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WEEKEND

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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Aliping breaks ground for 95.2 million school buildings in Irisan

Two 4-storey school buildings will be constructed in Irisan-National High School area otherwise known as the Baguio City National High School Irisan Annex to cater to the growing population of high school students and address the expected shortage of classrooms

Cont. on page 6



Merry Christmas to one and all!!!



Outrageous and insulting signage seen along Trancoville, a public road at that. No littering is acceptable, but No Smoking along a public road? Since when has smoking been banned at public roads? As to no urinating, this is truly insulting !!!

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Rainy first day of 'Simbang Gabi' in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY- It was a rainy first day of the traditional 'Simbang Gabi' on Wednesday, December 16, in the city.

The rains, however, did not deter the Catholic faithful as they flocked to the different churches in the city for the start of nine day dawn masses to Christmas.

Bishop Carlito Cenzon celebrated the first Simbang Gabi at the Baguio Cathedral. He stressed the message of unity among the Filipinos in these times of consequences.

He said Simbang Gabi of 2015 also focuses on the Year of the Eucharist

and the Family as spiritual preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress next month in Cebu.

Meanwhile, with the start of the traditional dawn masses or "Simbang Gabi", Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) reminds the faithful of the most important dimension of the celebrations.

The "Simbang Gabi" is not just a tradition that is widely celebrated because it has become fashionable. "It is a significant moment not only because it strengthens relationships among family members or

Cont. on page 6

DPWH to set up motorists assistance stations this Christmas holidays

BAGUIO CITY - To ensure safe travel during the holiday season, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will set up Motorists Assistance Stations along the highways leading to this mountain resort.

Skeletal workforce will be in place and DPWH Action Officers during the Christmas holidays will be designated to render emergency services that may be required with the influx of visitors.

The motorists assistance stations shall assist the travelling public along the highways in

coordination with other concerned agencies like the Land Transportation Office, the Philippine National Police and local government officials.

DPWH Cordillera OIC-Assistant Regional Director Alberto N. Gahid has instructed the District Engineering Offices to also activate their composite teams including personnel and mechanics to respond to road emergency situations and aid the travelling public on strategic locations in their jurisdictions.

DEOs with on-going Long Term Performance Based Maintenance

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OWWA -CAR gives 1,500 OFWs, dependents Christmas treat

BAGUIO CITY - It was a day of fun, entertainment, raffles and kid games for families of Overseas Filipino Workers and OFW returnees last Saturday (Dec. 12) in the e Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)-led OFW Family Day 2015.

Around 1,500 OFWs and balik-mangagawa from various Overseas Family Circles (OFCs) in Baguio and the province of Benguet, along with their children enjoyed the fun-filled OWWA Christmas treat at the covered court of Barangay Padre Burgos here.

Well known Baguio Tenor Glenn Gaerlan and the Baguio City National High School Theater Arts group provided entertainment, while OWWA partners like Philhealth, Pagibig Fund, Banco De Oro, Smart Telecoms and other private donors also shared food and raffle prizes.

OWWA distributed starter kits for Balik Pinas, Balik Hanapbuhay Program - livelihood assistance to OFW returnees who opt to start or expand a business, as well as notices of award for the various scholarship programs of OWWA such as the Congressional Migrant Workers, the Education for Development, Skills for Employment and OFW Dependent Scholarship Program (CMWSP, EDSP, SESP and ODSP).

OWWA administra-

tor Rebecca Calzado, in a message read by OWWA Cordillera OIC Regional Director Evelyn Laranang, said this year's OFW Family Day theme of "Ang Diwa ng Pasko sa Puso ng OFW Nananatili, Nasaan pa Man (the spirit of Christmas, remains at the heart of OFWs, whenever they may be)", connotes the feeling of eagerness of OFWs to be with their families this Christmas even if they are out of the country.

OFW Family Day, Calzado said, is OWWA's way of sharing the spirit of Christmas to the OFW families, whether their loved ones are currently here or are abroad. She also called for a unified effort in providing continuing support and guidance to OFWs and their families, for them to gain strength and remain strong given the social cost of migration.

"Turuan natin ang kanilang pamilya na rnaging masinop sa pinaghirapan ng kanilang mahal sa buhay, at pa-alalahanan na hindi panghabangbuhay ang pagtatrabaho sa ibang bayan, at higit sa lahat mahal sa buhay, at mahalin at gawin nilang inspirasyon ang kanilang pamilya upang matimo sa kanilang kamalayan na ang tunay na kahulugan sa desisyon nilang malayo sa isa't isa, ay ang hangaring magtagumpay sa buhay". (Let us teach them to value the things that their love ones work hard for and remind them that working abroad is

No permit issued for on selling of firecrackers, Mayor says

BAGUIO CITY - Selling of firecrackers is prohibited in this summer capital for the duration of the Yuletide season.

This was announced by Mayor Mauricio Domogan in a Department of Health led "Iwas Paputok" campaign at the DOH Regional Office here, Tuesday.

Domogan said the city government has not issued any permit for the selling of firecrackers, which clearly means that anyone who will be found selling such items is illegal and can be arrested and his merchandise can be confiscated by police authorities.

He reiterated that using firecracker for Christmas and New Year revelry is not only bad for the environment, with the noise and the air it pollutes, but also endangers the people especially the children.

The mayor appeals for everyone's support not only on the selling but also on the use of

firecrackers for the Christmas and New Year celebration.

On the danger of using firecrackers, Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center Emergency Room head Dr. Honorio Pangilinan Jr. reported that four boys aged 9 to 12 already sought medical attention at BGHMC due to firecracker injuries due to piccolo, an illegal type of firecracker.

Dr. Donnabel Tubera of the City Health Services Office, in the same forum, reported that for the 2014 - 2015 Christmas and New Year revelries, 13 cases of firecracker related injuries were recorded in the city mostly due to piccolo. Most of the victims were children.

Aside from the danger of injuries or worse death (as tetanus infection can be fatal), firecrackers also pose health concerns especially to those with asthma. (JDP/CCD - PIA CAR)

Baguio's 2015 accomplishment bared

BAGUIO CITY - Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the media Ugnayan last week reported on this year's accomplishment as to tourism, education and sports, peace and order, health and social services, environment and other matters. The mayor recalled that in 2014, Baguio is rank 15th among the country's 142 cities; now rank 13th as to the recently released national comparative ratings. Should we aspire to step up the said rank, we need to increase concerted efforts to update and implement income-generating endeavors specially in business and real property taxes, the mayor clarified. Cities and municipalities in neighboring provinces collect more than we do, he added. We however excel in other endeavors wherein we

garnered awards, he said. Foremost concern for social services: children, senior citizens and People With Disabilities (PWDs) as handled by the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO), is the availability of funds; though in a recent forum, CSWDO head Betty Fangasan assured that funds are properly apportioned.

In environmental matters, the envisioned Solid Waste Management Site in Sto. Tomas is apportioned P300M, with provision for an access road. Regreening through tree-planting is on-going, Domogan also said.

Continuing improvements and programs are planned for the education sector, the mayor said, including colleges and universities. A P10M concrete access road and 26-classroom building is

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The JUNCTION

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not a lifetime work and more importantly to continue loving and having their family as inspiration, so that the true meaning of why they are away from each other, which is achieve a better life, will remain in their will and hearts).

Each family participant went home with pack of groceries as Christmas gift. (JDP/CCD - PIA CAR)

DENR calls for environment-friendly holiday celebrations

BAGUIO CITY - With Christmas and New Year revelries just around the corner, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reminds the public to have an environment – friendly celebration.

DENR Cordillera Regional Director Ralph Pablo, in a kapihan media forum last Wednesday, said that the Christmas season generates lots of solid waste with materials used in gift giving, decorations and in celebration. He reminded the people on the proper management of solid waste especially to remember the three “Rs” (reduce, reuse and recycle).

For the New Year revelry, he calls on the public to do away with fireworks and firecrackers as aside from the waste it will generate, it will also contribute to air pollution.

“Limit your solid waste this yuletide season and find another way to make noise or to celebrate rather than using fireworks/firecrackers for the New

Year, so all together we can contribute for a better air quality and a healthy community”, Pablo said.

“If you care for the environment, the environment will also care for you”, he stressed.

The full implementation of Republic Act 9003 or the Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act remains a concern both at the regional and national level. Thus DENR through the Environmental Management Bureau continues to undertake programs, services and information advocacy to help the local government units towards the achievement of clean and healthy communities.

Just recently, the DENR and EMB Cordillera spearheaded the launching and operationalization of the Regional Ecology Center in the city. This will be a venue to provide technical and capacity building assistance as well as information and networking hub to further ecological solid waste management in the Cordillera. (JDP/CCD – PIA CAR)

Benguet dads bat for Amburayan River as water quality management area

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet, Dec. 15(PIA) - - The provincial board has approved a resolution recommending to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environment Management Bureau the designation of the Amburayan River System as a Water Quality Management Area (WQMA).

The measure authored by Board Member Jim Botiwey mentioned that the present state of the water quality of the Amburayan River System requires protection and management actions by local government units and various stakeholders located within the watershed to ensure the river system’s sus-

tainability and generate maximum benefits and welfare to the communities and stakeholders.

The Amburayan river system and its tributaries and watershed include the towns of Tublay, Kapangan, Kibungan, Buguias, Bakun, and Atok, all located in the province. It traverses the provinces of La Union and Ilocos Sur and finally drains to the West Philippine Sea.

Accordingly, the river is a potential source of water for households, industries and commercial establishments. Its water is currently used for aquaculture, agriculture and other domestic

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Kalinga state college gets full university status

TABUK CITY, Kalinga - Kalinga Apayao State College (KASC) finally gets its full university status.

Former KASC President Eduardo T. Bagtang informed Carmelita P. Sison, Director IV of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and former CHED Director Libertad Garcia confirmed during the December 7 hearing of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of Congress that KASC had substantially complied with the operational requirements of a state university.

ASC’s quest to become a state university started through the initiative of Bagtang, who prepared the institution comply with the operation requirements when he assumed in 2006.

Through the efforts of Kalinga Congressman Manuel S. Agvao, President Benigno C. Aquino signed last May 24, 2013 Republic Act 10584, which provided for the conversion of KASC into Kalinga State University (KSU).

The law, however, provided that university status of KASC can only be awarded upon compliance of the six operation requirements that include CHED Level-3 Accreditation of at least 4 of KASC’s undergraduate programs, qualified full-time facul-

ty-student ratio, adequate library and laboratory facilities, research and development, linkages and outreach programs and relevant academic policies, systems and processes.

Dr. Jovita Saguibo, incumbent KASC president, admitted the work to meet all the requirements for compliance was a big challenge. But the fruit is worth all the labor, she quipped.

Saguibo acknowledged other local officials who contributed in meeting the requirements like Gov. Jocel C. Baac for the release of P2M fund from the provincial government for the purchase of library and laboratory facilities, Rizal Mayor Marcelo dela Cruz for the two-hectare KASC Rizal campus, Tabuk City Mayor Ferdinand B. Tubban for the equipments in the ground improvement of KASC, Vice Gov. Allan Jesse C. Mangaoang for the Sangguniang Panlalawigan endorsement and CHED regional and central office for providing technical and financial assistance.

RA 10584 provides that for smooth transition, KASC’s incumbent president shall serve as first university president but within three months upon its operation as a university, the Board of Regents shall constitute the Search Committee for the President. (JDP/LL-PIA CAR, Kalinga)

DOH, partners advocate for safe, healthy and injury-free holiday celebration

BAGUIO CITY, Dec. 17 (PIA) - - A safe, healthy and injury – free Christmas and New Year celebration.

This is what the Department of Health and its partners aim for call as they launched the “Iwas Paputok” campaign in a kapihan media forum at the DOH Regional office here on Tuesday.

DOH Cordillera Regional Director Dr. Amelita Pangilinan said this year’s theme, “Sa

Ingay Walang Sablay, sa Paputok Goodbye Kamay Kaya Wag Pasaway”, calls for public support anew in doing away with firecrackers as these may harm and instead use other safer means of noise and merry making this holiday season.

She explained that attaining zero injuries during the yuletide revelries remains a goal. In 2014, 70 cases of fire-

Cont. on page 5

Baguio presents traffic plan for holiday season

BAGUIO CITY - Baguio City Mayor Mauricio Domogan on Thursday said that a traffic scheme has been prepared to respond to the projected influx of tourists during the Christmas holidays.

Domogan said the Traffic and Transportation Management Committee (TTMC) already laid down road contingency measures hoping to avoid the traffic problems experienced last year.

Domogan added that the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) Traffic Management Unit (TMU) under P/Supt. Evelio Degay coordinated with his counterparts in La Union and Pangasinan for a collaborative effort in monitoring and regulating the flow of

vehicles at Kennon Road and Palispis – Aspiras Highway (Marcos Highway).

Communication volunteer groups will be tapped to provide assistance to motorists in cases of mechanical trouble or road accidents to prevent further travel disruptions.

In a Baguio City Council presentation, Degay anticipated aggregation of vehicles and pedestrians to peak between December 24 and December 27 and between December 30 and January 3, 2016.

Degay said the police action will be anchored on the effective deployment of policemen in the so-called traffic hotspots, intensified enforcement of traffic laws, posting of additional traffic signs and implementation of traffic systems including the diversion or loop system and the control point concept.

The BCPO – TMU will implement road clearing operations to remove illegally parked vehicles and other blockages and will adopt a tourist-oriented policing strategy.

The police advised tourists and vacationists to “leave your vehicles in the safety of your accommodation then commute or walk and enjoy”. (PNA) LAP/BNB/JOJO B. LAMARIA/EDS



Two Asian ladies, Tomoko Ushimaru, 27, fondly called “Monica” from Sanfuku-jimachi, Takayamachi, Japan, and Peng Jun Qi “Penny”, 25, from Wuzhixian, Ji-aozoushi, Henan sheng, China are Baguio City’s .Lucky Foreign Visitors this year under the Silahis ng Pasko program. The two receive 4 days red carpet treatment from December 11-14 (JBZ-PIA CAR)

Aquino officials must answer for unliquidated cash advances of P10.1 Billion

IN a 224-page report released a year ago, the Commission on Audit reported that 10 top executives and government agencies, including some of the most high-profile members of the Administration, had amassed P10.14 billion in cash advances that they had failed to liquidate within and even beyond the prescribed period.

With a year now gone since the report was released, we want to know from the audit commission and from the officials involved how much progress there has been in the liquidation of the cash advances.

The COA report merits urgent attention for the following reasons:

1. Many of the cash advances were incurred by Administration and Cabinet officials who are now seeking higher office. It is fair to ask whether the sums are being used to promote their candidacies. It is timely to ask them now when they propose to settle accounts, because the voters must know that these candidates

are deadbeats—and possibly criminally guilty.

2. Even the Office of the President, which normally

EDITORIAL

and understandably racks up the most cash advances because of its high-level tasks and activities, ranks only eighth in the COA's top 10 miscreant agencies.

3. The Aquino Administration today is supposed to be engaged in an intensive effort to fast-track state disbursement of funds, before the end of the year, and evidently also before the formal start of the election campaigning period. It could potentially add to the sums of misappropriated public money.

Based on the 2013 Annual Financial Report that it submitted to Congress in 2014, COA said the cash advances mostly "represented expenses on local and foreign travels and for special purpose time-bound undertakings." P110 billion of traveling is too much.

The top 10 COA list of personages and agencies with gigantic unliquidated cash advances are:

1. The Commission on Elections, which has P3.214 billion in unliquidated advances, the biggest among the top 10 miscreant departments, or 31.71 percent of the total unliquidated amount.

2. The Department of Education and Secretary Armin Luistro came second with total unliquidated advances of P2.23 billion. Could this be because far-flung branches of the DepEd actually used the money and up to now have not come up with the liquidation documents?

3. The Department of Interior and Local Government during the time of then secretary and now presidential candidate Manuel Roxas 2nd had unliquidated advances of P1.1 billion.

4. Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and the Department of Defense ranked fourth with unliquidated cash advances of P685.62 million.

5. The Department of Justice under Secretary Leila De Lima has a total of P617.44 million in unliquidated cash advances.

6. The Department of Social Welfare and Development under Secretary Dinky Soliman has a total of P452.55 million in unliquidated cash advances.

7. The Department of Agriculture under Secretary Proceso Alcala has a total of P354.50 million in unliquidated advances.

8. The Office of the President ranked eighth in the top 10 with unliquidated advances amounting to P340.87 million in 2013.

In addition, COA said in the report that there are other executive offices that have unliquidated advances amounting to P297.53 million but COA did not identify them.

The State Universities and Colleges also had P160.27 million in unliquidated advances while "other departments, offices" had a total of P676.51 million, the COA says.

The COA report says that Under the Revised Penal Code, "if a public officer had been advanced cash and failed to account for the money, it is presumed that the money had been pocketed and put to personal use."

The legal implication is that malversation—a crime—has been committed.

Under a COA circular, a cash advance is settled either by returning the money if unspent, or by presenting vouchers, with details as to the items thereon paid, which must be in accord with the purpose for which the money was released, and further backed by proper receipts and other evidence of payment, subject to the result of a post-examination thereof by the auditor concerned.

Congressman and now senatorial candidate Roman Romulo of Pasig City filed House Bill 1287 which seeks to make the infraction prima facie proof of embezzlement.

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JUST SAY NO

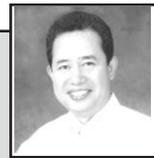


TERRORISM

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

NFA rice poisonous

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... Whoever strays from the path of prudence comes to rest in the company of the dead..." (Proverbs 21:16, the Holy Bible).

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AQUINO GOV'T BEYOND REDEMPTION IN ITS INCOMPETENCE: So, the Aquino government is truly beyond redemption in its gross incompetence and total lack of concern for ordinary Filipinos, since, right under the very noses of its top officials, poisoned rice and fish, the only kind of food that the poor among our countrymen can afford, are being sold openly in every nook and cranny of the country, totally unmolested.

It appears that what President Aquino and his allies are concerned with now is to maneuver to evade imprisonment after their terms shall have ended in 2016. It is clear they no longer have the time, nor the interest, to protect the health and safety of poor Filipinos who, because there is no opportunity to earn decently hereabouts, cannot afford to eat anything other than rice and a little fish.

The problem is that, there is now an official finding from the University of the Philippines Manila that the rice and fish people have been buying and eating contain metal lead, which is a poison dangerous enough to kill them. Yet nobody but nobody from the Aquino government is acting to stop this murder of Filipinos.

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RICE & FISH CONTAIN METAL LEAD, A POISON: Let me reproduce here a devastating report from the Manila Times written by Jacqueline Bouvier Arias, which I saw in its online edition of December 17, 2015, to show the basis of my concern in this column today. Please read on:

"High levels of metal lead, a hazardous chemical substance, were found in various kinds of rice and fish in the Philippines, according to a study. The study (was) conducted by Dr. Judilyn Solidum, a pharmacist and faculty member of the University of the Philippines Manila..."

"...(It) found that 10 kinds of rice and fish that were randomly bought in markets in Metro Manila contained high levels of metal lead that exceeded acceptable safety limits. Upon examination, it was found that all varieties of rice went beyond the acceptable limits for children set by the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

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NFA RICE POISONOUS: What are these poisonous varieties of rice that were found to be poisonous? The report said: "Four brands of rice such as NFA (National Food Authority) rice, Malagkit (regular), Dinorado and Malagkit (violet) exhibited lead levels beyond the acceptable limits for adults. Meanwhile, all kinds of fish sold in markets, except janitor fish, were also found to be unsafe for both children and adults..."

Looking at this news report would make one think that the government of President Aquino would appear to be deliberately allowing the selling of these poisoned rice varieties, because it is the NFA itself that is in the forefront of distributing and selling them.

The question is this: why should the government be allowing the selling of poisonous rice, through its own agency yet, to millions and millions of poor Filipinos who are thoroughly dependent on NFA rice? I hope this is not part of a sinister population control program!

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PLEASE LISTEN: "Ang Tanging Daan" (The Sole Way): a Bible study and prayer session online could now be heard, 24 HOURS a day, in the Philippines and the world at www.facebook.com/angtangingdaan or www.facebook.com/ANDKKNK (For ANDKKNK, look for "Ang Tanging Daan" broadcasts). Phone: 0922 833 43 96, 0918 574 0193, 0977 805 9058. Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com.

DIMENSIONAL ROAD

**Republic Act No. 10687
for Underprivileged
but Deserving Filipino
Students**

BY: MARVIN WACNAG LIDAWAN



“Economic prosperity and quality education for our children are inexorably linked.”

Jon Huntsman, Jr.

Despite the Philippine government’s unfavorable economic status, Philippine law still advocates the significant part of education as a catalyst for a nation’s favorable transformation. This is manifested in the newly delegated Republic Act No. 10687.

According to the country’s Official Gazette, UniFAST refers to Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education brought out as a directive called UniFAST Law covered under the Republic Act No. 10687 endorsed by President Benigno S. Aquino III on October 15, 2015. The main recipients of this decree are underprivileged but commendable college or university students through the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) endorsement.

Republic Act No. 10687 converges all methods of government-funded Student Financial Assistance Programs (StuFAPs) covering tertiary education’s scholarships, grants-in-aid and student loans to channel its operation to officially authorized groups.

The ultimate goal of unifying the modalities of government-funded financial assistance programs is to appropriately apportion and wisely utilize government funds which aims to directly enhance higher and technical education through deserving recipients. In conjunction with the ongoing program of the government on economic refurbishment, these government-funded StuFAPs will function as legitimate measures for the students to engage on the priority courses as earlier stipulated by the CHED for the country’s vision on economic development.

It was previously observed that the StuFAPs have been relished and misrepresented by some political leaders for partisan connections throughout the country which manifested adverse effects not to mention that many justifiable students were denied or never benefited from these educational opportunities which could have solved parents’ financial burdens in sending their children to acquire higher learning since StuFAPs were promulgated in the archipelago. With the creation of Republic Act No. 10687, it is hoped that the convergence of these will lead to auspicious results through strict observance and compliance of the required directive.

According to Gazette on its October 21, 2015 issue, “The idea of a harmonized financial assistance program emerged more than five years ago as a proposal of the NEDA-Social Development Committee, but the real work took place in 2013 after a comprehensive study was conducted by the Philippine Institute of Development Studies. CHED’s current Higher Education Reform Agenda, which deemed UniFAST a priority strategy for access, gave the necessary impetus.”

As a result, it was officially endorsed that the UniFAST will be administered by a board that include the heads of the CHED, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Department of Education (DepEd) as co-chairs. The members will comprise chosen councils from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) and National Youth Commission (NYC). With the advocacy of the chosen official technical secretariat, assurance of the program’s legitimate purposes

Editorial

...from page 4

He filed the bill in response to the COA finding that some P10.14 billion in cash advances remain unsettled by 10 government executives, well beyond the prescribed period.

Wide public concern over the issue is proper at this time because we are approaching within the next six months the end of the term of President Aquino.

If no serious effort is made to hold the concerned executives to account for and force them to return the money, the nation would be the poorer by over P10 billion of precious public resources.

If personages who are running for office win election without being made to explain, electoral outcomes could complicate the process of liquidating the advances.

The issue is primal and the cases are instructive. We must confront the fact that under President Aquino, we have seen by far the most wide-ranging and pervasive looting of the public treasury. Legislators and executive officials have taken that crime to a whole new level.

Now is pre-eminently the time to call people to account, when the presidential administration is still in place, and officials involved are still in office.

Under no circumstance should they ever be allowed to believe that they can get away with taking public money without accounting for it properly.

Brazen disregard of the law and pertinent COA orders must never be condoned.

We applaud the Commission on Audit and its people for their zealous oversight over the expenditure of public funds. Keep up the good work.

Mayor lifts Baguio’s number coding scheme set

BAGUIO CITY - Baguio City mayor Mauricio Domogan this week approved the suspension of the number coding scheme anticipating the arrival of foreign and local tourists for the Yuletide season.

In his approved administrative order no. 172, Baguio’s number coding scheme is suspended from Dec. 21 to 31 considering that vacationers from the lowlands are expected to flock in this mountain resort during the Christmas and New Year breaks to escape the extreme heat in their areas and enjoy the city’s cool and romantic

weather, pine-scented air and scenic spots.

Domogan admitted that while it is true that during long holidays the city experiences worse traffic conditions, their visitors should also be given the chance to roam around various tourist spots with their vehicles.

The suspension is anchored on city ordinance no. 1, section 6 as amended by section 1 of ordinance no. 107, series of 2008 exempting private motor vehicles and chartered public utilites of visitors, tourists and vacationers./ *Jho Arranz*

in protecting students’ academic well-being are expected. And to be able to thoroughly implement this revamp, the board has formulated the following components as guideline priorities in their governance. These are “standard setting, client-targeting, fund allocation and prioritization which are based on supply-demand situations, prices and inflationary factors, government human resources development plan and current trends in internationally-shared human resources.”marvinwacnaglidawan@gmail.com

DOH, partners advocate...

from page 3

cracker/fireworks related injuries were recorded in the region with most of the victims were children (7 to 16 years old).

Pangilinan re-echoed Health Secretary Janette Garin’s call for a unified effort in ensuring zero firecracker-related injuries this yuletide season.

“Every time a firecracker is ignited, a person’s life is in a threat. Serious injuries and amputation caused by firecrackers are life changing consequences. It is an extreme gamble to one’s future. Hence let us do our part altogether in ensuring a healthy, safe and injury-free Christmas and New Year celebration”, Pangilinan enjoined.

Police Regional Office – Cordillera Deputy Director for Administration PCSupt Robert Quenery, meanwhile, assured PNP’s readiness with their personnel all over the region already on blue alert under “Oplan

Ligtas Paskuhan”.

Baguio City Police Director PSSupt Rolando Miranda and Benguet Police Provincial Director PSSUpt. David Peredo likewise assured their peace and order preparedness for the yuletide season in their respective areas of responsibility.

Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center Emergency Room head Dr. Honorio Pangilinan Jr. and Health Emergency Management head Dr. Larry Haya also assured their hospital’s readiness to respond to any emergency. BGHMC is already on Code White Alert.

Other panelists in the forum were Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Dr. Donnabel Tubera of the City Health Services Office and SFO3 Josesito Dollente of the Bureau of Fire Protection – Cordillera. /JDP/CCD with *Shaura Cuyan – PIA CAR*

Benguet dads bat for...

from page 3

uses.

The designation of WQMA has been identified as one of the main strategies to effectively enforce the Republic Act 9275 or the Clean Water Act of 2004 Clean Water Act to improve water quality of water bodies through focused interventions or actions that are designed to address specific water quality and quantity unique to such areas.

The resolution shall be forwarded to DENR Secretary Ramon Paje and EMB-CAR Regional Director Maria Dorica Naz-Hipe

The Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, Inc. and the Environmental Management Bureau – CAR and Region 1 in partnership with all local government units and various stakeholders are working

together through series of meetings, consultations and information campaign in support for the designation of Amburayan River as WQMA.

The six towns of the province have also created and operationalized a local Water Quality Task Force.

For the river system to qualify as WQMA, it must have similar hydrological, hydro geological, meteorological or geographic conditions which affect the physicochemical, biological and bacteriological reactions and diffusions of pollutants in the water bodies, or otherwise share common interest or face similar development programs, prospects, or problems./JDP/SCA-PIA-CAR, Benguet

DPWH to set up...

from page 2

Projects are further instructed to coordinate with the project engineers of both the Unified Project Management Office and concerned contractors for the scheduling of their road works and the installation of necessary traffic advisory.

This is to further ensure that all national roads are thoroughly maintained, free from potholes and obstructions in the flow of traffic and necessary

directions are given to motorists for smooth and easy travel. Routine maintenance activities for roadways, bridges, shoulders, drainages, and traffic services shall also be undertaken. Informative/regulatory warning signs and traffic advisories shall be provided to further assure the continuous flow of traffic and unhampered transport of goods and services. *(PIA/DPWH-CAR release)*

Aliping break ground...

from page 1

in the implementation of the K-12 system.

Initiated by Baguio Rep. Nicasio M. Aliping, Jr. and the Department of Education (DepEd) Baguio, the two buildings will have a total of 52 classrooms.

The first project worth P64.5 million with 32 classrooms was sourced by Rep. Aliping from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR). This project is expected to be completed on August 4, 2016.

The second project worth P30.7 million with 20 classrooms was allocated through the DepEd fund. This is expected to be completed on June 27, 2016.

Aliping said this is part of his commitment to further improve and make education available to Baguio citizens especially to indigents. "We aim to accomplish this commitment not only in creating laws to improve our education system but also to source funds through other means for projects that are immediately needed," said Aliping.

The groundbreaking ceremony last Monday, December 14, was attended by Rep. Aliping, Superintendent Francis Cesar B. Bringas, DepEd Regional Director Ellen Donato, Dr. Elma Donaal, Councilor PoppoCosalan, District Engineer Alexander Castaneda and the Irisan Barangay

officials and teachers headed by Brgy. Captain Thomas Dumalti. The project will be undertaken by RU Aquino Construction and Development Corporation.

Aliping was accompanied by the Liberal Party A1 namely Councilors PoppoCosalan, Councilor Leandro Yangot, Councilor Joel Alangsab, Jojo Cabato, Atty. Ron Peree, Arch. Mylen Yaranon, Engr. Jun Orca, Rudy Paraan and Art Alad-iv.

Aliping, Vice-chairman of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education has also authored HB 01645 requesting for the conversion of the Irisan National High School into a Technical-Vocational High School that can help pave the way for indigent students for a better chance in attending college.

Aliping said that aside from providing students with easier access to education, it is necessary also to provide them with technical and vocational training that would open to them wider opportunities for employment or gainful activity after they graduate from high school.

"With the improvement of their economic condition, higher education would become more viable for them when they decide to enter college," stressed Aliping. */Carl C. Taawan*

Rainy first day...

from page 2

among friends but also because it is the time where our faith is intensified."

"Simbang Gabi is for worship, not for courtship," posted at the CBCP website. According to the CBCP, it is sometimes observed that young people in particular tend to playfully congregate with their peers or their "special someone" outside the churches instead of actively participating in the mass.

The traditional Simbang Gabi is a nine-day novena in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, begins December 16 as early as 4 a.m., and culminates with the "Misa de Gallo" on Christmas Eve.

Baguio's 2015...

from page 2

planned at the Philippine Science High School site in Irisan; with the Special Program for the Arts, Baguio City and Pines City National Science High Schools consolidated in one area.

Challenges as to tourism programs is looked into, including road network plans to lessen traffic, with concerted efforts from planners, technical committee and all concerned groups, the mayor said.

The Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) is continually being strengthened for peace and order in the city, with priority concern on the continuing war against drug problems, Mayor Domogan also said. It is not so serious compared to other areas, he added.

Health district centers with medical personnel deliver basic services, in support to the Health Services Office (HSO). Additional four ambulances are also available to "bring medical services nearer to the barangay constituents," the mayor further reported.

Other environmen-

tal matters were also looked into including the continued processing of organic fertilizer from the biodegradable solid wastes, Salaknib ti Waig program for the cleanliness of rivers with partners from non-government organizations, the academe, business sector and others, extension of the Baguio Cemetery at Sto. Tomas, and the fencing of the Busol Watershed to ward off illegal intentions. The fence for Baguio's foremost watershed comes from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Baguio Water District (BWD), the Fil-Am golf Tournament and other sources, the mayor intimated.

Churchgoers especially the tourists are also reminded to protect their bodies from the cold weather and the rains by wearing thick and warm clothes. *(JDP/RMC-PIA CAR)*

To assure the safety and security and maintain the peace and order situation the Simbang Gabi in the city, Baguio City Police Chief PSSupt. Rolando Miranda said that police officers have been deployed at the different churches in the city as well as the other venues for the masses. Mobile police units are regularly patrolling the different areas particularly the barangays and the central business district where people flock after the masses.

Churchgoers especially the tourists are also reminded to protect their bodies from the cold weather and the rains by wearing thick and warm clothes. *(JDP/RMC-PIA CAR)*

Veterans Bank Launches PVAO Pension Loan Christmas Promo

Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB), the commercial bank owned by Filipino World War II veterans and their descendants, is making this Christmas merrier for its Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) pensioners with the twin launch of its improved pension loan and Christmas promo.

Starting this month, PVAO pensioners who receive their monthly pension from PVB will now be able to get a pension loan for the maximum amount of P100,000. Previously, the Bank offered its pensioners P20,000 and P45,000 loan options. However, understanding the financial needs that its pensioners face, the Bank has upped the loanable amount offering pensioners them flexibility with loan terms extended from three to five years.

This is great news this holiday season for PVAO pensioners who are comprised mostly of surviving Filipino World War II veterans, their widows, and retired personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Additionally, pensioners with existing pension loans with PVB can re-avail of the higher loan amount as long as they have already paid at least two amortizations of their current loan.

Alongside the increase of its pension loan, PVB also launches its Christmas promo for pensioners entitled "Pamaskong Handog". From December 11 to 29 this 2015, PVAO pensioners who successfully avail of the P100,000 loan will receive a special appliance gift from PVB.

Not only will pensioners enjoy the benefits of the higher loan proceeds but they will also get to take home a small appliance like a flat iron, electric kettle, one-burn-

er gas stove, desk fan, among others.

To be eligible for the promo, a PVAO pensioner simply has to apply for the P100,000 loan at any of PVB's 60 branches nationwide from December 11 to 29, 2015. Once the loan is approved and credited, the pensioner receives a gift voucher from PVB which can then be used to claim a prize from partner merchants.

In a simple launch of the product and promo held at PVB's Camp Aguinaldo branch, PVB Chairman Roberto de Ocampo and President Nonilo Cruz gave the gathered audience composed of PVAO pensioners, veteran families, and guests from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the Philippine National Police (PNP), a sampling of the appliances that can be redeemed from PVB's Pamaskong Handog Promo.

Mr. De Ocampo also delivered a special message on the bank's continued efforts to better its service to PVAO pensioners and extended its support to members of the uniformed service. In response, PVAO Administrator Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, thanked PVB for its commitment to the veterans and the rest of the retirees from the military and enjoined the audience to continuously support PVB.

For more information on PVB's Pension Loan and its Pamaskong Handog promo, interested parties can visit the nearest PVB branch or call (02) 840-2621 during office hours or email customer-care@veteransbank.com.ph. Promo flyers are also available at PVB branches and you may also visit PVB's official Facebook page - [Facebook.com/Veterans-Bank](https://www.facebook.com/Veterans-Bank) - for more news and updates.

FEATURE

Hanging up a star

CEBU CITY—Finally we found the Christmas parol, or star lanterns, in our cluttered storeroom, and dusted them off.

It was only mid-November then, but we put them up anyway and lighted them. So did our two granddaughters, in another part of this old town.

It set off historical reminiscing.

“We saw His star rise in the East and we come to honor Him,” travel-weary men of regal bearing told the paranoid Herod, the ancient accounts recall. Herod asked to be kept in the loop. “Bring me word so I, too, may worship him.”

“[Then] the star ... went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the Child was ... with Mary His mother...” Then, warned in a dream, they set off on another way to their home country.

Even today, the Christmas star puzzles scientists. “Was it a supernova or a comet?” asked Dr. Peter Andrews of the University of Cambridge and Robert Massey of the Royal Observatory in Greenwich. A “stationary point of Jupiter,” perhaps?

In the year many scholars believe Jesus was born, a combination of a bright nova and a triple conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces was seen, some accounts say. “Ancient Chinese astronomers recorded this as an unusually bright star that appeared in the eastern sky for 70 days. It was a rare sight.”

“None of possible astronomical explanations has overwhelming evidence that it should be preferred to others,” Andrews and Massey conclude. But the nova, comet, or variable star explanation “appears more likely.”

The astronomers’ debate continues today. So does the puzzle over a vulnerable child who lighted a world, though born in a manger that foreshadowed our 2015 slums.

Earlier worldwide analysis by Unicef sifts through the plight of 93 million children in 53 countries. Look beyond traditional measuring gauges, like family income. A starker portrait of penury afflicting children then emerges.

Years ago I noted that St. Luke’s short account of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem mentions the manger: Mary laid her infant in the manger. Angels told the shepherds, “And this shall be a sign for you. You will find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.” And when they did stumble into the decrepit stable, they recognized the Messiah as described.

The Christmas crèche dates back to St. Francis of Assisi. In 1293, the first crèche was celebrated in the woods of Greccio near Assisi, on Christmas Eve.

St. Francis’ idea of bringing Bethlehem into one’s own town spread quickly all over the Christian world. After Francis’ death in 1226, the custom of having the crib at Christmastime spread widely.

In the Philippines, I once recalled, the Nativity belen came to us via Ferdinand Magellan’s galleons. “The Filipino ‘Belen’” is, in fact, the title of a homily that the historian Horacio de la Costa, SJ, delivered during a Nativity Midnight Mass in the United States, where he was finishing his studies. Excerpts:

“In many offices today, a Filipino ‘belen’ graces the entrance. Nipa shingles make up the stable’s roof. Coconut palm trees flank the entrance to the manger, and a suspended parol blinks beside the angel figurines. In some Nativity cribs, St. Joseph and Our Lady are in tropical clothes heedless of the Palestinian winter.

“Often, it’s just a sandlot or an ordinary table which, at Christmastime, we try to represent to ourselves the birth of our Savior. In the center, we place a Christ Child. And around it we arrange Our Lady and St. Joseph, the way Catholics everywhere, and in every age, have pictured them.

“But the rest of the scene bears very little resemblance to the real Bethlehem. The shepherds are there. But they are dressed as farmers and fishermen, because we have no sheep. And we have no winters.

“In one corner, the Three Kings are on their way. But they do not ride camels. Rather, one of them leads our town’s patient beast of burden: the carabao. And they look up to the marvelous star—made of paper pasted on a bamboo frame and hung from the ceiling.

“You will smile, perhaps, at our simplicity. And it’s true, of course, that history is all wrong. Christ was not born in a palm leaf shack, and the Wise Men never brought their gifts on a carabao.

“[Yet] in our ignorance [is] a very great truth. “Although Christ was born 2,000 years ago in Palestine, He was not born only for that nation and that time. He was born for all time and for all peoples. He was born for you and for me. He willed to become a man in order to save all men. And He chose to be born homeless because he wanted everyone to be at home.

“This little Son of Mary is also ‘God of God’—as we say in the Credo of the Mass, ‘Light of Light; true god of true god; begotten, not made; of one substance with the father; by whom all things were made....’ There are for Him no distances. And He lives in an eternal now.

“And it is right, profoundly right, that we should surround his cradle with all that is familiar and dear to us—our houses, our tools, our toys, everything that is part of ourselves and our daily lives. Because it was to bless and sanctify these, and ourselves with them, that Christ was born....

“There is room for all the world ... in a Baby’s arms. We look deep in this Infant’s eyes, as our fathers did before us, and are filled with the peace that the world cannot give.”/Juan L. Mercado

President Aquino approves holiday truce with communist rebels



MANILA, Dec. 18 (PNA) -- President Benigno S. Aquino III has approved the recommendation of the Department of National Defense for the unilateral declaration of the Suspension of Military Operations (SOMO) against the New People’s Army (NPA) for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

The SOMO will commence at 12:01 a.m. of December 23, 2015 and would end at 11:59 p.m. of January 3, 2016, Communication Secretary Herminio Coloma, Jr. said on Friday.

Last Dec. 15, the defense department recommended that President Aquino approve a SOMO against communist insurgents.

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) has already declared a 12-day holiday ceasefire in support of calls to resume the stalled peace talks

with the government. The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) said the truce would take effect from Dec. 23, 2015 to Jan. 3, 2016. The NDFP negotiates with the government on behalf of the CPP and its political arm, the NPA.

The ceasefire order was issued in solidarity with the Filipino people’s traditional celebrations of Christmas and New Year holidays, the NDFP said.

The ceasefire will also allow its forces to carry out mass assemblies and public demonstrations to mark the 47th anniversary of the CPP and celebrate revolutionary victories of the past year, it said, adding that the move is also in support of efforts of peace advocates to foster the resumption of the peace negotiations between the government and the NDFP. (PNA)

RMA/PND/RSM

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
Branch 4

FAMILY COURT OF BAGUIO CITY

IN RE: PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF MINOR CHILD REGINA LHIAN MARIE C. AGUILAR,

SPS. CESAR AND EULALIA GRACE VILLENUEVA,
Petitioners,

-versus-

LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF BAGUIO,
Respondent.
x-----x

SP. PROC. CASE NO. 485-A FOR: ADOPTION

ORDER

The petitioners, Sps. Cesar and Eulalia Grace Villanueva, filed this verified amended petition praying for the Honorable Court to declare minor REGINA LHIAN MARIE C. AGUILAR to be the legitimate child of

Spouses Cesar and Eulalia Grace Villanueva and for all to acquire the reciprocal rights and obligations arising from the relationship of parents and child, including the rights of the minor child to use the surname of petitioner and be made known henceforth as "REGINA LHIAN MARIE C. VILLANUEVA" and to direct the Local Civil Registrar to effect the same adoption and on the Certificate of Live Birth of said minor child.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the same be heard before the Regional Trial Court, Branch 4, Baguio City on March 9, 2016 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning, at which place, date and time, the petitioner shall prove this case. Any person interested may appear and show cause, if any there be, why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners in The Junction, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks no later than December 28, 2015.

The petitioner are directed to make an appointment with the assigned Court Social

Worker for the conduct of the required case studies on the child Regina Lhian Marie C. Aguilar and the petitioners. The Court Social Worker is required to submit to the court the case study reports not later than February 5, 2016.

The Judicial Affidavits of the Petitioner and her witnesses together with their exhibits are due for submission not later than February 12, 2016.

Furnish copies hereof, together with copies of the Petition and its annexes, to the Office of the Solicitor General, the Office of

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 9 (FAMILY COURT FOR BENGUET PROVINCE)
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
La Trinidad, Benguet

SPS. JEAN BAGNI AND MOUSTAFA SOULTANI a.k.a MUSTAPHA SULTANI,
Petitioners,

-versus-

EMMANUEL D. DIMARUCUT.
THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF TABUK CITY AND THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (FORMERLY NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE),
Respondents.

x-----x

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASE NO. 15-A-1036

For IN THE ADOPTION OF MARCHELLA BAGNI DIMARUCUT

the City Prosecutor of Baguio, the Court Social Worker of the Regional Trial Court in Baguio City, Local Civil Registrar of Baguio City, the petitioners through counsel and the respondents.

SO ORDERED.

DONE IN CHAMBERS, this 26th day of November, 2015, at Baguio City, Philippines.

(SGD) MIA JOY C. OALLARES-CAWED
Presiding Judge
Publication Dates:
December 5, 12, and 19, 2015

ORDER

Petitioners, through counsel, filed this verified Amended Petition for Adoption, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, the prospective adoptee. MARCHELLA BAGNI DIMARUCUT, be declared for all legal intents and purposes as the adopted child of petitioners. It is further prayed that said prospective adoptee shall then acquire the reciprocal rights and obligations arising from parents - child relationship. Still further, petitioners pray that the office of Local Civil Registry of Tabuk Kalinga and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PhhhSA)

be directed to CANCEL the Certificate of Live Birth will all its appropriate and applicable entries.

It is alleged in the Amended Petition, among others, that petitioners are emotionally, psychologically, and financially capable of caring for children; that petitioners possess all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications to adopt; and, that this petition for adoption will certainly redound to the best interest, welfare and benefit of the prospective adoptee MARCHELLA BAGNI DIMARUCUT.

WHEREFORE, finding the Amended Petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the petitioners are directed to meet and confer with the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer (MSWDO) of the local government unit (LGU) of La Trinidad, Benguet, where petitioners are now residents, for the conduct of Child and Home Study in relation to this Amended Petition. Consequently, the MSWDO of La Trinidad, Benguet, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Cordillera Administrative Region (DSWD-CAR), Baguio City, is directed

to conduct a Child and Home Study and submit to this court said Child and Home Stud REPORTS, incorporating therein her appropriate findings and recommendations.

The REPORTS of the MSWDO should be submitted to this court at least fifteen (15) days before the initial hearing of this Amended Petition, which shall be on March 17, 2016, at 9:00 o'clock in the morning. Copies of the said REPORTS should be furnished to the Offices of the Regional Director of the DSWD-CAR, Baguio City, the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet; and, the Solicitor General.

The office of the DSWD-CAR, Baguio City, or through its duly authorized representative, is respectfully directed to file its COMMENT to this Amended Petition, stating therein its recommendation when applicable. The COMMENT shall be filed at least fifteen (15) days before March 17, 2016, the initial hearing of this Petition.

Let this ORDER be published at the expense of the Petitioners in the Junction, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province and the Cordillera Administrative

Region, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made not later than December 20, 2015. All interested persons may come to court and show cause, if any, why this Amended Petition should not be granted.

Furnish copies of this ORDER with copies of the Amended Petition and its annexes, to the offices of the Regional Director of the DSWD-CAR, Baguio City; the Solicitor General; the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet; Mr. Emmanuel D. Dimarucut and the Civil Registrar of Tabuk, Kalinga and the MSWDO of La Trinidad, Benguet; furnish copies of this ORDER to the Junction and the petitioners and counsel.

SO ORDERED.

In chambers, this 11th day of December 2015 at La Trinidad, Benguet.

(SGD) RUFUS G. MALECDAN, JR.
Acting Presiding Judge
Publication Dates:
December 12, 19, and 26, 2015

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH SIMULTANEOUS DEED OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late John C. Dorian, who died on October 21, 2015 involving a motor vehicle with Plate No. AYR 308 has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs through an Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate with Simultaneous Deed of Sale, acknowledged on November 26, 2015 before Notary Public for Baguio City, Atty. Robles G. Calabias and entered into his notarial register as per Doc. No. 403, Page No. 81, Book No. CXXXVII; Series of 2015.

Publication Dates: December 5, 12, and 19, 2015

DPWH to set up motorists assistance stations this Christmas holidays

BAGUIO CITY, Dec. 18- - To ensure safe travel during the holiday season, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will set up Motorists Assistance Stations along the highways leading to this mountain resort.

Skeletal workforce will be in place and DPWH Action Officers during the Christmas holidays will be designated to render emergency services that may be required with the influx of visitors.

The motorists assistance stations shall assist the travelling public along the highways in coordination with other concerned agencies like the Land Transportation Office, the Philippine National Police and local government officials.

DPWH Cordillera OIC-Assistant Regional Director Alberto N. Gahid has instructed the District Engineering Offices to also activate their composite teams including personnel and mechanics to respond to road emergency

situations and aid the travelling public on strategic locations in their jurisdictions.

DEOs with on-going Long Term Performance Based Maintenance Projects are further instructed to coordinate with the project engineers of both the Unified Project Management Office and concerned contractors for the scheduling of their road works and the installation of necessary traffic advisory.

This is to further ensure that all national roads are thoroughly maintained, free from potholes and obstructions in the flow of traffic and necessary directions are given to motorists for smooth and easy travel. Routine maintenance activities for roadways, bridges, shoulders, drainages, and traffic services shall also be undertaken. Informative/regulatory warning signs and traffic advisories shall be provided to further assure the continuous flow of traffic and unhampered transport of goods and services. /DPWH-CAR release

DSWD asks public to be vigilant in giving donation this Christmas season

BAGUIO CITY, Dec. 18- - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) here urges the public to be more vigilant towards donation giving this Christmas season.

DSWD- CAR OIC-Regional Director Janet P. Armas said that the public should be reminded that fund raising activities such as solicitation and caroling for charitable and public welfare purposes are regulated by the law.

"It's Christmas time and a season for sharing. However, there are entities that would take advantage of this. That is why we are asking the public to be cautious in supporting any kind of fund drives", Dir. Armas said.

Presidential Decree 1564 of 1978 also known as the Solicitation Permit Law states that "any person, corporation, organization, or association desiring to solicit or receive contributions for charitable or public welfare purposes shall first secure a permit from the Regional Offices of the Department of Social Services and Development...". Moreover, DSWD Administrative Order No. 14 S.2007 or the Omnibus Rules and Regulations on Public Solicitation and Administrative Order No. 18 Series of 2010 also known as Code of Ethics for Fund Raising were issued to regulate the practice of solicitation of voluntary contributions in the Philippines.

"During this season, many groups would be roaming around to ask for donations and this includes adults that are caroling for their organizations. For us to ensure their legitimacy, we should ask for their solicitation permit released by the Local Government of the DSWD.

This permit ensures us that the donation we will be giving will serve its rightful purpose", Armas added.

As mandated, parties interested in fund raising for charitable and public welfare purposes should secure a solicitation permit from the DSWD Field Office or their respective Local Government Unit for activities involving only one city or municipality. Individuals who seek solicitation permit for their relatives who need medical and financial assistance should be coursed through a DSWD registered and licensed Social Welfare and Development Agency or the Crisis Intervention Unit of the DSWD or the Local Government Unit. This individual should be further certified by the Social Worker of his/her Local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO) as a legitimate and eligible representative of the patient.

On the other hand, no solicitation permit will be issued to any business corporation, organization or association intending to solicit for the aforementioned purposes such that these bodies shall donate as part of their corporate social responsibility. However, their welfare arm, if any, will be allowed given that these bodies have a separate Security and Exchange Commission registration as a non-profit and non-stock organization.

Moreover, solicitation activities should also never involve lottery, raffle, and other game of chances or hazard. Solicitation paraphernalia should not portray a dehumanizing picture or situation of the intended beneficiaries.

Persons involved in the fund raising activi-

Barangays undergo backyard organic vegetable production training

BAGUIO CITY - Barangay Nutrition Scholars and barangay volunteers took part in the two-day backyard organic vegetable production training last Dec. 15 to 16 at the Hotel Veniz.

The training aims to develop, train and strengthen the knowledge and skills of backyard farmers in promoting the use of sustainable and appropriate backyard vegetable production, to accelerate promotion and utilization of backyard vegetable production technologies for the production of fresh, clean and safe products that will meet the requirements of households, to train vegetable farmers as entrepreneurs to operate and manage backyard home gardens, to establish community backyard vegetable gardens and sustain them through the effort of the barangay officials, barangay volunteers and beneficiaries of the barangay, and to enhance the household gardens and community backyard vegetable gardens and to sustain the food always in the home.

The participants realized the nutritional values of vegetables, urban gardening and organic plant production such as pest management, production management and organic fertilizer.

Accordingly, the World Health Organization (WHO) determined

ties should have absolutely no share in the proceeds of the activities. Not more than 15% of the proceeds should be used for the administrative cost and the remaining 85% should be utilized entirely for the beneficiaries or intended projects.

Solicitation permits can be acquired from the DSWD-CAR Regional Office located at #40 North Drive, Baguio City beside NBI and

that adequate consumption of vegetables reduces the risk of cardiovascular diseases, stomach cancer and colorectal cancer. While an increase the body to fight invading micro-organisms attributable to these diseases, the source of food is still a matter to reckon with as well as its safety.

Agriculturist Alberto Tomas stressed that the rampant use of pesticides, herbicides, fungicide including kind of soil and safety of water used contributes to the risk of one consuming food.

Tomas said, "the best way to ensure consumption of organic vegetables is still to plant them as in backyard gardens."

"The millennium development goal addresses the reduction and/or elimination of extreme poverty and hunger. Thus program proponents to address this include home community and school food production, food supplementation, livelihood training and financial assistance," he added.

After the said training, barangays with sufficient area for planting will be monitored by the city committee on food production.

If this will be sustained, it will become an economic enterprise for livelihood as well as it will improve the nutritional status of the barangay. *Jho Arranz*

BIR-CAR. Applicants should submit a duly accomplished application form, SEC certification, registration, license or accreditation certificate from the DSWD or LSWDO on the status of the applicant, list and profile of people involved in the activity, Work and Financial Plan, and other requirements to be identified after assessment. *Nerizza Faye G. Villanueva-DSWD CAR*

City treats partner agencies

BAGUIO CITY - Pasadang pambarangay partner agencies were recognized through a luncheon treat by the city government here spearheaded by the Special Services Division of the Mayor's Office last Dec. 17 at the Baguio City multi-purpose hall.

The different partner agencies were honored for its exemplary services rendered in the field of dental, medical, anti-rabies vaccination, blood typing, as well as other services to the different barangays in this mountain resort for attaining the goals of the pasadang pambarangay.

The different partner agencies that were recognized include the Baguio Rotary Club, Baguio City Emergency Medical Services, Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, Baguio Center for Young Adult, Reflexology Association of the Philippines Traditional Medicine Inc.,

Department of Science and Technology, Optical Clinic, Philippine Red Cross, Philhealth, Public Employment Services Office, DZEQ Radyo ng Bayan, Lue Foundation, Veterinary Office and Health Services Office.

In his inspirational message, mayor Mauricio Domogan stressed that the conduct of the pasadang pambarangay is aimed at bringing the various services of the city government to the marginalized sector of the society living in the city in order to address the problems of the community like health and medical needs, social services, infrastructure, environmental, among others.

"Your active participation in the weekly pasadang pambarangay in the different barangays is very instrumental in the delivery of basic services to the grassroot level," said Domogan. *Jho Arranz*

Cordillera cops seal gun muzzles

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet - Cordillera policemen joined the nationwide simultaneous taping of gun muzzles on December 14 as part of the campaign of the Philippine National Police (PNP) for a "gun-free" celebration of Christmas and New Year.

Police Regional Office - Cordillera Regional Director PCSupt. Ulysses Abellera led the PRO-Cor in the sealing off of service firearms of police personnel at the Regional Headquarters.

The different provincial, city and municipal police offices down to the various police stations also sealed off their firearms in support of this PNP advocacy.

Abellera said the traditional gun muzzle taping is a strong message to all gun holders and owners

especially policemen and soldiers who are the primary enforcers of the law, not to use their firearms indiscriminately.

He warned all Cordillera cops to refrain from firing their guns if not duty related. Police officers he said should be disciplined and responsible for their firearms and refrain indiscriminate firing during holidays to avoid criminal and administrative charges.

PRO-COR linked up with the other law enforcement agencies and local government units in conducting intensified intelligence efforts to identify and arrest violators, conduct patrols and to arrest those caught firing their gun indiscriminately during holidays. *(JDP/ RMC-PIA CAR)*

Court dismisses mandamus case vs. city officials

BAGUIO CITY – The Regional Trial Court (RTC) dismissed the case for mandamus filed by a businesswoman against city officials for non-issuance of a zoning clearance and a building permit over her lot at Outlook Drive here which is covered by a spurious Certificate of Ancestral Land Title (CALT).

In a four-page decision issued Dec. 10, RTC Branch 3 Judge Emmanuel Rasing agreed with respondents Mayor Mauricio Domogan, city legal officer Melchor Carlos Rabanes and city planning and development coordinator Evelyn Cayat that the petitioner Imelda Tan Lao represented by attorney-in-fact Roger Angway “failed to state a cause of action and the relief prayed for are not justified by the allegations of the petition.”

“Before mandamus is issued, it is essential that the Petitioner should have a clear legal right to the thing demanded and it must be the imperative duty of respondent to perform the act. This is where the Petition fails,” the court said.

“Petitioner is asking the Court to order the issuance of a locational clearance. Her Petition, however, failed to state that she has complied with all the requirements for issuance of the clearance applied for. Such failure makes the Court unable to determine on the face of the Petition that Petitioner has all the requirements

(and that) respondents neglected to perform their functions...”

“To stress the point, the Petition merely confined itself on the issue of how the pendency of some suits affecting O-CALT-130 will not affect her, she being an alleged buyer in good faith. Compliance with all the requirements... was never mentioned. Therefore, even a hypothetical admission of the truth of the allegations of the Petition will not justify the grant of the relief prayed for.”

Moreover the court said mandamus does not apply on the situation as the requisites for the clearance being sought by the petitioner “involve exercise of judgment” and is not a ministerial function.

In her petition filed last Aug. 20, Lao represented Angway asked the court to order the respondents to issue the clearance and permit applied for and to reimburse the litigation expenses.

She claimed owning the 2,972 square meter lot under TCT NO. 018-2012002678; and being denied issuance of the clearance or permit by Cayat citing the legal opinion from the city legal office penned by Attorney III Isagani Liporada that the requested clearance cannot be processed due to the pending cases involving the mother title.

She denied knowledge over the lot’s circumstances but averred that her purchase of the

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same was done in good faith and is justified under Republic Act No. 8371 of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997, section 8 (B) and other issuances.

The city officials however said the city cannot issue the requested clearance and permit to the land as it is covered by a CALT that was issued anomalously apart from being “inalienable” and part of a “road easement of Outlook Drive” and therefore “incapable of appropriation by any private individual and beyond the commerce of men.”

In the comment submitted Sept. 14 to the court, the city executives said Lao’s transfer certificate of title (TCT) is a transfer from TCT 2010002820 registered in the name of Virginia Gao-an which is a derivative of Original CALT 130 registered in the name of the heirs of Josephine Abanag Molintas.

“OCT No. O-CALT-130 and its derivative titles are presently the subject of cancellation proceedings with the NCIP

in NCIP OJ Case No. 007-2011 and with the Supreme Court in G.R. No. 208480,” the officials noted in the comment.

In the comment, the respondents said Lao “cannot be considered as an innocent purchaser for value” because as a “veteran businesswoman and long-time resident of Baguio as alleged by her,” she should have been aware of the status of O-CALT-130 which is of public knowledge since it covers lands already titled under the Torrens system, government reservations like the Wright Park and the Mansion Grounds and areas within the road-right of way and the subject of newspaper reports and public information campaigns.

“The property covered by her title forms part of the road easement of an area of Baguio which the seat and location of government reservations and popular tourist destinations namely the Wright Park and Mansion House. This fact alone should have put petitioner on her guard and inquiry.”

They said the annotation of cases in the previous titles of the lot should have also made her wary of its status. /A. Refuerzo



A Mini Altar in the Church of Our Lady of Atonement (Baguio Cathedral) is dressed up annually with the “Nativity Scene” without the figure of the “Baby Jesus.” By tradition, the “Baby Jesus” will be set in the manger on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. The “Nativity Scene” in the Baguio Cathedral depicts the events towards the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. A big star is hanged 50 feet above the heads of the church goers. From above the entrance, the star is pulled to the “Nativity Scene” slowly everyday. (PNA photo by Jojo B. Lamaria)SCS/gsc

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