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# THE JUNCTION Pahayagang Palaban!!!

**WEEKEND**

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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

# BCDA Fights to Protect Public Interest in Camp John Hay

The state-owned Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) on Tuesday (01 September 2015) filed an appeal before the Supreme Court (SC) to protect the rights and interest of government in the Camp John Hay after the Court of Appeals' Former Special Fifth Division issued a decision that was grossly disadvantageous to government and leading to billions of pesos in lost revenues.

BCDA President and CEO Arnel Paciano D. Casanova said the highly irregular CA decision is prejudicial to the general public as it unduly deprives the government of the use, possession and generation of revenues of a government property—the Camp John Hay, in favor of the private interest of the Sobrepeña-led CJHDevCo.

Cont. on page 6



**OUTSTANDING CITIZENS OF BAGUIO.** City government of Baguio headed by Mayor Mauricio Domogan and the city councils present the six Most Outstanding Citizens of Baguio during the 106th Baguio Charter Anniversary held September 1 at the Baguio Convention Center. (L-R) Dona Digna Salvador Rosario, Basilisa Gachero Pimentel, Maria Nela Bascos Florendo, Epifania Cabanban Dao-ey, Leonarda Romasanta Aguinalde, and Lilia Ronquillo Bautista are the 6 Most Outstanding Citizens of Baguio./ Rj Cayabyab

## Lawmaker Wants Stricter

## Implementation of

## Wildlife Protection Laws •page 10

## Sablan signs sisterhood ties

## with Agat village of Guam •page 8

## Kennon Road opens to traffic but

## motorists advised to use other major roads to Baguio, Benguet •page 8

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## child's eyes - health expert •page 10

## Fongwan asks help in presenting the real situation of Benguet veggie industry •page 3

Hindi naman kataka-taka ang naging desisyon ng Court Of Appeals (CA). Parang hindi pa kayo sanay sa sistema at kalakaran sa bansang naturingan na "It's More Pan In Da Pilpins!!!"



### MAGKASANGGA TAYO

Panukala ni Yangot pare-parehong kulay ng pintura-  
KATARANTADUHAN

•page 5 BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO



### KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

hhhhhhh

•page 5 BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



## 6,000 "moma"

## trees

## planted

## in

## Ifugao

•page 9

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PRANGKAHAN TAYO CHANNEL

Prangkahan Tayo

## Lawmaker Wants Stricter Implementation of Wildlife Protection Laws

Senator Francis Escudero is calling for stricter implementation of laws on the conservation and protection of Philippine wildlife amid escalating threats to the country's biodiversity.

"It is alarming that the country is among the world's 25 biodiversity hotspots, and yet we do not manifest the urgency of action to preserve and protect what we have left," Escudero said.

Hotspots are defined as geographical areas where concentrations of endemic species are undergoing exceptional loss.

Aside from being a biodiversity hotspot, the Philippines is also counted among the World's 10 Most Threatened Forest Hotspots, according to Conservation International.

"The law is very clear about conserving wildlife resources and habitats, as stipulated by RA (Republic Act) 9147. We will find out, in a series of hearings, if the existing laws and regulations are being strictly implemented, as they should be," Escudero said.

He said laws are already in place to ensure intervention measures to protect and preserve the country's wildlife heritage.

"The big question is: are they being implemented or are they being ignored in favor of personal and economic gain?" he said.

Escudero, who chairs the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, consolidated in today's hearing all 29 resolutions, mostly au-

thored by Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, seeking legislative action to address the challenges of implementation of relevant wildlife protection laws.

Many of the proposals, such as Senate Resolution Nos. 342, 1347, 1529 and 1535, called for intervention to save the Philippine Eagle. Others sought to address illegal trading and exploitation of wildlife resources.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reported that the Philippines has lost a considerable number of species in the past decades due to the destruction of their natural habitats caused by illegal logging, mining, quarrying and kaingin.

Other threats to biodiversity were water and air pollution, oil spills, wildlife poaching and illegal trade, and introduction of invasive species.

The DENR said the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red-flagged 38



ESCUADERO

Philippine species of fauna and 55 flora species as those that have extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Among these are the tarsiers, Philippine eagle, Philippine freshwater crocodile, Philippine turtles, almaciga, waling-waling and camia.

The senator said his committee will strive to come up with stronger legislative actions that will work with current national and local initiatives for wildlife protection and conservation.

"We need a collective response to address the various threats to our biodiversity. Ecological loss eventually leads to economic loss that Filipinos will surely regret," Escudero said. *chizescudero.com; FB: senchizescudero; Twitter: @saychiz @chiznewsalrt*

## Uniform Color for Gov't Buildings Proposed

BAGUIO CITY – The city council is considering a proposed ordinance mandating a uniform color for all government buildings and structures in the city.

Councilor Leandro Yangot Jr. who proposed the measure said there is a need to impose a single color scheme for all government buildings to "provide cost advantageous distinction, uniformity, proper coordination and easy identification of government buildings or structures."

He said it also "deter the practice of some elected public officials even down to the barangay level of causing the painting of government structures i.e., barangay halls, public schools, markers, arcs, bridges, overpasses, flyovers, etc. with the clear intent to associate the construction of such government building or structure to them or to any political party color at the expense of the government."

"This is also in harmony with the policy of

## ALS institutionalization proposed

BAGUIO CITY – Councilor Leandro Yangot, Jr. proposed the institutionalization of the Alternative Learning System (ALS) into the regular operations of the City and its barangays through an ordinance to be called the "Barangay Alternative Learning System Ordinance."

"This is to more expediently and effectively provide education to a large portion of the citizenry," Yangot said.

This will also pave the way for the increased involvement of the private sector in the ALS endeavor.

"The organized implementation of an ALS on the local level, through the initiative and leadership of the barangay units, and of the private sector, will contribute greatly to the provision of education for individuals who, because of their socio-economic circumstances, had been deprived of such rights," Yangot said.

As proposed, each barangay will be authorized to implement the ALS program for out-of-

school youth and adult-age learners in their levels and pursue the mapping of OSY as outlined in DILG Circular No. 2013-18 dated March 4, 2013 and DepEd Order No. 17, S. 2014.

It will be implemented by the barangay ALS coordinators under the barangay captains and in coordination with the Division of City Schools and non-government institutions. Other personnel may be designated by the barangay to help in the program.

Volunteer teachers must be qualified to instruct and manage the ALS Curriculum as determined by the Division of City Schools. The latter may also coordinate with the DepEd, the TESDA and/or any University/College to ensure the constant supply of volunteer teachers.

The venue will be any existing barangay structure, existing high schools in the barangay or a structure owned by a private entity within the ju-

risdiction of the barangay. The facility will be enjoined to devote at least four days of every month to conduct the ALS program.

As per the measure, the DepEd will be tasked to come up with the implementing rules and regulations in consonance with existing statutes governing ALS.

ALS is implemented pursuant to Republic Act No. 9155, otherwise known as the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001 as the parallel learning system to provide viable, flexible, and accessible learning opportunities to all OSY and adults in all barangays across the country.

The DepEd, through its Bureau of Alternative Learning Systems, is currently facilitating the implementation of an ALS in the community level pursuant to Executive order No. 480, DECS Memorandum no. 204, Series of 1998, and DECS Order Nos. 22 and 28, Series of 1999. *A Refuerzo*

## Elderlies committed to protect the environment thru tree planting

BAGUIO CITY - To help ensure that the younger generation will still have green environment to inherit, members of the Blessed Association of Retired Persons (BARP) Foundation, Inc. recently planted more than 100 pine tree seedlings at Camp 8 Watershed and 200 fruit bearing trees in their respective backyards.

Federico Balanag, BARP President, said the tree-planting activity called "Green Life" is one way of showing their love for the environment and responsibility to protect it so that the future generations will have refreshing shade and green surroundings.

"We are committed to continue our program for our environment," Balanag stressed saying "we help enhance the country's forest stock to absorb carbon

will be (1) Kitten white (p112 sG) for the Body, (2) Green for roof, (3) Copper Bright (p82 sG) for Body Accents and (4) Pure Ivory (p99 sG) for Border accents since these are generic colors and are not identifiable to any existing political party or local government official," Yangot specified.

If approved the measure will include newly established edifices.

The proposals has been approved on first reading and was referred to a committee for study and recommendation. *Aileen Refuerzo and Denver Jeremiah Ebba*

dioxide which is largely blamed for global warming."

This is also their contribution to the National Greening Program which aims to promote environmental stability, biodiversity conservation, enhance climate change mitigation and reduce poverty by providing alternative livelihood activities.

The group has been planting trees for the past several years and the last time they went around to inspect, the fruit trees like guava, avocado and lemon have bear fruits already. *JDP/JBZ- PIA CAR*



YANGOT

the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) prohibiting government officials from abusing government projects for personal gain thus allowing the people to appreciate public works as the fruit of the government's continued commitment to public service and not a gratuity granted by a self-serving politician or political party," he said.

As proposed, the measure will cover all government buildings or structures such as the Baguio City Hall and other offices, barangay/multi-purpose halls, government schools, daycare centers.

"The uniform color of protective paint for all government buildings

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## City celebrates 106th Baguio Charter Day

BAGUIO CITY - The city government here celebrated its 106th Baguio Charter day last week recognizing six outstanding citizens of Baguio and paying tribute to centenarians of this mountain resort.

Baguio mayor Mauricio Domogan stressed, "with this year's theme "Nurturing the culture of caring and sharing towards competitiveness," nothing is built when nothing is given, and when more is given, more is built by the same token. Also, if we want our city of Baguio to be better, then we must continue to give.

"If we want to maintain the status quo, or at best to continue to build a better Baguio, our competitiveness in the area of giving must continue," added Domogan.

This year's theme is very evident having six women as the most outstanding citizens of Baguio because of their active community participation and contributions to their respective fields of profession.

In the field of community service, Leonarda Aguinaldo, Dona Dig-

na Rosario and Epifania Dao-ey were honored for their leadership and participation in different activities in the city.

They have influenced the lives of other people to become productive for the betterment of respective communities.

Maria Nela Florendo on the other hand has shared her passion and knowledge in history which has linked younger generations to their heritage and traditions.

Teacher Basilisa Pimentel was also recognized for her is a testimony to harmony in the arts and the culture.

Entrepreneur Lilia Bautista has shared her resources by providing scholarship grants and livelihood assistance to those with potentials but with limited financial capabilities.

The centenarians recognized during the city's 106th Charter day celebration include Eduardo Lilitit, Sr. of Victoria Village was born on June 13, 1915, Pablo Amiling of Irisan was born on July 11, 1914, Apolonia Ellinger of Irisan was born on March 22, 1915, and 106 year old Magdalena

Visperas on Salud Mitra was born on July 30, 1909.

Senior vice president for corporate affairs of Philex Mining Corp., Atty. Michael Toledo represented by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company Manuel "MVP" Pangilinan joined the 106th charter day celebration.

Toledo conveyed the message of Pangilinan giving emphasis on this year's theme of the Baguio day celebration wherein the culture of caring and sharing came from indigenous people giving importance to our heritage.

"Everybody are all after developing tourism and eco tourism, and we believe in the future of agriculture of feeding our people first. If our business is good, competitiveness will stay and the community and people will benefit from it," read Toledo.

In the message of Pangilinan, the city officials together with the people of Baguio were challenged to be competitive in order to grow without exhausting our resources./Jho Arranz

## Fongwan asks help in presenting the real situation of Benguet veggie industry

LA TRINIDAD - Benguet Gov. Nestor Fongwan calls on DILG Sec. Mar Roxas and other officials to help the province correct issues on the vegetable industry of the province being presented in Metro Manila in the aftermath of typhoon Ineng.

"We would like to disprove the reports of national media outfits na walang gulay na nanggagaling sa Benguet kaya tumataas ang presyo ng mga gulay sa Manila at sa ibang lugar."

Fongwan stressed this during the Benguet Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council assessment of the effects of typhoon Ineng attended by DILG Sec. Mar Roxas, Presidential Spokesperson Sec. Edwin Lacierda and DSWD Asec. Vilma Cabrera at the provincial capitol on Wednesday.

Reports show Manila markets have less supply of vegetables since Benguet cannot deliver the needed vegetable supply so several traders marked up their prices twice or three times the real price of the vegetables.

He cited cabbage which was bought by traders in the La Trinidad Trading Post at P18 to 22 per kilo and sold in Metro Manila at P100 to 120per kilo.

"Reports in the different national media outfits show that prices of vegetables have increased due to the effect of typhoon but that is not true," Fongwan said and added that the national media should ask the real situation from the province or any authorized persons who will tell the truth.

He added this also proves that traders and sellers are taking advan-



FONGWAN

tage of the current situation of the farmers who were affected by the recent typhoon. More than P46 million was reported as the damage to the agricultural industry in Benguet.

Fongwan related that there was a temporary shortage of vegetables when the Halsema Highway closed during the height of typhoon Ineng last weekend, but the situation lasted for less than a day since the DPWH immediately worked to make the damaged portion of the road in Km 16 in Tublay, Benguet passable.

Cont. on page 7



**The JUNCTION**  
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## Science and Technology, key towards competitiveness, poverty reduction and social development- DOST

BAGUIO CITY - Through Science and Technology and innovations, the country can boost its competitiveness in the ASEAN market and can help alleviate the people out of poverty and move towards social development.

Department of Science and Technology Secretary Mario Montejo, stressed this in his keynote address during the three - day 2015 North Luzon S&T Fair that opened at Vigan Convention Center last September 1.

Taking-off from the successful National S&T Week held in Manila last July, DOST is bringing into the regions the S&T fair to share what the department is doing particularly on the use of science, new technologies and innovations to protect the competitive economic development of the coun-

try especially with the onset of ASEAN integration, as well in finding solutions to address poverty and to contribute towards bringing in sustainable social development, Montejo said.

In the regional S&T Fair, the DOST presents the technologies that the department and its attached agencies have developed, as well as products of MSMEs co-operators that DOST has assisted to develop through SET-UP (Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program).

Aside from the regional S&T fairs, Montejo also pointed-out that DOST has embarked on a Science Nation Tour which banners the slogan, "Agham na Ramdam, Science for Every Juan", to further bring the S&T "IEC" or Inspire, Engage

and Challenge every Juan and Maria to be adopters of innovation.

"Believe in Science, it works. It really works", Montejo said.

The North Luzon S&T Fair brought together the DOST offices in Regions 1, 2 and CAR wherein aside from the technologies developed by DOST and its attached agencies and private partners, there were also product exhibits from the participating regions.

For Cordillera, exhibitors included the Benguet State University, Abra State Institute of Science and Technology, Filipino Inventors Society Cordillera Administrative Region and several R&D (Research and Development) consortium in the region./JDP/CCD- PIA CAR

# Filipinos most troubled over China conflict – poll

Filipinos are the most troubled by the territorial disputes with China in the Asia-Pacific region, yet a little more than half of them still express favorable views of China, the results of a regional poll showed.

According to the 2015 survey by the Pew Research Center, 9 in 10 or 91% of Filipinos expressed the most concern about territorial conflicts in the region, with the Vietnamese and Japanese following behind at 83%.

China enjoys a positive opinion from majority of people in the Asia-Pacific region, with the exception of Vietnam and Japan, which had the most negative views

## EDITORIAL

among those surveyed.

Only 19% of Vietnamese voiced a favorable opinion of China, and a low 9% of Japanese.

But in the Philippines, despite expressing concern over territorial conflicts, a little more than half, or 54%, of Filipinos have favorable views toward China.

The Pew Research Center also noted that public views of China have improved in the past year in the Philippines, an increase of 16 points.

The survey also showed that younger Filipinos have confidence in Chinese President Xi Jinping, and that 59% of Filipinos aged 18 to 29 are among the strongest supporters of the Chinese leader in the region.

This comes as the Philippines faces China in an international tribunal over claims in the disputed West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

In July, the Philippines presented its arguments in its historic case against China at The Hague.

China, however, refuses to join the proceedings, instead pushing for bilateral talks with the countries involved.

### Favorable view of Japan

The Pew Research survey also reflected Filipinos' favorable opinion toward a former wartime enemy: Japan.

The Philippines is among the top 3 countries with a favorable view of Japan, which enjoys a positive image in the region except in China and South Korea.

The survey results showed that 81% of Filipinos view Japan in a positive light, just behind Vietnam (82%) and Malaysia (84%).

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also enjoys support from Filipinos, with 68% saying they believe Abe will do the right thing regarding world affairs.

Earlier this year, the Philippines and Japan – former World War II enemies – began historic joint training

Trial hearings of defendants accused of the massacre of 58 people in the



exercises, the first time for the two countries to fly together.

But in China and Korea, the anti-Japan sentiment is still reflected. Only 12% of Chinese and 25% of South Koreans have favorable views toward Japan, owing to territorial conflicts in the region and years of historical animosities.

A 2013 Pew Research survey showed that the Chinese and South Korean believe that Japan has not apologized enough for its actions during World War II.

### Confidence in leaders

“Overall, despite historical and territorial frictions, Asia-Pacific publics tend to view their regional neighbors in a positive light, with Japan judged most favorably,” the Pew Research Center said.

Japan enjoys 71% of favorable views, followed by 57% approving of China, 51% for India, and 47% for South Korea.

But the views are more mixed when it came to assessing each other's leaders.

None of the leaders garnered majority confidence in the survey: 47% expressed confidence that Xi will do the right thing regarding world affairs; 43% said the same of Abe; while 39% have the same sentiment towards Indian PM Narendra Modi.

Pew Research Center attributed these figures to the respondents' “lack of familiarity” with the leaders and the prominence of their public profiles.

The survey was conducted among 15,313 respondents in 10 Asia-Pacific nations and the US from April 6 to May 27, 2015. (Rappler.com)

Asians' Views of Each Other

VIEWS OF ►	VIEWS IN: (0-100%)			
	Japan	China	India	South Korea
Malaysia	84%	78	45	61
Vietnam	82	19	66	82
Philippines	81	54	48	68
Australia	80	57	58	61
Indonesia	71	63	51	42
Pakistan	48	82	16	15
India	46	41	—	28
South Korea	25	61	64	—
China	12	—	24	47
Japan	—	9	63	21
MEDIAN	71	57	51	47

KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

*What the INC really wanted*

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



*LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free'..." (Jesus Christ, our God and Savior, in John 8:31-32, the Holy Bible).*

-000-

**WHY DID INC PUBLICLY PROTEST AGAINST DE LIMA?** Politicians who have expressed sympathy with the peaceful assemblies that the Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) staged from Thursday to Monday are now being bashed by people who are clear sympathizers of the Aquino government and who, therefore, cannot be expected to be fair in their assessment of what the INC had done.

I am not a member of the INC. I am a member of a religious group that espouses a belief directly contrary to the doctrines of the INC insofar as the divinity of Jesus is concerned. But, I am a broadcaster in an INC radio station who, occasionally, picks up bits and pieces of information about what is happening.

The information I got at the height of the assemblies compelled me to ask, in my mind: why did the INC dare to publicly go against a top official of government, the very justice secretary at that, who had the power to make life very hard for anyone with criminal cases that can send people to jail while undergoing trial?

-000-

**101 YEAR-OLD INC DID NOT PROTEST BEFORE:** I was made to understand that the peaceful assemblies of the INC from Thursday (August 27, 2015) to Monday (August 31, 2015), protesting against Justice Secretary Leila De Lima, was the very first public protest that the religious organization held in its 101 years of existence.

Never in its 101-year history did the INC hold any other assemblies---nationwide in scope at that---similar to what it did in 2015. In fact, the organization is known all throughout for being ultra-conservative in expressing views about what the government is doing, shunning any public disclosure about what it thinks about goings-on in the country.

Consequently, it behooves everyone to ask: why then did the normally-placid INC suddenly find the courage and, more importantly, the necessity, of publicly contesting De Lima's official actions involving a case for serious illegal detention which an expelled INC member filed against INC leaders?

-000-

**WHAT INC REALLY WANTED:** The undeniable fact is that the INC threw its support behind the candidacy of President Aquino in 2010, and therefore helped him to clinch the presidency. Surely, it would have been very easy for the INC to have simply worked behind the scenes, as it were, and in utmost secrecy, away from the prying eyes of anyone, to have, at the very least, asked Aquino to ensure a fair treatment by De Lima of the illegal detention case.

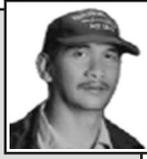
But the INC chose to be publicly combative about this matter, involving millions of its members, in various key cities yet of the country. The message one gets from this is that, the INC evidently felt thoroughly grieved by De Lima, and it is not really difficult to discern that this grief must have been caused by a clear perception that De Lima was not simply doing her job in the case against the INC leaders, but was doing them in, as it were, in maneuvering against them.

People can say the INC was unlawfully trying to exert pressure to compel De Lima to back down in the serious illegal detention case against its leaders. I guess they are entitled to say so, but, a more prudent appreciation of things will show that what the INC really wanted was that, the illicit maneuvers against its leaders be

MAGKASANGGA TAYO

*Panukala ni Yangot pare-parehong kulay ng pintura-KATARANTADUHAN*

BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO



Ano ba naman ang mga pinapanukala ng ilan sa ating mga lokal na mambubutas este mambabatas. Katulad nitong si kagalang-galang na Leandro Yangot na nagnanais na gawing pare-pareho ang kulay ng lahat ng mga silid at istraktura ng gobyerno maging local or national owned government buildings. ANO NA NAMANG KATARANTADUHAN ITO???

Ayon kay Yangot, base sa report ng PIO, ang kahahilanan daw nito ay to "deter the practice of some elected public officials even down to the barangay level of causing the painting of government structures i.e., barangay halls, public schools, markers, arcs, bridges, overpasses, flyovers, etc. with the clear intent to associate the construction of such government building or structure to them or to any political party color at the expense of the government." Hi! Hi! Hi! Teka konsehal Yangot, tatal ninanais mo na ring gawing uniformed o pare-pareho ang mga istraktura at gusali, mayroon akong naisip para sa ikagaganda at mas uniformed ang ibang mga bagay-bagay na katulad halimbawa ng kasuutan at uniporme ng mga empleyado at opisyal, ay gawin mo na rin pare-parehas. Ang kulay ng sasakyang ng mga gobyerno, hindi kaya mas maganda kung standardized at pare-pareho n rin? Of course huwag nating kalimutan ang make-up at hair color ng mga empleyado at opisyal, dapat one style and color of make-up para sa mga babae and one standard color para sa buhok ng mga lalake (op cors bawal ang may puting buhok) at kung ikaw ay hairless o kalbo, kulayan mo ang iyong anit. Hi! Hi! Hi! Pag dating sa underwear, aba eh, kanya-kanyang kulay na lang tatal nakatago naman yan. Pag dating sa sapatos, again dapat ay pare-pareho at mas maganda siguro kung ang maging supplier ng mga ito ay iisang tao o grupo lang para mas happy. Siya nga pala, mayroon na ring suhestiyon ng mga particular na kulay itong si Yangot at ayon sa PIO report ay "The uniform color of protective paint for all government buildings will be (1) Kitten white (p112 sG) for the Body, (2) Green for roof, (3) Copper Bright (p82 sG) for Body Accents and (4) Pure Ivory (p99 sG) for Border accents since these are generic colors and are not identifiable to any existing political party or local government official." Aba , tingnan niyo nga naman ano, napaka swerti natin na mayroon tayong isang opisyal na katulad ni Yangot na isang businessman na nga, LLB graduate at Engineer pa, aba eh graphic designer and artist pa! Hindi ka kaya agrabyado sa serbisyo publiko na iyong ibinibigay sa siyudad ng Baguio, Apo Yangot? Isipin niyo, pwede siya sa komersyo, pwede siya sa legal, pwede siya sa imprastraktura, at lalung-lalo nang pwede siyang ARTISTIC AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE ---, fall-out muna kayo at etchapwera kayong mga miyembro ng pederasyon nang mga bading hah!!! Teka sandali, parang bitin ako sa mga kulay na iyong nai-suggest Apo Konsehal Yangot. Alam niyo naman, lihim kong sasabihin sa iyo ito Apo Konsehal (between the two of us lang ha at hindi dapat lalabas sa iba) mayroon din akong artistic abilities kaya if I may suggest, why not gawin na lang natin BRIGHT RED ang lahat ng gusali at ayaw o takot ang mga multo sa kulay pula saka matutuwa sigurado ang ating mga kapatid na Chinoy, saka maraming MULTO sa siyudad stopped right away.

-000-

**PLEASE LISTEN:** "Ang Tanging Daan" (The Sole Way), a Bible study and prayer session on radio, airs Mondays to Fridays, 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at DWAD 1098 kHz on the AM band. For replays, go to [www.facebook.com/angtangingdaan](http://www.facebook.com/angtangingdaan) or [www.facebook.com/ANDKNK](http://www.facebook.com/ANDKNK) and scroll for "Ang Tanging Daan" broadcasts. Phone: 0922 833 43 96, 0918 574 0193, 0917 984 24 68. Email: [batasmauricio@yahoo.com](mailto:batasmauricio@yahoo.com).

FEATURE

'Reap the Whirlwind':  
What's behind the INC revolt?

The camp of 2016 presidential candidate Manuel Roxas 2nd had threatened the Iglesia Ni Cristo with a "Napoles"-and-"Enrile"-type of operations if the religious group does not support his candidacy, or if it does not at least stand neutral in next year's polls, according to sources close to the second biggest Christian church in the country.

If the Iglesia refuses to do Roxas 2nd's bidding as, in fact, it did, his camp calculated that the expose of alleged massive corruption in the INC, and of a schism within, led by the former INC leader's widow, would weaken its legitimacy to a point where its members would not follow its leadership's endorsement of a presidential bet for 2016.

The illegal detention charges against practically the entire INC leadership, except for Eduardo Manalo, were a thinly veiled threat to put them all in jail if they did not follow Roxas 2nd's orders.

No wonder the INC is in such a state of revolt never before seen in its 101 years of existence.

It was a desperate move on the part of Roxas' strategists since all their surveys showed that he would most definitely lose in the 2016 elections, as President Aquino himself actually had concluded.

They thought that the INC's bloc vote for Roxas, estimated at 1.4 million, or more than half its membership, would give him a fighting chance, or at least provide them with the smokescreen for cheating.

But despite Roxas' intense lobbying, the INC leadership had sent word that it could not support his candidacy in 2016. This was because the INC felt that Roxas was a failure in the two Cabinet posts he held and that the Aquino Administration — which it supported in 2010 — had not delivered on its promises. The INC even specifically pointed out the government's failure to bring justice to the Special Action Force commandos massacred at Mamasapano, Maguindanao, two of whom were INC members.

"Gusto nilang pilitin kaming suportahin ang manok nila." (They want to compel us to support their candidate [in the 2016 elections].)

"Gusto nilang pilitin kaming suportahin ang manok nila." (They want to compel us to support their candidate [in the 2016 elections].)

Aquino and Roxas, however, have shot themselves in the foot by grossly underestimating the power of the INC to mobilize thousands of warm bodies in the streets to launch a siege against the Aquino government.

Cont. on page 6

ng Baguio kaya kung puros pula ang mga gusali (red buildings and overpass, etc), mga sasakyan (red cars, trucks, motorcycles), mga uniporme (office uniforms, including the PNP uniform, including red make-up, red lipstick) etchetera...etchetera eh di we will have a happy and merry red day. Hi! Hi! Hi! Kami namang mga manginginom sanay naman na kami sa mga kumukutitap na mga red lights habang red na rin ang aming mga mata sa kainom. OH MAHAL NA PANGINOON, Y OH Y ANG SWERTI NATIN SA KALIBRE NG ATING MGA KASALUKUYANG OPISYALES? Parang awa niyo naman kayong mga konsehal at ibang mga opisyal na sumusweldo sa kaban ng bayan at may mga budget (magkano nga ba ang budget ng opisina ng isang tongsehal este konsehal???) kung maari lang ay magpanukala kayo ng mga bagay-bagay na ikagaganda at ikagiginhawa at ikabubuti ng buhay ng mga masa kung saan aangat ang kanilang antas ng kabuhayan.

'Till my next column. This is Mr. Paken, wishing you a happy and joyous start of the beer este ber months. MABUHAY PO TAYONG LAHAT and always remember "It's more fun in the Philippines."

## 'Reap of the Whirlwind'... from page 5

Roxas' camp may have even forgotten that the INC has a popular TV and radio broadcasting network — a powerful force in mass political mobilization and in coup d'etats. The INC's TV station Net 25 is even more professionally run and has a stronger TV signal than the government's NBN station, which pathetically has been totally inutile in countering Net 25.

INC head Manalo had quickly rallied the Church's top leaders as nobody else had joined the tiny break-away group, which seems to have vanished after its first and last YouTube propaganda push several weeks ago.

The Catholic backlash against the INC's political action is inconsequential, as the Catholic Church does not have command votes. Roxas 2nd has made the INC his mortal enemy, which feels its survival is at stake. The INC would likely even horse-trade its clout in local elections to ensure a tsunami of votes against the Yellow Candidate.

While the INC almost always in the past elections voted as a bloc, this would be the first time that it would actively campaign against a presidential candidate.

It's Hosea 8:10, the source claimed: "They that sow the wind, shall reap the whirlwind."

"Nearly all political leaders in the post-war era, except Cory Aquino, respected the voting power of the INC and honored it as a religious organization just as they did the Catholic Church's Princes," the source close to the INC said. "It's only this President and Roxas who had the gall to threaten and actually attack it."

What the intellectually unsophisticated INC leaders really mean when they say, "respect the separation of church and state" is this: That the administration cannot tell the INC who to vote for. This is what its members in the streets mouthing that term think it means.

The INC so far has focused its attack on Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, as they said they

had concrete proof of her role in the planned charges against their group.

It hasn't categorically called for Aquino's resignation, as this would violate their dogma of being supportive of a duly constituted government. But this has been a subterfuge on their part, as neither did INC call for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster in April 2001, even if its members provided much of the warm bodies for the so-called EDSA Tres uprising against the Administration.

### Not Aquino 3rd but Roxas 2nd

Neither have the INC protesters openly condemned Aquino, as its leaders believe that it is Interior and Local Government Secretary Manuel Roxas 2nd or his strategists who thought of the plan to threaten the INC or at least mar its reputation.

A source claimed that Cristina ("Tenny") Manalo, widow of the late Eraño Manalo who had headed the church until 2009, is a good friend of Judith Araneta-Roxas, Roxas 2nd's mother.

It was Mrs. Manalo, with her son Felix Nathaniel "Angel," who posted in mid-July this year on YouTube pleas for help, claiming their lives were being threatened and that they were illegally detained for raising allegations of corruption in the INC hierarchy, now led by her eldest son Eduardo.

The swift deployment of police and Commission on Human Rights (CHR) agents to Angel's compound was viewed by the INC as a move ordered by Roxas, since he headed the Philippine National Police, and since his factotum Liberal Party director general Chito Gascon assumed chairmanship of the CHR only in June.

The trigger that pushed the INC to go all out against the government was the filing by Isaiah Samson, a former editor of its internal newspaper Pasugo, of illegal detention charges against eight ministers who made up Manalo's leadership core, including Glicerio Santos Jr., head of the

Sanggunian, the highest administrative council of the INC.

"It's like filing criminal charges, non-bailable, against the Liberal Party's entire executive committee," the source said. "Do you think Samson has the gall or the funds to take on the INC?" "Someone is pulling the strings, just as someone was pulling the strings of Benhur Luy, who fingered mostly opposition leaders as having been involved in the pork-barrel scam." "Mrs. Manalo and Angel, on the other hand, seem to have disappeared after their Youtube episode."

It was Justice Secretary...  
Cont. on page 7

## BCDA Fights... from page 1

"We are going to challenge the CA decision because it is grossly disadvantageous to public interest as it deprives government of at least P5 billion and allows for the continued practice of corporate fraud," Casanova said.

BCDA asserts that public interest is the driving force behind the development of Camp John Hay. The government corporation was created by law to carry out the policy: "to enhance the benefits to be driven from said properties in order to promote the economic and social development of Central Luzon in particular and the country in general."

The BCDA declares that from the inception of the lease of government property to CJHDevCo, the latter, from 1998 to 2000 fraudulently paid more than 1.274 billion as dividends and advances to its stockholders, affiliates but feigned financial incapacity to BCDA in order to wangle deferment in rental payments of at least 1.275 billion during the same period.

Mr. Casanova added that the lost revenues could easily translate to infrastructure projects such as schools, hospitals, roads and a new landfill area not to mention better health and social services for the people of the Cordilleras in particular and the nation in general.

The BCDA finds the CA ruling highly irregular

for the following reasons: First, the CA modified the Arbitral Award—the final award—declaring the CJHDevCo's obligation to vacate and deliver the Leased Property to BCDA as dependent on BCDA's payment of P1.4B. This Decision effectively rendered the arbitral award an empty one. BCDA, which was supposed to recover "all" new constructions and permanent improvements as provided in the final award—will instead recover none.

Second, the contested CA decision ignored the admission of Camp John Hay that its contractual relationship with the so-called "third parties" was a sublease and ruled that the sub-lessees should not be evicted.

BCDA believes that the Sobrepeña-led CJH Development Corporation (CJHDevCo) misled its sub-lessees to believe that sub-lessees were not at all affected by the Arbitral Tribunal's final award. In previous decisions by Honorable Courts it was consistently held that the sublessees "can invoke no right superior to that of his sub-lessee, and the moment the sub-lessee is duly ousted from the premises, the sub-lessee has no leg to stand on."

Among those who benefited from the CA decision are CJHDevCo's wholly-owned subsidiaries, CJH Hotel Corporation and CJH Suites Corporation and affiliates such as Camp John Hay Golf Club, Inc and the CAP-John Hay Trade and Cultural Center, as well as CJHDevCo executives Robert John Sobrepeña, Ferdinand Santos and Alfredo Yniguez, who are all claiming ownership of cabins in the mountain resort.

Further, BCDA believes the CA went beyond its limited jurisdiction in a petition for certiorari. In the case of Lee vs. People (2004), "in a petition for certiorari, the jurisdiction of the court is narrow in scope. It is limited to resolving errors of jurisdiction. It is not to stray at will and resolve questions or issues beyond its competence such as errors of judgment."

For his part, BCDA head for legal services lawyer Peter Paul Andrew T. Flores pointed out that based on the merits of the case, the BCDA is confident that the patently erroneous CA decision will not fly in the SC.

He noted that public good and interest is far more superior and always outweighs private interest. "Public interest will eventually prevail," Flores said.

He said that should the CA decision be enforced, government will not have benefited because the sublessees have already paid their lease to the BCDA in 2046.

The structures will be worthless by the time these are turned over to the BCDA in 2046 as the useable life of a building is only about 50 years.

He added that as part of the Arbitral Tribunal's Final Award, BCDA will be refunding CJHDevCo P1.42 billion which is more than what CJHDevCo actually paid to BCDA as lease rentals considering that some of the payments were in the form of hotel units and golf shares.

"Government has not earned anything from the Camp John Hay lease since 1997 and government will not earn anything while Mr. Sobrepeña continues to exploit and profit from the use of government property until 2046. Where is the justice in that?" Flores pointed out.

He said the CA overstepped its jurisdiction by ordering BCDA to assume all of CJHDevCo's contractual obligations but without enjoying any of the rights.

Flores noted that the CA decision goes beyond what the Arbitral Tribunal's Final Award said.

"The CA does not have any jurisdiction to interpret nor modify the Final Award of the Arbitral Tribunal," Flores said.

Flores noted that the 67-page decision favoring CJHDevCo as ordered by CA Associate Justice Noel G. Tijam runs contrary to the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. (PDRCI) Arbitral Tribunal's Final Award issued last February 2015. Concurring the decision were

Associate Justice Myra V. Garcia-Fernandez and Associate Justice Victoria Isabel A. Paredes.

It would be recalled that Justice Tijam is also the judge who ruled in favor of R-II Builders on a case against Home Guaranty Corp. (HGC) and the National Housing Authority (NHA). HGC went to the Supreme Court, which reversed the decision of Tijam, citing "error upon error" in its proceedings. The Supreme Court also said the Court of Appeals "gravely erred" on the issue of jurisdiction.

The Arbitral Tribunal of the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. last February came out with its Final Award that ordered CJHDevCo to vacate Camp John Hay and promptly deliver the leased property, inclusive of all new constructions and permanent improvements to the BCDA. The Final Award also ordered the BCDA to return to CJHDevCo the amount of P1.42-B which the CJHDevCo paid to the BCDA as lease payments.

Both the BCDA and CJHDevCo filed a petition to confirm the Final Award before the Baguio Regional Trial Court (RTC) that led to the confirmation of the Final Award making it binding, executory and non-appealable.

The Baguio RTC issued a Writ of Execution to implement the Final Award, however, CJHDevCo was able to secure a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) from the CA and eventually the CA decision itself putting a halt to the implementation of the Final Award not to mention modifying the Final Award.

Flores recounts that after CJHDevCo's payment of the first annual rental of P425 million in 1997, CJHDevCo repeatedly requested for the deferment of its rental payments, claiming it was financially incapable of doing so. Rental obligations to government reached P3,007,712,654. In May 2012, citing "material and incurable breaches" of CJHDevCo's contractual obligations, BCDA has terminated the lease agreement with its non-paying lessee./BCDA-PR

Republic of Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION  
Baguio City  
OFFICE OF THE CITY SHERIFF

**'Reap of the Whirlwind'...  
from page 6**

tary de Lima who personally received the complaint, even arranging a media event out of it. She was about to have it pursued by her hand-picked prosecutors in a trial court until the INC laid siege to her offices in Padre Faura.

**Three yellow tactics**

The attack against the INC has all of three distinctive yellow tactics used by Aquino against his perceived enemies in the past five years. These are as follows:

First, file illegal detention charges, to put them immediately in jail. It was the illegal detention charge – which is non-bailable – against Janet Napoles that served as the opening salvo for de Lima's National Bureau of Investigation's campaign on the pork-barrel scam that eventually put three once powerful opposition senators to jail. It was the illegal detention charge that put Napoles in jail, and for which she was convicted for 40 years – not the plunder cases against her. Tycoon Roberto Ongpin – who the Aquino operatives thought they could force to spill the beans against former president Arroyo and her husband – was charged with illegal detention filed by a former employee.

Second, portray them as corrupt. The three opposition senators were jailed after they

building (Property for themselves the Index No. 102-01-006 -02-L113-N001) , KIND: Residential Land ACTUAL USE: Residential; UNIT Baguio City, Philippines, 12 August 2015.

VALUE 12,754.56; on the NORTH; by ASS. LOT NO. 102; on the SOUTH; by Paraan St.; On the EAST: by ASS. LOT NO. 112 and on the WEST: by ASS. LOT NO. 102 consisting of TWO HUNDRED NINETY TWO (292) Square Meters, more or less.

Prospective buyers/bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate

TACIA M. DESSAIX,  
Mortgagee-Petitioner,  
-versus-  
SPOUSES DIVINO LARANANG and GLENDA M. LARANANG,  
Mortgagor-Respondent.

FORECLOSURE  
CASE No. 15-590-S  
EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE  
OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE  
X-----X

**SHERIFF'S  
NOTICE OF  
SALE**

Upon extra-judicial petition for the sale under Act 3135 as amended filed by TACIA M. DESSAIX, hereinafter referred to as MORTGAGEE, as against Spouses DIVINO LARANANG and GLENDA M. LARANANG, hereinafter referred to as MORTGAGORS, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of July 31, 2015 amounts to P850,000.00, as principal obligation excluding 5% interest per month and other charges incidental to the foreclosure proceedings, the Clerk of Court/Ex-Officio Sheriff thru her Deputy, will SELL at public auction on the 8th day of September 2015 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at Justice Hall Lobby, Baguio City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the real property more particularly described as follows, to wit:

A residential

were portrayed as big-time grafters, and it is the same media tack that is now being lodged against the INC, that Manalo and his leaders were skimming off this and that, that the INC leader had a billion-peso house in Forbes Park, that their overseas foundations were raking it all in.

Third, deploy the yellow social media, and ABS-CBN, specially. The former are the  
**Cont. on page 8**

**Fongwan Asks Help...  
from page 3**

He asked Roxas to make coordination with the DTI in the national level to look into the unusual practice of traders and entrepreneurs in the Metro Manila area particularly

in taking advantage of the situation of the typhoon affected farmers.

Roxas for his part, assured of the support of the national government to the typhoon affected provinces including Benguet and the rest of the Cordillera region. He also assured that he will personally coordinate with the DTI to make sure that entrepreneurs are not taking advantage of the situation of farmers in Benguet.

He also offered the support of the DILG and the PNP by providing vehicles and escorting the farmers to bring their vegetable produce directly from Benguet to the Metro Manila markets so that the farmers will be the ones to take advantage of the temporary increase of prices of their goods./RMC- PIA CAR

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

ALICIA U. TIBAY

*Petitioner-Mortgagee,*

- v e r s u s -

SPS. RICARDO & LINDA PALOME,

*Respondents -Mortgagors,*

X-----X

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S PUBLIC AUCTION SALE**

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act No. 3135 filed by Petitioner-Mortgagee, ALICIA U. TIBAY, Filipino, of legal age, married, and a resident of Lower Fairview, Baguio City, against here-in Respondents-Mortgagors, SPOUSES RICARDO and LINDA PALOME, both of legal age, Filipino Citizens, and residents of Ucab, Itogon, Benguet, Philippines, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of 22 July 2015, the date wherein petition was filed, the mortgagors has an accumulated obligation to the mortgagee in the total amount of TWO HUNDRED NINETY SEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (Php 297, 600.00), Philippine currency, including 10 months interest, penalties, liquidated damages, past due interest, attorney's fee representing 20% of the total obligation due, other charges and expenses of foreclosure, the undersigned or his duly authorized deputy will sell at public auction on 24 September 2015 AT 11:00 IN THE MORNING, at the main entrance of the BULWAGAN NG KATARUNGAN, Justice Hill, La Trinidad, Benguet to the highest bidder, for cash or manager's check and in Philippine currency, the real property, together with all existing improvements, with the following description, to wit:

Location: Ucab, Itogon, Benguet

LAND Classification	Area	Market Value	Actual Use
Agr'l	.4500 has.	P48,530.00	Camotal (3)
Res'l	273 sq. m.		Res. Lot (R-4)

BOUNDARIES			
North:	Silvino Palome	South:	Silvino Palome
East:	Silvino Palome	West:	Silvino Palome

BUILDING			
Classification	Area	Market Value	Actual Use
Residential	30 sq. m.	P162,300.00	Res. House

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date. Prospective buyers/bidders may investigate the above-described real properties regarding the encumbrances thereof, if any.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on October 21, 2015 at the same time and place without further notice.

Done this 20th day of August 2015, at La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHERIFF  
EX-OFFICIO OF BENGUET

(SGD) WHINSTON P. DULAWAN  
Sheriff IV

Publication Dates: August 22, 29, and Sept. 5, 2015

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of AURELIO ABAD who died on March 8, 1997 and AQUILINA C. ABAD who died on September 17, 2011 both in Baguio City was extra-judicially settled by the heirs on September 4, 2015 as evidenced by Doc. No. 58; Page No. 13; Book No. I; Series of 2015 of the Notary Public Nestor G. Atitiw.



# 6,000 “moma” trees Gamot Para sa Kapwa campaign helps less fortunate communities

ASIPULO- - Government workers and officials of Kiangan and this town have planted thousands of betel nut or “moma” trees along the Kiangan – Asipulo provincial road in an environmental protection and conservation activity.

Sunshine Winnam of the Happitan reported that a total of 6,000 “moma”

trees were planted during the one-day activity. These are seen to prevent soil erosion, serve as protection to travellers from falling and set the right-of-way of the provincial road.

The trees that cost P12.00 each were purchased at the Ibulao nursery, Davies Farm and Philander Miguel in Ki-

angan and Asipulo towns, respectively.

The tree planting event was also in line with Provincial Ordinance No. 2011-11 aimed to landscape and beautify all provincial roads including the Aguinaldo – Mayoyao, Banaue and Lamut national roads./*MBL, PIA CAR, Ifugao*

BAGUIO CITY -Join the Gamot Para sa Kapwa campaign, and help provide less fortunate communities with disaster ready tools.

The Gamot Para sa Kapwa campaign is a joint project of the SM Store and Watsons in partnership with the Department of Health, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and SM Foundation which aims to provide quality health and emergency assistance to indigent communities in the country.

Shoppers may visit Gamot Para sa Kapwa booths at SM and buy a Sureaid Disaster Kit worth P99 or buy 2 kits

for only P190 exclusively distributed by Watsons, for donation or personal use. These kits are economical which make them easy on the pocket for customers to donate for a worthy project.

Each kit contains items needed for quick survival during calamities like Sureaid Emergency blanket, 300 ml bottled water, flashlight, whistle and masks.

The campaign runs until September 30, 2015.

All donors are also entitled to a P50 coupon to be redeemed with minimum single receipt purchase of any Watsons brand worth P350 valid until September 30, 2016.

Proceeds will go to DOH accredited beneficiaries nationwide.

Last year, a total of 12,000 units were sold and donated to the beneficiaries of the DOH, SM Baguio Press Relations Manager Karren Nobres said.

According to Nobres, this project was conceived to aid the disaster preparedness and mitigation program of the government, giving people in disaster-prone communities the initial ability to help themselves in the advent of natural disasters and other man-made accidents./*JDP/RMC- PIA CAR*

## City Marks Dominican Hill Centennial

BAGUIO CITY – The City marked the centennial of the Dominican Hill and Retreat House, Baguio’s remaining edifice depicting 19th century architectural design, last Wednesday with the resolve to preserve and improve the area as a historical site.

In a program commemorating the 100th year of the structure built from 1913-1915, city officials led by Mayor Mauricio Domogan vowed to pursue the development of the landmark, a two-floor monastery on a ridge near the city’s southwest end and now dubbed as Baguio’s architectural jewel, as a heritage and nature park while sustaining its historical status.

Domogan said the city can take steps to achieve this goal by adopting an ordinance setting guidelines for the preservation and development of the stone building and the area.

“With the guidelines, we can identify what improvements can be done and what should be avoided all with the aim of preserving its value as a heritage site,” the

mayor said.

He said the city can also pursue a private-public partnership (PPP) venture to determine the best use for the edifice which was built by Catholic priests belonging to the Dominican (Order of Priests) as a vacation house and college for their members.

Ruben Cervantes, assistant city environment and parks management officer who did research on the structure, said the building also served as a refugee center and prison camp, hotel and as a hunting ground for ghosts and spirits.

CEPMO head Cordelia Lacsamana said the City will adopt the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) concept of “adaptive reuse” in the context of historical preservation in developing the property.

Under the NCCA concept, adaptive re-use “allows the introduction of a modern function into the old structure. Old buildings are not torn down but saved and recycled into 20th century uses.”

“Whatever feasible

venture can be done on the site, we will pursue it as long as it does not destroy its historical value but at the same time it should be income-generating to make it self-sustaining.” Domogan said.

He said the city forks out P50,000 a month from the budget to maintain the area as the proposed guidelines for renting out the facilities remained pending before the city council.

With meager funds and with the help of volunteer individuals and groups led by the Baguio Heritage Hill Committee led by Domogan and former city architect Joseph Alabanza, the city introduced improvements to the building after it has been declared structurally safe by experts.

The main halls on both floors were transformed into function halls fit for conferences and occasions like wedding receptions and the like. The rooftop has been made accessible for a 360 degree view of the city.

The city also improved the landscape around the property with one of the fountains now made operational.

The 10 Commandments building located beside the Dominican edifice can serve as venue for any religious activity.

During the celebration, the city also inaugurated two new features – the Love Lock fence at the rear of the building

where couples can profess their love through symbolic locks attached to the fence; and the flag staff hill in front of the building as a tribute to the ten countries that contributed to the construction and operation of the Dominican structure.

Lacsamana said that in the coming months, the city plans to reinstall the butterfly sanctuary and build an aviary and homing dove house, construct two gazebos, improve waterworks, revive the rain harvesting feature of the building, open the building for guided tours, pave and improve the road, set Station of the Cross during Holy Week celebration and install a giant rosary in one of the atriums.

The mayor said the City will pursue these improvements while the PPP plan is in the works beginning with the drafting of the terms of reference based on the various proposals received for the development of the area in to a heritage and nature park.

Recalling the building’s historical background, Carantes said the construction of the building was supervised by Fr. Roque Ruano, a Dominican priest and engineer, in accordance with Spanish-Dominican baroque architecture and incorporating his knowledge in designing earthquake-

proof structures and in harnessing rainwater.

With rooftop serving as a water-catchment facility and its solid foundation and stone walls, the monastery became the first building in Baguio with a rainwater-harvesting feature and to be earthquake-resistant.

Based on documents on the building at the University of Sto. Tomas that Cervantes studied, the building was constructed by local workers, Chinese and Japanese expatriates who were then living in Baguio and other parts of the Cordillera.

Anthropologist and Baguio girl Patricia Afbable noted in her book “Japanese Pioneers in the Northern Philippine Highlands”, that “the massive stone and concrete walls still stand, a tribute to all the Ilocano and Pangasinan carters whose water buffaloes and oxen dragged on sled each stone and bag of lime up that hill.”

Her grandfather, Teruji Okubo, was chief carpenter of the construction. “He once spoke of Spanish wine being the best, especially if it came from the Dominicans,” Afbable wrote.

Afbable and her cousin, Kathleen Okubo, visited the building in 2003 and noted: “Today, however, no window is intact, and water has destroyed

all of the interior wood surfaces. In the courtyard, now overgrown with large weedy shrubs and covered with rubble, two broken cherubs still decorate the foundation that the Dominican built. Parts of the structure and grounds were damaged in the 1990 earthquake.”

From the Dominican Order, the building was transferred to a private commercial entity which operated it as the Diplomat Hotel until the middle ‘80s. The lot, reduced from 17 hectares to over five hectares, was later placed under the jurisdiction of the Presidential Management Staff.

In 2004, then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo transferred the building and its premises to the city government the wooded portion to the Sandiganbayan.

That paved the way for the city to begin repairs on the building which over the years had been vandalized by looters.

Former Councilor Galo Weygan and the later vice mayor Daniel Farinas pushed for development of the long idle property.

The work was carried on by Weygan’s daughter Philian Louise during her term as councilor. The younger Weygan, has remained a member of the committee./*Ramon Dacawi and Aileen Refuerzo*

### Sablan Signs Sisterhood... from page 8

The ceremony was sealed with the planting of a banana tree by the two mayors to signify the unity and cooperation in achieving a fruitful partnership between the two municipalities.

The Guam delegates also turned over several boxes of clothes, toys and other things to the people of Sablan./*JDP/RMC- PIA CAR*

# Lawmaker Prods PNP to Step Up Recruitment

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has 23,820 vacancies, which if filled even by a fraction would give it a manpower boost that would allow it to be the lead traffic law enforcer not only in Metro Manila's gridlocked roads, but also in other cities reeling from heavy traffic.

Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero said one in seven authorized personnel slots in the police force is vacant.

"If the agency can only improve its fill-up rate, imagine how many policemen can be sent out to direct traffic or catch criminals," Escudero said.

He said police recruitment should be more aggressive following President Aquino's directive to the PNP-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) to manage traffic in six-congested junctions of Efranio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA), the country's busiest thoroughfare.

Aquino also hinted of expanding the PNP-HPG's mandate to cover the entire the country.

Escudero noted that prior to Aquino's directive, the PNP's manpower was already stretched. "If it has to take on more roles, then it has to take in more people."

According to Escudero, former chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, the PNP has an authorized troop ceiling of 174,410 this year, of which only 150,590 positions are

projected to be filled, leaving 23,820 vacant.

The same troop ceiling and fill-up ratio is forecast next year, he said, citing the "Staffing Summary for 2016," one of the budget documents Malacanang sends to Congress every year.

He cited the same document in pointing out the PNP's "low and slow personnel recruitment" despite the creation of more police officers positions.

Escudero disclosed that the PNP's total authorized permanent positions in 2014 was 148,409, but only 143,104 were filled.

He added that "on paper the most generous policeman-to-population ratio estimate at present is about 1 for every 674."

"But the better gauge should be actual duty cop to population: kung ilan talaga ang nasa presinto o nagpapatrolya. Kasi maraming pulis, at any given time, ay off-duty, naka-assign sa headquarters, on leave, nasa schooling, or may administrative duties, or suspendido," the lawmaker said.

He said if the PNP would hire more officers, all new recruits should be sent on patrol in order to increase police visibility. "We need more cops to run after more criminals. And we also need them to fix the mayhem on our streets."

A surge in motor vehicle ownership has led to road congestion not

only in the National Capital Region but also in other major cities. Economic losses due to heavy traffic were estimated at P2.4 billion a day nationwide, with Metro Manila accounting for P1.6 billion.

On the crime front, total crime incidents reached 1,161,188 last year, of which 43 percent were index crimes.

"If 145 people get robbed every day, if 451 people are victimized by thieves every day, if 28 women are sexually assaulted every day, if 27 are killed every day, then it is without question that we should hire more policemen," Escudero said.

He, however, acknowledged that police recruitment is bogged down not by lack of funds but by the low number of qualified applicants.

In the entrance examination for candidate Police Officer 1 the PNP conducted last April, only 10 percent, or 1,343 out of 13,334 examinees, passed the test.

"Ang kailangan aggressive ang recruitment ng PNP by tapping the social media, kasama ang campus recruitment o hiring caravans, o kaya maglagay ng recruitment kiosks sa malls at mag-offer ng review classes," he said. "Sayang ang mga bakan-teng posisyon. At yan nga pala ay may nakalaang pondo," he said.

For 2015, personal services of the PNP, or the amount for the salaries, allowances and premium contributions, among others, of its active personnel will reach P60.5 billion./chizescudero.com; FB: senchizescudero; Twitter: @saychiz @chiznewsalert/



## e-gadgets hazardous to child's eyes - health expert

BAGUIO CITY - Do not let small children play with electronic gadgets as a scientific study proved that it can be harmful to their eyes.

Dr. Eulina Lagdao of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) stressed this during the Department of Health-sponsored media forum at the DOH Regional Training Center on August 19.

Lagdao explained that next only to cataract, error of refraction is the second common eye illness. This is now a health concern among children with the advent of electronic gadgets either for games or program viewing. Long exposure or staring for a long time at the gadgets screen can easily strain the eyes of children.

Lagdao, who is also an official of the Baguio Eye Health Team - a consortium of public and private institutions and health practitioners, disclosed that the country is a prime mover of the Vision 2020, an international collaboration initiated by World Health Organization that aims to eliminate avoidable blindness.

For the Baguio Eye Health Team, Lagdao said they are pushing to enhance community participation in the achievement of Vision 2020. In partnership with the Baguio Health Services Office, the team is conducting trainings for barangay health workers on how they can identify eye problems.

Next to be trained are nurses including those of the Department of Education and midwives.

Sight Saving Month is among the health observance that the DOH and its partners promote in the month of August./JDP/CCD - PIA CAR



"IN HONOR" - The wreath from the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) to give importance to the structure where Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita signed his formal surrender and ending the war in the Philippines is laid at the marker at the Ambassador's residence September 3./Photo by Paul Rillorta.

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