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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

School kids back mayor on tree park preservation

BAGUIO CITY – Pupils of the Baguio Pines Family Learning Center stirred up déjà vu when they trooped to City Hall on Monday to convey their support to Mayor Mauricio Domogan’s bid to preserve the mini-pine tree forest within the Baguio Convention Center reservation.

Nineteen students representing the pre-school to Grade VI classes submitted to the mayor a total of 68 letters and illustrations they and their schoolmates made addressed to President Rodrigo Duterte containing their plea for the tree park.

Each letter asked the President’s intercession to prevent the sale for commercial purposes of the 33,606 square **Cont. on page 3**



BRAVING THE COLD - These poor kids braved the cold, doing everything they can to keep themselves warm, Friday morning in order to present their best performance during the the opening parade of the 24th Baguio Flower Festival. We hope none of them got sick./RMC PIA-CAR



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DA cedes 8-hectare Dairy Farm lot to Baguio •page 7

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Transport groups urged to install garbage bins in terminals •page 3

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Imbag
pag dagitoy ubbing ta isakit da ti kay-kayo. Isunga datayo nga lalakay, imbis nga puted tayo nga puted ti kayo, protektaran tayo ida ta pakinabangan ti appo tayo dagita.

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On Autism and the “Boyot Challenge”
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KAKAMPI MO ANG BATAS

RCBC sued for bank fraud in New York, USA
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Sincerity of councillors in supporting Panagbenga doubted

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan joined other sectors in the city in doubting the sincerity of some local legislators in supporting the annual conduct of the Panagbenga or the Baguio flower festival because of their obviously conflicting actions on a number of activities of the city's major crowd drawing event.

The local chief executive pointed out that while it is true that they truly support the Panagbenga based on their pronouncements, their action in passing a resolution objecting to the conduct of the Baguio Blooms Exposition and Exhibition at the skating rink without any alternative venue casts doubts in their intention when the said activity is part of the traditional events of the flower festival.

He argued that using the city's environment code and trade fair ordinance to justify the passage of the resolution against the use of the skating rink for the Baguio Blooms Exposition and Exhibition is not in order because the same local legislations provide for the exemption of institutionalized activities of the local

government and its partners in the use of the park for such purposes.

"We should be reminded that the skating rink had been previously used as a venue for the conduct of the Baguio Blooms Exposition and Exhibition before it was transferred to the Burnham Lake Drive so if it was not allowed, then the city council should have prohibited the use of the area for the said activity right from the start," Domogan stressed.

The month-long Baguio Blooms Exposition and Exhibition is one of the income-generating events of the annual flower festival wherein part of the income derived from the said activity is used to provide for the increased cash prizes of various competitions lined up for this year's festivities.

Domogan claimed that the issue will be discussed in an executive-legislative meeting to ascertain whether or not the said activity will be pursued or there is a grand design to obviously derail the conduct of the flower festival which should not be the case and that the same should not go to the said extent.

From the earlier 280 stalls measuring 4 meters by 3

meters based on earlier plans prepared by the City Engineering office, the number of

stalls with similar measurements was reduced to only 160 stalls so as not to affect the trees in the area while there are stalls with smaller measurements, thus, the need for the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation, Inc. to review the P3.4 million bid of the winning organizers so that it will be proportionate with the available spaces that will be leased to interested exhibitors.

Domogan disclosed that the BFFFI considered the proposal of the private sector to transfer the conduct of the said activity to the vicinity of the Baguio convention Center but the problem is that the facility is still undergoing renovation while the use of the old site of the city auditorium is not advisable because it will deprive the use of the area for parking considering that the said area is the only available space that could help in addressing the insufficient parking spaces around the city's central business district area.

Panagbenga is the only festival in the country that was included in the elite list of festivals in the world that form part of the International Festivals Association./Dexter A. See

Registered motor vehicles in Baguio on the rise

BAGUIO CITY – An officer of the Baguio City Police Office – Traffic Management Branch (BCPO-TMB) expressed concern over the unprecedented increase in the number of registered motor vehicles in the city which is contributory to the drastic increase in the volume of vehicles plying the city's roads that result to

monstrous traffic congestions and insufficient parking spaces in the different parts of the city.

BCPO-TMB head Chief Inspector Oliver Panabanga claimed that based on data obtained from the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in Baguio city, the number of registered motor vehicles in the city alone as of last year

increased to over 57,600 compared to the over 44,500 registered vehicles in the city in 2017.

He explained that based on studies, existing city roads and streets could only accommodate 10,000 to a maximum of 15,000 motor vehicles to ensure the smooth flow of vehicular traffic aside from making available spaces to accommodate vehicles that will park.

Furthermore, Panabanga

Env't safety nets assured in conduct of baguio blooms at skating rink

BAGUIO CITY – Safety nets will be in place to ensure the protection of the trees and prevention of damage in the area surrounding the skating rink at Burnham Park in the conduct of the Baguio Bloom exposition and exhibition from Feb. 1 to March 10.

Mayor Mauricio Domogan said the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation Inc. (BFFFI) will impose rules and regulations to cover all stallholders that will participate in the exhibition designed to protect the trees and the environs and ensure the security and upkeep of the area for the whole duration.

"The protection of the trees and the beauty of the park is also our concern hence the trees are excluded where the stalls will stay. Any act that destroys or damages the beauty of the park

possible means of easing the traffic congestions around the city but we are always overwhelmed by the huge volume of vehicles that flock to the city, especially during weekends and holidays that is why we really need the cooperation of the public" Panabang stressed.

The BCPO-TMB official asserted that the number of vehicles in the city is exclusive of the over 35,000 motor vehicles that are registered with the LTO La Trinidad as of 2017 that is why there is a huge volume of motor vehicles that congest roads going in and out of the city daily thereby causing headaches among traffic enforcers on how to decongest the roads and streets from traffic jams.

According to him, it is still best for the public to avail of the use of the public transportation so that the presence of private vehicles along roads and streets will actually be minimized thereby contributing in efforts to lessen traffic jams around the city.

Panabanga disclosed that

by all means are not allowed," the mayor said.

He said security personnel and street sweepers and garbage collectors will be deployed in the area to ensure peace and order and cleanliness and proper waste disposal.

The BFFFI organizing committee co-chaired by Coun. Elmer Datuin and Hotel and Restaurant Association of Baguio (HRAB) president Anthony De Leon said they also tapped the Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources Cordillera (DENR-CAR) to monitor the environmental condition and check on the compliance of the participants with the rules.

The mayor did not sign Resolution No. 19-19 of the city council which disapproves the conduct of the Baguio Blooms at the skating rink site saying it violates the Environment Code and the Trade Fair Ordinance of the city and will destroy the park.

In his veto message dated Jan. 28, he said it does not violate the Environment Code and cited section 14 of Ordinance No. 18-16 which allows the temporary closure of the protected landscapes for events conducted in relation to institutionalized activities organized or co-sponsored by the city government.

The mayor also called out the city council on an old measure Resolution No. 11-A series of 2014 which clarified the legislative intent of the trade fair quoting:

"On the conduct of the 'Market Encounter' and 'Session Road in Bloom' in Burnham Park and Session Road, respectively during the celebration of Panagbenga 2014, the

same is not covered by the Trade Fair ordinance

as it is the City Government conducting the same thru the BFFFI by virtue of a duly approved City Council Resolution."

On the share of the barangay or the Association of Barangay Council (ABC), the mayor said the traditional 20-stall allocation to the ABC will be retained with the proceeds of the 20 stalls out of 160 measuring 4x3 meters at the cost of P80,000 per stall will be given to the ABC.

In his message, the mayor appealed to the city council to reconsider their decision and instead support the conduct of the fair at the skating area.

"We had used the Skating Rink area for Baguio Bloom in the past and it was not damaged," he said adding that no other alternative space can be located for the activity which had in the past been staged along Lake Drive and Juan Luna Drive at Burnham Park.

The mayor said the activity cannot be cancelled as it has been part of the attraction of the Panagbenga and will help sustain the budget which is being used to finance the subsidy being given to participating elementary and high schools and the prices of the winners in the grand street dance and floral parades.

For this year, the mayor said the BFFFI has increased the subsidy from P40,000 to P100,000 for the schools.

"We appeal therefore to this August Body not to object and instead support or approve the conduct of the Baguio Bloom at the skating area subject to rules and regulations," the mayor said./Aileen P. Refuerzo

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noted that the number of inventoried available parking spaces in the different parts of the city is roughly over 2,777 which is way below the number of registered vehicles.

We continue to explore all

Cont. on page 6

Countering frost the Atok farmers' way

Frost is a yearly occurrence especially in the cold months of December to February in some parts of Atok in Benguet.

When there are reports of incidents of frost, known locally as 'andap', some news outfits are quick to pick it up even insinuating possible shortage of highland supply and increase in prices of highland vegetables.

The Department of Agriculture, local officials and agriculture department of local government units usually have hard time explaining that such 'frost' situation is limited and would not affect supply or prices of vegetables.

Frost is defined as "thin layer of ice on a solid surface, which forms from water vapor in an above freezing atmosphere coming in contact with a solid surface whose temperature is below

freezing" Frost can be observed

early morning around 4:00 but slowly dries up when the sun shines over the affected areas.

In Sacduan, Englandad in Barangay Paoay, Atok which is a low-lying area, frost started to be experienced last December until this month when the temperature have been dropping, said Mayor Peter Alos. But he assured there is very minimal effect to the farms.

Alos explained that frost usually occur in shaded portions below mountainous areas where there is less flow of air and where there is source of water like river. Over the years, farmers have learned ways of countering 'andap' thus minimizing its impact to vegetable farms.

Farmers nowadays know how to deal with the occurrence, said Councilor Crizaldo Bacbac. They do not plant during the cold season, although there are others who take the risk

and still plant hoping that their crops will overcome the impact.

Bacbac said andap affects mostly potato leaves as they easily wither and get burned. The frost coats the leaves when they dry, get burned from the sunlight. Apart from potatoes, wongbok (Chinese cabbage), and cabbage are not resistant to frost.

One technique farmers do to remove the settled frost is through the use of sprinkler. This is done before being hit by the sunlight, Paoay Barangay Captain Leo Cawaing said. This releases latent heat, preventing freezing of the tissues of the plants.

The Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST-PAGASA) had recently installed a temperature gauge, said Bacbac.

The lowest temperature recorded in Baguio City this year so far was at 9.8 degrees Celsius on January 28. Temperature in Atok is estimated to be lower by 3°C than in Baguio.

Previously, the DA and the LGUs have made some interventions for frost like constructing mini dams along a creek in Paoay, and built green houses.

Paoay which is estimated to be 1,675.4

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The city offered to purchase the tree park on two occasions but the GSIS increased the asking price in as many times.

When the city attempted another tender, the GSIS said it was no longer interested to sell.

"(I) ask for your help about the preservation and protection of the forest beside the Baguio Convention Center... in order for them not to make a building because there will no area anymore that will give us fresh air and when it will rain it might lead to landslide," Grade V pupil Liezel Sarah Sebastian wrote.

"Help us stop the GSIS from selling our



Panagbenga Festival opens

BAGUIO CITY-- "The opening of the 24th staging of the Panagbenga or the Baguio Flower Festival 2019 was successful."

Panagbenga Media Committee co-chair Andrew Pinero reported following the completion of the street dancing and field demo competition for the elementary division on Friday, February 1.

"We are happy with the opening parade. It is an acid test for us to assess where we need to improve on during the grand street dance and float parades on March 2 and 3, respectively," said Pinero.

Officials of the City Government and the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation Inc. led the opening parade of the Panagbenga 2019 with the delegates from the different organizations,

line agencies and barangay officials in the city.

The event was highlighted by performance of the seven elementary schools from Baguio City and Benguet in their floral and cultural inspired costumes who are competing for the prestigious Street Dance Championship.

Due to the decreased number of participating elementary schools, Pinero said the participants reached the Baguio Athletic Bowl earlier and the roads that closed at 5AM, were opened to the public earlier than the scheduled 12:00 noon, which made the traffic flow in the city smooth.

On the other hand, the field demonstration at the Baguio Athletic Bowl was completed by 11AM. In the previous years, the field demo lasted until 2PM.

The young children braved the cold weather as early as 4AM to parade and perform their dances with the theme "Blooming Forward: A Showcase of Philippine Flowers" featuring the different flowers such as stargazer, lotus, rose, birds of paradise, gumamela, alstroemeria and gerbera.

Pinero informed that due to the challenges experienced by the elementary schools, the BFFFI will increase the subsidy given to the school children from P40,000.00 to 100,000.00. The 40,000.00 will be given to the school for the expenses and the additional P60,000.00 will go directly to the school children for them to appreciate their hardships during the street dance competition.

The subsidy is on top of the cash prizes of the winners and the consolation prizes to be given during the grand street dance competition.

The BFFFI is yet to release the total amount of cash prizes to be given to the winners. (JDP/RMC-PIA CAR)

general public to efforts to inculcate creativity for sustainable urban development, thus, the various staging areas for the transport groups should be strict against unsightly nature and help keep the city clean.

"Natural beauty is a legacy and a right for future generations and conserving it for their benefit is our responsibility at present," Yangot stressed.

The resolution noted the rich cultural heritage, majestic sceneries and

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School kids back mayor...

...from page 1

meter property of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

A main petition signed by the school's administration, faculty, staff and students asked the President to convince the GSIS to sell the property to the city of Baguio instead to maintain it as a forest.

The scene was reminiscent of the gesture done by students of the same school in 2012 when they wrote then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to voice our their objection to Shoemart (SM) Development Corporation's plan to build a condotel and commercial complex in the area.

School principal Leonila Bayla who along with 13 teachers accompanied the pupils to the mayor's office said their students were well-aware of the impact of losing the green patch which is one of the few remaining pin-

estands in the city.

"We are very hopeful that that we can get the support of President Digong since he is very particularly about environmental preservation," Bayla said.

"We don't have enough pine trees left and we want to protect what we have left to counter pollution and the effects of climate change."

Mayor Domogan who promised to send the letters to the President said the appeal of the schoolchildren boosted the city's bid to purchase the property to maintain it as a mini-forest.

"I hope that these letters will deliver the message of the people of Baguio to the GSIS that we are so concerned with preserving the said area with the end in view of convincing the GSIS administration to change its mind and agree to sell it to the city," he said.



Transport groups urged to install garbage bins in terminals

BAGUIO CITY - The City Council approved a proposed resolution encouraging all public transportation companies plying along the highways and operating within the city's jurisdiction to provide visible and secured garbage or trash bins in their staging areas.

The resolution authored by Councilor Leandro B. Yangot, Jr. stated that to help ease the tremendous pressure on the local gov-

ernment, private entities should be encouraged to join hands with the city in its effort to preserve what is left of the city's clean and healthy environment, thus, the public utility vehicles and jeepneys plying along the city's main roads should also play a part in the city's waste management and recycling programs.

The resolution added that as a Creative City for Crafts and Folk Arts, Baguio city envisions the participation of the

Jobs, jobs, jobs: Where, where, where?

By: JC Punongbayan (www.rappler.com)

If the jobs figures look bad, it's because they are.

Palace Spokesperson Salvador Panelo recently chastised IBON Foundation, an economic think tank, for claiming that the Duterte administration was only able to create 81,000 jobs every year from 2016 to 2018.

Not only did Panelo say IBON's numbers were "mathematically impossible," he also suggested that IBON is being "inept or just maliciously reckless to degrade the achievements of the President."

The thing is, IBON's numbers are quite right. They actually came from the government.

In this article we discuss the slow pace of job creation in the time of Duterte. A close look at the statistics shows that the Palace is painting an excessively rosy picture of the jobs market.

Dismal jobs numbers

In response to IBON's numbers, Panelo retorted that "the government generated 826,000 jobs for the country in 2018 alone."

Sure, this is correct. But let's be clear: it's not government that creates jobs by and large, it's the private sector.

Panelo's statement hides the fact that the economy actually shed a whopping 664,000 jobs in 2017 alone, based on official survey data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Because of this, there were only 162,000 more Filipinos employed in 2018 than in 2016. Dividing this increment by two years, we get a rate of job creation of 81,000 per year (which is precisely IBON's claim).

Therefore, far from being a "mathematical impossibility," as Panelo put it, this is simple arithmetic.

Just how dismal are these figures?

First, remember that the Duterte government launched its Jobs, Jobs, Jobs program to complement the P8-trillion Build, Build, Build infrastructure program.

Despite a promised cornucopia of jobs, only about 18,000 jobs are currently available according to its website – puny compared to the 2.2 million jobless Filipinos recorded as of October 2018.

Second, we were coming from a time of impressive job creation before Duterte came into office.

Between 2010 and 2016 there were an additional 4.95 million employed Filipinos. Spreading this over a period of 6 years, this translates to 825,000 per year, which is more than 10 times the going rate of the Duterte administration.

In other words, the previous Aquino administration created jobs at an annual rate more than 10 times faster than Duterte government's current performance.

When it comes to jobs, therefore, Duterte's economic managers clearly have their work cut out for them.

Where are the workers?

Aside from poor job creation, more than half a million workers have disappeared from the labor force in 2017.

As such, the country's labor force in 2018 was just about as large as it was in 2016. This, despite the continued growth of the country's working-age population (comprising Filipinos aged 15 to 64).

Perhaps the reason is the smaller proportion of the working-age population working or seeking work. Figure 1 shows that the so-called "labor force participation rate" has reached a record low in 2018.

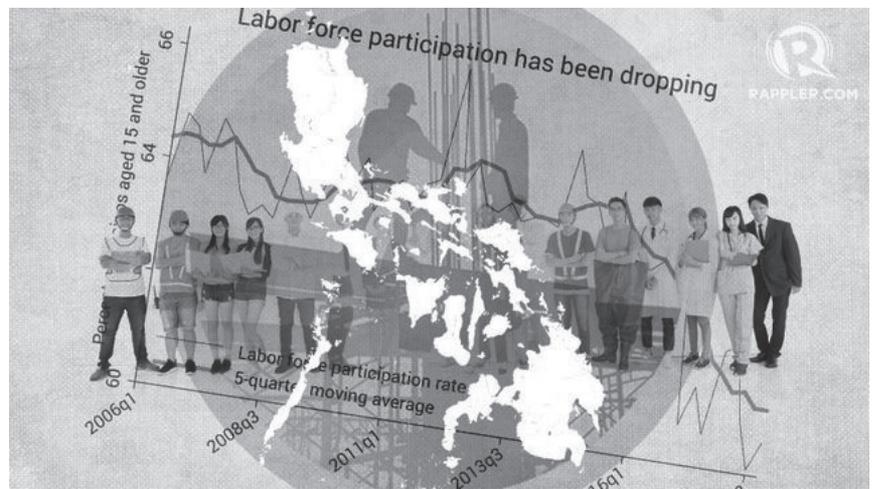
In other words, otherwise capable workers are dropping out of the labor market. But why?

Some point to the implementation of the K-12 program, particularly its Senior High School component. A sizeable number of the 1.5 million students who first entered the program in 2016 deferred work and underwent 2 more years of basic education, thus moving themselves out of the labor force.

But this can't be the entire explanation. In 2016 the labor force still grew by about 2 million workers. It was only in 2017 that the labor force shed about 586,000 workers.

The exact reason behind the plummeting labor force participation rate still escapes most analysts, and this issue merits deeper study. But government itself must look into its possible

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KAKAMPIMO ANG BATAS

RCBC sued for bank fraud in New York, USA

BY: ATTY. BATAS MAURICIO



LIFE'S INSPIRATIONS: "... What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ..." (Jesus, our God and Savior, in Matthew 16:26, the Holy Bible).

-000-

NEWS THAT WILL SURELY ROCK THE PHILIPPINE BANKING SYSTEM: There is a breaking news which, to me, is really troubling for us Filipinos, and for the entire banking system in our country as well, which has come all the way from New York, USA.

The Bangladesh Central Bank has finally sued the Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), together with with some 23 Filipino and Chinese nationals who were individually identified in the suit, and some 25 others who were simply identified as "John Does". This is in connection with the alleged theft of some US \$81 million owned by the Bangladesh Central Bank that was deposited by it with the New York Federal Reserve Bank in 2016, and which was later found to have been deposited with the RCBC.

I am certain that this news would cause a grave commotion of sorts for people in the Philippines who have deposits and transactions with RCBC. I also see that this would have a devastating effect on the entire banking system in the country. Too, this would constitute yet another black mark involving not only the honor of the banking system in the Philippines, but of the honor of the whole Filipino race. This would somehow confirm allegations that many Filipinos are truly corrupt.

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RCBC SUED FOR BANK FRAUD IN NEW YORK, USA: The first salvo of this dire news about the suit against the RCBC by the Bangladesh Central Bank can be easily accessed at the following sites: <https://www.cnbc.com/.../bangladesh-sues-philippine-bank-over...>; <https://business.financialpost.com/.../bangladesh-sues-manila...>; at <https://www.usnews.com/.../bangladesh-sues-manila-based-bank-...>

In the interest of truth, I am reproducing here some portions of this news item, thus: "... Citing case documents, (Abu Hena Mohd. Rajee) Hassan (the chief of the Bangladesh Bank's Finance Intelligence Unit) said the complaint accuses the Philippine bank of following fraudulent procedures at every step..."

"... All of the defendants 'had a single unlawful purpose: to defraud, steal and launder funds stolen from the bank,' it says. The filing asserts that TCBC made potentially hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars from the fraudulent transactions allegedly conducted through its accounts and that various employees gained substantial sums through their alleged involvement..."

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MAY GOD FORGIVE ALL OF US: I really don't know how these things could even be happening here in this country of supposed believers in God, Christian or otherwise. I am not trying to accused anyone here, but, isn't it a fact that the Makati City Regional Trial Court already issued a decision in a case against a high RCBC official, in which it confirmed the presence of fraud in the deposit of the money in the bank?

I will reiterate here the question of Jesus, our God and Savior who is God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in Matthew 16:26, which is our Life's Inspirations in

Cont. on page 5

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Editorial**...from page 4**

causes and consequences.

For one, this might affect our country's ability to reap the so-called "demographic dividend." In the coming years our country's labor force is set to be at its most productive phase, which could boost growth and prosperity for decades to come.

For us to reap this dividend, we cannot allow labor force participation to be in the doldrums for too long.

Jobs for the Chinese

As many will attest to, some jobs out there have recently been filled by Chinese workers – whether in Build, Build, Build projects or the country's booming online gambling operations.

The number of alien employment permits (AEPs) granted by the Bureau of Immigration to Chinese nationals is swelling. Note that these numbers still exclude the Chinese nationals who enter the country as tourists but stay on illegally to find work.

There is of course nothing inherently wrong about Chinese nationals (or foreigners in general) working in the Philippines, especially if we can learn a thing or two from them about new technologies or processes.

But the Chinese government has routinely required borrower countries to exclusively hire Chinese workers for projects they are funding or supporting under the ambitious Belt and Road Initiative.

Hence, it would appear that Build, Build, Build is a reliable generator of jobs – at least for Chinese workers facing economic slowdown back at home.

Asked about the influx of Chinese construction workers, Panelo said, "We no longer have construction workers now because they've gone abroad."

How could this be? Does the Palace want us to believe that none of the 2.2 million jobless Filipinos (as of October) could fill the thousands of vacant jobs under Build, Build, Build, few as they are? And that only Chinese workers could hope to fill such vacancies?

Wrong priorities

To be fair, recent data show a silver lining in the country's labor market: the underemployment rate – comprising workers with jobs but not enough pay – has reached a record low in October. Unemployment also continues to follow its long-term decline.

Despite these seeming successes, the Duterte administration has yet to deliver on the job creation front.

This is unfortunate since job creation continues to be top of mind among Filipinos. Last September Pulse Asia showed that 30% of Filipinos cared the most about "creating more jobs" – more than the 23% who pointed to "fighting criminality" or the 3% who cited "changing the constitution."

We're nearing the halfway mark of the Duterte administration. It's high time they got their priorities right. – Rappler.com

The author is a PhD candidate at the UP School of Economics. His views are independent of the views of his affiliations. Follow JC on Twitter (@jcpunongbayan) and Usapang Econ (usapangecon.com).

Countering frost the...**...from page 3**

meters above sea level is where the highest point in the Philippine Highway System is located along the Halsema Highway. Sakura trees also thrive in Paoay. (JDP/SCA-PIA-CAR, Benguet)

Justice for Randy Felix Malayao! Hold the Duterte government accountable for the systematic attacks against the people!

By: Cordillera People's Alliance

The Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) strongly condemns the treacherous, barbaric and heinous murder of NDFP Peace Consultant Randy Felix Malayao, early morning of January 30 in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya. Malayao's assassination is testament to the Duterte government's callous disrespect to the principles of human rights, democracy, justice and peace.

Randy Malayao is a well known and respected advocate for indigenous peoples' rights from Northern Luzon who began his activism as student journalist in the University of the Philippines Visayas. He has long been an IP advocate, supporting the struggles of IPs not only in Cagayan region but also the cordillera and nationwide through Katribu. As a member of PUNGANAY - Indigenous Peoples Organization in Cagayan Valley, he has significantly contributed to the advancement of indigenous peoples' demand for the respect of our right to ancestral lands and self-determination in the peace process of the NDFP and the GRP. He has been invited in several conferences tackling the peace process particularly the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms in the different provinces of Cordillera. On the celebration of the 34th Cordillera Day held in Baguio last April, Malayao is one of the main resource persons on the Legal Clinique on Human Rights Violations, which provided a venue for Cordillera community representatives to enhance their work on documenting human rights violations.

Like several IP leaders from the Cordillera, Malayao's name was included in the petition of the Department of Justice to proscribe the CPP-NPA as terrorists. We condemn the said DOJ petition as a virtual "hit list" of more than 600 people, mostly activists and human rights advocates. The list has endangered and continue to endanger the lives of many human rights defenders and their families.

The Northern Luzon Command of the Philippine Army and the 5th ID should also be held accountable for the unwarranted vilification campaign against Malayao and other activists in the region. However, the systematic harassment and intimidation against Malayao and other peace consultants had failed to stop him from pursuing his commitment to serve the people, especially the peasants and indigenous peoples.

We mourn the loss of a great man and extend our sympathies to his family, the people of Cagayan and all the oppressed masses he has served. Like the other martyrs of the people's struggle, we continue to draw inspiration from his examples **Cont. on page 7**

Kakampi mo ang batas**...from page 4**

this column today: really, what benefit can a man have even if he acquires great wealth, if, as a consequence of such acquisition of great riches, his soul and the souls of his entire family will be thrown into the hell of fire and worms?

What is truly perplexing in all these is this: such a huge amount of money (US \$81 million) cannot be treated as a mere ordinary deposit which can routinely be accepted by the people in the bank. Certainly, some kind of doubt would be kindled in their minds. Unfortunately, it would seem, the doubt gave way to desire for money, which is a natural instinct of many people. May God forgive all of us!

DISPATCH FROM CRAME On Autism and the "Boyet Challenge"

By: SEN. LEILA DE LIMA

Our struggle for real freedom and true equality in this country can never be won without removing all forms of discrimination and bigotry in our midst. We can never claim to be a people who values the dignity and equal worth of everyone without giving "the least, the lost, and the last" among us – including persons with disability (PWDs) – their places in our national life.

I learned about an internet experiment called "Boyet Challenge" that encourages participants to mimic mannerisms of a person with autism, supposedly patterned after the lead character in GMA Network series "My Special Tatay". This online game provoked howls of protest from cause-oriented groups who basically say that it is unethical as well as illegal, citing RA 9442's provision on penalizing persons who ridicule or vilify PWDs.

I fully agree with the sentiments expressed and opinions conveyed by these groups. Maling-mali na gawing puntirya ng katatawanan at panlilibak ang mga taong may autism o anumang kapansanan. What they have is not a disease, but merely a different ability – the ability to see the world in a spectrum of colors only they can appreciate, only they can see. They are not abnormal. They are special.

Bilang isang ina at lola ng mga batang may autism, nakikita ko at nararamdaman ang mga pagsubok na pinagdadaan nila at ng kanilang mga pamilya, gaya ng pangangailangang pangkalusugan, edukasyon, produktibong gawain o trabaho, at ganap na pagtanggap ng komunidad at lipunan. Sa dami na ng hamong hinaharap ng mga taong may kapansanan at kanilang pamilya, dadagdag pa ba tayo sa pang-aapi at kawalang malasakit sa kanila?

I appeal for the immediate stoppage of "Boyet Challenge" and similar online projects, and urge the public to please discontinue participating in such platforms that only breed stigmatization of PWDs, and engender discrimination and prejudice against the marginalized and vulnerable groups in our society.

Relevantly, I wish to appeal to my colleagues in Congress to prioritize measures that will elevate the status and improve the situation of people with autism. In particular, I urge for the immediate passage of Senate Bill No. 1433, or the proposed "Autism Care Act of 2017", which I authored. It proposes the creation of Autism Council of the Philippines and aims to increase public awareness about this psychological condition as a national health issue. It also seeks to provide a comprehensive training program for health providers to capacitate them in handling people with autism and assist them on their way to becoming productive members of society.

Puso at pagmamalasakit ang ipairal natin. Hindi kalupitan at pagkabaladura.

-000-

ANG TANGING DAAN": ON AIR DISCUSSION ON BENEFITS OF READING THE BIBLE:

We invite everyone to listen and watch the program "Ang Tanging Daan" every day at 5 am, which is simultaneously aired over radio stations Bukidnonradio Powerfm, 100.1 FM, Bukidnon Bisdak Radio, 94.3 FM, and Star Radio Catbalogan 90.1 FM, and every Sunday, 12 noon, at DWBL, 1242 kHz sa AM band in Metro Manila, Sunday, 12 noon over DWBL, 1242 kHz sa AM Band. The program can be accessed also at the Facebook pages "DBWL 1242 Live Streaming" "Ang Tanging Daan", "Anak ng Diyos Kadugo Ni Kristo", "Batas TV", "BATAS INTERNET RADIO", "Atty. Batas Mauricio", "Kakampi Mo Ang Batas", and "Melanio Lazo Mauricio Jr.", for a discussion on the benefits of reading the Bible.

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

ROMUALDO B. MALLA-AO
-Petitioner -
Mortgagee,

-versus-

SPS. ROSARIO ALLIDEM and FLOR ALLIDEM
-Respondent -
Mortgagors.

CASE NO.
19-EJF-2099

FOR: EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT NO. 3135

O.R No. 7898244
C/7896872 C
Filing and Posting Free
Total amount:
PhP3,650.00

X-----X

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

Upon petition for extra-judicial foreclosure of real estate mortgage under Act No. 3135, filed by RUMUALDO B. MALLAO-AO, of legal age, married, Filipino citizen with residence at No. 1 San Carlos Heights, Irisan, Baguio City, herein referred to as the petitioner-mortgagee for the satisfaction of the obligation of SPS. ROSARIO ALLIDEM and FLOR ALLIDEM, both of legal age, married, Filipino citizens with residence at Lasong, Tadiangan, Tuba, Benguet, herein referred to as the respondent-mortgagors, which as of December 6, 2018 amounted to FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PhP400,000.00), Philippine currency, exclusive of unpaid interest, past due interest, penalties, attorney's fees, liquidated

damages, other charges and expenses incidental to the foreclosure proceedings.

The undersigned announces that he will sell at public auction on FEBRUARY 12, 2019 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in front of the Bulwagan ng Katarungan, Justice Hill, Poblacion, La Trinidad, Benguet to the highest bidder for CASH and in the Philippines Currency the mortgaged property more particularly described as follows:

"Katibayan ng Orihinal na Titulo

Blg. CARP 2017000593
Lot No. 154, GSS-CAR-000953

Beginning at a point marked "1" of Lot No. 154, GSS-CAR-000953, Tadiangan, Tuba, Benguet, being S. 41-19 E., 847.28 m. from T uba 67, PRS'92, Tadiangan, Tuba, Thence;

N. 19-22 W., 21.33m. to point 2;
N. 57-47 E., 13.83 m. to point 3;
N. 34-52 E., 21.29 m. to point 4;
S. 68-12 E., 7.74 m. to point 5;
S. 04-13 E., 5.96m. to point 6;
S. 61-26 E., 5.21 m. to point 7;
S. 08-05 E., 12.91 m. to point 8;
S. 55-53 W., 37.22 m. to point 1;
To point of beginning.

Containing an area of EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY SIX (866) SQUARE METERS.

All corners are marked on the ground by G.S Cyl. Conc. Mons. 15 x 40 cms.

Bounded on the SW., along line 1-2 by Asin Road; on the NW., along lines 2-3-4 by lot 153, GSS-CAR-000953; on the NE., along line 4-5 by lot 617, GSS-CAR-000953; along line 5-6-7 by F-36751; on the E, along line 7-8 by lot 616, GSS-CAR-000953; and on the SE., along line 8-1 by 161, GSS-CAR-000953. Bearing Grid-PRS'92.

This lot was surveyed in accordance with the law and existing regulations promulgated there under by Marcos A. Badongen, Geodetic Engineer on March 1-June 30, 2011 and was approved on November 23, 2012

Note: This lot is

covered by Free Patent Application No. 131113-2012-3016"

This Notice shall be posted for twenty (20) days in the three (3) conspicuous places, viz.: Municipality of Tuba, Benguet, Benguet Provincial Capitol Building; and Bulwagan ng Katarungan, Justice Hill, La Trinidad, Benguet and shall likewise be published in The JUNCTION, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province for three consecutive weeks beginning on January 20, 2019.

Prospective buyer/bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the real estate property herein above described and the encumbrances thereon, if there be any.

In the event that the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on March 5, 2019 at the same time and place without further notice.

La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines, January 14, 2019.

FOR: THE PROVINCIAL SHERRIF EX-OFFICIO OF BENGUET
By: (SGD)
CHRISTOPHER C. ORALLO
Sherrif IV

Jan 19, 26 & Feb. 2, 2019

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 63
La Trinidad, Benguet
regionaltrialcourt-br63@yahoo.com.ph
Tel. No. (074) 422-2812

In Re: PETITION FOR THE CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF OFELIA S. BENITO-ROMAN.

OFELIA S. BENITO-ROMAN,
-Petitioner,

-versus-

OFFICE OF THE

LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF ATOK, BENGUET AND THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS OFFICE (PSO),

-Respondents.

Special Proceedings
Case No.:
18-SP-1955

X-----X
NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

Petitioner OFELIA S. BENITO-ROMAN, through counsel, filed a verified petition in this Court for the CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF OFELIA S. BENITO-ROMAN under Rule 108 of the Rules of court, alleging in essence, thus:

PETITION

PETITIONER through the PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, and unto the HONORABLE COURT, respectfully states that:

1. Petitioner is of legal age, Filipino Citizen, married and bonafide resident of Tulodan, Cattubo, Atok, Benguet;

2. Respondents are government offices: The office of the Local civil Registrar of Atok, Benguet has its office at the Municipal Hall of Atok, Benguet while the PHILIPPINES STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA for brevity) has its office address at Quezon City, Philippines;

3. In her Certificate of Live Birth duly issued by the PSA, her date of birth as appearing therein is December 23, 1961 instead of December 23, 1954. A photocopy of her Certificate of Live Birth duly issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is attached hereto and made as integral part as Annex "A";

4. Petitioner avers that the facts of her birth was never registered by her parents and it was only in the year 1994 when she applied for job overseas that she became aware of the non-registration of her birth;

5. She then applied for late registration of birth in order for her to be able to apply for a job abroad, however, the year of birth was erroneously entered as 1961 instead of 1954;

6. Her correct date of birth, the one she had

been continuously using is December 23, 1954 as evidenced by her Certificate of Marriage, Elementary Student's Permanent Form and Baptismal certificate, copies of which are hereto attached as Annex "B", "C" and "D" respectively;

7. Further, her records in the Social Security System and in the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs of Atok, Benguet show that her correct year of birth is 1954, photocopies of her SSS Identification Card and Senior citizens Identification Card are hereto attached as Annexes "E" and "F" respectively;

8. Petitioner was never involved in any crime nor does she want to conceal her identity, a copy of her barangay clearance, police clearance an NBI clearance are hereto attached as Annexes "G", "H" and "I" respectively;

9. Still, her neighbors and acquaintances know her to have been born in 1954 and not in 1961, a joint affidavit of Two Disinterested Persons is hereto attached as Annex "J";

10. Petitioner caused the filing of this Petition in order to set her official record straight and avoid confusion as to her true identity.

PRAYER

PREMISES CONSIDERED, Petitioner respectfully pray that after notice, publication and hearing, and Order be issued by this Honorable Court directing respondents to correct and rectify the entry pertaining to her date of birth (Entry No. 3 in her Certificate of Live Birth) from "December 23, 1961" to "December 23, 1954" in the petitioner's Certificate of Live Birth.

Such other remedies just under the premises are likewise prayed for.

At Tublay, Benguet for La Trinidad, Benguet, This 13th day of December 2018.

PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, DOJ
Tublay District Office
Senior citizen
Building
Acop, Caponga,
Tublay, Benguet
By:

(signed)
FEBHAY P. BAYON
Public Attorney II
IBP LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP No. 010757,
Baguio-Benguet Chapter
Roll No. 61636;

P319 million in taxes...

...from page 8

names ending in A to H, they were already allowed to process their permits without surcharges and penalties for the whole month of January, thus, those processing their permits this month will be imposed the appropriate penalties and surcharges.

He called on real property and business taxpayers to settle their taxes with the local government the soonest to avoid being imposed the appropriate surcharges and penalties so that they can use their funds for other productive purposes instead of being used to settle their unnecessary obligation with the city because of failing to pay their taxes on time.

Cabarrubias said officials and personnel of the city treasury office are always ready to assist taxpayers wanting to seek clarification on the taxes they are supposed to pay as the local government's tax collection system is already computerized with lesser manual intervention thus its tax collection efficiency continues to improve through the years for the convenience of people visiting their office to settle the taxes./Dexter A. See

Registered motor...

...from page 2

another cause of worsening traffic congestions in the city's central business district area is the lack of discipline among motorists that is why traffic officers continue to impart to them the importance of strictly adhering to the strict implementation of traffic rules and regulations to help ease the traffic jams in the central business district area.

Panabanga emphasized that traffic enforcers will remain steadfast in implementing the local government's anti-obstruction and anti-illegal parking policies to instil discipline among motorists not to park their motor vehicles in areas where parking is actually prohibited by ordinances that have been adopted by the local legislative body.

He expressed support to the plan of the local government to increase the fines and penalties to be imposed against individuals who unscrupulously park their motor vehicles even in areas not officially designated as parking areas in the different parts of the city for them to learn their lessons from paying bigger fines that accrue to the local government./Dexter A. See

March 30, 2012; Manila, Philippines
MCLE Compliance
No. V-0009961

(signed)
JUNIA ANTONIA F. SAYOG
Public Attorney III
Public Attorney's Office
LA TRINIDAD
DISTRICT OFFICE
IBP Member No. 1086539 - 01/10/18
Baguio-Benguet Chapter
Roll No. 46481,
05/02/2002
MCLE Compliance
No. V-0007416

WHEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the initial hearing be set on 26 MARCH 2019 at 8:30 a.m. at the Session Hall of this court, Justice Hall Building, La Trinidad, Benguet, where any person interested may appear and show cause, if any, why the petition should not be granted.
Let copies of this

NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING be published at the expense of the petitioner in JUNCTION, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication to be made not later than 26 JANUARY 2019.

Furnish copies of the Petition and its Annexes to the Philippine Statistics Authority, the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet, the Office of the Solicitor general, the Provincial Prosecutor's Office, the Petitioner and Counsel.

Witness the Honorable JENNIFER P. HUMIDING, Presiding Judge of this court, 21 January 2019, La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines

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

Jan 26, Feb. 2, & 9, 2019

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

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT NO. 3135, as amended by Act. No. 4118

BANCO LAGAWE (LAGAWE HIGHLANDS RURAL BANK),
-Mortgagee,

-versus-

ROSEMARIE I. BIMMANGON,
-Mortgagor.

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. 19-EJF-2100

X-----X

SHERIFF'S NOTICE OF SALE

Upon extra-Judicial petition for sale under Act. No. 3135, as amended, filed by BANCO LAGAWE (LAGAWE HIGHLANDS RURAL BANK), hereinafter referred as the Mortgagor against ROSEMARIE I. BIMMANGON, of legal age, Filipino Citizen, with residence and postal address at 32 North Sanitary Camp, Trancoville, Baguio City, herein referred as the Mortgagor;

To satisfy the mortgage obligation of the mortgagor, which is as of December 10, 2018, amounts to FOUR MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTEEN PESOS and 24/100 (Php4,484,617.24) Philippine Currency, including stipulated interest and penalties and legal fees, and all other necessary expenses and charges incidental to the enforcement of the requested extra-judicial foreclosure

and sale of the property at public auction;

That the undersigned Sheriff will SELL at public auction of February 26, 2019 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in front of the Benguet Justice Hall, La Trinidad, Benguet, to the highest bidder for CASH or Manager's Check and in Philippine currency, the hereunder described real property, including all existing and future improvements thereon, to wit:

KATIBAYAN NG ORIGINAL NA TITULO BLG. P-20023

"A parcel of land (lot 28, GSS-CAR-000455) situated at Barangay Bineng, La Trinidad, Province of Benguet, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the SE., along line 1-2 by Lot 27, on corner 2 by public land; on the SW., along line 2-3 by lot No. 29, on the S., on the NW., along line 3-4 by Lot 114; on corner 4 by existing road and PSU-1-000964; and on the NE., along line 4-1, by existing road. All adjoin lots are in GSS-CAR-000455, La Trinidad, Benguet; thence:

S. 26-30 W., 132.59 m. to point 2;
N. 31-46 w., 58.60 m. to point 3;
N. 14-40 E., 105.06 m. to point 4;
S. 78-14 E., 12.66 m. to point 5;
S. 59-22 E., 29-32 m. to point 1;
Points of beginning.

Containing an area of SEVEN THOUSAND EIGHTY-FIVE (7,085) SQUARE METERS, more or less.

This notice shall be posted for twenty (20) days in three (3) conspicuous places, viz: Municipality of La Trinidad; Bulwagan ng Katarungan, Justice Hill, La Trinidad, Benguet and Provincial Capitol Building and likewise shall be published in the JUNCTION newspaper, a newspaper of general circulation in Baguio City and Benguet Province for three consecutive weeks beginning on January 27, 2019.

Prospective buyers/bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the estate property herein above described and the encumbrances thereon, if there be any.

In the event that the Public Auction should

DA cedes 8-hectare Dairy Farm lot to Baguio

BAGUIO CITY - Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Pi formally signed the deed of usufruct ceding to the local government more or less 8 hectares from the 92-hectare Baguio Dairy Farm for the city's major expansion projects to decongest the central business district area.

Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan said the city government is simply awaiting the signed document from the agriculture department so that the city will be able to craft programs, projects and activities to ensure the optimum utilization of the ceded property for the benefit of the public.

"We are elated that the much awaited deed of usufruct has already been signed by Secretary Pinol so we can pursue our efforts to develop that portion of the Dairy Farm property for the benefit of our constituents, especially in ensuring there will be a

School kids back mayor... ...from page 3

of courage and determination to forward the struggle for a just and lasting peace. We call for an immediate and impartial investigation to punish the perpetrators of this heinous crime not only on Malayao, but also on the oppressed masses whom he has offered his life for.

They may have killed Randy Malayao, but the fire in the hearts of the struggling masses grows ever stronger than before.

JUSTICE FOR RANDY MALAYAO! STOP THE ATTACKS AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS!

not take place on the said date, it shall be held on March 12, 2019, without further notice and republication.

La Trinidad, Benguet, this 22nd day of January 2019.

FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHERIFF
EX-OFFICIO OF BENGUET
BY: (SGD) DANIE D. CELINO
Sheriff 4

Jan 26, Feb. 2, & 9, 2019

significant reduction in the congestions in the central business district area," Domogan stressed.

The local chief executive directed the City Engineering Office to prepare the survey of the ceded property while ordering the City Planning and Development Office to start crafting the comprehensive master development plan of the property.

On the issue of the presence of informal settlers that continue to occupy strategic portions of the property, Domogan explained some of the informal settlers allegedly secured an injunction that restrained the implementation of the demolition of their illegal structures within portions of the government property.

He said the agriculture department, in coordination with the local government, will definitely facilitate the immediate removal of the illegal structures in the property to allow its development for public purposes once the injunction will be lifted by the court.

According to him, the

School kids back mayor... ...from page 3

year-round cool climate of the city has endeared the hearts of millions of holiday makers who acclaim about their unique experience everytime they visit the country's undisputed Summer Capital, however, the unique experience is slowly evaporating due to the criticisms against some parts of the city, particularly the proliferation of garbage during holidays, prolonged weekends and special events hosted by the local government and the private sector, thus, responsible and effective waste management could help conserve the beauty that Baguio City has been known for over the past several decades.

According to the resolution, the education of the populace towards the prevention of littering, particularly in major landmarks and places of interest within the city limits, is still lacking despite the diligence and hard work of the local government's streetsweepers patrolling the populated areas daily collecting more or less 5 sacks of waste per shift under favourable conditions.

deed of usufruct will have a lifespan of 25 years renewable for a similar period upon the mutual agreement of both parties.

Earlier, the subject area of the deed of usufruct was supposed to be 5 hectares but was increased to 8 hectares so that more government facilities could be erected to help decongest the central business district, with one of the projects being a central bus terminal for south-bound buses to free Gov. Pack road from monstrous traffic jams daily because of the presence of the different bus terminals in the said area.

The Baguio Dairy Farm property is under the jurisdiction of the agriculture department to help in the government's efforts to improve dairy production in the highlands, especially that dairy production is one of the lacking components of the agriculture sector in the Cordillera.

A portion of the ceded property is the existing site of the local government's temporary waste transfer station for the hauling of the city's residual waste outside the city which was issued the required certificate of non-coverage by the Cordillera office of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB-CAR)./Dexter A. See

The resolution pointed out garbage receptacles properly placed and well maintained can dramatically improve the health and appearance of the city compared to beat-up trash bins, thus, the introduction of visible garbage containers and bins contributes to the significant decline of unwanted street litter and lessens the city's street cleaning problems as people will be compelled to drop their litters in the proper and available bins around the city.

The resolution asserted people should not allow stray animals to thrive on left overs and that the same should not be allowed to tear a garbage bag in their hunt for food as these contribute to the proliferation of unwanted litters around the city, thus, the urgent need for the timely installation of appropriate garbage bins and receptacles in strategic transport terminals to instil discipline among the public on proper disposal of waste./Dexter A. See

Republic of the Philippines
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BR. 64
Abatan, Buguias, Benguet

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE JUDGE

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR COMMISSION AS NOTARY PUBLIC FOR THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BUGUIAS, BAKUN AND MANKAYAN, ALL OF BENGUET PROVINCE, UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THIS HONORABLE COURT

ATTY. LLOYD MATT GARETTE B. LUSPIAN,
-Petitioner

SPEC. PROCEEDINGS CASE NO. 19-NC-037

X-----X

NOTICE OF HEARING (19-NC-037)

NOTICE is hereby given that a summary hearing on the Petition for notarial commission of ATTY. LLOYD MATT GARETTE B. LUSPIAN for the Province of Benguet, particularly within the Municipalities of Buguias, Buguias, and Mankayan, shall be held on February 13, 2019 at 1:00 in the afternoon at the Session Hall of this Court.

Any person who has any cause or reason to object to the grant of the Petition may file a verified written opposition thereto, received by the undersigned before the date of the summary hearing.

DONE this 30th day of January 2019 at Abatan, Buguias, Benguet.

(SGD) SERGIO T. ANGNANAY, JR.
Acting Executive & Presiding Judge

February 2, 9, 2019

City never mum on SM Sky Ranch project

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan claims the city government has never been mum on the SM Sky Ranch project contrary to claims by critics of the put up of the amusement and recreation facility within the property of the giant chain of malls.

The local chief executive explained that the property where the Sky Ranch was erected is a private property over which the local government has limited authority considering that the decision on the use of the property is lodged with the owner upon compliance to existing laws, rules and regulations.

Further, he emphasized that contrary to the claim of those who are against the amusement and recreation center, the area has been zoned as C2 or a commercial zone wherein the establishment of amusement parks and recreational centers is authorized pursuant to the city's updated comprehensive land use plan and zoning ordinance.

"It is unfortunate that there are some individuals

and groups who are trying to mislead the public by coming out with the wrong information just to advance their own interests because the put up of the Sky Ranch passed through the process prescribed under existing laws, rules and regulations," Domogan stressed.

He claimed that the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) for the whole SM project was issued way back in the early 2000s when he was not the mayor and was amended which means that the same passed through the required consultations with the stakeholders prior to the issuance of the ECC.

According to him, SM management forged an agreement with neighboring higher education institutions, particularly the administration of the University of the Philippines College Baguio (UPCB) and the University of the Cordilleras (UC) on the alleged too much noise coming from the operation of the amusement rides within the Sky Ranch with the operating time for some of the rides moved to the later part of the day where there will be no classes that will be disturbed, a 'win-win

solution' for all parties concerned.

He pointed out that all the required permits concerning safety of the existing rides in the Sky Ranch, among other requirements imposed by concerned government agencies and the local government, were complied with by the operator of the Sky Ranch thus its operation is considered to be above board and pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations.

He asserted the Cordillera office of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB-CAR) prescribes the rules and regulations that have to be complied by the operator of the Sky Ranch project and that its operation is also being closely monitored not only by the agency but also the city government and the institutions involved in the side agreement and there is no truth to the claim of critics that the Sky Ranch project did to pass through the required process prior to its operation.

Since the start of its operation, the SM Sky Ranch has been patronized by the public as an added recreation facility in the city's central business district area. */Dexter A. See*

P319 million in taxes collected by City treasury office

BAGUIO CITY – The City Treasury Office announced it collected more than P319 million in taxes paid by taxpayers for the first twenty eight days of the current year, P6 million higher compared to its collections during the same period last year.

City treasurer Alex Cabarrubias said bulk of the

collected taxes amounting to P115 million represent business taxes paid by businesses while other taxes due to the local government account for the rest of the amount.

Last year, the city treasury office collected more than P280 million in business taxes, higher compared to the projected target business tax

collection of P265 million while its target business tax collection for this year is

pegged at P290 million.

Cabarrubias disclosed there is a continuous influx of taxpayers to the city treasury office since the start of the year that is why the local government was able to collect more than 25 percent of its projected over P1.2 billion in internally generated revenue just for the first 28 days of the year.

"We are keeping our fingers crossed we will meet our target collection this year for the local government to sustain the implementation of its priority development projects and improve the delivery of basic services to the people. We have to understand that taxes is the lifeblood of the government to be able



BFF BIRDS OF PARADISE - Delegates from the Jose P. Laurel Elementary School performed a dance entitled "Sustaining Baguio City a haven and living paradise of the north" which featured the flower birds of paradise during the opening parade of the 24th Baguio Flower Festival on Friday February 1./RMC PIA-CAR

Validation of 211 titles dangerous - Domogan

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Mauricio G. Domogan reports that the pending proposals in Congress to re-open the validation of unvalidated 211 titles in the different parts of the city will eventually result to the displacement of thousands of residents who are actually occupying the lands covered by the 211 titles.

The local chief executive pointed out the unvalidated 211 titles in the city should be dealt with on a case-to-case basis and not through the provision of another schedule for the validation

to fulfil its obligation to the people," Cabarrubias stressed.

The city treasurer pointed out taxpayers must avail of the attractive discounts offered by the local government where those pay their real property taxes in February will be entitled to a 15 percent discount while those who will settle their real property taxes by the end of March will still be entitled to a 10 percent discount if their taxes due will be paid in full.

For individuals and groups engaged in business, those with names ending in I to P can still process the issuance of their permits until the end of February without being imposed the necessary surcharges and penalties while those with names ending in Q to Z will be allowed to process their permits until March 20 this year.

For owners of businesses with **Cont. on page 6**

of the unvalidated land titles. "We will surely be

creating more problems than solutions if we will allow the validation of all unvalidated 211 titles as this will surely lead to a massive displacement of actual occupants of lands covered by unvalidated 211 titles once the same will be allowed if these pending bills on the matter will be enacted into law," Domogan asserted.

He revealed the matter was brought to his attention by some top-notch lawyers in the city when he was still the congressman of the city but he declined to author the bill that will provide for a new validation period for the unvalidated 211 titles because he is aware of the prevailing situation in the areas that are covered by the said unvalidated titles.

According to him, if the lands covered by the unvalidated titles are already occupied by individuals apart from the supposed owner, the same should not be covered by the proposed re-opening of the validation of the unvalidated 211 titles because the lands should have already reverted as part of the public domain, thus, the environment department could facilitate their declaration as alienable and disposable for their eventual award to the qualified actual occupants pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations.

If it is the owner of the property that is currently occupying the lands covered

by unvalidated 211 titles, he explained that the re-opening of the validation period

will be applicable because there will be no one that will be displaced.

He admitted that the current state of lands covered by unvalidated 211 titles is that there are already numerous occupants of the said parcels of lands that will be affected once the said lands will be validated in favour of the declared applicant that could result to the eventual displacement of the existing occupants.

Earlier, Rep. Mark Go authored the House version of the bill that seeks to re-open the validation period for unvalidated 211 land titles while the Senate version is still pending deliberations in the Senate.

The validation of the unvalidated 211 land titles pursuant to the provisions of Presidential Proclamation No. 1271 lapsed in February 1987 or over 32 years ago where the situation was totally different compared to the existing situation in the said lands at present.

Thousands of residents who are occupying parcels of lands in areas covered by unvalidated 211 land titles have flocked to the offices of concerned city officials and seeking their assistance on what action to take once the pending legislations on the re-opening of the validation period for unvalidated 211 titles will be approved by Congress and eventually signed into law by President Rodrigo R. Duterte. */Dexter A. See*

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