

Youth to take active role in disaster management

BAGUIO CITY -- The youth will now take an active role in climate change adaptation (CCA) and local disaster programs strengthening their spirit of volunteerism and unleashing their potentials in helping build disaster-resilient communities.

Empowering youth participation is spelled out in a Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2015-01 of the Department of Interior and Local Government and the National Youth Commission.

The local government unit will engage the youth sector as a member of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (LDRRMC) representing civil society organizations.

The Regional Development Council en banc recently approved the resolution of the Regional Social Development Committee (RSDC) of the RDC endorsing youth inclusion to CCA-DRRM programs.

Underscored in the said resolution are the expected functions of the youth representative such as provide a youth perspective in the DRRM and environmental preservation and conservation activities of the province, city, municipality acting as the lead connector and influencer of youth in the area.

The youth representative is also expected to lead in the preparation and adoption of

a local youth disaster plan and also evaluate its implementation. He or she should also participate in the LDRRM budget process, present position papers or written proposals, and propose disaster-related policies, programs and projects.

The youth representative will act as focal point of NYC for potential programs and projects on disaster preparedness, risk mitigation and CCA; establish an incident command system among the youth purposely to inform and mobilize the youth in preparing, responding and recovering from various disasters and lead the organization and mobilization of youth advocates of CCA-DRRM.

The youth representative must be a member of an organization under the Youth Organization Registration Program (YORP). The organization must likewise be duly accredited by the concerned local government unit.

The YORP is an advocacy of the NYC which calls for the registration of youth organizations to improve youth-related database systems, encourage direct link-up with the youth, facilitate youth capacity-building programs, and program monitoring.

To date there are 80 active youth organizations registered under the YORP/JDP/SCA-PIA CAR, Benguet

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PHO leads medical mission in far-flung Abra town

MALIBCONG, Abra -- Trekking through rough terrains and muddy pathways health service providers and advocates from the Provincial Health Office, the Philippine Red Cross - Abra Chapter, and the Philippine Information Agency delivered medical services and health advocacy to the communities in this far flung municipality.

The health team led by program coordinator and Lingkod Bayan Awardee, Lilibeth B. Martin, in collaboration with the Municipal Health Office under Dr. Desiree Ortiz initiated a two-day medical mission to Bangilo District at Brgy. Umap and Malibcong District at Brgy. Taripan.

The team conducted urine screening, check-up and 'kilatis- kutis, gave vitamins to pregnant women, elders and children and distributed medicinal soaps especially to those with skin problems.

They also conducted blood typing to support the Blood Life Program advocacy.



Baguio Cathedral

DOST conducts IEC forum to Abra disaster responders

BANGUED, Abra, Dec. 21(PIA) -- The Department of Science and Technology(DOST) Regional Office in coordination with the Provincial Science and Technology Center recently conducted an inter-agency IEC-forum on early warning systems here to inform disaster responders on the use

of Hydro-meteorological (hydromet) devices installed in the province.

Hydromet devices developed by the DOST's Advanced Science and Technology Institute to monitor real-time weather pattern changes. These devices such as automatic rain gauge (ARG), water level monitoring station

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Baguio Road train underway

BAGUIO CITY -- the possibility of deploying a locally developed mass transportation system technology in the summer capital and La Trinidad is promising with the completion of the feasibility study being undertaken by the Metals Industry Research and Development Center (MIRDC-DOST) in coordination with the University of the Philippines-National Center for Transportation Stud-



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Overhead elevated e-trains, a must and a good solution to the Baguio traffic problem.

Dapat lang na magkaroon ng mass based transport system sa siyudad ng Baguio katulad ng e-trains.

Benguet police probes in Lepanto bombing incident •page 3

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DIMENSIONAL ROAD •page 5 BY: MARVIN WACNAG LIDAWAN

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS •page 4 BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO

“Grace Poe must win at all cost”---two business groups •page 4 BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO

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Duterte-Cayetano for Mindanao railway system to ensure efficient food supply

If they get elected in higher office next year, the 2016 electoral tandem of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and Senate Majority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano will push for the completion of the Mindanao Railway System, which, if constructed, would connect all food producing provinces in the region and ensure a more efficient and low-cost transport of food commodities throughout the country.

This is what the senator said during a consultative meeting with lacatan banana farmers based in Kidapawan City. Cayetano was in the city on Wednesday to attend a Federalism Forum organized by Hugpong Pederal, a movement that is backing Mayor Duterte's proposal for a federal form of government in the Philippines.

The farmers complained that their products are being damaged due to the lack of a proper transport and shipping system in the region.

Cayetano said that establishing a railway system in Mindanao will particularly make it easier for farmers to transfer food commodities from agricultural areas like North Cotabato to the ports of Davao, General Santos, and Cagayan de Oro. Landlocked agricultural areas with no access to ports or cargo-loading airports will greatly benefit from the project, he added.

The vice-presidential hopeful assured that the 200-kilometer railway system will be among the priorities of a Duterte-Cayetano government, stressing that the P75-billion project will ensure low-cost food supply not only for Mindanaoans, but for the entire country as well.

Cayetano stressed that despite the strategic importance of a Mindanao Railway System, the national government continued to exclude it from its development plan.

"Enough with our NCR-centric approach in tackling economic development. Surely, if the national government can fund the construction of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) in Metro Manila, which costs P50-billion worth of the public's money, it can also do the same for Mindanao's long cherished dream of a railway system," Cayetano said.

The senator asserted that it's time to end the systemic neglect and injustice committed to the people of Mindanao.

"Ang Pilipinas ay hindi lamang ang Maynila. Ang kaunlaran ay hindi lamang para sa iilan. Now is the time to create real changes in the country. If we want economic growth to be really inclusive, we need to spur development in the countryside, particularly in Mindanao," Cayetano said. *Office of Senator Alan Peter Cayetano*

City serves 46 villages

BAGUIO CITY - The city's pasadang pambarangay program has served 46 barangays this year with the assistance of the different partner agencies and volunteers disclosed Community Affairs Officer Noel Mabutas.

This weekly endeavor aims to bring various services of the city government to the marginalized sector of the society so as to address the problems of the community which range from health and medical needs, social services, infrastructure, environmental, among others.

"The pasadang pambarangay has sustained its purpose with the continuing and active cooperation of the different partner agencies like the Baguio Rotary Club, Baguio City Emergency Medical Services, Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, Baguio Center for Young Adult, Reflexology Association of the Philippines Tra-

ditional Medicine Inc., Department of Science and Technology, Optical Clinic, Philippine Red Cross, Philhealth, Public Employment Services Office, DZEQ Radyo ng Bayan, Luke Foundation, Veterinary Office and Health Services Office," said Mabutas.

He stressed that the city was able to sustain the pasadang pambarangay program for 25 years which needs to be institutionalized already.

Pasadang pambarangay is a continuing program of the city government here in reaching out to the grassroots of the community.

The existence of the Administrative Order No. 113, series of 1996 on the conduct of a weekly pasadang pambarangay is a clear proof that the city recognizes the vital role of the barangays in nation building and effective and efficient delivery of basic services to the grassroots level. *Jho Arranz*

Mall employees share 'ChriSmiles' to children

BAGUIO CITY -- The around 100 administration and cinema employees of SM City Baguio join hands once again for their volunteering project "ChriSmiles" to share Christmas Joy and smiles to others.

For this year, they brought their ChriSmiles volunteer celebration to

the children of the mall's security and maintenance personnel, treating them to a day of fun games, food treats, gift-giving and film showing, in a program at the mall's lower basement, Monday (December 14).

Aside for the gifts they prepared for the children, the employees also prepared SM (stuffed) Care bears that the 40 children beneficiaries will also share to other children that deserve it.

Assistant Mall manager Rona Vida Correa, in a message, disclosed that their volunteer celebration "ChriSmiles" aims to make their Christmas season more meaningful by sharing a part of their

PVB launches improved pension loan, Christmas promo for veterans

BAGUIO CITY, Dec. 22 (PIA) -- The commercial bank owned by Filipino World War II veterans and their descendants, is making this Christmas merrier for its Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) pensioners with the twin launch of its improved pension loan and Christmas promo.

Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) Chairman Roberto de Ocampo and President Nonilo Cruz led the launching of the improved pension loan and Christmas promo at the PVB's Camp Aguinaldo branch which gathered audience composed of PVAO pensioners, veteran families, and guests from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police.

Starting this month, PVAO pensioners who receive their monthly pension from PVB will now be able to get a pension loan for the maximum amount of P100, 000. Previously, the Bank offered its pensioners P20, 000 and P45, 000 loan options. However, understanding the financial needs that its pensioners face, the Bank has upped the loanable amount offering pensioners flexibility with loan terms extended from

blessings to touch the lives of others. Correa said it is just right and fitting that they share joy and smiles to the children of their security and maintenance (janitorial) employees, as their work is equally important in ensuring a smooth mall operation.

"It makes us really happy that the chosen beneficiaries for this year's ChriSmiles are those who are really close to our hearts... people who always greet us with us with a smile each day. People that we see how hard they work just to give you a better future. I am proud that

three to five years. PVB Corporate Communications and Marketing Services Vice President Miguel Angelo Villa-real said this is great news this holiday season for PVAO pensioners composed mostly of surviving Filipino World War II veterans, their widows, and retired personnel of the AFP.

In addition, pensioners with existing pension loans with PVB can re-avail of the higher loan amount as long as they have already paid at least two months amortizations of their current loan, Villa-real added.

The PVB also launched its Christmas promo for pensioners entitled "Pamaskong Handog". From December 11 to 29 this 2015, PVAO pensioners who successfully avail of the P100, 000 loan will receive a special appliance gift from PVB. Not only will pensioners enjoy the benefits of the higher loan proceeds but they will also get to take home a small appliance like a flat iron, electric kettle, one-burner gas stove, desk fan, among others, he added.

To be eligible for the promo, a PVAO pensioner simply has to apply for the P100, 000 loan at any of PVB's

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I am part of a team of hard working and happy workers," she said.

SM Baguio Media Relations Officer Karren Nobres, also shared that their project "ChriSmiles" is now the fifth year of spreading the spirit of Christmas, which is sharing and giving, even beyond the mall's wall.

In 2010 and 2011, the ChriSmiles beneficiaries were children with disabilities; for 2012, an eight year old girl with leukemia, and last year, to children with disabilities. *JDP/CCD - PIA CAR*

More Abrenians train on butchery, meat cutting

BANGUED, Abra. -- The partnership forged between the Provincial Government of Abra (PGA) and Senator Cynthia Villar is now producing graduates in butchery and meat cutting.

Last week, a total of 15 scholars graduated from a 35-day Training Program on Butchery and Meat Cutting under the auspices of the Agri Pinoy Center of the National Tobacco Administration (NTA) in Narvacan, Ilocos Sur.

The second batch of trainees also started their classes on December 21 at the NTA Agri Pinoy Center in Narvacan. There are 14 scholars in this batch.

While the training program is hosted and conducted by the NTA

Agri Pinoy, social preparations of the scholars are facilitated by the Provincial Cooperative Development Office (PCDO) headed by Josephine Flores.

Sen. Villar and Gov. Bersamin and his wife Ruby pay for all the training materials including all the safety gears and gadgets that the scholars need during the training period. Bersamin also procured the cooking materials for the trainees since this is a live-in training program.

The counterparts of the scholars are their food and personal allowances and lodging of P750.00 for the whole duration of the training.

After their training, the graduates undergo an assessment of their competency. They are

required to pay the amount of P2, 400.00 for their assessment by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for their National Competency certificates. For the Butchery NC II, they pay P1, 200.00 and for the Meat Cutting NC II, another P1, 200.00.

In an interview with social worker Karen Tejero of the PCDO, she said the applicants have shown their interest in the trade with the hope of landing in a high-paying blue-collar job here and abroad especially now that there is a big demand for butchers and meat cutters in the New Zealand, Canada and Australia. *JDP/MTBB - PIA CAR, Abra*



AMIDST KIDS — Dr. Jamie Eloise M. Agbayani, President of the John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC) together with other JHMC employees sit and mingle with the students of Happy Hollow Elementary School during the launching of the feeding program on November 19. *JHMC Photo*

NTA-Abra braces tobacco farmers to cope with El Nino

BANGUED, Abra. -- The National Tobacco Administration (NTA) is taking necessary measures to support the tobacco farmers in order to maintain high quality products and high productivity with the expected El Nino.

"The effect of El Nino is widespread and undeniable. Hence, we need to provide all the necessary assistance to our farmers especially those who are most-affected," said Esmeralda Gaerlan-

Valera, NTA-Abra manager.

While everyone is asked to take his share in water conservation, Valera announced that they have completed their irrigation projects in various parts of the province particularly in the tobacco-producing municipalities. These are in the form of mini dams in the towns of Pilar and Villaviciosa and an impounding dam in Tayum.

The NTA also provided

water pumps and water hose to the farmers in areas with no big irrigation projects in order to help the tobacco farmers cope with the ill-effects of drought.

Valera added that they have also an on-going water-supply project in Dolores and look forward to starting more water-related projects in the municipalities of Luba, Pidigan, San Quintin, Penarrubia and Tayum. *JDP/MTBB - PIA CAR, Abra*

DOST conducts IEC...

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(WLMS) and tandem device (ARG+WLMS) send out information to DOST main servers and interpreted by PAG-ASA. There are already 30 hydromet devices installed in all 27 municipalities in Abra.

During the IEC-forum held at the PDRRM Operational Center in Calaba, Bangued, Science Research Analyst Hansi G. Dumla urged the participants particularly the disaster responders and MDRRM Officers to make their own threshold interpretation of data received by the sensors basing on previous

calamity situation.

"You should base your interpretation from the previous flooding situations in your own locality because your places differ in landscape and locations. Some areas maybe more susceptible to flooding because they are located in lower grounds or near the river," said Dumla as she stressed to them to send out early warning signals to the community before the sensors rise in alert level.

The lowlands have been experiencing a lot of flooding during the previous typhoons

from the mountains and upstream rivers of Kalinga, Apayao, Mountain Province and Cervantes, Ilocos Sur.

Dumla also reminded them to clean the hydromet sensors always especially the orifice and solar panels, remove dirt, leaves, twigs and other debris in order ensure data accuracy.

Other agencies who participated in the IEC-forum were BFP, PNP, PIA, AFP, DOH, DILG, DepEd, DSWD, LGUs and Abra Electric Cooperative. *JDP/GGB - PIA CAR, Abra*

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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 9
(FAMILY COURT FOR BENGUET PROVINCE)
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
La Trinidad, Benguet

SPS. JEAN BAGNI AND MOUSTAFA SOULTANI a.k.a MUSTAPHA SULTANI,

Petitioners,

-versus-

EMMANUEL D. DIMARUCUT.
THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF TABUK CITY AND THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (FOR-MERLY NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE).

Respondents.

X-----X

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASE NO. 15-A-1036

For IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

MARCHELLA BAGNI DIMARUCUT
ORDER

Petitioners, through counsel, filed this verified Amended Petition for Adoption, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, the prospective adoptee, MARCHELLA BAGNI DIMARUCUT, be declared for all legal intents and purposes as the adopted child of petitioners. It is further prayed that said prospective adoptee shall then acquire the reciprocal rights and obligations arising from parents - child relationship. Still further, petitioners pray that the office of Local Civil Registry of Tabuk Kalinga and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PhhSA) be directed to CANCEL the Certificate of Live Birth will all its appropriate and applicable entries.

It is alleged in the Amended Petition, among others, that petitioners are emotionally, psychologically, and financially capable of caring for children; that petitioners possess all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications to adopt; and, that this petition for adoption will certainly redound to the best interest, welfare and benefit of

the prospective adoptee MARCHELLA BAGNI DIMARUCUT.

WHEREFORE, finding the Amended Petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the petitioners are directed to meet and confer with the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer (MSWDO) of the local government unit (LGU) of La Trinidad, Benguet, where petitioners are now residents, for the conduct of Child and Home Study in relation to this Amended Petition. Consequently, the MSWDO of La Trinidad, Benguet, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development-Cordillera Administrative Region (DSWD-CAR), Baguio City, is directed to conduct a Child and Home Study and submit to this court said Child and Home Study REPORTS, incorporating therein her appropriate findings and recommendations.

The REPORTS of the MSWDO should be submitted to this court at least fifteen (15) days before the initial hearing of this Amended Petition, which shall be on March 17, 2016, at 9:00 o'clock in the morning. Copies of the said REPORTS should be furnished to the Offices of the Regional Director of the DSWD-CAR, Baguio City, the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet; and, the Solicitor General.

The office of the DSWD-CAR, Baguio City, or through its duly authorized representative, is respect-

fully directed to file its COMMENT to this Amended Petition, stating therein its recommendation when applicable. The COMMENT shall be filed at least fifteen (15) days before March 17, 2016, the initial hearing of this Petition.

Let this ORDER be published at the expense of the Petitioners in the Junction, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province and the Cordillera Administrative Region, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made not later than December 20, 2015. All interested persons may come to court and show cause, if any, why this Amended Petition should not be granted.

Furnish copies of this ORDER with copies of the Amended Petition and its annexes, to: the offices of the Regional Director of the DSWD-CAR, Baguio City; the Solicitor General; the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet; Mr. Emmanuel D. Dimarucut and the Civil Registrar of Tabuk, Kalinga and the MSWDO of La Trinidad, Benguet; furnish copies of this ORDER to the Junction and the petitioners and counsel.

SO ORDERED.

In chambers, this 11th day of December 2015 at La Trinidad, Benguet.

(SGD) RUFUS G. MALECDAN, JR.
Acting Presiding Judge

Publication Dates: December 12, 19, and 26, 2015

Chiz urges SSS to condone loan penalties to prepare for pension hike

Instead of raising member contributions anew to compensate for the looming hike in the retirement benefits of 1.9 million pensioners, Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero urged the Social Security System (SSS) to consider alternative ways of generating revenue like condoning penalties on overdue loan obligations.

According to Escudero, such scheme will not only help the SSS raise additional revenues, but will also aid delinquent borrowers settle their obligation without worrying about the staggering penalties they have incurred.

"The SSS should not rely on additional premium on member contributions to boost its revenue. It should explore other options like a loan penalty condonation program to raise money for the state-run pension fund," the independent vice-presidential bet said.

The SSS had claimed that based on the latest actuarial valuation, four years were added to the life of the fund from the previous valuation of 2039, after hiking the rate of contribution in January 2014.

The last time the SSS implemented a loan penalty condonation program in 2012, the state-run pension fund collected a total of P2.878 billion, surpassing its target of P2.432 billion.

The program, which ran from April 2 to Sept. 31, 2012, granted partial to full amnesty on loan penalties to about 208,502 delinquent borrowers who repaid their loans either on installment basis or one-time payment.

Escudero also proposed that aside from implementing a loan penalty condonation program, the SSS should also intensify its information drive about its existing programs aimed at helping members with outstanding loans.

The veteran lawmaker was referring to the option of delinquent borrowers to sell their shares of stocks under the Stock Investment Loan Program (SILP) and the Privatization Fund Loan Program (PFLP) to lessen their outstanding loan balance.

"SSS is a supposed to promote social justice through a viable social security system. It is supposed to help members and their families cope with death, disability, sickness, maternity or old age, and not turn them away through huge amount of penalties," Escudero said.

The SSS, which has 32.5 million members as of March 2015, is poised to implement a P2,000 across-the-board increase in the retirement pay of 1.9 million pensioners should a bill approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate is signed by President Aquino into a law.

Escudero, the leading vice presidential contender, also has a pending bill seeking to aid the SSS resolve its problem on delinquent contributions and at the same bring relief to affected members and employers.

Senate Bill No. 2921 that Escudero filed in September, seeks to empower the Social Security Commission to condone penalties on delinquent contributions of members, which he said, has not only deprived members of their benefits, but has also stunted SSS' growth.

Escudero said he filed the bill as he deemed the three percent per month penalty assessed on unremitted contributions to be "burdensome" for the more than 30 million SSS members.

"This penalty is burdensome as it continues to accrue from the date the contribution falls due until paid. As a result, the delinquency, if not quickly addressed, can really pile up. For troubled companies that, by and large, do not want to be delinquent in the first place but failed to remit what is due as their employees' contributions to SSS could easily find themselves in arrears," he said.

The condonation of penalties would also benefit the SSS, Escudero noted, as it could immediately collect overdue contributions amounting to P625.9 million as of last year, based on the records of the Large Account Division of SSS.

SSS records show that 24,042 delinquent employers owe the SSS P1.033 billion in delinquent contributions as of May 2014, including P408 million in penalties.

The senator noted how employers, particularly of financially-distressed firms and small and medium businesses, shun paying the accumulated delinquency penalties because they are bigger than the principal that should have been settled./Office of Senator Chiz Escudero

City braces for influx of taxpayers

BAGUIO CITY – The city government through the city treasury office prepares for the influx of taxpayers beginning January 4, 2016 by fine-tuning the systems and procedures involved in facilitating payments for new and renewal of business permits as well as of real property and other taxes.

The office began receiving applications for payment as early as November to expedite the initial clearances required. The bulk of the taxpayers will flock to City Hall from January to March.

City treasurer Alicia Onoza said that as in the past years, taxpayers who will settle their revenue obligations early will receive incentives like discounts and "roleta" and raffle prizes.

Asst. city treasurer Alex Cabarrubias spelled out the process of renewing business permits.

He said taxpayers should proceed to the one-stop shop section

to claim printed 2016 assessment. Owners must issue an authority to their representatives while messengers or bookkeepers must submit a list of clients and authority or special power of attorney from the owners to the business tax filing division and claim the assessment the following day.

Those without printed 2016 assessment or if assessment has issues, applicants can proceed to the business tax assessors for resolution or printing. All unresolved issued will be referred to the city treasurer.

Once assessment is finished, the applicants may pay the taxes and fees to the tellers by showing first official receipts for residential garbage or if not, the garbage fee will be included in the assessment.

The next step will be the payment of fire code fees to the Bureau of Fire Protection tellers then process to the permits and licensing office to claim

business permit and/or business plate upon submission of the following: barangay, health, fire clearances, market clearance if business is in the market and real property tax clearance if prompted by the system.

For new businesses, applicants must proceed to the licensing office and fill up the application form which will be forwarded simultaneously to the following offices for processing: city planning office, fire department, city environment office, city health office, city building and architecture office, campaign and investigation or the city treasury office.

Upon clearance of the said offices, the applicants must proceed to the one-stop shop for the assessment, payment of taxes and fees and finally go back to the licensing office to claim business permit.

Inquiries on the status of applications may be coursed through the licensing office./A Refuerzo



"TOP BARANGAY" – Mayor Mauricio Domogan hands over the Plaque of the 'Best Performing Barangay' to Officials of Middle Quirino Hill Barangay for topping this year's Search for the Best Performing Barangay". /Photo by Paul Rillorta

Last ordinance codification public hearing done

BAGUIO CITY – After a series of public hearing for the proposed codification, Vice-Mayor Edison Bilog and the councilors agreed on updating provisions of city ordinances authored since 1945.

The well-attended forum for all city council committees, done since November at the Pine View and Crown Legacy Hotels, ended Dec. 17 with public hearings on Social Services and Public Utilities; chaired by Councilors Betty Lourdes Tabanda and Joel Alangab, respectively.

The social services meeting focused on public offices in the grassroot level, and services afforded them. Some obsolete provisions, with specific references are due for deletion, Bilog observed.

Matters such as blood donations, blood screening and health packages for barangay officials, person with disabilities (PWD) and senior citizens were looked into, as with Electrocardio/encephalogram as additional medical benefits in the Health Services Office (HSO). City Social Welfare

and Development Officer (CSWDO) Betty Fangasan explained that separate funding is allocated as to purpose; training, livelihood, 4 Ps, Youth, Senior Citizens, PWDs and others. Inquiries as to medical needs of special children were also clarified, as with free legal assistance from the Attorney's Office and funeral expenses for the needy. Assessment for a certain income level and resources to determine indigency would be needed, it was known.

Financial; relief and rehabilitation assistance, from institutions; solicitations needing permits from the city,

City Social Welfare

Cont. on page 6

Benguet police probes in Lepanto bombing incident

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet -- The Benguet Provincial Police Office is still probing on who could have masterminded the bombing of a power line in Mankayan town last week which paralyzed the operation of the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corporation (LCMC).

Benguet PPO OIC Senior Superintendent David Peredo said that they are still looking in the involvement of interest groups that include disgruntled

company employees, and members of the New People's Army.

Reports indicated that heavily armed men swooped down from the mountains and allegedly bombed the power transmission lines of LCMC inflicting heavy damages to the company.

The incident caused the collapse of the tower resulting in power interruption and disruption of company's operations.

LCMC told the police that two days before the bombing, unident-

tified men were seen around the area. The mining company also disclosed that it received an extortion letter at the start of the year which has prompted the police to look into an extortion motive behind the bombing.

The LCMC tower is being guarded by Warrior Security group, however, it was learned that there were no guards in the area during the bombing./JDP/RMC-PIA CAR

Mayor appeals to motorists to adhere to traffic laws

BAGUIO CITY, Dec. -- City Mayor Mauricio Domogan appealed to motorists to strictly adhere to the traffic rules and regulations being implemented in the city during the Yuletide season to help prevent monstrous traffic jam around the city with the influx of tourists.

Domogan said that motorists, both local residents and visitors, should strictly observe the different traffic laws implemented in the city to lessen the traffic problems similar to what happened during the same period last year and the recent events including the exodus of tourists during the APEC in November.

Domogan said that motorists should observe traffic signs installed along major road networks in order to guide them on the

prevailing schemes that are being implemented citywide.

He added that discipline along the roads will also help in reducing the exposure of motorists to untoward incidents that would pose a serious threat to life and limb.

Last week, Mayor Domogan approved the suspension of the number coding scheme of the city in anticipation of the influx of foreign and local tourists this Yuletide season.

In Administrative Order No. 172, Baguio's number coding scheme is suspended from December 21 to 31 for private vehicles.

While it is true that during long holidays the city experiences worse traffic conditions, their visitors should also be given the chance to roam around various tourist spots with their vehicles,

Domogan explained.

Baguio City Police Office Director PSSupt. Rolando Miranda said that the Baguio City Police Office – Traffic Management Branch (BCPO-TMB) and the Traffic and Transport Management Committee have assured police visibility in order to assist motorists in the city and manage the traffic situation particularly in areas which are expected to have heavy traffic flow like central business district and the different parks and malls in the city.

More than 15, 000 vehicles are expected to add to the traffic situation in the city and at least half a million tourists will be staying for the Christmas and New Year celebration in the city./JDP/RMC-PIA CAR

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE INTESTATE ESTATE OF GASPAR DOMINGO

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of Gaspar Domingo, who died on September 25, 1976 in Baguio City, Philippines, has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs through that deed of Extrajudicial Settlement of the Intestate Estate of Gaspar Domingo, acknowledged on October 29, 2015 before Philippine Consul Voltaire O.C. Mauricio, Embassy of the Philippines, London, United Kingdom, and entered in his notarial register as Doc. No. 9679; Service No. 26968; O.R. No. 0120.

Publication Dates: December 26, 2015, January 2, and 9, 2016



Comelec needs a chairman who can lead

THE outpouring of statements and opinions on Senator Poe's disqualification case from the Commission on Elections (Comelec) has me totally confused.

First, the Comelec en banc (in full session) issued two resolutions junking Senator Poe's motions for reconsideration on her disqualification by the Second and First Divisions of the poll body on Dec. 1 and 11, respectively.

The language of the resolutions said in no uncertain terms that Comelec was nullifying the certificate of candidacy for president of Senator Poe.

Second, before the nation could fully decipher the implications (whether Ms. Poe is henceforth scratched from the presidential race), Comelec chairman Andy Bautista emerged from his foxhole to announce that he had dissented from the majority opinion of his peers and written his own lengthy opinion in dissent.

Stepping on the Comelec's decision

By press release, by statement and by broadcast interviews, Bautista stepped on the otherwise declarative message of the commission, and questioned the wisdom and finality of its decisions, to plead, of all things, the case for Senator Poe.

Knowing full well how dissenting opinions can be

milked for publicity in this country, Bautista has not stopped talking ever since. He released his labored 53-page opinion to the media, as though he were unveiling an opinion by a justice of the Supreme Court.

Then he opined that Ms. Poe committed an "honest mistake" when she stated in her COC (certificate of candidacy) that she was a natural-born-citizen of the Philippines, and that she had the ten-year residency required by the Constitution.

Finally, as a public demand developed for Ms. Poe's removal from the election ballot, Bautista declared that Senator Poe should be allowed to run for President.

Then he turned the spotlight on himself by stating how he agonized over his decision.

He said: "It was hard. There were pressures from many sides but I just followed my conscience, what I think was right and I made some balancing."

In making his decision, he said he took into consideration other Filipinos who have left to pursue opportunities abroad and have become foreign citizens, and may desire to come home.

A concurring and dissenting opinion

And yet in saying this mouthful, Bautista stressed that he was concurring with the majority decision, even while dissenting from it.

He billed his 53-page opinion as "a Concurring and Dissenting Opinion."

He agreed with the majority decisions of the two Comelec Divisions that Poe lacked the 10-year residency requirement under the Constitution.

"By 2016 national and local elections, she will only have been a resident for nine years and 10 months at the most, and not 10 years and 11 months as what she claimed in her 2015 COC," the opinion stated.

Bautista added that Ms. Poe is covered by the 1935 Constitution which does not state that foundlings like her should be considered natural-born citizens.

"It is common knowledge that the Philippines has adopted the principle of jus sanguinis – citizenship is determined by blood relationship," he said. Hence, Senator Poe is not a natural-born Filipino citizen.

Asking Congress to recognize all foundlings

As if all this hemming and hawing were not enough, Bautista pointedly asked Congress to pass a law that would declare all foundlings as natural-born citizens of the Philippines.

He waxed sentimental about the plight of foundlings in the absence of a law, how they are consigned to the ranks of the stateless.

But the stark reality was plain. Bautista was dumping on the decisions that the Comelec commissioners had reached, deliberated, debated, and finally voted on collectively and unanimously.

He was publicly holding up under doubt the decision of the commission.

He was publicly sympathizing with Senator Poe on her predicament.

A Comelec with resolve, judgment and integrity

Did some people talk to Bautista to wring from him this agonizing act of abdication?

Does the man have no spine to lean on when he has to make a difficult decision? Does the Comelec, with seven commissioners, not have enough members to interpret the Constitution and its mandate to Comelec properly?

I find these thoughts unpleasant to entertain because as a nation, we stand

Cont. on page 5



KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

"Grace Poe must win at all cost"---two business groups

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "...For God so loved the world, He Himself came down from heaven into the world, in the form of man, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life..." (John 3:16, the Holy Bible, AND KNK translation).

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PNOY COULD HAVE SAID MORE IN HIS CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: I am generally happy with the Christmas 2015 message of President Aquino, in which he appeared to have talked about spiritual growth for all Filipinos, Christians and non-Christians alike. Yet, he could have said more, both for Christians and non-Christians alike.

For one, a Christmas message is a message for Christians who believe and accept that Jesus is God and Savior and who therefore take time out to celebrate His supposed birth. And so, the message should have dealt with strengthening the faith on Jesus as God and Savior. But Aquino either missed totally missed this important point, or totally ignored it, for one reason or another.

For another, Aquino's message could have also dealt with the basic tenets of the other spiritual groups that now abound in the Philippines, and called on those who have other spiritual beliefs to strengthen their faith likewise, based on their own holy books or teachings which, I am sure, also center on love, justice, reconciliation and peace.

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"SC TO TRO COMELEC RE GRACE POE": I hate to be a killjoy but whatever is happening to the presidential candidacy of Sen. Grace Poe---like her disqualification by the Commission on Elections and her subsequent recourse to the Supreme Court---already was the center of many coffee shop talks two to three weeks before they even occurred.

I remember having heard a story about a businessman with connections with the family which was really responsible for building Makati City into the very progressive metropolis that it is today, disclosing in a dinner with his associates that, precisely, Comelec will disqualify Poe but that the high court will come to her aid and stop the poll body from enforcing its decisions.

It was from that businessman that I learned that two very economically powerful groups teamed up and are now backing up Grace Poe in her presidential run. One group has fielded one of its young leaders from North Metro Manila to act as Poe's spokesman, while the other group has already formed a legal team to assist Poe in her behind-the-scene legal skirmishes, with the leader of this team now meeting daily with Poe and her other advisers. Both groups want Grace to win, at all cost!

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MESSED-UP SURVEY RESULTS: There is a hush-hush report circulating in Metro Manila Thursday, December 24, 2015, that the results of a new survey showing Vice President Jejomar Binay and Grace Poe and Mar Roxas technically tied up for first place in the 2016 elections were issued in a rush to counter-act the results issued a day earlier by another survey firm showing Binay with a formidable lead over Poe and the other presidential candidates.

I was told that the spin masters of one perennially lagging candidate who have close ties with a very powerful government official frantically called up the

Cont. on page 5

FEATURE

Why no elections but a political upheaval or even a revolution

"For those who believe, no explanation is necessary; for those who do not believe, no explanation is possible."

—A famous quote attributed to either Thomas Aquinas, Stuart Chase, or Ignatius de Loyola

IN my column last Thursday, I promised to give the various emerging scenarios tending to indicate that there will be no elections on May 12, 2016. To the overwhelming majority who do not study the drift of events or the contentious struggle for national positioning, the idea appears incredible, after all the powerful forces in the country mandate that elections will be held as provided by law.

But this is a country where the current law is that of the lawless—a lawless President, a lawless Congress and other lawless institutions. We do not have a rule of law; we have the rule of low. It is as simple as that so it is not improbable that the emerging scenarios, even as the election campaign is waged with high octane ferocity, may turn out to be lawless, based on traditional standards.

Emerging scenarios

Noynoy option scenario: The popular contention is that President Noynoy will follow the Gloria Arroyo precedent, if Mar Roxas or Grace Poe loses in the election. He will not only have a brace on his neck, he could just have a rope around his neck or a guillotine falling on it. Noynoy, the scared Asperger syndrome, will not allow that to happen. So what is the Noynoy option? It is to declare martial law and suspend the elections. He might just do that. So he will do a Marcos but may not be able to do it as successfully as Marcos unless he conscripts the Marcos martial law czar—Juan Ponce Enrile—who is still swaggering around in the Senate and national stage as though he would be around with the talisman of living forever like Count Dracula.

Jojo Binay scenario: Vice President Jojo who has the Enrile swagger, a useless imitation because of his height and color, has a Niagara of plunder and graft and corruption cases against him and his family, leaving a pollutant stench like that of the Pasig River. Anybody who thinks he still can win the presidency must be having a nightmare. But of course, he might just be convinced by the useless polluted surveys of SWS and Pulse Asia that he would forego any other option than the election. To assume that is to contend that Binay must either be dense or stupid or both. But Jojo is not anyone of that. He is ambitious and pragmatic. As he is, the better option of Jojo is for Noynoy to disappear between now and the election. Since he is the successor to Noynoy, he would become President with that contingency, in which case, there would be no elections. How he could do it, is anybody's guess. It may not be amiss to mention here the Jojo is a reserved colonel of the Marines with a huge following among those in the active service, a significant band of policemen behind him, not to speak of the Boy Scouts.

Grace Poe scenario: It is quite obvious that the reigning traditional institutional forces are against her. With that, it is not difficult to assume that the Supreme Court may disqualify her before the elections. If that happens, she has formidable forces behind her. Her disqualification, if it comes, will be treated by her followers and even by those who are not her avid

followers as grave injustice. And if that happens, it is again not improbable for her followers to move for an Edsa-type upheaval which could trigger a no-election situation.

Duterte scenario: If the Comelec will be consistent, it is inevitable that Duterte will be disqualified meaning his certificate of candidacy will be cancelled. He is on the same boat as Grace Poe. If Grace Poe's certificate of candidacy will be cancelled by the Supreme Court, it is almost safe to assume that he would find himself in the same predicament as Grace Poe. Considering that the followers of Duterte are more fanatical than those of others and considering further that Duterte has decreed over and over again that he will proclaim a revolutionary government the moment he gets elected President, it is rational to assume that his leaders and followers will destabilize the country with an effort to install Duterte as President—come hell or high water.

The x-factor scenario: This is the most imponderable scenario. Nobody knows the components of the X-Factor—I do not know it, you don't know it. Greater is our problem because we do not know who are the leaders or the leader. Still baffling is that we do not know their program, their motives. Are they revolutionaries? If so, what type of revolutionaries are they? Only the unraveling events will tell. For now, they are in the shadows, in silent corners—unidentified and mysterious.

Interesting times

These are really interesting times, as the Chinese define periods like ours. They befuddle, they mystify, they overwhelm. But as participants in the determination of our national destiny, it is appropriate to inform the self-proclaimed gods of the present political and economic system that they are not the only decision-makers in this country. Linger in the shadows or intense in their public avowals are those who may be one in every million of Filipinos, who are strategic decision-makers, too. They also can determine the destiny of this country—more powerful than the President or Lucio Tan or Andrew Tan or Henry Sy or Fernando Zobel or Enrique Razon. Why, because the man operates outside the box. The men inside the box are normally blind to emerging imperceptible realities. They wallow in their own illusions!

The man outside the box is the thinker, the planner, the dreamer and the man who makes things happen consistent with his dreams. As one prescient observer once wrote—a constitutionalist by day, a Trotskyite by night meaning a revolutionary who dreams dreams. It is as mysterious as it sounds, but it is as plain as broad daylight.

The fork of the road

We really are at the fork of the road—a choice is to be made. Which is which—election or a peaceful constitutional revolution? Election cannot be the appropriate choice because it would not bring meaningful changes in our country and in the lives of our citizen. Evil is the election; good is the constitutional peaceful revolution. But if a peaceful constitutional revolution does not happen, a violent revolution will break out—it is just a matter of time.

But what about the elections of May 12, 2016? I don't think it will come. The contradicting elements are so overwhelming that expecting the elections is as irrational as a clean and an honest election in our country now. You know it, I know it—we all know it, kids!

So you know the intelligent option—the revolution! But if I am proved wrong in my prediction, and election does come—there is one remaining intelligent option—ROY SENERES, the champion of the OFW, the contractual employees and the downtrodden Filipinos!/Homobono Adaza

DTI holds consumer education drive for high school students

ASIPULO, Ifugao, Dec. (PIA) -- The Department of Trade and Industry here conducted school-based consumer education drive (SBCES) to high schools in the province.

Fourth year students of the Haliap National High School in Asipulo town and Lagawe National High School in this town, learned of business regulation topics that include the priority fair trade laws such as business name registration, Price Act, price tag, product labeling and product standard.

The students were enjoined to be more vigilant and assertive of their rights as consumers.

"For instance, when faced with a defective product, you have the option to ask for repair services, replacement of the product or refund of the payment they made to the establishment," the DTI explained.

The participants were also oriented on the assistance the DTI is providing for the business sector particularly the Small and Medium Enterpriseslike skills and entrepreneurial trainings, technology improvement, product research and development, marketing assistance, technical assistance and consultancy and advisory services./JDP/MBL-PIA CAR, Ifugao

Ifugao gets 5,000 family packs for food for work

HINGYON, Ifugao, Dec. 14 (PIA) -- The province of Ifugao availed recently 5000 family packs from the Department of Social Welfare and Development Office in the Cordillera Administrative Region for food for work activities in typhoon-affected areas.

Cecil Unghiyon of the Provincial Social and Development Office (PSWDO) said the family packs that consist of rice, coffee, can goods and noodles will be used as food for work in the 11 municipalities for the rehabilitation of damaged facilities caused by typhoon 'Lando'.

In a report released by the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, the province incurred more than P73 million estimated cost of damages due typhoon "Lando" that heavily affected Northern Luzon last October.

Damages to infrastructure reached P37, 058,698 for infrastructure, and P36, 219,400.13 for agriculture. There were 45 houses totally damaged and 549 partially damaged. There were also four dead. /JDP/MBL-PIA CAR, Ifugao

Kalinga police seal issued guns

TABUK CITY, Kalinga, Dec. 17 (PIA)—In support to the nationwide drive of the Philippine National Police (PNP) of no firing of guns during the Christmas season, the police in the province conducted mass sealing of issued guns.

All gun nuzzles were sealed with masking tapes bearing signatures of respective officers for monitoring.

Police Provincial Director P/SSupt. George Daskeo issued strict order to all police personnel in the province not to fire guns from December 14, 2015 to January 6, 2016 or face stern administrative sanction.

He also appealed to civilian gun holders to support the drive by not firing their own guns during the period.

In a related report, the police intensified their effort against transport, sale and use of banned firecrackers in line with the 'Iwas Papatok' campaign for a safe and celebration of the Christmas season and New Year.

Daskeo informed regular police check points and round-up operations on outlets selling banned items shall be conducted.

He appealed to the public to cooperate by not patronizing the sale of banned firecrackers and instead report to authorities anyone selling said items./JDP/LL—PIA CAR, Kalinga

DIMENSIONAL ROAD

Republic Act No. 10687 for Underprivileged but Deserving Filipino Students

BY: MARVIN WACNAG LIDAWAN



"Economic prosperity and quality education for our children are inexorably linked."

Jon Huntsman, Jr.

Despite the Philippine government's unfavorable economic status, Philippine law still advocates the significant part of education as a catalyst for a nation's favorable transformation.

According to the country's Official Gazette, UniFAST refers to Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education brought out as a directive called UniFAST Law covered under the Republic Act No. 10687 endorsed by President Benigno S. Aquino III on October 15, 2015.

Republic Act No. 10687 converges all methods of government-funded Student Financial Assistance Programs (StuFAPs) covering tertiary education's scholarships, grants-in-aid and student loans to channel its operation to officially authorized groups.

The ultimate goal of unifying the modalities of government-funded financial assistance programs is to appropriately apportion and wisely utilize government funds which aims to directly enhance higher and technical education through deserving recipients.

Everyone must obey the lawful election propaganda and avoid the prohibited forms of political propaganda, abide with the Gun Ban Law, follow the Environmental Laws relative to the elections, observe the common poster areas, comply with the Calendar of Prohibited Acts and the candidates to file their Statement of Contributions and Expenses 30 days after the election to the COMELEC, he explained.

As a result, it was officially endorsed that the UniFAST will be administered by a board that include the heads of the CHED, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Department of Education (DepEd) as co-chairs.

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Editorial

...from page 4

today on the verge of a watershed election in our nation's history.

This is a time when we truly need an election commission that can effectively manage and administer national elections.

We need it to act with resolve and show its judgment, fairness and integrity.

It needs a chairman who not only can chair meetings, but can lead our principal institution for suffrage./ by YEN MAKABENTA/yenmakabenta@yahoo.com

Ifugao PES urges CSOs, religious to help ensure clean and orderly 2016 polls

L AGAWE, Ifugao - - Ifugao Provincial Election Supervisor (PES) Ricardo Bulintao urged members of the civil society organizations (CSOs) including the various religious groups to help the Commission on Election (COMELEC) to ensure the conduct of the 2016 elections will be clean, honest and orderly.

He expressed this during the Voters Education Forum organized by the Provincial Moral Recovery Council and attended by members of the different CSOs and religious organizations in the province.

Bulintao oriented the participants regarding the Campaign Rules and Regulations, the Gun Ban Law, the Fair Elections Act, the Environmental Laws to be observed relative to the coming election, the Campaign Finance and Limitations and other relevant election matters.

Everyone must obey the lawful election propaganda and avoid the prohibited forms of political propaganda, abide with the Gun Ban Law, follow the Environmental Laws relative to the elections, observe the common poster areas, comply with the Calendar of Prohibited Acts and the candidates to file their Statement of Contributions and Expenses 30 days after the election to the COMELEC, he explained.

Bulintao also told the group that the campaign period for the national candidates is from February 9, 2016 to May 7, 2016 and from March 25, 2016 to May 7, 2016 for the local candidates.

He challenged all to help and support the COMELEC in making the 2016 election peaceful, orderly, clean and credible with following courses of action: 1) Voters education to dissuade vote selling, vote buying and guiding the voters in choosing the best and good candidate; 2) Serve as citizens arm watchers during the voting and counting of votes; 3) Assist the COMELEC in monitoring campaign expenses and violations of campaign rules by serving as witness or complainant; 4) Assist and monitor the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines in the implementation of the Gun Ban Law and, 5) By serving as member in the "COMELEC Task Force Baklas"./JDP/DBC-PIA CAR, Ifugao

in protecting students' academic well-being are expected. And to be able to thoroughly implement this revamp, the board has formulated the following components as guideline priorities in their governance. These are "standard setting, client-targeting, fund allocation and prioritization which are based on supply-demand situations, prices and inflationary factors, government human resources development plan and current trends in internationally-shared human resources."/marvinwacnaglidawan@gmail.com

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LTO-Kalinga's collection soars to P16M

TABUK CITY, Kalinga - - Because of intensified efforts, Land Transportation-Kalinga's collection matrix continues to rise reaching P16 Million, overshooting its 2015 target by about P3 million.

In her collection performance report, Provincial Land Transportation Officer Jenelyn Angog showed that as of November 30, the agency has collected P16, 093,145. Collection as of September was P13, 993,145. The 2015 target collection is P13M.

Angog attributed the agency's remarkable collection performance to LTO's continuing program in scaling-up its services on registration of vehicles, issuances of driver's license and processing of other vehicle documents.

LTO provincial stations had installed on-line systems that cut the "turn-around" time in the processing of transactions.

Angog also credited the performance to the agency's continuing education drive and increased law enforcement operation./JDP/LL-PIA CAR, Kalinga

Abra BNS train on basic nutrition course

B ANGUED, Abra -- Twenty eight Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) in the province undertook Basic Course for Nutrition, a refresher course of their roles and functions as key providers of nutrition and health services in their community.

As core output, the BNS from the towns of Malibcong, La Paz, Bangued and Pidigan trained in writing and accomplishing action plan on nutrition, said Maryjune Adriatico of the Provincial Nutrition Council.

The need to include nutrition and health programs in the barangay calendar of activities is of utmost importance, stressed Adriatico as she enjoined participants to initiate institutionalizing Barangay Nutrition Council.

BNS are an important standard contingent of the Provincial Nutrition Council in conducting health and nutrition programs in sitios and barangays like feeding programs and Operation Timbang to day care centers and elementary schools./GBB-PIA CAR, Abra

Kakampi mo ang Batas from page 4

officials of the survey firm that released the results showing Binay, Poe and Roxas in a statistical tie to come up with "something" to negate the strong showing of Binay.

My question is, is this hush-hush report true? I guess that those involved should explain what, really, is happening with their surveys, to prove to all of us that survey results are not merely fabricated to suit the desires of those who paid for them. Perhaps, survey firms should also announce that they were going to take a survey, explaining their mechanics and their subject matter before proceeding with the survey. Transparency is what they call this!

PLEASE LISTEN: "Ang Tanging Daan" (The Sole Way): a Bible study and prayer session online could now be heard, 24 HOURS a day, in the Philippines and the world at www.facebook.com/angtangingdaan or www.facebook.com/ANDKNK (and look for "Ang Tanging Daan" broadcasts). Phone: 0922 833 43 96, 0918 574 0193, 0977 805 9058. Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com.

PVB launches improved... from page 2

60 branches nationwide from December 11 to 29, 2015. Once the loan is approved and credited, the pensioner receives a gift voucher from PVB which can then be used to claim a prize from partner merchants.

For more informa-

tion on PVB's Pension Loan and its Pamaskong Handog promo, interested parties can visit the nearest PVB branch or call (02) 840-2621 during office hours or email customercare@veteransbank.com.ph./RMC-PIA CAR

Baguio road train... from page 1

ies (UP-NCTS).

Sources say there is a high potential of operating an Automated Guideway Transit (AGT) System in the city and its adjoining municipalities as alternative mode of public transport under a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Scheme under a Private-Public Partnership (PPP).

The AGT is a Filipino-designed mass public transport system suggested by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to solve the traffic woes of Baguio and La Trinidad proposing 5.2-kilometer railway that can ferry 720 passengers in six coaches.

The estimated cost is P1.2-billion and expected to cut down 15 minutes to almost an hour-long travel from the summer capital to La Trinidad passing thru the Balili River.

Initial reports for the AGT project came out in July this year which showed transportation problems being faced from Baguio City to La Trinidad such as congestion and rapid vehicle population increase, too many existing franchises on Public Utility Vehicles (PUV), duplicated lines of service routes, lack of off-street loading and unloading stations.

The team also observed problems in traffic management rules, smoke pollution, pedestrian-motorists conflicts, undisciplined drivers and pedestrians on the streets, lack of traffic enforcers to direct traffic especially along the Central Business District (CBD) during peak hours in the morning and afternoon.

Location of schools, hospitals and other commercial establishments along the CBD also contributes to traffic congestion and the lack of parking management strategy to effectively reduce the private vehicles, space for loading and unloading zones for private vehicles and the lack of implementing body and authority to manage all transport and traffic operations, rules and standards, engineering, and education of public transport operations was also observed.

As per reports, there are at least 1,437 jeepneys registered with different routes travelling from Baguio City to La Trinidad and vice versa.

A proposed 4 to 5.2 kilometers of elevated track along Balili River from La Trinidad to Baguio City was presented with four stations which will be located in the Provincial Capitol of La Trinidad, Kilometer 5 (BSU first gate), kilometer 4 and Slaughter House, Magsaysay, Baguio.

Estimated total cost for the proposed 120 seater coach AGT is 1.348 billion which includes development cost of proposed 6 coaches worth 66 million, developmental cost of 5.2 kilometer elevated track worth 1.122 billion and developmental cost of proposed 4 stations worth 160 million.

The projected annual fare revenues for the 10-year period for the AGT starting 2016 is P86,563,873,359.56

Ifugao PPOC moves to protect CLIP beneficiaries, workers

L AGAWE, Ifugao, Dec. 23(PIA) - - The Provincial Peace and Order Council recently passed to ensure the protection of beneficiaries and workers of the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP).

PPOC Resolution No. 2015-03 requests the Philippine National Police - Cordillera Regional Office, (PRO-COR) not to release CLIP information that would compromise the welfare and safety of clients, partners and workers.

This stemmed from a post in the social media which disclosed information such as name and age of the former rebels and the person who accompanied the FR to surrender.

The resolution stated that the posting in social media of the identity of security protocol as embodied in Section 10. B of the Implementing Guidelines of the Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP)

DOST orients Kalinga disaster councils on early warning systems

T ABUK CITY, Kalinga, Dec. 17 (PIA) - - The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) oriented members of disaster risk reduction management councils on early warning systems to help prepare communities to be resilient during calamities.

The activity held at Davidson Hotel here on Tuesday presented to the participants from the municipal and barangay levels the technology-aided early warning devices

with annual ridership of 30,860,561 which would grow to P158,864,703,122.00 with annual ridership of 56,636,258 by 2026.

A proposed expansion of the project would also cover the adjoining municipalities of Itogon,

for former New People's Army (NPA) members.

"The release of names of the former rebels is detrimental and has a negative effect on them, their families and the person who accompanied them to surrender and the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) personnel handling the program," the PPOC resolution stated.

It further mentioned that PPOC deems it important that names of the former rebels should be withheld from the press and social media in order to maintain social relationship, trust and confidence in the government, public services and the community.

The PNP and the Provincial Government will handle CLIP information with confidentiality and follow information dissemination protocol in order to protect the safety of all people concerned./JDP/MBL-PIA CAR, Ifugao

installed in rivers, landslide and flood prone areas.

Resource speakers Engr. Hansi Dinumla of DOST-Cordillera, Dr. Daniel Peckley Jr., and Ingemar Zarate explained their topics all anchored on Project NOAH or the Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards.

The participants plan to establish Community-Based Early Warning Systems utilizing the available DOST projects./PAB-PIA CAR, Kalinga

Meanwhile, there are already proponents who have signified their interest in the AGT Project with the addition of Cable Cars if found viable./Paul Rillorta

Lagawe police reaches out to pupils

L AGAWE, Ifugao, Dec. 23 (PIA) - - Police personnel of this municipality continue to reach out to communities to gain their trust and confidence/

Led by Police Inspector Juliet Nalidong, the Lagawe Municipal Police Station (LMPS) distributed various sports equipment, school supplies, and other goods donated by kind-hearted residents of the municipality to the 134 pupils of Dulao Elementary School here/

Nalidong explained that the activity under the "Piso Namin, Ngiti Nyo" best practice of the LMPS to win the minds and hearts of the children especially in the far flung

Last ordinance...

the CSWDO and DSWD regional offices were delved into. Fangasan clarified that barangay solicitations be limited to 24 hours, while others would need the CSWD and DSWD-Regional office and mayor's permit. Nevertheless, Fangasan urged those needing solicitation permits to see them in their respective offices.

Councilor Betty Lourdes Tabanda proposed for the inclusion of a women's section in the codified ordinances, with the Gender Equality and Development (GEAD) code.

During the afternoon assembly which tackled additional public utility matters, Benguet Electric Cooperative (BENECO) representatives clarified matters in the barangays. A 24-hour line is open for the public, as to electrical services, it was known. Representatives from the Baguio City Police Office, Traffic Management Bureau (BCPO-TMB) and Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) were also present.

For the transport sector, vehicle number

areas. SPO4 Quinio Tayaban and SPO3 Mildred Atluna also lectured on Anti-Bullying and Discipline to the Grades III to VI pupils, as they encouraged them to give their best in their studies for a better future.

Meanwhile, a total of 67 members of the Barangay Peace Action Team attended training on the operation of handheld radios, basic self-defense in arnis and martial arts and the "Lambat-Sibat" program of the PNP.

The LMPS encouraged the BPAT members to be active and responsible peace keepers in the community./JDP/MBL-PIA CAR, Ifugao

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with an additional odd-even coding scheme was suggested. This could help in unraveling traffic woes, drivers and operators of public vehicles offered. Increased penalties for violations were also suggested.

The implementation of the King of the Road ordinance, Clean Air Act, LTFRB rules and resolutions, Republic Acts (RA) and other references were also looked into.

The creation, composition and policies of the Transport and Traffic Management Committee (TTMC), needing members from the local government unit and non-government organizations would need council approval, it was agreed.

The TTMC would then look into provisions on parking, loading, unloading, terminals, signages, traffic experiments and all traffic and transport matters.

Representatives from the senior citizens and PWD sector also clamored for blue lanes for their use. Officials present agreed to look into their concerns./Julie G. Fianza