenda when pursued would really result to a yes vote for regional autonomy in the Cordillera.

Worst, the research agenda formulation appears misdirected: the cart is ahead before the horse. The conference or meeting does not even seem to recognize that a large yes vote for regional autonomy will come if and only if Cordillerans have a unified vision of what Cordillera autonomy should be. Although Cordillerans desire autonomy, a number doubt its viability. A lot more may have no doubt on its viability but are discordant on what regional autonomy should be or look like. Thus, what should be the emphasis on the work to realize autonomy must focus on arriving at a consensus or near consensus on how autonomy should be. This would hit two birds in one stone: enough awareness is built in the process and groups would move forward to a consensus or near consensus on how autonomy in the Cordillera would look like.

Unfortunately, the NEDA-CAR initiated meetings have not learned enough from the past. The research agenda it has recently formulated only duplicate what has already been done. But let me correct that. The research agenda being unfolded today is a poor duplicate of the various research agenda explicitly or implicitly formulated in the past (except perhaps for that one on ancestral domain).

There really is no forward movement. No genuine learning from the past.

I am sure that there are many good resource persons in the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples-Cordillera Administrative Region (NCIP-CAR) for the workshops on research agenda formulation. Unfortunately, the research agenda formulation did not exploit this enough.

My guess is that not enough right people have been invited to the research agenda formulation. The research agenda formulation methodology is also probably flawed.

Thus, most likely, the NEDA-CAR would be reporting this year to the national government that they have spent P15 million for a job badly done. Of course, NEDA-CAR would probably not recognize this or may not even be aware of this.

If the information I got from a NEDA-CAR official is correct, this is the second or third allocation of P15 million to kick off the campaign to realize regional autonomy. The earlier efforts that have not been spearheaded by the NEDA-CAR have achieved much but have spent less. The one ongoing today has not even surpassed the achievements of the past and yet, if the information provided to me earlier by a NEDA-CAR official is accurate, people's money is being misused. There may not be corruption but it is the same: people's money is likely being wasted.

I will not go into the details of what has been discussed in the series of meetings because I do not want to preempt the ongoing documentation. Besides, I really want NEDA-CAR to have a good chance of packaging their documentation very well because I support regional autonomy for Cordillerans. I want NEDA-CAR to succeed.

Meanwhile, I do not want to sound top-down but a faster way towards regional autonomy in the Cordillera is to **grant autonomy immediately**. The regional autonomy would likely be imperfect but provided enough mechanisms are built so Cordillerans can talk, hold conferences, and decide for themselves, eventually an autonomy that

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PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

*Domogan Tumanggap Ng 250k;
Go-go-jueteng-go;
Erap, Laya Na!; Zte.....*

BY ODELL "BOMBITO" AQUINO



Babala/Warning: Para sa mga hindi kayang sikmurain na ang Pilipino ay KATAWA-TAWA (LAUGHING STOCK) sa BUONG MUNDO sa kasalukuyan ay huwag ng basahin ang kolum na ito!!!

oOo

DOMOGAN TUMANGGAP NG 250K- Talaga naman itong si Tongressman este Congressman Domogan, sa isang press con kung saan sinabi niya na 250 thousand pesos lang daw ang kanyang tinangap at hindi 500 thousand pesos, at ito raw halaga na ito ay para sa kanyang regular transportation at representation allowance. He! he! he!, para doon sa mga hindi nakakaintindi kung ano ang ibig sabihin ng transportation and representation allowance, ang ibig sabihin nito ay pamasaha (hindi massage, transpo) at pang good time!!!. O ayan, mismong si Boss Morris ang nagsabi na ang kanyang pamasaha at kanyang pang good time ay nagkakahalaga lang ng 250,000.00 (payat- sisiw)! Kung sabagay hindi naman niya sinabi kung gaanong katagal na pamasaha at pang good time yuon. Kung tutuusin pa nga ay kulang na kulang ang pamasaha at pang good time na 250,000 para kay Boss Morris. Eh isang biyahe lang niya sa New Jersey, US of A, kung saan mayroon siyang hibol (bahay) ay nasa mga 60,000 na ang round trip ticket for one, eh kung kasama pa niya ang kanyang buong pamilya eh di kulang na yun 250,000 pamasaha pa lang! Eh paano na ang pang good time? Kung bakit naman kasi 250,000 lang ang ibinigay ng Malacanang sa kanya. Kung ako si Ate GLO, bibigyan ko ng tig two-two million pesos ang lahat nang Tongressman every quarter para (8M per year) pamasaha at pang good time para hindi sila kapusin sa kanilang mga lakad. Ano na lang ang sasabihin nang mga banyaga at mga foreigner sa ating mga Tongressmen, small time!?!? Huwag naman, tandaan natin na ang ating mga Tongressmen ang siya nating mga representante, kaya kung titipirin natin sila at magmumukha silang kawawa, aba eh mag rere-flect din sa atin mga madla yan. O hindi ba tama ang aking pangangatwiran Manong Morris, BOSS MORRIS, BALATO NAMAN SER!!! So malinaw na ang isyung ito sa mga tanga este taga Baguio! Kaya ikaw Juan De La Cruz, mag sumikap kang mag trabaho at mag banat nang buto mo nang makayanan mong kitain ang minimum wage na ipapakain mo sa iyong pamilya!!!

oOo

ERAP LAYA NA – Good News, Good News, Laya na ang aking Idol. Laya na si Pangulong Erap, Happy days are here again, BOW!!! Ang inaabangan ko ang mag karoon nang isang political partnership para kina Erap at Ate GLO. Kapag yan ang nangyari ay the best!!! Malamang sa mga darating na panahon ay makikita natin na magiging mga principal sponsors sa mga kasal at binyag si Ate GLO at si Erap kaya magiging mag-kompare at magkomare ang dalawa. At hindi lang yan, malay ninyo baka maging magsyota pa si Luli Arroyo at si Jude Estrada. Ano say ninyo hindi malayo mangyari ang mga ito. Kung sabagay mabuti na rin at natapos na rin ang palabas, ang sarsuela. Mahigit anim na taon rin nating pinanuod ang Box Office Hit Drama Special na ERAP, WILL I RETURN, este ERAP I WILL RETURN TO COMEBACK; GLORIA-CHAVIT SHALL WE DANCE AGAIN. Hi! hi! hi! hi! ONLY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

oOo

GO-GO-JUETENG GO- Sabi ni Mayor Peter Rey Bautista ayaw niya ng Jueteng at personal pa niya mismong ipabalasa ang pamunuan ng PNP sa Baguio kapag nag patuloy ang Jueteng. He! He! He! Ang hindi sinabi ni Mayor sa mga tanga este taga Baguio ay JOKE ONLY, I WAS JUST KIDDING, kayo naman hindi kayo mabiro. Hi! Hi! Hi! Hi!. Sabi ni Mayor kontra siya sa lahat nang mga sugal na ilegal kaya ayun pinalitan niya ang hepe ng Anti Vice Task Force na si Konsehal Weygan at ipinalit ang bataan niya. He!he!he! Ang

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New technology to bolster realty tax collections of LGUs

Around 500 government executives and participants from donor funding institutions, provincial governors, assessors, treasurers and finance experts, IT experts and computer programmers gathered in Dumaguete City to discuss means to enhance the local governments' tax collection through the use of a software "integrated taxation system."

The Integrated Taxation System

(iTAX) project is funded by the German government through the GTZ-RP-German Cooperative Fiscal Decentralization Project with the province of Negros Oriental as the pilot project area.

The organizers noted that "There is a high amount of taxation power in the local government which is still untapped. Substantial revenue coming from local taxes like real property tax, business tax, special education fund, among others, have yet to be fully realized."

Case in point in the conference is the poor realty tax collection of local government units (LGUs) where only about 50 percent is realized.

The Negros version of iTax is now a modern computer-based tax assessment and collection tool for LGUs.

It answers the specific needs of the municipal assessors and treasurers and involves all functions like payment and collection, assessment and tax mapping.

The system is jointly owned by the Philippine and

BCDA, JHMC.. from page 1

The balance of P200-million places the city virtually up to neck level as the same earns 12-percent annual interest on the annual "supposedly" diminishing balance commencing November 5, 2005.

"However," Bautista wrote, "BCDA failed to deliver annual amortizations despite billings made by GSIS."

He bewailed, "While the city government has been taking strides to save the venture from collapsing, it is lamentable that BCDA is not taking any positive steps to make good its commitment

embodied in the agreement."

Bautista likewise made a legal threat saying the letter is a "prelude to the taking of appropriate legal action in the event BCDA and JHMC would not take any favorable step to avert the threat of takeover by GSIS over BCC."

Bautista earlier bemoaned protracted hostilities between the Senate and the House of Representatives over "conflicting versions" of Special Economic Zones' (SEZ) tax perk measures, hampering city collections of its shares from operations of the Camp John Hay (CJH) mega-tourism estate.

"Our efforts to secure title over BCC are being stymied," Bautista said adding, "the stalemate has placed other issues concerning CJH in abeyance and it's putting the city in the losing end."

Meanwhile, Rabanes said that with the two houses of congress finally meeting eye-to-eye, BCDA's scapegoat could now be set aside.

"As soon as the mayor's back, we are definitely pushing for final demand to show BCDA and JHMC we mean business," he added.

This, while BCDA and JHMC still plays unwilling debtors to the dappled BCC purchase deal./ISL

Diretsahan.. from page 4

SAMPOLAN NYOPAANGIBASIR!
OOOOO

Maapayap naman ang lungsod ng Baguio noong araw ng Undas. Maayos ang trapiko at walang naitala na pagsasamantala ng mga masasamang elemento! Saludo ako sa hanay ng pulisya na siyang pangunahing ahensiyang nangalaga sa kaayusan at kaligtasan ng selebrasyon, ganun din sa mga local na opisyal at volunteers na nagbigay ng kanilang mga serbisyo; kudos po sa inyo mga sir at mam!

OOOOO

Dapatseryosong pagtuunan ng pansin ng DOTC-LTRFB CAR ang mga kolorum at mga behikulong nagbuga ng "killer

usok "kung tutuusin ay kayang kaya nila itong sugpuin sa madaling panahon, ang nakakapagtaka ay kung bakit hanggang ngayon ay bihira ang kanilang ginawang operasyon ang rason na marami pa rin ang mga "colorum" at Smoke Belchers' lano sey mo dito Atorni bong Mandapat, Regional Director ng DOTC-CAR, PUKPUKIN MONA SILA!

My ipinaabot na reklamo sa inyong lingkod hinggil sa serbisyon g ibinibigay ng lokal na PLDT sa kanilang mga kliyente!

Ayon sa nagreklamo ilang beses na raw siyang pabalik balik sa opisina ng PLDT para ayusin sana nila ang kanyang telepono na nawalan ng Dial Tone, pero pinapabukas bukas

daw ang dapat na pag-aayos. maraming palusot umano ang PLDT na kesyo wala daw tao sa kanilang bahay pero sa totoo lang ay lagi raw itong nagreklamong ginang sa kanilang bahay at naghihintay lang ng mag-aayos na taga PLDT.

O, Ano ngayon sey nyo ditto, kayo diyan sa PLDT ayusin nyo naman ang serbisyo nyo, hindi yong kabig lang ang alam ninyo, PERIOD!

OOOO

Congratulations nga pala sa mga kandidatong nanalo para sa Barangay and Sk Officials. sana ay magampanan ninyo ng tapat at maayos ang inyong tungkulin sa mga natalo, huwag mawalan ng pag-asa mayron pang susunod, ... better luck next time!

Elections in MP.. from page 11

SK kagawad candidates.

According to Marites Carino, Municipal Local Government Operations Officer of Natonin, one reason why nobody filed their candidacy for SK kagawad in most of the barangays in the municipality is the required drug test which many of the prospective candidates cannot afford especially those coming from Natonin going to Bontoc just for the drug test.

Carino said a team went to Natonin to conduct drug

testing for a week but still many youth cannot afford the drug test fee of P250.

Another reason why students especially those studying outside their places do not like to involve themselves as SK Kagawads is that they cannot sacrifice to be absent from their classes just to attend regular meetings.

Based on reports received by DILG-Mt. Province from its field office, uncontested barangay chairmen were Dionesio B. Balingway of

Gayang, Sabangan; Alex Churping of Saclit, Sadanga; Francisco D. Aluyen of Suyo, Sagada; and Carlos P. Matbagan of Tetep-an, Sagada.

The uncontested SK Chairmen include Terence Gusingan of Bila, Bauko; Andrea La-ao of Lacmaan, Besao; and Noel S. Agtulaog of Baobangan, Sabangan.

For the October 29, 2007 elections, the province has 90,630 total registered voters for the barangay elections and 6,734 for the SK.

/Juliet Saley/PIA MP

The Peace Combatant.. from page 5

is acceptable to Cordillerans would emerge and **the provisional autonomous government of the Cordillera can present its vision of regional autonomy for the Cordillerans in a plebiscite.** In short, I present here

a case for immediately implementing a **PROVISIONAL REGIONAL AUTONOMY FOR THE CORDILLERA** that has enough mechanisms to advance a better Cordillera regional autonomy.

Of course, the national government would have to make sure that enough financial support is provided to the Provisional Autonomous Cordillera Government and that they have ample genuine autonomy to formulate ways to financially support a t o n o m o u s governance.

Health board... from page 3

health, harmonizing all health-related activities.

On the other hand, Acting mayor Daniel Farinas, in Administrative Order No 143, reorganized the Baguio City Literacy Coordinating Council to, according to him, strengthen the composition and sustain the gains of the literacy program in the city.

The council will remain to be chaired by the city mayor with city schools superintendent Dr. Ellen Donato as co-chair. The following serve as members: Dept. of Interior and Local Government city director Evelyn Trinidad, Philippine Information Agency Cordillera director Helen Tibaldo, Technical Education Skills Development Authority director Felisa Carag, city social welfare development officer Betty Fangasan, city planning officer Arturo Orig, city treasurer Thelma Manaois, council committee on education chair Fred Bagbagen, council committee sports chair Leonardo Bayan Jr. and Association of Barangay Councils president Councilor Rufino Panagan with Saint Louis University community outreach service director Albert Guinguino and University of Baguio director Rafael Marzan as representatives of the academe.

The technical working committee will be chaired by Arthur Tiongson of the Dept. of Education with Reyner Moraleda (dep Ed), Ladio Calingayan, city council, Mary Ann Griba, of the DILG and a representative from the mayor's office as members.

The literacy council has the following functions:

- *to serve as overall advisory and coordinating body providing policy and program directions for all literacy endeavors in the city;

- *to recommend strategies on the development for the total eradication of illiteracy; ways and means of raising funds to support the literacy programs, projects and activities, and measures on how to organize and strengthen support structures for literacy at the city level;

- *to identify successful management schemes of literacy programs and adopt measures and boost research and development in literacy work;

- *to oversee the effective implementation of all literacy programs and projects and other related activities of the city;

- *to provide technical assistance to literacy implementers; and

- *to perform such other functions as may be necessary./ailen p., refuerzo

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City

LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
GREGORY T. LIZARDO-Assignor
GL/LIZARDO TRANSPORTATION CORP. -Assignee
Applicant/s
Case No. 98-BC-591/2007-CAR-0302
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Assignment and Transfer and Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUB Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: LA TRINIDAD - SAGADA via Kilong and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on November 13, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paadal, 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, or within five days from receipt of the notice, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant and may if they so desire appear during the set 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 it necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 26th day of October 2007.

(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
Hearing Officer

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City

LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
GREGORY T. LIZARDO-Assignor
GL/LIZARDO TRANSPORTATION CORP. -Assignee
Applicant/s
Case No. 96-BC-045/2007-CAR-0298
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Assignment and Transfer of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUB Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO CITY - BONTOC, MT. PROVINCE via Halsema Highway and Vice Versa with the use of three (3) units.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on November 13, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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Republic of the Philippines
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LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
GREGORY T. LIZARDO-Assignor
GL/LIZARDO TRANSPORTATION CORP. -Assignee
Applicant/s
Case No. 98-BC-591/2007-CAR-0302
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Assignment and Transfer and Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUB Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: LA TRINIDAD - BESAO via Halsema, Sagada and Vice Versa with the use of two (2) units.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on November 13, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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Hearing Officer

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City

LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
GREGORY T. LIZARDO-Assignor
GL/LIZARDO TRANSPORTATION CORP. -Assignee
Applicant/s
Case No. 97-01-1689/2007-CAR-0303
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Assignment and Transfer of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUB Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO CITY - SUYO (MT. PROVINCE) via Sagada and Vice Versa with the use of two (2) units.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on November 13, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
Hearing Officer

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City

LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
GREGORY T. LIZARDO-Assignor
GL/LIZARDO TRANSPORTATION CORP. -Assignee
Applicant/s
Case No. 2004-BAG-CAR-0231/2007-CAR-0300
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Assignment and Transfer of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUB Aircon Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: SAGADA (Mt. Province) - BAGUIO CITY and Vice Versa with the use of five (5) units.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on November 13, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paadal, 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.

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WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 26th day of October 2007.

(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
Hearing Officer

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City

LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
GREGORY T. LIZARDO-Assignor
GL/LIZARDO TRANSPORTATION CORP. -Assignee
Applicant
Case No. 99-01-2267/2007-CAR-0301
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for Assignment and Transfer of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUB Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BESAO - BONTOC via Sagada and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on November 13, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paadal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

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WITNESS, the Honorable FEDERICO J. MANDAPAT, JR. - REGIONAL DIRECTOR this 26th day of October 2007.

(SGD) GREGORIO R. RETUTA, JR.
Hearing Officer

IMF Says Economic Growth Possible With Low Inflation

The Philippines will likely sustain its strong economic growth momentum even under a low inflation regime, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said. "We expect this [low inflation vis-a-vis robust economic output] to be sustainable. We saw improvements have been made in the way the Philippine economy is being run from a macroeconomic policy perspective," said Timothy Callen, division chief of the IMF's World Economic Studies Division.

"The central bank has been firm when inflation picks up. Monetary policy focusing on managing inflation rate is the right way to go," he added.

The IMF said the Philippines is among the countries in the region that has been successfully managing the surge in foreign exchange inflows.

The international lender, which has been recently aggressive in its surveillance of currency regulations, pointed out that continued liberalization of restrictions on capital outflows would be helpful in dealing with the flood of capital into middle and lower income countries.

"What really helps is being careful with fiscal spending. The lesson here is not that a country needs to cut spending when there are inflows, but rather it needs to exercise fiscal restraint," said Simon Johnson, IMF economic counsellor and director.

The IMF also urged greater exchange rate flexibility, particularly in China, whose large current account surplus remains a key factor to rising global imbalances. Meanwhile, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Deputy Governor Diwa C. Guinigundo noted that with fiscal restraint already being observed, the Philippines will likely experience more capital inflows coming as fiscal consolidation boosts investor sentiment.

The central bank, however, ruled out the adoption of tightened capital controls to address the continued influx of funds. Instead, the BSP will continue to push for further liberalization of the foreign exchange market — an initiative it started early in the year when it relaxed banks' currency trading rules and residents' outward investments, Mr. Guinigundo said.

"A disciplined approach to foreign exchange liberalization would be integral to the BSP's responses to handling real exchange rate movements over the long term," Mr. Guinigundo told BusinessWorld. "In addition, the BSP will continue to adopt a mixture of policies in dealing with the surge in capital inflows, [including] exchange rate flexibility, the build-up of reserves as buffer against exogenous shocks, and prepayment of external obligations where feasible," he added./PIA-CAR

Ifugao coops Join National Coop Month celebration

LAGAWE, Ifugao — Cooperatives here converged to join in the annual celebration of "National Cooperative Month" which culminated on October 30 with the theme "Cooperatives for Community Progress".

Evangeline Jasmin, Lagawe Multi-Purpose Development Cooperative (LMDC) Manager, said cooperatives through its various programs and support services have become active partners of government in the achievement of community progress.

This is made evident by testimonies of successful coop members engaged in small and medium enterprises. These are evidences of "how cooperatives worked in improving life and providing jobs," she stated.

The primary objective of every cooperative, she said, is to provide goods and services to its members thus, enable them to attain increased income and savings, investment, productivity, purchasing power and promote among them equitable distribution of net

surplus through maximum utilization of economies of sale, cost sharing and risk-sharing, without, however, conducting the affairs of the cooperative for eleemosynary or charitable purposes.

Moreover, its objective include provision of maximum economic benefits to its members, teach them efficient ways of doing things in a cooperative manner, and propagate cooperative practices and new ideas in business and management and allow the lower income groups to increase ownership in wealth of this nation, she added.

For a more strengthened and established partnership, this year's celebration focused among others on Cooperative Development Association (CDA) updates as well as issues and coop concerns.

Jasmin added that while cooperative values are based on self help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity, coops encourage members to learn the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others. / Jina Shirley G. Dacmay/PIA Ifugao

City scores... from page 3

operations within 60-days after receiving the notice or until November 22.

"The act or acts complained of have nothing to do with the matters subject of the Supreme Court (SC) orders... the complainant intimidates scarecrows when it [alleged] that the respondents

disregarded resolutions of the courts," wrote then councilor Tenefrancia in his January 3, 2006 answer to the complaint.

"The resolution speaks for itself," the then alderman mused adding, "it is the very act complained of in these proceedings [which] does not

violate no order, provision of law, much more, the constitution."

"[Jadewell] consistently violated its commitments to the city... the city officials would be remiss in their duties to the people and to the law should they sit supinely in submission, fearful of harassment suits, while the complainant

continues to oppress their constituents and to violate the MOA," he added.

Tenefrancia declared that the rescission was "not in violation of the Constitution" but a right guaranteed under the MOA.

Besides, he added, "It is no abuse of authority to notify [Jadewell] for having abused its welcome in the city./ISL

Pinupuna at Pinapansin.. from page 5

nakalimutan sabihin ni Mayor ay kontra ako sa lahat nang iligal na sugal nuong araw na Konsehala lang ako eh ngayon na Mayor na ako, aba eh, iba na ang usapan, ang lagay ba ay *%\$3H*7%8PSSSP .Hi! Hi! Hi! Hi!

oOo
ZTE - Sabi ni Joey de Venecia 70 million dollars daw ang para kay FG (Fat Guy) este First

Gentleman Mike Arroyo. Palagay ninyo mga dear readers, kapanipaniwala ba? Maari siguro, teka sandali magkano ba sa pesos ang 70 million US dollars? Sa kasalukuyan ang exchange rate na 1 US \$=P45.00, lalabas na ang US70M is P3,150,000,000.00 (Three Billion One Hundred Fifty Million Pesos).

Hanep ano!!! Tatlong Bilyong piso, para lang sa lagay at suhol. Tsk!tsk!tsk! ilang classroom at ospital ang magagawa ng salaping yun? Ilang mahihirap at dukha ang matutulungan nun? Ilang buhay ang giginhawa sa ganong kalaking salapi? Ilang industriya at negosyong malalaki ang maitatayo ng halagang yun? Kaya sama-sama

tayo PINOY at kantahin natin ang team song ng Pinoy Big Brother (PBB). Ready get set go... Pinoy, Pinoy, Pinoy, ipakita mo sa mundo, kung ano ang kaya mo, iba't iba ang Pinoy, huwag kang matatakot, ang suhulan na limpak-limpak sa halagang dolyares ay para na rin sayo, natural na sa buhay mo sapagkat matalino ka Pinoy.... YES!!! IBA'T-IBA ANG PINOY....!!!

What Asean... from page 3

The big "but" here is the term "human rights," that Gois said is a very sensitive issue.

The 13th Asean Summit this November notably will carry the agenda of energy, environment, climate change and sustainable development, as well as the presentation of the regional bloc's constitution, the Asean Charter.

The Singapore agenda was also formed from the 40th Asean Ministerial Meeting last July in Manila, where member-countries' foreign ministers adopted to create a committee to flesh out the Cebu declaration.

Don't get your hopes up, Gois said.

Tough

LAWYER Carlos Medina, who is secretary-general of the Working Group for an Asean Human Rights Mechanism, views these events as the progress of the migrant workers' rights advocacy.

His benchmark of that advocacy in the region is, first, the sectoral committee's formation. That committee, Medina said, could begin formulating an Asean-wide instrument on migrant workers' rights.

That instrument is the next step for the migrant workers' rights advocacy in Asean, Medina says. An Asean body on migrant workers' rights will then be formed to implement that regional

instrument, he surmises.

Medina said another benchmark is having what he calls an Asean inter-governmental human rights commission. The Working Group he heads is lobbying for this.

In the meantime, for human rights issues such as those prevailing currently in Myanmar, Asean member governments voice out their concern but do not make any action as a collegial body that is Asean.

Medina said the Asean also has human rights sectoral commissions on women, human rights education, and networking among member-countries' human rights institutions. These, he noted, are all products of the Ventianne (Laos) Action Programme crafted two years ago.

The programme emphasizes on the human rights obligations of countries, Medina emphasized. Human rights advocacy for Asean in general is a product of over ten years of continued talks with Asean leaders, Medina said.

Thus, the fact that migrant workers were talked about in Asean in just a few months "is a big development already," he said citing that member-states "don't discuss migrant workers' issues."

These issues are too sensitive, Medina said.

The sensitivity lies in the dynamics between Asean member-countries

who are either sending or receiving migrant labor. Malaysia and Singapore are renowned to be host countries of migrants, although the former also has citizens working overseas. The Philippines and Indonesia, for their part, are renowned labor-sending countries.

Countries belonging to the Greater Mekong Sub-region, such as Laos, Cambodia, Viet Nam, Myanmar, and Thailand (as well as China, though Yunnan province), are affected by movements of refugees as well as labor migration movements by some two million people.

Blocks

AT this early, stumbling blocks to the Asean migrant workers' advocacy are coming up.

Malaysia, host to large numbers of undocumented migrants such as Filipinos and Indonesians, deferred signing the document for the migrant workers sectoral committee.

No signing ceremony was held in the Manila Ministers' Meeting for that sectoral committee, as Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo said the committee's formation was "adopted" by participating countries.

For her part, Jenina Joy Chavez of Focus of the Global South thinks that while the migrant workers' advocacy is important, Asean is usually "talk-shop" that formulates declarations and

Tax computerization project increases revenues – BIR Ifugao

LAGAWE, Ifugao – The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) here finds the Tax Computerization Project (TCP) as a means to transform the BIR into an efficient agency for tax administration.

Villa Bulayungan, a Revenue Officer here said that the TCP provides the bureau with an Integrated National Tax administration System which will help transform the agency into an efficient and more modern tax administration agency.

"This method will help increase government revenues, customer satisfaction and improve efficiency and transparency of BIR operations," Bulayungan said.

The Integrated Tax System (ITS) is a set of related system and processes which run and facilitate the BIR's core business functions.

It provides maximum automation and minimum

manual intervention in BIR operations. ITS supports the BIR in the servicing of taxpayers on different aspects of the tax collection process.

Bulayungan said that with the ITS, the operations of the bureau will be easier because the system encourages voluntary compliance, broaden the taxpayer base, provide, timely, accurate, and relevant information, improve tax processing, enforcement, and control procedures and reduce the cost of tax administration in the long term.

President Gloria Arroyo said last week that with the country's economic strength largely attributed to the various financial and economic reforms, there is no need to implement new tax measures but rather enhance tax administration so as to generate more revenues for socio-economic projects/Vency D. Bulayungan/PIA-Ifugao

regulations "that can't be implemented".

"Even the responsibilities of governments are not spelled out," Chavez adds, explaining that Asean is purely an inter-governmental body.

These observations do not come as a surprise to International Studies student and migrant workers' advocate Domini Fangon, who thinks Asean works in a "non-interventionist way" that will make it difficult to follow-through the Cebu declaration.

Raymond Balatbat, a staff at the Department of Foreign Affairs, can attest to such difficulty to convince other member-countries when it comes to migrant workers. He was among the organizers of the

Cebu meeting for migrant workers.

Getting the Cebu declaration out "was difficult," Balatbat said without citing details.

Getting recommendations – to add more flesh to the declaration – addressed would be equally difficult, said lobbyists for greater migrant workers' rights.

The recommendations include for Asean to create a regional body that migrant workers could go to for redress of grievances.

The shopping list of migrant workers' rights advocates also want Asean to issue explicit statements on the protection of low-skilled workers such as domestic workers.

Gois said the absence of such statements in the

Asean declaration's wordings "is a big deficit of the Cebu declaration".

Medina, however, cautions for non-adversarial approach in pushing for these recommendations.

The way to get the consensus of Asean for issues such as the rights of migrant workers is doing things step-by-step, Medina said.

That's based on his experience lobbying for a wide-ranging human rights mechanism for Asean.

"At least, Asean listens," he said.

Analysts are hoping that is not what the ministers would only do come November in Singapore. / JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO, www.ofwjournalism.net

Migration.. from page 2

areas has even contributed to the constant rate of poverty rate in cities.

The report, released October 19, noted while the poverty rate of US\$1-a-day has been declining in developing countries—from 28 percent in 1993 to 22 percent in 2002, this “has been mainly the result of falling rural poverty (from 37 percent to 29 percent) while the urban poverty rate remained nearly constant (at 13 percent).”

The report also noted that during the period under study, 1993-2002, there was an 81-percent reduction in rural poverty worldwide. But this is “ascribed to improved conditions in rural areas; migration accounted for only 19 percent of the reduction”.

Migration, the report said, “lifts some of the rural poor out of poverty but takes others to urban slums and continued poverty”.

Notional

EVEN remittances from abroad are downplayed by the report on contributing to national poverty rate declines.

While the report acknowledges that there are “indirect effects of urbanization on rural poverty through remittances and rural wage changes,” this is “through tighter rural labor markets”.

But this argument, the report’s authors said, has a conservative but unlikely assumption: all rural-urban migrants are poor.

The bank computed

migration’s contribution to rural poverty reduction using the US\$2.15 poverty line rather than the US\$1.08 extreme poverty line “because it is unrealistic to think that all migrants are extremely poor”.

Even so, using the same assumption that all those who migrate are poor, the report noted that reduction in rural poverty would still hit 81 percent, “not to migration”.

“Indeed, almost all the decline in South Asia and East Asia is because of a genuine decline in poverty in rural areas. Even when China is excluded from the sample, 67 percent of the reduction in rural poverty is from causes other than migration,” the report said.

According to data compiled by the Institute for Migration and Development Issues (Imdi), there is no direct correlation between the number of Filipinos going overseas for temporary or permanent work and stay, and the poverty incidence levels.

For example, the National Capital Region, composed of more than a dozen cities, has posted a 4.3-percent poverty incidence level in 2003. In an eight-year period beginning 1998, almost a million overseas Filipinos came from this region.

However, the data that the nonprofit group ImdI compiled couldn’t cite if these Filipinos just used the NCR as

temporary residence prior to going overseas or which rural area they came from if they, indeed, migrated from farm villages.

It is difficult to determine so since the NCR is the reservoir of major government agencies processing the export of Filipino labor as well as the receptacle for the air travel and remittance industries.

Likewise, despite Davao del Sur, for example, posting a 24-percent poverty incidence rate and having recorded 55,117 Filipino migrants, Batanes island posted only a 9.2-percent poverty incidence level despite only 72 of its residents having left that fishing and farming province that’s the tip of the Philippines.

Another example is Pampanga, President Gloria Arroyo’s home province, which posted a six-percent poverty incidence level. It is second to the NCR for having the most number of Filipino migrants at 125,226. Compare this to Pangasinan, home province of former President Fidel V. Ramos, which had 111,029 of its citizens migrating in the eight-year period ending 2005. Still the province posted a poverty incidence level of 18.6 percent, more than double neighboring Pampanga’s.

With the exception of Batanes, 14 provinces have poverty incidence levels above the national average of 25.7 percent.

“The high poverty levels of these provinces can perhaps explain why citizens from these areas cannot easily migrate overseas,”

the ImdI scoping study on migrant philanthropy released last August said.

Impacts

EVEN the World Bank report admits it is difficult to establish migration’s direct impact on rural poverty reduction levels.

“Migration can be a climb up the income ladder for well-prepared, skilled workers, or it can be a simple displacement of poverty to the urban environment for others,” the report noted.

The report also cited that while remittances from migrants back to the farm household “can relax capital and risk constraints, the relationship between migration and agricultural productivity,” for one, is “complex.”

The (temporary) absence of household members reduces the agricultural labor supply. Agricultural productivity can therefore fall in the short run but rise in the long run as households with migrants shift to less labor intensive, but possibly equally profitable, crops or livestock,” the report said.

Remittances, the report noted, “often drastically change the composition of the rural population” and “can pose (their) own challenges for rural development, because migration is selective.”

“Those who leave are generally younger, better educated, and more skilled. Migration thus can diminish entrepreneurship and education level among the remaining

population,” the report said.

Likewise, the report cited there are evidence suggesting migration “is most accessible for the wealthiest and best educated of the rural population, as moving requires means to pay for transportation and education to find a good job.”

“Moreover, better-educated migrants are the most likely to have a successful migration outcome,” the report added.

It particularly cited the Philippines as having more female migrants to urban areas faring better than the less-educated males.

The report estimated some 575 million people migrated from rural to urban areas in developing countries over the past 25 years.

Of these, it said, “400 million lived in transforming

countries, where migration flows increased to almost 20 million a year between 2000 and 2005.”

Migration flows as a share of the rural population have been traditionally highest in urbanized economies, but they have fallen over 2000-05 to an annual rate of 1.25 percent. In transforming and agriculture-based economies, the annual flow of out-migration steadily increased to 0.8 percent and 0.7 percent of the rural population, respectively.

The report also noted that international migration out of rural areas is male-dominated in Ecuador and Mexico, but female-dominated in the Dominican Republic, Panama, and the Philippines. /

ISAGANI DE LA PAZ, www.ofvjjournalism.net

DA says.. from page 2

He cited the recent trip to India with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when investments in agriculture were secured, particularly in the propagation of crops for biofuels manufacturing.

A memorandum of agreement (MOA), was signed between the Philippines and PRAJ Industries of India, which was aimed to help develop the country’s biofuels industry, Yap said.

Under the MOA, the DA and PRAJ agreed to team up “for feedstock development and setting up of biofuel production plants” in the Philippines and will provide assistance in identifying varieties of sweet sorghum and jatropha for cultivation trials.

“PRAJ will also provide the design, engineering and supply the biofuel production plants to potential investors in the biofuel sector based on mutually agreed terms and conditions on a case-to-case basis,” Yap said.

For its part, he said the DA will identify land for feedstock development; encourage and assist farmers in cultivating sweet sorghum, sugarcane, cassava or jatropha for the production of alternative clean energy; and help in attracting investments for commercial scale feedstock production and the construction of bio-diesel and bio-ethanol plants/PIA-CAR.

BSU, AILA launches TESOL course

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet – The Benguet State University is now accredited in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages or TESOL as it has launched its international full course last week.

BSU together with the Australian International Language Academy and in partnership with the Southern Cross International Learning Institution, an internationally accredited institution, will offer TESOL course accredited by the Commonwealth

of Australia after the training of its trainers.

Currently undergoing a 10-day training, representatives from the academe and private institutions in the region who underwent rigid screening will soon serve as trainers for the course.

TESOL is an internationally recognized qualification that allows one to teach English language in countries where the native language is not English.

BSU President Rogelio Colting said the partnership with AILA started two

years ago which was then a member of the Queensland Language Academy now replaced by SCILI.

AILA through SCILI authorized BSU to offer TESOL and other international program not only in the Philippines but in Asia as well. However, BSU alone could not undertake training without AILA's representation according to Colting.

Colting said this has reaffirmed BSU's vision as the premiere state university in Southeast Asia.

The course normally takes around two to three months according to Colting. The course provides fundamental tools for teaching English to people who speak other languages and diverse teaching methods based on dissimilar student needs and profiles.

Co-owner of AILA Keith Wright acknowledged the efforts of BSU Legal Officer Atty. Mathias Angiwan who was instrumental in bringing the TESOL program to the university which will foster partnership and unity with AILA./S.C. Aro/PIA-Benguet

Elections in MP peaceful

BONTOC, Mt. Province – Last Monday's synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections in the province was peaceful and winning candidates were proclaimed without any untoward incident.

This was learned from Provincial Election Supervisor Dennis Dimalnat adding that all precincts in the 144 barangays in the province functioned properly.

Mt. Prov. Police Info Officer P/SI Roel Tagel disclosed that the polls was orderly and peaceful with no election-related incident occurring in the province during the period. He informed that elements of the Provincial Mobile Group were dispatched to barangay Buringal, in Paracelis to augment the local police there.

Buringal was put under area of immediate concern following the ballot box snatching incident during the May 14, 2007 elections.

According to Dimalnat, four barangays have uncontested candidate for punong barangay, three barangays have lone candidate each for

Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Chairman, while 26 barangays in the province were without SK kagawads candidates during the October 29 polls.

Barangays Gayang in Sabangan; Saclit in Sadanga; Suyo and Tetep-an Sur in Sagada had unopposed candidate for barangay chairman. With uncontested candidate for SK chairman were barangays Bila in Bauko; Lacmaan in Besao and Baongan in Sabangan.

The Comelec report also reflected that there are no SK Kagawad candidates who filed in the following barangays: Poblacion, Abatan, Bagnen Oriente, Mayag all of Bauko; Besao East, Padangaan, Payeo of Besao; Gonogon of Bontoc; Alunogan, Balangao, Banao, Banawel, Butac, Maducayan, Poblacion, Santa Isabel, Tonglayan all of Natonin; Anonat and Bunot of Paracelis; Bunayan, Lagan and Supang of Sabangan; and Sumadel, Tue and Kayan West of Tadian.

The municipality of Natonin has seven out of the nine barangays without

Cont. on page 6

Natonin abaca growers needs support to sustain Industry

NATONIN, Mt. Province - The growing abaca industry and the One Town One Product (OTOP) of this eastern municipality needs appropriate support to spur its economic development and enhance livelihood programs to the residents here.

Senior Trade and Industry Development Specialist Benjamin Gayodan of the Provincial Office of the Department of Trade and Industry said the promising abaca industry project which was launched in 2003 is faced with problems that need to be addressed to ensure its sustainability and enable to meet the growing market demands.

Gayodan said the very poor condition of the 24 kilometers road stretch connecting the municipalities of Natonin and Paracelis should be improved for easier transport of abaca production to the market.

He disclosed that aside from the cost of production, the abaca farmers are also hard up with the cost of transportation adding that the freight of every kilo of raw Abaca fiber products from Natonin to Paracelis is P2,00 plus the P18,000 hire for every truckload of abaca products from Paracelis to the leading abaca buyers in Manila and Bulacan.

Gayodan also batted for more technology assistance such as stripping machines and mechanical dryers to enhance production. He said the trained abaca strippers cannot produced much as they are doing it manually and the abaca stalks can hardly be dried as it depend mostly on air drying as the area is known as the home of the rain.

To improve the quality of the abaca stalks and increase the abaca fiber recovery rate, Gayodan said the abaca farmers are contemplating on

agricultural phase development. He explained that since the abaca plants are naturally grown in forested areas, the surroundings of abaca plants need to be weeded to allow the abaca plants to grow faster and bigger.

So far, the municipality of Natonin and the adjacent barangays in the towns of Barlig and Paracelis where these wild abaca plants thrive abundantly places Mountain Province as only abaca producing area in Northern Luzon. The wild abaca plants are naturally growing in some 900 hectares in these areas.

Other abaca producing areas in the Philippines include Bicol, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao. The Philippines provides 85 percent of the world's supply of abaca fiber while the remaining 15 percent comes from Ecuador.

Gayodan said that for January to June of 2007, the abaca farmers were able to sell 24.9 metric

tons of raw abaca fiber at P33.50 per kilo to Manila Cordage Corporation and Jingbee Corporation, the two leading abaca fiber buyers in the country. At present, there are three entrepreneurs managing the Abaca Industry.

Meanwhile, the Development Bank of the Philippines has opened an initial P2 Billion credit window to support the government's OTO program. Aside from loan assistance to OTO entrepreneurs, the fund could also be access by local government units to support OTO projects such as common service facility, road networks and infrastructures and financing training centers./ A. Doga-ong/PIA-MP

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Atok supports HB 743 strengthening CARP



LA TRINIDAD, Benguet – The local government unit of Atok is appealing to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to certify as urgent House Bill No. 743 strengthening the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) further amending the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL).

HB No. 743 authored by Rep. Junie Cua of the lone District of Qurino Province is entitled “An Act Strengthening the CARP further amending for the purpose sections 63 and 37 of Republic Act 6657 otherwise known as the CARL.

Atok Mayor Concepcion Balao said their municipality fully supports the House Bill through Resolution Number 98-2007 as it would benefit the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) who are members of the Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) or the Indigenous Peoples (IPs).

Resolution No. 98-2007 states that the approval of HB No. 743 would operationalize the Atok Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) composed of barangays Poblacion, Abiang, Caliking, Cattubo, Naguey, Paoay, Pasdong and Topdac as identified by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) as expanded ARC December last year benefiting more than 3,209 ARBs who belong to the ICCs.

It further stated that the town has adopted and incorporated the ARC Development Plan

(ARCDP) focusing on agrotourism in the ARC barangays and in the Municipal Development Plan as the roadmap in the implementation of various Agricultural Development Plans of the CARP Implementing teams.

The ARCs are recipients of various support services implemented by the different CARP implementing teams, LGU, peoples organizations and non-government organizations.

ARC barangays namely Naguey, m Pasdong and Cattubo are recipients of the Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project Phase II (ARISP) has tremendously helped the ARBs in the area particularly the provision of farm to market roads, irrigation facilities and institutional development programs.

Moreover, extension of the CARP Program is needed to complete the distribution and issuance of Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA), the resolution states.

This would also sustain the gains and success of the CARP Program proven to be an anti-poverty program in the countryside and should focus more on the delivery of support services, the resolution further states.

Earlier, the provincial board approved three resolutions supporting the extension of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) beyond 2008, the immediate

approval of House Bill 743 amending the CARL of 1988

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and for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to certify as urgent House Bill No. 743, which are the clamor of the Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Cultural Communities for the continued implementation of the CARP focused on the delivery of various support services to fight poverty. *** S.C. Aro/PIA-Benguet

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