



DONATION-- Baguio SM Area Manager Engr. Jansen Pe and Public Relations Officer Karen Nobres turn over 800 armchairs to Mayor Mauricio Domogan and City Schools Division Superintendent Francis Cesar Bringas for public elementary schools here during simple rites. SM will deliver and distribute 50 armchairs to each of 16 school recipients. Engineer Pe also promised to donate an additional 200 armchairs to public elementary schools as part of SM Foundation's community social responsibility/ by Bong Cayabyab

Lawmaker Asks DSWD to Tighten Screening of CCT Beneficiaries

Senator Chiz Escudero asked the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to strengthen its screening procedure for recipients of the conditional cash transfer (CCT) scheme and step up the process of weeding out spurious names from the list of deserving beneficiaries under the government's flagship poverty alleviation program.

Escudero put to task the DSWD following reports quoting a study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which showed that one-third of the P62 billion allocated for the CCT program last year did not go to the poor.

Since the centerpiece poverty reduction program was put in place by the DSWD, only a small fraction has been delisted while the weeding out process has been slow, Escudero noted.

"They have delisted less than five percent since the program began," Escudero said. "While the weeding out process is ongoing, it is too slow given the magnitude."

He added: "We are throwing away money to those who do not need or deserve it to the exclusion of those who might or other worthwhile endeavors that also need funding and fiscal space."

According to Escudero, it was alarming to know that about 30 percent, or P19 billion, of money allocated for the monthly cash doleouts did not go to the intended beneficiaries.

"That is quite alarming because we are talking about P19 billion in government funds meant for poor families. This is another injustice to the poorest of the poor who are the target beneficiaries of the poverty reduction program," the lawmaker said.

The senator said it was the DSWD's job to ensure

Council Bats for SAF 44 Beneficiaries' Educ'l Benefits

BAGUIO CITY – Vice Mayor Edison Bilog in a proposed resolution requested the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) through education secretary Armin Luistro to facilitate the release of educational benefits due to Special Action Force (SAF) 44 family member-beneficiaries.

The matter is now handled by the committee on education, culture and historical research chaired by Councilor Peter Fianza, with members Councilor Faustino Olowan and Isabelo Cosalan, Jr.

The committee considered referring the matter to CHED chairperson Dr. Patricia Licuanan, for college scholarships in which the dependents are qualified, or through the program "Tulong-Dunong" with a pegged amount of P12,000 each under the Student Financial Assistance Program (STUFAP).

Applications may be filed with CHED regional offices, for transmittal to the **Cont. on page 9**

14 Public Schools Benefit from SM Cares Program

BAGUIO CITY - 14 public schools in this mountain resort are beneficiaries of SM Foundations 1000 wooden armchair donation here.

SM Baguio donated 800 wooden chairs to 14 selected public schools while 200 more will be given to the Baguio City National High School (BCNHS).

The wooden armchair donations were received by Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Department of Education, Schools Division Superintendent Francis Cesar Bringas in simple rites at the division office handed over by SM Mall Manager Janssen Pe and Public Relations Officer Karen Nobres last June 23.

Nobres said, "the wooden armchair donation is part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) targeted to benefit public schools."

The recipient Elementary Schools are, Baguio Central School, Josefa Carino elementary School, Quezon Hill Elementary School, East Quirino Elementary School, Bakakeng Elementary School, Fort Del Pilar Elementary School, Lindawan Elementary School, Springhills Elementary School, Rizal Elementary School, San Vicente elementary School, Bonifacio Elementary **Cont. on page 7**

The JUNCTION Pahayagang Palaban!!!

Measures Proposed for PWDs

BAGUIO CITY – Committee Chair on Employment, Livelihood, Cooperatives and Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Councilor Isabelo Cosalan, Jr. proposed an ordinance and a resolution to benefit differently-abled persons.

The proposed ordinance for deliberation during the next session focused on hiring a qualified city interpreter for constituents with hearing impairment.

Anchored on Republic Act 7277, Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, in an effort to "facilitate integration of disabled persons into the mainstream of society, the State shall advocate for and encourage respect for disabled persons. The State shall exert all efforts to remove all social, cultural, economic, environmental and attitudinal barriers that are prejudicial to disabled persons." In this case, hearing-impairedness is the barrier thus the need for a sign-language interpreter, the proposed measure states.

It is proposed that the employee be regularized under the City Social Welfare and Development Office and hired, with qualifications, salary grade and job description determined city human resource management officer.

The hired employee is responsible in interpreting through sign language which is understood by hearing-impaired persons, all communication and announcements during the regular Monday flag raising ceremonies, Baguio Day, Independence day, Rizal Day celebrations, Panagbenga opening and closing programs and other government functions.

The measure shall be discussed during this Monday's session.

In Cosalan's proposed resolution, approved during the council session last Monday, Planning and Development Officer Engr. Evelyn Cayat, City Social Welfare and Development Officer Betty Fangasan, City Engineer Leo Bernardez, Budget Officer Leticia Clemente, Building and Architecture Officer Nazita Banez were invited to "shed light on the compli-

Cont. on page 9

June 27- July 3, 2015
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Pahayagang Palaban!!!
 MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!! BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

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LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Move to Legalize Wag-wag Up

BAGUIO CITY – The move to urge the Congress of the Philippines to initiate the repeal of Republic Act 4653 or 'An act to safeguard the health of the people and maintain dignity of the nation by declaring it a national policy to prohibit the commercial importation of textile articles commonly known as used clothing and rags' is up for deliberation this week.

The proposed Resolution was introduced last year by Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda stating that second hand articles more commonly known as "ukay-ukay" have been the source of livelihood of many Baguio residents and has even added to the tourist attraction offered by the city."

Tabanda said, "in other tourist destinations such as Hongkong, ukay-ukay has flourished and is a sustainable economic activity."

Furthermore, the resolution states, there is no conclusive evidence that would show that imported used clothing are contaminated and may cause illnesses to the user.

"Ukay-ukay trade is now accepted even

in international markets, it is no longer degrading for the Filipino to patronize these imported items," she said.

The proposal was referred to the Committee on Health and Sanitation, Ecology and Environmental Protection which recommended for its approval after deliberation in the council.

Also for deliberation are proposed resolution 111-14 introduced by Councilor leandro Yangot, Jr. calling on the President to spare the 'ukay-ukay' business in the city from crackdown being done by the Bureau of Customs and proposed resolution 120-14 introduced by Councilors Betty Lourdes Tabanda and Fred Bagbagen supporting House Bill No. 4055 or an Act legalizing the importation of second-hand or used clothing and rags into the Philippines and repealing Republic Act No. 4653 series of 1966.

The Committee on Market, Trade and Commerce Chaired by Councilor Elaine Sembrano also recommended for inclusion in the proposed resolution the amendment or repeal of certain provisions in President-

Cont. on page 9



Baguio Traffic may solusyon pa kaya?- File photos showing how bad the Baguio traffic can get, certainly there is a solution, but unfortunately the DOTC-CAR, the lead agency tasked to solve the problem is **OBVIOUSLY INCAPABLE and INCOMPETENT** to solve the problem!!! (photo sources- mb.com.ph and ibaguiojournal.com)

Measures Proposed for PWDs

Lawmaker: MILF Should Come Clean on Weapon-Making Facility

City to Thresh Out Procedures on Right-Of-Way Squatters with DPWH

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KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

DFA Officials Scheming vs. Whistleblower
page 4 BY: BATAS MAURICIO

Council Endorses Police Anti-Crime Plan

House Ad Hoc Committee to Hold Autonomu Public Hearings

Solon Vows More for Government Student Grantees

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

IF NOT TODAY, TOMORROW
page 5 BY: JESUS DUREZA

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Lawmaker: MILF Should Make Clean on Weapon-Making Facility

process in the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) after MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said the decommissioning will continue only if the BBL is passed.

Escudero said it would have been a more credible confidence-building measure had the MILF surrendered its weapons machinery instead of just a small portion of its firearms collection during the so-called "ceremonial decommissioning" of MILF weapons and combatants last week.

"The MILF should have first surrendered their machinery that makes guns, bullets and bombs. It's useless to surrender guns when they can easily make new ones," Escudero said.

He also said that it was only fair to ask the MILF to explain how its forces were able to amass firearms and ammunition, as well as their sources and suppliers, in order to prove that they were really sincere in pursuing peace.

"As our partners in peace supposedly, can they also tell us where and how they brought in their arms and ammunition, and who and where did they buy these from and how did they bring these in," Escudero said.

Escudero also vowed to press for the inclusion of the decommissioning

Lawmaker Calls for Permanent Appointment of PNP

Senator Chiz Escudero is pushing for the permanent assignment and appointment of the Philippine National Police (PNP) chief as well as heads of various crucial posts in the police force being headed by officials in acting capacity, to ensure peace and order ahead of the 2016 general elections.

"Nakakalungkot lang kasi hindi lang PNP chief. I think there are about 30 chiefs of police and provincial directors who are all in acting status," Escudero told a breakfast forum. "The government should address this as we approach the elections. Dapat permanente at item ang posisyon at assignment along-lalo na ang mga pulis."

The 147,966-strong PNP, until now, is headed by officer-in-charge Deputy Director General Leonardo Espina, who is set to retire on July 19.

Escudero lamented the lack of certainty in the tenure of police officers with acting status, who always face the possibility of being removed or replaced anytime.

"They cannot be at the mercy of the Dilg and of Napolcom (National Police Commission)," the lawmaker pointed out. "Pag appointed from a list submitted to the governor or the mayor, as the law provides, may tenure sila. Hindi security of tenure, tenure lang."

Under the law, the Napolcom nominates three potential candidates for police chiefs to local government executives for approval, or assign an OIC should the mayor or governor rejects the list of names.

"Ang problema - may mga balita na sinasadya minsan - ang nilalagay na mga pangalang pagpipilian ng mga goborog o mayor, 'yung mga ayaw niya talaga. Kaya ang dulo, mag-a-appoint ng mga acting palagi ang Napolcom at Dilg, which is unfair. That is a circumvention of the law," Escudero said. / http://chizescudero.com

BIBAK Lot Demolition Set

BAGUIO CITY - The City Government is set to demolish 58 illegal structures at the Benguet-Ifugao-Bontoc-Apayao-Kalinga (BIBAK) lot along Harrison Road.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said the city buildings and architecture office under city building officer Engr. Nazita Banez issued notices to the owners to voluntarily vacate and dismantle their con-

Council Endorses Police Anti-Crime Plan

BAGUIO CITY - The city council on Monday supported the Anti-Crime Action Plan (ACAP) of the Baguio City Police Office.

The body adopted the proposed resolution of commendation and support of council committee on public protection and safety chair Councilor Roberto Ortega for the plan which lays down the BCPPO's anti-crime strategies.

The ACAP which was submitted by city police officer-in-charge Police Sr. Supt. Rolando Miranda to the city council for endorsement and subsequently for approval by Mayor Mauricio Domogan lays down the operational programs or strategies to be undertaken by the BCPPO "to enhance the campaign on crime prevention and control with the involvement of the various sectors of the community in relation to the implementation of the Police Integrated Patrol System (PIPS) and other crime prevention efforts."

It was updated "to further enhance and strengthen their campaign against criminality, insurgency, terrorism and other related threats or violence; and to ensure that the City of Baguio remains to be a safe place to live, visit, work, study and do business."

Development and Housing Act of 1992.

The City however said the lot needs to be cleared as it was intended for BIBAK housing needs and that the present occupants are private individuals who entered the property without permission and are now utilizing the area for profit.

The said lot was segregated from Original Certificate Title No. 01 in favor of the BIBAK Dormitories Inc. in 1961 and thus "was slated to cater to the housing needs of the students coming from the BIBAK areas."/ A Refuerzo

that funds earmarked for the program, officially known as Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps, will go only to the most vulnerable sectors. "If the funds fail to reach the intended recipients, then it defeats the purpose of the program which is to provide social protection for and directly assist the poorest members of society," Escudero said. The program provides cash grants to targeted poor Filipino families based on sustained, verified compliance with certain health and education conditions. Such conditions include sending children to school, ensuring they

Move to Legalize ... from page 1

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Measures... from page 10

ance to the accessibility law of facilities open to the general public." Batas Pambansa 344 is an act crafted to "enhance the mobility of disabled person by requiring certain buildings, institutions, establishments and public utilities to install facilities and other devices,"

In a report from an earlier forum, sidewalks, walkways, including public transport facilities were deemed "unfriendly and hazardous to PWDs."

There is a need to assess the compliance to the law and come up with local legislation for the welfare and interest of persons with disabilities in the city, Cosalan, Jr. stated in his resolution.

The invited officials are expected during the July 13 regular session./ Julie G. Fianza

City to Tresh... from page 3

the lots covered by the expanded titles. Mayor Mauricio Domogan said the city is re-reading the documents to request the Office of the Solicitor General to initiate the cancellation proceedings to nullify the title of the lot along Naguilian Road.

The mayor believes that the city has a solid

Lawmaker Asks DSWD... from page 10

receive regular check-ups, and participating in family planning and nutrition.

Under the cash assistance program implemented by the DSWD, each identified poor family receives a monthly stipend of up to P1,400, or a total of P15,000 every year for five years, on condition that it sends children to school and clinics for vaccination, among others.

The program was patterned after the conditional cash transfer schemes in Latin America and African countries, which have lifted millions of people around the world. / http://chizescudero.com/

Council Bats... from page 10

central office. As of May 28, eight beneficiaries from the Cordillera Administrative Region have complied, with a ninth applicant following suit recently. An enrolment form and certificate of enrolment to the school of choice are required as the amount will be reimbursed.

The financial assistance is in addition to those provided and administered by the National Police Commission, the committee stated in the report.

It may be recalled that 44 members of the Special Action Force (SAF), 14 from the cordilleras perished in an encounter with rebel forces in Mamasapano, Mindanao January 25, 2015. Most were breadwinners, with their families now needing financial and educational assistance./PIO

case because the lot which used to house the multi-purpose hall of the barangay is situated on a national road and commercial zone and therefore is not covered by the free patent law.

As to the expanded titles, the city is awaiting decisions on the nullification cases filed earlier./ A Refuerzo

DIMENSIONAL ROAD ...from page 5

if you are lucky enough, you would complete the examination for two days. While it is true that the applicant has to bear an expenses of his own medical examination which is usually Two thousand seven hundred (P.2,700.00) Philippine currency, this amount could extend into more financial constraints not to mention expenses incurred in going and returning to the hospital's location in the National Capital Region (NCR). This is so because applicants are subjected to major and minor medical processes for two or several times like -x-rays, AIDS , drug and stool examination; blood pressure examination among others. Though some clinics allow you to have dental examination and cleaning from other places, the assurance of passing the test is slim because the dental groups of the hospitals usually find ways for applicants to repeat the procedure adding financial burden and inconvenience. Despite their awareness that the applicant has a visa and ready for deployment, their delaying tactics- repetition of the processes they deemed unsatisfactory done, may hamper the urgency of work travels which can possibly transpire even for several months. Some OFW's employment status have been cancelled by employers due to GAMCA's decking system. Applicants are fortunate if employers are patient enough to wait- a rare opportunity.

This beneficial action performed by the cooperating government agencies against the system links to the country's Republic Act No.10022 that provides Filipino migrant workers the freedom to choose any clinic accredited or operated by the Department of Health (DOH). It stipulates that applicants need not to travel to the NCR to avail of

their medical examination due to the establishment of accredited clinics in all regions depending on the origin of applicants that favorably results to cost-cutting expenses and reducing inconvenience.

Alay Buhay party-list Representative, Wes Gatchalian, Senior Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Overseas Workers' Affairs (HCOWA), said that "the decision of the inter-agency task force has cleared the way for our overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to exercise their democratic right to choose their preferred clinics under the law, of which the circular directs all Philippine posts in the GCC to inform and seek the cooperation of host governments to abolish the GAMCA decking system, which were practiced over the past fifteen (15) years." It can be recalled that there were concerned citizens' groups who constantly advocate the removal of GAMCA but were not successful enough in demanding reforms due to the displace focus of some government officials who almost squander their reigns on political affairs neglecting other major government issues that needed to be crucially addressed. Despite some officials' inefficiencies towards their expected public services, there are still dedicated men and women, who acted on their credence to lead reforms.

In appreciation to some members of the government authorities, this is a manifestation that change can possibly occur depending on authorities that were converged and emerged by the changing times whose ultimate objectives to publicly rule concentrate on elimination of corruption and rejection of abusive powers. Edward Gibbon's thematically-contained line

...from page 6 said I was too smart for my own good, and suggested that this was why my marriage had failed. I still did not see how that could warrant shaming me in front of a courtroom full of strangers. When I went through the legal prerequisites of getting married, I was not subjected to such interrogation.

"It's really hard for us, too," Noel Segovia, a senior lawyer at the OSG told me. "In some cases, we know the couple can no longer live together, but because of insufficient evidence, we have to deny their petition for annulment." A bill to legalize divorce, proposed in 2010, received little support from the country's Catholic, bachelor president, who told reporters that he did not want to turn the Philippines into Las Vegas, where "[t]he stereotype is you get married in the morning [and] you get divorced in the afternoon." In the meantime, Philippine public opinion has moved steadily in favor of legalizing divorce, from 50 percent in March 2011 to 60 percent in December 2014, according to a survey by the Philippine research institution Social Weather Stations. When legislators were asked if the results of the survey would sway their opinion on divorce, one senator explained: "I cannot favor a divorce law. My wife might use that against me." If there's a middle ground between Vegas and the Vatican, the pope didn't advocate for it during his recent visit to the Philippines, despite his earlier calls for the Church to show more kindness toward sinners. And so the Philippines, the land of no divorce, continues to lay claim to a title no other country wants./ Ana P. Santos

THE JUNCTION logo and contact information including address, phone, and website details.

City Honors Two International Gold Medalists

BAGUIO CITY - The City Council here spearheaded by Vice Mayor Edison Bilog commended two city-based athletes for their recent gold medal haul in sports.

Parantac took home a gold medal in the men's Wushu Taijiquan Category besting Malaysia's Jack Chang Loh and Indonesia's Julius Kurniawan.

Another athlete Boxer Jujeath Ngaowa also was commended in City Resolution 119 after she brought home the gold in the recent Women's International Boxing Association (WIBA) in Macau June 6.

Ngaowa topped China's Luo Yu Jie during the WIBA International Light Flyweight Championship via a 10-round unanimous decision held at the Forum de Macau, Macau, China.

Ngaowa is also a Filipina Mixed Martial Artists (MMA) and has a boxing record of 13 wins, 15 losses, 1 draw with 8 knockouts.

The resolution states; their achievements which could only be attained through hard work, dedication and technique are worthy of emulation by the city's young athletes.

Their outstanding feat deserves to be commended for the honor and recognition they have brought to the City of Baguio and the entire nation.

Bilog said, "he hopes that the City Council will approve the pending measure that would increase the incentives of city athletes who brings home medals in city, regional, national and international sports competitions." Paul Rillorta

EDITORIAL

and whenever such deployment or movements are deemed necessary in the pursuit of the AFP mission mandated by the Constitution. The power and authority of the President to employ or deploy the AFP should not in any way or manner be diminished. We recommend that this principle be made a part of the proposed law on the Bangsamoro.

G. NORMALIZATION

We recommend that Normalization as defined in the Annex to the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) be included as a major provision in the proposed Bangsamoro or-

...from page 4

ganic law being crafted by Congress.

We are here today because a rebel group has threatened to continue its preferred form of negotiation i.e. the use of weapons and violence if we do not accede to their demands. It is just fair that the granting of their demands will be reciprocated by a clear definite commitment to disarm. Their capability to ambush and attack our soldiers and policemen and villages should be totally removed.

1. Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR)

Normalization, according to the

Comprehensive Agreement Annex, is the means of achieving the desired quality of life, including sustainable livelihood and political participation, and ensuring human security. It does not contemplate that in order to ensure lasting peace so that socio-economic development could proceed in earnest, there must be disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of members of the military component of the MILF. This Agreement seems to treat these matters as merely peripheral, if not anathema. Kung ano ang pinakaimportante, yun pa ang parang hindi naging pinahalagahan.

The CAB is unlike the peace agreements forged between some foreign countries and the militant separatist groups they respectively dealt with. On the other hand, because the DDR's were deemed imperatives, the foreign countries indicated them in their respective agreements clearly and in a rather comprehensive and detailed manner.

The agreement between the government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement or Gerakin Aceh Merdeka (GAM) is an example. It provided that GAM had to hand over at least 840 arms within three months after the agreement was signed - and this was completed. With regard to the covenant entered into between the United Kingdom, on the one hand, and Ireland as well as Northern Ireland, on the other, it clearly indicated that there had to be a total disarmament of all para-military organizations (like the Irish Republican Army, or IRA) and

Meanwhile, that the long and uncertain

decommissioning of all arms in the possession of all those organizations in two years - and this was done.

2. Decommisioning
The Annex directs the MILF to decommission "its forces so that they are put beyond use." Decommissioning, however, is not only going to be parallel and commensurate to the implementation of all agreements of the parties. It is also to be carried out by a graduated and phased program. The four (4) phases of the program relate to voluntary registration of firearms and not handing over of firearms to the Philippine Government. Not mentioned in the phasing out are high-powered guns, crew-served weapons, self-propelled guns, and the like. It thus becomes evident that the process of decommissioning is going to be long, slow and difficult; and only for small-caliber rifles.

And since it will not be implemented by both the MILF and the GPH in a joint manner but by the MILF alone, there can be no telling when implementation will be completed, that is, if it will be completed at all.

procedure of decommissioning is supposed to be ongoing the probability is not remote that the MILF may exploit the time to beef up its arms and equipment, quantity- and quality-wise, and fine-tune its military organization. And when the MILF forces shall have achieved the status or category of a standard army, then, likewise, the probability is not remote that the MILF - confident of support from other countries, would now repudiate the agreements it has made with the GPH, claiming the latter's inability to comply with its obligations under those agreements, declare its independence and establish an Islamic state in the Philippines south.

We therefore recommend that:

- 1- There should be a timeline and specific calendar dates in the decommissioning of the

MILF armed component and turn in of their weapons or armaments.

The provision in the said Annex (para. C9) that states that "The decommissioning of MILF rebels shall be parallel and commensurate to the implementation of all the agreements of the Parties" is too general and the process could take years to accomplish. In the meantime, there will continue to exist in Mindanao an armed MILF participating in the elections and other civilian activities in the areas where they are present. It is entirely possible that "all the agreements of the Parties" could not be implemented as envisioned in the FAB for various unforeseen reasons. Would such a predicament then stop the decommissioning of the MILF rebels and their weapons and thereby stop or sus-

pend the implementation of all Agreements?

2. The provision on Redeployment of the AFP out of or within the Bangsamoro territory should be deleted because it curtails and delimits the power and authority of the President and Commander-in-Chief to employ or deploy the Armed Forces of the Philippines anywhere in the country in anticipation of or in response to an emergency or grave security situation.

3. Policing
Law and order may be defined as a socio-political situation characterized by the absence of crime and lawlessness. A relatively lawful and orderly situation is indicated by low rates of crime or juvenile delinquency. All this would be the result of the effectiveness of the law enforcement system.

To be Continued...

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Council Mulls Next Move on E-bingo Past PAGCOR Clarification

BAGUIO CITY - The city council will study its next move on e-Bingo operations in the city following clarification on the circumstances and procedures involved in the issuance of license by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR).

The body on Monday tasked its committee on laws under Councilor Richard Carino to study and recommend succeeding actions in the light of the revelation by PAGCOR representatives that there is a way to revoke the gaming license and that is to cancel the business permits issued by the local government.

The move is protracted to center on the information that another kind of online betting game called e-Games has been allowed to operate in an area within the border of the city and Tuba town. The said e-Games is cause for concern in the city because it is known to offer casino-style online gambling.

Casino has been banned in the city by virtue of city council resolutions prodded by massive church-led campaigns.

PAGCOR representatives Gaming Licensing and Development Department remote gaming unit senior manager Nelia Lorenzo and Corporate and Legal Services Department senior legal counsel Arnie Salvosa said that cancellation of the business permit granted an entity by the local government is one of PAGCOR's bases in annulling the gaming license.

They said this is because based on PAGCOR charter, business permit is proof of the local government's consent to the e-Bingo operation. It was only in June 2012 that PAGCOR required a letter of no objection (LONO) from the local governments before allowing bingo joints to operate in a locality.

Salvosa said as per their procedure in revoking licenses, the request of the local government is referred to the legal department for study and recommendation to the board of directors. The board will decide and the operator will be asked to comment.

Two more applications for e-bingo outlets in Maharlika Livelhood Center and the Albergo Hotel are currently in the works and both will require LONOs.

House Ad Hoc Committee to Hold Autonomu Public Hearings

THE House of Representatives Committee on Local Governments, through an ad hoc committee, has scheduled a series of consultations in the six provinces and Baguio City in the Cordillera region to get the pulse of the people on House Bill 4649, or the bill creating the Cordillera autonomous region.

This was bared by Baguio City Rep. Nicasio M. Aliping Jr. Wednesday as he also aired the hope that Congress will approve the bill soon so that President Benigno Aquino III can sign it into law before he bows out of office next year.

The House committee opted to create an ad hoc committee to conduct the hearings in the capital towns of the six Cordillera provinces and Baguio City and designated Rep. Aliping as its chairman.

"In consultation with the other Cordillera lawmakers, we have come up with the schedule of public hearings for the entire month of July," Aliping said.

All the Cordillera Representatives authored the bill and are expected to muster their constituents to attend the public hearings so that the ad hoc committee can get the aspirations of the people.

Salvosa said as per their procedure in revoking licenses, the request of the local government is referred to the legal department for study and recommendation to the board of directors. The board will decide and the operator will be asked to comment.

Two more applications for e-bingo outlets in Maharlika Livelhood Center and the Albergo Hotel are currently in the works and both will require LONOs.

They said this is because based on PAGCOR charter, business permit is proof of the local government's consent to the e-Bingo operation. It was only in June 2012 that PAGCOR required a letter of no objection (LONO) from the local governments before allowing bingo joints to operate in a locality.

Cont. on page 9



DEMOLITION ORDER - Mayor Mauricio Domogan orders City Buildings and Architecture Officer Nazita Bañez to demolish all illegal structures within the BIBAK compound along Harrison Road after giving due notice to the occupants during the executive-legislative meeting June 22. Listening intently is Councilor Elaine Sembrano./By Bong Cayabyab

Solon Vows More for Government Student Grantees

Beneficiaries of the Commission on Higher Education's (CHED's) Student Financial Assistance Program (StuFAP) endorsed by Baguio Rep. Nicasio M. Aliping Jr. have something to look forward to if they graduate with honors.

During the first general assembly of all StuFAP grantees here June 21, Rep. Aliping vowed to give each honor graduate cash incentives for finishing their college studies with distinction and becoming positive role models for their fellow grantees and schoolmates.

"I will give each cum laude graduate PHP10,000; each magna cum laude, PHP15,000; and PHP20,000 for each summa cum laude graduate from whatever school they come from," Rep. Aliping said when asked how he can further help the students who have graduated from college.

"I know how hard college can be, but being poor and finding ways to finance your studies can at times cause anxiety among you who want to finish and help your families," he added.

StuFAP is a government grant for financially distressed students who want to pursue a college degree in identified priority courses manage by the CHED.

It grants a maximum of PHP12,000 per year to each successful applicant to pay for their matriculation fees and other school fees.

StuFAP is released directly to the school where the grantee has enrolled for the current semester after the grantee has passed all their subjects the previous semester and provided a certificate of enrollment for the current term.

Aside from the cash incentives, Rep. Aliping also promised to recommend for employment all grantees who passed their board examination. "Also those who pass the board examination at the top ten I will give another PHP10,000 each," Rep. Aliping added.

"I do all of these for students because I believe education can change the lives of these young people," he also said. /Carl C. Taawan

cont. office, the mayor said.

Yangot raised alarm over the proliferation of illegal constructions along RROWS in Dontogan barangay, Marcos Highway, Kennon Road and other areas. He said the structures include large buildings.

He also aired concern over the status of RROW lot along Naguilian Road which had been issued a title under the free patent law and Cont. on page 9

Statement of the Association of General and Flag Officers

Part 2

* Section 6 provides that the Bangsamoro Police Board shall be composed of eleven (11) members and six (6) members of which shall come from the Bangsamoro Parliament, who shall serve in concurrent capacity. We believe that this provision will encourage and provide a way for local politics to influence the administration and operations of the Bangsamoro Police if it gets established, despite the provision in Section 2 of this Article that the Bangsamoro Police "shall be fair and impartial, free from partisan political control and accountable under the law for its actions." Present experiences of field officers of the PNP support this apprehension. We believe it would be much better if the Bangsamoro Police Board would be manned by civilians from different professions known for their integrity and civic-mindedness in the Bangsamoro territory.

* Under Section 8, Powers of the Chief Minister over the Bangsamoro Police, the Chief Minister shall exercise the following powers:

- (1) To select the head of the Bangsamoro Police and his deputies;
- (2) To exercise operational control and supervision and disciplinary powers over the Bangsamoro Police;
- (3) To employ or deploy the elements of and assign or reassign the Bangsamoro Police thru the Bangsamoro Police Director.

EDITORIAL

* We believe this provision will be a continuing source of conflict between the Chief, Philippine National Police, and possibly the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government/Chair of NAPOLCOM, in regard to PNP administration and operations as the Chief, PNP will treat the Bangsamoro Police as a subordinate unit/office of the PNP while the Bangsamoro Government will look at the Bangsamoro Police as "their police force" and therefore subject to the Chief Minister's command and control in all circumstances. This can cause demoralization and inefficiency in the ranks.

* We believe and recommend that in lieu of creating a Bangsamoro Police the Bangsamoro organic law should provide for the creation and activation of a Bangsamoro Region Police Office (BRPO), similar to the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) and other regional police offices, that will be manned, administered and function as the police force for the Bangsamoro territory, in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations governing the Philippine National Police.

* The other aspects and characteristics of the proposed BRPO that are unique to the Bangsamoro government and area in regard to local requirements can be incorporated in the proposed law or document that directs the creation and activation of the Bangsamoro Regional Police Office.

* In this way, there can be no question that the constitutional mandate that the "State shall establish one police force that is national in scope and civilian in character" is being violated in the establishment of a Bangsamoro Police in Mindanao. It will also erase any apprehension that the Bangsamoro Police will metamorphose in the future into a private army of the Bangsamoro government.

E. ON BBL ARTICLE XI SECTION 15, DEFENSE AND SECURITY

* Section 15 provides that "the Central Government may create a Bangsamoro Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines..." We recommend the deletion of this provision.

* The President and the Armed Forces of the Philippines must at all times have the flexibility to address national defense and security situations anywhere in the country at any time to protect the people and the State. Creating a subordinate command in the AFP as required by law will diminish the flexibility of the AFP to respond accordingly to a given national defense and security threat situation, especially in terms of task organizing, force mix, deployment, logistics, intelligence and combat operations. No operational or area command is mandated by law; their establishment is based on the threat situation and geographic considerations, among others.

F. BBL ARTICLE XI SECTION 17, COORDINATION

* Section 17 provides that the Central Government and the Bangsamoro Government shall establish coordination protocols, which shall govern the movement of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the Bangsamoro.

* The recent experience of the AFP in following such "coordination protocols" with the MILF is a sad story of military disasters resulting to numerous casualties including the mutilation of our soldiers. Military operations require utmost secrecy to ensure success. Information leaks could lead to ambushes and casualties. Thus, based on military doctrines and actual experiences of the AFP such as in Basilan Province, the "coordination protocols" for purely military operations being proposed to be established in the Bangsamoro law should be deleted.

* Moreover, the AFP should have unrestricted authority to move or deploy troops, equipment and other military assets wherever **Cont. on page 8**



Hindi naman overnight ang pag usbong ng mga istraktura sa Spratly Islands na Philippine Territory, kung bakit walang ginawa ang mga INUTIL na mga kinaaukulan opisyales ng pamahalaan?!!?

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

IF NOT TODAY, TOMORROW

By: JESUS DUREZA



Many have now serious doubts about the future of the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) given Congress' failure to pass it on time.

I have a few thoughts I wish to share, coming from my modest work in the peace process. For instance, I found out that those who know what BBL is all about — and why it has to be passed — are somehow supportive. Those who don't and those who entertain "fears" oppose it. Otherwise put, those who do not know why we have to redress an injustice and address a generational grievance of the Bangsamoro are generally against it and must therefore be enlightened to be convinced. Exorcising what haunts many is a must. There's a lot more work to be done in this, I can tell. Perhaps, today's hiatus is an opportunity.

HAND OF PEACE — I have this thought going through my mind: we may no longer have the same strategic opportunity at another time if we let this slip through our hands. For instance, here's the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a rebel group that has publicly offered to partner with government; it has publicly expressed that it is forsaking the ways of violence and terrorism at a time when somewhere else in the Muslim world, some bad guys are flaunting and trumpeting their barbaric ways. That alone should move all of us to accept this proffered hand of peace. To turn away from it is sheer folly. Of course, we want to see MILF's public avowals put to test by realities on the ground. Given the prevailing distrust spawned by unfortunate events and lessons of the recent past, this is not easy. The interregnum period should be put to good use to do this.

Yes, there are trust and confidence issues that have to be addressed. There are also stringent and sacrosanct perimeters that must be observed. **BIGOTRY** — That this has been a divisive issue is a given. The lively and insightful debate can continue. But bigotry on all sides has no place in this spirited discourse. A "bigot", by the way, is one who stubbornly shuns and exhibits complete intolerance of any creed, belief or opinion that differs from his own. To call our peace negotiators "traitors" is way below the gutters. It smacks of political grandstanding, which in the onset of the political season is perfectly understandable but definitely not acceptable and tolerable. On the other hand, to label those against the BBL as "anti Moro" is also a pure and simple act of bigotry. We should relegate all those bigots to the ignominy of the stinking garbage dump where they properly belong. (Pardon the strong language but I mean every word of it.)

Although we understand the big disappointment, bordering on anger of those who support the Bangsamoro, saber rattling or the threat of war will not work. It will only create a backlash. Let us not begrudge Congress for doing due diligence. Let us also not take it against all those who raise the alarm. When the smoke clears, the bottom line for us is to really pass a law that is inclusive and sustainable; we badly need a legal framework to address that oft-quoted but not-too-well-understood "Bangsamoro aspiration for self-determination". Let us moderate our angst. Ultimately, with need a law that is robust and can pass the test of constitutionality and time. Missing timelines is indeed dampening but it should not derail the peace train. The journey for peace must ultimately unite and not divide us all.

CRISIS — If there is a crisis now facing the Aquino **Cont. on page 7**

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 7
BAGUIO CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE CANCELLATION AND/OR CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF MINORS IRISH JEWEL E. GAVIRAN, CHRISTIAN LUIS E. GAVIRAN AND ALLYIAH TIFFANY E. GAVIRAN.

MINORS IRISH JEWEL E. GAVIRAN, CHRISTIAN LUIS E. HO GAVIRAN, and ALLYIAH TIFFANY E. GAVIRAN, represented by SPS. ROMMEL B. GAVIRAN and EVELYN ESPION-GAVIRAN,

Petitioners,

-versus-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF BAGUIO CITY,

Respondents,

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASE NO. 2454-R

ORDER

Before this Court is a petition filed by Irish Jewel E. Gaviran, Christian Luis E. Gaviran and Allyiah Tiffany E. Gaviran, represented by their parents, Spouses Rommel B. Gaviran and Evelyn Espion-Gaviran through Atty. Louella Xylee T. Apilado praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, an Order be rendered directing the cancellation and correction of entry in the Certificates of Live Birth of petitioners Irish Jewel E.

Gaviran, Christian Luis E. Gaviran and Allyiah Tiffany E. Gaviran as follows: "Date and Place of Marriage of Parents: October 8, 2001, Jaro Iloilo" to "February 17, 2014 - Office of the City Mayor, Baguio City".

Briefly stated, the petitioners alleged, in support of the reliefs prayed for, that they are all minors and are in the custody of their parents, herein spouses Rommel B. Gaviran (Rommel), and Evelyn Espion-Gaviran (Evelyn) and that they are all Filipino citizens and residents of No. 161 Lower Pinget, Baguio City; that their parents met each other, fell in love and eventually lived together as husband and wife without the benefit of marriage at Lower Pinget, Baguio City; that out of wedlock, their mother Evelyn eventually conceived and gave birth to petitioner Irish Jewel on September 13, 2002 at Baguio General Hospital Medical Center, Baguio City; that out of that place, date and time, the petitioners shall be allowed to substantiate their petition, and any interested person may show cause, if there be any, why the petition should not be granted.

WHEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the same be set for hearing before this court located at Room 313, 3rd Floor of the Justice Hall, Baguio City on August 13, 2015 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at which place, date and time, the petitioners shall be allowed to substantiate their petition, and any interested person may show cause, if there be any, why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order, together with a copy of the petition and its annexes, be served upon the Honorable Solicitor General, City Prosecutor of Baguio City and the respondent Local Civil Registrar of Baguio City. Also, furnish copies of this notice to the Civil Registrar General, National Statistics Office, the Office of the Clerk for Court for publication and to the petitioners through their counsel.

Pursuant to Sec. 4, Rule 108 of the Rules of Court, let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners, once a week for three (3)

consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Baguio and the whole Cordillera Region, the last publication of which shall not be later than August 13, 2015.

The Process Server is hereby directed to post copies of this notice on the bulletin boards of this Court, the Justice Hall, the City Market and the Post Office, all of Baguio City.

SO ORDERED.

DONE IN CHAMBERS, this 18th day of May, 2015 at Baguio City, Philippines.

(SGD) MONA LISA V. TIONSAN-TABORA Presiding Judge

Publication Dates: June 13, 20 and 27, 2015

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-

S A N D R A 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:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-100333

"A parcel of land Lot 8, Block 2, PSCAR- 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 ap-

ADVOCACY MINDANOW

administration on how to win support in the predominantly unbelieving and unsupportive mainstream public on the BBL, there is also an equally critical situation within the MILF given the missed expectations of a failed BBL amongst the Bangsamoro. I am not surprised if there is a brewing and serious challenge now for the MILF leadership, headed by Kagi Murad, on how to internally convince its followers to also "stay the course" and not walk away from the peace table. Indeed, of what value will all those assurances of Kagi Murad and Company and their "staying the course" be if they eventually lose grip and control of their forces?

HUMBLE ADVICE

— My humble advice to the non-believers is to give it a try and let time test it. The pestering fear that entrenching a Bangsamoro law will

persists 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 Raffle to: Dates of publication: June 27, July 4, and 11, 2015

...from page 4 provide fertile ground for secession in the future should be dispelled. On the contrary, it is an antidote to secession. It should unite and not divide. But more than that, it renders justice to the Bangsamoro's generational thirst for redress.

NO FEAR — Perish those fears. Government is and will always be on a high moral ground. The duty constituted authorities have all the options — and the muscle — to address any unintended result or eventually that some of us are apprehensive about. We should have no doubts about this at all. If things turn awry, Congress can even later strike down the law, if need be. The sovereign people have the final say. But to spurn a hand of peace is, I say again, sheer folly!

Whatever it takes, let us all, — the Bangsamoro and the non-Bangsamoro — stay the course. There is no other option. If this does not happen today, then there is still a tomorrow.

14 Public ...

from page 10 School. Don Mariano Marcos Elementary School, Lucban Elementary School, Mabini Elementary School, Magsaysay Elementary School and Pinsao Elementary School.

The 14 elementary schools will be receiving 50 wooden armchairs each.

Aside from the armchair donations, the giant mall is also maintaining classrooms and school buildings of selected public schools in the city./ Paul Rillorta

Ending a Marriage

parties should turn heretic, or Jew, or Moor, or even commit adultery." After the Spanish era, divorce laws depended on the colonizer. The Americans, who acquired the nation in 1898 following the Spanish-American War, allowed divorce, but only on the grounds of adultery or concubinage. The Japanese, who occupied the Philippines during World War II, introduced liberal divorce laws. Following liberation, however, divorce was once again outlawed—except among the Muslim minority—under the Philippine Civil Code of 1949. The Manila Cathedral, built by Spanish friars in the 16th century (Erik de Castro / Reuters) If marriage is essentially a contract, the difference between an annulment and a divorce is the difference between declaring the contract null—because, say, it was signed under conditions of duress or fraud—and terminating it. In the case of marriage, declaring the contract null is a far more difficult proposition. Infidelity and physical abuse, for example, are not on the list of acceptable reasons for a marriage to be declared invalid under Philippine law. A petitioner seeking to leave a marriage for those or any number of other reasons has to try to prove that his or her spouse is suffering from "psychological incapacity" such as narcissistic personality disorder.

**** Filipino TV host Amy Perez is familiar with the difficulties these rules pose. Perez married a rock musician in 1995, and the couple had a son two years later. But within a year of his birth, Perez's husband had left her with their baby and gone to live abroad. Perez filed for an annulment in 2000, and was denied. She appealed and lost. In 2006, the Philippine Supreme Court declined to hear

...from page 5 her case, declaring:

We find [the husband's] alleged mixed personality disorder, the 'leaving-the-house' attitude whenever they quarreled, the violent tendencies during epileptic attacks, the sexual infidelity, the abandonment and lack of support, and his preference to spend more time with his band mates than his family, are not rooted on some debilitating psychological condition but a mere refusal or unwillingness to assume the essential obligations of marriage.

Statistics from the Philippines' Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) show that there were more than 10,000 petitions filed to end marriages in 2013, out of a population of roughly 100 million, with women filing slightly more than half of the petitions. The most recent statistics OSG provided me, based on a sample of such cases from 2010 to 2011, showed that 6 percent of these petitions were dismissed or denied. But this obscures the fact that such cases can drag on for years, and that court fees, which typically amount to nearly \$400 just to file paperwork, can exceed the average monthly wages of Filipino workers, which a 2012 International Labor Organization study estimated at less than \$300.

"The system is so unfair, especially to women like me in a situation of abandonment. Why do they have to make it so hard?" asked Perez, whose marriage didn't formally end until a decade after her husband left her. She declined to give details about how she finally obtained the annulment. Last year, she married her longtime boyfriend, with whom she has two children.

**** Like Perez, I filed for annulment claiming my spouse was psychologically incapacitated. My

rights legislator, told me. She should know: She's been through it too. *** This kind of hassle can be avoided for the right price, however. Michelle, a former classmate of mine who asked that I not use her full name, claims to have paid her lawyer \$10,000 for an all-inclusive annulment package that covered a psychiatric evaluation, all the related paperwork and fees, and a guarantee of a favorable decision from the judge, an old law-school buddy of the lawyer's.

As a 28-year-old middle manager, I couldn't afford that. It took me a year before I found a lawyer I could afford; my cousin eventually negotiated a fee of \$2,000 with a former law-school classmate. I paid this lawyer in installments as my case dragged on. But you get what you pay for. Michelle got her annulment in six months. I waited four years. Michelle only had to appear in court once. I spent years using up vacation days for intermittent court appearances. Michelle took the stand to answer only one question: her name. I withstood a barrage of inquiries from a judge. It was a harrowing experience, forcing me to dredge up years of bad, buried memories. The judge probed for details about the fights I'd had with my husband. He accused me of not trying hard enough to keep the peace in our relationship. When I brought up the allegations in my petition—regarding the abuse and infidelity I'd had to endure—he asked me if I thought that was enough to end a marriage. (My then-husband didn't show up to any of the court proceedings, which is a way of opposing the annulment petition.) I was too proud to beg the judge to stop his line of questioning, too angry to stay quiet. I was ultimately taken off the stand because I was

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MAGKASANGGA TAYO

Mga kombinasyon sa poliitika na niluluto?!?! (Mayor, Congressman, Vice Mayor) BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO



Part 1 Sinu-sino nga ba ang tatakbo para Mayor ng Baguio? Ayon sa ating chismosong impormante, of course ang incumbent na si Manong Morris at sasabak daw uli si Atty. Joemol Molintas at si Judge del Claraval. Para Tongressman este Congressman sasabak daw ay ang incumbent na si Apo Nicasio Alipera, former Mayor and Congressman Bernardo Vergara, Businessman Mark Go, Councilor Faustino Olowan (tutuo kaya o nagpapa-imports lang tong si Konsehál Ulo?) at si dating Mayor and Businessman Peter Rey Bautista. Para Vice Mayor, of course anjan si the incumbent VM Edison Bilog, Councilor Faustino Olowan (baka VM daw, ano ba talaga Mr. Ulo, VM ba o Tongressman?), Coun. Poppo Cosalan, Coun. Ricahrd Carino, former Councilor and Businessman Tony Boy Tabora, former VM and now Councilor Lulu Tabanda samakatwid kung matuloy ito ay anjan (6) silang mag babakbakan para Bise-Mayor, kung matuloy ang bakbakan na ito ay madugo itong labanan na ito para Bise-Mayor at lima (5) na talungang ang iyak. Sa hanay nang pagka Mayor ay three (3) way fight at Tongressman este Congressman ay 4 way fight. Ayon sa aking chismosong impormante, sa kasalukuyan ay ikinombinse ng ilan mga taong may maubuting intensiyon (HA! HA! HA!) na mag slide down na lang daw si Judge Claraval from Mayor to Vice Mayor, at kung mangyari yun ay isang battle royal ang ating makikita between Domogan and Molintas, dapat sana ay mangyari na ang isang one-on-one showdown between Domogan and Molintas ng mag ka alaman na kung sino ba talaga ang the better man for the job na kursunada ng mga tanga este taga Baguio. At siyempre naman para Tongressman este Congressman, malabo mangyari ang isang one-on-one show down between Aliping and Go sapagkat si Manong Bernie ay hindi naman natin pwedeng balewalaín o isomolin sapagkat malaki pa rin naman talaga ang suporta ni Manong Bernie lalo na at may kwento-kwento ni Worthy Acosta na nadayang lang naman daw siya kaya hindi siya lumabas nang nakaraang eleksyon. **HI! HI! HI!** Lahat naman kasi ng talunan sa pol-politiko ay nadaya ng nanalo. **HI! HI! HI!** And of course anjan din si Peter Rey Bautista na mayroon din sariling mga supporters na hindi rin natin pwedeng balewalaín o isomolin. Sa susunod kong kolum ay ang listahan, haka-haka at chismis para naman sa mga tatakbo o maglalalaka para tongsehál este Konsehál ang aking tatalakayin. **ABANGAN, Adios!**

friend telling me when I told him what had happened in court. "That judge is going to decide whether or not to grant you an annulment. He is not someone you want to piss off." In the eyes of the Church and Philippine law, I had done something worse than commit a crime. I had sinned. I was reneging on sacred vows. I had desecrated the sanctity of marriage. He was right, of course. But I couldn't see that. My lawyer later told me the judge had

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Cont. on page 9

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

DFA Officials Scheming vs. Whistleblower BY: BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... Your rulers are rebels, partners with thieves..." (Isaiah 1:23, the Holy Bible).

-000- FIND THE TOYOTA AVANZA AND ITS DRIVER: The power of social networking sites to report crimes is being highlighted once more by a series of posts in Facebook about an alleged hit-and-run incident involving a silver-colored Toyota Avanza SUV whose plate number is identified as UIQ 764. The Avanza allegedly escaped after it ran over an unidentified young man who appeared wearing a school uniform, sitting on a sidewalk, with his head, face, and hands bloodied all over.

The incident, the posts by John Paul Escario and shared by other netizens indicated, happened in front of the Cypress Condominium in Taguig City. Netizens aired an appeal: please help find the Avanza and its driver! DFA OFFICIALS SCHEMING VS. WHISTLEBLOWER: Here is another portion of the plunder complaint that Reynaldo Joson, the chief of the Hygiene and Sanitation Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), accusing other top officials and ambassadors of the agency of misusing the P5 billion annual maintenance budget of the DFA for worthless and inoperable projects. Read on:

"Lately, complainant was assigned as the 'Signing Officer'. (But) the new assignment turned out to be a TRAP, designed to find fault, to oust me from the service, for being a sort of an 'agitator' to (thwart) whatever plans that the 'powerful respondents' are working on against future budgets."

"While (I was) assigned as the 'signing officer' at the passport section, respondents, particularly A/Sec Wilfredo Santos, accused me of unauthorized approval of passports without proper endorsement letters; unauthorized processing of 16 applicants for the period 27 January to 11 February 2014 who allegedly did not qualify for the courtesy lane, and falsification of public documents. What a flimsy charge.

NEW MULTI-MILLION PESO PROJECTS OF DFA LISTED: "Because of my threats to file a complaint with the Commission on Audit, Department of Justice, and/or the Ombudsman, respondents whisked the complainant to the administration department as a lowly messenger, delivering newspaper to different offices, within the DFA head office."

"During his recent assignment, complainant came to know of several DFA projects with a budgetary appropriation in the amount of Php77 million. These new projects to be undertaken, some of which have been partly paid, are as follows: supply and delivery of security inks in the initial (10%) amount of Php2,099,900.00 contracted by JURA JSPGMEH.

"Cost of the equipment in support of the electronic in the amount of Php1,669,252.00, contracted by the DFA Procurement Service; repair and rehabilitation of the storm drainage system, domestic/potable water system, sewerage system, fire hydrants; wet stand pipe and fire hoses of the DFA Building, in the amount of Php18,888,888.00 contracted by I.M. Bongcar & Co. Inc..." More next issue!

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

DIMENSIONAL ROAD

A Dead-end of GAMCA's Monopoly BY: MARVIN WACNAG LIDAWAN



"Corruption and hypocrisy ought not to be inevitable products of democracy, as they undoubtedly are today." Mohandas Gandhi

This monopolizing group's gradual disappearance from the nationwide overseas recruitment scene is a favorable news and information to fellow residents of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and to all citizens of the country who wanted employment in the Gulf Region as Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW).

Over the years, OFW's endured manipulative procedures just to pass the medical examinations to make a living in the Mid-Eastern countries. Several complaints repetitiously were brought out by activists to the public of which media have been drumbeating ever since but due to the lack of government authorities' concern, these forms of abuse over them became rampant prompting vigilant group advocates' attention to resurface and exert efforts in exposing the wide spreading dilemma.

To further understand the nature of this deviant organization, Gulf Cooperation Council -Approved Medical Centers Association (GAMCA) is a conglomeration of medical clinics authorized by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member- in the conduct of pre-deployment medical tests for Filipino applicants. Its scheme requires GCC applicants to be appointment by a centralized office upon which they will be referred to an accredited clinic. The practice is called decking system which undermines Philippine laws including but not limited to malpractices which define applicants from the different parts of the archipelago to being subjected to unusually extreme discomforts specially to those who are financially-handicapped.

And to address this predicament of successfully recruited applicants overseas, an inter-agency task force comprising the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) was delegated to reject a monopoly exercised by the GCC who accredited about nineteen (19) local medical clinics that process Filipino overseas applicants' medical examination with legal contracts bound for work in GCC member-states: Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Kuwait, Sultanate of Oman, Kingdom of Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

I am among the migrant workers in the gulf who had untoward experiences with GAMCA's decking system. As their generally-implemented procedure, all applicants' medical examination documents are submitted by a specific recruitment agency that holds the job orders from overseas employers to GAMCA. GAMCA shuffles the names of these applicants to be directed to undergo medical check-ups not of their own choices but through its recognized hospitals and clinics. In every clinic or hospital, every applicant has to undergo long, tiring and stern procedures with its area barely able to contain a crowd of thousands of applicants. In worst cases, you need to walk sidewalk to be able to move from one place to another. Long queues would take you hours to accomplish a single step. Cont. on page 9

Ending a Marriage in the Only Country That Bans Divorce

In the Philippines, a husband and wife can part only through death, or the torturous process of annulment. Ana P. Santos

The call came in the middle of a workday. My lawyer's name flashed on the caller-ID screen, and there was no small talk when I picked up.

"I have the court decision," she said. She was literally holding my future in her hands, in the form of an annulment decision we had sought for four years. After opening the envelope, she rambled a bit, skimming the contents out loud to fill the dead air.

Then she paused. "Petition approved. Congratulations!" she said. "You are now a free woman!"

I had finally gotten out of my long-dead marriage in the devoutly Catholic Philippines, the only country in the world (other than Vatican City) where divorce is not legal. Two people can voluntarily choose to love, honor, and remain faithful to each other, but in the Philippines it is pretty much only through death, or the torturously long process of annulment, that they can part.

I had walked out on my marriage five years earlier and had barely spoken with my daughter's father for just as long, but on paper he was still my husband. I was a single woman, but I was not free. My name was only half mine—all my identification papers remained in my married name. Any major purchase I made would be considered conjugal property. If I got into a new relationship, I risked being charged with adultery and jailed.

I was 28 when I left my husband, 29 when I finally decided—against my family's wishes and without their support—to file for annulment. I was 33 when I received the court decision. And on the phone that day, I felt like the oldest 33-year-old in the world.

**** Under Philippine law, two people wishing to end their marriage have limited options. They can file for legal separation, which will allow them to separate their possessions and live apart, but does not legally end a marital union and thus does not permit remarriage. They can file for divorce if they are among the estimated 5 percent of the population that is Muslim and is governed by the Code of Muslim Personal Laws.

Or they can get an annulment, which in the Philippines is a lengthy and expensive court proceeding. (An ecclesiastical annulment, granted through a Church tribunal, is a separate procedure, without which a Catholic cannot get remarried in the Church. Pope Francis has said that the Church should "streamline" this process, which can take up to a decade.) An annulment ends a marriage, but differs from divorce in important ways. The parties, for instance, must prove that the marriage was never valid to begin with. Under Philippine law, reasons can include one or both parties having been below the age of 18 when they got married, either party having an incurable sexually transmitted disease, or cases of polygamy or mistaken identity.

Divorce has not always been banned in the Philippines. The Spanish colonizers who ruled the island until the late 19th century imposed their own Catholic traditions, allowing "relative divorce," or legal separation, in cases involving adultery or one spouse joining a religious order. But the relevant law declared that "so great is the tie and force of marriage, that when legally contracted, it cannot be dissolved even if one of the Cont. on page 6