

# THE WEEKEND JUNCTION



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

## **Pahayagang palaban!!!** **Local Screening Body Sought For Ancestral Land Claim Applications**



BAGUIOCITY—The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) should create an ancestral land clearing committee solely for Baguio to screen applications for ancestral land claims in the light of the controversy on the propriety of issuing ancestral land titles to lots declared as forest reservations.

This was pushed by Councillor Isabelo Cosalan

Jr. in a proposed resolution as an offshoot of the meeting between city officials led by Rep. Mauricio Domogan and Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. and national government officials Secretary Sylvestre Bello III, chairperson of the Oversight Committee on Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Secretary Eugenio Insigne last Sept. 2 at the Club John Hay Club House.

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**ORDERS IGNORED:** *Personnels from the Public Safety and Order Division (POSD), issues the closure order to stop operation of this lotto outlet located near the park and a church along Otek street. Complaints have reached the mayors office and the POSD regarding the illegal operation. /Photo by: Mon S. David*

**Dapat na ma deklarang persona Non Grata yan abusadong NCIP na yan!!!**

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OFF THE PRESS

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



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Towards a Metro Baguio Commission

BY: ARTURO BOQUIREN



## Lawmaker to the youth: use I.T. To make Your voice heard

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday said information technology (IT) is a powerful tool that the youth can utilize not only to realize their dreams but also to prepare for the eventual task of leading the country.

"Our national hero said we the youth are the hope of the fatherland. I believe that with today's technology, such hope can be realized much faster," he said at the Philippine Youth Congress in Information Technology held last week at the University Theater in UP Diliman, Quezon City.

The 39-year-old lawmaker said that the Internet, texting and social media have connected more people making the

world much smaller.

"New communication technology means government can no longer use the excuse that it is unaware of the problems faced by people. It is now obligated to act quickly and responsibly."

While the Philippines ranks below some of its Southeast Asian neighbors in terms of Internet usage, with only about five percent of its estimated population of 96 million connected online, it is considered the texting capital of the world.

A recent global messaging survey conducted by a mobile phone manufacturer also recently indicated that 60 percent of Filipinos send an average of 12 to

15 text messages daily.

Escudero also said that the next leaders of the country must engage in a national conversation with the people through IT.

"They should continuously do this to hear the ideas, complaints and suggestions of the people through the various media that IT provides," he said.

The senator asked the youth not to shy away from speaking their minds or asking tough questions.

"We the youth have more at stake in the future, so it is just right that we play a part in determining the path our country will take. And sometimes, what we cannot do in the real world, we can do in the world of IT," he explained. Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

## High Power Cost Discourages Foreign Investors

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday said the Philippines will continue to lag behind its Southeast Asian neighbors in terms of foreign direct investments (FDIs) until electricity rates are lowered.

"This is one of the biggest deterrents to foreign investors who still have to deal with other problems," he added.

Escudero called for the full implementation of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA), which was conceptualized to attract bigger players in the power industry, promote competition and eventually bring down electricity rates.

"If there were more suppliers, the chances of power rates and the cost of doing business going down would increase," he said.

Based on 2007 data from the ASEAN Power Utilities Authorities, a consultative group attached to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the average cost of electricity in the Philippines was 17.5 US cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

It was more than three times the cost in Vietnam (5.38 per kWh) and much higher than Indonesia (7.77 per kWh), Malaysia (7.67 kWh) and Thailand (8.50 per kWh).

Last year, the Philippines had the second-highest elec-

tricity rates in Southeast Asia, trailing only Cambodia.

Data compiled by the Department of Energy also revealed that as of December 2008, the Philippines has the sixth highest industrial power rates in the world and seventh highest residential rates.

"It comes as no surprise then that FDIs in other neighboring countries were also higher," Escudero noted.

Bangkok Sentral ng Pilipinas records indicated that total FDIs in 2008 totaled \$1.5 billion, a 48 percent decline from \$2.98 billion in 2007.

In comparison, Thailand recorded \$9.8 billion, Indonesia \$7.9 billion and Vietnam \$8.05 in FDIs. Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

## Senate Justice Panel Approves 636 New Courts

Opposition Senator Chiz Escudero yesterday announced that the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights has approved bills calling for the creation of 636 new first and second-level courts in the

country which, when enacted into laws, would increase the total number of courts in the country by almost 30 percent.

"Our country's justice system has been debilitated by a shortage of courts of law. Our dockets are

always clogged and justice moves at a glacial pace. Creating more courts will definitely increase the rate of resolving pending cases," Escudero, the committee chairman, said.

"Members of the justice committee have de-

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## Probe Report on Isaifp 'Advocacy Group'

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday urged the government, through the defense or military hierarchy, to investigate reports

that the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFFP) has put up an advocacy group that may be used for next year's elections.

"These are serious allegations

that should be cause for alarm. The military's intelligence office has no business putting up advocacy groups whether for the elections or any

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The Junction- OIC



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## City Street Cameras On Trial Period

BAGUIO CITY- City streets; Abanaost, lower and mid-Session road, Legarda rd, Magsaysay avenue, and Harrison rd, are now monitored by cameras designed to “observe” said areas for peace and order, and security purposes.

The main observation station is at the mayor’s office.

The use is free for now, Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr. said during the weekly media “Ugnayan,” but should be up for bidding soon.

Strategically positioned, the cameras could zoom in on law

violators; such as illegally parked vehicles, or muggers and their victims. According to Mayor Bautista, Jr., the camera is a “crime deterrent,” as a person was caught one early morning unloading four filled big garbage bags from his car to the street.

Identified through zoomed-in images of him and his car plates, the person is now awaiting charges on littering, the mayor said.

Several police characters are also identified through said cameras; loitering along the main streets, allegedly waiting for victims.

Said persons are also under close surveillance.

Those obstructing traffic through illegal parking may be caught through the cameras, as with stubborn sidewalk vendors, which was observed on screen, by media practitioners last Thursday.

The mayor though, said that the cameras would be very helpful during VIP visits, including that of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo; this centennial year. Security problems would be lessened with such gadget, the mayor ended./juliegfianza

## Mayor Works Out Fuel Price Rollback In City

BAGUIO CITY- Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. scored what could be an unprecedented achievement in the city when he managed to convince oil retailers to implement a rollback on fuel prices in record time.

Retailers of Caltex and Petron, two of the three top oil companies in the country, Thursday lowered their diesel prices by 50 centavos just hours after the mayor convinced them that the high fuel cost in the city is hurting the city’s consumers.

“We wanted to prove that through concerted efforts, we can achieve anything even effect a gas price rollback on our own which even the Dept. of Energy cannot do,” the mayor said.

The mayor

sought the meeting with the retailers where he appealed for a cut on the costs of petroleum products which are higher by P4 to P5 than the prevailing prices in the lowlands.

He said the meeting was also meant to establish a partnership with the fuel retailers which he said he hopes to sustain for the benefit of the constituents.

The mayor said the swift response from the retailers meant they are also willing to cooperate with the city government.

The mayor said the rollback will be shouldered by the retailers who were convinced of the rationality of easing the burden of the Baguio consumers affected by the high prices.

The mayor said he will continue to air his appeal this time to the oil com-

panies themselves to attain a bigger price reduction.

The mayor was worried that the high prices of fuel would hurt the city’s economy and the oil businessmen themselves as even local motorists are forced to buy fuel in the lowlands to save on fuel costs.

He was also worried that the high prices would scare tourists away from the city.

The mayor said the fuel retailers understood the city’s concerns and agreed to cooperate and in turn, the city promised to do its part by protecting the operation of the fuel companies by weeding out illegal retail outlets known as “paihian” and by maintaining the city’s safe business climate./aileen p. refuerzo

## Dads Give Go Signal On Satellite Market Projects

BAGUIO CITY – The city council Monday gave the go signal for Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. to negotiate for and bid out the satellite market projects at Pacdal and City Camp barangays here.

The move gave the mayor the authority to “negotiate, bid, award and implement the planning, design, construction and site development of the projects (along with) the power to sign all contracts, agreements, letter of instructions, awards and notices and all other documents relative thereto.”

It also authorized the mayor to “enter into a contract of loan and to sign the loan agreement,

ferred Ventures Corporation.

Four councilors – Galo Weygan, Perlita Rondez, Betty Lourdes Tabanda and Isabelo Cosalan Jr. — voted against the authority casting doubts on the propriety of acquiring a loan for the project, the practicality of the project and the availability of lots for the projects.

But Carino assured that there are enough available lots for the project,

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## Process Flow, Requirements For Power, Water Connection Moratorium Out

BAGUIO CITY – The city government has set the process flow and requirements to implement Ordinance No. 67 series of 2009 allowing owners of buildings

and structures without building permits to avail of electrical or water connections from the Benguet Electric Cooperative Inc. (BENECO) and the Baguio Water District (BWD).

Secretary to the mayor Ronald Perez, who along with city administrator Peter Fianza serves as action officer of the committee created by Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. to oversee the implementation of the ordinance, said the process flow will be as follows:

Applicants should secure application form at the Special Services Division of the City Mayor’s Office and secure the following requirements:

\*Notarized authority from the registered landowner, if not the owner of the property;

\*Barangay clearance from their respective barangays;

\*Updated Tax Declaration and Real Property Assessment from city assessor’s office;

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### RESEARCH & STATISTICS

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*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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## Spin For Sale

That's the title of a post-graduate study in progress on one of the 2010 elections stickier problems: radio blocktime commentators. Are they legitimate voices in the national dialogue? Or broadcast gunslingers for hire?

This is a country confronted by a tension-filled election. Funded by faceless patrons, blocktimers raise threat levels, cautions Isolde Amante, "Spin" author. Amante is managing editor of the regional Sun Star daily. At Ateneo University, she probed further on findings compiled by the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility.

CMFR "The Danger of Impunity" analyzed murders of journalists. It found that in a five year period, "21 of 25 victims blocktimers" in the provinces were blocktimers. Blocktiming is a major fund generator for provincial stations, CMFR's Melinda de

## EDITORIAL

mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP)".

Radio reaches nine out of ten Filipinos. Despite the surge in tv audiences and Internet, the number of AM radio stations bolted from 350 in 1998 to 382 in 2007. And radio's reach attracts blocktimers—and their killers.

"Block timers are not journalists". Sun-Star noted earlier. "They're walk in customers". Institutions or individuals buy airtime at radio stations overseen shakily by the National Telecommunications Commission. No questions are asked. They broadcast news and comment, blocktimers claim. Character assassination or praise for a price, critics counter."

"They're hold-uppers on the air", Rep. Antonio Cuenco fumed Five blocktime commentators badgered Cuenco and other Visayan-speaking legislators for cash and airfares. When refused, they slammed the solons on the air.

The Philippines has nonomopoly on blocktime extortion, Amante wrote. In Colombia, the Center for International Media Assistance dubs this as "two-way blackmail". Officials scupper advertising contracts for critical media. In reprisal, the unscrupulous "threaten to destroy, if they don't advertise.

Airtime on evening newscasts, in China, is peddled to officials who'd "boost their profiles in the Communist Party," reports Forbes Asia (July 21, 2008). Some broadcasters "basically trade in their political capital for commercial gain."

State ownership restricts news and political commentary in Thailand, says Dr. Ubonrat Siriyuvasak in KAS Democracy Report 2008. "Saturating airwaves with one-way communication turns state-controlled media into propaganda machines.

Capitol is Cebu province's largest blocktimer. Contracts for 2009 reveal airtime fees alone, this year, may top P4.86 million. "That's enough to enough to run the Province's largest district hospital for nearly four months," Amante points out...

The broadcasts disseminate information about programs to help people, insists Vice Gov. Gregorio Sanchez Jr. "That really helps." It certainly does. Nearly half of what Capitol spends monthly for airtime (P200,000) goes to three, Bantay Radyo AM stations — two in Cebu, one in Oriental Negros. Owner? Vice Gov. Sanchez.

Political commentaries chewed up more than half (55.5 percent) of all blocktime hours. Health topics accounted for 8 percent, Five incumbent elective officials and four ex-officials are spread-eagled, as blocktimers, in eight of Cebu's 13 AM radio stations.

And there's little by way of training blocktimers in professional standards: objectivity, balance, fairness — as code of ethics provides. "Most blocktimers operate in a moral wasteland where facts are few and comments bear a price tag," notes "Pocketbook Muscle and Journalists".

Blocktimers are not required, by law or the Broadcast Code to reveal funding sources. "For all their pervasiveness, little is known about individuals or organizations that pay for them or challenges of regulating them... Without their knowledge or consent, taxpay-

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## DIRETSAHAN

OFF THE PRESS

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Naglunsad ng "LARGEST PIZZA" at kamakailan lang ay LONG-EST LONGANISA ang Baguio City... kelan din naman kaya sila maglulunsad ng THE PLENTIEST BASURA? ...at the MOST TROUBLESOME CITY AT TRAVELSOME MAYOR? In the North? Teka, meron, akong mga nominee para sa world's record! Dito sa Baguio, puwera pikon ha? Bato bato sa langit.

The MOST pahayagang palaban ....op kors THE JUNK-YON este junction op da North... MOST uncollect garbage...Baguio City.

Most PIKON Barangay on garbage...Irisan Barangay.

Most PIKON Barangay officials on this column...Salud Mitra Barangay.

MOST PIKON Barangay Captain...Punong Barangay NG as in NO GOOD!

MOST having da matinding RESBAK.... Barangay SM Samahang Mangkukulam...bwa ha! Ha!

MOST MAYABANG na Department Head sa City Hall...Mr. CL as in cholesterol lover...mataba at laki tiyan kasi. Hi! Hi! Hi!

The MOST EFFICIENT but HUMBLE division head sa City Mayors office...Engr. GREGORIO DELIJERO ng POSD.

The MOST ENERGETIC and DEPENDABLE task force sa City Hall...op kors ang POSD.

The MOST dirty beauty pageant in Baguio...Miss Teen Baguio 2009.

Most "by passed" law enforcement agency...NBI-CAR.

Most PIKON na munisipalidad sa basura ng Baguio...TUBA, BENGUET.

Most ON AND OFF enforcement multiplier....Sibak, este CIVAC.

Most UNTOUCHABLES na illegal...gambling at jueteng...yu know da rison WHY?!!

.....Sa susunod ay marami pa tayong ilalabas na, "NOMINEES" para sa Baguio City's largest and most...mintaym, kuwidaw at baka kayo ang susunod na matsambahan ng aking mga "bubuwit", ma nominee rin kayo dito sa aking kolumn.

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MARAMI ang mga drayber na bukod sa bastos na ay wala pang disiplina sa pagmamaneho, katulad na lamang itong drayber ng PUJ na may plakang AYE 997 at nasa rutang Baguio, Trinidad at Tuba, Benguet.

Ayon sa aking "bubuwit", nasaksihan daw niya mismo kung paano

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