

September 2-8, 2017

₱8.00

VOL. XX NO. 45
ISSN 0119-7487

THE JUNCTION

WEEKEND

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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Mayor: Give ganza parking project a chance

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan appealed to residents here to give the proposed multi-level podium car parking facility at the vacant lot near the Ganza Restaurant at Burnham Park a chance considering its benefits to the city.

“We all know that the area has long been used for parking and the project is only intended to maximize its use for the purpose of alleviating the parking problem and generating income for the operation of the park,” the mayor said.

Close to 10,000 signatures have reportedly been gathered by the “Baguio We Want Forum” to oppose the parking plan and to bat for the retention of the park as such to protect it from commercialization.

But the mayor said the development of certain portions of Burnham Park for income generation is allowed under Executive Order No. **Cont. on page 5**



CONSISTENT ALIWAN FIESTA CHAMPION - Members of the Pinsao National High School Sakusak Musical Ensemble show of their winning form in performing native dances during the launching of 108th Baguio Charter Day Anniversary themed: “Land of Champions” during City hall flag raising ceremonies August 29 . The group won three consecutive times (2015, 2016 and 2017) as the best Folkloric Performance award during the Aliwan Festival 2017 in Metro Manila ./By Bong Cayabyab

Dapat lang na matuloy ang multi-level parking sa Ganza, bastat may kahalong Green Design!!!



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DOLE backs ordinance on DA earmarks P2.5 million for Baguio

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EL MAESTRO SPEAKS

The Filipinos’ Bloody Countdown For Christmas

BY: CLYDE B. SACPA



Mayor eyes 'win-win' solution to Panagbenga organizer DA earmarks P2.5 million for Baguio urban gardening project

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan wants the crafting of a 'win-win' solution on which between the local government and the private organizer, the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation, Inc. (BFFFI), will spearhead the 23rd staging of the Panagbenga or the Baguio flower festival following proposals for the city to takeover the handling of the city's major crowd-drawing event.

The local chief executive said that as soon as the concerned City Council committee shall have finalized its report on the recently concluded public hearing on the matter, he will initiate the necessary dialogue among the concerned stakeholders to thresh out the issues on the handling of the major activities that will be lined up for the prestigious flower festival.

"We will not allow the agenda of certain quarters to shatter the gains of the panagbenga which is now one of the major crowd drawing events in the country, thus, the need for concerned stakeholders to come together and objectively look into the matter so as not to prejudice the conduct of the month-long festival

Prior rights in Busol watershed to be respected

BAGUIO CITY – The local government, the Cordillera office of the Department of Environment and Natural

Resources (DENR-CAR), the Baguio Water District (BWD) and the Baguio Regreening Movement (BRM) will respect the

next year," Domogan stressed. Earlier, Councilor Peter Fianza, chairman of the local legislative body's committee on education, culture and historical research, said they are still on the process of collating the suggestions and recommendations from those who participated in the public hearing and that they will come out with the final report on the matter the soonest.

Domogan explained that the local government will be allowed to handle the conduct of certain activities while the BFFFI will also be authorized to handle some of the major crowd-drawing events in recognition of the vital contribution of the private sector for the successful staging of the month-long festivities through the past 22 years that the flower festival had existed.

According to him, there is a need to sustain the identity of the Panagbenga as a community-led and government-supported festival to showcase the strong partnership between the city's private and government sectors and not to simply shut the city's doors on the private sector from actively endeavouring to help in the successful conduct of

the major flower festival events. He reminded the concerned stakeholders that the emergence of Panagbenga was through the efforts of the private sector which was through the John Hay Poro Point Development Corporation, a subsidiary of the State-owned Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), thus, it would be unfair for the local government to simply sideline the private sector in the staging of the various Panagbenga events simply because of different opinions on how the financial statement of the flower festival organizers should be presented to dis-abuse the minds of certain officials that there had been anomalies in the previous conduct of the festival by the private organizers.

He urged the concerned committee to provide him the copy of its final report so that he will discuss the matter with the BFFFI and for concerned stakeholders to come together and put an end to the repeated problems that keep cropping up whenever the flower festival will be concluded and when it is time for the organizers to submit its financial statement and post-activity report. /By Dexter A. See

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prior rights of residents within the 112-hectare portion of the Busol watershed which is within the jurisdiction of the

city. Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan admitted there were already titles that were issued to certain private individuals occupying portions of the

BAGUIO CITY – The Cordillera office of the Department of Agriculture (DA-CAR) will be releasing to the local government some P2.5 million for the city's vegetable enhancement program through the Gulayan sa Kapulisan, Gulayan sa Paaralan and urban gardening.

The project was conceptualized by the City Council Committee on market, Trade, Commerce and Agriculture chaired by Councilor Leandro B. Yangot, Jr. and approved by Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan for the benefit of vegetable farmers in some barangays of the city and for residents wanting to venture in urban gardening.

Under the agreement

watershed even before the issuance of the Proclamation that declared the 336-hectare Busol watershed as a forest reservation wherein 224 hectares is situated within the jurisdiction of the capital town of La Trinidad, Benguet while the 112 hectare is located within the jurisdiction of the city.

He added there are certain adjustments that have been done in the implementation of the fencing project to provide the appropriate right-of-way for certain individuals who were able to acquire prior rights over the lands that they currently occupy within the declared watershed.

Earlier, the DENR-CAR earmarked some P18 million to jumpstart the implementation of the Busol watershed fencing project while the local government also allocated at least P10 million to add to the required funding for the realization of the fencing which is geared towards the protection of the remaining portions of the watershed that have not been invaded by informal settlers.

The Fil-Am Golf Foundation also raised some

between the local government and DA-CAR, the agency is tasked to ensure that the city has no unliquidated cash advances or funds transfer before the downloading of the funds earmarked for the project, provide the city the necessary technical support and assistance and to the program beneficiaries to ensure that the programs and objectives are met, monitor the status of the project, demand a technical report from the city reflecting the actual amount transferred and received by the city among others.

On the other hand, the local government is obliged to submit an approved project proposal, including list of approved beneficiaries

P5 million through the previous conduct of the Fil-Am invitational golf tournaments in the city to help produce the P34 million required funding for the Busol watershed fencing project to guarantee the preservation and protection of the remaining major source of water for residents in the different barangays of the city.

Domogan explained only P15 million was used up for the fencing project from the funds that were earmarked by the DENR-CAR while the counterpart of the local government was fully used up and that the funds that were allotted by the Fil-Am Golf Foundation will be the one to be used to complete the fencing of the city's source of water for the 40 percent of the city residents.

The concrete hallow block fence has a length of some 8 kilometers and with a height of 6 feet erected over the city portions of the watershed to spare the remaining bastion of pine trees from being cut and that the area will be squatted upon by enterprising informal settlers.

The local chief

and work and financial plan, issue an official receipt in the name of DA-CAR, designate the office of the Committee on market, Trade and Agriculture as the lead in implementing the project, provide an equity of not less than 20 percent of the total project cost either in the form of land, labor, equipment, machineries, monitoring funds, training funds and the life to be used in the project, maintain a separate savings or current account for the fund received and keep a separate subsidiary record for the trust liability among others.

Earlier, the local government through the aforesaid committee chaired by Councilor

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executive added the local government will also pursue the demolition of the illegal structures that were erected over portions of the watershed once the fencing project will be completed to rid the area of illegal structures so that it will serve as a sustainable source of potable water for residents.

He warned informal settlers in the forest reservation to voluntarily demolish their illegal structures anytime and not to wait for the members of the city demolition team to dismantle their structures so that they will be able to spare portions of their structures which they could use to build their houses in areas that they own to avoid being always in limbo whether or not their structures in the reservation will be removed through lawful orders.

The Busol watershed is the favourite tree planting site of the local government, concerned government agencies, school-children and the private sector in a bid to maintain its status as a watershed for the benefit of the present and future generations. /By Dexter A. See

The Junction is printed and published by Farco Trimedia Ventures, Inc. (FTV, Inc.) every weekend, with office address c/o Linis Gobyerno, Bldg. 2 Ground Floor PCEC Bldg., Happy Homes, Campo Sioco, Baguio City and marketing office c/o IT Dynamics, Rm 411, 4th Flr., Mt. Crest Hotel, Baguio City;

Mobile Phone No. (0917) 5069123
Tel. No. (074) 422 - 4215
E-mail Address: thejunctionnews@yahoo.com
Mailing Address P.O. Box 1588, 2600 Baguio City
Entered as Second Class Mail at the Baguio City Central Post Office PCC-CAR 01-04-99

Member:  Press Foundation of Asia
 Philippine Press Institute
Beyond Borders Reporting

Website: www.junctionnews.com
Opinions expressed by the opinion writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of this paper.
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The Junction

Bing Dawang-Farres: Editor (on leave)

Freddie J. Farres: Consultant

Support Staff:

Nelson Tñaño

Gerry P. Binwagan

John T. Bagayan

Annabelle Pedronio

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Ceryl Sacpa

Levis

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Inventory of infrastructure projects ordered

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan ordered the City Engineering Office to immediately conduct an inventory of all infrastructure projects being implemented by the local government and the district and regional offices of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to guarantee their compliance to basic rules and regulations in the implementation of publicly funded projects.

The local chief executive expressed disappointment over reports from residents that aside from the snail-paced implementation of major infrastructure projects, contractors have failed to install the necessary project billboards informing the public about the projects being implemented in their places.

“We have to compel our contractors to strictly adhere to the rules and regulations prescribed in their contracts to implement their awarded projects. We cannot understand why contractors dig up their project sites and then leave the areas unattended for a long time even if they witness the inconveniences caused by the dug up areas to the motoring

and commuting public,” Domogan stressed.

He also directed the City Engineer to make a report on who are the contractors of abandoned project sites and those who refuse to install the appropriate billboards so that the local government will institute the appropriate measures against the erring contractors that could eventually lead to their being blacklisted as project implementors to teach them a lesson not to belittle the concerned government agencies and the city in the implementation of their awarded projects.

According to him, the installation of project billboards containing the name of project, project duration, project cost, the contractor among others is one of the major requirements that contractors must put in place in their project sites to inform the public on the project being implemented in their places.

He said the inventory to be conducted will include even the projects being implemented by the district and regional offices of the DPWH so that the said offices will be provided with a copy of the report for them to know those erring con-

tractors who refuse to comply with the basic requirements in the implementation of their warded projects and it will now be up to DPWH officials to institute the necessary penalties against hard-headed contractors who are only interested on the income that they will derive from their projects and not for the convenience of the public.

He criticized some public works contractors who are now implementing various infrastructure projects in the different parts of the city for their alleged poor performance in the implementation of their awarded projects as they are simply taking their time in completing their works even if they are seeing that the motoring and commuting public are suffering from the unattended diggings in the barangays where the projects are being done.

He also encouraged barangay officials to impose their powers over the erring contractors and impose the installation of the necessary billboards in their project sites to serve as information to the public on what kind of contractor is doing the works in their areas. /By Dexter A. See

150 Dairy Farm illegal structures remain standing

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan was surprised to receive a report from concerned local government offices and law enforcement agencies that there are still one hundred fifty illegal structures within the Baguio Dairy Farm that have yet to be demolished by the combined members of the city demolition team and concerned government agencies.

The local chief executive said that it will be up to the Cordillera office of the Department of Agriculture (DA-CAR) and the sheriff to answer

the questions that are now arising on why the remaining structures have to be demolished when the special writ of demolition issued by a local court provides for the dismantling of more than 334 illegal structures that were erected on the government property.

He admitted there are now valid issues that are arising from the outright demolition of the small illegal structures while the big ones were allegedly left for future dismantling but there were undisclosed issues that cropped up which caused the temporary suspension

of the on-going demolition activities in the area.

“It will up to be the concerned government agencies to explain the delay in the demolition of the illegal structures within the Baguio Dairy Farm property. We should remember that the demolition of the illegal structures was an offshoot of a final and executive decision handed down by a local court and not the local government that is why it is the DA-CAR and that sheriff that will answer all the issues and concerns that have cropped up in the course of the demolition,”



OUTSTANDING CITY HALL EMPLOYEES - City Officials headed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Vice Mayor Edison Bilog present the award and cash incentives to the outstanding city hall employees in the 1st level and 2nd level categories (second semester) during City Hall flag raising ceremonies. Ellen Dayag and Cynthia Daweg (extreme 2nd and 1st from right, front row), both from the City Social Development bagged the awards. / By Bong Cayabyab

3 city properties offered for private-public partnership

BAGUIO CITY – The local government is willing to offer three of the city-owned properties for private-public partnership (PPP) to maximize their potentials of generating additional resources for the city and providing an added attraction for residents and tourists.

Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan revealed that the city-owned properties which could be offered for PPP include the old site of the city auditorium towards the tennis court in Burnham Park, the Diplomat Hotel property which was ceded to the local government by the office of the President and the Asin swimming pool and hot spring resort

in Nangalisan, Tuba, Benguet.

“We are proud to announce that the local government never acquired a loan and has no outstanding loan to date because we banked on the judicious use of its available resources to achieve its state of development that is now being currently enjoyed by the residents and visitors. We do not want to tie up our available resources just to be able to acquire a loan but what we need is for the aggressive implementation of the PPP,” Domogan stressed.

In the site of the old auditorium, Domogan is proposing the put up of a multi-level pay parking

structure to help address the city’s parking woes aside from utilizing the said structure for green building purposes that will accommodate certain recreational establishments at the top.

For the historic Diplomat Hotel, he claimed the development that will be undertaken will be done pursuant to the deed of conveyance signed by the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) to the local government so that the area will be fully developed as a retreat and recreation center to provide visitors with added attractions that they must see while enjoying their well

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Domogan stressed.

The 92-hectare Baguio Dairy Farm is a proclaimed government property under the agriculture department which is supposed to be used to mass produce dairy products but a good number of its area has been squatted upon by increasing number of informal settlers who built their illegal structures in various portions of the reservation.

According to him, aside from personnel of the City Public Order and Safety Division (POSD), the local government also deployed some 100 warm bodies from the Baguio City Police Office

(BCPO) who served as peacekeeping officers in the implementation of the initial wave of demolition of the 180 illegal structures that were erected over portions of the government property.

He urged the DA-CAR and the sheriff to fastrack the resolution of the issues that have cropped up during the initial wave of the demolition so that the dismantling of the removal of the remaining undemolished structures will push thoroughly to be able to put an end to the long standing issue of squatting within the declared government property.

Domogan admitted

one of the reasons why the August 15, 2017 scheduled demolition of the illegal structures within the Benguet-Ifugao-Bontoc-Apayao-Kalinga (BIBAK) property along Harrison Road was the fact that the BCPO can no longer provide adequate security for the members of the demolition team considering that almost one-sixth of its police force was deployed to serve as peace officers for the demolition of the illegal structures within the Baguio Dairy Farm, thus, the resetting of the dismantling of the illegal BIBAK structures to October 15, 2017. /By Dexter A. See

Hitler's Sieg Heil; immunity

PREZ Digong making the clenched fist gesture with visiting Aussie spymaster Nick Warner was embarrassingly reminiscent of what Hitler's troopers would do. For our Prez to sandbag a guest to do Hitler's infamous "sieg heil" gesture with him is insensitive. Flak would follow. I agree that the gesture seems "entirely inappropriate". The gesture is illegal in Germany. But dis is d Pilipins?

It may bespeak our ignorance of its Hitlerian provenance or our gross insensitivity. It reminds us of the MARCOS! HITLER! DIKTADOR! TUTA chant of the Dark Years.

On whose hands is the blood?

I don't know if the middle and upper classes really feel safer today. I doubt that the masses do, given the anti-poor thrust of failed drug campaigns. Can one imagine Tokhang and house-to-house drug testing in unique Forbes Park? Only in our countless Pobres Parks are these inflicted. The death certificate of Kian may state as cause of death: Duterte's anti-poor program, which at the least occasioned, if not caused, his demise. On whose hands is the blood?

EDITORIAL So much needless divisive anger and enmity in a non-healing presidency. Sabong in the Supreme Court. Sabong in the Comelec. A seeming catfight between PAO and a Senate member. Also, PAO versus NBI. Also, the Ombudsman? They are co-workers in government?

Non-lawyer presidential spokesperson Ernesto Abella says trust the system, a sea change from what lawyers Duterte, Aguirre, Calida and Panelo do, condemning personalities critical of the Prez.

Digong met Kian's parents. Good. He is Prez of all the people. But why make them do "sieg heil?" Then he sends Chief Inspector Jovie Espenido to Iloilo City whose mayor is said to be in some narco-list. Why not simply prosecute him, if the State really has the evidence? Iloilo City Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog is in no hurry to go to the Promised Land – or where his foes tell him to go. He is vocal, not silent, about wanting to see the Prez so he can sleep again. As it is he is seen or misperceived as a Dead Man Walking, with a death warrant. Jovie may yet be remembered as a new Jovito Palparan or Rolando Abadilla, seen as butchers.

A suspect in a station house is reminded that he has the right to remain silent, a human and constitutional right seemingly checked at the Senate door in the Kian investigation, among other probes. The Senate committee on public order and drugs is supposed to probe in aid of legislation. Yet, we have well-meaning Sen. Manny Pacquiao saying to a cop: "If you don't talk when the public here is watching, you'll really be seen as guilty." He should have shown some respect for the Bill of Rights. Senators are sworn to uphold it, a document of distrust in powerful governors, and should correct, not enhance, misperceptions.

Even a rookie cop Mirandizes a suspect in custody: "You have the right to remain silent, etc.," showing due regard for the Bill of Rights, so disrespected in the House and Senate, which should work out immunity before making a guest become the tool of his own damnation. Else, they are like Torquemadas of the Inquisition, doing the best thinking and practice of the Middle Ages.

Immunity of witnesses

Under US federal law, which may guide us here, Congress may work for immunity of witnesses who testify at congressional hearings, following a certain procedure. If two-thirds of the members of a committee vote to grant it, a request goes to a federal judge, who must issue an order granting immunity. Once granted, nothing the witness says can be used in a criminal prosecution against him.

Congress itself cannot grant immunity in the US.

There, congressional staff will typically talk with the justice department before deciding what to do. And before granting immunity, Congress will insist on knowing what the witness would say, which is usually in the form of a written proffer. Staff will first coordinate with the prospective resource person, which common sense dictates, but is not done here. There is a rush to grandstand, preen and torment.

I trained at Arnold & Porter and know a bit about such routine prior coordination. I would attend Senate hearings in the US Congress as a water boy of sorts assisting senior counsel, such as Joe Califano (he had three secretaries, including a Miss Connecticut), who became a Lyndon Johnson Cabinet member. The courtesy and dignity all around won't ever be beyond easy recall.

Why the need for immunity? Because without it, a witness in the US can refuse to answer questions citing the Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination. Once immunity is granted, the witness must answer. But, the US Congress rarely grants immunity. The last time was 2007, when a justice department aide was called to testify about the firings of US attorneys, I am told by Fil-Am lawyer Chuck Medel.

Our wild probes, so directionless and insensitive, **Cont. on page 7**



"Rule number 1, don't ever allow yourself to be bullied."

- Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno -

August 24, 2017
Cebu City, Cebu

#SUPERFICIALGAZETTE

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

Brash and fiery exchange of senators, a crime in

RP

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... `Is there any man in whom the Spirit of God dwells?'" (Genesis 41:38, the Holy Bible).

-000-

BRASH AND FIERY EXCHANGE OF SENATORS, A CRIME IN RP: With much apologies to Sen. Richard Gordon and Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, I wish to share a reminder of a grave point pertaining to their being elected officials of the country: do Mr. Gordon and Mr. Trillanes know that their brash and fiery exchange in the halls of Senate on Thursday, August 31, 2017, constitute a violation of the law?

Perhaps, these two lawmakers are thinking that they have a right to engage in a heated verbal tussle in front of TV cameras and radio microphones yet, while they were investigating the smuggling out of the Bureau of Customs, then under Commissioner Nick Faeldon, of some P6.4 billion worth of shabu.

According to Section 4 (b) and (c) of Republic Act 6713 (otherwise known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards of Government Officials and Employees), Gordon and Trillanes have an obligation to display professionalism in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities as lawmakers, including respect for others. They are also barred from any conduct that would be contrary to good manners and right conduct.

-000-

RUDE BEHAVIOR OF SENATORS CAN BE PENALIZED: If there is anyone willing to test the responsibility or liability of Gordon and Trillanes with respect to their behavior last Thursday, it must be understood that based on Section 11 of RA 6713, there are grave penalties that await any brazen act of disrespect and in derogation of good manners and right conduct coming from any government official or employee.

According to Section 11, any official or employee of government, whether elected or simply appointed, can be punished with suspension from work for a period not exceeding one year, or of dismissal from the service if their display of rudeness is really grave and abominable to ordinary rules of fairness. What is more, the erring officials and employees can also be required to pay a fine equivalent to six months of their salary. Then, if there is any law that imposes harsher penalties, these harsher penalties are the ones to be imposed against the erring officer and employee.

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CIVILITY IS LOST AMONG SENATORS: The only question that now lingers in the mind of many who witnessed or who heard the acerbic exchange of words between Gordon and Trillanes is this: why do we have this caliber of lawmakers at the Upper House nowadays? It appears that being civil or **Cont. on page 7**

Tired of Graft & Corruption?



Linis Gobyerno

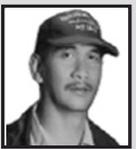
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Contact Nos. (0917) 5069123, (074) 422-4215
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MAGKASANGGA TAYO

- What is this government doing?
- Harassment kaliwa't-kanan!!!



BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO

Why impeach the Supreme Court Chief Justice (CJ) with some flimsy reasons? While I stand corrected if the reasons are indeed not flimsy and/or trivial; however, based on initial news info, it seems that the basis for the impeachment are the following (these are the only points I can remember, there could be others I do not recall at the moment): (1) Undeclared income when the CJ was still a practicing lawyer; (2) Purchasing an expensive bullet proof SUV at the cost of P5M plus; (3) Making use of an expensive presidential suite in a resort; (4) Ordering the RTC not to issue a warrant against De Lima; (5) Dictating on her fellow SC justices to commit certain acts that may be unlawful. These are the five (5) points I can recall.

Allow me now to comment on them point by point.

(1) Why don't we look at all those Tongressmen and Senatongs, etc? A lot them certainly had past incomes they may not have completely declared, so why stick to the CJ only? These Honorables should also be impeached!

(2) A reliable bullet proof SUV costing P 5M+ is actually cheap. The higher end models cost more, therefore there is no extravagance with this purchase. Just drop by the parking lots of the Senatongs and Tongressmen and you will see so many much more expensive cars (BMW's, Jaguars, Range Rovers, Benzes, Lexus, etc) all costing more than P 5M+, kaya sa palagay ko mababaw ito, besides the CJ has all the right to be provided with the best security.

(3) The CJ has already explained that the suite she and other foreign officials used are all complimentary and therefore the government did not spend a cent for their accommodation. Tell me that this holier than thou Tongressmen and Senatongs never accepted a complimentary use of a resort suite? Another mababaw na pambubutas!

(4) The CJ as the head of the Supreme Court with the SC having jurisdiction over the lower courts, the CJ certainly has some latitude to address the lowers courts in a manner she finds fit, if illegal acts were committed by the CJ then let the concerned court personnel file a complaint against the CJ.

(5) I first have to wait for more details before I can make a fairly sensible comment.

Don't get me wrong, I am not a lackey or defender of the CJ. These officials certainly do not need my support, but as a duty to my fellow Filipinos and my country, I simply cannot sit idly and shut up, given all of this BS that is going on.

On the matter of the President wanting to cut short the tenure of the Ombudsman, what the FUCK is this all about?! Ilang buwan na lang o isang taon na lang ay hindi pa ninyo ma-antay! Por Diyos Por Santo, ano ba naman kayo!

The President's line is the OMB's tenure should begin counting from the time she took over from the resigned previous OMB Gutierrez, and the line of the other legal luminaries (the Senate President himself) is that the tenure of the OMB is 8 years from the time she takes office.

OMY GOD, what is going on with this government? All dissenting (albeit meek) voices are being harassed into submissiveness and/or silence. Martial Law circa 72 na ba???

EL MAESTRO SPEAKS

The Filipinos' Bloody Countdown For Christmas



BY: CLYDE B. SACPA

It's the first week of September and in the Philippines the countdown for the biggest festivities has begun. The Philippines has the longest celebration of Christmas. As seen in our televisions and other media platforms, some are already talking about lanterns and they even playing Christmas songs. We can't wait for that time of the year when forgiving somebody seems so easy. The month where helping someone feels twice as rewarding than in the other months of the year.

Though it's just a hundred days to go before Christmas, that hundred days can still give us a whole lot of nightmares that can ruin the great festivity. In a hundred days, a number of typhoons can still ravage our country. In a hundred days, earthquakes may happen and to make it through December we must always be ready.

In a hundred days, a lot of people can lose their jobs and a lot can have new jobs. A lot of newborn life will come to join the festivity and the sad reality, some old life won't go through to see it.

In a hundred days, more soldiers will sacrifice their life to prevent the horror of terrorism from destroying our country. For sure a lot of innocent life will be sacrificed due to this insensible act of madness.

In a hundred days, hundreds of life will be extinguished in the war on drugs. Legit operations or not, hundreds of people won't live to see the great festivity. Surely we got a new meaning to the expression "painting the town red". This is our grim reality as we are waiting for Christmas. Well, advance Merry Christmas and as we are counting down for this great festivity, we must fervently pray that God will protect each and every Juan.

City's improved competitiveness fitting gift to Baguio on its 108th charter anniversary

BAGUIO CITY – The city's improved standing in the latest Cities and Municipalities Local Economic Development Competitiveness Survey is a fitting gift to Baguio City on its 108th charter anniversary.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said the city's improved competitiveness proved that it is continually moving towards excellence in various fields which is highlighted in this year's Baguio Day chosen theme, "Baguio at 108: Land of Champions."

"This shows that not only did we produce a lot of champions in various fields nationally and even internationally but we also did well in the aspects of governance and infrastructure and economic development," the mayor said.

Economic dynamism, government efficiency and infrastructure were the three criteria of the national survey being conducted annually by the National Competitiveness Council (NCC).

In the latest survey, the city placed 13th moving two notches higher from its 15th place finish in the previous survey among 145 cities in the country. It also improved its ranking in its category as a highly urbanized city from the previous 14th place to 11th among 33 highly urbanized cities.

The mayor attributed the city's accomplish- →

Mayor: Give ganza parking...

...from page 1

224 series of 1995 as amended purposely to allow the park to become self-sustaining.

By virtue of the order, the city identified portions of the park for development purposes and these include the Ganza parking lot and the site of the former city auditorium.

The mayor said the Ganza parking project should not be confused with the proposal to put up multi-level parking structures at Melvin Jones.

The Melvin Jones proposal which dates back to 2002 has not yet been approved as it needs a lot of studies and consultations.

Whereas the Ganza area has been specifically earmarked for parking and has been used as a parking lot for a long time now thus the city is more inclined to convert such into a multi-level parking area to provide more parking service and at the same time generate funds for the park's upkeep.

Three councilors last May proposed a resolution requesting the construction of a podium car parking at the Ganza site, the area between the Orchidarium and the Children's Park, the former site of Pantranco and the whole stretch of the city library.

Councilors Benny Bomogao, Michael Lawana and Faustino Olowan said this is in the light of the city's pressing need for parking areas in view of its booming tourism and other economic industries.

The city council referred said proposal and other related measures to the city engineering office, the city building and architecture office and the city planning and development office to come up with an immediate plan to identify roads within the central business district which can be used as parking sites.

The said offices were also asked to draft a long-term plan which includes the conduct feasibility studies and plan for the setting up of parking areas at the Old City library site, the Pantranco area, Ganza parking, Camp Allen, slaughterhouse terminal and other appropriate areas and identification of site for north-bound and south-bound terminals outside the CBD.

The said proposal was subjected to a public hearing recently and most of those who attended agreed to the construction of parking facilities but questioned the selection of the site particularly the area between the city library and the children's park.

Earlier, an investor has proposed the construction of a multi-use commercial complex at the city auditorium site as part of the multi-billion peso upgrading of Athletic Bowl, the tennis court and swimming pool under the Public-Private Partnership scheme.

Under the scheme, the commercial building will be run by the investor while the Athletic Bowl and facilities will remain as city government properties and will continue to be managed by the city government with the revenues to be generated from these facilities will go to the city coffers.

The terms of reference for said project was approved by the city council and was referred to a technical working group for the conduct of a feasibility study. / Aileen P. Refuerzo

ments to both the public and the private sectors whose teamwork and cooperation he said continued to make the city's success possible.

Another thing to be thankful for in this year's Baguio Day celebration is the fact that the city has remained debt-free and has continued to manage on the revenues it produces without depending on loans and grants.

"To me being able to operate on our own and without debt is an indicator that we are managing our resources properly," he said.

He said he will continue with his debt-free fiscal policy until he finishes his term as city executive.

To implement major and **Cont. on page 6**

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
Branch 63
La Trinidad,
Benguet
Email-regionaltrial-courtbr63@yahoo.com
Tel. No. 422-2812

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION TO APPROVE THE WILL OF LORENZO DOMOGAN, DECEASED and ISSUANCE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY/ADMINISTRATION

MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN and JUANA DOMOGAN-LEE

SPEC. PROC. CASE NO. 17-SP-0133

For: Probate of Will
X-----X

NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

Petitioner, through counsel, filed a verification petition in this Court for MATTER OF PETITION TO APPROVE THE WILL OF LORENZO DOMOGAN, DECEASED and ISSUANCE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY/ADMINISTRATION, under Rule 76 of the Rules of Court alleging in essence, thus:

AMENDED PETITION COME NOW the Petitioners through the undersigned counsel and unto this Honorable Court most respectfully states:

1. That the petitioners are both of legal age, both married, Filipino citizen and residents of Lower Ambiong, Baguio City and No. 34 Upper Brookside, Baguio City respectively;

2. That the deceased LORENZO DOMOGAN, a resident of Central Ambiong, La Trinidad, Benguet died on February 19, 2017 in

the City of Baguio City, Philippines, a machine copy of his Certificate of Death of which is attached hereto as Annex "A" and made as part hereof;

3. That the deceased LORENZO DOMOGAN at the time of his death left a Last Will and Testament dated April 4, 2008 docketed as Doc. No. 237; Page No. 49; Book No. 24; Series of 2008 in the notarial register of Atty. Ologen D. Dao-Ayan of Baguio City, a machine copy of which is likewise attached as Annex "B" and made an integral part of this petition;

4. That the Petitioner MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN, who is a nephew of the late LORENZO DOMOGAN is the person named as executor and administrator in said will. Said person consent to act as such executor/administrator and substitute while petitioner JUANA DOMOGAN-LEE is a niece of the late LORENZO DOMOGAN and named as an heir in his last will and testament. She has possession and custody of the Will;

5. That the subscribing witnesses to said will are (1) FEDERICO D. DAIWEY, a resident of Baguio City; (2) ARSENIA MAMANAO, a resident of No. 48 Holy Ghost Ext., Baguio City; (3) JULIET D. ANOSAN, a resident of Purok 27, San Carlos Heights, Baguio City;

6. That the names, ages and residences of the legatees of the aforementioned decedent are the following, to wit:
Name: JUANA DOMOGAN-LEE
Age: 66
Residence: Lower Ambiong, Baguio City and/or

Name: MILO DOMOGAN LEE
Age: 38
Residence: Lower Ambiong, Baguio City

7. That the said decedent left real properties which was mentioned in his hlast will and testament with the then assessed gross value of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY PESOS (P276,890) as of the time of the execution of the Will more than nice (9) years ago but the assessment has been revised to the gross value of FOUR HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT

THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED PESOS (448,800) as follows:

(a) A registered parcel of land residential land having an area of One Hundred (100) square meters, more or less, located at Ambiong, La Trinidad, Benguet, and covered by Katibayan ng Orihinal na Titulo Blg. P-7680 under my name and covered by Tax Declaration under ARP No. 99-004-05309; Property Identification No. 009-03-004-10-309; Assessor's Office of La Trinidad, Benguet, having an assessed value of 4,790. That the foregoing assessment is an old one done more than nine (9) years and at present was revised with an than assessed value of P6,300. Attached herewith as Annex "C" is a copy of the new (revised) tax declaration of said property;

(b) An unregistered parcel of vegetable/agricultural land with an area of 142 square meters, more or less, located at Ambiong, La Trinidad, Benguet, covered by ARP No. 99-004-05228; Property Identification No. 009-03-004-10-403. Assessor's Office of La Trinidad, Benguet with an assessed value of P360.00. That such assessment was an old one done more than nine (9) years ago. At the time of the execution of the last will and testament on April 4, 2008, the aforementioned property is unregistered but on September 25, 2010, it was titled under Katibayan ng Orihinal na Titulo Blg. P-30107), and currently it was issued a new tax declaration with a new assessed value of P8,950.00. Attached herewith as Annex "D" is the new revised tax declaration of the said property and the issued title as Annex "E";

(c) A three-story residential house erected on the said parcel of land. Said building is declared for taxation purposes and is covered by ARP No. 99-004-05310; Property Index No. 009-03-004-10-30981. Assessor's Office of the La Trinidad, Benguet, having an assessed value of P271,740.00. The foregoing assessment was an old one done in 2008 but at present the same was revised to include another storey added to the original building with a new assessed value of P429,550.00. Attached herein as Annex "F" is a copy of the revised

tax declaration of the property.

8. That letters testamentary are prayed for the aforementioned petitioner MAURICIO DOMOGAN, who is named as executor and administrator in the Will;

9. That the testator, at the time of the execution of the said will, was 65 years old, of sound and disposing mind, and not action under duress, fraud or undue influence and was in every respect capacitated to dispose or his estate will;

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, premises considered, it is respectfully prayed of this Honorable Court that upon proper notice and hearing:

(a) The above-mentioned Last Will and Testament be admitted to probate, approved and allowed; and;

(b) That letters testamentary (or of administration) be issued to petitioner MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN without bond;

Further prays for such other reliefs and remedies just and equitable under the premises.

Baguio City, this 26th day of July 2017.

ORATE DAO-AYAN and BAWAYAN LAW OFFICE
Room 210, 2nd Floor, Pelizloy Centrum Lower Session Road, Baguio City
Mobile No. 0921-424-8654

By:
ATTY. OLOGEN D. DAO-AYAN
Counsel for the Petitioners
IBP LIFETIME No. 844033; 1-11-11
Baguio City
PTR No. 2844413; 1-3-17: Baguio City
Roll No. 36483; 4-10-90
MCLE Compliance No. V-00000041; 5-28-13

WHEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in fore and substance, let the initial hearing be set on NOVEMBER 14, 2017 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning, at the Session Hall of this Court, Justice Hall La Trinidad, Benguet, and all persons interested may appear and show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted.

Let the NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING be published at the expense of the petitioner in the

JUNCTION, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet, once a week, for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made not later than SEPTEMBER 03, 2017.

Furnish copy hereof together with a copy of the petition and its annexes to the petitioner and her counsel, the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet and Junction.

La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines this 29th day of AUGUST 2017 at La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

(SGD) ATTY. MARIANITA J. CAOILE-GAYAMAN
Branch Clerk of Court

Publication Dates:
September 2, 9 and 16, 2017

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
La Trinidad,
Benguet
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE JUDGE

IN RE: APPLICATION FOR COMMISSION AS NOTARY PUBLIC FOR THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET

ATTY. WIL-LIBROTH B. MANAGTAG,
Petitioner

Notary Public
Proceedings No. 17-NC-0415
X-----X

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a summary hearing on the above-entitled petition for commission as notary public for and in the Province of Benguet filed by the above-named petitioner shall be held on 15 September 2017 at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon before the undersigned Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court, La Trinidad, Benguet.

Any person who has any cause or reason to object to the grant of the petition may file a verified written opposition thereto on or

Barangay officials...

...from page 2

Yangot initiated the production of vegetables in the city as part of the support for increasing the volume of vegetables and that it has lined up numerous projects for the welfare of the urban vegetable farmers and foremost for the development of the vegetable industry.

The DA-CAR and the local government have common and complimentary objectives and have signified their intention, willingness and cooperation in achieving greater production of vegetables by urban farmers and at the same time achieving financial viability for the farmers themselves.

The local government is recognized by the DA-CAR as its partner in spearheading development efforts and activities of the agency's programs and projects.

One of the priority programs of DA under the high value crops development program is the production of vegetables in the country towards cost competitiveness and increased volume of production as part of the crop enhancement and expansion program and that it is mandated to partner with the concerned local governments in implementing development programs to attain food self-sufficiency by transforming the country from a food importer to an exporter.

DA-CAR is mandated to develop the country's agriculture and fishery sector through the provision of support programs and training services to farmers and producers group to attain food self-sufficiency through efficient and competitive production cost for global competitiveness. /By Dexter A. See

City's improved...

from page 5

priority projects in the pipeline, the mayor said the city will pursue the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode of development even if it takes time because it entails a long process.

"This Baguio Day celebration, let us move on and continue to work together to improve our city that

before the date on the summary hearing.

Let this Notice of Hearing be published once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in the Junction, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province, the first publication to be made not later than 1 September, 2017.

SO ORDERED.
25 August 2017, La Trinidad, Benguet.

(SGD) JENNIFER P. HUMINDING
Executive Judge

Publication Dates:
August 26, September 2, 2017

we love so much," the mayor said, "If we work together and if we don't allow problems to destroy our teamwork, we will sustain the mission and vision we have for our city."

The month-long calendar of Baguio Day celebration activities was launched last Monday at City Hall.

Councilor Elmer Datuin who co-chairs the celebration executive committee paid tribute to the city's builders of old and of present during the launching program.

"Clearly the task is not just to continue where our builders and champions have left of. We have to work even harder towards a Baguio that continues to produce excellent achievers in our time... This is the gift that comes from remembrance today - to be always on the side of our people in championing their welfare," he said. /Aileen P. Refuerzo

Editorial from page 4

drove two guests to suicide. We speak above of procedural due process. For substantive due process, Uber paid a humongous fine of P190 million – for conveniencing the public? On what legally tenable, intellectually respectable and psychologically satisfying basis? But, moot and academic as Uber has paid. No Uber-da-bakod multa po sana, ha? No payment under protest for a test case?

Anyway, Digong has no known or ballyhooed program to alleviate our traffic woes, now worse than ever. He just does not talk about it. No way out? We may have to agree that always telling the truth may not work or be advisable if we are to maintain relationships in the real world, says Nick Hornby in Fever Pitch. You don't tell a mother about the appearance of a baby with a face only she could love. Be kind.

On truth telling, Comelec chief Andy Bautista supposedly lied in his SALN. RA 3019 and RA 6713 coexist. There is a report that someone in Mindanao has been charged by the Ombudsman with violating both. I am not privy to the details but some years ago, the Civil Service Commission, if memory serves, decided to change its format to add

what Sec. 7 of the Tolentino Law requires of a public servant, to include "... a statement of the amount and sources of his income, the amounts and sources of his personal and family expenses and the amount of income taxes paid for the next preceding calendar year." A good clause. I doubt that Andy Bautista has complied. Indeed, is anyone among our 1.6 million civil servants in compliance?

Year after year I challenge my studes to show me a form showing compliance by anyone. No one has been able to, despite the promise to pass on that feat alone. I bet Digong does not comply with said excerpt from Sec. 7 (but complies with Sec. 8 of the Salonga Law I sponsored and defended on the floor). I have a copy of his SALN. He names some seven kin in government but does not state who is an asset and who is a liability.

Before charging anyone for violating Sec. 8, the public servant concerned must be given a fair chance to correct and tell the truth. My/our intent was to punish recalcitrance. The law is more administrative than punitive. But, our law made jobless Chief Justice Rene Corona, a post-midnight appointee named on May 17, 2010. GMA was supposed to be just a caretaker then; a new Prez had been elected.

Indeed the ban on midnight appointments starts two months before the election. Antedating seems to happen however so that a new Constitution should say only appointments made and published before the interdicted period would be valid, to plug a loophole in the 1987 Constitution which speaks incidentally about ill-gotten wealth.

Returning Marcos loot?

Digong said an emissary of the Marcoses offered to return their loot in the billions with some gold bars to boot. We are told however that for every five things he says, to take seriously only two, with three for the comic page.

Criminal genius, I have often said of Macoy, which could spread in the family by osmosis or descent. I am incredulous, as I write.

Let us see if we have front page (40 percent) or comic page (60 percent) stuff here. Statesman? Or comedian? Anyway, we again chant, "nakaw na yaman, ibalik sa bayan."

The Marcoses may be the last ones to know, as it were, but trust Digong to make things happen.

"Ma'am, kahiyaan na po ito, labi ni Sir, ?I?m under pressure?? to return to Batac, ?I'm under pressure to return to Batac, sabi ni Mam agawin ko po." The Art of the Sandbag. And The Deal. Libingan./Rene Saguisag/Manila Times On Line

as the National Electrification Reform Act of 2017", which said in part that "in the event of the need of such lands and thoroughfares for the primary purpose of the government, the electric cooperative shall be properly compensated". /Ramon Dacawi.

on pushing their respective interests in their work in the Senate. Based on many commentaries in social media, they see Gordon as the defender of people who are being implicated in the Customs shabu scandal, while Trillanes is perceived as the prosecutor of anyone who has links with the administration. —>

3 city properties offered... from page 3

deserved break in the city. According to him, the city-owned Asin swimming pools and hot spring resort must also be developed to be at par with the existing resorts in the area and to maximize its potentials in attracting tourists to visit the place for recreational purposes.

He revealed that there are already two proponents for the privatization of the Asin hot spring resort that is why the terms of reference for the said purpose is being finalized to be bidden out to the interested proponents wherein the offer that will be most advanta-

geous to the local government will be considered.

For the Ganza parking area, Domogan explained he finds no reason to the arguments of some sectors that it is beyond the commerce of man when it has been used as a parking area for the longest period of time pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order (EO) No. 224, series of 1995 as amended wherein the local government is authorized to lease certain portions of the State-owned property to generate the needed income for the maintenance, operation and administration of the park.

He added the plan of the local government is to put up a multi-level parking structure in the area to accommodate more motor vehicles that will be parked and address the growing need of parking spaces by the increasing number of motorists and not to destroy the area.

He appealed to critics of the plan to put up the multi-level parking structure in Ganza to come out with their proposed alternatives on how to solve the parking problems of the city and not simply to criticize so that the local government will evaluate whether or not the proposed alternatives are feasible. /By Dexter A. See

Mayor warns of unauthorized solicitation

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio Domogan last week warned the public against unscrupulous individuals or groups going around the city and suburbs asking for donations in his behalf. Such persons or groups should be reported to the nearest Baguio City Police Office station, he said.

A solicitation letter purportedly with the mayor's signature was presented to the to-be-donor, requesting for varied amounts or cellphone load equivalent to P5,000. One letter, with a forged signature of the mayor, asked for a flight booking to a vacation destination in Hongkong.

Domogan vehemently denied having given out a solicitation letter or authorized anybody to solicit in his behalf. "Since assuming office in 1988 (as janitor of

the city), this representation never requested for favors from individuals, specially for personal use or celebrations. That would be very shameful," he said.

The cellphone number 0905-977-9256 was even given for donors to contact in case they are willing to give donations. "Be warned. That is not my cellphone number," the mayor added. -/juliegfianza

DPWH and DOE set... from page 8

sidewalk.

As agreed, the DPWH will pay the electric cooperative the cost of relocation pursuant to the formula stated (in the agreement) , the compensation of which will

included the cost of labor and equipment required to dismantle the affected facility or pole of the electric cooperative".

Payment is pursuant to Section 9 of Republic Act 10531, otherwise known

Kakampi mo ang Batas from page 4

civilized in dealing with others, especially with their fellow lawmakers, is already lost on them.

Clearly, according to those I already managed to talk to, they no longer see from the senators the behavior of men in whom the Spirit of God dwells--

-because, they told me, if the two lawmakers have the Spirit of God in them, they wouldn't be acting as if they were street fighters engaged in boasting against one another.

Too, it is clear in the mind of many citizens that the two senators were bent

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE AMONG HEIRS WITH SIMULTANEOUS WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late PHILIP L. AYAK who died on January 14, 2008 in Baguio City without will, consisting of one (1) unit of Public Utility Jitney with Plate No. AYF 606 covered by LTRFB Case No. 97-BC-319, had been the subject of EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE AMONG HEIRS WITH SIMULTANEOUS WAIVER OF RIGHTS on 15 August 2017 as per Doc. No. 356, Page No. 73, Book No. VI, Series of 2017, of the Notarial Registry of Atty. Lilibeth B. Cosi of Baguio City.

Aug. 19, 26 and Sep. 2, 2017

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF AN AFFIDAVIT OF ADJUDICATION (OF MOTOR VEHICLE, INCLUDING CPC/FRANCHISE)

NOTICE is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late ERNALYN G. CALLSEN, who died intestate on 29 APRIL 2012, at WINTERTHUR, ZURICH, consisting of a Motor Vehicle , which motor vehicle is more particularly described as MITSUBISHI WAGON bearing Plate No. AYS-913, including the Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC)/Franchise granted under LTRFB Case No. 2010-CAR-263, has been the subject of an AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION dated 25 JANUARY 2013, executed by her compulsory legal heir, MELODEA B. GONZALES, which instrument was duly entered as Doc. No. 05; Page No. 01; Book No. III; Series of 2013, of the Notarial Registry of Atty. DONA MAE B. PALENGAOGAN , a Notary Public for and in BAGUIO CITY, Philippines.

Aug. 26, Sep. 2 and 9, 2017

DOLE backs ordinance on chairs for female workers

BAGUIO CITY – The Cordillera office of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE-CAR) commended the members of the local legislative body for looking into the welfare of the workers in the city by considering a proposed ordinance authored by Councilor Leandro B. Yangot, Jr. requiring all department stores, bazaars and other stores to provide stools, chairs or similar adequate facilities to be used by their sales personnel when not actually attending to customers.

DOLE-CAR Exequiel Ronnie Guzman, in a letter to Councilor Yangot, said that his proposed ordinance will definitely protect the workers from the effect of long standing on their health.

“We would like to recommend that the ordinance will state specifically that workers be given at least 10 minutes sitting break every after an hour of standing, if this is the intent of the proposed ordinance,” Guzman stressed.

Based on a cross sectional study of the relationship of prolonged standing and musculoskeletal symptoms among

sales personnel conducted by the Ateneo de Manila University, it was found out that majority of sales personnel experienced prolonged standing, comprising 70 percent of the sample size and the prevalence of musculoskeletal symptoms was 86 percent among all the respondents.

Further, the study noted that the top 5 body parts with musculoskeletal symptoms within the last 12 months were upper back 52 percent, shoulder – 50 percent, lower back – 44 percent, ankle or feet – 43 percent and neck – 41 percent.

According to the study, prolonged standing was significantly associated with upper back and ankle or feet musculoskeletal symptoms and it was also associated with multiple body parts and axial load bearing body parts with musculoskeletal symptoms.

For upper back, the study stated possible confounders were body mass index, gender, and flat-footedness and for ankles and feet, the possible confounder was educational attainment.

For multiple body parts with symptoms, the study noted possible confound-

ers were smoking status, body mass index, job title, gender, duration and current nature of work, and flatfootedness and lastly, axial load bearing body parts, the possible confounders were smoking status, body mass index, job title, gender, duration and current nature of work and educational attainment.

The study concluded prolonged standing was significantly associated with musculoskeletal symptoms and other factors were also identified as risk factors and associated to the manifestation of symptoms in various body parts.

The study was aimed at determining the prevalence of musculoskeletal symptoms and to examine the relationship between exposure to prolonged standing and the reported symptoms of sales personnel in the country.

Yangot expressed his gratitude to the DOLE-CAR for providing the local legislative body with the necessary inputs that would fast-track the passage of the ordinance for the benefit of workers in various establishments around the city. /By Dexter A. See



CRIME PREVENTION MONTH - City Officials headed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Vice Mayor Bilog assisted by Baguio City Police director Ramil Saculles unfurl the calendar of activities in observance of the 23rd National Crime Prevention Week during City hall flag raising ceremonies. / By Bong Cayabyab

DPWH and DOE set guidelines for payment of relocation of electric poles

The Department of Energy and the Department of Public Works and Highways have agreed on guidelines in the relocation of electric poles that obstruct road rehabilitation and expansion projects.

The two agencies issued Joint Circular No. 01, series of 2017 “prescribing the uniform guidelines and procedures for the proper payment of compensation and/or recovery of cost in the event of the relocation of the electric cooperative distribution/subtransmission lines for the primary purpose of the government.”

Following the agreement, General Manager Gerardo Verzosa of the Benguet Electric Cooperative notified local government officials the relocation of electric poles will soon be done, for which the DPWH will be billed as to the costs.

“We have decided to already relocate the poles in major roads pending the completion of an inventory of poles and the execution of an

agreement with DPWH,” Verzosa said in a letter to mayor Peter Alos of Atok, Benguet.

Here in Baguio subject of the relocation include the poles along Virginia Romulo Drive, particularly towards the Botanical Garden which were left after the DPWH expanded the road by sacrificing the sidewalk.

While providing funds for the cement railing, if failed to include in the program of work the relocation of the electric poles which were erected on the

Cont. on page 7

BOI-DTI holds 2017 Investment Priorities Plan roadshow in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY - The Philippine Board of Investments –Department of Trade and Industry (BOI-DTI) last week conducted the 2017 Investment Priorities Plan (IPP) roadshow in the City to inform stakeholders from the Cordil-

lera Region and Cagayan Valley Region the salient features of the new IPP and its implementing guidelines.

Lucita P. Reyes, BOI Board of Governors member, said the IPP is a list of priority investment activities that may

be given incentives. With the theme “Scaling Up and Diversifying Opportunities,” the new IPP serves as a blueprint in guiding Filipino and foreign investors in matching their entrepreneurial and financial capacities with the identified opportunities to steer the country’s economic growth to a broader and sustainable path.

The 2017 IPP was approved by President Rodrigo Duterte on February 28, 2017 which became effective on March 18, 2017. It has a three-year validity period and can be reviewed on annual basis.

Reyes explained that the new priority activ-

ities under the 2017 IPP include Innovation Drivers to underscore the important role of research and development; Innovation ecosystems and infrastructures in modernizing the economy which includes commercialization of Department of Science and Technology- or government funded R&D; and Inclusive Business models for agribusiness and tourism which fosters income and business opportunities for the poor or low-earners of society by integrating them to the supply chain of medium or large companies.

Under the manufacturing sector, the IPP includes all manufactur-

ing activities including agro-processing since the sector can generate higher employment, income and output multipliers relative to other sectors, she added.

Under strategic services, included are IT and IT-related services geared for the domestic market, digital or technological start ups, telecommunications to make the service more competitive and State of the Art Engineering, procurement, and construction to support infrastructure and manufacturing projects.

Healthcare services now include drug rehabilitation centres to support the President’s program against illegal drugs.

Reyes likewise stressed that under the 2017 IPP, mass housing no longer allows projects located within Metro Manila, and are only based on a price ceiling of Php2 million. It now includes in-City Low-Cost housing for lease to encourage developers to build leasable housing units in nearby areas where people work.

The IPP Roadshow was part of the BOI’s ongoing advocacy to promote the 2017 IPP around the country. BOI already finished conducting IPP Roadshows in Manila, Cebu, Clark and La Union. Legaspi and Tacloban roadshows were conducted simultaneously with Baguio. / JDP/MAWC – PIA CAR

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