

American Samoa questions gay marriage validity in territory

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP) — American Samoa stands as the only U.S. territory to hold out against the recent Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage.

But as the Pacific island's attorney general reviews the decision, legal observers and gay rights advocates are saying it should go into effect immediately.

"It should be unquestioned," said Rose Cuison Villazor, a professor at University of California, Davis' law school and an expert on territorial law. "The Supreme Court's decision was pretty strong."

American Samoa Attorney General Talauega Eleasalo Ale, however, hasn't been ready to take that step.

"We're still reviewing the

decision to determine its applicability to American Samoa, and I have no specific comments at this time," he said.

Asked if same sex marriage is legal in the territory, Ale said, "I don't know. We're reviewing the law."

U.S. territories have some self-governance rights. The right to marry, however, isn't a question of self-governance, said Omar Gonzalez-Pagan, staff attorney for national gay rights group Lambda Legal. "This is a question of individual right, individual liberty."

Other U.S. territories have voluntarily complied

Mayor bats for inclusion of agricultural land use in CLUP

BAGUIO CITY — Mayor Mauricio Domogan will be pushing for the inclusion for agricultural use in the city's Land Use Plan (CLUP) here.

The chief executive was reacting to questions during the Weekly Ugnayan Presser Wednesday after members of the media questioned the absence of mining and agricultural areas in the city's proposed CLUP being presented by the City's Planning and Development Officer Engr. Evelyn Cayat during a public hearing.

Domogan said, "as far as agriculture in the city is concerned, it is clear that there are existing portions of agricultural areas being used within the city like Sto. Tomas Apugan, Green Valley, Irisan, Asin, Pinsao, Camp 7, Happy Hollow and more."

"There are barangays in the city who maintain vegetable gardens and it is not also right to say that there is no agricultural areas in the city, they should see to it that agricultural areas are included in the CLUP," he said.

The mayor added it is but right that there are no mining areas within the city.

"Even if there are minerals within the city, we cannot include

mining areas in the CLUP and we will not issue any mining permit in the city," he said.

Domogan added, "the situation in the city is, there are already residential areas all over and we would risk the safety of structures if we still put a mining area."

Domogan said, "he will review the proposed CLUP and the transcripts of the public hearing to see if the same needs to be corrected with regards to agricultural areas and other concerns."

As per existing CLUP, the city's priority land use is residential zone categorized as R-1 low density residential area, R-2 medium density and R-3 high density residential area totalling 3,481.75 hectares.

The same was decreased to 3,417.26 hectares in the proposed CLUP by the increase to 50 meters depth of commercial zones from the previous plan which adopted the 'one lot deep' policy and delineating some areas that would permit the operation

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with the Supreme Court decision. In Puerto Rico, Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla signed an executive order soon after the ruling. U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth Mapp has said he would issue a similar executive order. In Guam, there is no effort to ignore or challenge the ruling, said territorial legislative Vice Speaker Benjamin F. Cruz, who is gay. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is also supporting the decision. As of Thursday, no one has applied for a same sex marriage license in American Samoa, according to the island's Office of Vital Statistics. Christian churches with conservative social views dominate in American Samoa, home

The JUNCTION Pahayagang Palaban!!!

to about 50,000, and the government's motto is "Samoa, Let God Be First." Yet the territory has a tradition of embracing faafafine — males who are raised as females and take on feminine traits. There are many faafafine who aren't supportive of gay marriage out of "respect for our Samoan culture and religious beliefs," said well-known faafafine Princess Auvaa. The lack of marriage license applications by same-sex couples shouldn't be taken to mean no one in American Samoa desires gay marriage, Villazor said. The attorney general's review may have a chilling effect, she said. "I would think there are cultural barriers to begin

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CAMP JOHN HAY ISSUES — Base Conversion Development Authority president Arnel Cassanova answers queries from the city government officials headed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan. Cong. Nicasio Aliping, Jr. Vice Mayor Edison Bilog during a special session at the Sangguniang Panglungsod July 9. Listening intently are BCDA's legal counsel Manuel Ibarra, Jr and former City Councilor Federico "Bong" Mandapat representing the locators at Camp John Hay. /By Bong Cayabyab

Domogan. Cong. Nicasio Aliping, Jr. Vice Mayor Edison Bilog during a special session at the Sangguniang Panglungsod July 9. Listening intently are BCDA's legal counsel Manuel Ibarra, Jr and former City Councilor Federico "Bong" Mandapat representing the locators at Camp John Hay. /By Bong Cayabyab

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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!! BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

"Intervention," a ploy to delay eviction of John Hay developer

BAGUIO CITY — The Bases Conversion and Development Authority on Wednesday said the private developer Camp John Hay Development Corp (CJHDevco) is using its subsidiaries and affiliates to act as innocent sub-lessees to delay its eviction from the 247-hectare former American recreational facility in Baguio City.

The Court of Appeals' Special Fifth Division is set to hear on Thursday, July 9 the motion for intervention of Camp John Hay Golf Club and the CAP John Hay Trade and Cultural Center on the petition filed by CJHDevco, which sought to prevent the BCDA from executing the arbitration

panel's decision to evict third-party sub lessees in John Hay.

"John Hay Golf Club and the CAP Trade Center are actually trying to mislead the court to believe that they are innocent sub lessees," BCDA president and CEO Arnel Paciano Casanova said.

The golf club and the CAP-JHTCC are owned and managed by the same officers and shareholders of the evicted consortium led by businessman and dealmaker Robert Sobrepena.

The Rules of Court provides that "a person who is so situated as to be adversely affected by a distribution or other disposition of property in the custody of the court or of an

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ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT — Congressman Nicasio Aliping, Jr reports his office's accomplishments during City Hall's flag raising ceremony on July 6. /By Bong Cayabyab

CJHDevco, bitawan niyo na kasi ang John Hay at ibalik na sa gobyerno! Kumita na kayo ng sobra-sobrang laki!!

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Senators outraged by 'Binay dummy' land deal

MANILA, Philippines – How did a wealthy businesswoman secure public land meant for soldiers and their dependents? Why was she able to buy the lot way cheaper than what it costs now?

Senators said they were outraged by the allegedly anomalous sale of a 8,877-square meter property in Barangay (village) Comembo in Makati to businesswoman Erlinda Chong, supposedly a dummy of Vice President Jejomar Binay. (READ Part 1: How a Binay dummy got a PIB Makati property and Part 2: A Mormon church, Binay dummies, and a land scam)

Senators Aquilino Pimentel III and Antonio Trillanes IV said that the transaction was ridden with "huge violations" of the law if the testimony of Binay's ally-turned-rival former Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado holds true.

At the 22nd Senate hearing on corruption allegations against Binay on Tuesday, July 7, the senators pointed out that the land was meant for a housing program for soldiers, and a land reform

Gay couple sue for recognition in South Korea

Seoul (AFP) - Buoyed by a landmark US Supreme Court ruling, a prominent South Korean gay rights campaigner and movie director is suing officials for refusing to recognize his 2013 same-sex marriage.

Kim Jho Gwang-Soo — a rare openly gay celebrity in conservative South Korea — and his partner Kim Seung-Hwan took their fight for legitimacy to a district court in western Seoul on Monday.

The couple held an outdoor wedding ceremony in Seoul in September 2013 and submitted their marriage registration form to their local authority — only for it to be rejected.

While homosexuality is not illegal in South Korea, same-sex marriage is not recognized.

Gay and transgender people live largely under the radar in a country that remains deeply conservative about matters of sexual identity and where many still regard homosexuality as a foreign phenomenon.

Monday's court hearing, held behind closed doors, marked the first

program for informal settlers, but ended up with Chong's family.

They also questioned how Chong was able to buy the lot for only P17 million (\$380,000) in 1999 when it is now valued at roughly P1 billion (\$20 million).

"Napakasuwerte naman ninyo na si Mrs Erlinda Chong ang nakakuha ng property. Bakit napunta sa inyo? Alam ko kung bakit, dahil kayo ang dummy ni VP Binay," Trillanes told Chong's son, Kimsfer Chong. (You are so lucky that Mrs. Erlinda Chong got the property. Why did it go to you? I know why, because you are the dummies of VP Binay.)

Pimentel backed him up. "I join in Senator Trillanes' outrage that a person who pays P17 million in 1999 for a property now worth P1 billion — ang galing namang negosyante niyan (what an exceptional entrepreneur!)"

Erlinda was invited to the hearing but Kimsfer said his mother was in Hong Kong for a medical treatment. The Senate blue ribbon subcommittee cited Chong in contempt, and ordered her to attend the

effort by a same-sex couple in South Korea to acquire legal status for their marriage.

"If you are a Korean citizen, you are equal under Korean law," Kim, 50, told reporters outside the court.

"I hope through this trial we can uncover this constitutional principle," Kim said, adding that he had pleaded with the court to "acknowledge our marriage before I die."

The lawsuit has been given added prominence by the June 26 Supreme Court ruling that made same-sex marriage legal throughout the United States.

Celebrations of the landmark decision were at the heart of what organizers described as South Korea's biggest annual gay pride parade on June 28.

Concerns over potential clashes with Christian activists prompted police to ban the march a month before it was due to take place, but a Seoul court later overturned the ban.

Police estimated more than 6,000 people took part in the hour-long parade in Seoul, while organizers put the number at more than 20,000./AFP

next hearing.

Binay also skipped the hearing, again dismissing it as a political "drama." The opposition standard-bearer was campaigning in Pangasinan.

The third child of Chong, Kimsfer denied that the family stood as dummies of Binay. "Our businesses are all legal, and legitimate."

Trillanes was peeved with Kimsfer's denials. He retorted, "Hanggang nasa kulungan si VP Binay, ime-maintain ninyo iyan (Will you maintain that statement even after VP Binay is behind bars)?"

The Chongs own the mini-mall now in the property, which includes Chowking and KFC fastfood restaurants.

They are also listed as incorporators of Millennium Food Chains Corp. Binay's children Senator Nancy Binay, Makati Representative Abigail Binay, and Makati Mayor Junjun Binay are the other incorporators but Kimsfer said the Binays became part of the company even before they joined politics.

The Chongs were also supposedly behind Cups & Mugs Kitchenette, Makati's favored cake supplier, and the Chong couple also operates the canteens at the Makati City Hall and Ospital ng Makati.

The senators said that the land deal violated Presidential Proclamations 2475 and 518. The first order reserved the property for housing areas for military personnel and their dependents. The second proclamation allowed it to be disposed to bonafide occupants but not exceeding 300 square meters.

Based on Mercado's previous testimony, Chong bought the property after Meriras Realty, a company put up by Mercado and former Makati City engineer Nelson Irasga, transferred lease rights to her. Binay is allegedly a hidden partner of Meriras.

"We are outraged that a rich person was the one who bought this land from a military reservation," Pimentel said after the hearing.

"They removed the land from the military reservation because it was occupied and supposed to be for illegal settlers. They made the land alienable. How come the one benefiting is not a landless person but someone rich, who became even richer?"

'Violating spirit of the law'

Officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) testified that the deal was legal. The DENR and Meriras executed the contract to lease the property to Chong, a resident of Guadalupe, Makati.

The DENR cited the Public Land Act, which gives the lessee of public land the option of purchasing the property.

This was the same argument the DENR invoked in 1998 in approving Chong's notice of application. A complaint was then filed before the Ombudsman questioning the sale of the property but the agency under then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto dismissed it.

Pimentel contested the DENR's view. "The opinion of the DENR resource persons will have to be double-checked because I am sure the spirit of the law is not for that. Under the Public Land Act, you dispose public land not so that those who are already wealthy can purchase it,

and even earn from it."

Retired General Alexander Costales of the Philippine Army 525 Engineering Battalion testified that his battalion

was ordered to move its gate farther back to give the property to the Makati city government.

"Vice Mayor Mercado said it would be used by the local government, which we did not question anymore because all we had to do was move the entrance backwards. It was subdivided and eventually I learned it was awarded to the other members of the Armed Forces," Costales said.

'Dummy or not, still violation'

Mercado said that the property was supposedly meant for a barangay complex with a health center, police department, and fire department.

"Dalang-dala ako ng damdamin na magkaroon ng magandang development. Kaya lang paglipas ng ilang taon na siguro nakita ni VP Binay na napakaganda ng future ng lote na iyon, nawala na ang interes [para sa public development]. Napunta na sa kanya ang interes," Mercado said. (I was carried away by my emotions to have this good development. But as the years passed, VP Binay saw that the lot had a very good future. He lost interest [for public development]. It became his personal interest.)

Mercado said that he, Irasga, and Binay together founded Meriras — a contraction of the combined first syllables of Mercado and Irasga.

Yet Binay and Irasga had a falling out in 1998 when Binay reneged on his promise to endorse the engineer for Makati mayor. Binay instead fielded his wife, doctor Elenita Binay, to succeed him while he sat out his reelection ban after 3 terms as mayor.

"So what happened was VP Binay chose the Chong family as partners. That's how it started," Mercado said.

Mercado though stressed that the Chongs were legitimate entrepreneurs, and were only tainted because of their association with the Binays.

Pimentel admitted that it was only Mercado's testimony that linked Binay to Chong.

Still, the senator said that whether or not it's proven that Chong was Binay's dummy, the land deal remains anomalous.

"Remember that a military reservation is inalienable. It should be beyond the commerce of man. Because of a presidential proclamation, it was allowed to be within the commerce of man, the property of a private person. But it should not be a commercial property so that is a huge violation."

Pimentel urged government agencies to review the validity of Chong's ownership of the land./Rappler.com



BINAY

Mayor says work resumption in City Hall grounds urgent

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the Weekly Ugnayan Presser Wednesday said there is urgency in the resumption of work for the City Hall stage and mini-museum and fence here.

Domogan said, "we have to resume work in the improvements of City Hall as time is of the essence."

It can be recalled that a Cease and Desist Order was issued by the National Commission on the Culture and the Arts (NCCA) halting construction and beautification works at the City Hall grounds citing Republic Act No. 10066 Section 48 which states that modification, alteration or destruction of the original features of, or undertakes construction of real estate development in any national shrine, monument, landmark, and other historical edifices and structures declared, classified, and marked by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), inclusive of their designated security or buffer zones extending five meters from the visible perimeter of the monument or site, is not allowed

without written permission of the NCCA. Another letter however was received by the City government from the NHCP stating that it interposes no objection to the improvements being made in the city hall grounds signed by NHCP chair Dr. Maria Serena Diokno. It said the perimeter fence is acceptable because it is made up of see through grilles whose purpose is to secure the city hall premises from vandals, intruders and looters and does not obstruct the view of the City Hall. With regards to the improvements of the flagpole area including the construction of a stage and a mini museum below it also does not obstruct the dominance and prominence of the City Hall building. Domogan said, "the NHCP also reiterated that they have jurisdiction over the area."

Tax Evasion... from page 6

Emphasis supplied.

3.2 Other independent relevant documents, such as, but not limited to: Franchise Agreement between Dunkin' Donuts of America, Inc. and GDI; Technical Service Agreement between GDI and its affiliate-Antares Management, Inc. (AMI); BIR returns, etc., further revealed that GDI's sales topped P2.366 billion but recorded per duly-registered books was only P1.928 billion — a substantial unrecorded and consequently undeclared sales amounting to P438 million.

The information contained in the aforesaid documents were utilized in further determining GDI's sales on the basis of the provisions of Section 5(A) of the 1997 Tax Code.

The method of validation used by Othello Dalanon was already upheld by the COURT OF TAX APPEALS in the case of Asia Coal Corporation vs Commissioner of Internal Revenue (CTA Case No. 6803, February 13, 2008), that "the respondent may utilize any kind of document, x x x to determine the correct sales of the petitioner..."

All the above enumerations are fraudulent acts or criminal tax violations covered by the RATE (Run After Tax Evaders) Program of the Bureau; but Henares intentionally did not pursue tax evasion case against the company.

Henares, in her position paper submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman in connection with the formal complaint filed against her by Othello Dalanon, failed to dispute the above-enumerated irregularities perpetrated by GDI.

-to be continued-



DOMOGAN

City preps for staging of Miss Baguio 2015

BAGUIO CITY – the city government is preparing for a simple staging of Miss Baguio 2015 pageant with the winning bidder already chosen to handle the event.

Sonny Productions won a 4-2-0 bid over fellow bidders Liminiscence Events and Productions and Yayi's Events Marketing.

The fourth bidder Black Prestige Talent Society Incorporated was not able to meet the July 1 submission of requirements.

The Miss Baguio Pageant is part of the celebration of the 106th Baguio Foundation Day.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said, "preparations for the Miss Baguio Pageantry should be early to avoid any controversy."

"The board of Judges for the pageant should be furnished a copy of the pageant rules to avoid a repeat of the incident in

272 receive scholarship grants from TESDA

BAGUIO CITY – the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in partnership with the city government of Baguio, the Baguio City School of Arts and Trades and the Regional Training Center-Baguio this week awarded available slots for the free scholarship grants under the Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP) here.

The program was attended by Mayor Mauricio Domogan and TESDA-CAR Regional Director Francisco Jucar, Jr. with PD Angela Gabriel and School Administrator Engr. David Bungallan.

At least 272 students were given Certificates of Confirmation by TESDA for the following courses; Barista NC II, Bartending NC II, Bread and Pastry Production NC II, Cookery NC II, Food and Beverage Services NC II, Training Methodology NC II, Computer Numeric Control Lathe Machine Operation NC II, Computer Numeric Control Milling Machine Operation NC II, Electrical Installation and Maintenance NC II, English Language Proficiency, Gas Metal Arc Welding NC II, Machining NC II, Mechatronics Servicing NC II, Shielded Metal Arc Welding NC II and Trainer's Methodology Level II.

The TWSP program provides immediate interventions to meet the need for highly critical skills which has two fold objectives.

These are to purposively drive Technical-Vocational Education and license — if I had a boyfriend who would agree to marriage."/ By FILI SAGAPOLUTELE and JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER /Kelleher reported from Honolulu. Graces Garces Bordallo in Guam and AP National Writer David Crary contributed to this report./Follow Kelleher at http://www.twitter.com/JenHapa .

Meantime, Domogan said, "beneficiaries who have availed of the scholarship grants should do their part in ensuring to finish the program for their own sake."

"You should pursue this endeavour because it is for your own benefit, this is the chance for you to uplift your economic situation." he said./Paul Rillorta

the 2014 Miss Baguio," he said.

It can be recalled that controversy hounded the Miss Baguio 2014 Beauty Pageant just a day before the coronation night and a facebook posts from one of the judges made it worst when she voiced her dissatisfaction on her fellow judges.

"We do not want a repeat of that incident and we should ensure that all the judges for the pageant come on time," he said.

This year, candidates will be competing for the Miss Baguio Crown with a guaranteed cash prize of P50,000.00, Miss tourism Crown with cash Prize of 35,000.00, Miss Liga ng mga Barangay crown with a cash prize of P30,000.00.

The Miss Baguio first runner up comes with a P20,000.00 cash prize while the 3rd runner up comes with a P20,000.00 cash prize.

Tentative coronation night will be on August 29 at the Baguio Convention Center./Paul Rillorta

Training(TVET) provision to available jobs through incentives and appropriate training programs that are directly connected to existing jobs for immediate employment, both locally and overseas and to build and strengthen the capacity and capability of TVET institutions in expanding and improving the delivery of quality, efficient and relevant training programs that meet job requirements, including programs for higher levels of technology.

It can be recalled that the program was launched in May 2006 with funding from the Office of the President and channelled through the different provinces and municipalities of the country.

The program is in response to the clamor to address the critical skills shortages in priority sectors, particularly the Business Process Outsourcing, metals and engineering, construction and tourism and other work which needs a higher skill or competency.

Under the program, TESDA will pay for the training cost of the beneficiaries of the scholarship directly to the training institutions where they are enrolled.

Those prioritized are from the regions and provinces where the absolute number of poor residents and the incidence of poverty are high.

The government wanted to insure that that these areas are provided access to TWSP including Persons with Disability (PWDs), indigenous people, solo parents and their children and senior citizens including Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) returnees, members of the families of AFP and PNP personnel killed in military and police operations and other marginalized groups who may also avail of the scholarship program subject to pre-qualification.

Meantime, Domogan said, "beneficiaries who have availed of the scholarship grants should do their part in ensuring to finish the program for their own sake."

"You should pursue this endeavour because it is for your own benefit, this is the chance for you to uplift your economic situation." he said./Paul Rillorta

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EDITORIAL

...from page 4

China Sea are not islands that generate entitlement to an exclusive economic zone or continental shelf. Rather, some are "rocks" within the meaning of Article 121, paragraph 3; others are low-tide elevations; and still others are permanently submerged. As a result, none are capable of generating entitlements beyond 12M, and some generate no entitlements at all. China's recent massive reclamation activities cannot lawfully change the original nature and character of these features;

Fourth, that China has breached the Convention by interfering with the Philippines' exercise of its sovereign rights and jurisdiction; and

Fifth, that China has irreversibly damaged the regional marine environment, in breach of UNCLOS, by its destruction of coral reefs in the South China Sea, including areas within the Philippines' EEZ, by its destructive and hazardous fishing practices, and by its harvesting of endangered species.

Mr. President, the Philippines is committed to resolving its disputes with China peacefully and in accordance with international law. For over two decades, we diligently pursued that objective bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally. I will not here take this Tribunal through the Philippines' painstaking and exhaustive diplomatic efforts, which are set out in detail in our written pleadings. I will, however, mention a few representative examples, if I may.

As far back as August 1995, after China seized and built structures on Mischief Reef—a low-tide elevation located 126 nautical miles from the Philippine island of Palawan and more than 600 nautical miles from the closest point on China's Hainan Island—the Philippines sought to address China's violation of its maritime rights diplomatically. During those exchanges, the Philippines and China agreed that the dispute should be resolved in accordance with UNCLOS. As the then Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan, stated two years later during bilateral negotiations, China and the Philippines should "approach the disputes on the basis of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, particularly its provisions on the maritime regimes like the exclusive economic zone."

The mutual acceptance that the Philippines' disputes with China must be resolved in accordance with UNCLOS was also reflected in a Joint Communiqué issued in July 1998 upon completion of bilateral discussions between my predecessor, Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon, and China's Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan. The Communiqué recorded that, and I quote, "The two sides exchanged views on the question of the South China Sea and reaffirmed their commitment that the relevant disputes shall be settled peacefully in accordance with the established principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea." (End of quote)

Regrettably, neither the bilateral exchanges I have mentioned, nor any of the great many subsequent exchanges, proved capable of resolving the impasse caused by China's intransigent insistence that China alone possesses maritime rights in virtually the entirety of the South China Sea, and that the Philippines must recognize and accept China's sovereignty before meaningful discussion of other issues could take place.

The Philippines has also been persistent in seeking a diplomatic solution under the auspices of ASEAN. This has proven no more successful than our bilateral efforts. In fact, China has insisted that ASEAN cannot be used to resolve any territorial or maritime disputes concerning the South China Sea, and that such issues can only be dealt with in bilateral negotiations. ASEAN and China have yet to conclude a binding code of conduct in the South China Sea. The most that has been achieved was the issuance, in 2002, of a "Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea." Although that document recorded the parties' commitment to work toward the "eventual" establishment of a code of conduct in the South China Sea, China's intransigence in the 13

years of subsequent multilateral negotiations has made that goal nearly unattainable.

Nonetheless, Mr. President, the 2002 DOC is significant in at least one important respect: the ASEAN Member States and China undertook therein to "resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force, through friendly consultations and negotiations by sovereign states directly concerned, in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea." In so doing, the Declaration encouraged those States, should they prove unable to resolve their disputes through consultations or negotiations, to do so in accordance with the Convention, which includes, of course, the dispute resolution procedures under Part XV.

Mr. President, over the years, China's positions and behavior have become progressively more aggressive and disconcerting. Outside observers have referred to this as China's "salami-slicing" strategy: that is, taking little steps over time, none of which individually is enough to provoke a crisis. Chinese military officials themselves have referred to this as its "cabbage" strategy: peeling one layer off at a time. When these small steps are taken together, however, they reflect China's efforts to slowly consolidate de facto control throughout the South China Sea.

Two more recent incremental steps caused the Philippines to conclude that it had no alternative other than to invoke compulsory procedures entailing a binding decision. The first was China's transmittal of its nine-dash line claim to the United Nations in 2009, after which, it prevented the Philippines from carrying out long-standing oil and gas development projects in areas that are well inside the Philippines' 200 MEEZ and continental shelf.

Secondly, in 2012, China forcibly expelled Philippine fishermen from the maritime areas around Scarborough Shoal where the Filipino fishermen have for generations been fishing without so much as a protest from China.

These and other acts by China caused the Philippines to conclude that continued diplomatic efforts, whether bilateral or multilateral, would be futile, and that the only way to resolve our maritime disputes was to commence the present arbitration.

Subsequent events, including China's acceleration of massive land reclamation activities, which it has undertaken—and continues to undertake—in blatant disregard of the Philippines rights' in its EEZ and continental shelf, and at tremendous cost to the marine environment in violation of UNCLOS—only serve to reconfirm the need for judicial intervention.

Mr. President, I would like to conclude by conveying my country's deepest appreciation for the considerable time and attention you have devoted to these proceedings. The case before you is of the utmost importance to the Philippines, to the region, and to the world. In our view, it is also of utmost significance to the integrity of the Convention, and to the very fabric of the "legal order for the seas and oceans" that the

international community so painstakingly crafted over many years.

If China can defy the limits placed by the Convention on its maritime entitlements in the South China Sea, and disregard the entitlements of the Philippines under the Convention, then what value is there in the Convention for small States Parties as regards their bigger, more powerful and better armed neighbors? Can the Philippines not invoke Part XV to challenge China's activities as violations of its obligations and the Philippines' rights, considering that the Philippines' claims call for a mere interpretation and application of the Convention and do not fall within any of the jurisdictional exclusions of Articles 297 or 298?

Mr. President, if the Philippines cannot invoke Part XV, then what remains of the obligation regarding judicial settlement of disputes that was such a key element of the comprehensive package that made the Convention acceptable to all State Parties?

We understand, Mr. President, that in the exercise of its collective wisdom and judgment, this body has decided to bifurcate the proceedings and to limit these current hearings to the issue of jurisdiction. In this respect, we shall explain in full how our case falls squarely within the jurisdiction of this Tribunal, to the end that justice and fair play may prevail and the Tribunal would recognize its jurisdiction over the case and allow the Philippines to present the actual merits of our position.

In the Philippines' view, it is not just the Philippines' claims against China that rest in your capable hands. Mr. President, it is the spirit of UNCLOS itself. That is why, we submit, these proceedings have attracted so much interest and attention. We call on the Tribunal to kindly uphold the Convention and enable the rule of law to prevail.

I humbly thank you, Mr. President, and distinguished Members of the Tribunal. May I now ask that Philippines' counsel, Mr. Paul Reichler, be called to the podium.

Advertisement for RUSI (Rural Union Savings and Investment) featuring a large 'R' logo and text: 'Branded o hindi, lahat made in China, BAKIT.... magtitiis sa high Price branded merong low Price RUSI naman. Trade-in accepted'. It lists three branches: Baguio-Benguet, Tuba, Benguet, and Buguias, Benguet.

Open high school system awaiting Pinoy's Signature

BAGUIO CITY- Baguio Representative Nicasio M. Aliping, Jr. announced yesterday the House of Representatives and the Senate ratified in a bicameral conference the establishment of an open high school system in the country and now awaits the signature of the president.



ALIPING

House Bill 4085, to be known as the "Open High School System Act," establishes an Open High School System (OHSS) as part of the Department of Education's (DepEd) alternative secondary education program to provide access to secondary education through the open learning modality.

Aliping, Vice Chairman of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and co-author of the bill said that "The measure will provide equal opportunity for adults and children of high school age who are out of school to avail of free open high school education through the distance learning modality".

The measure authorizes public secondary educational institutions certified to practice open learning through self-instructional materials, multi-channel learning and school-family-community partnership as

qualified O H S S implementers.

Under t h e measure, the OHSS shall be open to all youth

and adults who have finished elementary education, as well as high school qualifiers of the Philippine Educational Placement Test (PEPT) and the Alternative learning System (ALS) Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) Test.

The OHSS will adopt the K to 12 Enhanced Basic Education Curriculum using the standards and learning competencies of different subject areas of the program.

The DepEd is tasked to administer the OHSS and create an OHSS Unit to assist the Department in performing its functions.

It will be responsible for the training of the open high school teachers, teacher advisers, and community advisers, which will be done in coordination with the LGUs and the non-government organizations concerned.

Aliping has authored and co-authored bills that seek to improve education and help deserving indigent students finish their studies./Carl C. Taawan

SEC orders cease and desist on a wellness company

BAGUIO CITY – the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) against Satarah Wellness Marketing and Satarah Wellness International here.

This was revealed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the Weekly Ugnayan Presser Wednesday aired over Local Radio station DZEQ and Sky Cable TV warning the public not to put their hard earned money on such schemes.

Domogan said, "he received a letter from SEC Baguio Extension Office Director Annie Gonzales-Tesoro July 7 informing him of the issued CDO against Satarah Wellness Marketing and Satarah Wellness International."

The CDO was issued June 30 ordering the said entities to immediately cease and desist under pain of contempt from further offering, soliciting, or otherwise offering or selling unregistered securities in the form of investment contracts to the public, such as, but not limited to, investment contracts, pooling of funds, investment trusts, or similar forms, and in connection therewith, soliciting, accepting or receiving from others, money for

Chiz Tells Comelec: Drop "Hybrid" Poll, Option Go For Full Automation

Senator Chiz Escudero urged the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to ditch its plan to use a combination of manual and computerized elections next year and exert all efforts instead to ensure that the May 2016 national polls will still be fully automated. Escudero reiterated his objection to the s o - c a l l e d " h y b r i d " elections after the Comelec stated that the P r e c i n c t Automated Tally System (PATAs), which would combine manual and automated processes, remains an option for the poll body in next year's elections. In fact, the Comelec already tested the hybrid system when it conducted a mock poll on June 27 at the

Bacoor National High School in Cavite province. For 2015, the Comelec received a total of P16.8 billion budget, but Escudero said he would look into spending plan of the agency for the automated polls if only to ensure a clean, orderly and credible 2016 elections. Escudero said that reverting to manual voting system in 2016 would be a step backwards to a

process marred by rampant cheating and other fraudulent election practices in the past. He said the proposal for hybrid polls "raises the chilling prospect of a wide-scale electoral cheating similar to what happened during the 2004 presidential elections." "It brings back memories of the 'Hello Garci' controversy, which had cast doubt on the results of the 2004 presidential elections," Escudero said. The senator earlier warned that the Comelec was treading on d a n g e r o u s ground with its proposal to use a hybrid election system next year, saying it would defeat the purpose of computerizing the elections. "It's a step backwards after having fully automated the e l e c t i o n s

Cont. on page 6

Lawmaker: Nothing Wrong With 3rd Try for Autonomy

before the committee on local government. "I support autonomy [in the Cordillera], there is nothing stopping the region from trying for a third time to achieve autonomy for the region," he said.

Meanwhile, Rep. Aliping said tomorrow's public hearing is expected to show that Baguio City is also one with the rest of the region in the quest for regional self-rule.

"We have to show to Malacanang, that the entire region is very much united in wanting autonomy for the Cordillera and Baguio is one with the entire Cordillera in this third try at autonomy," Rep. Aliping stressed.

"Autonomy will develop our region to catch up with the rest of the country, and this will not only improve the lives of Cordillerans but also ensure that they will be able to balance their needs and nature," Rep. Aliping added. The autonomy public hearings will proceed to Luna, Apayao on July 15, where the Cordillera Day celebrations will be held and then will go to Bangued, Abra on July 22. On July 23, the public consultations will be held at Bontoc, Mt. Province and then to Lagawe, Ifugao on July 24, the ad hoc committee will go to Tabuk City, Kalinga on July 30, and finally to La Trinidad, Benguet on July 31. /Carl C. Taawan

The ad hoc committee is chaired by Baguio Rep. Nicasio M. Aliping Jr.

Gatchalian advised regional leaders and residents to closely watch the deliberations in Congress in order to learn the issues and concerns being raised on the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) so they can make sure the mistakes will not be repeated in the proposed organic act pending



WORK SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – Mayor Mauricio Domogan and TESDA-CAR Regional Director Francisco Jucar, Jr. present the certificates of confirmation to 272 trainees under the work scholarship programs during a simple ceremony. With them are TESDA provincial director Angela Gabriel and school administrator David Bungallon./By Bong Cayabyab

Republic of the Philippines vs. People's Republic of China

(Why the Philippines Brought this Case to Arbitration and its Importance to the Region and the World)

Statement of Hon. Alberto F. Del Rosario (Secretary of Foreign Affairs) before the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands on July 7, 2015)

Mr. President, distinguished Members of the Tribunal, it is a great honor to respectfully appear before you on behalf of my country, the Republic of the Philippines. It is indeed a special privilege to do so in a case that has such importance to all Filipinos and — if I may add — to the rule of law in international relations.

Mr. President, the Philippines has long placed its faith in the rules and institutions that the international community has created to regulate relations among States. We are proud to have been a founding member of the United Nations, and an active participant in that indispensable institution.

Its organs, coupled with the power of international law, serve as the great equalizer among States, allowing countries, such as my own, to stand on an equal footing with wealthier, more powerful States.

Nowhere is this more true, Mr. President, than with respect to the progressive development of the law of the sea, which culminated in the adoption of the Law of the Sea Convention in 1982. That instrument, which has rightly been called a "Constitution for the Oceans," counts among its most important achievements the establishment of

clear rules regarding the peaceful use of the seas, freedom of navigation, protection of the maritime environment and, perhaps

most importantly, clearly defined limits on the maritime areas in which States are entitled to exercise sovereign rights and jurisdiction.

These are all matters of central significance to the Philippines. Indeed, given our lengthy coastline, our status as an archipelagic state, and our seafaring tradition, the rules codified in the law of the sea have always had particular importance for the Philippines. The Philippines is justifiably proud of the fact that it signed the Convention on the day it was opened for signature, on 10 December 1982, and was one of the first States to submit its instrument of ratification, which it did on 8 May 1984.

The Philippines has respected and implemented its rights and obligations under the Convention in good faith. This can be seen in the amendment of our national legislation to bring the Philippines' maritime claims into compliance with the Convention, by converting our prior straight baselines into archipelagic baselines in conformity with Articles 46 and 47, and by providing that the maritime zones of the Kalayaan Island Group and Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea would be consistent with Article 121.

The Philippines took these important steps, Mr. President, because we understand, and accept, that compliance with the rules of the Convention is required of all States Parties.

I mentioned a moment ago the equalizing power of international law. Perhaps no provisions of the Convention are as vital to achieving this critical objective than Part XV. It is these dispute resolution provisions that allow the weak to challenge the powerful on an equal footing, confident in the conviction that principles trump power; that law triumphs over force; and that right prevails over might.

Mr. President, allow me to respectfully make it clear: in submitting this case, the Philippines is NOT asking the Tribunal to rule on the territorial sovereignty aspect of its disputes with China.

We are here because we wish to clarify our maritime entitlements in the South China Sea, a question over which the Tribunal has jurisdiction. This is a matter that is most important not only to the Philippines, but also to all coastal States that border the South China Sea, and even to all the States Parties to UNCLOS. It is a dispute that goes to the very heart of UNCLOS itself. Our very able counsel will have much more to say about this legal dispute over the interpretation of the Convention during the course of these oral hearings. But in my humble layman's view, the central legal dispute in this case can be expressed as follows:

For the Philippines, the maritime entitlements of coastal States — to a territorial sea, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, and the rights and obligations of the States Parties within these respective zones — are established, defined and limited by the express terms of the Convention. Those express terms do not allow for — in fact they preclude — claims to broader entitlements, or sovereign rights, or jurisdiction, over maritime areas beyond the limits of the EEZ or continental shelf. In particular, the Convention does not recognize, or permit the exercise of, so-called "historic rights" in areas beyond the limits of the maritime zones that are recognized or established by UNCLOS.

Sadly, China disputes this, Mr. President, in both word and deed. It claims that it is entitled to exercise sovereign rights and jurisdiction, including the exclusive right to the resources of the sea and seabed, far beyond the limits established by the Convention, based on so-called "historic rights" to these areas. Whether these alleged "historic rights" extend to the limits generally established by China's so-called "nine dash line", as appears to be China's claim, or whether they encompass a greater or a narrower

portion of the South China Sea, the indisputable fact, and the central



element of the legal dispute between the Parties, is that China has asserted a claim of "historic rights" to vast areas of the sea and seabed that lie far beyond the limits of its EEZ and continental shelf entitlements under the Convention.

In fact, China has done much more, Mr. President, than to simply claim these alleged "historic rights." It has acted forcefully to assert them, by exploiting the living and non-living resources in the areas beyond the UNCLOS limits while forcibly preventing other coastal States, including the Philippines, from exploiting the resources in the same areas — even though the areas lie well within 200 M of the Philippines' coast and, in many cases, hundreds of miles beyond any EEZ or continental shelf that China could plausibly claim under the Convention.

The legal dispute between the Philippines and China over China's claim to and exercise of alleged "historic rights" is a matter falling under the Convention, and particularly Part XV, regardless of whether China is claiming that "historic rights" are recognized under the Convention, or allowable under the Convention because they are not precluded by it. China has made both arguments in its public statements. But it makes no difference for purposes of the characterization of this dispute as one calling for the interpretation or application of the Convention. The question raised by the conflicting positions of the Philippines and China boils down to this: Are maritime entitlements to be governed strictly by UNCLOS, thus precluding claims of maritime entitlements based on "historic rights"? Or does the UNCLOS allow a State to claim entitlements based on "historic" or other rights even beyond those provided for in the Convention itself?

As our counsel will explain, Mr. President, any recognition of such "historic rights" conflicts with the very character of UNCLOS and its express provisions concerning the maritime entitlements of coastal States. This calls indisputably for the proper interpretation of the fundamental nature of the Convention.

China's assertion and exercise of its alleged rights in areas beyond its entitlements under UNCLOS have created significant uncertainty and instability in our relations with China and in the broader region. In this respect, I note the presence here today of representatives of Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Japan to observe these critical proceedings.

Mr. President, China has claimed "historic rights" in areas that are beyond 200 M from its mainland coasts, or any land feature over which it claims sovereignty, and within 200 M of the coasts of the Philippines' main islands, and exploited the resources in these areas while preventing the Philippines from doing so. It has therefore, in the Philippines' view, breached the Convention by violating Philippine sovereign rights and jurisdiction. China has pursued its activities in these disputed maritime areas with overwhelming force. The Philippines can only counter by invoking international law. That is why it is of fundamental importance to the Philippines, and we would submit, for the rule of law in general, for the Tribunal to decide where and to what limit China has maritime entitlements in the South China Sea; where and to what limit the Philippines has maritime entitlements; where and to what extent the Parties' respective entitlements overlap and where they do not. None of this requires or even invites the Tribunal to make any determinations on questions of land sovereignty, or delimitation of maritime boundaries.

The Philippines understands that the jurisdiction of this tribunal convened under UNCLOS is limited to questions that concern the law of the sea. With this in mind, we have taken great care to place before you only claims that arise directly under the Convention. As counsel for the Philippines will discuss at length in the coming days, we have, in essence, presented five (5) principal claims. They are:

First, that China is not entitled to exercise what it refers to as "historic rights" over the waters, seabed and subsoil beyond the limits of its entitlements under the Convention;

Second, that the so-called nine dash line has no basis whatsoever under international law insofar as it purports to define the limits of China's claim to "historic rights";

Third, that the various maritime features relied upon by China as a basis upon which to assert its claims in the South

Cont. on page 8

EDITORIAL

most importantly, clearly defined limits on the maritime areas in which States are entitled to exercise sovereign rights and jurisdiction.

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portion of the South China Sea, the indisputable fact, and the central

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

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as PAG-IBIG FUND),

Mortgagee,

-versus-

SANDRA VANESSA MARIE J. SALVADOR,

Mortgagor.

FORE. CASE NO. 15-574-S

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Upon petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act. 4148 filed by HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as PAG-IBIG FUND), herein-after referred to as the MORTGAGEE, executed on November 5, 2009 By SANDRA VANESSA MARIE J. SALVADOR, of 2303 Prestige Tower Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, hereinafter referred to as the MORTGAGOR, to secure her mortgage obligation which as of June 1, 2015, amounts to NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY TWO and 45/100 (P979,862.45) PESOS, and other expenses of foreclosure proceedings, the undersigned Sheriff, will sell at public auction on July 22, 2015 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the Hall of Justice Lobby, Baguio City, and all the improvements existing thereon and more particularly described as follows:

TRANSFERRER

CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-100333

"A parcel of land Lot 8, Block 2, Psc-CAR- 001212, being a portion of lots P-Y-2, 2-Y-3, 2-Y-4, 2-Y-5, 2-Y-7, 2-Y-8 & 2-Y-9 (LRC) Psd-254706, situated at Rurban Code 131162, Barangay Re. Sec. "L", City of Baguio, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 6, Block 2 of the consolidation subd. plan; on the SE., along line 2-3 by Road Lot 1 of the consolidation subd. plan; on the SW., along line 3-4 by Lot 10, Block 2 of the consolidation subd. plan; on the NW., along line 4-5 by Lot 9, Bk. 2 of the consolidation subd. plan; on the NW., along line 5-1 by Lot 7, Block 2 of the consolidation plan. Beginning at the point marked x x x to point of beginning. Containing an area of ONE HUNDRED NINETY (190) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS x x x. (complete technical description appears in the title.)"

Prospective bidders may investigate the Title, rights and improvements of the property with regards to encumbrances, if any there be.

Baguio City, Philippines, this 22nd day of June, 2015.

(SGD) ATTY. LINDA G. MONTE-LOLOY Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff Regional Trial Court, Baguio City

(SGD) BOBBY D. GALANO SHERIFF IV

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Sale on or before the date of sale under the penalty of law.

Notice Raffled to: The Junction Dates of publication: June 27, July 4, and 11, 2015

DIMENSIONAL ROAD

...from page 5

the escalating costs of repairing damage to residential and other buildings and their contents. If this will be approved, this bill would be able to frame National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which will enable people living in flood-exposed areas to acquire insurance against loss caused by physical damages or the loss of real or personal properties resulted by any flood-related calamity." As of May 14, 2015, the senator has filed almost a total of 1,249 bills and resolutions since the 16th Congress that started in June 2013.

The senate should spend most of their time deliberating these crucial bills to ensure the safety and welfare of the Filipino community instead of exaggerated participation on issues that temporarily and worthless publicize their senatorial moves which squander valuable time. It is sad to note that public officers who have sturdy concern regarding public welfare are stricken by ailments like the case of Senator Defensor while others are unexpectedly removed from public offices. Most of the remaining officers for public trust greedily and steadily occupy their "thrones" without sensible manifested concern to resolve the increasing country's dilemma which constantly confront Filipino society./marvinwacnaglidawan@gmail.com.

MAGKASANGGA TAYO

...from page 5

Nagkagulo ang lahat at nag panic! Sumigaw ang isang lalaki... 'Katapusan na! Katapusan na!' Sumagot ang isa pang lalaki... 'Tanga! A-kinse pa lang!'

14. Utot

Pupil: Ma'm, bumubukol po ba ang utot? Teacher: No! Definitely not! Kasi hangin lang yun! Remember, hindi bumubukol ang utot...

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

...from page 5

is happening now to our overseas Filipino workers or OFWs), and parents and others in authority will not be able to do anything to help them when they face trouble. Again, when will we ever learn?

-ooo- PLEASE LISTEN: "Ang Tanging Daan" (The Sole Way), a Bible study and prayer session on radio, airs Mondays to Fridays, 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at DWAD 1098 kHz on the AM band. For replays, go to www.facebook.com/angtangingdaan or www.facebook.com/ANDKKN and scroll for "Ang Tanging Daan" broadcasts. Phone: 0922 833 43 96, 0918 574 0193, 0917 984 24 68. Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City
FLORENCE A. TABANGIN
Applicant
Case No: 2013-CAR-488
NOTICE OF HEARING
This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a TAXI Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA TO ANY POINT IN CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.
Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on July 22, 2015 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paodal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.
At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant's shall publish the NOTICE once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.
Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant/s and may if they so desire, appear during the hearing.
This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.
WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER - Regional Director this 23rd day of June 2015. (SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR Attorney IV

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Baguio City
JAMES KIGI-E
Applicant
Case No: 98-BC-693
NOTICE OF HEARING
This is an application for Extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the Line: BAGUIO PLAZA - Crystal Cave and Vice Versa with the use of one (1) unit.
Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on July 22, 2015 at 10:00 A.M./P.M. at the LTRFB Office, Paodal, Baguio City in which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.
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This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.
WITNESS, the Honorable CELINA B. CLAVER - Regional Director this 29th day of June 2015. (SGD) Atty. ANABEL A. MARZAN-NULLAR Attorney IV

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of ALFREDO R. CACHERO who died in Baguio City on June 29, 1995 was extrajudicially settled by the heirs on June 23, 2015 as evidenced by Doc. No. 40; Page No. 102; Book No. III; Series of 2015 of the Notary Public Romeo D. Lopez.
Publication Dates: July 4, 11, and 18, 2015

Pupil: Naku, patay! Tae na to!
15. Sa Airplane
Sa isang mumurahang airline...
Stewardess: Sir, would you like some dinner?
Passenger: Ano ba ang mga choices?
Stewardess: 'Yes or No' lang po.
16. Walang Syota
Pare1: Pare, ba't naman hanggang ngayon wala ka pang syota? Wala ka pa bang napupusuan?
Pare2: Meron... Manhid ka lang!
17. Sa Isang Ospital
Lola (may cancer): Doc, among gagawin niyo sa akin?
Doc: Che-chemo, lola.
Lola: Titi mo rin! Bastos ka!
Walang modo!
18. Top One
Boy: Nay! Muntik na ako maging top one sa klase!
Nanay: Ba't mo naman nasabi?
Boy: Ini-announce kasi kanina yung top one sa klase. Ang tinuro ni Ma'am yung katabi ko... Muntik na ako!

Mayor bats...
of institutional support facilities such as grocery, bookstores, grocery and more.

The second highest land use area is Commercial categorized as C-1, C-2, C-3 presently totalling 258.03 hectares which increased to 306.19 hectares in the proposed CLUP.

Other zones include Industrial with 202 hectares, Institutional with 213.05 hectares increased to 235.564 in proposed clup, Parks with 79.69 hectares, Forest and Watershed reserves with 759.02 hectares, BAI Reservation with 104.35, vacant forested areas 591.84 decreased to 425.25 in proposed clup, abattoir with 2.70 hectares, cemetery with 14.13 increased to 29.71 in proposed clup, airport with 22.71 and utility with 8.54 decreased to 6.42 in proposed clup.

Also included is 1.31 hectares used by the Sewerage Treatment Plant, 9.88 hectares for the Bureau of Plant Industry.

The proposed clup segregated 2.12 hectares for Ecological Park and Solid Waste Processing Center and 140 hectares for Multi-Land use./Paul Rillorta

Lawmaker...

from page 3

Previously, returning to manual elections is a cause for serious concern due to its dangerous implications on the country's electoral process," Escudero said.

He said the country could not afford to have another "Hello Garci" scandal, widely considered as the worst electoral fraud in Philippine history.



ESCUADERO

wiretapped conversation between then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano during the canvassing of presidential votes in 2004.

In that phone conversation, Arroyo was supposedly asking "Garci" to make sure she would lead by one million votes over her closest rival, the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Escudero, who was then representative of Sorsogon province in Congress, stood as Poe's campaign spokesperson.

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: http://chizescudero.com/OFFICIAL_FB
PAGE: https://www.facebook.com/senchizescudero/OFFICIAL_TWITTER
ACCOUNT: @saychiz

"Hello Garci" refers to the

City to hold simple program to commemorate killer quake

BAGUIO CITY – the city government and its constituents will be commemorating the 1990 Killer Earthquake that brought the city to its knees in a simple yet meaningful way here.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan during the Weekly Ugnayan Presser said, "the 25th year of the July 16 Killer Earthquake Anniversary will be commemorated with a simple mass at 4 pm in the afternoon at the Baguio Convention Center."

The mayor said the inter-faith mass will be celebrated to thank the Lord for saving a lot of people and to pray for the casualties who perished during the earthquake.

"The third is to continue to express our commendation and gratitude to the volunteers who came to help in the rescue operations and fourth is to remind us to prepare for any calamity," he said.

Domogan said, "calamities strike without prior notice and the only defense is to prepare."

The chief executive also reminded residents to cooperate and participate during scheduled earthquake and fire drills in the barangays and schools to keep abreast on what to do when a calamity strikes.

Domogan said, "the Baguio Country Club will also hold a program to commemorate the July 16 Anniversary at around 9 am."

Some parts of the city is highly vulnerable to landslides during the onslaught of the rainy season and the only way to keep the people prepared is the continuous conduct of lectures, seminars and drills with regards to disaster preparedness and mitigation.

Calamity-prone barangays are also being closely monitored. Meantime, the city will also be celebrating the Disaster Consciousness Month as per E.O. 137 s. 1999 which declares the month of July as National Disaster Consciousness Month. / Paul Rillorta

"The BCDA will not honor advance payments made to CJHDevco, its subsidiaries and affiliates," Casanova clarified and added that based on the Writ of Execution issued by the court, the BCDA will eventually take full possession of CJHDevco's leased premises and properties.

There are reportedly 1,600 third party sub lessees but only those businesses directly controlled or connected to the evicted developer have come out in public to become "intervenor" to the case.

The BCDA head noted that several third party sub lessees not connected to CJHDevco continue to renegotiate with the BCDA which he considers as "partners in the future development of John Hay."

Casanova reiterated that CJHDevco has contractual obligations to sub lessees and urged the latter to sue CJHDevco for refund of payments already made but will most likely not be completely delivered because of the eviction order. /Melody Brawner (BCDA PR)

"Intervention"...

from page 1

officer thereof may be allowed to intervene in the action."

The BCDA chief said the so-called intervenors have been aware all the time of the dispute with BCDA and the arbitration proceedings.

"It is a ploy to stall the execution of a court order (of eviction)," Casanova said.

"And while at it, CJHDevco continues to profit and collect payments from the unsuspecting public using John Hay facilities without any obligation to the national government," he added.

CJHDevco has no authority to operate in John Hay because there is no longer an existing contract between BCDA and CJHDevco.

"The public should not to fall victims to this kind of scheme by CJHDevco," warned the BCDA chief and added that the College Assurance Plan, which was also led by Sobrepna, defaulted on its obligations to thousands of plan holders after a prolonged legal row.

Tax Evasion Case Intentionally Not Filed by Kim Henares

1st of 3 partsBy : Othello Dalanon / www.othelloedalanon.blogspot.com

BIR's KIM HENARES INTENTIONALLY FAILED TO EITHER COLLECT DUE AND DEMANDABLE TAX DEFICIT OF GOLDEN DONUTS, INC. (GDI) OR SUE IT FOR FRAUD FOR UNDER-DECLARING REVENUE ON THE TAX RETURN.

Golden Donuts, Inc. (GDI), the exclusive Philippine Franchisee of the global brand "**Dunkin' Donuts**", flagrantly perpetrated fraudulent acts or criminal tax violations that culminated to deficiency tax assessment amounting to **P1,564,426,808.08**, including increments, for year 2007, discovered and documented by Othello Dalanon in his official capacity as former BIR Examiner.

Dalanon personally reported GDI's omissions to **Commissioner Henares** and recommended to her the criminal prosecution for tax evasion under the much-vaunted "Run After Tax Evaders" program of the Bureau; but she intentionally did not pursue fraud case against the company because its secretary – **Marixi Prieto** who also happens to be the **chairperson of the Philippine Daily Inquirer** – is **President Aquino's friend**, according to BIR Deputy Commissioner Estela Sales.

Ms. Prieto talked to Henares and BIR Regional Director (now Assistant Commissioner of Internal Revenue) Nestor Valeroso, on different occasion, who both gave leniency to GDI.

The aforesaid deficiency tax assessment obtained finality because GDI failed to file a **VALID PROTEST** against the Formal Letter of Demand and Assessment Notice (FAN).

However, Henares intentionally did not collect it, purportedly because representatives of GDI complained to her that Dalanon's assessment was faulty. Thus, she ordered two (2) re-investigations.

There is no **LAW** that authorizes the Commissioner to order two (2) re-investigations of a **FINAL, EXECUTORY** and **DEMANDABLE** assessment.

Once the deficiency tax assessment obtained finality, the right of the government to collect the deficiency tax becomes absolute; thus, precludes the taxpayer from questioning the correctness of the assessment and from raising any justification or defense that would pave the way for a re-investigation.

She also claims that the authority to decide and declare finality of a certain assessment is a function vested by law upon the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Her assertion does not find basis in **LAW**.

It is the **LAW** that determines finality of a certain assessment as clearly provided under Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 12-99 as amended by RR No. 18-2013 which the Commissioner herself promulgated, in relation to Section 228 of the 1997 National Internal Revenue Code (1997 Tax Code), as amended.

Her claim that Dalanon's assessment was faulty is **WRONG**.

In fact, she was not able to dispute Dalanon's assessment. What is very clear

pleasure. **Cont. on page 9**

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

I will vote for Neri as senator

BY: **BATAS MAURICIO**

LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... Your sons and daughters will be given to another people while you look on in vain all day, and you will be powerless to do anything about it..." (Deuteronomy 28:32, the Holy Bible).

-000-

I WILL VOTE FOR NERI FOR THE SENATE: I will always join any movement to draft House of Representatives Makabayan block Congressman Neri Colmenares as a senatorial candidate. Compared to many of those aspiring to become senators, both in and out of the House, and compared to many who are now senators, Neri is greatly outstanding in serving the people.

Undeniably, he has authored many substantial pieces of legislation in the years that he had been in Congress, and has materially influenced the outcome of many House decisions towards uplifting the people's welfare. Then, he had also pursued public interest cases before the courts and other tribunals, and had been successful in blocking many a pernicious governmental policy.

I am sure that Neri (I call him Neri on account of the little-known fact that we actually started working together in 2007, as we would have been colleagues in Congress at that time, except that God had other plans for me then) will once again rise to greater heights in serving the people if and when he becomes senator in 2016, or beyond. I wish Neri not just the best of luck in his Senate run, but God's blessings as well!

-000-

DEATH AND DESTRUCTION FROM RAINS AND FLOODS: I have repeatedly written before about rains, floods and strong winds wrecking death and destruction in the county, just like what we have been experiencing in the last few days due to typhoons Egay and Falcon and the southwest monsoon. One hundred percent of the time, I would always warn that there are more of these deadly and destructive calamities that are to come.

And it is not just because of the regular changing of the seasons in the Philippines. My point has always been that, there will be more death and destruction coming from ferocious rains, rampaging floods, and strong winds, simply because we, as a nation, have stopped listening to God, and are no longer obeying His commands.

-000-

NATURAL CALAMITIES WERE FORETOLD BY JESUS: I will say the same thing again today: considering the current realization or occurrence of the Biblical prophecies about global warming and climate change in the whole world, there is no stopping the rains, floods, and winds, from repeatedly visiting us.

In fact, Jesus Christ, our God and Savior, gave a specific warning about these calamities, and what we should do to prevail against them, but we are indeed a nation who has forsaken God. Not only have we taken for granted Jesus' warnings, we have also taken Him for granted. When will we ever learn?

-000-

OFWs GOING ABROAD, A CURSE FROM GOD: Now, there is a real possibility that the death sentence on Mary Jane Veloso, the Filipina who was sentenced to die in Indonesia on account of her having transported illegal drugs there, will be carried out soon (some news sources say, could be executed next week). If she ultimately gets killed, it will become yet another outstanding proof of the accuracy and truthfulness of Biblical prophecies.

In Deuteronomy 28:15 and 32, we are warned that if a nation no longer listens to God and no longer obeys His commands, its children, boys and girls alike, will be given to other nations (just like what **Cont. on page 7**

DIMENSIONAL ROAD

It is Crucial to Expedite Typhoon-related Bills for Public Welfare

BY: **MARVIN WACNAG LIDAWAN**

"At the end of the day, the goals are simple: safety and security." - **Jodi Rell**

Geography tells that the Philippines is an archipelago located on the Western rim of the Pacific Ocean, an area naturally visited by cyclones in the planet affecting the country's weather exposing it to multiple typhoon's occurrences. In conjunction with this natural phenomenon, the current and the fast-approaching months will be a calamity time in most areas of the Philippines. Over the years, we have been extremely experiencing tough typhoons that yielded devastation to human lives, property and livelihood resulting to multiple social and economic instabilities. The typhoon-yielding calamities needed to be addressed as Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago vigilantly perceives its urgency for over-all public security. And to solve these unceasingly stirring problems, she has been passing relevant bills to be urgently mandated by the country's law-making bodies for their swift implementations.

Senator Santiago urged her colleagues in the senate to pass the bills she has authored as early as this month which primarily focus on enhancing typhoon management and how disaster risk- reduction are to be handled.

She expressed that most of the typhoon-related laws she wrote are still pending at the senate not to mention the previously approved bills she personally wrote and the bills she co-authored with other law-makers pertaining to youth involvement on their readiness when typhoon disasters occur. According to her, "three of her bills have been lingering at the committee since year 2013 which included Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 394, or the so-called the Flood Recovery Fund (FRF) bill; S.B. No. 1576, known as the National Flood and Research Education (NFRE) bill; and S.B. No. 1724, which is the Culvert Safety bill."

The FRFB bill filed in July 2013, supports the poor victims for speedy financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans from the grant the proposed law will be able to form.

The NFRE bill, filed in September 2013, focused on creating an Office of Flood Research and Policy (OFRP) to develop best practices for predicting and preventing flood and its effects.

Aside from the other pending bills since September 2013 is the senator's Culvert Safety (CS) bill, which seeks to ensure that culverts or open sewers are suitably covered with warning signs to prevent people from accidents during the flood.

It also worthy to recall that in September 2014, Santiago filed S.B. No. 2376, aimed at mandating the Department of Education to include basic swimming as physical education subjects in elementary and secondary school curricula. According to the senator who is a swimming champion herself says that, "This bill aims to prepare children against floods." She mentioned a study conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which reported that drowning is the second leading cause of death among Filipino children aged 14 years and below, and the fourth leading cause of death with injury in the country.

While the senator is asking the community to back-up her flood-related bills for the senate committees for immediate approval, Santiago saluted the endorsement of her bill during the third and final reading called the Youth Participation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (YPCDRRM) bill or the Senate bill (S.B.) No. 2789.

On a press release published on June 14, 2015 in her website, it reported that in January 2015, she filed Senate Bill No. 2561, or "the National Flood Insurance bill, which is for the purpose of augmenting state-funded disaster assistance and meeting **Cont. on page 7**

MAGKASANGGATAYO

Jok Time!!! Jok Time muna at mahirap kapag parating seryoso!!!

BY: **NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO**

1. Nanay: Bobo ka talaga! 1 to 10 lang di mo kayang bilangin?

Anak: Mas bobo si tatay, nay, kasi narinig ko minsan sabi, 'tama na inday, hanggang tatlo lang kaya ko.'

2. Ano ang pagkain?

Mister: Nasa mesa, bahala ka na pumili!

Mister: Isang pirasong tuyo? Ano pagpipilian ko?

Misis: Pumili ka kung kakain ka o hindi!

3. Overseas Call

IDD Call from US:

Husband: Hon, musta ang tindahan?

Wife: Department store na!

Husband: Ang tuba-an?

Wife: KTV bar na!

Husband: Ang mga tri-sikad?

Wife: Taxi na!

Husband: Ang dalawa kong anak?

Wife: Lima na!

4. Horoscope

Sweethearts watchin' the sky...

Guy: Ano ang horoscope mo?

Girl: Anong hurusok?

Guy: Yung bang kapalaran mo, katulad ko, CANCER.

Girl: Ah, sa akin ALMURANAS!

5. Almusal

Donya: Bilang bagong katulong, tandaan mo na ang almusal dito ay ala-sais emprunto!

Maid: Walang problema, donya, kung tulog pa ako sa oras na yun, mauna na kayong mag-almusal!

6. Ni-rape...

Maid: Ma'm, ni-rape ako ng magnanakaw kagabi...

Madam: Bakit di ka sumigaw?

Maid: Eh, akala ko po si Sir, pero nung makadalawa, nagduda na ako!

7. Mayaman - Mahirap

Juan: Pare, noong mayaman pa kami, nagkakamay kaming kumain. Ngayong mahirap na kami, nakakutsara na.

Pedro: Baligtad yata?

Juan: Mahirap kamayin ang lugaw, pare!

8. Pangarap

Toto: Pangarap ko, kumita ng P250,000 monthly gaya ni daddy!

Juvy: Wow! Ganyan kalaki ang kinikita ng daddy mo?

Toto: Hindi! Yan din ang pangarap niya!

9. Dalawang mayabang...

Usapan ng dalawang mayabang...

Tomas: Ang galing ng aso ko! Tuwing umaga, dala niya ang dyaryo sa akin.

Diego: Alam ko.

Tomas: Ha? Paano mo nalaman?

Diego: Ikinukuwento sa akin ng aso ko.

10. Nitrates

A Chemistry teacher asked a sexy student, 'What are Nitrates?'

The student replied shyly, 'Ma'am, sa motel po, Nitrates are higher than day rates!'

11. Siling Labuyo

Ate: Musta date mo, sis? Epektib ba payo ko, siling labuyo sa nipples mo para di ka galawin ng bf mo?

Sis: Hay naku, ate, palpak! Ginanahan pa lalo, eh, uragon pala!

12. Madre't Sakristan

Madre: Ano ang apelyido mo, iho?

Sakristan: Alam niyo na ho yun sister, lagi nyo po yun hinahawakan.

Madre: Susmaryosep! Bayag ba ang apelyido mo?!

Sakristan: Sister naman, Rosario po.

13. Katapusan na!

Lumindol ng malakas noon...

Cont. on page 7