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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

# Mayor issues stern warning to namedroppers

BAGUIO CITY - Mayor Benjamin Magalong on Oct. 15 issued a stern warning to persons or groups using his name to either gain privileges or skirt penalties: "Stop or I'll have you arrested."

The mayor said he has been receiving reports that some people using his name or flaunting their alleged connection to the chief executive to avoid paying penalties for illegal parking and other similar incidents.

"Reports reaching my office showed that some people use my name to gain either privi-

leges on amenities or exemptions from penalties. This is to give notice that I am not giving any favor to anyone, not even my relatives and friends to be given any privilege especially immunity from the law on my account," the mayor said.

"In view of this, I am asking the Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) to arrest anyone who will use my name in any transaction," he added.

In the past months, similar reports circulated of unidentified persons conning restaurants and other establishments into delivering food and goods also

on account of the mayor.

The said individuals were so enterprising that they went to the extent of impersonating the mayor while calling restaurants, bars and other establishments and placing orders of food, liquor and others goods victimizing gullible business owners.

This prompted the mayor to issue a warning and advice to the businessmen to be wary and vigilant of said persons.

"These unscrupulous activities need to stop so I am ordering the immediate action against these persons," he said. - *Aileen P. Refuerzo*



UNITED IN PRAYER - Baguio City Benjamin Magalong and his wife Arlene, are prayed over by the different religious groups in the city of Baguio during the Ecumenical Prayer Rally for the protection of the Mayor following his testimony in the Senate against 'ninja cops' recycling drugs. (RMC PIA-CAR)

## Task force to probe 8 cadavers found in Benguet ravine

CAMP DANGWA, Benguet -- The provincial police office here has formed a task force to investigate the eight corpses found in a ravine in Tuba town along Marcos Highway.

"It is no longer just Tuba police that will investigate, I will head the task force," said Col. Elmer Ragay, acting Benguet Provincial Police Office (BPPO) chief, in a press conference.

The "Task Force Found Cadaver" is joined by the Crime Laboratory Service, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and the Police Provincial Legal Office.

"This is a slap on the face of the peace-loving people of Benguet. We want to shed light and we will do thorough investigation research," said Ragay.

On Tuesday, seven dead bodies were retrieved from the ravine at Sitio Poyopoy, Barangay Taloy Sur while another one was found on Wednesday.

Based on the report of the Regional Crime Laboratory Service, the cadavers have been dumped on separate dates.

The crime lab estimated that five of the cadavers are two weeks old, one is one-month old,

and the two human skeletons are about one year old.

Except for the skeletons, the remains did not show signs of gunshot wounds.

Two of the eight have been identified by their families- Fahad Manan Macalanggan, 28, of Marawi and resident of Crystal Cave; and Kent Charlie Lubiton Licyayo, 22, of Hingyon, Ifugao and resident of Hilltop road.

Ragay said he is personally looking at remedies on how to end the tag of that highway area which had been known as "dumping place". "It is high time that everybody gets involved,"

he said.

Ragay said they will also activate the force multipliers to serve as eyes and ears on the ground and will look at the possibility of installing Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras along Marcos highway.

Prior to the discovery of the remains, Ragay said that Tuba had been a top priority in the distribution of new personnel who will be assigned in Benguet, as its current personnel count is only 44.

"We are hoping to get as much personnel from the 600 new policemen who recently took their oath and are now undergoing training," Ragay said.

Aside from securing the residents in the town, Tuba police also has jurisdiction over the four main highways leading to Baguio coming from La Union. These are Kennon Road, Marcos Highway, San Pascual-Nangalisan Road and Naguilian Road.

He added that the Benguet police has coordinated and requested other police offices for an inventory of the report of missing persons in their jurisdictions.

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Ala, sige nu adda mangipadanun to name-dropping. Makitanto

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## Mayor secures health aid from Senator Poe for indigent patients

**B**AGUIO CITY – Indigent patients of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) Emergency Room (ER) and the Outpatient Department (OPD) may avail of the medical assistance secured by Mayor Benjamin Magalong from Senator Grace Poe.

The mayor Oct. 15 announced the release of the fund amounting to P1 million from the senator who welcomed the partnership with the city mayor to sustain

the city government's thrust to provide free healthcare services to city residents in dire need of medical assistance.

The mayor said his office has coordinated with the Medical Social Work Department of BGHMC to work out the financial aid.

From October 21 to December 31, 2019, the city mayor's office will accept requests from qualified patients by issuing a referral letters to avail of the

medical aid. Patients are required to submit

the following documents: originally signed Certificate of Indigency from their respective barangays, valid identification card, medical abstract/certificate, billing statement and/or doctor's prescription to the City Mayor's Office during office hours (8am to 5pm).

To ensure that qualification of the applicants, the BGHMC will verify the authenticity of the submitted documents. – **Aileen P. Refuerzo**

## Mayor admits traffic cannot be totally solved

**B**AGUIO CITY – Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong underscored that the local government is gaining ground in the effort to address the prevailing traffic problems in the city through the assistance of the technical experts from the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) but the same cannot be totally solved.

The local chief executive claimed that based on the data obtained from the Land Transportation Office 9LTO) in Baguio, there are already over 64,000 private and public motor vehicles plying the city's roads while the local road system could only accommodate at least 15,000 vehicles that is why there is a lot to be done to address the city's prevailing traffic problem.

He added that the MMDA study being conducted by the MMDA will be given for free by the administration of retired Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim who heads the said Manila-based authority.

According to him, the overall project cost of the study is around P1.5 million which will

be given for free to the local government aside from the fact that it is only Baguio City that directly benefited from the conduct of such traffic study by the traffic experts.

The city mayor said that the MMDA traffic experts who conducted the earlier data gathering in the city will again come back to finalize the data that they were able to get before proceeding with the much acted traffic study.

One of the present administration's 15-point agenda is aggressive traffic management through the implementation and utilization of appropriate engineering interventions that will ease the burden of the people on the occurrence of daily traffic congestions in the city's central business district area.

MMDA traffic experts brought with them their traffic simulation software where the gathered data on the city's prevailing traffic problem was inputted for the same to be processed and awaiting the suggestions and recommendations that will be made available to the local government

within a period of 4 months.

Aside from strict law enforcement, the local government embarked in the implementation of the aggressive anti-road obstruction campaign to help recover portions of the public roads were taken by private individuals for their use so that the same will be used by the public.

Further, the local government also intensified the towing of illegal parked motor vehicles to instil discipline among motorists for them to observe the proper parking of their vehicles so as not to obstruct the smooth flow of traffic in the different parts of the city.

He stated that there are already quick wins in the efforts of the local government to improve the prevailing traffic situation that is why the motorists should be patient in awaiting for the future gains of the city in improving the daily traffic in the different parts of the city so as not to burden the motoring and commuting public.

He underscored that it is really the huge volume of motor vehicles plying the city's streets daily that cause the monstrous traffic jams which is to the detriment of the local economy./ **Dexter A. See**



**EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR INDIGENT CHILDREN** - City Schools Division Superintendent Marie Caroline Verano, City Human Resource and Management Officer Atty. Augustin Laban III and Bong Cayabyab of the City Mayor's Public Information Office hand over the school supplies as early Christmas gifts. Laban donated plastic envelopes, rulers, calculators, pencils, erasers, pastes and pencil sharpeners for the 10 indigent pupils in Don Mariano Marcos and 10 indigent pupils in Dontogan Elementary Schools. Same recipients also received their gifts (9 spiral notebooks each) from A Pair Of Shoes For Indigent Cordillera Athletes founder Ida Agunos-Franklin based in Nevada, USA and her generous and compassionate donors: Nancy Vargas, Mike and Julios Sinacruz and Emily Smart who covered the purchase of notebooks and shipping of the balikbayan box entrusted to the City Mayor's Public Information Office. - **DepEd Baguio photo**

## Mayor to report on first 100 days in office Oct. 21

**B**AGUIO CITY – Mayor Benjamin Magalong will report on his accomplishments in his first 100 days in office on Oct. 21, 8 a.m. after the flag-raising ceremonies at the City Hall grounds.

The mayor is expected to highlight the gains and headways achieved by the city on the strategic priority projects, programs and activities of the city anchored on the 15 core collective agenda of the city government from the time he assumed as chief executive.

The 15 core agenda are Speeding Up Government Actions; Revitalizing the Environment; Innovating Peace and Order Condition; Aggressive Traffic Management; Responsive Education Programs;

Empowering the Youth; Expanding Health and Social Services; Responsible Tourism; Enlivened Culture, Arts, Crafts, and Heritage; Market Modernization; Efficient Disaster Management; Empowered and Accountable Barangay Governance; Strengthened Livelihood and Entrepreneurial Services; Poverty Reduction; and Resilience of Indigenous People Land Issues.

These agenda stemmed from the ten-point executive thrusts which the mayor presented in his inaugural speech last June wherein he promised to work for a better Baguio City in cooperation with the various sectors.

"With a strong partnership anchored on the principles of seamless cooperation, collabo-

ration, coordination and communication, I am completely committed to make Baguio a better City for everyone. This I will do, not just as a mayor, but as a leader who listens with a healthy respect to everyone, who leads by example, and someone who is willing to make the tough decisions at the right time," he said in his speech where he also issued marching orders for the review of infrastructure and services contracts, implementation of safety standards and procedures in projects sites, enhancement of traffic schemes, inspection of structures to ensure compliance with environmental laws, stoppage of gambling activities as well as the weeding out of fixers at the City Hall. / **Aileen P. Refuerzo**

## Dad seeks revival of Melvin Junes underground parking

**B**AGUIO CITY – A member of the city's local legislative body vouched the idea of pursuing the previous proposal from experts for the construction of a two-level underground parking within the Melvin Jones football field in lieu of the planned multi-level parking structure that will be erected on the Ganza parking area that will include the Igorot Garden and the nearby vending area.

Councilor Michael L. Lawana suggested that it is also important to consider the proposed under-

ground parking in the Melvin Jones football field which was presented by proponents during the previous administration and had been the subject of critics who were not able to present alternatives on how to solve the city's parking concerns.

He pointed out that the proposed 2-level underground Melvin Jones underground parking could accommodate at least 2,000 motor vehicles which is more than the more than 700 motor vehicles that could be accommodated by the proposed

Ganza multi-level parking area.

Lawana underscored that the Melvin Jones will remain as a football field and sports area for athletes as it will be elevated to be aligned with the level of Harrison road to pave the way for the 2-level underground parking area completed with engineering interventions so as not to have a serious negative impact to the environment and the safety of the public who will be using the said parking area.

He emphasized that under-

ground parking has been proven to be effective in other countries like Singapore wherein the trees and plants co-existed with the underground parking facility and that the same can also be done in the city with the putting in place of the appropriate engineering interventions that are readily available.

City administrator Bonifacio dela Peña admitted that it was his company that was commis-

## A discovery almost lost...

from page 8

the rhino fossils from Rizal were described to have "percussion marks presumably made with the intention to smash the bones and gain access to the marrow."

Aside from the rhino, fossils of animals like the elephant, turtle, deer, and lizard were also uncovered. This set of evidence which are dated 709 thousand years ago indicates the possibility earlier existence of "pre-modern hominins" in the country.

conduct the required soil test in the Melvin Jones football field wherein 8 holes were bored and it was ascertained that a 2-level underground parking is feasible in the said area.

He claimed that their findings was contained in a project proposal that was submitted by proponents to former Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan wherein it was also stipulated that the supposed aquifers underneath the football field will not actually be affected.

He stated that the local government will consider the proposed underground parking in the Melvin Jones football field as a possible alternative to the proposed multilevel parking within the Ganza parking area considering the **Cont. on page 3**

the rhino fossil story and the archeological reservation.

"They can have a museum tour, for instance. They can put up a marker for the excavation sites. It is about the story behind that digging," she added.

A Community Affair While Sitio Greenhills has long been an area of archeological study under the care of the National Museum, residents were alarmed when the diggings resumed in 2014.

"At first the residents, especially here in Barangay San Pedro, were against the excavations because of suspicions of treasure hunting," said Depalog.

After several information, education, and communication campaigns, the locals started to understand the purpose of the project. The team of archeologists also hired some of the residents to help in the excavations. This also helped remove the uncertainties the community had for the study.

"My experience as working with the team of scientist is that it is only the bones that they get. After the digging, they always return the soil back," shared Jose Batungkig, the caretaker of the Elephant Hill site who is also a local in the place.

Moving Forward "They did not stop the farmers to work in their fields but the problem **Cont. on page 7**

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# Cordillera cops told to intensify operations vs small scale mining

**B**AGUIO CITY -- The Police Regional Office – Cordillera (PRO-Cor) reminds the police force to strictly intensify operations against illegal small scale mining activities in the region as the stoppage order issued by Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu last year remains in force.

PRO-Cor Regional Director Police Brigadier General Ephraim Israel Dickson said that the Cordillera police force, in coordination with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) - Department of Environment and Natural Resources, should strengthen their campaign and operation against all illegal small scale mining operations which is still being done covertly.

PRO-Cor Regional Director Police Brigadier General Ephraim Israel Dickson orders the Cordillera police force to intensify their operations against small scale mines in the region. (RMC- PIA CAR)

Recently, the Philippine Military Academy Headquarters Support Group apprehended and brought to the Tuba Municipal Police Station at least four individuals for small scale mining

activities at Basa, Camp 6, Camp 4 in Tuba, Benguet while patrolling along the area. At least 30 sacks of gold including mining equipment were also confiscated from the four.

The Itogon Municipal Police Station earlier arrested four individuals who were caught in the act of illegally processing gold at Goldfield, Poblacion, Itogon.

MGB-CAR Mine Management Division Chief Engineer Alfredo Genetiano reported during the Regional Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee meeting that technically, there is only one legal small scale mine in the Cordillera region but is not yet in operation and all other small scale mining operation are illegal.

The Benguet Provincial Mining and Regulatory Board (PMRB) has approved and gave a permit to the Minahang Bayan applied by the Loacan Itogon Pocket Miners Association (Lipma) in Loacan, Itogon. However, the group cannot operate yet since they are still applying for an Environmental Compliance Certificate which will be issued by the DENR, he

explained.

MGB Legal Officer Francisco Bilog clarified that police officers do not need to be deputized to conduct operations and even arrest those involved in small scale mining operations since the activities are illegal in nature.

Genetiano, meanwhile, thanked the Cordillera cops and other law enforcement agencies who have been actively conducting activities to monitor and stop operation of illegal small scale mines in the region.

It can be recalled that in September last year, Environment Secretary Cimatu banned small-scale mining activities in Cordillera after a massive landslide triggered by Typhoon Ompong killed more than 100 people, mostly pocket miners, in Itogon.

The National Task Force Mining Challenge composed of PNP, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other law enforcement, government agencies and even local government units had been established to crackdown illegal mining operations. (JDP/RMC- PIA CAR)



MGB-CAR Mine Management Division Chief Engineer Alfredo Genetiano stresses that there is only one group, the Loacan Itogon Pocket Miners Association (Lipma) in Loacan, Itogon, that has been issued a Minahang Bayan permit but it is not yet operational pending the issuance of Environmental Compliance Certificate from the DENR. (RMC- PIA CAR)

## Olowan elected as VMLP regional chairman

regional vice chairperson, Conner Vice Mayor Jorico

**B**AGUIO CITY – City Vice Mayor Faustino A. Olowan was elected by his fellow vice mayors from the different cities and municipalities in the region as the chairman of the Vice Mayor's League of the Philippines – Cordillera chapter for the term 2019-2022.

The City Vice Mayor will serve as the region's representative to the Board of Directors of the league.

"We are grateful to our fellow vice mayors from the different parts of the region for giving us a chance to lead our prestigious organization. We will try our best to support key legislations that will have an impact in the overall development of the region," Vice Mayor Olowan stressed.

He said that one of the proposals of the group is to pursue the earlier proposal of Besao Vice Mayor June Lopsoten for the organization to have a representation to the Regional Development Council (RDC), the region's policy-making body, considering that whatever development projects, programs and activities that will be cascaded to the local level will require legislations from the concerned local

legislative bodies.

According to him, the group will also work out the needed support to the region's quest for regional autonomy by passing the appropriate legislations supporting the proposed filing of the autonomy law by the different Cordillera congressmen in the 18th Congress.

He stated that local legislators must be aware of the various development initiatives that are being undertaken in their areas of jurisdiction so that they will be able to formulate the appropriate legislations required by concerned government agencies to ensure the smooth implementation of their programs, projects and activities beneficial in improving the quality of life in the different parts of the region.

The presiding officer also claimed that the organization will try to work out the provision of added trainings for its members for them to be updated on the latest trends in the crafting and formulation of local legislations that will contribute in efforts to spur development in the rural areas.

The other officers of the organization are Villaviciosa Vice Mayor Marjorie L. Lagen –

F. Bayaua - regional secretary, La Trinidad Vice Mayor Roderick C. Awingan – regional treasurer, Lacub Vice Mayor Estelita B. Bersamina – regional auditor and Lamut vice Mayor Victor H. Bunnol – regional Public Relations Officer (PrO).

The members of the organization's Board of Directors are Besao Vice Mayor June T. Lopsoten, Sablan Vice Mayor Arthur C. Baldo, Kiangnan Vice Mayor Michelle Alice B. Baguilat, Bucloc Vice Mayor Eugene C. Cillo and San Juan Vice Mayor Ari Lucas B. Bautista.

The organization recently conducted its regional convention following the organization of the different provincial chapters in the different provinces and cities comprising the Cordillera Administrative Region to elect the new set of regional officers and formulate their programs, activities and projects during the current term, especially in helping advance the government's major initiatives in trying to improve the quality of life in the countryside towards a developed country in the next decades. /Dexter A. See

## PSA to consider Benguet as pilot area for new ID system

**A**TRINIDAD, Benguet -- The Philippine Statistics Authority is reconsidering the province of Benguet as part of the pilot areas for the new national ID system of the country.

PSA Assistant Secretary Lourdines Dela Cruz said that they are looking to include the province of Benguet to pilot test the Philippine Identification System which recently started at the National Capital Region.

"We are reconsidering Benguet as a pilot area considering the presence of the indigenous people which will be a good

pilot test for the PSA," said Dela Cruz who is also the Deputy National Statistician.

Dela Cruz said that the pilot test for the new digital ID system of Filipinos started in September 2 for the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) beneficiaries and employees of PSA and other government agencies involved in the Philippine ID system.

The pilot test registration will run from September 2019 until June 2020. The first part will involve biometric and demographic capturing processes.

Once the system is stable, operations will expand to cover

select groups from nearby regions, Regions III and IV-A, based on different geographical typologies.

"The pilot testing is ongoing until such time the system is perfected. We want to ensure that the processes are efficient, the systems are fully functional, and all information within the system are secure, ultimately because the Filipino people deserve nothing less," he added.

Dela Cruz was the guest speaker at the 30th National Statistics Month celebration at the Benguet provincial capitol s p e a r - **Cont. on page 6**

## Benguet's ban on live pigs, pork products still in effect

**L**A TRINIDAD, Benguet - - The provincial government maintains the ban on the entry of live pigs, fresh and frozen pork and pork products into the province as African Swine Fever (ASF) - affected areas now include Pangasinan.

Governor Melchor Diclas said the temporary banning of live pigs, fresh and frozen pork and pork products from ASF-affected areas thru Executive Order 2019-031 and EO 2019-36 is still in effect.

"We must have to protect the livelihood of our people," Diclas said explaining that swine raising has long been a common backyard income generating source of livelihood especially among rural households.

While acknowledging the efforts of concerned stakeholders such as the local government units, the police enforcers, concerned agencies in a presentation of the provincial contingency plan, he also sought their continuing support.

Dr Miriam Tiongan, head of the Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO), said although the disease is host-specific meaning, it only affects the swine and not

transmissible to humans, it has adverse impact on the livelihood of the swine raisers.

The provincial government through the PVO has crafted a contingency manual to manage the disease before, during and after the outbreak.

Called "Benguet PORK", this is a manual that contains step-by-step instructions on the appropriate measures to better manage the disease outbreak. The PORK contingency plan stands for P for prevention, OR for On-the-Dot Response and K for keeping updated and ahead of ASF or after outbreak to help revive the pork industry.

For preventive measures, the PVO established quarantine checkpoints that monitor the entry of pork commodities and live pigs. These checkpoints are located at Marcos Highway, Kennon Road, Naguilian Road, La Union- Benguet Road in San Pascual, Tuba, Halsema Road in Bangao, Buguias, Ilocos Sur- Benguet Road in Colalo, Mankayan, and Benguet-Vizcaya Road in Pito, Bokod.

Recently, a truck carrying pork products was denied of entry along Palina, Marcos Highway through the help of

the community.

Other common ways to avoid ASF include purchasing from ambulant pork vendors; feeding of swills or leftovers especially those taken from restaurants as infected pork may have been mixed, otherwise it should be cooked for around 30 minutes to ensure that the virus does not survive; going to areas with suspected sick swine as they may be disease-carriers through garments and shoes; and seek for permits issued to those selling the commodity.

Admitting that the provincial government cannot do it alone to prevent the entry of ASF, Tiongan enjoined the support of the community like reporting suspicious operations of traders or truckers. (JDP/SCA-PIA-CAR, Benguet)

## Dad seeks revival of...

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mixed reactions of the public, thus, the need for city officials to decide on whether or not to pursue the proposal by a number of proponents.

Dela Pena agreed to Lawana's contention that there are available engineering interventions that could be put in place to lessen the impact of the proposed underground parking to the state of the city's environment and the aesthetics of the area since the same will remain to sustain the scenic beauty within the whole of Burnham

## Task force to probe 8...

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There are no reported missing persons in Benguet.

Brig. Gen. Israel Ephraim Dickson, Police Regional Office-Cordillera (PROCOR) director, said that PROCOR shall do all it can "to identify the cadavers and skeletal remains for the sake of their families and help them seek justice and find closure for the death of their loved ones".

"We will not leave any stone unturned in this case," he added.

Dumping site

Ragay said the place has been carrying the tag as an area where dead bodies were thrown.

"Memory lane, even during my time in college, it had been known as such," he said.

Major James Acod, Tuba chief of police, said the last time a human skeleton was found in the area was on the third quarter of 2018.

He described the area as a place where residents usually dump garbage. It is a steep ravine and the bodies were found some 30 to 50 meters below.

Rescuers had to rappel to reach the area following information from a resident of foul smell on October 15.

On several occasions, Acod said that human remains have been discovered dumped on different parts of Marcos Highway, Nangalisan Road and Kennon Road.

Mayor Clarita Sal-Ongan,

Park which is the city's premier tourist destinations.

The local government is currently looking for solutions on the insufficient parking spaces that will cater to the parking needs of the increasing volume of motor vehicles which has been identified as one of the causes of traffic congestions around the city./ Dexter A. See

who resides in Taloy Sur said she wants the ravine blocked with a high fence to prevent dumping of anything.

The mayor said that they will request Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco) to put street lights in the area and a separate request from the Department of Public Works and Highways for the possible installation of CCTV cameras.

The police is also calling on the public to coordinate with authorities if they have missing relatives.

The first cadaver recovered is a male wearing blue jeans, half-naked, wearing a blue-black leather bracelet with markings DHL-31.

The second is also male wearing blue denim pants and Adidas sweatshirt.

The third and the eighth cadavers have been identified by relatives through body markings.

The fourth is a skeleton wearing a K-Swiss rubber shoes, white t-shirt, white Walker brief, black denim pants, and red belt.

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# Enough of words! Hazing needs no new solution

By: Dennis Acop (www.rappler.com)

Every solution to hazing at the Philippine Military Academy has been tried and found wanting. What should be done?

Hazing has become a byword that is distinctly associated with the Philippine Military Academy (PMA). Until this very day.

And it is so sad and unfortunate. For hazing is not a positive term. It betrays the character that the academy is supposed to represent. But it also manifests what is entirely wrong with the institution. The malpractice has surfaced once again due to the death of another victim. Despite policies and programs to eradicate hazing at the PMA, it nevertheless persists, rendering such initiatives ineffective and useless.

What are the military and the generals to do about hazing at the PMA? What should the superintendent and commandant do about it? Why have lessons not been learned after decades of this problem? This brief essay will attempt to answer.

## EDITORIAL

Despite the positive image that the academy and alumni like to brandish, the reality of hazing resulting in fatalities continues to gnaw at this image. It betrays an inner reality that cannot be whitewashed by an outer one. It is like trying to submerge atrocities committed in campaigns against enemies through the staging of colorful parades and accolades to the delight of worshipping crowds. It is similar to etching a carefully crafted testimonial speech that does not truly reflect the truth but rather just a positive image of the person edified.

These common practices in our military and society betray a culture that does not echo the very motto of the academy. Courage. Integrity. Loyalty.

I have heard of new initiatives to make hazing go away from some alumni groups. One even suggested the copying of the Respect Officer concept from the United States Military Academy. But this concept was not put in to address hazing such as what exists at the PMA. I think it is a shallow solution. Along with any other forwarded solution which sounds nice but actually is mere window-dressing.

Looking back at years of hazing at the PMA and their aftermaths should already teach us that such solutions do not work in our particular case.

### What new solution?

The military and its generals like to sound off all kinds of loud reactions each time hazing is highlighted. They feel it is their duty to somehow address the problem in a loud manner enough for the public to hear. After all, it is their alma mater that is once again put into focus.

Many of them also experienced hazing. Many do not think hazing is an issue. Many are even proud that they went through hazing and survived it. The insider view is that hazing is merely a natural occurrence in any fraternal membership.

The superintendent and commandant, in particular, will feel that they need to come up with a solution that is loud enough for the public to hear and one that will pacify agitated spirits. Therefore, they will tend to go for what has been stated earlier about coming up with a relatively "new" solution that has never been tried before.

But there is no such solution. For all have already been tried before and found wanting.

Truth is that there is no need for any "new" solution. The old solutions still work and they only need to be taken seriously.

They all begin with the academy motto: Courage-Integrity-Loyalty. The true solution lies in reforming the cultural spirit and not just the cultural letter. As of now, the spirit may be willing but the flesh is weak.

It is time the academy, the generals, the superintendent, and the commandant take the alma mater seriously in its totality and all its forms: word, action, and spirit. Their true character.

If hazing is illegal, then why does it still occur? Prosecute all guilty, dismiss them, and send the word out as example to all without fear or favor. Courage is having what it takes to implement the anti-hazing rule and all its attendant truths.

The generals and alumni themselves must not play politics with the rules. Or courage will expose them too. Integrity is always aligning action with the letter and spirit of rules. Any inconsistencies must be exposed by any stakeholder be they cadets, civilians, generals, the supe, or the com, etc. And loyalty is having the commitment to protect courage and integrity because in the end, it is the institution (including all its members and alumni) which is at stake.

Enough of words

Cont. on page 5

And enough of words. There is



## KAKAMPIMO ANGBATAS

*Mga taong walang unawa, laging salat, kapos, naghihikahos*

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



**INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY:** "... Kung hindi kayo maniniwalang ako ay si 'Ako Nga', mamamatay nga kayo sa inyong mga kasalanan'..." (si Jesus, sa Juan 8:24, Bibliya).

-000-

**MGA PILIPINO: KASAMA BA SA BINULAG AT BININGI NG DIYOS?** Isang kasama ko sa Simbahang Anak ng Diyos Kadugo Ni Kristo (AND KNK) ang nagtanong sa akin: kasama ba ang maraming Pilipino sa mga binulag at biningi ng Diyos upang hindi sila maligtas? Sabi ng nagtanong: sa tingin ko kasi ngayon, marami na ang di nakakakita at di nakakarinig na ang mga tanda ng Diyos sa papasamang kalagayan ng mundo ay nangyayari na.

Matindi para sa akin ang tanong na iyon. Kasi nga naman, para sa mga nag-aaral ng Bibliya, hindi maitatago sa kanila na may mga bahagi ito na nagpapahayag na may mga binulag at biningi ang Diyos upang hindi sila makaunawa sa hiwaga ng kaharian ng langit at sa gayon ay hindi sila maligtas sa mga problema sa daigdig na ito, at sa walang katapusang impiyerno ng uod at apoy sa buhay na walang hanggan.

Kung bubulay-bulayin nating mabuti, hindi din maitatangi na sa Pilipinas ngayon, marami na ang walang unawa (kumbaga, hindi nakakarinig o nakakakita ng mga utos at ng Salita ng Diyos), kaya naman kahit na ang mga pinaka-karumal-dumal na krimen ay kaya na nilang gawin. Kaawa-awa ang mga kababayan nating ito, dahil hindi sila magkakamit ng tatlong antas ng kaligtasan.

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**TATLONG ANTAS NG KALIGTASAN PARA SA MGA TAO:** Ano ang tatlong antas ng kaligtasan para sa isang tao? Sa turo at aral ng Simbahang Anak ng Diyos Kadugo Ni Kristo (AND KNK) batay sa mga nakasaad sa Bibliya, may tatlong antas ng kaligtasan na maaaring abutin ng mga tao. Ang unang antas ay ang kaligtasan mula sa mga kahirapan, kaguluhan, at kabiguan, sa daigdig na ito.

Ang ikalawang antas ay ang kaligtasan mula sa araw ng matinding kapighatian, sa araw ng pagkakasunog ng daigdig pagdating ng tinatawag na Araw ng Diyos. Ang Araw ng Diyos ay mangangahulugan ng pagkakatupok ng langit, ng araw, ng buwan at mga bituin, at ng daigdig na ito, kasama ang mga taong binulag at biningi (at inalisan ng unawa) ng Diyos.

Ang ikatlong antas ay ang kaligtasan sa buhay na walang hanggan---ibig sabihin, ang buhay sa Paraiso sa piling ng Diyos. Sa kabuuan, ang mga antas ng kaligtasang ito ay makakamtan lamang ng mga taong nakikinig at sumusunod sa Salita at mga utos ng Diyos. Sila yung mga taong binigyan ng Diyos ng kapangyarihang makakita, makarinig, at makaunawa sa mga hiwaga ng kaharian ng langit.

-000-

**MGA TAONG WALANG UNAWA, LAGING SALAT, KAPOS, AT NAGHIHIKAHOS:** Sa mga taong itinakda ng Diyos na maging bulag, bingi, at, dahil diyan, ay walang unawa sa mga hiwaga ng kaharian ng langit, walang sarap ng buhay na naghihin- **Cont. on page 6**

## FAIR AND SQUARE

*In Defense of CPC Applicants Under Memorandum Circular*

*No. 2019-016 of the LTFRB*

BY: ATTY. JAMES S. VALEROS



Following the issuance of Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2019-016 by the LTFRB on 26 March 2019, allowing 200 additional taxi units to operate on the route Baguio City / La Trinidad to any point in CAR, four (4) legal entities, a corporation and three (3) transport cooperatives, filed Applications for Qualification with LTFRB-CAR to qualify for issuance of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC).

After evaluation by the Pre-Qualification Committee of LTFRB-CAR, these applications which did not qualify due to the stringent requirements of the MC were forwarded to the Board en banc in Quezon City for further deliberation and review for possible grant of Notice to Apply for issuance of franchise or CPC. But until now, there is yet no resolution on these applications by the Board en banc.

In the interim, oppositions against the implementation of MC No. 2019-016 from existing taxi operators and the Local Government Units particularly Baguio City have mounted despite the fact that implementations thereof have already begun. The Baguio City Council has in fact introduced a Proposed Resolution (PR Nr. 0095-19), opposing the implementation of the MC. And, no less than City Mayor Magalong who is also opposing the grant of CPC thereof has disclosed that DOTr Secretary Tugade, after his meeting with him, has called on the LTFRB to suspend the issuance of the 200 franchises applied for under MC 2019-016.

The call of Secretary Tugade to LTFRB Chairman Delgra finally materialized with the issuance of Board Resolution No. 231, Series of 2019 resolving to SUSPEND the issuance of franchises in the opened 200 regular taxi units for Baguio City / La Trinidad, Benguet to any point in CAR as provided under MC No. 2019-016, as well as, the 200 premium taxi units opened under MC No. 2019-032 but later reduced to 100 units as per M.C. No. 2019-048 issued on 18 September 2019.

Relative thereto, I will have to say that this Suspension under Board Resolution No. 231, if not reconsidered by the Board en banc, will be UNFAIR and UNJUST to the applicants who have fully complied with the stringent requirements of LTFRB. In particular, ERMADRADA Taxi Transport Corp. (ERMADRADA for short) and TRUSTED BLIST ALLIANCE OF TRANSPORT MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE (TBATMPC) who have EACH invested the amount of more than P50M for the costs of 50 new compliant units already purchased from Toyota Baguio and for maintaining a financial network of P800,000.00 multiplied by the number of the 50 proposed units or P40M.

If it is not UNFAIR and UNJUST to suspend the issuance of the franchises under the foregoing circumstances and in the middle part of implementation of MC No. 2019-016, we don't know what is! For, in the FIRST PLACE, the applicants legally filed their applications pursuant to a validly promulgated MC No. 2019-016 which was issued after consultation with concerned LGU or Baguio City as required under Sec. 1 (c) of the Local **Cont. on page 5**

## Tired of Graft & Corruption?



*Linis Gobyerno* is an anti-graft, corruption prevention and detection office.

Contact Nos. (0917) 5069123, (074) 444-7025 or you can write to P.O. Box 1588, 2600 Baguio City e-mail: [linisgobyerno@yahoo.com](mailto:linisgobyerno@yahoo.com) website: [www.linisgobyerno.org](http://www.linisgobyerno.org)

**FASTRACK**

**The Magalong Demolition?!?!**



**BY: FREDDIE J. FARRES**

The recent turn of events in what was originally meant as a Senate inquiry into the GCTA scam turned out to be one certified demolition job against the current Chief PNP (now on leave) and the current anti illegal drugs program of the administration.

I am sure, a lot of our readers will find my views as perhaps being absurd if not outrageous, or even idiotic, or some may say that I am pro-admin or pro-Albayalde, etc. At any rate, this columnist, having been used to dissecting conflicting views and going against popular beliefs and/or against the tide, well what's new.

The following are the ideas that I simply cannot reconcile. If the end in view is what I perceive to be the view of the majority that Magalong is on some kind of truth and moral crusader and was just simply speaking the truth (at lumabas na lang sa blue ribbon investigation), having said that, consider the following and bear with the foregoing comments:

**1.** According to Magalong, he never intended for things to get out as the truth of things just came out. Certainly when Magalong was being questioned, he was in his element and conscious of all the beans he would spill. It's not like a grade or high schooler was being interrogated and therefore nadulas ang dila at nagka windang-windang na. Sa assessment ko calibrated lahat, more so merong national media attention (the icing in the cake).

**2.** While we were made aware that Magalong did make some moves way back to go after the so called ninja cops, this incident happened 6 years ago and the players involved have been demoted, etc, and likewise Albayalde not being charged for any offense. And to think that Albayalde was a nobody then (P/Supt. pa lang siya noon) at General na si Magalong nuon at na sa poder so to speak sina Magalong nuon. I really just cannot understand and/or reconcile what really was the end game of Magalong (or is there a higher force?!?) in bringing to light an incident that took place 6 years ago (in fact Magalong might have other info that occurred perhaps 10 or so more years ago that he may also want to divulge, why not?). It seems pretty obvious to me that Magalong has an axe to grind against Albayalde. I actually have a theory on what this axe to grind is all about, but I would rather not state it. I in fact shared what this possible axe to grind is only with one person - Atty. James Valeros (my kumpare) and knowing him to be polite, proper and upright, he just stared at me, heaven knows what was going inside his head. At any rate, our readers might find it too brutal for me to share it for public consumption, although I can share it to you in confidence, get in touch. Of course after all the media hype, the joke now is pang one (1) term Mayor

**Cont. on page 7**

**Fair and square**

**from page 4**

Government Code of 1991; SECONDLY, the applications under MC No. 2019-016 are not new entry applications but a replacement of the taxi units cancelled by LTFRB for failure by owner-operators to extend the validity of their expiring franchises; THIRDLY, contrary to the claim of the oppositors, the alleged congestion to be caused

by the "additional" units had been inputted when the cancelled 183 or so units were issued their franchises in the first instance.

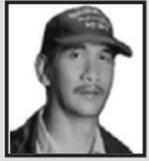
This writer believe that instead of focusing on the traffic congestion that may be caused by the "additional" replacement units, it would better served the interest of Baguio City were the Honorable Mayor and City Council would consider other measures to reduce or declog traffic congestion in Baguio City like: (a) the strict and efficient implementation of the moratorium prohibiting public utility vehicles issued with CPCs from other regions entering and touching BLISTT area, in violation of Memorandum Circular No. 98-026; (b) the filing of petition asking LTFRB to cancel the thousands of CPCs issued illegally by Regional Directors for a fee in violation of the moratorium through the years since 1996. Pursuant to the general welfare provisions of the Local Government Code, the City, for the interest and protection of its constituents, has the power to demand the cancellation of these illegal franchises causing the intense traffic in Baguio City.

Last but not the least, following the Doctrine of Operative Fact, implementation of MC No. 2019-016 may not be suspended or stayed against applicants ERMADRADA and TBATMPC. For, while the general rule is that a voided law or administrative issuance cannot be a source of legal rights or duties, the Doctrine of Operative fact as enunciated by the Supreme Court in many

**Cont. on page 7**

**MAGKASANGGA TAYO**

**Tolongges na Negosyante!!!  
Relax lang, Manang Leni!!!  
DOTR Dir. Francis Almora  
kayang-kaya niyo SIR!!!**



**BY: NESTOR "PAKEN" CASTRO**

**Tolongges na Negosyante** – Isang blind item po muna. Alam ninyo mga dear readers, bago pa man ipina-uso ni Yorme Isko ang salitang tolongges ay matagal ko ng ginagamit yan. Ano ba talaga ang ibig sabihin ng salitang tolongges? Ito ay kombinasyon ng tanga, mang-mang, inosente, may sariling mundo, out of touch sa realidad atbp. Ngayon, mayroon akong kilalang isang negosyante na dapat na ay mag iba na ng linya sapagkat napakagaling mag-palusot (pang famas award ang mga bulshit na palusot niya) pag dating sa kanyang pag-bigay ng kanyang obligasyon. Nakakita ka na ba ng isang negosyante na patuloy ang pag nenegosyo kahit na hindi kumikita? O baka naman masyado lang ganid ang negosyante na ito at ayaw ibigay ang mga dapat na ibigay na for the boys at kanyang mga obligasyon. Dapat sa gunggong na tolongges na ito ay mag-sara na at lumipat na ng ibang negosyo o mag-artista ka na lang at mahilig ka sa drama. Dami mong palusot, kala mo matotolongges mo lahat ng ka-deal mo. Kung ang iba na papaniwala mo aba eh wag mong lahatin, PWEEEE!!! Bowisit kang negosyante ka, dami mong palusot, kung hindi ka kumikita eh di magsara ka na ng dalawa mong puwesto at mag-palit ka na ng iyong hanapbuhay. At sino itong gagosyante este negosyante na ito na taga Bauko Mt. Province, secret for now?

####

Relax lang Manang Leni -Take it easy VP Leni. Hindi naman po sikreto sa lahat na ako ay isang Marcos Loyalist. Ever since sa aking mga kolum ay hindi ko ito pinagkaila at parati akong kampi sa mga Marcos. Kung sabaagay ako ay taga Sinit, Ilocos Sur, born and raised at andun marami sa aking mga relatives.

Sa tutuo lang ay yan ang isang gusto ko sa pahayagan na ito - kaya matagal na akong kolumnista dito ay malaya kaming mga kolumnista na nakapagsusulat ng aming pananaw at opinyon kahit na kung minsan ay nagbababantan na kaming mga kolumnista sa isang paraan na sinasabing friendly clash of ideas and opinions. Sa madalit salita ay naniniwala kami na kung kakailanganin ay we can always agree to disagree. Malaya kaming makapag hahayag ng aming mga adhikain at paniniwala!

Ang tunay na sa aking pananaw ay ang tunay na VP ay of course si BBM kaya umaasa rin ako na mailalagay sa ayos ang isinasagawang recount na PET. Ang hindi ko maintindihan ay kung bakit masyadong apurado itong si Manang Leni na ibasura na ang protesta ni BBM. Tapos na po ba ang lahat ng recount??? Why so in a hurry Manang VP Leni? Naka pwesto naman na kayo (in fact baka abutan pa ng susunod na halalan at di pa matapos ang recount at mga ibang legal maneuvers ninyo, eh di kayo rin nakinabang sa pagka fake-VP ninyo). Bakit hindi na lang ninyo hayaan na ipatupad ang kabuuan ng recount nang sa ganoon ay tunay na makikita ng buong sambayanan

**Cont. on page 7**

**Philippine Daily Inquirer  
magsasara!!! Diskarte ng  
Junction News (part 1)!!!**

**BY: ROLDAN P. RAMOS**

Bilang consultant and adviser ng pahayagan na ito at iba pang jaryo sa Central Luzon, ang the Junction Newspaper na tinaguriang pahayagang palaban at katulad din niya at ibang mga local na pahayagan ay isang testamento sa sipag at tiyaga ng sinasabing mosquito press (according to then late strongman FM).

Marami sigurong nag-aakala na kami ay nag-sara na at hindi na existing, maliban of course sa mga korte at pangilan-ilan na mga government offices and requisite news stands.

Maliban kasi sa regular and usual offset printing kung saan dapat mag print ng thousand of copies per run ay ang kadalasan ang printing natin ay gamit ang ating mga large format printers where we can print less copies but a lot more cost efficient and at the same time still maintain our presence.

Sa tutuo lang ay ang strategy ng pahayagang ito for the past 10 years, with exception sa election season ay mag-publish lamang ng just the right number of copies as allowed for by law. Pangalawa ay lahat ng weekly publication/copies natin ay ikina-karga sa aming website. In fact, ito lamang nakaraang eleksyon (May 2019) dahil sa pagka busy naming hahat sa aming mga alternatibong hanap buhay (alam naman ninyo mga mahal na mambabasa ang mga medyas na umaasa sa kikitain sa local press ay karamihan patay gutom [no offense meant, just calling a spade a spade], kaya kailangan ay may mga ibang pinagkakakitaan). Kaya itong nakaraan election season ay hindi na na-involve ang jankyon este junction newspaper sa pag e-expose sa mga katarantaduhan ng mga polpolitiko. Unlike nuong election 2016 and previous elections kung saan marami-rami tayong mga copies na inilabas during election season (itanong niyo kay Sir Ferdie Balanag kung ilang libo libo ang ipina-imprenta nila samin at bi-weekly issues). Kaya nga parating sinasabi ng aming impakto publisher este de facto publisher that the Junction Newspaper

**Duterte ushers in a new era: An independent foreign policy**

**BY: RIGOBERTO TIGLAO (RIGOBERTOTIGLAO.COM)**

PRESIDENT Duterte's official trip last week to Russia combined with his two visits to China — both adversaries to the US in different degrees at different times and different spheres — marks the dawning of a new era for our nation: Independence from the US, which has subjugated the country in various forms since it aborted our freedom at the turn of the century.

Unless the Yellow Cult manages by some miracle to grab power and reverse Duterte's assertion of our sovereignty, that is. After all, the Yellow Cult's founders Ninoy and his widow, President Cory, as well as their son Noynoy, were so slavish to the US.

Think about it. The President's official visits abroad signal our stance in our relationship to the world, and especially to its superpowers. In the case of Corazon Aquino, the dust of the EDSA Revolution had hardly settled before she made her first official visit to the US, practically acknowledging her indebtedness to the Americans for putting her in power. Her son Benigno 3rd's first trip abroad as a president was to the US, a few months after he assumed power.

Has Duterte visited the US? No, and I don't think he ever will, the first Philippine president who would not "report" as a vassal to the superpower.

Duterte's two visits to China made him an easy target of the Yellows' black propaganda, that he was the Asian superpower's puppet. However, his forging of close ties to Russia last week, given the existing strong economic and cultural ties with the US, put us equidistant, as it were, to the world's three competing superpowers, a pose that announces to the world: "The Philippines cannot be a vassal of any state," an assertion depicted in an inspired Manila Times editorial cartoon.

**Separation**

Duterte in fact announced his "pivot" to independence early in his administration. In his first visit to China in October 2016, in of all places, Beijing, he said in a speech at a forum in the Great Hall of the People, attended by Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli: "In this venue, your honors, I announce my separation from the United States...Both in military, not maybe social, but economics also. America has lost."

Duterte even added, using his fondness for hyperbole: "I've realigned myself in your ideological flow and maybe I will also go to Russia to talk to [President Vladimir] Putin and tell him that there are three of us against the world — China, Philippines and Russia. It's the only way."

Obviously shocked after Duterte made those statements, State Department spokesman John Kirby said arrogantly: "We are going to be seeking an explanation of exactly what the President meant when he talked about separation from the US."

This is the real reason why nearly all US media, Rappler's Maria Ressa (an American citizen) and other entities funded by US propaganda machines have been unrelenting in claiming that Duterte and his government has been on a spree of extrajudicial killings, even spreading the outrages black-prop that he is a ruthless tyrant.

Other than the hope of creating public outrage enough to overthrow him, the US and its operatives are saying we don't really need Duterte as he is woven of the same cloth as the other bloody ruler, Russian President Putin.

**Geopolitics**

Indeed, a Philippine Daily In-

**Cont. on page 6**

**Editorial**

**from page 4**

too much talk about hazing but not enough action. It should be a real challenge to the academy and the alumni. For men in uniform of character, this hazing eats away at what the military academy is highly esteemed for, which is its integral character.

In the military, we challenge each other saying how one can actually execute "yes sir" to the satisfaction of the superior. If the subordinate is able to accomplish the mission given him to the complete satisfaction of the superior, then that subordinate did what is usually expected of military professionals: execute the mission well above legal and moral reproaches. In short, "snappy"!

The same challenge is now thrown at the entire cacophony of significant stakeholders who must make hazing finally go away for good especially to the academy officials and alumni.

**Undeclared enemy**

In summary therefore, hazing continues to be a sickness suffered by the academy but whose continued existence manifests a challenge that the academy and alumni have not yet defeated.

For hazing is not merely the ownership of a bunch of misguided cadets. Hazing reflects a system of double standards much like the one that persists in the real world outside the academy.

But double standards have no room in an environment like the academy. Where everything is supposed to be black or white. Where right is right. And wrong is wrong. In fact, double standards have no room in a much edified institution like the military whose superior virtue is its honor.

Hazing is nothing new. And it

**Cont. on page 6**

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

MUNICIPALITY OF LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET, AND THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE, -Respondents. SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASE NO. 19-SP-1995

X-----X

ORDER

Petitioner, through counsel, filed this verified Petition praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, decision be rendered directing the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet and the Philippine Statistics Authority to correct the name of LEE KUAN SUBADAY BAOIDANG to "LEE KUAN BAOIDANG MENCION" in his Certificate of Live Birth.

WHEREFORE, finding the Petition to be sufficient in form and substance, this Court set it for initial hearing on November 27, 2019 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning before the session hall of this Court, Justice Hall,

IN THE MATTER OF CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF MINOR LEE KUAN BAOIDANG MENCION AS TO HIS MIDDLE NAME FROM "SUBADAY TO BAOIDANG" AND HIS SURNAME FROM "BAOIDANG TO MENCION".

JULIET S. BAOIDANG-MENCION, -Petitioner,

-VERSUS-

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY OF THE

La Trinidad, Benguet. All interested persons may appear and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

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 October 13, 2019.

Furnish copies of this ORDER, together with copies of the Petition and its annexes, to the Office of the Solicitor General; the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor of Benguet; the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet; and the Philippine Statistics Authority, Quezon City. Likewise, furnish copies of this ORDER to The Junction and the petitioner and counsel. SO ORDERED.

This 27th day of September 2019 at La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines.

(SGD) MARIETTA S. BRAUNER-CUALING Presiding Judge

October 5, 12 & 19, 2019

Mayor authorized to negotiate with GSIS on tree park

BAGUIO CITY – The City Council approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong to negotiate with or enter into an agreement with the State-owned Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) for the possible development of the parcel of land adjacent to the city-owned Baguio Convention Center as a tree park and to form part of the city's remaining patches of trees. The resolution stated that the GSIS owns the over 3-hectare parcel of land adjacent to the city-owned Baguio convention Center which remains as a tree park to date and part of the city's remaining vacant spaces that could be preserved and protected for the city to

have a breathing space from the developments

that are being introduced right in the central business district.

Based on a study previously conducted by the University of the Philippines (UP) College Baguio, the said parcel of land currently hosts 544 pine trees, 49 plants with 35 invertebrate species and 24 bird species known only to be found in the Cordilleras.

During the previous administration, the local government expressed its interest to purchase the said parcel of land from the GSIS to be preserved and protected as a tree park and to prevent the same from being developed into a condominium property but the same did not materialize due to disagreements on the supposed purchase price of the said property.

Editorial

from page 5

needs no new solution. If there is anything to be renewed, then it is the cultural spirit that must prevail and not merely its letter. – Rappler.com

Retired colonel Dencio Acop attended the PMA before graduating from West Point in 1983. He left the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 2006 and built a second career in the private sector working for PSA, Wyeth, Pfizer, and Nestle, and retired in 2018. He writes freelance.

Resolution No. 095, series of 2019 expressed the local government's appreciation to the official declaration of the GSIS, through its president and general manager, Jesus Clint Aranas, on January 28, 2019, to preserve the trees that were planted in the parcel of land it owns adjacent to the Baguio convention Center.

GSIS management stated in an official statement that the land where the tree park stands will not be sold or converted into a commercial area in response to the stiff opposition raised by former Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan on reported plans that the property is being eyed by a

condominium developer for the put up of a multi-storey condominium project.

Further, the local government previously manifested its interest and willingness to be a partner of the GSIS and may be tasked with responsibilities as may be contained in any program or memorandum to be formulated or entered into to enhance and preserve and protect the so-called tree park.

The local government earlier submitted to the GSIS management a conceptual development plan of the tree park to allow the same to serve its Cont. on page 7

Kakampi mo ang batas

from page 4

ito, sa araw ng matinding kapighatian, at sa buhay na walang hanggan. Sila ang mga taong laging salat, kapos, naghihirap, nasa mga dukhang lugar, at inaapi maging ng kanilang sariling mga kabayan.

bayan.

Ito ang mga taong hindi nakakaunawa na ang Diyos lamang ang nagbibigay ng kakayahan sa tao upang yumaman, na ang tanging daan ng kasaganaan at katagumpayan ng buhay sa daigdig na ito ay ang Panginoong Jesus wala ng iba. Ito ang mga taong hindi kumilala kung sino si Jesus. Ito ang mga taong iba ang pagkakakilala kay Jesus.

Ano ang dapat gawin ng mga taong nakakaranas ng hirap at pighati sa mundong ito? Marapat lamang na tanggapin nila si Jesus bilang Diyos at Tagapagligtas, na Siyang Diyos Ama, Anak, at Espiritu Santo. Pag ginawa nila ito, natuto silang sumunod sa mga utos ng Diyos, ibibigay sa kanila ang lahat ng kanilang kailangan---yaman, talino, lakas at kalusugan, at kapangyarihan sa lahat ng aspeto ng buhay. Subukan po natin ito!

-000-

REAKSIYON? Tawag po sa 0977 805 9058, 0918 574 0193, 0933 8251308 o sa aking Messenger account sa Facebook: Melanio Lazo Mauricio Jr. Email: batasmauricio@yahoo.com, mmauriciojr111@gmail.com. Maari din po kayong mag-post ng inyong mga reaksiyon sa aking Facebook page, www.facebook.com/attybatas.

PSA to consider...

from page 3

headed by PSA Benguet.

President Rodrigo Duterte signed Republic Act 11055 or Philippine Identification System Act in 2018, which aims to give valid proof of identity for Filipinos and residents in the country and fast-track transactions in the government and private sector.

The ID system will also support government initiatives in boosting social protection and financial inclusion and accelerating the country's shift towards an inclusive and trusted digital economy.

Dela Cruz assured the security and the integrity of the personal data being given for the PhilSys as they continuously improve their system to level up security features of the ID system.

"We take very seriously the responsibility to ensure security and integrity of personal data of Filipinos and resident aliens. The PhilSys is a complex program with little room for error, so we have the following ways to address the risks on privacy and data security concerns," he added. (JDP/ RMC- PIA-CAR)

Task force to probe...

from page 3

superwearhk, white Hudson undershirt, and three keys with black tag.

The sixth is wearing a tribal gray t-shirt with tribal letterings, black denim pants, with a height of 1.55 meters.

The seventh is wearing a blue striped sweatshirt, blue brief, two silver rings on the middle and ring fingers of the right hand, white t-shirt with markings, and estimated to be 1.63 meters in height. /Liza Agoot and Dionisio Dennis, Jr. (PNA)

was told to instead file a case in an international venue, recommending a Washington-based top-notch law firm (Foley Hoag). With the US probably frightening him that the China might just invade the Philippines, Aquino in 2014 agreed to enter into what was euphemistically called the "Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement" which would allow the Americans to pre-position their war materiel on our military camps, so their navy and marines would have ready supplies in case of a war or a skirmish against China in the South China Sea.

In 2016, the arbitral tribunal made its ruling. Its most important ruling was that it in effect declared most of the South China Sea to be international waters.

Did it benefit us? Why, we even lost a huge tract of our exclusive economic zone and our Kalayaan Group of Islands, as I have explained in detail in previous columns. If not for Duterte's pivot away from the US, we would have been at odds with the superpower in the region, losing the world's biggest market, to the delight of our competitor-neighbors.

Such is the cost of subservience to the US, which Duterte is struggling to get out of.

Duterte ushers in a new...

from page 5

quirer columnist pretending to be an expert in geopolitics in an opinion piece in an Asian newspaper even astonishingly claimed that Duterte is simply Putin's copycat: "The Philippine leader has drawn heavily from the playbook of a man he once described as his 'favorite hero'." Duterte with his style of strongman governance in Davao City in the 1980s was aping somebody who was at the time a covert KGB agent in Germany?

For us to "separate" from the US is inconceivable to our elites. That same Inquirer writer for instance demonstrated such intellectual incapacity to even imagine that it is possible for us to have a foreign policy not tied to the US, when he had his column titled "Duterte's foreign policy" contain solely blank space. Those who think so are of such small minds that it cannot comprehend the entire new world Duterte has opened up for us.

I don't think most Filipinos know how much the US has made us its vassal since the turn of the century, even after it "gave" us independence in 1946 — which was even the result of American farm lobby that wanted assurances that Philippine agricultural products would never again enter the US duty free, which they did as a US territory.

The leaked US State Department files, CIA documents released because of the US Freedom of Information Act, and information disclosed in a 2017 PhD thesis (by Joseph Scalice at the University of California, Berkeley, titled "Crisis of Revolutionary Leadership: Martial Law and the Communist Parties of the Philippines," 1957-1974) that accessed secret State Department data reveal that even many of our revered leaders, even the Yellow's martyr Ninoy Aquino, even those with the reputation of being staunch nationalists, made sure to report their plans to US Embassy officials.

EDSA 1

Thirty years after EDSA 1, we know for a fact that it was the American "Deep State" which plotted Marcos' overthrow, in defiance of President Reagan's earlier stance of being loyal to his "friend." Marcos as strongman had become a risk not just in terms of fending off a communist revolution, but in losing the US military bases, whose lease was to expire in 1991.

And as I have written based not on conjecture but on hard data, our conflict with China, starting with the Scarborough Shoal stand-off up to the filing of an arbitration suit based on the UN Law of the Sea, was the result of Machiavellian maneuvering by the US that used us as a proxy.

Why was this important to the US? President Barack Obama announced and implemented the US "Pivot to Asia" policy in 2011, a move to reassert US hegemony in Asia to contain the rise of the new superpower, China, and the latter's influence, especially in Southeast Asia, all of which are littoral states of the South China Sea.

The US "Pivot to Asia" required the demonization of China as an expansionist power in the region, an international-law ruling of sorts to make the South China Sea mostly international waters which would make it "more legal" for US warships to patrol that area to project its power, and a better system for deploying the US military from our country, in case of a war with China.

Just a year after the "Pivot to Asia" announcement, we were confronting China at Scarborough Shoal in 2012, triggered by President Aquino's deployment against Chinese fishermen of a refurbished warship the US donated to the Philippine Navy.

Intervention

Foiled by a US diplomat, we left the Shoal and thereby lost it. Aquino begged for US military intervention. He

Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation and Communications LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD Cordillera Administrative Region Baguio City AUREA M. BUSTAMANTE Applicant CASE No. 2005-BENG-CAR-657 NOTICE OF HEARING This is an application filed on October 10, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TAXI Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CAR with the use of one (1) unit.

Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation and Communications LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD Cordillera Administrative Region Baguio City ELCANOR MANG-USAN Applicant CASE No. 2015-CAR-316 NOTICE OF HEARING This is an application filed on October 1, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate PUJ Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO CITY - DENGGI and vice versa with the use of one (1) unit.

ERRATUM In a Notice of Hearing for Extension of Validity of CPC filed by AMADEO FERNANDEZ published in this paper issue of March 23, 2019, the Case No. 2016-CAR-785 is incorrect and should be Case No. 94-CAR-452, and not as inadvertently published. (SGD) The Junction OIC

Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation and Communications LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD Cordillera Administrative Region Baguio City LEONILAR R. FORTUNA Applicant CASE No. 2010-CAR-450 NOTICE OF HEARING This is an application filed on October 10, 2019 for the approval of EXTENSION of VALIDITY of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate TAXI Service for the transportation of passengers and freights on the line: BAGUIO CITY TO ANY POINT IN CAR with the use of one (1) unit.

# 3 sites in Burnham Park eyed for parking structures

**B**AGUIO CITY – The local government is setting its sights on three areas within the 34-hectre Burnham Park

complex as possible sites of proposed multi-level parking structures that will cater to the parking needs of the increasing number of motor vehicles in the city.

Based on the conceptual master development plan that was prepared by a technical working group tasked by the local government do prepare the same, the proposed areas where parking structures could be reacted include the existing Ganza parking area, the proposed site of the creative center at the old city auditorium area and within portions of the Baguio Athletic Bowl specifically the area of the Army Reserve Command (ARESCOM) and the vicinity of the Baguio tennis court.

A 5-storey multi-level parking building that could accommodate some 500 to 7000 vehicles at one time aside from some 172 public utility jeepneys in a portion of the structure that

will be owned by the city is being proposed to be implemented in the Ganza parking area, a 2-level basement parking is also being proposed in the old auditorium site while another multi-level parking structure is being eyed to be erected within the ARESCOM or Baguio tennis court areas.

However, the Burnham Park conceptual master development plan will still be subject to revisions based on the results of public consultations that will be conducted by the local government for the purpose of soliciting the inputs of the public on how to further improve the plan.

Earlier, Mayor Benjamin B. Magalong created a technical working group to prepare the conceptual master development plan of the whole Burnham Park taking into consideration previous development plans that were prepared by concerned groups and institutions.

In 2009, the University of the

Cordilleras (UC) donated to the local government a comprehensive master development plan of Burnham Park which its experts undertook as its gift to the city during the celebration of its centennial anniversary but the same was not favourably acted upon by the previous members of the local legislative body for various reasons.

Burnham Park was master planned by famous American Arch. Daniel Burnham in the early 1900s as a major tourist destination right at the heart of the city.

In 1995, former President Fidel V. Ramos issued Executive Order (EO) No. 224, series of 1995 that transferred the administration, management and operation of Burnham

Park from the former Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) to the local government with an annual

subsidy of P18 million that was reduced to P10 million annually until it was eventually scrapped.

Further, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued Executive Order No. 695, series of 2009 that ceded the 34-hectare Burnham Park complex to the local government from the State-owned Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) as its gift to the city when it celebrated its centennial anniversary.

The Burnham Park remains to be the most frequented tourist spot in the city primarily because it is strategically located right at the heart of the city and near public places such as the public market, Session road and city hall./Dexter A. See

## Diskarte ng Junction news

from page 5

comes alive during election season, sapagkat sa aming panananay ay napaka-importante ng halalan at dapat na ma-iparating sa madla ang mga kabulastugan ng mga polpolitiko.

Alam naman natin na sa kasalukuyang panahon na napakarami ng alternatibong paraan para maging isang epektibong medyas este media at ang print newspapers ay isang bahagyang paraan na lamang na sa amin ay isinasagawa as targeted information/propaganda dissemination. Ang ibig kong sabihin ay kung mayroon mga isyu na nais natin ilabas ay puwede naman tayo mag-print ng maraming kopya ng pahayagan at i-circulate din natin sa lugar na nais natin na mabasa ng aming targeted readers. Alam naman nating lahat na TV, social and digital media na ang pinatutunguhan ng ating mass based media (market). Halos lahat na ng tao ay may TV at CP at ang mga pahayagan sa ngayon para basahin ay dapat ipinamimigay na ng libre or eventually go extinct, at yuon naman ang ating isinasagawa for the past 10 years already.

Kaya for past issues of this paper please just visit our website www.junctionnews.com at kung mayroon mga jaryo o issue na hindi pa na upload please let us know. In fact, kung hindi naman fake news ang aking nabasa sometime last week ay pati na rin ang supposed to be the number 1 broadsheet newspaper ang Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) dala nga ng kanilang hundreds of millions annual losses ay nag-sabi na magsasara na sila within the next five years at lilipat na sila sa digital media na lamang - isang hakbangin na isinagawa nuon pa ng Newsbreak magazine (hardcopy) kung saan nag-sara sila at hindi nagtagal ay nabuhay ang Rappler.

Bagama't mayroon iba't ibang dynamics ang national propaganda/marketing kumpara sa local propaganda/marketing kaya siguro mayroon pa rin buhay (o silbi) na natitira sa mga lokal na pahayagan na matagal ko ng sinasabi na ang marami sa mga lokal na pahayagan ay mga jaryo bluff lamang. Isama nyo na rito ang maraming local radio stations and cable channels. Mabuti pa nga ang jaryo matutumbok ang dami ng iniimprenta eh ang nakikinig ng isang radio station (program) o nanunood ng isang programa sa cable channel napakahirap at napakamahal na gawan ng isang survey on listeners/viewers, unlike sa internet o digital monitoring napakadali ma-monitor ang internet traffic. Sa susunod na issue ay aking ipaliliwanag ng detalye hinggil sa production costs and other aspects of the local newspaper business vis-à-vis the other competitors like social/digital media. **Hasta La Vista**

## A discovery almost lost...

from page 2

is that archeological reservation has no

clear delineation of boundaries," said Batungkig.

The municipality has already forwarded a request for the delineation of the archeological reservation to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. A clear definition of the boundaries of the archeological area will strengthen the protection of the site by preventing the expansion of agricultural activities and building of permanent structures.

Keeping history for the future

More than 80 years passed since the first discovery was made in The Elephant Hills, the local government unit and the community in Rizal, Kalinga continue to find ways to promote and preserve this part of history.

"For me, I will protect the site because it will be for the improvement of Rizal, especially Barangay San Pedro. Maybe we, the elders, will die but our children will reap the benefits of this project in the future," said Batungkig. (JDP/JJPM-PIA-CAR)

## Fastrack

from page 5

cases (Royal L. Rutter vs. Placido

Esteban, G.R. No. L-3708, May 18, 1953; Planters Product Inc. vs. Fertiphil Corp., G.R. No. 166006, March 14, 2018, for instance) is an EXCEPTION to the general rule such that an executive or administrative order declaring the suspension or non-implementation of an otherwise valid rule may not obliterate the effects and consequences done prior to the declaration of nullity / suspension or non-implementation of said rules, if it would result to INEQUITY and INJUSTICE. Otherwise put, it will truly be UNFAIR and UNJUST to ERMADRADA and TBATMPC who, just upon filing of application for qualification were already required to present fifty (50) actual units to qualify for issuance of CPC, they were mandatorily required to show or present fifty (50) actual compliant units (minimum), costing more than P50M, and to show financial capability network of P40M for 50 units, not to mention the high costs of limited garage space in the city for use by the proposed taxi units. The INJUSTICE and INEQUITY thereof is clear and apparent as seen in the fact that they are deprived of a chance to recoup the costs of investment because

their applications for CPCs are stalled with the sudden suspension in the grant of CPCs, by issuance of resolution 231 series of 2019 by the LTFRB.

For these and other reasons, we sincerely believe that applicants ERMADRADA and TBATMPC and possibly others whose applications may later be accepted and qualified by LTFRB-CAR under MC No. 2019-016 are entitled to a reconsideration of the Suspension and lifting of Board Resolution No. 231, Series of 2019.

## Mayor authorized...

from page 6

purpose as one of the remaining open spaces in the central business district area to help in balancing the air quality in the said area.

One of the 15-point collective agenda of the present administration is for a revitalized state of the city's environment which could be achieved through the aggressive establishment of tree farms that will serve as buffer zones for the city's growing population.

Part of the proposal to improve the current state of the tree park is the planting of added tree species and the designation of flower gardens that will add up to the scenery of the place that could become one of the most frequented places in the city among domestic and foreign visitors. Wanting to spend a well-deserved break in the country's undisputed Summer Capital./Dexter A. see

## Notice of Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate with Sale

Notice is hereby given to the Estate of the deceased Narciso R. Padilla, resident of Benin Road, Tam-awan, Pinsao Proper, Baguio City who died on March 5, 2019 in Baguio City has been the subject of an Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate with sale executed by the heirs of said deceased October 17, 2019 in Baguio city and registered and docketed as Doc. 103 Page. 21; Book 27; Series of 2019 of the Notarial Register of Atty. Meshack C. Macwes of the City of Baguio, Philippines.

Oct. 19, 26 and Nov. 2, 2019

## ERRATUM

In the Extrajudicial Foreclosure of Real Mortgage Under Act 3135, as Amended for CASE NO. 19-EJF-2152, published in this paper on Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 2019, the following were misadventerly published:

1. The correct TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. is T-65990 and not as printed.
2. On the description of the lot, the phrase "on the SE., along line 3-4 by Road Lot 7, both of the cons-subd. plan; along line 4-1 by Lot 2 (LRC) Psd-124190" should be "on the SE., along line 3-4 by Road Lot 7, both of the cons-subd. plan; and on the SW., along line 4-1 by Lot 2 (LRC) Psd-124190."

(SGD) The Junction OIC

## ERRATUM

In a Notice of Hearing for Extension of Validity of CPC filed by LEONORA BALAWAS published in this paper issue of February 23, 2019, the Case No. 2003-CAR-1128 is incorrect and should be Case No. 2003-CAR-075, and not as inadvertently published.

(SGD) The Junction OIC

## Magkasangaa tayo

from page 5

kung mayroon nga o walang pandarayang naganap ? Relax lang Manang Leni !!!

#####

DOTR Director Francis Ray Almora - kayang kaya niyo SIR - Malaki at matindi ang ekspektasyon ng mga taga Baguio sa pamumuno ni DOTR Regional Director Francis Almora hinggil sa kanyang hinaharap na mga suliranin sa matinding trapik sa siyudad. Kung minsan ay humahabol na rin sa katindihan ang trapik sa atin na parang Manila istay! na rin.

Hindi lang PNP traffic division and enforcement ang may responsibilidad na tumulong sa traffic engineering kung hindi pati rin ang DOTR -LTO kasama sa kanilang madato ang makatulong sa traffic enforcement.

Sa aking humble opinion Sir Francis, una sa lahat ay kailangan ng ma-impound ang limpak-limpak na kolum taxis na nag-ooperate. Nasa libo "daw" ang bilang ng mga kolum. Maliban dito ay mayroon pa akong mga ibang suhestiyon na aking ipararating kay Dir. Almora kapag ako ay nag-courtesy call sa kanya very soon. In fact, ako na mismo ang mag rerecomend na bigyan ng award ng Linis Gobyerno si Dir. Almora once makita natin ang kanyang mga adhikain meant for our traffic relief. Kayang-kaya niyo yan SIR FRANCIS ALMORA, Mabuhay Kayo at ang DOTR Cordillera.

## Fastrack

from page 5

na lang si Magalong dahil pang Senador na siya, Great!

3. The revelation of General Lacadin that sort of hampered the nail into the coffin doesn't also seem to make sense. It's either Albayalde, who I repeat was a junior officer then and was talking to a Senior Officer tasked to investigate him. Either Albayalde is that stupid (although I doubt that) or he happens to be that close to Gen Lacadin for him to utter such a statement

"Sir, konti lang naman napunta sa kin jan", WHAT??? Really??? And all this uttered by Albayalde over the phone.

4. In summary, the end effect of the senate blue ribbon spectacle we have witnessed are the following: (4.a) Albayalde was demolished, (4.b) The administration's war on drugs was further weekend given other past incidents, (4.c) Pang one (1) term Mayor na nga lang si Magalong at posibleng Senador na (uy very good news 'yan for the local politicians, I can just see a lot of the local politicians praying- pls Lord sana mag Senador na lang!!!), (4.d) Forget any security threat to Magalong, given his popularity and security (malayo pa tayo sa mga Mexico drug cartel style), if ever there would be a security threat it may be from elements who happen to be against the current administration who may be out to discredit this administration.

Just to set the record straight, I am not a fan of either of these officers (Magalong or Albayalde), neither do I personally know this gentlemen nor do I have any connection(s) to either of them. I do have a lot of respect for graduates of the Academy (basta'yung mga simple lang at hindi garapal), it being one of the homes of the best and the brightest. I am just one humble columnist who happens to believe that more independent thought and discourse can do no harm. Mahirap din naman yung parati tayong sunod sa agos o parati nating kinikimkim ang mga nasa ulo natin.

**MABUHAY TAYONG LAHAT!!!**

# Nesthy Petecio dedicates gold medal to family, women

for most of her boxing career together with her sister Nicea and brother



Nesthy Petecio visits the Office of the City Mayor with Councilor Levy Lloyd Orcales and Coach Rey Galido (first on the left) - Photo by Neil Clark Ongchango

Filipina boxer Nesthy Petecio is dedicating her gold medal from the 2019 Aiba Women's World Boxing Championships to her family and to all women who served as her inspiration.

The 27-year old Petecio has been juggling her sports training and studies at the University of Baguio's School of International Hotel and Tourism Management prior to her boxing stint held on October 13 in Ulan-Ude, Russia.

Petecio ruled the 57 kilograms featherweight division against Russia's Liudmila Vorontsova by split decision.

She encourages women who are inclined to combative sports

to pursue their dreams, "tiwala lang sa sarili," she said.

In an interview, Petecio said her gold medal in the 2019 Aiba Women's World Boxing Championships was her comeback after losing in a 2-3 split decision to China's Yin Ju Hua during the 2018 Asian Games.

"Sunod-sunod dati ang gintong medalya ko pero natalo ako last year at talagang gumuho ang mundo ko. Pero sa tulong ng aking mga coach sa Philippine National Team, ipinagpatuloy ko ang training at patuloy ang laban," Petecio said.

Petecio, a native of Davao, has been residing in Baguio

Norland who are also boxing athletes at the University of Baguio.

Of her 20 years in boxing, Petecio said "lahat ng laban ay mahirap dahil ang mga kalaban mo ay sumusuntok din."

Coach Rey Galido of the Philippine National Team said Petecio is set to travel to Goldcoast, Australia by the end of the month for her sparring training in preparation to the SEA games by November.

The lady boxer is also scheduled to take bouts in the Olympic qualifying rounds in China by February next year. - **Jessa Mardy Samidan**

## A discovery almost lost to time: Kalinga's Archeological Treasure

A plain, open grassland in a remote provincial town. Who would've thought that a rolling pasture land in the municipality of Rizal, Kalinga keeps a collection of records that tells a story of the past?

In the recent years, the small area in Sitio Greenhills, Barangay San Pedro in Rizal, Kalinga made international headlines with a big discovery that can rewrite history.

The Elephant Hill

But before all the media attention started in 2014, the site has already been a subject of archeological research and studies since 1935.

"The first discovery was in 1935. Then series of excavations were conducted but there were only some years that they have successful finds," said former Rizal Mayor Marcelo de la Cruz, Jr.

Scientists have already unearthed a rhino lower jaw in 1935 and an elephant fossil and tusk in 1971 and 2001. The latter finds earned the area the nickname 'The Elephant Hill.'



**BUTCHERED?** The Rhino fossils, now kept at the National Museum, have "percussion marks presumably made with the intention to smash the bones and gain access to the marrow."

Because of these series of discoveries, then President Ferdinand Marcos declared the site as an archeological reservation through Presidential Decree No. 1109 on March 28, 1977.

Rewriting History

Although it has been years since experts started to excavate and uncover fossils in the area, it was only in 2014 that they found a critical link to better understand the history of the Philippines and the world.

"Our archeological site came into the limelight in 2014 when

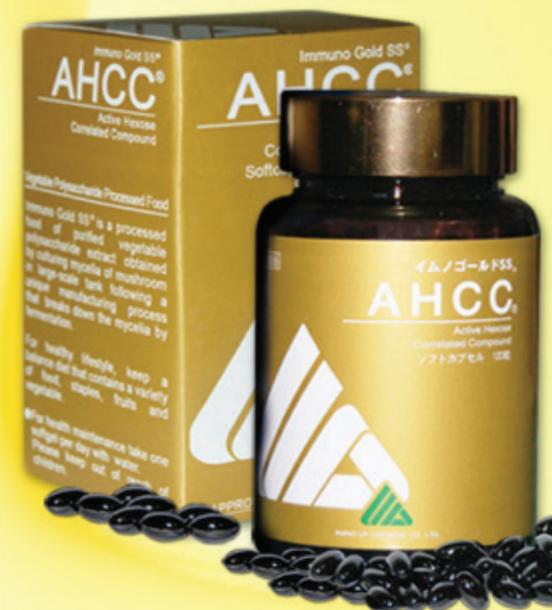
they discovered a 75% rhino fossil (Rhinoceros Philippinensis) intact," said Maila Depalog who is the designated Municipal Tourism Officer.

The almost-complete rhino fossil was found to have cut marks which are signs of butchering. In the same layer point that the rhino fossil was discovered, stone tools were also present.

In an article of T. Ingicco, et al, published in the science journal Nature in 2018, **Cont. on page 2**

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