

THE WEEKEND JUNCTION



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

Pahayagang palaban!!!

Typhoon "Pepeng" claims 199 lives ; damage to roads and properties reaches P272.79 M in Benguet



Food Supply Stabilization - When Baguio was isolated due to the closure of the three main roads leading to the city, boxes of canned food, instant noodles and other demanded items were airlifted by the Philippine Air Force as requested by some establishments. Photo shows PNP recruits unloading the items at the Loakan Airport./Photo by Art Tibaldo

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet – Typhoon "Pepeng's" three-time comeback which mustered volumes of rainfall claimed 199 lives, and damaged millions-worth of properties, crops and road networks in the province, the hardest hit in the Cordillera Region.

The Benguet Provincial

Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) chaired by Governor Nestor Fongwan issued a partial estimated damage cost to properties amounting to P272.794 million as of October 16, 2009.

PDCC partial reports recorded a total of 199 deaths and 17 still missing, 31,993 families and 150,558 individuals affected, and 284 totally damaged houses and

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Ang trahedyang ito ay resulta ng global warming. Umaksiyon na bago huli ang lahat



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More Falsities In The LTO

BY: JAMES S. VALEROS



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Give Fixed Office, Secretariat To Peace Panels

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday urged government to give a fixed office and secretariat to the peace panels negotiating a settlement to the simmering Muslim and Communist rebellions.

While he welcomed the appointment of Undersecretary Nabil Tan as officer-in-charge of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), the 40-year-old lawmaker lamented the fact that both panels have to rely on the OPAPP for material and technical support.

He noted that the OPAPP has an annual budget of only P107,168,000, which is split between P40,248,000 for

personal services and P66,920,000 for maintenance and other operating expenses.

"We must give full support to those negotiating an end to these decades-long insurgencies. We should have a fixed secretariat and an office for both peace panels so they can be more effective on getting the job done. We must also give the necessary budget for them," Escudero said.

He also said that the government must not treat the OPAPP as a holding area for Palace loyalists looking out for better opportunities.

"With the talks at a virtual standstill, it is obviously time to revisit the government's ap-

proach to the peace talks with the MILF and the CPP-NPA-NDF," Escudero said.

Tan, a former vice governor in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, has said that he did not expect peace talks with either rebel group to go forward in the remaining eight months of the current administration.

He also indicated that what the OPAPP can do is prepare a transition report so the next president can be guided on the "proposed directions of the peace process in the next six years."

Escudero has said the next administration should pursue peace talks with all rebel groups in a bid to achieve a final settlement during its six-year term./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

No Intention To Give 'Calamity' Diplomas - Lawmaker

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero yesterday urged education officials to review his proposal to give students at all levels a passing grade for the current semester or grading period in areas badly hit by Pepeng and Ondoy, clarifying he never proposed to give out "calamity" diplomas.

"Let me be very clear on this: I never said students in the calamity areas be accelerated or promoted to the next grade or year. What I favor is granting credits for this quarter or semester so students can help their families and communities recover from these disasters," he said.

"Classes have been severely disrupted in almost all of central and

northern Luzon. Schools have been damaged or continue to be used as evacuation centers. Many roads and highways remain impassable. Teachers have been displaced, too," Escudero said.

The latest report from the Office of Civil Defense shows that 62 towns in central Luzon alone remain flooded while several towns in the Cordilleras continue to be isolated because of landslides in key roads.

At least 675,681 families or 3,136,965 people in 4,472 villages in 356 towns and 35 cities in 27 provinces were affected by Pepeng, disaster officials said. Some 17,506 families or 83,482 people are housed in 179 evacuation centers.

"The num-

bers speak of the suffering our people are undergoing right now. The trauma inflicted on our children can very well be immeasurable. To say then that our students will now pray for super typhoons every year so they can pass school without studying is very lamentable and uncalled for," Escudero said.

"The semester is just about over. I am sure the experience they had with this calamity alone may be more than what some other people will learn in their lifetime," he said.

Education officials have admitted that teachers will go the extra mile or even bend policies to make up for the disruption of classes caused by Ondoy and Pepeng./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

Call For Community Action In Luzon

Opposition Sen. Chiz Escudero is calling for community leaders and students throughout Luzon to help other affected areas who cannot go back to school or continue with their work because of the devastation left by typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng.

He said students helping their "classmates" in the

entire region would put to good use their time and skills. "This is like an SOS movement for students: SOS which can be translated to Save Our Students movement. Students must find it in themselves to volunteer and contribute to improving neighboring communities and schools," he said.

He said that

while their own schools are still being used as evacuation centers and are still scheduled for repair, there is no better assignment than to help their fellow students who can't go to class because all of their blackboards, chalks, erasers, and pens, have been destroyed or washed away.

"It's a compliment. Cont. on page 10



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P36.1M needed for garbage disposal til December

BAGUIOCITY - The city needs P36,164,413.15 for the city's waste disposal until the end of this year.

City accountant Antonio Tabin who presented the proposed appropriation to the city council during its special session last Thursday said the amount would cover hauling and tipping fees from October to December this year to move the

wastes to the Capas landfill facility in Tarlac.

The projected amount covers hauling services both by city government utilizing city-owned resources pegged at P15.3 million and by private companies amounting to P7.6 million. An excess unpaid amount from previous hauling services amounting to P10.8 million was proposed to be included in the appropriation.

Tabin said the

city needs to employ private hauling services as available city equipment cannot accommodate all the daily waste output.

The city has so far appropriated a total of P104,146,070.65 for the hauling and tipping fees since the problem began in July last year.

The proposed appropriation will be discussed by the city council in its session tomorrow (Monday).

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LET THERE BE LIGHT - Linesmen of the Benguet Electric Cooperative work in the fog to restore wires snapped by a landslide at the Pinsao Proper Barangay at the height of typhoon Pepeng./Mondax photo

Search Continues For Missing Typhoon Victims

The rescue operations may be over but the search for the missing continued last Friday, two weeks after typhoon Pepeng hit, only to return and accomplish what it failed to do the first time around.

Where could Don Don be? A n d _ M a r i a n o

Tacloy, Marceline Semilla, Kimberly Semilla and Miller Viernes, all of Purok 1, Irisan Barangay?

The special kid that he is (or was), Don Don was with eight children much younger than he when he dropped from a bridge and into a tributary of the Balili River. It was the first call volunteers received while bracing

themselves for the storm landfall, mid-afternoon of Oct. 3. By then, the floodwaters were rising.

The team led by city administrator Peter Fianza, action officer of the City Disaster Coordinating Center, failed to find Don Don, or Jericho, 23, as his playmates identified him. Instead, they found the

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Doc T: The man whose silence never betrays

Dr. John L. Tinoyan is in his usual reticent mood....

While some say silence lock men's thoughts and feelings to eternal recluse, there are only a few breeds of 'em men who speak more with their maws oftentimes shut.

The important things are learned in their faces, their gestures, never in their locked tongues.

"Doc T" as he is fondly called by col-

leagues, lawyers, and volunteer lifesavers is a doctor for the living.

More than that, he is a friend to the dead - the man to tell their stories.

He is the epitome of silent acu-

men - a man oftentimes likened to a high school essay for having "300-words or less" in a day.

Then again, the best stories have no words.

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RESEARCH & STATISTICS

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RSCC: Better statistics and assessment of the economic/environmental impact needed

BAGUIOCITY - Every October of the year is being observed in the country as National Statistics Month (NSM). This year's NSM celebration is being spearheaded by the Department of National Defense, with a theme "Enhancing Security Sector Statistics for Good Governance, Peace and Sustainable Development."

The NSM theme recognizes the crucial role played by the security sector in ensuring economic stability and long term development in the country, through convergence in the strategies and activities of the security

sector and highlighting the importance of generating accurate, reliable and timely statistics in formulating better plans, programs and policies.

In the region, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD-CAR), in coordination with the Regional Statistical Coordination Committee (RSSC) and the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) Regional Division, held a kapihan forum, Wednesday, in line with the celebration.

Heading the panelists were Regional Development Council (RDC) acting chair and RSSC chairman Juan Ngalob, OCD-CAR Regional Director Olivia Luces, NSCB Regional Director Benjamin Navarro.

NSCB Regional Head Benjie Navarro explained that this year's NSM celebration focuses on the security sector because with the volume of diversities of the different regions of the country, there

is a lack of standardization in terms of security concepts and definitions resulting in disparity of policies and programs.

Luces made a presentation on the damages wrought by Typhoon "Pepeng" in Cordillera and the importance of having Disaster Risk Reduction Plans. She also stressed the need for a better assessment of the economic and environmental impact of this disaster.

"With respect to disaster statistics, There is really is a need to improve on how the data is generated, so as to come out with better statistics, and we should also look not only into the direct impact of the disaster, we should also look into its implications on the economy and environment," Navarro added.

As per his assessment, Navarro said that with the damage brought by "Pepeng" in Cordil-

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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

www.linisgobyerno.org

Ear To The Ground

Few see it—for now. Funerals for flood and mudslide victims are ongoing. Footage of traumatized survivors, sloshing through ruined homes, crams the evening news.

But put your ears to the ground. That low unceasing rumble is the seething anger of disaster victims. They blame inept and greedy officials for this mess.

It may take two months for stagnant water in places, like Pasig, to recede, UN undersecretary John Holmes was told. Many waterways remain silted or illegally built over. Prices of some crops have bolted, sometimes four fold. Thus, the fury also isn't subsiding.

Worse, proof has emerged that much of the tragedy could have been prevented. Neglect led to breakdown of Metro Manila Development Authority's flood warning

EDITORIAL

system. Greed creamed our forests. Official profligacy, like congressional pork, gutted disaster management programs. Government pegged damage to farms and infrastructure at P10.4 billion. Nonsense, snort Oxford scholar Assad Baunto and Journalist Yasmin Arquiza. In a GMA report, they factor in overlooked losses from civil aviation, private homes, lost income from those who died, etc. Actual losses: P23 billion.

About P1.04 million people were given aid, the GMA report adds. That roughly comes up to P93.04 per person. "Drawing a cake does not fill one's belly," the Chinese proverb says.

The President, meanwhile, created a reconstruction commission that'd scrounge for \$billion. A fraction of that amount would have built Noah-like control measures – if adopted before the deluge.

Too-late-too-little action stokes resentments further. These conjure images of volcanic magma boiling up. Recall Mount Pinatubo in 1991, Kanlaon in 1988 and Hibok-Hibok in 1948.

Enraged citizens could erupt in ways unforeseen. The "mentally challenged" may discount that likelihood. But the first overt signs are already there.

Livid citizens will sue National Power Corporation officials. Did they open sluice gates of the San Roque Dam recklessly? Like everyone else, Pangasinan congressmen were caught by the storm with pants down. Now, they indulge in morning-after criticism.

"Anyone can become angry," Aristotle wrote. "That is easy. But to be angry with the right person at the right time, and for the right purpose and in the right way - that is not within everyone's power."

Rina Jimenez David of Inquirer is a flood victim.. "I never thought I'd want to leave so badly as I do now," she wrote. "It's the inconvenience of being a dutiful, tax-paying obedient citizen in a state where ...everyone mouths slogans about good governance but where officials hold up worthwhile projects while waiting for "tong-pats"...

The build-up of revulsion against trapos showed in people turn out for former President Corazon Aquino's funeral. That undercurrent shoved Senator Benigno Aquino to forefront of "presidentiables".

The Internet letter titled "Robin Hoodlum and his Band", reflects this disgust. It adapts Gemma Santos Dimaculangan original appeal: "To All Filipinos Everywhere."

"Can it get any worse than this?," the letter asks. "Lawless individuals practice law, make our laws, enforce the law They bear titles like "Senator," "General" and worse, "President"... These are Robin Hoodlum and his band of money men.

"What do their children think of them? Are they breeding a new generation of improved Filipino crooks, with maybe a tad more style but equally negligible conscience?"

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DIRETSAHAN

*Pakinabang Sa Mga Pasugalan!!!
Barangay Biyaheng Boracay!!!*

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



NAPAKALUPIT talaga nitong si Pepeng at mukhang galit ito sa Baguio at Benguet... malaki kasi ang iniwang pinsala nito... kung bakit kasi paalis na sana eh bumalik balik pa ang buwishit na bagyong ito... Aba, dapat sa kanya ay ideklara na nating "Persona Non Grata", dahil sa kanya marami ang naging kawawa. Hindi biro ang idinulot na landslides dahil marami talaga ang nailibing ng buhay. Napuno tuloy ang mga punerarya. Kinulang tuloy sila ng espasyo at kabaong. Naging abala rin ang CDCC at ang iba't ibang sektor sa mga rescue at retrieval operations.

Naaawa po ako sa kalunos lunos na sinapit ng ibang mga biktima dahil halos hindi makilala matapos silang madaganan ng lupa at kung ano ano pa. nakikiramay po ang kolum na ito sa mga naulila. Ipinarating ko rin ang aking galit sa mga taong nagsasamantala sa mga ganitong sitwasyon katulad sa isang insidente noong narekober ang pera at gamit ng mga biktima sa may Cresencia Village. Isang grupo umano ang nagpakilalang sila ang may ari at kinuha ang ibang narekober. Makonsensya sana ang mga "Buwakang" kawatan na ito.nakikisimpatya rin ako sa mga volunteers na napagbintangan na sila ang kumuha. Aba hirap na hirap na nga sila eh napagbintangan pa!

Saludo naman ako sa mga volunteers na tumulong sa mga operasyon at ganun rin sa mga nag-abot ng tulong. Op kors saludo rin ako sa mga opisyal na nagpakita ng kanilang efforts, concerns, leadership at dedikasyon sa kanilang tungkulin tulad nina Baguio City Mayor REYNALDO BAUTISTA JR., Vice Mayor DANIEL FARINAS, Councilors ANTONIO TABORA JR., ELAINE SEMBRANO, PINKY RONDEZ City Admin. Atty. PETER FIANZA, POSD Chief, Engr. GREG DELIGERO at sa iba pa na hindi ko man nabanggit ay mga bayani naman sila sa ating pananaw. Syempre, gusto kong kamustahin ang mga opisyal na ngayon nagpapapogi at angpapaseksi samantalang ni anino nila ay hindi Makita noong kasagsagan ng bagyo! Heloo! He! He! Kumusta rin kaya ang PAG-ASA na tumutugma ang binibigay nilang signal sa aktwal na kalagayan ng ating panahon! Ganun din sa MGB ng DENR na imbes bida eh mukhang naging kontrabida pa dahil sa kanilang animoy mga kainutulan! Hindi kaya sunod sunod na naman na "soil testing" kung ang gagawin ng mga "kumag"?? hindi ko sinasabing "da last minute" magpalusot ang mga unggoy... este pagong sa DENR ha? (at least pagong hindi buwaya Hi! Hi!)

Teka, nakalimutan ko palang kamustahin ang mga barangay opisyaales na nasa boracay noong kasagsagan ng bagyong Pepeng?

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FAIR AND SQUARE

More Falsities In The LTO

BY: JAMES S. VALEROS



Some people in the LTO Baguio will probably not stop making false moves until they meet their doomsday, if ever it will come to them. For, in the government bureaucracy, that's hard to come by. Let's take the case of things in the LTO.

First, it was about the **UPGRADING OF YEAR MODEL** of a unit of motor vehicle. By the touch of its magic wand, the LTO can make a 1995 year model sedan or wagon to become a 1998 model. There is nothing effectively wrong with this if applied to a privately owned car, especially if the motor vehicle is well-maintained.

But not so in a for-hire car or taxi. A 1995 sedan or wagon taxi, supposedly already phased out in 2008, can still legally operate for another three years if upgraded to a 1998 model, courtesy of the LTO.

Good for the operator but woe unto the commuting public who will have to ride and pay for a dilapidated taxi. The owner of such taxi who already spent a lot for the upgrading of year model by LTO personnel will certainly not bring out pennies again for the maintenance of the taxi. It will be phased out anyway so come that time, he would just as well spend for another upgrading of the unit, instead of refurbishing the unit.

Then, there was this **LTO SYSTEM OR PROCEDURE OF CHANGING THE CHASSIS** of wagon taxi, a much, much better version of upgrading the year model. This is not an authorized procedure, but it is done anyway because here big money is involved. Never mind if caught, nothing will happen to the administrative case anyway. That's how it goes in the bureaucracy, the LTO not excluded.

In this system, whether or not the chassis of the taxi is actually changed or "pinukpok lang," a 1995 Toyota Tamaraw FX taxi, for instance, becomes a 2009 FX taxi again, by the use of the magic wand seemingly kept in the LTO. So, the taxi owner in this **case** though spending much, much more compared to the upgrading of year model is far more compensated because the taxi can be used or be operated for another 13 years, perhaps more if the procedure is repeated.

Obviously, the riding public here will suffer more than they will do in the upgraded taxi, but the LTO wouldn't care less since it gains more without feeling any qualms about it. Why? It believes the procedure is legal because by changing the chassis, it is equivalent to the rebuilt of a unit which can be categorized as new just like in the case of jeepneys and buses.

While there is a policy by the DOTC under Dept. Order No. 96-965 that effects the phase out of a taxi unit after 13 years reckoned from **Date of Manufacture**, for the LTO, this is a matter of choice. There is no money in following the Dept. Order, so it would rather opt for the policy of rebuilt. After all, it can rationalize that it is not its fault. The LTRFB-CAR was the one that issued the franchise, thus, the LTO is obligated to register the unit even it were violating Dept. Order 96-965.

Then, there is this **ISSUANCE OF FAKE YELLOW STICKERS**. Just like in the upgrading of year model and change of chassis, the victims here or rather the beneficiaries are the taxi operators whose units are about to be phased out and who are willing to spend and to be duped just so they could extend the operational life of their taxis.

While LTO personnel are not directly involved here because the yellow stickers are allegedly sold by "fixers" who abound in the LTO premises, it is hard to believe that they are not aware of it. The LTO Flying Squad should know because they can easily distinguished fake yellow stickers from the genuine ones.

It is unfathomable how the LTO could do all these falsities. It is even more unfathomable why the DOTC-CAR management couldn't stop them. Are the LTO and DOTC-CAR sporting the same shade of colors?

Whatever, we know there is now an ongoing investigation by DOTC-CAR Regional Director Atty. Federico Mandapat, Jr. of LTO personnel who might have been involved in these irregularities. If nothing happen in these investigations, then the public can make its own conclusion or choice.

Black or white or gray?

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

BATAS INTERNET TV: "an invitation for investment"

BY: BATAS MAURICIO



BATAS INTERNET TV INTENDS TO OPERATE SOON: Is there anyone out there willing to invest in the establishment of an Internet TV which is beamed nationwide and worldwide at a minimum cost?

The Board of Management of BATAS INTERNET RADIO (www.batasmauricio.com and www.eradiportal.com) wants to know, as it furiously embarks on starting an Internet TV station using the present facilities of BATAS RADIO in a couple of months from now.

The objective is to use Internet video streaming to operationalize the Internet TV, which, initially, will feature the on-going programs of BATAS INTERNET RADIO which are now airing 20 hours a day, Mondays to Fridays, starting at 4 in the morning and ending at 12 midnight.

To be called BATAS INTERNET TV, the projected Internet television station hopes to strengthen the brand of public service being provided by BATAS INTERNET RADIO at the moment, particularly in three interactive fields: timely delivery of latest news from the Philippines and around the world, free counseling on legal issues and ordinary problems, and heightening spiritual awareness, regardless of religion.

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FINANCING REQUIREMENTS FOR BATAS TV: But these thrusts will require financing, particularly in the procurement of broadcast quality TV cameras and the other equipment required to transmit the video streaming from BATAS INTERNET RADIO.

I was made to understand that this kind of a system will require an initial investment of about Php1.5 million, even if only second-hand cameras and equipment will be installed.

Consequently, the Board of Management of BATAS INTERNET RADIO is circulating an "invitation for investment" from people who have money which are not needed by them at the moment and can part with such money in the meantime.

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AN INVITATION FOR INVESTMENT: Here is the letter: "Friends: Salamat sa Diyos sa galan ni Jesus. I am writing this letter to you in the hope of finding partners in a venture that will see the establishment of an Internet television in the Philippines, broadcasting live from the Philippines nationwide and worldwide, using the facilities of BATAS INTERNET RADIO.

"The Internet TV, to be called BATAS INTERNET TV, will be very much like ABS CBN's 'Tele Radyo' and DZRH's RHTV..."

"It is intended likewise to hit the cable stations in Metro Manila and nationwide, starting off with the cable companies in the provinces for easier access and faster integration, so that we can be seen locally likewise, anywhere in the Philippines...."

"We have been told that we will need about one million five hundred thousand pesos (Php1,500,000.00) to cover these expenses. Perhaps, some of you, our esteemed friends, maybe interested to join us and invest in this venture, and can part with money not needed by you in the meantime..."

"...The investors will then be given priority preference in the prorated distribution of any income that maybe generated by the Internet TV, after operations...."

If there is anyone out there interested to invest, please call 0917 984 2468, or email me at batasmauricio@yahoo.com, or at batasradio@yahoo.com.

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ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: The fourth "Glorious Mystery" in the Holy Rosary of the Roman Catholic Christians is the assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which deals with the taking up into heaven of Mary, body and soul.

Even among Christians though, this is a controversial issue, with many of the so-called believers outside of the Catholic faith insisting that the assumption of Mary into heaven did not happen.

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CORDI NAWI

*The Papal Letter on Sunday
(15th of a Series)*

BY: EMILIO LIWANEN



THE LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE

Revelation 13:6 predicts that the papacy and false Protestantism will demand that everyone observe Sunday as a rest day. They will form an alliance with the State to legally enforce the keeping of Sunday, which they call "the Lord's Day." Scripture refers to the coming Sunday law as "the mark of the beast". "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads."

Over 100 years ago E.G. White wrote extensively on the ecumenical movement and the coming Sunday law. "Protestants will work upon the rulers of the land to make laws to restore the lost ascendancy of the man of sin, who sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Roman Catholic principles will be taken under the care and protection of the State... The Protestant governments will reach a strange pass. They will be converted to the world. They will also, in their separation from God, work to make falsehood and apostasy from God the law of the nation."

"There is a satanic force propelling the Sunday movement, but it is concealed. Even the men who are engaged in the work, are themselves blinded to the results which will follow their movement"

"Plans of serious import to the people of God are advancing in an underhand manner among the clergymen of various denominations, and the object of this secret maneuvering is to win popular favor for the enforcement of Sunday sacredness. If the people can be led to favor a Sunday law, then the clergy intend to exert their united influence to obtain a religious amendment to the Constitution, and compel the nation to keep Sunday."

"Our land is in jeopardy. The time is drawing on when its legislators shall so abjure the principles of Protestantism as to give countenance to the Romish apostasy. The people for whom God has so marvelously wrought, strengthening them to throw off the galling yoke of popery, will be a national act give vigor to the corrupt faith of Rome, and thus arouse the tyranny which only waits for a touch to start again into cruelty and despotism."

"Protestants are following in the steps of papists, Nay, more, they are opening the door for the popery to regain in Protestant America the supremacy which she has lost in the Old world."

"There is one pointed out in prophecy as the man of sin. He is Satan's right-hand man ready to carry on the work that Satan commenced in heaven; that of trying to amend the law of God. And the Christian world has sanctioned his efforts by adopting this child of the papacy-the Sunday institution. They have nourished it, until Protestantism shall give the Hand of fellowship to the Roman power. Then there will be a law against the Sabbath of God's creation, and then it is that God will do a strange work in the earth."

"As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the papacy in forcing the consciences of men to honor the false Sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example."

"Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States. Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon our people in all parts of the world."

To be continued...

One-year freeze on commercial building constructions in city mulled to arrest 'urban decay'

BAGUIO CITY – A one-year freeze on the construction of commercial establishments and issuance of building permits for such is being mulled in the city to give it a breathing spell in face of the threats of "urban decay."

The city council is now studying a proposed ordinance to enact said temporary moratorium which proponent Councilor Perlita Rondez said would mean a temporary prohibition of all commercial construction, to include construction of new commercial buildings and additions to existing buildings and on the issuance of all building permits for commercial constructions within the city.

The moratorium will exempt applications for the issuance of a building permit for any remodeling of a commercial building where the square footage of building construction does not exceed 10 percent of the total square footage of the existing or previously existing main building, excluding basements; and existing applications for building permit or occupancy permit for prior to the effective date of the ordinance.

Rondez said the proposed moratorium will be good for 12 months which the alderwoman said is a "definite and reasonable period of time within which to consider the Comprehensive Land

Use Program, the pursuance of the Baguio, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba and Tublay (BLISTT) Development Plan or other ordinances... which shall regulate the issuance of buildings permits to commercial buildings in a manner that will create conditions essential to the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the City and provide a framework for the orderly growth and development of the county while preserving and enhancing the natural heritage of the City."

"There are current resounding clamors to "BRING BACK THE SCENT OF THE PINES" and "STOP THE URBAN DECAY" of the City as she is slowly losing her attractiveness, both to the residents and the tourists alike. Rights, as well as just and equitable expectations of close by property owners are being affected by the congestion resulting from new and improper development of business persons or entities who are insensitive to the rich history and culture of the City. Such improper development severely impacts on the City's ability to provide adequate services, including efficient traffic, solid and liquid waste management, water supply, public health, fire and safety services, preservation and enhancement of the natural heritage and

distinct culture of the City. The City is vulnerable to moderate to high risk natural disasters such as earthquakes (high), landslides (high), and flooding (moderate). The City has experienced and is currently experiencing, on a regular historic basis, such natural disasters including the 1990 killer earthquake and yearly landslides that caused and continue to cause loss of life and catastrophic property damage to the residents," Rondez noted

Rondez said the city council has determined that there is a need to provide for the more orderly development of commercial buildings within the territorial jurisdiction of the City and that it is in the best interests of the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the City to do so.

"It is timely to revisit the BLISTT Development Plan and integrate the same with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) of the City in order to create more room for an expanded and organized land use development plan. The construction of new commercial buildings within the City's territorial jurisdiction during the pendency of any such consideration of the Comprehensive Land Use Program will irreversibly change the character of the City to the possible detriment of her residents," Rondez said.

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Tourism stakeholders assures that City Was Jesus a Vegetarian? is back, ready to serve visitors

BAGUIOCITY—Tourism stakeholders in the City held a press conference Wednesday to assure the public that Baguio, which was hardly hit by the recent typhoon Pepeng, is ready to accept and serve tourist, as well as to host various events such as conferences and conventions.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. assured that the city is already back in business, as the typhoon's effect are only on confined areas and access roads to the city are now open. He also lauded President Arroyo for prioritizing the opening of all access roads to the city.

"The national government, through the Department of Public Works and Highways and with the initiative of the President, is now pouring its resources to totally rehabilitate the road networks leading to our city," Bautista said.

Department of Tourism (DOT-CAR) Regional Director

Pura Molintas also assured that everything is back to normal and the city is now ready to bounce back. According to Molintas, public utility buses are now plying their routes.

"The prolonged travel time going in and out of Baguio, due to some problems in the lower part of Luzon, like flooding and damage to road infrastructure, is just a temporarily setback. In a few more days travel will be more comfortable as all concerned government agencies are working hard to solve the problem," Molintas said.

Hotel and Restaurant Association of Baguio President (HRAB) and Baguio Country Club president Anthony De Leon, also confirmed that they are all set and ready for all the previous schedules or arrangements that they have made from small events such as wedding arrangements or up to the Fil-Am Golf tournament

slated in December, wherein they expect about 1,200 participants from all over the country.

Camp John Hay General Manager Freddie Alquiros also assured that the city is ever ready to handle the 2009 Ad Congress in November. Alquiros is also confident that the road condition will not be a deterrent by that time.

Baguio Associations of Hotel and Inns (BAHAI) president Jeanine Chan and Baguio Association of Restaurants Lourdes Ng, shared the sentiments of the other panelists.

Other panelists were City Councilors Pinky Chan Rondez and Richard Cariño, Amboy Guevara of Baguio Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ms Onie Aguinalde of the Academe sector, Mr Moises Cating of Hotel and Restaurants Association in Baguio City and City Tourism Officer Benny Alhambra./Lito Dar/PIA

PagIbig grants calamity loans to 5,120 members in CAR

BAGUIO CITY – In line with the government's effort to provide assistance to the people affected by typhoons "Ondoy" and "Pepeng", the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) or PAGIBIG Fund, is providing calamity loans to their members in areas declared under the State of Calamity.

In a radio in-

terview Thursday, PAGIBIG Fund - Baguio branch Provident Benefits and Marketing & Enforcement Division head Philip Raymund Salem confirmed that as of October 14, the office has already released P91 Million in calamity loans to 5,120 members in the Cordillera.

At the national level,

PAGIBIG Fund has already received more than 30000 calamity loan applications and already released P3.1 Billion to more than half of them. In line with this, government Housing Czar, Vice President Noli De Castro, ordered the allocation of an additional fund of P3 Billion for such purpose, said Salem.

Under the calamity loan, a

1st of 3 parts

I am not a vegetarian or a vegan. But like most people of conscience,

I was sickened and horrified to see the recent video taken by animal rights activists of baby chicks being ground alive at an egg hatchery.

Seeing such cruel and heartless treatment of living beings has undoubtedly caused some of us carnivores to at least take a moment to consider the dark truths behind how animals are processed for food in the modern world.

Indeed, human beings throughout history have questioned the morality of animal slaughter, and religious traditions such as Hinduism and Buddhism have long been the home for those who believe that killing and consuming sentient animals is barbaric. Religious vegetarianism is commonplace in the East, but is not considered mainstream in most Western faith communities.

And yet, after lengthy research into the historical record, I have become convinced that Jesus Christ himself was in all likelihood a vegetarian, and that vegetarianism was probably a central tenet of the early Christian community founded by his disciples. In fact, there is evidence that Christ's opposition to animal sacrifice at the Jewish Temple may have been the triggering event that led to the Crucifixion.

Yes, I know. This sounds preposterous. But stay with

me, and let me present the historical evidence before you make a final judgment.

Christian and Muslim views of Jesus

Before I begin, let me state that I am a Muslim, so already my views on Jesus are not the same as those of my Christian brothers and sisters. Jesus is a pivotal figure in both Christianity and Islam, and both religions consider themselves to contain the true teachings of Christ. The primary differences between the two faiths arise over his identity and message.

For Christians, Jesus is a divine being, the Son of God, who took human form in order to experience martyrdom, death and resurrection as part of God's plan for redemption. For Christians, Christ's death on the cross is an act of cosmic blood sacrifice - he took upon himself the sins of mankind, and those who believe in him are cleansed of their sins through vicarious atonement. Salvation comes through faith in Christ's redemptive sacrifice.

For Muslims, Jesus was a human being, a prophet and a teacher, who was sent by God to guide humanity. Muslims believe that Jesus never wanted to be worshipped as a deity, and that his message was very simple:

"Worship God, your Lord and mine, and follow my example." There is no doctrine of vicarious atonement in Islam,

as Muslims believe Jesus and all of God's messengers taught individual moral responsibility. Muslim belief is that the central teachings of Christianity - the divinity of Christ and his death as a sacrificial atonement - are later pagan inventions that Jesus himself would have rejected. Salvation for Muslims comes through what they consider the central teachings of Jesus and all prophets - belief in One God and living an ethical life.

Discussions of the differences in Christian and Muslim approaches to

Jesus can and do fill volumes, and I can only scratch the surface of this theological controversy here. But I state these points above as a disclaimer. As a Muslim, my personal views of Jesus are already different from those of my Christian neighbors. As a result, I am more likely to question the official Church stance on Christ's life and teachings than those who accept the Christian vision. I read early Church histories with a different attitude than a believing Christian would, and I am more likely to give credence to historical accounts that are today deemed heretical by the Church.

And this skeptical approach toward the official version of Christian history has led me to a deep personal conviction - based on the historical sources - that Christ's message was not just about loving your fellow

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

OFFICE OF THE
CITY SHERIFF

PRODUCERS RURAL BANKING CORPORATION,
Mortgagee,

--Versus--

SPOUSES RACKY D. DOCTOR & DIVINE C DOCTOR,
Mortgagors.

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. 09-154-S
REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE CONTRACT UNDER ACT 3135 as Amended

x --- x

SHERIFF'S
NOTICE OF SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for the sale under Act 3135 as amended filed by PRODUCERS RURAL BANKING CORPORATION, hereinafter referred to as MORTGAGEE, as against the SPOUSES RACKY D. DOCTOR & DIVINE C. DOCTOR, hereinafter referred to as MORTGAGORS, for the satisfaction of the mortgage indebtedness which as of April 14, 2009, amounts to PESOS: SIX HUNDRED FIFTY SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY EIGHT & 50/100 (Php 656,758.50) inclusive of interest, penalties but to exclude other charges incidental to the foreclosure proceedings, the Clerk of Court/Ex-Oficio

Sheriff thru the sheriff-in-charge MARANI S. BAGOLOD, will SELL at public auction on 4th day of November 2009 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the Lobby 2nd floor Justice Hall Bldg., Baguio City, over a two (2) parcels of land more particularly described as follows, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-8421 6

A parcel of Land (Lot 3-A-5-C, psd-131102-007487) being a portion of Lot 3-A-5; Psd-1 31102-006944, situated at Res. Sec. "H" city of Baguio, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the NW, along line 1-2 by Public Land; on the NE., along line 2-3 by Lot 3-B (LRC) Psd 119896; on the SE alone line 3-4 by Lot 3-A-5-A of the subd.

plan; on the SW, along line along line 4-5 by Lot 3-A-5-D (Alley) of the subd plan. Beginning at a point marked "I" x x x x x x x to point of beginning : containing an area of TWO HUNDRED NINETY (290) SQUARE METERS, more or less.

Registered in accordance with the provisions of the Property Registration Decree in the name of RACKY D. DOCTOR; married to Divine C Doctor, both of legal age, Filipinos and with postal address at No. 4 Tulliao, Sta. B a r b a r a , Pangasinan.

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-88979

A parcel of Land (Lot 3-A-5-B, Psd - 1 3 1 1 0 2 - 007487) being a portion of Lot 3-A-B. Psd- 131102-

006944, situated at Res. Sec. "H", City of Baguio, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 3-A-5-C of the subd. plan on the SE., along line 2-3 by Lot 3-A-5-D (Alley) of the subd. plan; on the SW, along line 3-4 by Lot 3-A-1, Psd-131102-006944, on the NW along line 4-5 by Lot 3-A-I, Psd - 1 3 1 1 0 2 - 006944; on the NW, along line 5-I by Public Land. Beginning at a point, marked "I" x x x x x x x x to point of beginning; Containing an area of TWO HUNDRED NINETY (290) SQUARE METERS, more or less.

Registered in accordance with the provisions of the Property Registration Decree in the name of RACKY

D. DOCTOR married to Divine C. Doctor both of legal ages, both

Filipino Citizens, and with postal address at No. 4 Tulliao, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan. Prospective buyers/bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the real properties mentioned above and its encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

Baguio City,
Philippine .
October 7, 2009.

By: (SDG)
REMEDIOS B.
REYES
Clerk Of Court
VI/Ex-Oficio
Sheriff

By: (SGD)
MARANI S.
BACOLOD
Sheriff IV
TIN No. 137-060-982

Copy furnished :
To all parties
concerned
Publication dates
: October 10, 17
and 24, 2009

One -year

..... from page 6

"Commercial buildings have a higher density, require more expansive land space, especially at the congested urban core, usually are high rise structures, and thus serve as more potential risk factors for loss of life and damage during natural disasters. The Local Government Code of the Philippines has empowered cities to regulate development of land within the territorial jurisdiction....;

Rondez further said the city is engaged in the process of revising its comprehensive land use plan (CLUP), and intends to develop revised zoning regulations in accordance with such comprehensive plan which take into account current conditions within the City requiring more open and green spaces.

"The City is determined to thoroughly study the impact of continued construction of commercial buildings, such as limitations on the height, number of stories and size of buildings and other structures, the percentage of lots that may be occupied, the size of easements, and common areas, other open spaces, the density of population, and the location and use of buildings, structures, and land for trade, industry, residence or other purposes nor regulations providing density credits or severable development rights. To provide for adequate time for study, analysis, public review, and finaliza-

tion of the revised comprehensive plan and enactment of ordinances in accordance therewith; and, to preserve the status quo within the City, so that the benefits of such revised comprehensive plan and ordinances adopted in accordance therewith will not be lost, the City desires to enact a temporary moratorium and temporary prohibition on commercial construction and the issuance of building permits for same," she said.

"The population growth of the City of Baguio according to the National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO) ballooned from 280,766 residents in 2005 to 372,533 in 2008. The growth rate between the years 2005 to 2008 was a staggering 25%. If left unresolved, by 2025, the City of Baguio is projected to have a population of 600,000 or the population will double by then. This is only resident population;

"Currently, there are estimated to be more than 6,000 residents per square kilometer of the City. The rapid growth in the City is continuing to entice real estate development due to prospects of boundless earnings. The continued construction of more commercial buildings in the City makes demands on her one of a kind charm and sense of place, and her appealing quality of life. As a chartered City, Baguio just turned 100 years old.

The measure which Rondez intends as an urgent ordinance will be discussed by the body on second reading soon./aileen p. refuerzo

Pag ibig grants

..... from page 6

member can avail an amount up to 80% of his share, payable within two years with an interest of 10.75% per annum. The said loan is capitalized, meaning the applicant will get the whole amount of his loan without deduction of interests, explained Salem.

Another program lined-up to help typhoon affected PAGIBIG Fund members, is the Home Rehabilitation Program. This aims to provide assistance to their members with existing housing loans. Under the program, those who would apply can avail up to a maximum of P150,000 for house repairs and rehabilitation, payable up to maximum of five years.

Salem also announced that the PAGIBIG Fund is also offering three months moratorium, for their Housing Loan and Multi-Purpose Loan borrowers.

To PAGIBIG Fund members affected by Typhoon Pepeng, for more details and information you can visit their office at the Insular life Building in Legarda Road or call them at telephone number 619-1330 or 6192710./Lito Dar/PIA

Typhoon "Pepeng"**..... from page 1**

401 partially damaged houses.

The breakdown of the list of casualties are as follow La Trinidad with a total of 113, followed by Mankayan with 33, Itogon with 18, Tublay, 13; Tuba, 9; Buguias, 5; Bakun, 4; Atok, 3; and Sablan with 1.

Still missing are two each in Itogon and Buguias, four in Tuba, three each in Tublay and La Trinidad and one each in Atok and Kibungan..

Initial reports on the value of crops and agricultural production support facilities amounted to a total of P141.309 million broken down as crop damages amounting to P129.4 million, P1.7 million agricultural facilities, P10.142 million farm-to-market roads, and P65,000.00 irrigation systems.

Damages to school buildings including facilities amounted to P30.635 million, P29.945 million for classroom and P690,000.00 worth of furnitures, computers, books among others.

Damages to national roads totaled P67.35 million while irrigation and waterworks system amounted to P33.5 million.

Based on La Trinidad Municipal Police Station reports, casualties as to disaster site were as follows: Little Kibungan Village, Puguis - 75; Buyagan , Poblacion - 20; Busi, Beckel - 5; Upper Kesbeng, Poblacion - 4; Lamtang (Residence), Puguis - 3; Lamtang (Junkshop), Puguis - 2; and one each in Buyagan (Residence), Gayasi in Wangal, Km 3 Bell Church in Balili, and Lower Wangal.

List of houses damaged as follows: Little Kibunga Village, Puguis - 35; Buyagan, Poblacion - 8; Lamtang, Puguis - 5; Upper Kesbeng in Poblacion, Beckel, and Botiwtiw in Balili - 2 each./S.C. Aro/PIA-Benguet

Diretsahan.....**..... from page 4**

Nakakatulog kaya sila ng mahimbing habang hindi napapakali dahil sa panganib na maaaring idulot ng bagyo ang kanilang mga konstitwents? Magkano kaya ang nagastos nila dito? Siguro kelangan nila itong ipaliwanag sa mga botante na bumoto sa kanila, hindi ba mga sir at ma'am? Yu nid an eksplensyon to yur uto-uto,.. este mga bumoto na mga tanga... este mga taga barangay ninyo! Ay min, MAGPALIWANAG at hindi MAGPALUSOT! Di ba councilor JOEL ALANGSAB at PB BENJIE MACADANGDANG? Tekang pla bakit sa boracay pa? why oh why? Ang layo po yata ng inyong lakwatsa... este lakbay aral pala! Ano po pala ang inyong napag-aralan doon? Kung paano itapon ang ating mga basura sa boracay? He! He! Buwiiisheett!

ooOoo

Hindi lang kawatan ang dapat sumpain nawa kundi pati na rin ang mga "ungas" na nagsasamantala sa ating madlang pipol kapag nagkakaroon ng kalamidad, katulad itong mga negosyante na nagtaas hindi lang doble kundi triple ng kanilang mga paninda samantalang alam naman natin na ang mga ito ay mga istak pa nila bago bumagyo. Ewan

lamang natin kung alam ito ng ating mga bossing sa DTI.

Ganoon din sa mga pampasaherong sasakyan na umabot yata hanggang langit ang kanilang sinisingil sa mga pasahero katulad nalang sa isinumbong ng isang taga-nangalisan tuba na siningil umano ng isang drayber na rutang nangalisan, Tuba - Baguio ng sobra sobra. At ano rin iyong mga inireport sa akin na ang mga extrang sasakyan na nagsasakay sa mga "change passengers" sa may Kennon, Marcos at Naguillan ay doble ang singil? At ganoon rin katotoo na kumita ng malaki ang mga kargador na nagbubuhay ng mga supply na dadalhin dito sa baguio? Maraming mga negosyante dito sa palengke ang nagreklamo dahil sa sobrang singil ng mga nagbuhat sa kanilang produkto, no wonder na kawawa naman tayo dahil sa itinaas ng kanilang presyo? PASALOAD ika nga!

Hay, dapat sa mga ganitong mga mapagsamantala na hindi man lang naawa sa madlang pipol, eh, ibaon ng buhay sa mga lugar na malapit na ring gumuho. kung saan, itanong nyu po yan sa DENR AT DPWH! PWEH!

ooOoo.

Dahil sa trahedya ng pagguho sa lupa, NABUKING tuloy ang klase ng trabaho sa ating kabite, at kalsada, katulad na lamang sa nangyaring pagguho ng lupa sa may bokawing rd, ng cresencia village, matakin nyu mga suki na wala palang inilagay na mga REINFORCEMENT BARS sa mga kalsada ng bokawing road na kinontrata ng GOLDRICH CONSTRUCTION noon?

Hindi ko sinasabing ito ang nagging sanhi ng pagguho sa lupa, kaya lang ay nakapagtataka kung paano ito nakalusot sa DPWH at sa COA hindi kaya nakalusot ito dahil may "cash-sunduan"? hep nagtatanong lamang po! Di ba apo tongresman. ESTE congressman DOMOGS? ESTE. Mayor pala?

ooOoo

At sino o sino sino kaya itong mga opisyal na malaki raw ang PAKINABANG sa mga illegal na pasugalan nito sa lungsod? Itong mga opisyal umano ay may mga "BAGMAN" na siyang nangongolekta o sa kanila idinidiliber ang mga intelihensyal na patung para sa mga opisyal, at hindi lang basta patung mga suki kundi limpak as in super datung. Kungbaga, barya o "LATAK" lang ang ibinibigay sa mga pulis at medias, este media na piniling maging bulag, pipi at bingi kapalit ay konting barya, pero suwerte ang mga kapatid sa media na nasa payola ng mga opisyal, mas malaki kasi ang nakukuha nila kaysa sa mga dumidirekta sa mga opereytor. Naalala ko tuloy ang isang opisyal na nagreklamo dahil PEKE ang isang libo na kasama sa malaking datung na ibinigay sa kanya! Sino siya? Sikat na sikat po siya dahil sa isinasagawang demolisyon sa mga iskwater. Di ko lang alam kung anti-o pro iskwater siya, basta ang alam ko lagi siyang anti sa in antay grasya! he! he!

Batas**..... from page 5**

But the teachings of Roman Catholic Christians point to the occurrence of the event, and Catholic popes and leaders from the 3rd century on actually cite many portions of the Bible to justify this belief.

In Wikipedia, an item on the assumption of Mary contains this explanation: "All these passages - John 14:3, Isaiah 60:13, Luke 1:28, Song of Songs 8:5, 1st Corinthians 15:21-26, Psalms 132:8, Psalms 45:9-17, Song of Songs 3:6, 4:8, 6:9, Genesis 3:15, and Revelation 12:1-2 - are drawn upon as Scriptural support of the Assumption both in that original document, and today by Catholic apologists."

The prevailing thought is that these Biblical references show that Jesus would not have allowed His own mother to have died and her flesh to have degenerated to dust, and that considering Mary's role in giving birth to the "seed" (Jesus) that will crush Satan, it is believed that the fate of Jesus in ascending to heaven body and soul is the same fate that happened to Mary.

-ooo-

BATAS RADIO: Please listen to BATAS INTERNET RADIO, an Internet radio station under www.batasmauricio.com and www.eradioportal.com. Log on to either of these two sites, click BATAS RADIO and you can stay tuned for 20 hours a day, from 4 in the morning to 12 midnight, Mondays to Fridays, enjoying the latest news, credible commentaries, free legal and problem counseling from the point of view of the Bible.

Was Jesus.....**..... from page 7**

human beings, but that he actually was deeply concerned that his followers show compassion toward animals.

I came to this conclusion while researching my next book, a novel on the birth of Christianity. My first novel, Mother of the Believers, about the birth of Islam from the perspective of Prophet Muhammad's wife Aisha, has been a success. I wanted to follow up with a similar book about Jesus based on the early historical sources. I decided to set aside my own pre-conceived beliefs about Jesus as a Muslim and treat the sources with objectivity. I wanted to present Jesus as early Christians likely saw him, even if that understanding was different from my own faith.

And in the process of examining the New Testament and early historical sources about Jesus, I became shocked to learn that perhaps neither Christians nor Muslims today truly understand what Jesus was about. The evidence of religious vegetarianism in the early Christian community was so overwhelming that I was forced to consider why this was not one of the issues that divide Christians and Muslims in theology. Most Christians and most Muslims are not vegetarian and most people in both faiths would be startled by the suggestion that Jesus and the early Christians were staunch vegetarians.

Cont. on page 10

Call for Community

..... from page 2

cated suggestion but I know that if the students look deep within their hearts, volunteering would just be easy for them to do," he said.

Escudero suggested that school officials should organize groups or batches which can be sent to different schools which were badly damaged by the two typhoons. He added that they can also set social immersion programs which could easily send them to other parts of Luzon reaching as far as Metro Manila, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, or Baguio.

"More than anything else, the lessons they learned from this experience are lessons in life that they will never learn from mere books or classroom work," he concluded.

The senator is also set to sponsor a senate bill that would allocate P12 billion for the calamity fund. He added that a "one-stop shop" for the towns which were affected could be helpful in immediately replacing damaged passports, birth certificates, marriage certificates, professional drivers' licenses, and others.

He said that the Department of Foreign Affairs, National Statistics Office, Land Registration Authority, Land Transportation Office, Professional Regulations Commission, Department of Education, and the Commission on Higher Education could set up their offices in this one-stop shop.

"Let us ease the pain of letting people fall in line and retrieve necessary documents they lost in the floods," he said.

He added that Bicolanos, and particularly, the people of Sorsogon have already launched a similar project. He said that the biggest festival in Sorsogon has been 'toned-down,' as the Kasangayahan Foundation made the decision in line with reports of numerous deaths due to Ondoy and Pepeng.

He recognizes the need for communities to bond together and help out neighboring towns and villages. He said that with the waters rising quickly, some residents have lost all their material possessions including valuable documents and photographs.

"Everyone in Bicol, even with their own trials, went out of their way to provide relief and support for the victims in the two typhoons. They have been going door-to-door to check what others need at this very difficult time," he said./Office Of Senator Chiz Escudero

P36.1M needed

..... from page 3

Colleene Lacsamana, officer-in-charge of the city environment and parks management office said the city at present uses seven of the eight old garbage trucks in hauling the wastes to Capas.

Of the seven newly acquired trucks, five are also now operational while the other two are still being reconditioned.

Lacsamana posed the following recommendations on the over-all solid waste management program of the city for consideration by the city council:

*Land recovery of the original Irisan dumpsite area to allow its extended use while the city is developing the engineered sanitary landfill;

*Policy reforms to reassess current levels of garbage fees for possible increase to cope with the present levels of expenditures and the deputation as provided in Republic Act 900e to increase garbage fees collection efficiency;

*Amendment of Solid Waste Management Ordinance No. 16 series of 2006 to simplify enforcement as well as implement sanctions at the barangay level; and

*Designation of the Office of the City Engineer as chair of the ESL Development Committee of the Solid Waste Management Board as soon as possible so that civil works planning can commence./aileen p. refuerzo

Search Continues

..... from page 3

kids, aged 8 to 16, under the bridge.

Niches on the bridge wall above the concrete foundation rising out of the water and holding the bridge roof revealed the hidden place had been the kids' refuge. Unfamiliar with the terrain the rescuers took time to round up the street children, who entertained no thoughts of being taken in.

It turned out the bunch had been wards of the Silungan Center of the city social welfare and development office, to which the police later turned them over to.

Don Don had stayed at the center for 25 days until he was released to the custody of his parents last Sept. 26, as per the discharge slip issued by social worker Jennylyn Camsol.

Camsol's note on the discharge slip gives reason why Don Don came back to Baguio after his parents brought him home to Aringay, La Union: "hesitant to go home for he will miss his friends at the Center".

When the parents heard their boy was missing, they came up to Baguio. Last Friday afternoon, Fianza was waiting for them to come, for him to tell them there was still no sign of Don Don.

Fianza said it's more difficult for relatives of the missing than it is for kin of victims whose bodies had been found, being mourned and buried.

"There's no closure for them yet," Fianza noted.

He has recommended that relatives of the missing be entitled to a portion of the fund support the government extends to the kin of those killed and whose remains had been retrieved.

"People with kin still missing also need fund for their food, aside from where they could stay, as in the case of Don Don's parents," he said.

Don Don's parents told him that when the kid returned home with them, he told them he would leave again. He had asked them to clean and iron his "barong tagalong", saying he would later wear it.

After days of coming up with empty, rescuers at Irisan shifted from ground clearing to scouring the Irisan River that flows down to the Asin River, in search of the four others who were buried alive by a mudslide.

"The team that followed the river this

morning is composed of police officers, relatives of the four and barangay officials of Irisan," Fianza said last Friday.

He had just issued two sacks of rice to augment the food of the searchers provided by the barangay council led by punong barangay Thomas Dumalti and other donors.

"I don't know; perhaps we should go on for a while as long as there are fresh volunteers to continue," he said when asked when the search would be called off./Ramon Dacawi.

RSCC:Better

..... from page 3

lera, it would be a big challenge to maintain the 2.5 percent growth rate that the region posted last year, aside from the substantial impact of the said calamity on food security.

In line with this Ngalob stressed the importance of statistics on the development of the region beyond this recent calamity. "With statistical data and information we will make our analysis and decision based on real facts," he said.

In the same forum, Luces lauded the national government's assistance, in terms of relief and support, as she mentioned that the Office of the President gave a P2.6 Million, outright assistance, to grieving families in Cordillera aside from sending 38 Army trucks loaded with relief items and providing helicopters and Air Force airplanes that helped in hauling augmentation of relief supplies to the isolated areas in the region./Lito Dar/PIA

Was Jesus.....

..... from page 9

Jewish Christianity and Gentile Christianity: James versus Paul In order to get to the point that Jesus appears to have been a vegetarian according to early Christian sources, I must first give a basic explanation of the historical process by which the religious movement we now call Christianity came together. There are many sources for the following historical interpretation, but the most readable and well argued is by Prof. Barrie Wilson, a respected biblical scholar at York University in Toronto. His work How Jesus Became Christian provides a detailed examination of the evolution of Christian thought that I summarize below.

My investigation into the life of Jesus began by examining the first theological dispute that arose in the Christian community after the earthly mission of Jesus. Interestingly, there is little controversy over how Jesus lived. Most scholars, both secular and Christian, would likely accept the notion that Jesus in his lifetime was a practicing Jew, one who adhered to the Torah, the Law of Moses, even if he had some different interpretations of specific legal points than other Jewish teachers. That meant that Jesus was circumcised, prayed ritually every day according to ancient Jewish practices, worshipped at the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, observed the Sabbath and major Jewish festivals such as Passover and Yom Kippur, and adhered to kosher laws regarding which foods were acceptable and which weren't

To be continued...

Doc T:**..... from page 3**

Typhoon Pepeng. The smell of formalin suffused every nook and cranny at the Baguio Memorial Chapel's embalming room. It was October 9.

The rains brought by Pepeng continued to transform the once solid ground into loose earth. The skies were grey, the color of death.

"The body count is now at 25 and there are more coming," said Marjorie Verroya, Doc T's nurse-assistant. The death toll now stands at 61 in Baguio City.

Doc T's brows meet, his face reflective of worry - the words "if only" invisibly written on his forehead's wisdom lines. One can feel he is trying as much to do his job to list down "causes of death" of the lifeless bodies while trying to suppress human emotion.

The heirs continue to troop in the eerie parking space now converted into a depot human carcass. They elicit almost the same reactions - losing balance, their eyes drowning in tears.

It was a harrowing sight. But somebody has to explore every inch of the dead to satisfy the "why's" of the living and it is only Doc T who could.

To mere spectators, what Doc T does is described as "mechanical." But who is he really, to even merit a space in a local paper?

Asking about him, the first thing one would elicit from those whose lives Doc T has touched were smiles.

City Administrator Peter Fianza describes Doc T as a "workhorse."

He said, "While Doc T is primarily a public employee, his work ethic is almost like that of a 'volunteer' through and through."

"While other employees in government go home at the strike of five, Doc T allows himself to be disturbed anytime of the day - never ceasing to work until a job upon which others rely upon him to do is done."

Fianza and Doc T are both Ibalois whose words can easily be counted. One can be assured that both men whose works speak for them can communicate to each other subconsciously.

Fianza revealed that aside from being the city's most efficient coroner and physician, Doc T likewise heads the elite Emergency Medical Services team of Baguio that has saved countless lives in numerous catastrophes.

"He simply would not stop... not by delegating tasks that he himself could do," Fianza added.

He said, "More than that, he has been in the forefront of rescue operations and is a favorite expert witness among prosecutors because of his credibility."

Doc T likewise teaches Legal Medicine in the University of Baguio College of Law.

Newsman Ramon Dacawi describes Doc T with only a few words that says it all - "silent water."

Dacawi revealed that Doc T is an unfaithful member of the Baguio contingent in every sporting event within and outside Baguio.

To this Fianza adds, "He is an all-around guy that one would not even remotely know

that he is in fact an excellent doctor."

"In fact because of his simplicity, one would even mistake him for an 'albularyo' (quack doctor)," he punned.

Doc T also helps cancer patients, giving them free medicines whenever he could.

He is a doctor for the living and the dead, a teacher, a pastor, a social worker, a volunteer lifesaver. But more than what everybody else sees him doing, he is first and foremost, a loving father who secures the safety of his family before he sets out saving somebody else in distress.

Ask anybody whose life he has touched lately and one would give the same answer, "his kindness is just so contagious."

To his friends and associates, indeed, his silence seemed to carry on the conversation for them. Now wonder, what if tomorrow Doc T simply can't be found; who would do what he does best?/Xania Carandang and Ronnel Dimas (PIO interns)

SSS opens**..... from page 12**

properties are located in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

SSS members have until December 31, 2009 to file their application. The maximum loanable amount is P300,000.00 with an interest rate of nine percent per annum and the maximum term of the loan is 20 years, Olais explained.

Olais further said that SSS member claimant should submit accomplished application for housing loan together with the required documents.

Many of SSS members have houses damaged by typhoon Pepeng, so our office is extending help through our salary, repair and improvement loans. Members should take advantage of it, Olais said./Joseph B Zambrano/PIA

PAGIBIG Fund**..... from page 12**

used for computations from P10,000 to P15,000. Employees with monthly salary of P15,000 and above are mandated to pay P300, while the contribution of those with below P15,000 will be equal to 2% of their basic salary.

Salem pointed out that the increased in monthly contributions is necessary to meet the growing demand or needs of its members. As an example, Salem cited that, from January to July this year, in short term loan services alone, PagIbig released an average of P144 Million daily to 8,000 members, on housing loan, an average of P600 Million daily released to about 300 applicants.

This year, they expect to release about P55Billion in Housing loans and P40Billion in short term loans. They expect this to increase to P60B and 45B, respectively next year.

"Increase in contributions is also advantageous to members, as their contributions would also increase and likewise, it will also result into an increase on services and loans that they can avail," Salem said.

He is also encouraging members to increase their individual contributions as this

will be beneficial to them, especially in time of needs.

Under RA 9679, PAGIBIG Fund membership will now extend to almost Filipino workers. Social Security Services members, Overseas Filipino Workers employed by foreign based companies, and even household helps, will be mandatory members of PAGIBIG Fund starting January 2010.

Relative to the mandatory memberships of SSS members to PAGIBIG Fund, Salem is encouraging all private employers to visit their office as early as now, to register their employees to avoid encountering problems once the said law is implemented.

PAGIBIG Fund also encourages voluntary membership.

At present, PAGIBIG Fund has P7.4 million members and with RA 9679, it expects its membership to reach nine million by next year./Lito Dar/PIA

Editorial**..... from page 4**

"I'm an ordinary citizen and taxpayer (and) 30 percent of my earnings go to the nation's coffers. But government does not provide basic services that I expect and deserve. Ruddy roads, poor educational system, poor social services, poor health services, poor everything.

"Many feel anger at the brazenness, embarrassment to share the same nationality with them, frustration for our nation and helplessness at our ineffectuality. Is it any wonder why decent citizens work in other countries?

"Are those who remain, no longer capable of showing disgust? I don't agree. I write to let others know there are Filipinos who dream of something better. There are citizens who'd tell those we've trusted to lead: you have abused. Now, step down.

"I refuse to let this country go to hell because it's the only country I call mine. And my responsibility is to do what I can to... As ordinary citizens, we can do much more than let the crooks lead".

Will it take a citizens revolt to force government to start planning for the future? Will our officials put their ears to the ground before weather changes become even more severe?.

Just before "Ondoy" and "Pepeng hit, a Oxford University climate conference warned: "A rise of at least two meters in the world's sea levels is now almost unstoppable."

"The sea level issue starts very slowly. But once it gets going, it is practically unstoppable," warned Stefan Rahmstorf of Germany's Potsdam Institute. "There is no way to stop this rise, even if we go to zero emissions."

"That rise was adding to storms, such as those in the Philippines". But he cautioned that single events can't be attributed to climate change. "Of course, the flooding from a single storm would be less severe if we hadn't added those extra centimeters" of sea level.

For "Robinhoodlum" government, the storms scribbled what the ghostly finger wrote on Nebuchadnezzar's palace wall: Mene, mene, tekal, parsin. "You have been weighed on the scales and found wanting."/Jlmercado

Oplan kaluluwa 2009 vendors application on road.

BAGUIO CITY- The city treasurer's office headed by Ms. Thelma Manaois has issued the guidelines for application of vendors for candles and flowers for All Souls' and All Saints' days.

Stalls numbering to a hundred and forty (140) are proposed for the purpose.

Vendors are requested to secure application form at the Campaign and Investigation Division, City Treasurer's Office this coming Tuesday, Oct. 20. The application and payment of taxes and fees shall be on Oct. 21; while special permits shall be secured at the Permits and Licensing Division on Oct. 23.

Selling shall be from October 26 to Nov. 1 along Harrison

road. Fess amounting to Five Hundred Sixty Five Pesos (P565) shall be charged; for business tax, P165 business tax; Mayor's permit, P200; garbage fee, P50; sewerage fee, P55; electricity, P47; and use of area, P48.

Rental of tents of P100 per day shall be paid directly to the owner of the tent.

Vendor-applicants should be bonafide residents of the city, of legal age and should have no flower stalls at the city market and Marbay vicinity. Applicants should have no violations as to previous years of Oplan Kaluluwa operations, and to give chances to other flower sellers, only a member of a family should apply.

Other requirements include two (2)

copies of 2" x 2" photos, barangay clearance and residence certificate.

All requirements should be complete before application.

During the selling period, only flowers and candles should be sold facing the sidewalk. No other goods will be allowed for display, as these will be confiscated. There should be no cooking inside of stalls, and cleanliness be observed at all times. Stallholders should not swap with others.

Oplan Kaluluwa was launched last month with Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr.'s issuance of Administrative Order 144 creating the executive committee for the annual activity.

City officials and punong barangays of affected areas are members of the said committee. / juliegfianza



No reason to panic-buy. There is no shortage of food items especially canned sardines as noted by DTI-CAR Director Myrna P. Pablo during a spot inspection in one department store in La Trinidad, Benguet. Only popular stores in Baguio run out of canned sardines and sugar./Photo by Art Tibaldo

SSS opens loans to calamity victim members

Security System (SSS) is now accepting an early renewal of salary loan for members who are affected of the typhoon Pepeng that has caused many damages in Cordillera and the rest of Northern Luzon.

SSS Vice President for Northern Luzon, Luis Olais

announced that members who have paid 50 percent of their previous salary loan are qualified to avail.

He also informed that SSS is also accepting housing repair and improvement loan, which shall be subject to the approved guidelines on paying capacity, collateral-

loan rate and existing documentary requirements.

Olais added that those who can avail of repair or improvement loan program should be an active member of SSS who have at least 12 months continuous contribution or at least 24 months contributions and whose

Cont. on page 11

PAGIBIG Fund to increase contributions, expand membership in 2010

BAGUIOCITY- PAGIBIG Fund is now covered by a new law, Republic Act 9679 or the Home Development Mutual Fund Law of 2009, which was signed by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo last July 21, 2009.

According to PAGIBIG Fund-Baguio branch Provident Benefits and Marketing & Enforcement Division

head Philip Raymund Salem, under the said law, the PAGIBIG Fund Board of Trustees now has the power to decide or to give new rate of member contributions. Thus starting January 2010, members monthly contributions will be increased from the present P100 to P300 for those whose salary is P15,000 and above.

Salem explained that what is increased

is maximum salary Cont. on page 11

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