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**MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!** BAGUIO CITY, BENGUET, AND THE REST OF THE CORDILLERAS, La Union ILOCOS Provinces

**Pahayagang palabanan!!!**  
**Council considers declaring  
 Jadewell boss persona non grata**

BAGUIO CITY- The Chief Executive Officer of the Jadewell Parking Systems Corporation, Rogelio

Tan, might be declared persona non grata by the members of the City Council, should he not refrain from using defamatory words against our local officials.

The DPWH-Baguio City District Engineering Office (BCDEO) in a letter dated June 10 directed Jadewell to voluntarily

remove parking signs installed in national roads, without the consent of the BCDEO and the Traffic Division of the Baguio Police.

BCDEO OIC District Engineer Nestor Nicolas said to Rogelio Tan in the said letter that, the move of the privately operated parking firm is a "flagrant violation" of Presidential Decree No. 17, Section 23, otherwise known as Prohibition

**COUNCIL MULLS...**  
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**Closure of Bingo operations at Rabbit sinkhole, too late?** **on page 2**

Demolished at last! After months of complaining and waiting, the structure at Tabora Park used for Bingo and illegambling was finally ordered to be demolished by the City Mayor. But isn't it too late? Story on page 2.

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**Engr's Hill residents protest presence of smoke emission testing center** **on page 7**

**PRANGKAHAN TAYO**  
 Vergara -tama na, sobra na;  
 Walang sawang demolition job kay Lacson  
 Ni KENSHI

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 Call: (074) 620-0641, 448-0645 mobile phones: (0919) 5890486 or (0917) 6620374, or you can write to P.O. Box 1588, 2600 Baguio City e-mail: contact@linisgobyerno.org  
 Linis Gobyerno is an anti-graft, corruption prevention and detection office.

## DPWH officials told to reconsider on fly-over construction

BAGUIO CITY-Councilor Braulio Yaranon asked DPWH Secretary Florante M. Soriquez through the Regional Director to first look into some provisions of the law, which may have been overlooked before giving his approval to a project with incomplete funds.

In his letter dated June 25, he cited among others the Revised Administrative Code of 1987, particularly Sections 46, 47, and 48 respectively, where it requires that no contract for any proposed project may be entered into unless there is an appropriation which is sufficient to cover the proposed project, and that the accounting official must certify that there

indeed is an available amount.

He particularly emphasized Section 48 of the said code which states: "No contract involving the expenditure of public funds shall be entered into or authorized unless the proper accounting official of the agency concerned shall have certified to the officer entering into the obligation that funds have been duly appropriated for the purpose and that the amount necessary to cover the proposed contract for the current calendar year is available for expenditure on account thereof, subject to verification by the auditor concerned."

This provision he said is clearly vio-

**DPWH OFFICIALS ...p. 6**

## Call 117 when there's an emergency

BAGUIO CITY-Telephone number 117. Remember and dial those three numbers in case of emergency. It is a lifeline which can save you, your loved ones, other people and property during situations needing immediate attention.

If you can't recall 117, relate the numbers to the two winning throws in crap, which are 11 and 7 or the popular 24-hour convenience store chain named after the dice game. This is simpler than trying to recall or looking for the seven-digit line in your emergency listing or the thick directory, if you can get hold of it.

When you call 117, the initial response will be: "117. What is your emergency?" The operator will then get the details and state

her/his code number. If there is no emergency, the operator will say, "Sorry, this number is for emergency only. Goodbye".

"Don't get into trouble by making prank calls, unless you want to be traced," Mayor Bernardo Vergara warned. Like your cellular phone, the system registers the caller's identification number.

This is no crap, at least here in Baguio, and later anywhere else in the country once the system is all over. It's called "People's Action Team Responding On-Line (PATROL)", a brain-child of the Department of the Interior and the Foundation for Crime Prevention, with support from the phone firms, police and fire stations, National

Telecommunications Commission and local governments. Patterned after the "911" hotline in the United States, the free emergency calling service is now in operation here. Based at the local fire station, it is manned by personnel trained to immediately direct your emergency call to the police, the hospital, or even to the City Disaster Coordinating Council.

City Administrator Jose Taguba said it is geared towards establishing 117 as the uniform national emergency numbers, given the fact that different quick-response agencies and localities have their own numbers. Here, you dial 160 for the fire department, 166 for the police, 169 for the Baguio General Hospital.

**CALL 117 ...p. 6**

## Over 100 market stalls ordered closed for lack of business permit

BAGUIO CITY-Mayor Bernardo Vergara has ordered the closure of more than 100 stalls at the city market after these were found to be operating without business permits.

The number of stalls for closure is expected to increase as inspections spearheaded by the licensing office led by Cristo Lagyop of the city treasurer's office continue.

Lagyop said they intend to expand the inspections to other areas within the central business district to ensure that business establishments are paying the correct taxes and complying with the city laws on safety and sanitation.

Lagyop said the market stall up for closure numbering about 123 as of Friday were

found to be delinquent in paying their business taxes. These stalls were inspected after market office head Corazon Garlejo submitted a list of stalls with tax delinquencies.

The closure operation will begin next week, according to Lagyop.

Mayor Vergara issued a standing order for a crackdown on illegal business operations in the city to help boost the city's campaign for increased revenues.

Vergara said the city has adopted procedures on the closure of illegal business operations as set by the city treasurer's office under city treasurer Thelma Manaois.

The procedure is as follows:

- Non-complying business firms will be issued a notice to comply with the re-

quirements and will be notified of their violations or delinquencies. They will be given ten days to comply;

- After ten days, the concerned office shall assign its own people to follow-up compliance by the business establishment;

- If the business establishment still fails to comply after ten days, the concerned office submits its recommendation for closure to the permits and licensing division (PLD) which will issue the notice to stop operation; and

- The PLD will check on the establishment after five days if it has complied with the requirements. If not, an administrative order will be signed by the city mayor for closure and will be implemented immediately./

**Aileen P. Refuerzo**

## Closure of Bingo operations at Rabbit sinkhole, too late?

BAGUIO CITY-Finally, the Office of the City Mayor ordered the dismantling of bingo stalls at the former Rabbit sinkhole. Last Friday, June 27, the city's demolition team has already acted on an earlier memorandum of the Mayor that should the operator fail to voluntarily dismantle the structure, it would mean the confiscation of paraphernalia's and demolition.

In an interview with the Executive Assistant to the Mayor Josefino Balatero, the order for the demolition came about when, despite giving due notice to the operator of the Bingo games to

voluntarily dismantle the stalls, the operation still continued.

The earlier directive that bingo games shall only be allowed in the area if the prizes to be used will come in-kind, and not cash, was violated. "Persistent complaints, including media inquiries, have reached this office which allege the conduct of illegal gambling at the Tabora Park area aside from the so-called family-oriented bingo," the mayor said in his Memorandum to City Director Francisco Manalo, dated June 23. Apparently, the Mayor was referring to the letters and exposes of

Linis Gobyerno Inc., through this paper.

The office of the City Mayor also clarified earlier published reports that they approved the extension of operation of the said bingo operations. Furthermore, the office of the City Treasurer never issued a business permit for its operation, and no one forged the signature of the Mayor.

As of May 30, based on the report of Major Ramon Tegui-in, the Mayor has placed a marginal notation directing BCPO Director Francisco Manalo to "close down immediately and arrest opera-

**CLOSURE OF BINGO...p. 6**

## PEZA acts on alleged toxic water emission from BCEPZ firms

BAGUIO CITY: The Philippine Economic Zone Authority is undertaking short term solutions amidst reported allegation of toxicity of the wastewater by the Baguio City Economic Zone companies.

On May 14, the Environment Management Board of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the region conducted an investigation on the basis of an appeal made by the officials of Barangay Loakan-Liwanag, the result indicating among others that "there was no pervasive odor noted."

BCEZ Administration Sansaluna Pinagayao disclosed that the short term solutions include among others undertaking a monthly clean-up drive along the Bued River, the installation of a carbon filtration system and requiring

BCEZ companies to undertake the same.

Pinagayao said that while the STP is the long term solution to the problems of foul odor at the creek and the presence of some mineral wastes that are used in the operation of the companies, these short term solutions are in place to ensure continuous compliance to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources standards.

"To show our commitment for a balanced ecological development and in the protection of the environment, we are implementing our short term solutions pending the construction of the STP," the administrator said.

Pinagayao stated that will undertake a monthly clean-up drive and fumigation at the creek to prevent from making it stagnant and polluted

in cooperation with the locators inside the zone and nearby barangays. He added that agreement was already made with the Loakan Liwanag Barangay council for the clean-up activity at the said creek allowing continuous flow of wastewater and minimizing pollution. Initial undertaking was made last Friday, June 28.

He disclosed that PEZA would install a carbon filtration system of the domestic wastewater pending construction of sewerage treatment plant (STP) aims at totally eliminating the foul odor coming from the standard factory building (SFB) septic tank.

Companies operating within the BCEZ that contribute in the acidity of the wastewater flowing to the creek, was required to have a coagulation or filtration system, Pinagayao added.

The administrator said that the con-

## La Trinidad identifies site of new public cemetery

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET-The public cemetery in this capital town of Benguet is already overcrowded!

In last Monday's regular session of the Sangguniang Bayan of La Trinidad, Vice Mayor Arturo Galwan has offered a parcel of land owned by his family, to serve as site for the public cemetery of said municipality. He however chose not to disclose the location, pending final approval of the Sangguniang Bayan.

Although the site is yet to be finalized and deliberated on, Galwan said is the most ideal for a public cemetery, as it is far from residential areas. In fact, majority of the members of the

struction of the P95 million STP government project for purposes of environment containing or delimiting the volume of wastes generated by

PEZA...p. 12

Sanggunian have given a favorable review and all that is left to be ironed out is the question on technicalities and permits that need confirmation and affirmation from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Since 1999, it has already been an incessant complaint among the residents of La Trinidad that the town does not even have a decent place to bury their loved ones who have already passed away. Every time they visit the grave of a departed relative, more often than not, the tomb is missing, or is now being used by others.

Given the conservatism of Filipinos in taking care even of dead relatives, the use of apartment types of tombs is not exactly popular or appreciated. Although Filipinos are slowly accepting cremation many would still prefer the conventional and traditional

way of burying their dead.

Aside from expenses is the paper work and legwork. All documents such as the death certificate, and permits from the local government, plus a certification from the Municipal, Provincial, or City Health Office must also be included. Furthermore, the passage of the Clean Air Act made it all the more difficult for pending bills in Congress regarding cremation as an easier option for individuals who choose cremation as an easier option.

Galwan said inasmuch, as they want to pass a resolution regarding the subject, they also have to consider other laws, which may be inconsistent with existing laws. While waiting for our solons to come up with better proposals, the local officials of La Trinidad have to prepare a place for their departed loved ones. / RAO

## Happy Hallow is Baguio KALAHI site: folk press ancestral title

BAGUIO CITY: After waiting for almost two decades, residents of Barangay Happy Hallow are hopeful that they will get their wish for the issuance of their ancestral land domain title under the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Speaking before the representatives and officials of various government line agencies during the National Anti-Poverty Commission Ulat sa Bayan and launching of Kalahi program in the area, Barangay Captain Joseph Sacley lamented non-issuance of land title de-

spite documentation made by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of its 250 hectares back in 1990.

Sacley recalled that of the 120 hectares within the Camp John Hay measuring about 76.7 was the only portion that became part of Happy Hallow. He said that despite request of the national government during the Marcos regime, some 49 hectares is still under the direct control of Base Convention Development Authority or within the CJH area. "This area should have been part of our

HAPPY HALLOW...p.

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**BENGUET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Alapang, La Trinidad, Benguet

"Courteous Service Is Our Way of Life"

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### NOTICE OF BENECO BOARD ELECTIONS

We wish to inform our member-consumers that elections for Board of Directors representing District V (Bokod/Kabayan/Buguias), District VI (Itogon), District XI (Mankayan/Kibungan/Bakun) will be held on **July 26, 2003**.

Any interested and qualified member desiring to run for directorship in the BENECO Board may secure the needed forms from the Institutional Services Department with office at Alapang, La Trinidad, Benguet.

Deadline for filing of certificates of candidacy is on **July 11, 2003** at 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon. Only members of the cooperative whose applications for membership have been approved by the BENECO Board of Directors on or before April 26, 2003 are qualified to participate in this forthcoming Board elections.

Exercise your right as a member of BENECO. Cast your vote during the district elections on July 26, 2003.

MANAGEMENT

## Gambling

Finally, Mayor Bernardo Vergara ordered the demolition of the gambling den (in the guise of family bingo) located at Tabora Park.

While some may see this move as noteworthy, we entertain some doubts, because the Mayor's order came in too late, practically at the end of the duration of the permit given to the gambling operator.

To say the least, we believe that the Mayor's order is already moot and academic, or useless in plain language.

The Mayor could have acted some months or weeks ago, but no, he waited until the end of the month. Isn't it that the extension of one month granted to the operator ends next week? Few days of "early" termination of the gambling operation means a lot to the operator, the Mayor may reason out.

But the question remains. Why only now? When in fact as early as February, Linis Gobyerno, has raised the issue (through this paper), and sent him a formal communication informing him of the illegal gambling in the area in the guise of bingo fund raising. He was also informed that since the year 2001, this has been the modus operandi of the operators of the illegal gambling, with the Punong Barangay in cahoots.

The complaining group, Linis Gobyerno, never heard from the Mayor regarding their first letter. ABC President Raffy Panagan, however, explained that should he have known that he is just being used by these unscrupulous gambling operators, he should not have endorsed the activity.

But that was just temporary. Days after, another operator took over. And again, it was the Baguio City Police Office that responded to our call. Not the Mayor.

Thus the temporary stoppage of the gambling activities.

But as it is, it is just temporary. So that on May, another operator took over, and the officials of Lower Magsaysay Barangay made a Barangay resolution endorsing the said activity, again, for their fund raising purportedly to buy reflectorized jackets, night sticks, etc... (same items that were identified to be purchased out of the February bingo fund raising). Apparently, this time, the Barangay concerned tried to get a special permit. And while they started their operation, no permit was yet issued then, again making the securing a permit, moot and academic.

Reliable information reached us that the operator requested for an extension, which will end by first of July, just in time for the rainy season.

With this sequence of events, we cannot help but think, all these are meant to show that the Executive has done its part. It's all for show, and insulting at that, aside from it leaving a bad taste in the mouth. Too late, however, because a complaint was already filed at the OMB as early as June 19, against Punong Branagay Fidel Oyan and Mayor Vergara.

## EDITORIAL

### FASTRACK

Greedy!

BY FREDDIE J. FARRES

#### Part 2

The previous topic of this column touched on the why's and the how's of the present generous discounts (as high as 60%) being given by Ms. Connie Tongawan of the ATM Insurance Agency on motor car insurance.

As anticipated, Ms. Tongawan will be vilified, haranged and harassed by those individuals who were affected by her latest move. Information has reached this columnist that allegedly, the LTO La Trinidad office was among the first to harass Ms. Tongawan by way of putting pressure on the smoke testing at Pico La Trinidad to meddle into the affairs of the branch office of ATM Insurance located very near the testing center.

There have also been allegedly other forms of harassment orchestrated by the LTO Baguio office together with its accomplices by way of various hassles caused to persons who choose to patronize the insurance policies issued by ATM Insurance and other loose talk, small talk as to the credibility, motives and intent of Ms. Tongawan (this columnist included) for having done so. Well, what's new?

Connie brace yourself for more harassment and other hassles to come. Although I do find it unfortunate that the Baguio LTO head Ms. Teodora Caguicla happened to get dragged into this mess, although she may have been the subject of a recent entrapment by the Mission X and the CIDG, I however am convinced and have strong reason to believe that she should not have been the target of the entrapment operation, instead it should have been her boss. As I have said in my previous column, if they got my advise prior to the entrapment, I would have advised them to go after her boss. Why is this so? Teodora Caguicla simply gets her marching orders from her boss, the DOTC-CAR Director, try asking her.

Now to get back to the title of this column "GREEDY", I actually based this only on the sharing or should we call scheming- scheme of the top DOTC/LTO officials on the insurance racket. It turns out based on the previous column of a fellow columnist who goes by the name of Kenshi (Prangkahan Tayo) my interpretation on his column is that he listed twelve (12) items of alleged possible sources of GRAFT and or CORRUPTION by the DOTC-CAR Director (perhaps we should term it as Extra Income for use of a kinder term), if true then my column title, use of the word greedy in a sense is an understatement.

Now, to qualify the information alleged by Kenshi in his previous column, I personally made an effort this week to verify (document, written and on tape) on a first hand basis through various sources the alleged

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## EPIRA: Two Years of Bogus Energy Reform

Due to the IMF-WB imposed Structural Adjustment Programs (liberalization, deregulation, and privatization), the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo regime railroaded the loophole-ridden Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) which was passed on June 26, 2001.

On the second year of the law, new issues unfold, making the EPIRA extremely insignificant.

Chie Galvez, the Deputy Secretary-General of Tongtongan Ti Umili (TTU) and convener of People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (POWER-Baguio), deemed that "its Declaration of Policy stating a transparent and reasonable prices of electricity runs counter to the reality of abusive monopolies ensuring their profits at the expense of the consumers."

"In a desperate attempt to silence the growing struggle against higher electricity rates, the government ordered for the unbundled rates, which include the components of the basic charge. However, the implementation of the unbundled rates was used by distribution utilities like Meralco to demand for rate hikes."

"At the national level, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) has approved another rate hike for Meralco's customers despite the prior ruling of the Supreme Court for Meralco to refund more than P30 billion in overcharges. Similarly, these uncontrollable rate hikes would soon be felt in the local level when the Benguet Electric Cooperative (BENECO) is converted to a privately owned corporation," Galvez added.

Further, Galvez stated that, "with or without the Power Purchase Adjustment (PPA) in our electric bill, we are still paying for unconsumed electricity. This is because the PPA was concealed in the generation charge and remains a burden in any other name. Moreover, a new mechanism by the ERC aiming for the continuous collection of PPA would worsen the consumer's burden. The Generation Rate Adjustment Mechanism (GRAM) is bound to make the generation charge much higher."

With these utmost concerns the people are badly in need for an immediate relief. "It is in this light that we, from Tongtongan Ti Umili-Cordillera Peoples Alliance and POWER, together with all the democratic sectors in Metro-Baguio reiterate our strong opposition against higher electricity rates. With the democratic cause for consumer protection, we therefore demand for the scrapping of EPIRA, we demand for the abolition of PPA, and we demand for the nationalization of the country's energy industry," Galvez concluded./POWER

### FASTRACK

...from p.4

information. Herewith I am printing my findings and assessment :

1. **Extra Income from INSURANCE**- confirmed info, just ask Connie Tongawan and company

2. **Extra Income from Drug Testing Agencies** – confirmed info, although informer requests for anonymity for as long as Dir. Mondiguing is still DOTC Director.

3. **Extra Income from Medical Testing (for new driver's license)** - confirmed info, although informer requests for anonymity for as long as Dir. Mondiguing is still DOTC Director.

4. **Extra Income from Flying Squad** – cannot confirm info from present Flying Squad members (for obvious reasons), however, former member of Flying Squad stated that it is standard operating procedure (SOP) and/or standard practice.

5. **Extra Income from Bus Companies**- cannot confirm info, however complaint filed by Linis Gobyerno for non-action, tolerance of colorum buses presently filed at the OMB against Dir. Mondiguing on this issue, good as confirmed.

6. **Extra Income from Garage Cars**- confirmed info, through research of Linis Gobyerno otherwise blatant and numerous operation of colorum garage cars will not be tolerated by Dir. Mondiguing.

7. **Extra Income from LTRFB public transportation franchises**- confirmed info, through research of Linis Gobyerno, presently also the subject of complaint filed by Linis Gobyerno at the OMB and PAGC vs. Dir.

## MOSH PIT

Preserving Baguio

BY GRACE BANDOY

The preservation of Baguio lies on the hands of its citizens says our local officials. Just what the hell are they talking about?! Do they know what the hell they're saying?! The citizens of Baguio are doing every teeny-weeny bit we can to preserve Baguio, its environment and its culture! Baguio residents (the hardcore, original citizens of Baguio who TRULY love the city) don't want traffic, pollution, squatting, malls, overpasses, flyovers, cemented pine trees and diggings. And these are all the stuff that's destroying Baguio today!

And in case you are wondering how all these destructive elements came about, why don't you ask our respective local Government officials! They certainly know why our city is so damn polluted and overpopulated and why all these humongous malls are sprouting here and there and why the trees are disappearing and tourist spots of the city are becoming like peryas. They hold the answers to why Baguio is becoming ugly and now they are telling us that the preservation of Baguio lies in the hands of its citizens????!! Ano ba sila?!

We the citizens are doing our part, maniwala kayo. We love Baguio more than our city officials do. They have this way greater responsibility in taking care of the city than we do. We the citizens can plant trees on empty lands but the officials can easily sell the land and destroy all the trees and build a mall on it. So don't tell us that preserving Baguio should start from us.

It should start and end from you because even if you don't tell us to protect and preserve Baguio we still will and we always have been. It is you the local officials who have the say if you really want Baguio to remain beautiful. We can only do as little because we can readily give up our lives so they won't cut those trees to build SM but YOU people have the power to tell SM to go on. It is so obvious that the future of Baguio becoming a total ruin depends on YOU. We have been doing our part and we will never cease and its time you start doing yours too.

Mondiguing on this issue.

8. **Extra Income from Smoke Testing** – confirmed info, spoke to a businessman who intended to operate a smoke testing in Baguio and/or CAR (but backed out) he alleges that part of the deal is for a percentage of the smoke testing fees to go to the DOTC higher ups.

9. **Extra Income from LTRFB Lawyers**- cannot confirm info, no lawyer willing to confirm if willing to be quoted for this purpose, if off the record then that's another story.

10. **Extra Income from LTO Licensing and Vehicle Registration**- cannot confirm info, no LTO employee willing to be quoted for this purpose, if off the record then that's another story

11. **Extra Income from bidding and awards scam of DOTC Projects**- just read the previous headline story of this paper, certified, confirmed I believe so.

12. **Extra Income from RTAS** – confirmed info, just read previous affidavit complaints executed by 18 complainants against the DOTC Director and some RTAS employees, (partial)complaints presently pending at the OMB.

Now, somebody please tell me, did I choose a lousy column title for this and the previous column?



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