

THE JUNCTION

WEEKEND

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

Pahayagang palaban!!!

Mayor extends early curfew for minors but acts blind on Jueteng



PATINTERO- City Administrator Peter Fianza shows off his form during a patintero with pupils of Phases Learning Center initiated by the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children and Television and the Baguio Museum featuring various local children's play.- Eugene Valbuena photo

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. last week extended the effectivity of the expanded curfew time for minors until the same is made permanent via a city council legislation.

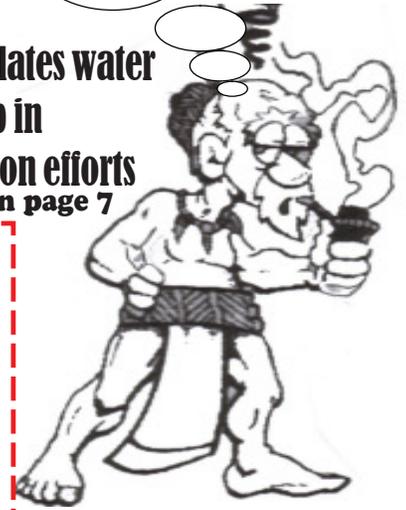
The mayor issued Executive Order No. 4 prolonging the implementation of Executive Order No. 1, which implements a 30-day experiment on the imposition of curfew for minors in the city from 7 pm. To 5 a.m. The experiment began last July 23 and was scheduled to end last August 22.

“In order to continue the imposition of said Curfew for Minors pending the passage of the Amendatory Ordinance...”

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

On Jueteng, Environment, Economics, and Society

BY ARTURO BOQUIREN



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Dalicno small scale miners oppose diamond drilling

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet – The Dalicno Community Traditional Small-Scale Miners Association is opposing the proposed Diamond Drilling by the Itogon-Suyoc Mines, Inc. (ISMI) as it will affect the water supply of the community and the source of livelihood of the small scale miners.

The provincial board passed a resolution strongly supporting and endorsing the Mines and Geo-Sci-

ences Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Cordillera Administrative Region on the request of the Dalicno Community Traditional Small-Scale Miners Association opposing the proposed Diamond Drilling by the Itogon-Suyoc Mines, Inc. (ISMI) at Dalicno Watershed Area. The board is also requesting the MGB-DENR-CAR to impose the necessary require-

ments prior to any drilling or mining activity within the area. One of the recommendations of the committee on environment and natural resources is to request the MGB-DENR-CAR to see if the association was issued permits and if other requirements were complied with.

The Itogon municipal council also endorsed Resolution Number 14 of the association to MGB-DENR-CAR./ S.C. Aro/PIA-Benguet

Truckers, traders seek SP intervention for accident-prone portions of Marcos Highway

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet – The Benguet Truckers and Traders' Association (BTTA) is seeking the assistance of the provincial board in calling the attention of the Department of Public Works and Highways to implement remedial measures on some accident-prone portions of the Marcos Highway.

Referred to the Committee on Infrastructure, the association is urging the provincial board to pass a resolution asking the DPWH to restructure the road to become more vehicle-friendly.

BTTA is particu-

larly concerned with the slippery portion along Marcos Highway which traverses from the Suello gas station in front of the Green Valley gate down to the bridge along Badiwan, Tuba.

BTTA President Benito Hipolito claimed that experienced drivers declared that the structure of the road is one of the factors causing accidents.

Hipolito said that the road is too steep and slippery and dangerous especially during the rainy season. Drivers encounter difficulty in maneuvering their vehicles in the slippery and sloping portions.

The association

outlined some factors to be considered in the remedial measure such as construction of rest or flat portions on strategic areas of the highway to serve as a rest area for vehicles going up or down.

There should also be more rumble strips on the highway to alert drivers and keep them on guard and awake while driving. The slippery portions of the road should be scraped or other necessary to make safe the stretch of the road, the group recommended. If the recommendations will be considered in improving it would save lives and properties, according to BTTA. / S.C. Aro/PIA-Benguet

Professionals' group assists schools in Mt. Prov.

BONTOC, Mt. Province – A group of professionals in the province calling itself the Action Center for Enhancement and Social Services (ACCESS), is giving assistance to some elementary schools in the province in support to government's priority concern for education

According to Norberto Cobaldez, a Board of Director of this organization, the ACCESS is a non-government organization tied up with the Educational Research and Development Assistance (ERDA) in Manila supportive to the educational development program of the national government.

ACCESS has been operating for four years now and has

benefited 168 identified elementary pupils in the elementary schools of Alunugan and Santa Isabel of Natonin; Kadaclan and Lias of Barlig; Tocucan, Dalican, Can-ao, and Guinaang of Bontoc and 25 pre-school pupils of Gguina-ang, Bontoc.

Cobaldez said for the school year 2007-2008, the organization has increased the number of beneficiaries to 200 pupils. The increase of 32 pupils come from two additional elementary schools namely Betwagan of Sadanga and Puyao of Natonin. The 25 slots for preschoolers will now be transferred to Pudo Pre-School of Natonin.

He disclosed

that the assistance given to identified beneficiaries who belong to low-income families include school uniforms, school bags, notebooks and other school supplies provided by ERDA. These are augmented by the ACCESS members who contribute to produce whatever is lacking and for other miscellaneous expenses like the delivery of goods to the beneficiaries and during program monitoring.

In a related development, the Department of Science and Technology-Mt. Province headed by Provincial Science and Technology Officer Norberto Cobaldez, turned over to the Department of Education thru the chairman of the Provincial School Board/Provincial Literacy Coordinating

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SEE NO JUETENG, HEAR NO JUETENG, SPEAK NO JUETENG



JUETENG

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(SGD) Odell P. Aquino
The Junction- OIC



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Boxing is not the only sports Filipinos can excel

LAGAWE, Ifugao – Although our nation celebrate in jubilation the resounding victory of our Filipino boxers pitted against their Mexican opponents in the just concluded World Boxing Cup held at the Arco Arena in Sacramento, California, a Fugato sports aficionado believes that there are still other sports where Filipinos can excel.

Emiliano Dinamling of the Provincial Planning and Development Office and a sports enthusiast said that if only our government try to diversify and focus on other sports events such as soccer and athletics where many talents are still undiscovered, then our country can garner more world honors aside from boxing.

It is true that many Filipinos have already shown their prowess in boxing and billiards and

bringing home successive honors despite little support from our sports agencies, but much more can be attained if support to other events is expanded where our citizens can exhibit their talents and skills for better choices, he said.

He believes there are many Filipinos out there waiting to be discovered like in the field of soccer and athletics if only our sports development program will extend its myopic eye to consider them by giving a greater thrust on them.

The unfortunate thing is that our sports agenda concentrate more on sports events where height is a great factor like basketball and pouring much fund to it only to find out that we are not globally competitive with it however, per-

sistent we are. Because of our obsession with basketball, other sports events where we can have at least a fighting chance are neglected, he lamented.

Dinamling said that he is optimistic that endeavoring to other sports where real Filipino talent exist and providing a realistic program and support for its development can result to more discovery of great Filipino athletes.

Like our victorious Filipino boxers, they too can serve as role models for our youth while inspiring the rest of us to work hard for a more united and triumphant future.

Hence, if these will materialize, we can sincerely join our President Gloria Arroyo in leading our country to congratulate them as a "symbol of Filipino excellence and persistence", he also remarked. /Dan B. Codamon/PIA Ifugao

Balikatan sa Kaunlaran conducts governance training for women leaders

BAGUIO CITY – Politically inclined women here can enhance their governing and leadership skills and heighten their chance of winning come barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections this October.

This as the city government through the Office of the City Social Welfare and Development (OCSWDO) in partnership with Balikatan sa Kaunlaran Baguio Chapter, the umbrella organization of women's group here, will conduct Women in Governance Seminar to provide women barangay officers and women who want to run in SK election leader-

ship background on barangay affairs.

Slated on Tuesday afternoon, August 21, at the City Multipurpose Hall, the seminar also aims to show women various styles of leadership in barangay and how to win in the election.

Betty Fangasan, secretary of Balikatan sa Kaunlaran and OCSWDO head, said that Balikatan, as a partner NGO, serves in anyway that affects women.

Aside from the governance seminar, Balikatan also empowers women through its livelihood projects and

trainings on reproductive health, Fangasan said.

As one of the 12 recipients nationwide of an Avon grant, Balikatan sa Kaunlaran Baguio Chapter will also receive P100,000 to be used for programs on Reproductive Health among indigent women.

Other projects supported by Balikatan for this year include orientation in four barangays for project implementation, parenting seminar in September, activities for United Nations Day celebrations, and the launching of the Search for Best Barangay Women's Group in November. /Alf S.J. Tulagan/PIA-CAR

DOLE discourages 'Fly Now Pay Later' scheme

TABUK CITY – The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) here is banning recruitment agencies from offering applicants for work abroad the 'Fly Now Pay Later (FNPL) scheme'.

The reason for this development, according to DOLE Provincial Officer, Dr. Avelina Manganip, is that the scheme had placed several Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in compromising and very crucial situation especially domestic helpers deployed in Middle East countries.

"We are greatly discouraging OFWs to apply through this scheme considering that most of those offering this plan are employers from the Middle East where a large number of maltreatment and cases of abuse are reported," Dr. Manganip said.

With this scheme, the OFWs have no choice but to concede with the Foreign Agency (FA) who handles them in case they meet problems or want to retract a contract. This is because

the FA had already paid the 20% of the placement fee, she explained.

"So if in case the OFW does not like her employer, she has to bear with the conditions of the FA to look for another employer placing the OFW in a compromising situation," she related.

Manganip also disclosed that with this scheme, a scam is in the offing. She informed that FAs had formulated the 3 in 1 scheme wherein the FA will pay three OFWs from a recruitment agency for the FA to have a spare in case an OFW previously placed asked to be transferred to another employer.

This scheme she said also limits the freedom of the OFW to ask for help from either the recruitment agency and their families in case problems arise since they are considered 'paid' through this condition, thus they have to work until the FAs get back the value of their money.

Another disadvantage of the FNPL is that the FA collects from the OFW and the recruitment agency, resulting to a very small net pay

during the term or contract, so the OFW could barely send any amount to her family back home, she disclosed.

Manganip appealed to the overseas applicants to seek the assistance of DOLE for proper information as she advises applicants to better apply in the province through the Provincial Recruitment Authority (PRA) or the Special Recruitment Authority (SRA) to ensure that they undergo the proper documentation process aside from the assurance that their recruiters are legal and authorized.

At the moment, Manganip said they can hardly determine if there are OFWs from Kalinga who were deployed through FNPL scheme since applicants are going directly to Manila and most of those who went to Middle East countries are undocumented.

"Our kababayan no matter how hard life is should not sac

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Ifugao reports P242M crop damage due to drought

LAGAWE, Ifugao – The provincial government through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAG) has reported total crop damage caused by the abnormal dry weather amounting to P241,999,551.15 covering four municipalities in the province. Micheal Tegui-in, Crop Damage Report Officer disclosed the municipalities of Aguineldo, Alfonso Lista, Lamut and Lagawe as those

with damaged crops with Alfonso Lista the most affected.

Based on the latest reports submitted by the Municipal Agriculture Offices, a total of 14,371 farmers who planted rice, corn, vegetables and fruit trees were affected.

Tegui-in said the insufficient water during the vegetative and reproductive stages of rice and corn respectively has either stunted the growth or damaged these crops. These stunted and or damaged

crops have few kernels and or small ears, he added.

Reports show that a bigger portion of the number of hectares planted with rice and corn have a lesser chance of recovery especially in Aguineldo, Alfonso Lista and Lagawe. However, with the waning of dry spell, we hope some of their crops will be saved from more damages, Tegui-in said. /Jina Shirley G. Dacmay/PIA Ifugao

Jueteng and the Church

Bishop Oscar Cruz has finally said it all. That the Catholic Church is receiving money from gambling lords we have said this before.... And we got chastised.

People just cannot believe it ... or they refuse to accept it we were viewed as demonizing the church. Now, it's already a respected Bishop taking. It is not we are against the Catholic Church. As

EDITORIAL a matter of fact, this is not just about the Catholic Church, but the other sects as well.

With this, we have respect for the group, Dating Daan (at least in this aspect). This group makes it a point to qualify the source of destinations.

The religious groups that do not qualify the source of donations justify that the source no longer matter because the money is being used for good cause, anyhow. Some even say that those donations were given anonymously, and that there is no way for them to be able to determined who gave and from what or where the source. But does not stand. Bishop Cruz was right when he said that the gambling lords do not "donate" spare change.

They give a considerable amount, and regularly, and most of the time, they have to (in any way) make the church leader know who the source is. They may not say the money came from jueteng or from gambling, but only a naïve person will not be able to determined that.

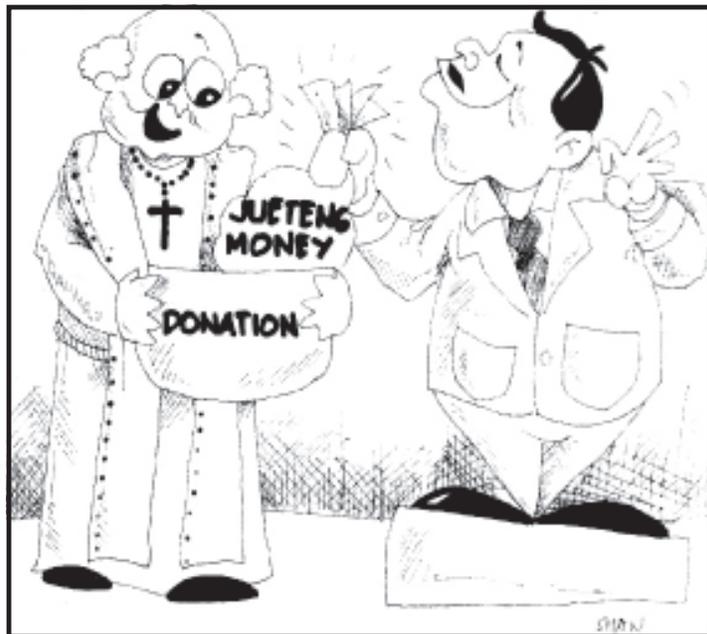
How can the church help in putting a stop to this menace called jueteng and gambling if they are accepting money from its operations? How can they say to their flock not to gamble, when the group itself is benefiting from it? Does this not explain why jueteng, cannot be stop? It is enough that the church leader talks about gambling as a sin the pulpit. A church leader must do what he preaches. This is very basic.

We believe in the power of the church or the religious sector. We have seen how they worked, and effectively at that. If only they really rally against jueteng, we believe this will be stopped.

It's too bad, that very few people are willing to go open against it. A voice in the wildness, so to speak, because the rest are silenced by glittering of jueteng money, the media, the local government, the police, not excluded.

As for this paper, we are proud to say that we do not receive a single cent (or a fraction of it) from jueteng and other illegal activities. This may be the reason why up to now, we exist... and we survived.

(This is a re-print of the JUNCTION EDITORIAL - January 22-28, 2005)



DIRETSAHAN

Mga Iligal at ATBP.....

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



NABUBUWISIT at NANGHIHINAYANG tayo mga suki habang pinapanood natin sa telebisyon ang pagdurog ng mga UNGAS at SIRALONG mga tiga costumes sa mga nahuli at naimbak na mga mamahaling mga "imported luxury vehicles". Marami rami na rin sana itong nabibiling de lata at noodles kung maibenta ang mga ito na siyang maipapamahagi sana sa marami nating mahihirap at nagugutom na kababayan. Pero mukhang walang habag at konsyensya itong mga IPOKRITONG sipsip kay pangulong GMA. Kung tutuusin kase ay pwede naman silang mag "no and explain" kay "el" Presidente pero hindi, at nagbow wow wow na parang mga tuta sa kanilang amo.

Oo nga't nadurog nila itong mga naipuslit na sasakyan, pero nasaan ang mga nangpuslit? Nasaan din ang mga kaalyado at protector? Nahuli ba at nadurog? Magpapakitang gilad din lamang, sablay naman! Kung alam lang sana itong mga HINAYUPAK na tiga customs at kanilang amo, na PUSO ng mga madlang pinoy ang kanilang dinudurog habang napapanood sa TV ang pagdurog nila sa mga mamahaling sasakyan na pwede naman nila sanang mapakinabangan, pero sa tingin ko mga suki, walang KARGODE KONSYENSYA ang sira-ulo di ba? Pweehhh sila!!!

ooOoo

HULI MAN DAW AY NAIHAHABOLDIN natin ang ating saltik mga suki sa isyu ng pag-imbata ng konseho sa mga opisyal ng kapulisan sa Baguio at Kordilyera para ipaliwanag kumbakit nabigo ang mga pulis na ipahinto ang "Jueteng". Hini ko personal na nasaksihan ang nangyaring "Balitaktakan" sa naturang sesyon, pero ako ay nagalak dahil, kahit papaano ay nagbigay ng kaukulang atensyon, ang konseho sa isyu ng Jueteng!! Ang mga opisyal ng pulis na dumalo at nagbigay ng kani kanilang panig ay sina Superintendent Moises Guevarra, inspector Fernando Moyaen at Wilfredo Franco. Maraming palusot itong mga pulis opisyal na kesyo hindi naman daw sila nagpapabaya sa kanilang tungkulin na katunayan ay marami na raw silang nahuling mga "kubrador" (eh bakit mga kubrador lang?) at ayaw naman daw "kumanta" itong mga kubradores kung sino ang kanilang opereytor at pinsyer! Oows... sigurado ba kayong hindi ninyo alam o kilala ang mga bosing nitong mga bukrador? Maniwala pa ako sa mga pulis na PO1, 2, 3 at talagang hindi nila kilala! Ayon pa, mistulang gerilya na raw ang

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THE PEACE COMBATANT

*On Jueteng, Environment,
Economics, and Society*

BY ARTURO BOQUIREN



Beginning this issue, this column to be known as "The Peace Combatant" will be addressing concerns related to the economy, environment, society, and politics. It is an honor to work with the likes of Odell "Bombito" Aquino, Jenny Ocampo-Andres, Rudy "Bantay Siyasad" Garcia, Bing Dawang, and the rest of the staff of The Junction. I totally share their advocacy — that of ending jueteng and all forms of illegal and immoral gambling.

ooOoo

Jueteng should be condemned, not only because of its corrupting effects on the poor, but also because of its corrosive effects on government and the fundamental fabrics of society. Jueteng survives on corruption, it corrupts the politicians, and from the corruption of politicians, several other evils emerge.

ooOoo

Because if the soul can be sold for a few thousand or million pesos in jueteng, the soul can also be sold for several thousands or millions of pay-offs from government contracts, road projects, and other infrastructure. If the soul can be sold to the devil's agents, there is no reason why the soul cannot be sold to the devil himself.

ooOoo

Even as jueteng is an evil that must be fought, there are other evils that must also be addressed: environmental degradation, criminality, poverty, and terrorism. Even as I fight shoulder to shoulder with the likes of Odell, Jenny, and Rudy against Jueteng, I will bring forward other advocacies. I am sure my Junction colleagues will support the advocacies, being affiliates of www.linisgobyerno.org and www.beyondbordersreporting.net.

ooOoo

I am simply honored to be in this paper. I know I will be working with courageous men and women with the highest honor.

ooOoo

Do we know that in the Cordillera, we have three key biodiversity conservation priority areas? One is Mount Pulag, the second is the Apayao Lowland Forest, and the third is the Balbalasang-Balbalan National Park. These are not only priority biodiversity conservation areas, these are KEY priority biodiversity conservation areas. In addition, there are seven CANDIDATE biodiversity conservation priority areas: the Agno River, the Abra River, Mount Data, North Central Cordillera Mountains, Amuyao, Amburayan River, and the Abulog River.

ooOoo

A key biodiversity conservation priority area is considered valuable not only for the country but for the world. In succeeding issues, this column will discuss what a priority biodiversity conservation area is, the situation of the so-called key and priority biodiversity conservation areas in the Cordillera and Northern Luzon, and the measures that can be done to arrest the environmental degradation taking place in priority biodiversity conservation areas. Unavoidably, we have to discuss mining and its impact on the environment and the policy dilemma we face between development and protecting the environment.

ooOoo

And, of course, we have to discuss crime and terrorism. There are also economic and political issues to address.

PINUPUNA AT PINAPANSIN

*Magkano Isang
Prangkisa????*

BY ODELL "BOMBITO" AQUINO



MGA ILIGAL NA PRANGKISA – Mabuti at nagging maganda ang desisyon ni kagalang-galang na Judge Ruben Ayson kung saan kanyang binalewala ang labin-limang prangkisang na issue ni Batman at Robin este, Mondiguing at Balisong. Talaga naman itong dalawang nagkokontsabang ito oo!!! Basahin ang summary ng desisyon ni Judge Ayson sa pahina 6 hinggil sa dismissal ng kasong isinampa ng mga nabigyan ng iligal na prangkisa. Eto bang ganitong klase ng Konsehal (Balisong) na nagbabalak tumakbo para Tongressman este Congressman ang gusto ninyong maging tongressman sa 2010? Huwag naman sana parang awa mo na. Sa kasalukuyan ay ipinagpipilitan pa rin nitong si Konsehal Balisong na mamuno sa Chairman ng Committee on Transportation ganoong isang matinding black eye sa kanya ang kasalukuyan desisyon mula kay Judge Ayson. Mahiya ka na Balisong at bitaw na, resign as Chariman bago mo dagdagan ang iyong kinakalat na lagim!!! Alam ninyo mga dear readers, itong si Konsehal Balisong ang siya pang sumulat kay Secretary Mendoza at kanyang hinihiling na mabalewala ang moratorium at bigyan nang exemption ang mga nasabing 15 pipol. Basahin sa baba ng kolum na ito ang liham ni Balisong kay Sec Mendoza. Sabi nila ang binayad daw na lagay at suhol ng mga masusuwerting ito ay P150,000 bawat isa kaya pag i-multiply niyo by 15 persons ay isang tumatagiting na P2,250,000. Totoo kaya ito mga dear readers? Anong palagay ninyo? Mondugas este Mondiguing, Balisong, ano magkano naging hatian?

HON. LEANDRO R. MENDOZA

September 29, 2006

Secretary
Department of Transportation and Communication
Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City

Dear Sir:

Bagoing Greetings!

This refers to the petition of the residents Tip-Top, Gibraltar, Baguio City on their need for transportation that will bring them to and from the City of Baguio. The Barangay is situated near the boundary of the City and Benguet Province. Since unprecedented growth and expansion of the City, residents grew in the area, hence their need has also grown. Access roads at present have been constructed to better serve the residents and the community is still growing. Study and ocular inspections made by our committee show that indeed there is an urgent need for transportation in the area. Attached are the Barangay Resolutions and the petition of the residents for your information and study.

However, much as there is an urgent need for transport in the area, we are also aware that there is a Memorandum Circular issued by your Department disallowing the approval of new routes in the City except for extension of validity. We are also aware that we have in the City Council a resolution on the moratorium of new franchises.

In the light of the urgent need of the Community vis-à-vis the Memorandum Circular and the City Resolution, the Committee writes to you for reconsideration and support the community's petition for transportation. Transportation has become at present not only a need but necessity. It spells the development and progress of any given community hence this support from the Committee.

We therefore await with hope your favorable recommendation on the concern of the residents of Tip-Top and as we will also do our part to support them in the City Council. Thank you and more power.

Respectfully Yours,

ROCKY THOMAS A. BALISONG
City Councilor/Committee Chairman



Napapatunayan na at lumalabas na ang katotohanan hinggil sa mga iligal na prangkisa at pambabalewala sa moratorium on granting of new CPC (Certificates of Public Convenience) franchises. Basahin ang summary ng desisyon ni kagalang-galang na Judge Ruben Ayson hinggil sa iligal na pag issue ni dating DOTC Director Alfredo Mondiguing, kakontsaba niya ang mismong Chairman ng Committee on Transportation na si Atty. Rocky Thomas Balisong. Ilan taon nang ipanaalam ng ating Junction Columnist na si Atty. James Valeros ang hinggil sa mga karumal-dumal na gawain ni dating DOTC Director Mondiguing ngunit ang konseho sa Baguio, hanggang sa ngayon ay nagtutulong-tulogan pa rin kaya ang kawawang mga taga Baguio ang siyang nag-eeenjoy lumanghap ng napakasamang hangin at napakasamang trapik, courtesy of your favorite Councilor Atty. Rocky Thomas Balisong and Vice Mayor Daniel Farinas!!!

JUDGE AYSON AFFIRMS DENIAL OF REGISTRATION OF ILLEGALLY ISSUED CPC'S IN BAGUIO CITY

In a Decision with far-reaching implications, JUDGE RUBEN C. AYSON, Presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 6, Baguio City, dismissed for lack of merit a petition filed by fifteen (15) jeepney operators to compel then OIC Regional Director ALFREDO GOZON of the DOTC-CAR and Baguio LTO Registrar TEODORA CAGUICLA to register their vehicles for the Baguio Plaza-Tiptop Ambuklao route.

In a 19-page decision dated August 6, 2007, Judge Ayson declared as "irregularly and illegally issued" the 15 Certificates of Public Convenience (CPC) issued in favor of the operators by then DOTC-CAR Regional Director Alfredo Mondiguing on January 17, 2007, the day before his compulsory retirement from government service. Significantly, the hearing of said petitions appears to have been conducted just the day before and was therefore decided in record time.

Judge Ayson held that the said CPC's were irregularly and illegally issued because from the time the operators filed their applications up to the time the decisions were rendered by then Director Mondiguing, there was a moratorium on the issuance of new franchises by the LTFRB-CAR issued by no less than the Secretary of Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) Leandro Mendoza and that any exemption to said moratorium must come only from him. Likewise, there was also an existing Baguio City Council Resolution on the moratorium of new franchises.

Despite said moratorium, however, then Director Mondiguing approved 15 franchises for a new route without any exemption from the DOW Secretary and without any Baguio City Council Resolution endorsing the issuance of

a CPC for the said new route. Instead of a City Council Resolution, a personal letter dated September 29, 2006 from Councilor Rocky Thomas Balisong in his capacity as "City Councilor/Committee Chairman" urging the DOW Secretary to lift said moratorium was used to justify the grant of said new CPC's instead of a Resolution by the Committee on Transportation of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Baguio or the Sangguniang Panlungsod as a whole. Said letter, however, was not even acted upon by the DOW Secretary.

Since OIC Director Gozon and LTO Registrar Caguicla refused to register the operators' vehicles as public utility vehicles after the retirement of Mondiguing, the operators filed a Petition for Mandamus to compel them to register their vehicles claiming that such is just a ministerial act on their part to do so considering the Decision of the then Director Mondiguing. The court noted, however, that no less than the Secretary of DOTC had written Gozon and Caguicla to immediately cause the revocation of the said CPC's for being issued in violation of his moratorium. In fact, Secretary Mendoza even suspended Atty. Guillermo Kadatar and Brenda Poklay, of the LTFRB-CAR in connection with the said irregularly and illegally issued franchises. It is believed that there are hundreds of similarly issued CPC's during the same period.

The operators were represented in court by ATTY. RODOLFO LOCKEY of the DOMOGAN LOCKEY & ASSOCIATES LAW OFFICES while the respondents were represented by ATTY. ZENAIDA BAUTISTA-BITENG of the Legal Services Division of the DOTC-CAR.

TELL IT AS IT IS

Issues and More Lies
(Dr. Randall Andres, Farewell)

BY JENNY OCAMPO-ANDRES



Dear Readers,

Thank you once again for your time. Thank you to all who wrote me and sent messages. The surrounding issues and circumstances connected and being connected to the death of the late Dr. Randall Andres continues.

This week amidst the grief, the harsh rumors surface, spread and continue to qualify as exaggerated if not baseless. These rumors still continuing to pop its unworthy, ugly head.

Whar's so funny about it is that the source/s of these harsh rumors and vexing actions are people who haven't seen us for years, or haven't even met me or know me! And they go on BELIEVING even SPREADING the rumors..the irony and mystery of life nga naman and the folly of some people.

To the people spreading rumors and exhibiting vexing actions, PLEASE HAVE some MANNERS naman and COMMON SENSE naman.

Please do not forget I am the wife (legal wife, asawa, the better half) of the late Dr.Randall Andres and anyone who illusions to speak in my place or in my behalf without proper authority, knowledge and consent or illusions to even take my place is actually an exercise in futility.

To those who haven't seen us for years, who haven't met me or known and yet having the guts (if you can call that guts!?) to believe, exaggerate, spread, add to the rumors, what does these actions make a person- sorry to say this but a QUALIFIED TSISMOSA, TSISMOSO, SLANDERER and still if you do not know it is punishable by law and by God. And this is not even legal or religious jargon but plain, practical truth.

Humans, regardless of family background, race or ethnicity, are endowed with the sense of right and wrong, it's just up to the individual to use it or ignore it. Nobody is perfect but to join the bandwagon of rumormongerers is an obvious manifestation of lack of or low morale and even ignorance of the truth.

With the death of Dr. Randall Andres, we lost someone in our life.. a husband.. a father... an in-law.. a family member.. a relative . a family member.. a colleague.. a doctor a friend.. an enemy .. an acquaintance.. so can we just stick to the truth .. the UNADULTERATED TRUTH.

Kindly RESPECT friends, family members and acquaintances who just want to extend comfort, friendship and pay their last respects to the late Dr. Randall Andres

I can't believe there are people who would contend and disrespect people who just wish to extend their concern and sympathy.

Still I dare those who have been spreading harsh rumors, exhibiting vexing actions- straighten up, come out with the truth and proof-UNADULTERATED TRUTH AND PROOF AND FACE ME!

*** To the BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL and MEDICAL CENTER ADMINISTRATION and STAFF, Dr. Factora, to the various departments (especially ANESTHESIOLOGY, ORTHOPEDICS, OPHTHALMOLOGY, OB GYNE, PEDIATRICS, RADIOLOGY, SURGERY), Dr. Ancheta, Dr. Bangaoet, Dra. Pekas, Dr. Genuino, Dr. Baldovino, Dra. Hora, BGHMC RESIDENT DOCTORS, WCPU, Dra.. Ogues, Ate Sha, Joyce, BFLC Admin &PTAF, Jena and family, Cathy and family, Dra. Gomez, BGHMC HRD, Mrs. Galiste. Mr. Roger, Mr. Marquez, Atty. Eric & co. Atty. Zosimo, Atty. Kat, Atty.Omar, Atty Ai and some of the wives/officials and lawyers from Manila, and friends, acquaintances who continue to extend their friendship, comfort, words of wisdom and condolences .THANK YOU SO MUCH

Tuba regulates water use to help in conservation efforts

TUBA, Benguet - Municipal Mayor Florencio V. Bentrez vowed Thursday that the town from hereon will fully protect its local water resources which include the Budacao Falls which has an awesome generating capacity of 1,000 gallons of water per minute.

Bentrez was the principal panelist in the new "Kapehan sa Tuba," a weekly radio public affairs program hosted by the Mountain Province Broadcasting Corporation (MPBW-DZWT) and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA).

Tuba is a wide mountainous town which serves as the gateway to Baguio City, being the town that one has to pass by before reaching the mountain resort 250 kilometers

north of Manila either through the Kennon Road, Marcos Highway or Quirino Highway. Numerous waterfalls, springs and rivers freely flow from this town which is within the wide area at the foot of Mt. Santo Tomas, the highest peak within the southern Benguet area and serves as watershed for many tributaries of the Bued River and hosts the only Department of Agriculture (DA dairy farm experimental station in the Cordillera region in northern Luzon.

According to Bentrez, the town's move to regulate water use and protect all watershed areas is part of Tuba contribution to the programs of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to restore the greeneries in the coun-

try and at the same time assure enough water supply for power generation and agriculture.

Records show that Budacao fall was among the prospective sources of the on-going Baguio bulk water system project but the Tuba municipality had opposed its tapping.

Besides, the Bridal Hair Waterfalls along Kennon Road is given ample protection not only because of its water generation capacity but also its big role in the eco-tourism program of the town.

According to Bentrez, there were at least 14 applications for water use in the town but only those using the waters of the Asin River which run the generations of a local hydroelectric plant in Baguio City were given permit in previous years. (PNA) LAP/AAG/cbc

Kalinga mayors support direct payment of taxes to host communities

TABUK CITY – The Kalinga League of Mayors supports the call of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for multi-national companies to pay directly to host local government units (LGUs) their share from the exploitation of natural resources in their respective communities.

During a press conference held recently at the DILG office here, the local chief executives welcome the directive saying the scheme will contribute much to revenue generation in their localities.

Tabuk City Mayor Camilo Lammawin Jr, President of the Kalinga Mayors League said that the

municipalities will benefit if they share directly from taxes levied to mining companies if they are allowed by the people to operate mines in the province.

Balbalan Mayor Allen Jesse Mangaoang, the league's Vice President maintains that paying LGUs directly their due from revenues derived from the operation of mining companies in the different municipalities will surely upgrade the LGUs' financial capabilities allowing for more developments.

"We are not only talking of taxes and fees levied from these mining companies but also projects financed

by the company where the community could benefit," said Pasil Mayor James Edduba, a staunch supporter of the programs of President Arroyo.

He said social services, employment of the local populace, construction and improvement of roads and bridges, or the development of facilities for use of the community people are the goods and services people want these companies to deliver while they are doing mining business in their area of jurisdiction.

Edduba said taxes from these companies could not only mean money but could be in the form

Cont. on page 8

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT & EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF
Baguio City

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK, INC.,

-Versus-
SPS. BRANDO Q. SIBAYAN and REGINA T. SIBAYAN, Mortgagors,
x-----x

FORECLOSURE CASE No. 551-07-B

EXTRA- JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, As Amended

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF SALE

Upon the amended extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended, filed by BPI FAMILY SAVING

BANK, INC., hereinafter referred to as MORTGAGORS, against SPS. BRANDO Q. SIBAYAN and REGINA T. SIBAYAN, hereinafter referred to as the MORTGAGORS, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of July 23, 2007 amounts to P2,906,310.42, Philippine Currency, plus interest and penalty charges thereon from July 23, 2007 to date of foreclosure sale, and expenses incidental to the foreclosure proceedings, the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Sheriff, thru her deputy, hereby announces that on September 12, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, will sell at the public auction to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippine currency, at lobby (fronting the main entrance) of the Hall of Justice Building Baguio City, the following property together with all its improvements existing thereon, which is more particularly described as follows:

Transfer Certificate of title No. T-81891, City of Baguio

"A parcel of land Lot 21-F-1-B, Psd -CAR-0011213, being a portion of lot 21-F-1 Psd-CAR-010969 situated at rurban code 131102, Brgy. Res. Sec. "J", City of Baguio, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the SW., & w., along Lines 1-2-3 by Lot 21-F-1-A of the subd, plan; on the NW., along line 3-4 by Kellet (one name) Lot 41, TS-39, SWO-32445; on the SE., along line "1" x x to the point 1; containing an area of ONE HUNDRED FIVE (105) SQUARE METERS, more or less."

Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the real estate property and the encumbrances thereon, if any there be. Baguio City, Philippines, this 14th day of August, 2007

REMEDIOS BALDERAS-REYES
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

ROMEO R. FLORENDO
Sheriff-in-Charge

August 19,26 - Sept. 2, 2007

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT

Kalinga mayors ... from page 7

of projects and social services.

In its January to June 2007 report, Makilala Mining Inc. has directly hired locals from Pasil, paid casual teachers and built two suspension foot bridges and rendered social services during its exploration in Balatoc amounting to P3 million.

But while the local chief executives supports the policy of tapping natural resources in their respective municipalities and opening them for commercial exploitation to outside investors, the final say will always come from the people.

The completion of the concreting of the Tabuk-Bontoc

road is one of the projects President Arroyo wants the LGUs would help finish with the taxes from multinational companies operating in the area.

Kalinga has vast potentials of mineral deposits still untapped. It has been extensively prospected for gold, copper, and other metallic and non-metallic minerals based from the works conducted by private and government geologists and mining engineers. There were eleven prospects identified in the province exclusive of the BBGMI which went into op-

eration until 1986.

Two FTAA's were submitted for evaluation at the MGB-CAR - Patrick Resources Corp. - AFTA 28 covering Balbalasang-Pinukpuk-Tabuk and Mt. Franz Mining Corp. - AFTA 30 - covering Pasil-Lubuagan-Tabuk-Tanudan-Tinglayan-Balbalan.

Engr. Ricardo Dang-iw, Mines and Geosciences Bureau focal person in Kalinga said 13 exploration permit applications are under evaluation while three granted - the Wolfland Resources, Inc., Cordillera Exploration Inc., and Makilala Mining Company, Inc. with on-going exploration of mineral resources in Tabuk, Pinukpuk and Pasil, respectively./PIA-Kalinga

FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
CLERK OF COURT & EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF
Baguio City

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK, INC., -Versus-

S P S .
EMMANUEL N. FALALIMPA and SUSAN P. FALALIMPA, Mortgagors,
x-----x

FORECLOSURE CASE No. 524-07-B
EXTRA- JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, As Amended

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF SALE

Upon the amended extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended, filed by BPI FAMILY SAVING BANK, INC., hereinafter referred to as MORTGAGOR, against SPS. EMMANUEL N.

FALALIMPA and SUSAN P. FALALIMPA, hereinafter referred to as the MORTGAGORS, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of April 25, 2007 amounts to P446,846.69, Philippine Currency, plus interest and penalty charges thereon from November 22, 2006 to date of foreclosure sale, and expenses incidental to the foreclosure proceedings, the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Sheriff, thru her deputy, hereby announces that on September 12, 2007, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, will sell at the public auction to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippine currency, at lobby (fronting the main entrance) of the Hall of Justice Building Baguio City, the following property together with all its improvements existing thereon, which is more particularly described as follows:

Transfer Certificate of title No. T-75203, City of Baguio
"A parcel of land (Lot 2-G-3-A, Psd-131102-007349) being a portion of Lot 2-G-3, Psd-1-00839, situated at

Res. Sec."L", City of Baguio; Prov. Of...; Island of Luzon, Bounded on the SE., along line 7-1 by Lot 2-G-1, Psd-1-000839; along line 1-2 by Lot 2-G-2, Psd-1-000839; on the SW., along line 2-3 by Lot 2-F, (LRC) Psd-22661; on the NW., along line 3-4-5-6 by Lot 2-G-3-B, alley (1.5 - 2.0 m. wide) of the subd. plan; on the NE., along line 6-7 by Lot 2-G-3-E of the subd. plan. Beginning at the point marked "1" x x x to point of beginning; Containing an area of TWO HUNDRED FIFTEEN (215) SQUARE METERS, more or less."

Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the real estate property and the encumbrances thereon, if any there be. Baguio City, Philippines, this 14th day of August, 2007

REMEDIOS BALDERAS-REYES
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

ROMEO R. FLORENDO
Sheriff-in-Charge

August 19,26 - Sept. 2, 2007

Funds for Gov't Projects on hands of Skeptics

TABUK CITY - The answer on public cynicism where to get funds to finance government programs and projects is in the hands of those asking it - the very same citizens who play the role as taxpayers and in the end the beneficiaries from the services these taxes are being spent.

This is how Assistant Provincial Treasurer Estefania Dannang counters skeptics on the capacity of government to collect funds to construct infrastructure projects under the present administration.

Explaining the interplay of tax generation and spending,

Dannang said cynical tax evaders are also the gainers from the returns of taxes given them as capital for business, revolving fund for livelihood, and, by the use of government projects to make private enterprise run.

"If we perform religiously our obligations towards government, perhaps our question where to get funds could be answered," she said in reference to some doubts of where government gets the funds to finance the President's mega projects.

If every citizen shares from the burden of doing his or her responsibilities and obligations to support governance through

taxation, then local projects could be easily implemented, Dannang said.

She said these are not new taxes but the same sources from economic enterprises, real property tax, business tax, fees and charges.

In the case of one source where tax collection failed to generate revenues, Dannang said real property tax levied on land owners represents only a point percent from what they profit from the God-given property and yet many land owners deliberately fail to pay tax.

According to Dannang, the revenue

Cont. on page 10

Mayor extends early ... from page 1

nance, which needs to pass through the legislative process, and with the support gained from by the (order) from various sectors of society, there is a need to extend its implementation," the mayor noted.

A proposed amendatory ordinance, authored by Councilor Nicasio Aliping Jr. to amend Ordinance No. 71 series of 1991 to accommodate the expanded curfew time has just been passed on first reading at the city council. Ordinance No. 71-1991 provides curfew time for minors from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.

The mayor said the decision to adopt the expanded curfew time for minors on a permanent basis was made based on the positive feedback the experimental policy elicited from the community. He said the parents and school authorities themselves support the new curfew policy, while the city police vouched that juvenile crimes indeed decreased since the experiment was done.

Before the experimental curfew was implemented, the city was besieged with rising cases

of gang wars.

In his new order, Bautista included two additional exemptions to the policy.

Incidents where minors are involved in church and religious activities but provided that they can show valid certification from the heads or leaders of their religious organizations that are indeed members of said groups or certifications "stating that the said scheduled activities do not permit them to go home before the curfew period established, or that said undertaking requires from to stay out of their residences within said curfew period; and

Activities sanctioned by school administrations that are scheduled within the curfew period involving, among others, minors below 18 years of age. However, said activities shall need prior exemption from the Office of the Mayor through a letter signed by the person-in-charge of said activity and noted by the dean or principal of the said schools.

His first order exempts minors who are in the company of their parents or guardians, minors who have valid certification from their deans or

principals that their class schedules are beyond 7 p.m., proofs of identification and enrolment.

These exemptions still stand. In a related development the Junction Researcher (Annabelle Pedronio) in chance meeting with Linis Gobyerno Director for Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices Odell "Bombito" Aquino showed a copy of the several complaints he recently filed at the Office of the Ombudsman for Luzon against Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. for possible violation of RA 6713 otherwise known as The Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and RA 3019 otherwise known as the Anti Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. According to LG Director Aquino "something must be done to curbe the excessive proliferation of illegal gambling in the city aside from the blatant Jueteng operations that are very much tolerated and condoned by Mayor Bautista and PNP CD Director Gueverra. Furthermore, Dir Aquino stressed that " Linis Gobyerno will relentlessly pursue it's filling of cases against corrupt, inept and inefficient government officials of Baguio City" / Aileen P. Refuerzo with reports from Annabelle Pedronio, Junction Researcher

SP asks senators to fund P17M worth of FMRs for Kalinga

TABUK CITY - Intending to provide better road access for several poor indigenous barangays in the province and help farmers develop their full potential, the S a n g u n i a n g Panlalawigan(SP) requested the allocation of P17 million pesos for the construction and improvement of Farm to Market Roads (FMRs) in Kalinga.

During the August 7 SP Session, members unanimously approved four resolutions requesting the Department of Agriculture and three senators to allocate funds for three major FMRs in Tabuk City and one FMR in Tanudan.

In Resolution No. 2007-191, the SP is requesting the DA thru Secretary Arthur Yap to allocate P2 million s for the construction of the Paligatto-Balawag FMR of Tabuk City.

Said road will provide farmers easy access to transport

their farm products going to the City which is the market center of the province.

Under Resolution No. 2007-194, the body also requested for a P5 million allocation from the Office of Senator Panfilo Lacson for the improvement of the Dagupan Weste FMR of Tabuk City, that would provide farmers from this rice producing barangays easier transportation. Farmers in this barangay find it hard to traverse the inundated road especially during the rainy season.

The allocation of P5 million is also being requested from the office of Senator Antonio Trillanes III through Resolution No. 2007-196 for the improvement of the Balawag-Suyang FMR which is also posing transportation difficulties among farmers and residents of said barangays due to the muddy and

inundated kind of road.

The Body also requested Senator Rodolfo Biazon to allocate P5 million for the construction of the Talococ-Pangao FMR of Tanudan municipality to further develop the agricultural potentials of the area.

The resolution states that the improvement and construction of said FMRs would provide opportunity for the barangays to progress and develop their full potentials and would ease the burden of farmers in bringing the agricultural equipment and inputs to their farms, and in transporting their agricultural products in the market center of Tabuk City.

As part of the development of the North Luzon Quadrangle, one of the priority areas being developed are farm to market roads to harness agri-business in the major economic regions. *lggd/PIA-Kalinga*

Kalinga exhibitor wins best booth in OTOP trade fair

TABUK CITY – The display booth of a local producer bested 184 exhibitors from Luzon in the Best Booth contest at the SM Mega Mall One Town One Product (OTOP) Trade Fair last August 8 to 12.

The display booth of Ayatu's Ethnic Crafts, owned by Marie Saclag, attracted the panelists because of its

state of the art arrangement, purely done by the exhibitor himself.

Ayatu's displays a variety of Kalinga ethnic products like baskets, woven cloths, beads, bags, antiques and gift items.

Benita Mangadap of the Department of Trade and Industry - Kalinga, who led the seven exhibitors from the province, said participants this year came

home with boosted moral as they brought home huge sales of P228,872, aside from booked orders.

She said the annual fair organized by the DTI opens market opportunities to micro-entrepreneurs who establish contacts with business groups from other areas participating in the fair.

Cont. on page 10

Feeding program for Benguet pupils relaunched

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet – A feeding program was relaunched for this school year to feed 4,000 children in the various schools of the province to improve their health and nutrition affecting their learning ability.

As can be recalled, the two-year feeding program was launched in 2005 in Itogon made

possible through the assistance of the Bethesda International Ministries together with the Department of Education Benguet Division.

In a launching ceremony held recently at the Ben Palispis Provincial auditorium, Governor Nestor Fongwan stressed the need to focus not only on visible projects such as infrastructure but also on

social concerns which are crucial in development. As such activities to address these concerns ought to be mapped out, he said.

Fongwan admitted that malnutrition is one of the problems besetting the students. Learning is not effective if a child is malnourished as it affects his ability to

Cont. on page 11

EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

That a deed of extra judicial settlement of heirs of DARIO L. PEREZ was executed on July 18, 2007 at Baguio City Philippines. Entered into the Notarial Registry of Atty. Faustino Olowan on July 18, 2007 with Doc No. 141, Page No. 29, Book No. XVIII, Series of 2007

August 25, 31 and Sept 7, 2007

Kalinga exhibitor wins ... from page 9

Mangadap reported that Grace Agtina of Kalinga Blend, who joined a trade fair for the first time, has found new outlets of her product from other exhibitors in the fair.

Government gives full support to this annual activity of small-medium enterprise to promote development of this sector as key to achieving jobs creation and competitive enterprise.

The local government of Tabuk, a regular supporter to this kind of project, also shared its financial assistance of P39,272 to defray expenses of participants, through the representation of DTI-Kalinga. For its contribution to the daily program of the fair, the Kalinga Group scintillated the audience with its Kalinga Dance.

Mangadap expresses deep appreciation to the local leaders, who paid the Kalinga exhibitors a visit in the fair, led by Cong. Manuel Agyao, Tabuk City Mayor Camilo Lammawin Jr, Vice Mayor Ranier Sarol and some SB members.

Funds for Gov't ... from page 8

collection target of all the municipalities in Kalinga last year totaled to P35.3 million. The biggest source she said is from economic enterprises in the amount of P17 million, followed by real property tax at P11.3M; business tax – P4M; and fees and charges – P3M.

“But only the municipalities of Tabuk, Rizal and the province are delivering their target tax collection from economic enterprises,” she said adding that from all sources combined, Tabuk is the highest in target of P18 million while Pasil is the lowest at P183,000.00.

In the year-end report on real property tax collection, Dannang said their overall collection efficiency is only 41.25% or a total collection of P4.6 million from the P11.3M target.

She said Tinglayan surpassed its collection by 165% or an actual collection of P280,756.34 compared to its P170,000.00 target, ranking No. 1 in performance.

Tanudan ranked 7th in real property tax collection, however, the Provincial Treasury report shows that the LGU did not liquidate the provincial share last year./PIA-Kalinga

DOLE discourages ... from page 3

rifice themselves and give in to this deceitful scheme just because it is faster and cheaper,” she said.

In as much as the government is encouraging Filipinos to get a better paying job abroad, it is also obliged that those being sent abroad are as-

sured of a safe and pleasant working condition, she added.

“Let us not wait for something to happen to our OFW when they are already deployed, instead the necessary precaution should already be observed while they are still processing their

applications,” Manganip stressed.

The government had issued directives banning Filipinos to work in Nigeria, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait and Syria. These countries she said have recorded the most number of abused OFWs and repatriation activities due to various problems like war and civil disturbances. A high percentage rate on maltreatment and physical abuse she said had also been recorded in Singapore and Malaysia./ggd/PIA-Kalinga

Rain in the eyes ... from page 12

study hours. She quit both at the end of her second year in high school. Needing a fresh start, she came up to Baguio and found work, again as domestic, house cleaner, laundry girl and whatever. When the July 16, 1990 killer earthquake struck, she took refuge in an evacuation tent near the city slaughterhouse. That's how she met Benjamin, then a volunteer in the relief and rescue operations.

Benjamin then had resigned his job in the mines to recover from work-related injuries, and also wounds inflicted in a stabbing incident. The second of 10 kids who lost their dad at an early age, he was father to the younger siblings. With his miner's background, he volunteered for rescue operations.

“Kahit masakitin, kasama s'ya ng mga minerong nagligtas sa asawa yata ng isang senador na nakulong sa gumuhong Nevada Hotel,” Rhoda remembers. She was referring to Sonia Roco, wife of then Senator Raul Roco, who was attending a conference when the temblor hit.

When on a job hunt these days, Rhoda brings along her husband's credential. It's a bronze plaque, its sheen dulled and stained by time. Yet the inscription remains clear: Humanitarian Award.

Presented by Benguet Corp. on Sept 28 that year, it says. It was signed by Alfonso Yuchengco, chairman of the board, and Dennis Belmonte, president of the mining firm.

“In recognition of service above and beyond the call of duty in rescue of victims of the July 16, 1990 earthquake,” the citation reads.

Nowadays, Benjamin is on job call. Still, Rhoda says, his old injuries prevent full time work when his construction foreman needs additional hand for a project that lasts months.

He has time but no material to improve their shanty. The patchwork of GI sheets, canvas and scrap the couple had built with support from a nun. It stands on a lot owned by somebody else. It bears no number.

Without piping, the kids help fetch water during the dry season. With no electric connection, much less any appliance, they go to a neighbor's house to watch TV.

The upside, Rhoda notes, is that her kids can walk to class at the nearby Roxas Elementary School. Their teachers sometimes shoulder the miscellaneous fees, and costs of notebooks and pencil.

She and Benjamin had more than once attempted to go beyond just getting by. The biggest chance came years back with a P5,000 livelihood loan from the city social welfare office. With the biggest sum they ever had, the couple opened up a micro-mini store

“Maganda ang umpisa,” Rhoda narrates. “Hanggang umutang ang mga suki. Nagagalit kung singilin. Mabuti na lang nabayaran namin ang kapital.”

Having done it before, she now thinks of door-to-door vending of vegetables and fish. It's more practical, she says, as it doesn't develop familiarity that breeds attempt at credit. “Walang utang dahil hindi kayo magkakalala ng bumibili.”

Thing is she has no one to turn to for starting capital. She had long exhausted the goodwill of people who had helped her before. She admits she has become a familiar figure among city officials, charity workers and establishment owners she had frequented for recyclables.

“Nahihiya na rin akong magpatulong ulit sa kanila,” she says. “Mahirap talagang maka-angat kung isang kahig, isang tuka.”

She doesn't cough now as often before the rains, when her hands would whip up dust while rummaging through trash bags.

“Asma raw ito, sabi ng doktor,” she says. Rhoda retrieves her husband's plaque from a table. Her round, wet and bewildered eyes study the award for the nth time. She then slips it back into a bag, rises and starts walking home. The upside, she says, is that the sayote patch beside the family abode grows shoots and tendrils faster in the rain./Ramon Dacawi

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We believe that the Golden Rule applies to animals, too. We don't accept the prevailing notion that "people come first" or that "people are more important than animals." Animals feel pain and suffer just as we do, and it is almost always humans making animals suffer and not the other way around. Yet in spite of how cruelly people behave towards animals – not to mention human cruelty to other humans- we are supposed to believe that humans are superior to other animals. If people want to fancy themselves as being of greater moral worth than the other creatures on this earth, we should begin behaving better than they do, and not worse. Let's start treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves.

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno

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Diretsahan ... from page 4

istayl ng Jueteng! Op kors, ano sila hilo?, gawing lantaran sa publiko ang kanilang illegal na Jueteng?... eh di para silang nagpapakamatay!!!!???? Hindi ko akalain na komedyante rin pala itong mga bos, tsip ng ating kapulisan! Hi! Hi! Hi! Teke, meron palang tagapagtanggol itong si Hepe Guevarra at walang iba kundi si Meyor Peter Rey Bautista! Dapat siguro ay inimbata rin ng Konseho si mayor B para magkaalaman na! Di ba mga suki? Sabi kase ni mayor ay dapat pati ang namamayagpag na Bingo (sa barangay) ay kailangan din mabusisi at hindi lang "Jueteng"! tama dito si Meyor kase me bulong bulungan na ang Jueteng at Bingo ay iisa at ang nasa likod diumano nitong Bingoteng ay isang miyembro ng konseho!

Kaya't para maging parehas, hindi kaya dapat ding imbitahan ng mga pulis ang konseho para magpaliwanag din kumbakit hindi nila napahinto ang "Bingoteng" ng kanilang kasamahan, kung totoo nga ang bulong bulungan! Kung sakali man baka makasaksi tayo mga suki ng salpukan ng mga tunay na GERILYA at GORILYA!!! HAK! HAK!

At para hindi naming isipin na moro moro lamang itong ginagawa ng ating kinauukulan, dapat gumawa na ng resolusyon ang konseho na nagkokondena at nagpapahayag ng posisyon na hindi pupuwede ang "Jueteng" sa lungsod at ganun din na mag-isyu ng Administrative o Executive Order si Meyor Bautista na ipahuli at kasuhan lahat ang opereytor, protector, mga kubrador, rebisador at kahit sa mga magtataya ng "Jueteng"! alam natin mga suki na parang SUNTOK SA BUWAN ang pagpapahinto ng "Jueteng" pero me kasabihan na kung gusto, may paraan, kung ayaw, maraming dahilan, at ang isang matinding dahilan na alam ko ay,.... NAKAKABINGI, NAKAKAPIPI, NAKAKABULAG, NAKAKAINUTIL at NAKAKABULOL At higit sa lahat NAKAKAULOL ang malaking datung na galling sa "Jueteng", dib a mga ser at madam? AMIINIIN!

At hinggil pa rin sa isyung Jueteng at ibang mga illegal na sugal, saludo ako sa ginawang pagsalakay ni Councilor Galo Weygan at ang kanyang Anti Vice Task Force sa mga illegal na pasugalan. Inilantad din niya ang mga nakuha nilang ebidensya na tumutukoy kung sino at sino sino ang mga protector at nabibigyan ng PAYOLA. Samakatuwid, malapit na mga suki na maalisan na ng mascara ang mga UNGAS na nasa likod at nabibiyayaan ng mga illegal na pasugalan partikular ang "Jueteng"!

Sino kaya ang may B _ _ _ G na mag-aala CHAVIT dito sa ating lungsod?... at sino at sino sino kaya ang MACHACHABIT?... abangan.... ooOoo

May naipaabot na sumbong sa aking "bubuwit" na doon daw sa T. Alonzo Barangay ay bihirang matiyempuhan itong kanilang punong Barangay kung matiyempuhan naman daw ay lasing! Ganun din daw sa mga ibang opisyal kayang't bihira na bukas ang kanilang opisina, kayat sa inis ay nagsumbong nga itong isa nilang "Konstitwents" sa aking bubuwit dahil halos dalawang linggo na raw na nilalakad ang pirma ni "BOCAP" para sa kanyang Postal ID pero magpahanggang ngayon ay wala pa raw itong pirma. Pakisagot nga apo Bocap ng T. Alonzo?

Totoo rin ho ba itong naisumbong, kayong mga opisyal diyan sa Barangay Tangad... Este T. Alonzo pala? Totoo rin ba na ang nagsisilbing Tangad... este tanod ninyo ay ang tiga walis ng inyong Barangay? Pakieksplika mo nga ito apo Kupitan... Este Kapitan Jopet ng T. Alonzo Barangay? Pakibusisi mo nga rin ito ser Lawrence Adube ng Barangay Coordinators Office? Pliiss!!!

Professionals' group assist ... from page 2

Council Gov. Maximo B. Dalog 16 compact discs (CDs) for reference in elementary math and science teaching.

Cobaldez explained that these CDs containing modules will supplement the teaching capabilities of science and math teachers. These will be reproduced and to be given to elementary schools with functional computers working program with Windows XP.

According to DepEd Division Office, there are 189 elementary schools in the province but only 50 schools have computer.

Because DepEd has no available funds for the reproduction of the CDs to be given per school, Dalog committed during one of the PSB/PLCC meetings that the provincial government will take charge in the reproduction to be funded from the 2007 Lang-ay proceeds./Juliet B. Saley/PIA MP

Feeding program

comprehend, he said as he batted for the crafting of a comprehensive ordinance for the welfare of children that would integrate health and nutrition for school children.

Fongwan commended the Integrated Feeding Program of the Bethesda International Ministries and other cooperating ministries such as the Hapag-Asa, Assisi Development Foundation and the Pondo ng Pinoy for the food assistance being extended to the province.

Goods turned over were bags of vita meal which contains rice and lentil meals fortified with 25 vitamins. Four cups of vita meal

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can feed around 50 children. Also turned over were teaching materials on values.

Rev. Donald Soriano of the Bethesda International Ministries said that production cost of each vita meal bag is equivalent to P1,700.00 to be given free to the recipients identified by the DepEd Benguet Division. For the two-year period, this will have an aggregate cost of P6.1 million.

Soriano said other items also to be distributed to intended school children would be dried fruits, vitamins and medicines.

Based on DepEd reports for school year 2006-2007, 5 percent or

2,558 of children aged 6-12 years old are below normal weight while 7 percent or 3,461 children aged 6-9 years old are short for their ages. The feeding program will likewise address the so called "short-term-hunger" syndrome experienced by students who live far from the school and have to hike due to inaccessibility to transportation attributed to the mountainous terrain.

Soriano said their project also covers Mt. Province, Nueva Vizcaya and Abra. Aside from feeding program, they also have outreach programs such as medical - dental missions./S.C. Aro/PIA-Benguet

City government cited for surpassing target in tax collection

BAGUIO CITY – The Bureau of Local Government Finance has cited the city government for surpassing the quota in tax collection set for the city for the first semester of the year. Mayor Reynaldo Bautista Jr. announced this as he commended the city treasurer's office under city treasurer Thelma Manaois and other offices instrumental in the accomplishment of the feat. According to the mayor, the bureau noted that the city exceeded its tax collection quota of 60 percent set for highly urbanized cities like Baguio in all of the major revenue collection aspects.

The city posted an 88 percent collection in real property tax collection, 65.8 percent in business tax and 72.6 percent in the collection of other fees.

The city however scored low in the collection of revenues for economic enterprise or government projects where it chalked up a poor 39.5 percent.

Bautista however said the tax collection efforts must be sustained if not improved further to continue the city's programs and projects aimed at uplifting the welfare of the city and constituents.- aileen p. refuerzo

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Rain in the eyes of a garbage picker

Plus or minus, what the weather brings depends on who and where you are.

Farmers must have sang as they planted in the recent spate of rains. Metro-Manilans, on the other hand, cursed having to wade through the street flooding spawned by trash choking drainage canals.

For Rhoda Boquiren, a 35-year old garbage picker here, the upside is that she won't have to fetch water for a while. Despite that - and what it does to her sayote plant -, the rainy season just weighs heavily on her family of seven huddled in a shanty at Purok 8 of Sto. Rosario Barangay.

"Basa at di na pwedeng pakinabangan ang mga karton na itinatapon ng mga store sa Session Rd.," she rues.

"Halos wala na rin akong maipun na pwedeng ibenta dahil dumami na ang kumukuha ng basura."

The city's on-going waste segregation thrust should have made her work easier. She no longer has to open every trash bag for glass and plastic bottles and other recyclables. The downside is everybody nowadays seems to be into sorting or collecting what has already been segregated.

"Kung minsan nga pati na 'yong aleng nagtatrabaho sa may EPZA naghihintay na rin ng nahawalay na na pwedeng pagkakitaan," she explains. "Kagaya namin, marami rin daw silang mga anak na pakainin."

Rhoda and Benjamin, her 42-year old husband, have five mouths to feed: Rejie, 14 and out of school; Sharmaine, 13 and in grade 6, Sunshine, 10 and in the fifth grade; Benzon, 8 and in grade 2, and Benjamin Jr., 4.

Rhoda herself came from a big family she hasn't seen for years. The ninth of 12 children of a coconut farm worker in Catubig, Samar, she was barely 12 when she left home for Manila.

"Akala ko kasi noon, maganda ang buhay sa Maynila," she says.

As she didn't have a boat ticket, the girl lay cuddled in the arms of a neighbor on the deck of the ship.

She ended up as a domestic for a family in Bicutan, Rizal. After two years, she asked her elder sister Celia, who lived nearby, to take her into her own household. At 17, she moved to a printing press in Malabon.

"Sabi ko sa may-ari ng imprenta, h'wag na lang akong bayaran," she says.

"Bigyan na lang ako ng tulugan at pagkain at suportahan sa pag-aaral."

But she was given more work than **Cont. on page 10**

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