

Vol. 51 No. 31 LAOAG CITY, ILOCOS NORTE ₱7.00 May 26-June 1, 2008

**DOST prepares to lessen the impact of climate change**

BY GERALDINE BULAON-DUCUSIN  
DOST CONTRIBUTOR

THE PAST year has shown that climate change is real and even the most developed nations were not spared from the nature's wrath. If even the most advanced nations, with all their advanced technologies showed helplessness at the strike of tsunami,

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# Makati-Pagudpud sister ties to boost entrepreneurship



**Binay tours Ilocos Norte**

BY DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ AND LEILANIE G. ADRIANO  
STAFF REPORTERS

**PAGUDPUD, Ilocos Norte—**To improve efficiency and effectiveness in local government units, Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay urged local officials here to be “more enterprising.”

Binay, who personally launched the sisterhood ties between Makati and the Municipality of Pagudpud on May 27, said to “quantify profits and losses,” local government units should be run as private entities.

“Let us be entrepreneurial,” Binay stressed as he explained that this could be achieved through sharing of resources and taking notes of the lessons learned from one another.

Pagudpud is Makati City's first municipal sister as the agreement officially took effect on May 28.

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HERMANA MAYOR. Ilocos Norte Gov. awards a plaque of appreciation to Dr. Purisima Bueno after serving as the Hermana Mayor during the 6th May Flower Festival held May 26. Also in the photo are SP member Angelo Barba, Ilocos Norte Vice Gov. Windell Chua and SP member Yvonne Ranada.

JOEL RAPAON

## Thanksgiving highlights 6<sup>th</sup> Mayflower Festival

BY LEILANIE G. ADRIANO  
STAFF REPORTER

**FORMER** Sangguniang Panlalawigan member Purisima A. Bueno has all the right reason to celebrate in this year's Mayflower Festival held May 26.

As this year's *Hermana Mayor*, who serves as host of the 6<sup>th</sup> Mayflower Festival in Ilocos Norte, the 79-year old widow said she feels grateful for all the blessings she received from God. The event also coincided with their wedding anniversary of her late husband, Dr. Mariano Bueno.

Counting all the “bountiful blessings” she received from the Lord, the Catholic ob-gyne specialist: “This is already my third lease in life,” as she explained that she was born and has survived all the difficulties and challenges that came her way.

In 1959 or 49 years ago, she said before a huge crowd in front of the Provincial Capitol that she could have been dead by now after she was hit by a car that caused head injury. But after 23 days of confinement, she recovered. Bueno said the incident happened when she was still in the United States, practicing

her post-graduate training as St. John in Detroit, Michigan, USA.

Following the accident, Bueno said she was in and out of the hospital in 2006 because she was suffering “hypertensive crisis.” But after a pacemaker implant on November 10, 2006, she said with excitement, “God made a plan for me to stay longer. Apparently, I'm in good health as to this date.

She also related that at first, she was hesitant to accept the offer to become *Hermana Mayor* because of her scheduled medical check-up in Metro Manila.

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## Tourist arrivals grew by 7.5% in January-April 2008

### April 2008 growth rate improved by 126%

**TOURIST** arrivals for April 2008 reached 253,869 compared to the visitors of 243,441 for the same period in 2007. The 4.3% growth rate experienced during the month posted a 126% improvement over the 1.9 increase recorded in April 2007.

With this performance, visitor arrivals for January to April 2008 aggregated to 1,112,113 registering a 7.5% increase over last year's volume of 1,034,329.

The growing influx of domestic travelers during the summer vacation in most of the country's tourist destinations continue to serve a strong competition for foreign tourists in reserving accommodation and engaging in various activities.

The US market contributed the biggest share, topping the list of travel markets for the month in review as it accounted for 18.5% of the total or 47,013 arrivals.

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## Pamulinawen Festival and the City Fiesta

(The following is the privilege speech delivered by Laoag Councilor Vicentito M. Lazo at the Sangguniang Panlungsod Session Hall on May 21, 2008—Ed)

MR. CHAIRMAN, my esteemed colleagues I again stand before you on a question of parliamentary privilege.

It is a fact that in the previous or 6<sup>th</sup> sanggunian, the so-called opposition to include this representation were the majority. When measures certified as urgent by the Chief Executive were either delayed – for valid reasons, modified – as in the grant of soft loans instead of dole outs, or defeated, we in the opposition were falsely accused of playing politics. Were we? We were not.

Now that question again comes to fore. Are there some in our midst – *dramatis personae* who are playing politics?

I ask this because of the issue on fiestas or festivals. To be more specific – the issue on whether or not the City Fiesta is the Pamulinawen Festival.

Our very own charter limits the holding of fiestas to once every three years – the first of which was way back in February 1967 and by provision of law, every three years thereafter. For those who served in the 6<sup>th</sup> Sanggunian, the fiesta was officially celebrated in 2006 and in this 7<sup>th</sup> Sanggunian, it will be next year 2009.

I say officially, because it is a known fact, that despite our charter, we do celebrate our fiesta every year and so it was that in 1997 – a year where the City could officially celebrate its fiesta, the Pamulinawen Festival came into being.

The root of the problem lies in the passage of an ordinance institutionalizing the Pamulinawen Festival as an annual event since it is the humble opinion of this representation that to do so would be a clear circumvention of a national law – our very own Charter which

this inferior sanggunian cannot and ought not to do considering the oath that we have taken prior to our assumption as members of this 7<sup>th</sup> Sanggunian and that is, *inter alia*, to uphold the Constitution and “OBEY ALL LAWS” to include R.A. 4854 – which created the City of Laoag.

The superior Sanggunian had initially DISAPPROVED our ordinance institutionalizing the Pamulinawen Festival but the same was reconsidered and instead ARCHIVED with the understanding that we in the 7<sup>th</sup> Sanggunian will pass a resolution each requesting our two representatives in the province to sponsor a bill to amend our charter to enable us to celebrate our fiesta annually.

But by sheer pride, however, and plain partisan politics, if not gross ignorance of the law, I anticipate that these twin resolutions might never see the light of day.

The reason? Simply because of those who hold that the City Fiesta celebrations is separate and distinct from the Pamulinawen Festival.

The PAMULINAWEN ordinance, if I may call it, is worth examining. It categorically states that the PAMULINAWEN Festival is an **OFFSHOOT** of the Laoag City Fiesta. If we were to consult the dictionary, **offshoot** means “**something that comes from something else: something that springs or spreads from or that is a subsidiary of a main source or origin**”. Corollary to this is the proverbial saying that “**The river cannot rise higher than its source**”. Ergo, if we are limited by law to hold our City Fiesta Celebrations, once every three years, in like manner, the Pamulinawen festival which derives its existence from the Fiesta Celebrations can only be held once every three years. To do otherwise would run counter to our charter. What the law prohibits us from doing directly, we cannot do indirectly.

Going further, I invite our colleagues to scrutinize the message of our beloved City Mayor at the start of the Pamulinawen 2005 Cel-

ebrations – a year where we are barred from celebrating our Fiesta. The Mayor said and I quote “More than the color and vibrancy of merriment and unique cultural showcase, what gives significance to this much-anticipated event is the celebration of the feast of our patron, St. William the Hermit” and in closing the Mayor stated in no uncertain terms “Thank you very much and **Happy Fiesta!**”. Of course, we know that the Fiesta or Pamulinawen Festival in 2005 was far from being happy due to the murder of the late Vice-Mayor Jimmy Chua.

For this year’s Pamulinawen Festival, a year where we are again prohibited from celebrating our Fiesta, our City Mayor had this to say “I wish to welcome all x x x to our PAMULINAWEN XII celebration. With this year’s theme . . . the entire city continues to open its doors for all to see our unique heritage and growing global character. Not only is the **fiesta season** a perfect opportunity to showcase all of these, but it also gives the chance to thank the Divine Almighty through the intercession of our Patron Saint, William the Hermit, for all the blessings and bounties that our city has been showered with throughout the year”.

Thus, my esteemed colleagues, if the PAMULINAWEN FESTIVAL is an offshoot of the City Fiesta Celebrations, if no less than our City Mayor admits that the Pamulinawen Festival is the Fiesta Season, greeting all and sundry “A Happy Fiesta!”, can we without being accused of hypocrisy say that one is different from the other? We cannot.

I am not a KJ or a killjoy to insist that we hold our fiesta every three years. In fact, I say it now and I’ll say it again and again “let’s hold our fiesta celebrations or the PAMULINAWEN Festival every year without fail”. But lest

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## Makati-Pagudpud sister ties to boost entrepreneurship

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“In the Philippines, when we talk of efficiency and effectiveness, we always talk of the private sector,” Binay said in an interview, adding: “Having the same principles of management and administration would be possible for LGUs to improve its entrepreneurial activities and not just purely ‘services’.”

Looking forward to the sisterhood ties between this municipality and the country’s premiere city, Pagudpud Vice Mayor Matilde Sales, standing in for Pagudpud Mayor Marlon Sales who was reportedly in Manila at the time of Binay’s visit, said she hopes the forging of sisterhood relationship would bring in deeper understanding and greater opportunities to the town of Pagudpud.

### Pagudpud beach as ‘dumpsite’

IN a related development, Sales commented on the reference to the Pagudpud municipal beach as a “dumpsite” by a tourist.

“This is an awakening on our part. I cannot wash my hands considering that I am part of the Pagudpud government. We’ll have it worked out,” Sales said.

The Pagudpud vice mayor also mentioned that she has sent a letter addressed to Pagudpud Mayor Marlon Sales to tackle the issue.

“We’ll try to do something about it *at pwede pa naming habulin ‘yun* (and we can still do something about it),” Sales added.

In an earlier radio interview, Mayor Sales said it is not only the Pagudpud government that is affected by the issue but the entire province’s tourism industry. He appealed to other concerned authorities in the province to “help them out” in resolving it.

### Binay in LC

MEANWHILE, Binay also toured Laoag City—another sister city of Makati—as he again thanked Laoag officials, led by Mayor Michael V. Fariñas for their active participation during Makati’s 338<sup>th</sup> Foundation Anniversary.

Binay, who was accompanied by members of the Makati City Council as well as department heads and of-

ficials of the Boy Scouts Association of the Philippines, to which Binay is the executive president, said he appreciates Laoag for preserving the historical image of its City Hall as well as the Provincial Capitol.

Binay also expressed surprise for the importance given by the city government to senior citizens by giving them their own office at the City Hall.

The Makati mayor further promised that Makati would always be ready to help its sister cities and municipality for whatever program or activities where they could assist them.

“*Huwag naman mangyari iyong calamity. Nakakatulong kami pero pangit naman iyong calamity* (I just hope no calamity would come. We could help but it would be bad if it would be on times of calamity),” Binay jokingly said.

In a press interview, Binay shared some of the techniques they used in making Makati one of the most progressive cities in the country. He said strict and proper monitoring of collection of taxes, especially on revenue collections should be done and government facilities owned by the city government should be rented out if they are being used by private or government organizations. He stressed that there should be no free rent.

He further stated that Laoag would be expecting to receive P500,000 from Makati’s as part of its P5 million distribution to its sister cities. He also assured that he would help in introducing Ilocano products in Makati.

In ending, he vowed to continue serving the country.

“I will be a hypocrite if I tell you that I am not interested in running for a national position but in the meantime I will still concentrate much of my time for the missions and visions I have modeled for the City of Makati as well as my duties and responsibilities as president of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines as well as chairman of the [Boy Scouts of the] Asia Pacific Region,” Binay said.

## Chiz wants classrooms in disaster prone areas insured

OPPOSITION senator Chiz Escudero planned a program to insure some 25,890 classrooms in typhoon-stricken provinces and tapping the Government Insurance System (GSIS), the agency in-charge of handling government’s insurance policies, as the classrooms’ insurance’s underwriter.

The classrooms mostly from provinces in the Bicol and Eastern Visayas regions will be the beneficiaries of the insurance against the following disasters: (1) fire and lightning, (2) typhoon and flood, (3) earthquake and aftershock, (4) and extended cover such as volcanic eruption, tsunami, landslide, riot and civil commotion, and aircraft and vehicle impact.

With the onset of the rainy season, the senator asked the GSIS to immediately release the details of policy and claims procedures.

The premium of the said insurance will be paid based on a funding mechanism prepared by the senator’s office. Each of the 25,890 classrooms will be provided with a

policy drawn up by GSIS. Cover of the policy is based on a replacement value estimated at P300, 000 on a no-fault, outright payment clause.

In a meeting, the GSIS asked from the senator to conduct an inspection first on the school buildings in the above-mentioned areas to determine the real values of the school building before issuing the policy of the insurance program.

The program is urgently needed especially in Bicol and Eastern Visayas regions because they receive the most and direct impact of disasters, Escudero stressed.

“It has always been a sorry state to see our classrooms go down with the flood and other perils,” he said. “Most of the time, we haven’t even finished repairing and rebuilding the damages when another disaster comes. This program will ensure that an immediate contingency plan will be in effect when the need arises.”

Escudero said an insurance policy such as this should be shoul-

dered by the local government, as in the case of major cities like Quezon, Makati and other Metro Manila areas. But in the case of LGUs in the provinces and depressed areas with small IRAs (internal revenue allotment), they do not usually allocate funding for this but would rather prioritize expenditures endemic to the municipality.

The senator has tasked the GSIS to fast track the details of the cover for each school. It will come in an understandable manual that will be provided to school principals.

Proceeds of any claim shall be given to the barangay in charge of the school. It will be the duty of the barangay to rebuild or repair the classroom, when damaged.

Escudero said the proceeds of extra remuneration should be used to purchase personal accident insurance for all the teachers in the damaged areas. The amount of extra remuneration shall determine the details of the personal accident insurance cover.

## Thanksgiving highlights 6<sup>th</sup> Mayflower Festival

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“I strongly believe that God has planned this occasion for me to manifest in public my thanksgiving to Him through the blessed Mother for all the bountiful blessings He has bestowed and showered to me and my family,” she said in her speech as she revealed that it was provincial tourism assistant Jogie B. Jimenez who convinced her to host the “thanksgiving” festivity.

Following a procession along the main thoroughfares of Laoag City, Bueno joined local and celebrity beauties and escorts from Manila that drew crowds along the procession route.

The Mayflower Festival in

Ilocos Norte is popularly known among Christians as the Santacruzán. According to legends, 300 years after the death of Christ, the holding of Santacruzán in the month of May commemorates St. Helena’s mythical finding of the cross to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Over a period of time, this religious tradition has evolved among Christians all over the country.

For his part, Ilocos Norte Gov. Michael M. Keon expressed his gratitude to all organizers, particularly the Provincial Tourism Office staff and to benefactors who were instrumental in the success of the festivity.

# Loren moves to stop utilities from passing systems loss to consumers

**SENATOR Loren Legarda demanded that corporations imbued with public interest like utilities should be made fully accountable for committing acts inimical to the people.**

Chair of the Senate Economic Affairs Committee, Legarda filed Senate Bill 2289 that, when passed into law, would stop the passing on to consumers of the so-called systems losses from pilferage and inefficiency incurred by power companies.

"This bill seeks to introduce amendments to Republic Act 7832 to stop the absurdity of innocent consumers being made to pay for the criminal activities of some consumers and the inefficiencies of the utilities they are forced to deal with," Legarda said.

RA 7832 is otherwise known as the Anti-Electricity and Electrical Transmission Lines/Materials Pilferage Act of 1994.

Legarda said losses should be shouldered by power retailers because they are part of the risk of doing business, and because the retailers should be fully responsible in minimizing pilferage and losses from inefficiency.

"If they cannot pass systems losses to consumers, electric companies will be motivated to go after pilferers and to improve their systems to minimize naturally occurring losses," she added.

Legarda said she also proposes the expansion of RA

7832's coverage to include distribution lines and materials from those protected by the law against pilferage.

The senator will also seek increasing the fine for pilferage from P50,000 to a range of P100,000 to P500,000.

Systems loss accounts for at least eight percent of the bill of an average consumer or about 58 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh). From 2003 to 2007, Meralco customers paid P84.6 billion in systems losses based on the 70.55 centavos systems loss charge per kWh.

Legarda said pilferage of electricity is doubly condemnable because of the soaring power rates and because it equates to billions of pesos in benefits to economic saboteurs.

Under RA 7832, electric utilities were allowed to pass on the consumers 15 percent of their systems loss, with the allowable percentage reduced through the years to the present 9.5 percent. The repeal of Sections 10 and 11 of RA 7832 will stop this abhorrent practice.

Prior to the law, systems loss due to pilferage was estimated at roughly P6.6 billion, but losses due to electric pilferage still averages at a rate of 14 to 20 percent after RA 7832's passage.

# Tourist arrivals grew by 7.5% in January-April 2008

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Travelers from Korea comprised the second biggest group numbering 45,382 for a share of 17.9%. This market grew by 9.7% compared to its volume a year ago.

The Japanese market is the third biggest source of arrivals with 29,295 comprising 11.5% of the total inbound traffic. China continued to position itself in the top five with 13,845 visitors for a share of 5.5%. This market recorded an increase of

10.2% vis-à-vis its volume of 12,565 arrivals a year ago.

Australia continued to demonstrate robust growth with 9,904 arrivals for a market share of 3.9%. It registered a hefty increase of 9% when compared to its volume of 9,089 last year.

Tourist count from the Scandinavia market continued to post substantial growth with Norway increasing by 13.3%, Ireland with 6.9%, Sweden with 5.4% and Denmark by 5.2%.



TINSELTOWN'S Danilo Barrios and Jaycee Parker grace the Santacruznan 2008 sponsored by the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte.

LEILANIE G. ADRIANO

## SUCCESS STORY IN TIME FOR CARP ANNIVERSARY

# Piddig native nominated for outstanding ARB award

By GERTRUDE G. ALBANO  
DAR CONTRIBUTOR

THIS AGRARIAN Reform Beneficiary (ARB) can always become a teacher and a farmer at the same time as he has remained single at his own right up to this time.

This ARB is Ireneo Jesus Corpuz, the Department of Agrarian Reform's (DAR) 2008 nominee as outstanding ARB.

Jesus, as he is fondly called by friends and relatives, was born on December 15, 1961 at Barangay Estancia, Piddig, Ilocos Norte and is an ARISP2 recipient area of DAR-Ilocos Norte. He is a graduate with a degree of BS in Elementary Edu-

cation with a major in Practical Arts of the Mariano Marcos State University.

What is unique with Jesus is that even if he is a degree holder and could have become a teacher, he prefers to be a farmer tilling 3.5 hectares of land planted with rice since 2007. He has a net income of P50,000 with an average yield of 125 cavans per hectare for rice and P25,000 with an average yield of 5 tons per hectare for corn.

In their cooperative, where Jesus is the coop manager, he reports a net income of P225,000 annually from rice and corn production for their cooperative as he also receives P54,000 a year for his job.

In explaining this, he adds that it is not about what or how much you earn but is about how you can help and contribute to your barangays and to your cooperative.

An ideal earner and an economist, Jesus has already build a concrete bungalow house in 1995, a challenging role for him and perhaps one of the reasons why he does not want to settle down as he may have not yet found the girl of his dreams.

He is the only farmer from Northern Luzon who has been invited to speak on his model rice project during the ARISP National Assessment on December 7, 2004.

University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) researchers later tabbed his project as successful and

a show window worthy of emulation by other farmers. DAR officials, on the other hand, were overwhelmed by the tremendous increase in yield as a result of the use of high-yielding rice variety from 70 cavans which 56 cooperators planted on June 1, 2003.

Aside from being an efficient and practical manager of Namnama ARB's Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MPC), Jesus also spearheaded the extension of their cooperative services from a mere consumer store in 1991 to the putting up of a store building in 1993, complete with refrigerator, calculator and weighing scale.

Jesus also thought of other cooperative services such as credit, hauling, tracking, post-harvest facility and agri-enterprise development that would augment the coop's income.

As they faced difficult time, he saved their cooperative from flopping as he devised strategies by applying all he had learned from seminars and trainings he had attended from micro-finance to production loan orientation, leadership, social marketing, technology on rice and goat production, hog fattening, goat raising and meat processing through DAR-ARISP2.

Through the trainer's training for soil analysis conducted by UPLB, Jesus was able to extend ser-

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Cebu Pacific

**THE ILOCOS TIMES** is the longest running community newspaper in Laoag City and Ilocos Norte, founded in 1920. Its regular weekly publication started in October 1957.

Edited and published in Laoag City, the paper contains 80% English and 20% Iloko, with a primary circulation covering the Ilocos Region and subscribers in Metro Manila and other provinces, and Ilocanos abroad.

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## Tower of Babel

(The following is an article written by Fr. Roy Cimagala—Ed)

IT'S OBVIOUSLY a Tower-of-Babel effect that many people nowadays, especially the young ones, are not aware anymore of the story, significance and unending relevance itself of the Tower of Babel.

We need to recall that story and, in fact, to familiarize ourselves with it since it's a phenomenon that continues to affect us, especially as we march toward progress and development. It sure gives us a much-needed sense of prudence in life.

From the Bible's first book, Genesis, we have this account of this story's origin. The descendants of Noah decided after the flood to erect a tower in Babylonia. It was intended to reach heaven as a way to make them famous.

God was angered by this presumption, and caused among them a great confusion of languages before scattering them to different places.

The underlying reason for God's action is that these men had the wrong understanding and intention in how to proceed with their life. They were more interested in themselves than in God, more in their plans than in God's will.

The story is now the image of any human effort to pursue development without God or even in competition with God. Together with some signs of progress will be an accompanying state of confusion among the people. We can call this the Tower-of-Babel syndrome, a cruel curveball.

It springs from ignoring the fundamental truth that everything comes from God, and therefore should be handled and used always in accordance to God's will. It's actually a ridiculous state of affairs, and yet it's what commonly happens.

With it, we will get the sensation we are advancing in knowledge, skills and dominion over the world, but we cannot deny either that together with these gains, pursued without God, is a clear distancing we can notice among ourselves.

We can be close to one another physically, yet still far and remote spiritually and morally. We are not referring here to the legitimate differences we can have among ourselves, but rather to an abiding sense of alienation among us.

It's a story that continues to be played and replayed even up to now. Not even our great strides in our communication technology have increased our communion among ourselves.

On the contrary, what we notice nowadays is greater misunderstanding, envy and even conflict and division. There is widespread distrust and easy, almost automatic mutual suspicion.

Part of the concern we have to tackle is precisely to hitch our development process to God's plans. It is to inspire, leaven and drive it with God's truth and spirit.

This is not easy to do, of course. Our tendency is to misappropriate and misuse things that actually come and belong to God—all things do—to be simply our own.

We easily succumb to this vicious virus, plus, the fact that we also get easily intoxicated by any power we enjoy in life. With this potent combination of factors, we effectively have an epidemic of confusion. This is what we see around.

For example, our capacity to know, quite powerful given our intelligence and will, can tempt us to know things simply on our own. There's hardly any effort to relate such knowledge to God.

This really looks funny, because we fail to realize the basic truth once eloquently spelled out by St. Paul when he talked about knowledge and charity.

"Knowledge puffs up, but charity edifies. And if any man thinks that he knows anything, he has not yet known as he ought to know." (1 Cor 8,1-2)

As a result, we cannot help but get into useless quarrels among ourselves. We have to be most careful of this fine distinction.

While the pursuit of knowledge unleavened by charity can yield some material gains, it can also sow the seeds of discord among us. It will just be a matter of time before things explode.

We need to strongly remind ourselves that in every affair or concern in our life, in every step of the way, we need to refer everything to God and to his plans. Otherwise, we'll just be building our own version of the Tower of Babel. Let's stop acting funny!

## Federalism... is it good for the country?

(Conclusion)

POSSIBLE challenges and obstacles may somehow disturb the proposed federalism. At first, of course we expect adjustments from our current system to the new structure that's why we have to be careful of the changes although majority wanted an instant over turn of government system. One major challenge is that citizens do not know enough of their constitution and out rightly reject a shift to a federal system. Last years' introduction of the Cha-Cha (Charter Change) was ambivalent to the people and certainly lacks concrete details. The presentation was more of a political interest.

Further, a shift to a federal system will require constitutional amendment that will separate other charter change issues (term limits) and the anti-Cha-Cha movement. Study shows a parliamentary system has the potential to weaken Head of State-LGU relations because the LGUs will have no role in electing Prime Minister.

Other potential argument against federalism, such as may fragment or dismember the country, strengthen ethnic regionalism, may result in uneven developments across regions, encourage and strengthen local warlords and corrupt politicians and increase the size of bureaucracy.

Again, federalism is both a structure and a process of governance that establishes unity on the basis of consent and while preserving diversity by constitutionally uniting separate political communities into an encompassing polity. Dr. De Vera III in one of our symposia presented several building blocks that will affect the process of federalism: two spheres of government, division of powers, division of resources, constituent representation in central institutions, common standards (governance, rights, economic union) and entrenched and effectively enforced constitution.

Example can be gleaned from the division of powers were the federal government will take charge of foreign relations, customs and monetary system, armed forces, national suffrage/election, postal and telecommunications, and inter-state

### SERIOUS BUSINESS

JAY S. RAMOS



commerce. Whereas, the Federal States will have Education, social welfare, health, trade and commerce, environment and natural resources, agriculture, police, public works and related local governments.

The proposed system will have ten Federal States which shall be composed of the following: Northern Luzon; Central Luzon; Southern Tagalog; Bicol; Eastern Visayas; Central Visayas; Western Visayas; Northern Mindanao; Southern Mindanao; and the Bangsamoro. Perhaps, we just can imagine how federalism works relative to the building blocks mentioned earlier.

To my viewpoint, first phase transition period wherein experience is gained as to what works; refinement of details for shift to federalization. Study should be done of variants of federal system in place at other countries; what may be applicable or not. (Decide on a model system which should provide us with the basic structure).

Senator Pimentel has more or less introduced a similar function with some slight differences in the format but the bottom line here is will it serve our country best. In conclusion, a shift to federalism attempts to give more power to and thus, more capability for the regional and local governments to address their needs. We are now faced with enormous problems as we have seen the political turmoil adversely affects our economy. A change of leadership is a mere cosmetic change. I believe that reform must be done at a more significant level; political reform of the structure into a federal system may be one such reform necessary.

While a parliamentary system is espoused by some as a probable solution to our political problems, I believe that a more fundamental change in the political structure should take place. Federalism will shift most of the power and responsibility for changing our lives to our own hands; if we do the job as hon-

estly and competently as we can, then it is conceivable that our area would even be insulated from turmoil at the national capital and our progress and development would continue relatively unaffected. However, under our unitary system, troubles in the national capital affect us directly.

In our forum on governance at MMSU, concerns were placed that any political structural reforms would inherently fail without a corresponding reform in our national psyche. In fact, in the aforementioned growth centers, progress has been impressive. In these areas, local autonomy and the grant of special powers have contributed to the rise of competent leaders.

Moreover, the people in these areas are enthusiastic and actively involved. In my travel to the U.S as a Fulbright scholar, I have noted that their federal system has spawned the mindset of volunteerism wherein a community actively gets involved in governance. The results speak for themselves; the U.S is the world's most powerful country.

The same successful scenario may occur here if federalism is instituted. There are other countries which have progressed under a federal system, thus success is not predicated on race or culture. The success of these federal countries, allows us to see what can be accomplished if people are allowed at the local level to take charge of their destiny.

Thus, there is a basis for suggesting a total reform of the structure. There are countries which have had success with a federal system; we only need to study how they did it and apply the relevant points to our country as well—Filipino-style. The present unitary system is not responsive to addressing the problems of the nation; consequently, I believe that it is necessary to implement reform. Shifting to a federal system is a political reform which may just provide us with a foundation for a renewed progress and growth.

There has been an evolution of our political system from the centrist times of authoritarian rule towards federalism, n that a certain

Turn to page 6

## Two weekend 'breathers'

"PARENTS Board Flight, Forget Toddler at Airport"

WINNIPEG, Canada—Air tickets? Check. Passports? Check. Luggage? Check. Baby... oops.

A Filipino immigrant and family boarded a flight in westernmost Canada. But they forgot their tot at the Vancouver international airport.

The 23-month-old boy's family had just arrived in Canada. But they repack their overweight bags before catching a connecting flight to Winnipeg. This caused them to run late. In their sprint to the gate, the family became separated.

The boy's father Jun Parreno, thought his son was with his wife and the boy's grandparents, who ran ahead. They thought the boy was with his dad. On the plane, family members were seated separately. So, they didn't realize they left the child behind.

A security guard found the boy, who speaks no English, wandering near the departure gate. Air Canada officials tracked down his shocked parents on the flight.

Because the boy was so young, he was not issued a boarding pass. He would have sat on a parent's lap during the flight. Airline personnel didn't notice a passenger missing.

The Vancouver Sun reported that airport security found a Tagalog-speaking Air Canada agent who looked after the child. His father, meanwhile, flew 2,300 kilometers back to Vancouver to pick him up. He then returned to Winnipeg to rejoin the immigrant family—on their

### IN-DEPTH

JUAN L. MERCADO



first day in Canada.

Air Canada's staff found him some toys. "Air Canada took good care of him," Parreno told the daily Winnipeg Free Press upon arrival. "I'm grateful."

Remember Rick Warren? He wrote the best selling: "Purpose Driven Life". Here is Warren's interview about his book sales wealth and his wife's illness:

"People ask me: What is the purpose of life? And I respond: In a nutshell, life is preparation for eternity. . One day my heart will stop. That will be the end of my body, but not the end of me. I may live to 100 years; but I'll spend trillions of years in eternity.

"Life is the dress rehearsal. We were made by God and for God. Until you figure that out, life isn't going to make sense.

"Life is a series of problems: Either you're in one now, just coming out of one, or you're going into another one. The reason for is: God is more interested in your character than your comfort; in making your life holy, than in making (it) happy.

"We can be reasonably happy here on earth. But that's not the goal of life. The goal is to grow in character, in Christ-likeness.

"This past year has been the greatest year of my life. But it's also

been the toughest, with my wife, Kay, getting cancer.

"I thought life was hills and valleys: you go through a dark time, then you go to the mountaintop, back and forth. I don't believe that anymore. (Now) I believe it's like two rails on a rail-

road track. At all times you have something good and something bad in your life.

"No matter how good things are, there's always something bad that needs to be worked on. And no matter how bad things are, there's always something good you can thank God for.

"You can focus on your purposes. Or you can focus on your problems.

"If you focus on problems, you' (spin) into self-centeredness: my problem, my issues, my pain.' What's an easy way to get rid of pain? Get the focus off yourself and onto God and others.

"We discovered quickly that, in spite of prayers by hundreds of thousands of people, God was not going to heal Kay. Nor would He make it easy for her. It's been very difficult for her. And yet God strengthened her, given her a ministry of helping others, drawn her closer to Him and to people.

"You have to learn to deal with both the good and the bad. Actually, dealing with the good is harder. When my book sold 15 million copies, it made me instantly very wealthy. It also brought notoriety that I never dealt with before.

"God doesn't give you money  
**Turn to page 6**

## Productivity and work ethics

BEFORE the practice of labor "contractualization" became popular in this country, I would say that individual productivity was higher among employees, because most of them had permanent status, meaning that they had regular benefits on top of a retirement package.

Actually, I think that the "Herrera Law" had the good intentions of protecting laborers so that they would be entitled to permanent status

if their employment exceeded six months. Unfortunately however, the reverse situation happened when employers started to limit employment terms to only five months, as a deliberate move to go around the law.

When employees had permanent status, we would naturally expect them to be more productive, because their level of company loyalty was very high, considering that they had a long-term career to look forward to. Now that most employees only have contractual status, loyalty is very low, and not only that, the feeling of job security is very low also. Although we could not really expect employees to be loyal and productive when they are faced with the prospects of job insecurity, it would still be fair to say that it is still the duty of employees to give employees their best productivity, because after all, the employees are paying them for the work that they do.

As we studied the problem of low productivity in line with our day-to-day work at the Inter-Charity Network, we discovered that the root of the problem is really the lack of proper work ethics among employees, a problem that is compounded by the lack of motivation to produce more than what they are actually producing now. Looking at the practical side, we also realized that their motivation is hampered by their other worries about their basic needs, as they face the challenge of survival in their day-to-day lives.

Starting next week, Inter-Charity is going to offer a series of free seminars about work ethics and personal productivity, in an effort to produce better employees, as a way also to improve their own competitiveness in the job market. In cooperation with selected employers, we are going to recommend to them only the employees who have completed these seminars, with a certificate to prove that they have done so. We are also going to cooperate with these employers so that we could measure the actual productivity of these employees on a regular basis.

I was fortunate enough to have the chance to bring up this training and certification program to Atty. Miguel Varela, the Chairman Emeritus of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and to Mr. Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr., the President of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), and they have both agreed to explore the potentials of this program. Hopefully, this training and certification program is going to become the standard of employee hiring and retention in this country, an idea that could only work if the productivity results could be monitored and verified on a regular basis.

As a way to address the basic needs of Inter-Charity members, we looked for companies that would be willing to supply their products at company prices, so that members could save on their day-to-day expenses. We are fortunate to have gotten the cooperation of Unilever and Kimberly Clark distributors who are going to make this possible shortly. Since Inter-Charity is a non-stock, non-profit corporation, we could afford to pass on these goods to our members with a small margin only to cover our overhead, and also to be able to raise some funds for our charitable programs.

As part of our day-to-day experience, we also found out that career counseling should also be a regular part of our public service. We are calling it career counseling, but we found out that we also have to counsel our members about other subjects that could help them improve their lives, and that is why more often than not, our counseling would also include ways and means of cutting their expenses, as a way to save money in order to normalize their household budgets. As part of our advocacy, we are also proposing to the employers for them to adopt the hourly method as a basis for computing wages. In our studies, we found out that the hourly method usually results in more productivity, as hourly outputs could easily become comparable with the hourly rates. This is of course voluntary, but it is as easy as dividing the daily wage rate into eight hours of work. If you are interested in learning more about our programs, please contact us.

RATED PG

IKE SEÑERES



## Promoting priestly vocations

THIS IS everyone's concern. Obviously the bishop is the nerve center of this universal concern. But he would be useless if all of us are not organically united with him.

In this regard, families should realize they are the seedbeds of priestly vocations. Everything has to be done for them to be able to do this crucial mission effectively.

Playing subsidiary roles are schools, parishes and seminaries, equipping them aptly to enable them to develop and mature possible vocations. Hard? Maybe. But not impossible. We just have to put our will into it. All of us have to use both supernatural and human means to carry out this task. We need to pray a lot, offer sacrifices, avail of the sacraments. But the recruiting, selecting, admitting and forming should always be a function of personal apostolate and dealings.

Friendship and confidence should exist between the candidates and the officials, humanizing whatever structures and programs are needed. Genuine, not officious, friendship is indispensable to truly know the candidates' human, intellectual and spiritual fitness.

Truth is we can rightfully presume that God provides for all the vocations the Church needs in any given moment. They must already be there, waiting to be found and developed.

Priests are indispensable in the Church and in the world. No matter how good and holy the lay faithful are, a point comes when they meet a wall in their path to follow Christ. They need priests to pass through it.

### ANALYSIS

FR. ROY CIMAGALA



This is because the clergy act in the person and authority of Christ as head of the Church to teach, sanctify and govern it. They sacramentally extend the continuing presence and redemptive action of Christ here on earth.

Bluntly if simplistically put, no priests, no Christ. No priests, no Church. They may be unworthy personally, but that's who priests are sacramentally. Their unworthiness does not negate Christ's presence and work through them.

The soul of the world, the Church nourishes the spiritual and moral life of the believers. If the Church is badly serviced because of lack of priests, you can just imagine how the world will be!

Recent reports claim that the ratio of priests to faithful in our country is low: 1 priest for every 10,000 faithful! We have to disabuse ourselves from the occasional thought that we have a lot of priests around.

No matter how you look at it, the picture is bad. Imagine a priest taking care of 10,000 souls. Even if he is holy and competent, and aided by a broad network of help and support, it's hard to imagine he can do his ministry effectively.

For example, how can hearing sacramental confessions and giving spiritual direction, a very impor-

tant aspect of the priestly ministry, be done if the priest is only one as against 10,000 people to serve?

The urgent need to promote priestly vocations has to be pursued both in terms of quantity and quality. These criteria should never be separated. For this purpose, the true nature and beauty of priesthood should be made to shine. Often the problem is portraying the priesthood so negatively, exclusively highlighting the sacrifices, which undeniably exist, that people don't see its original beauty and its divine character.

We have to correct that. Besides, priests themselves should be adept in making themselves attractive models of priesthood, following the example of St. Paul who boldly said: "Be imitators of me, as I also am of Christ." (1 Cor 4,16)

The issue is truly complex and has to be studied thoroughly by Church authorities. How to support them, I know, is already a complicated problem. But that's the least of the problems.

More attention has to be given to the ongoing formation of priests. When spiritually healthy and pastorally vibrant, priests become magnets, a walking commercial for the promotion of priestly vocations.

Of course, we also have to worry about how to improve the culture and transform the mindset of the people who much prefer to go into IT and nursing than to go to the seminary.

We have to pray for holy, generous, cheerful and faithful priestly vocations!

( E m a i l : roycimagala@hotmail.com )

## Travel phenomenon

ILOCANO immigrants have traveled to America in pursuit of a dream. The dream which America symbolizes and that is the "better life". Some of its factors are owning a car, possessing a home that's carpeted wall-to-wall, exquisite toilette, ice boxes laden with delicious meats, fruits, fresh milk, juices and controlled freedom in individual enterprise. Foremost of which is the concept of labor for a good pay. In America, there is adequate leg-room to succeed or to flunk. People are left on their own to choose their values, brand of education, hair colors, burial plots. Life is held corollary to one's will. The latter, however, has to be geared toward a social conscience of the conglomeration of racial stocks that are mingled together in life's competition. Anywhere else in America is now a mixmaster of urban humanity. And the Ilocano endeavor to make go is not a soft order of determination and industry. Word predicates every man's success.

Travel has become the modern man's fulfillment of his spirit of adventure. It is a delightful tool, educational, cultural. As transportation continues to shrink the world, travel has become part of learning experience. It has proved very meaningful indeed to enjoy the exposure to other cultures, to live the excitement of the jetter. Tourists as well as immigrants have continually effected huge ticket sales at every international port in America. And the Ilocano immigrants particularly have become valued patrons of airlines syndicates. The influx of our people to move across the Pacific rests on the issue of "progress". To perceive a developed world owing to modern science and technology and to the unselfish dedication of genius minds who had programmed their operations for the welfare of the traveler.

### VIEW & REVIEWS

ESPERANZA A. SALES



## Federalism... is it good for the country?

From page 4

degree of power has been transferred, deconcentrated, or devolved unto the LGUs from the national government, as a result of the 1987 Constitution and later, the 1991 Local

Government Code. Also, with the separate special powers granted to the economic zones as in the SBMA. Federalism is but the next logical step in the progression of our political evolution.

## Two weekend 'breathers'

From page 5

or notoriety for your own ego. So I asked God: What do you want me to do with this money, notoriety and influence. He gave me two passages that helped me decide: II Corinthians 9 and Psalm 72

"In spite of all the money, we did not change our lifestyle one bit. We made no major purchases.

Then, I stopped taking a salary from the church.

"We set up foundations we call "The Peace Plan" This plants churches, equip leaders, assist the poor, care for the sick, and educate the next generation.

"Then, I added up all the church paid me in the 24 years I (served)

And I gave it all back. It was liberating to serve God for free.

"We need to ask ourselves: Am I going to live for possessions? Popularity? Am I going to be driven by pressures? Guilt? Bitterness? Materialism? Or will I be driven by God's purposes (for my life)?"

When I get up in the morning, I say: 'God, if I don't get anything else done today, I want to know You more and love You better.

"God didn't put me on earth just to fulfill a to-do list. He's more interested in what I am than what I do. That's why we're called human beings, not human doings."

(E - m a i l : juan\_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

## Piddig native nominated for outstanding ARB award

From page 3

vices to fellow farmers who are cooperative members by using soil-testing technology as he also encouraged thrift and savings programs for ARBs and he also served as ARB coordinator to co-ARBs in the barangay regarding the extension of CARP services by DAR.

He also adapted the following rice production technologies in his farm with the use of organic fertilizer: biological pesticide (DIPPEL) and botanical pesticide made from *madre de cacao* and nymph trees starting in 2007 as certified by

Piddig Agrarian Reform Officer Teresita Acang.

The willingness of the cooperative members to embrace his innovative strategies as assistance also gave life again and contributed heavily to the development of their cooperative.

And as the Congress continue to debate on the extension of Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), Jesus said he favors the extension of CARP as he explained that this program has helped thousands of beneficiaries and that DAR is still set to accomplish more in the next 10 years.

AZURE skies, turquoise waters, white sand, palm trees fluttering in the balmy breeze, the majestic cordillera mountains in the distance... Nowhere is the stark, rugged beauty of Ilocos more on display than here among the pristine, unspoiled beaches of Pagudpud.

It has been recognized as the top Asian beach by the Australian Sunday Herald Sun; no mean feat considering that the legendary beaches of Panglao, Boracay and Phuket, Thailand likewise, are located in the region; recognition that has catapulted Pagudpud into the world consciousness thus fueling the influx of more and more visitors.

This is the dilemma: it is the pristine, unspoiled, natural beauty of Pagudpud that has so captivated the tourist market. The influx of visitors threatens this pristineness, the influx of people threatens the natural beauty that has attracted so many in the first place.

So far, Pagudpud has resisted the impulse to over-develop; to overwhelm the area in a maze of man-made structures. For those seeking an extension of the urban lifestyle, more specifically the comforts and amenities associated with a highly urbanized lifestyle, in a tropical paradise setting, Pagudpud is not the place for you. For those minimalists seeking a return to the basics; for those seeking to commune with nature, to enjoy the sight of a truly magnificent beach, than Pagudpud is just the right place for you.

The direction of tourism development in Pagudpud has been to maintain just that; minimal development aimed at preserving the pristineness of the environment while providing visitors with enough comforts to ensure a

## An aberration

### IN & OUT

STEVIE T. BARREIRO



pleasant stay. While the foundations for this kind of balanced development have been laid, there is room for improvement. Even perfection is perfection, only if it is maintained.

Here comes Mr. Noel Patalinhog, who in an e-mail complaint to the DOT condemns the beach as a "dumpsite". He further states that he "could list a hundred bad things about the place". Really Mr. Patalinhog?

Though his complaint is undoubtedly exaggerated, Mr. Patalinhog, who visited the government-run public beach may have an issue particularly on the condition and maintenance of toilet facilities, at least in that particular area of Pagudpud. This is a longstanding issue that unfortunately is prevalent over most of the Philippines.

Consider Laoag City alone; the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry recently held a dialogue with City officials concerning the awful state of public toilets particularly those located at the Laoag City market; a place frequented by both domestic and foreign tourists seeking to purchase mementoes of their stay here. Private sector groups led by both the local chambers of commerce (PCCI, Fil-Chi CC) proposed that if the City Government is unable (or unwilling) to clean up the public toilets in the market, than the private sector represented by both the PCCI and the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, is ready to move in to clean up and maintain the aforementioned

toilets.

Perhaps, every citizen must develop a truly environmentally friendly mindset. We must stop blaming government for all our ills; we, the public must also do our part; avoiding littering, always flushing

the toilets after use, and alerting government to problems such as inoperative flushing systems or lack of water from non-operable faucets. The development of this mindset may be a problem for the country in general, but I do not see this as a problem in Pagudpud.

The municipal government of Pagudpud has done a relatively good job of inculcating into its citizens the need to maintain a clean environment. I have visited the municipal run public beach several times and at no time have I observed the minimalist facilities to be as Mr. Patalinhog describes them to be. Visit the beach in the early morning in the lean tourist months and you will see that it is fresh and clean. It is the undisciplined visitor, who indiscriminately dumps their refuse anywhere, who is to blame. Perhaps, if Mr. Patalinhog had stayed on.

Pagudpud has been blessed with a magnificent shoreline. It would be a shame, if that magnificence is obscured by an aberration; a single, unkempt toilet. Or by the inordinate whining and condemnation of a certain Mr. Noel Patalinhog.

\*\*\*

REGARDS to Ms. Mary Ang. Nobody has best exemplified the concern and commitment of the private sector towards community service than "Tita Mary".

I enjoin my fellow delegates to vote for a person who truly has the vision to uplift and bring about the progress and development of the Red Cross-Laoag City Chapter; one who has the commitment and ability to transform that vision into a reality.

## Bless the beasts and the children

(Last of a series)

### CAFFEINE THOUGHTS

MERCE Q



*Habang marami ang lugmok sa kahirapan, at ang hustisya ay para lang sa mayaman... Habang may tatsulok, at sila ang nasa tuktok, di matatapos itong gulo...*

DONATIONS of food, clothing and relocating squatters without giving them a chance to earn their self-respect is not enough. We have to start them young, identify their strong points, spot potentials and build them up with a solid education. I realize that not all children can be doctors, lawyers, business magnates or great administrators. However, I do not believe that anyone deserves to be stolen of their basic human right to try to be the best of what they can be. If this is not part of the list of Human Rights, then it should be!

How much does it cost to put a child through elementary and high school using what resources are available given the limitations our government puts on the budget for education? We do not have to be billionaires to afford to create change. We do not even have to feel philanthropic to make a difference. We do not need a banner announcing the good deeds of donating a bench, a classroom renovation, or truckloads of donated food in our name to be heroes in the eyes of the public. Religion and faith aside, we belong to a single race, the **human race**, and we are only as great as the weakest representative we have. Sad to say, with so many like Aljun, when so many resources are abused and wasted by a few, it's not a humane race to belong to.

I'm not one to say sell your house and empty your bankbooks and walk the street barefoot so you can belong. It is self-defeating to lower your standards so that more can relate to you. The better option is to find a way to make a difference and improve the lot of those you can reach. Start small and nearby... look at your less fortunate relatives—find someone to motivate with the eagerness to improve his lot and help, either by offering an

educational loan, or offering a simple job in exchange for financing part of his needs—basically food, shelter and school expenses, not necessarily all of it. If people who live in *karitons* can put their children to school, how much more can it cost to

make it easier for these children? The trick is not to make them conscious of the position they are in to the extent that they feel like charity cases. We want to build up their confidence, to believe that they are important and worth developing but still keep them rooted so they can accept that sacrifices have to be made and they have the responsibility of passing forward the same opportunities they are presented with—with whatever capacity they develop eventually. The domino effect...

Any takers? Can I challenge anyone who has had the patience to follow my rambling thoughts to try and make a difference and resist the temptation of advertising his or her good deed? *Res ipsa loquitur* (from the archives of my Medical Jurisprudence days), the evidence should speak for itself, let the good act be its own advertisement.

What do **You** think?

# Negative

# Negative

Republic of the Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION  
Branch 19  
Bangui, Ilocos Norte

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE  
ADOPTION OF MICHAEL  
JAMES BARREIRO AND  
GABRIELLE PATRICIA  
BARREIRO

GLORIA TUMANENG  
BARREIRO,  
Petitioner.

SPEC. PROC. NO. 976-19  
x-----x

ORDER

Filed with this Court is a verified petition for the adoption of Michael James Barreiro and Gabrielle Patricia Barreiro. Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for hearing on June 9, 2008 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning at the Hall of Justice of Bangui, Ilocos Norte where this Court is holding sessions.

Let a copy of this Order be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Ilocos Norte so that all concerned may appear on or before the scheduled initial hearing and show cause, if any there be, why the petition should not be granted.

As the record shows, the petition and its annexes have been earlier furnished all concerned in consonance to the Order of April 3, 2008 setting this case for initial hearing today, May 15, 2008, which the publisher however failed to publish.

SO ORDERED.

Given in open court this 15th day of May 2008 at Bangui, Ilocos Norte.

(SGD) PHILIP G. SALVADOR  
Acting Presiding Judge  
May 25, June 1, 8, 2008\*IT



## Brigada Eskwela: Getting ready for school year 2008-2009

NOREEN T. CASAÑA-TAGUINOD  
CAMANDINGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
BATAC DISTRICT II

DEPED ORDER No. 24, s. 2008 which is the Institutionalization of the Brigada Eskwela Program or the National Schools Maintenance Week (NSMW) is mandating all education stakeholders to contribute their time, efforts and resources in ensuring public schools all set in time for class opening. This program is now considered as a regular yearly undertaking and a permanent part of the school calendar.

In this School Year, this DepEd program will be conducted on June 2-7, 2008, a week before the classes start. Parent-Teachers and Community Association of each school should go hand in hand to support this DepEd thrust in preparation for the coming school year 2008-2009. The partnership of the teachers and stakeholders plays a very important role in pursuing the vision of quality education.

Such noble works are repainting and labeling of chalkboards, chairs, tables, school signs, walls, ceilings; doing minor repairs of school facilities, lightings, ventilation; cleaning the school grounds; restructuring of classrooms and others to make rooms more conducive to learning.

This program is of great help to the teachers and most especially the schoolchildren who are the beneficiaries.

## Preparasyon ti Independence Day nakatang kayag!!!

NASAPA ti preparasyon ti Independence Day celebration kas ipasimudaag dagiti wagayway a nakahilera iti Aurora Park, Laoag City, wagayway a nakatang kayag iti likmut ti Capitolyo, kasta met idiy Batac City ken Pinili, Ilocos Norte.

Iti kallabes nabagaan dagiti agnaed kadagiti edificio iti main thoroughfare a mangibitin ti wagayway a mangipakita ti pategiti independencia a nangibukbukan dagiti bannuar iti pigma, tured ken darada tapno magun-od ti wayyawayya manipud kadagiti alyado a nang-adipen kadatayo a Pilipino kasta met ti gandatda a mangtagikua ti dagatayo.

\*\*\*

### Arson? No way kuna dagiti bumalay

NAURAM ti balay a bungalow da Mr. and Mrs. Ben Castro idiy Barangay Aglipay, Batac City a nakabuakan dagiti

## BANDU ILUKO

### VIC G. LABARO



kakarrubada. Ti siglat ken alerto dagiti kameng ti Bureau of Fire Protection, natipid ti panagsaknap ti apuy.

Nagresponde da FO3 Julius Fernandez ken FO1 Dennis Bacnat panangaramatda ti firetruck idi adda tawag arayat manipud iti karroba dagiti Castro. Pilit a rinakrak ken sinibak dagiti kameng ti BFP ti puerta ti balay nga exit dagiti napupok bumalay.

\*\*\*

**School days are here again!!!** STUDENTS, parents, guardians and benefactors rejoice with the school opening in June, especially the affluent families who don not mind matriculation and other school fees?

Low-income parents might

be hard up in pushing for the continued studies of three college siblings at the same time if they do not have "foreign aid." The less fortunate parents can hardly send their sons and daughters to

school these belt-tightening times unless they have extraordinary skills, wisdom to avail of free matriculation and free school needs.

Free matriculation and tuition fees used to be given to students who possess sports skill and those with academic excellence, musical instrument playing ability, likewise to janitorial service oriented and other talent and means in exchange for free education in certain institutions.

Mariano Marcos State University Pres. Miriam E. Pascua had no comment about GMA's order to defer fee increase in state colleges and universities. MMSU is only limiting enrolment in the center of excellence courses.

 ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.  
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte 2913  
TIN 000-716-369 V  
No. (077) 784-71-26/784-00-82 Local 818  
No. 784-71-25

### INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. invites licensed contractor/suppliers for accreditation in the hereunder projects of the INEC Main office – Dingras, Ilocos Norte.

1. CONSTRUCTION OF PERIMETER FENCE
2. TERMITE CONTROL
3. AIRCONDITIONING UNITS FOR THE NEW BUILDING

Interested contractors are required to submit their Application for Eligibility which comprises the following:

1. Letter of Intent
2. Company Profile/Track Records
3. Technical Capability
4. Financial Capability (Audited Financial Statement)
5. Creditor Banks
6. Bank References
7. BIR Certificates
8. DTI/SEC Registration
9. Current Business Licenses

Application for Eligibility Documents must be received by this office not later than June 8, 2008. Only those pre-qualified are invited to bid for the project.

(SGD) EDWIN P. PASCUA  
Chairman  
Committee on Accreditation

Noted:  
(SGD) RENATO A. BALINTEC, PEE  
OIC-General Manager  
May 26-June 1, 2008\*IT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION  
BRANCH 17, BATAC CITY,  
ILOCOS NORTE

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE  
CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN  
THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND  
CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH  
OF MINOR CHILD ANGEL JOY  
M. INOCENCIO, PARTICULARLY  
IN THE GENDER COLUMN  
FROM "MALE" TO "FEMALE"

ALLAN T. INOCENCIO, in behalf  
of his minor child ANGEL JOY  
M. INOCENCIO,  
Petitioner,

-versus-  
THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR  
OF BATAC CITY, ILOCOS  
NORTE, THE CIVIL REGISTRAR  
GENERAL, NATIONAL  
STATISTICS OFFICE and ALL  
PERSONS WHO MAY OR  
HAVE ADVERSE INTEREST,  
Respondents.

SP. PROC. NO. 4950-17

x-----x

#### ORDER

This is a verified Petition for the Correction of Entries in the Birth Certificate and Certificate of Live Birth of minor ANGEL Joy M. Inocencio with the City Civil Registrar of Batac, Ilocos Norte and the Civil Registrar General, National Statistics Office, Quezon City particularly in the Gender of minor from "Male" to "Female".

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the Court hereby sets the initial hearing on July 15, 2008 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning at which date, time and place, all interested parties may appear and show cause why this Petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Ilocos Norte and in the City of Laoag.

Let copies of this Petition and this Order be furnished the City Civil Registrar of Batac, Ilocos Norte, the Civil Registrar General, the Provincial Prosecutor

and the Solicitor General.

The Branch Clerk of Court is hereby directed to furnish the Office of the Clerk of Court with a copy of this Order for its publication in accordance with the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1079.

SO ORDERED.

GIVEN this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May 2008 at Batac City, Ilocos Norte, Philippines.

(SGD) ANGELO M. ALBANO  
Judge  
June 1, 8, 15, 2008\*IT

#### DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late ELENO T. LABUTONG consisting of a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 4788, Cad-307-D of the San Nicolas Cad. covered by TCT No. T-19082 containing an area of 1,188 sq. m. located at Brgy. Payas, San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte has been adjudicated by his heir and simultaneously sold to Sps. Gerry Casiano and Nenita Casiano ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Roxanne Lee L. Castro as per Doc. No. 264; Page No. 53; Book No. II; S. of 2008.

June 1, 8, 15, 2008\*IT

#### DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late FRANCISCO MALAPIT and URSULA MANUEL consisting of eight (8) parcels of land designated as Lot Nos. 16181, 16197, 16204, 16207, 16492, 18624, 18627 and 18630 and a portion of Lot 1, Psu-9175 containing an aggregate area of 1,440,029 sq. m. situated at Brgys. Manayon, Banban, Utol, Taguiporo and Masikil all in the Municipality of Bangui has been adjudicated by their heirs extrajudicially ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Joel R. Garcia as per Doc. No. 217; Page No. 45; Book No. XLI; S. of 2008.

June 1, 8, 15, 2008\*IT

#### DEED OF ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late ANDRES GUILLERMO SR. consisting of a motor vehicle: Make/ Series-Yamaha; Motor No. -4J6-34997K; Serial/Chassis No. -426 034997; Olate No. - TC AX 6112; Sidecar No - 0152-54-B;

C.R. No. 0342074; O.R. No. 428316431 has been adjudicated by his heir ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Donald G. Nicolas as per Doc. No. 44; Page No. 9; Book No. IV; S. of 2007.

June 1, 8, 15, 2008\*IT

## URGENT

PART TIME/FULL TIME  
EARN P5,000 UP TO  
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TRAININGS PROVIDED  
FOR FREE ORIENTATION/  
INFO  
CONTACT: 0920-924-8010

## Pamulinawen Festival and the City Fiesta

From page 2

we be accused of GROSS IGNORANCE of the law – our very own which created our beloved City – which of course as a lawyer and a city councilor would be the height of idiocy indeed, let us join hands to request for the amendment of our charter to rid us off these limitation of holding our fiesta once every three years since anyway, we are celebrating our fiesta year in and year out. Simply stated, let us set aside partisan politics and not argue on whether or not the PAMULINAWEN FESTIVAL is the same as the City Fiesta Celebrations. Let us approach the controversy from a different point of view and that is "Whether or not we are in favor of amending our charter to enable us to celebrate our City Fiesta – with the Pamulinawen Festival as an offshoot, annually?"

All of us here I believe are reasonable men and women. We are rational beings, I suppose. Reason is what distinguishes us from other living beings like the dog, the cat and the duck. I have a German Short-haired Pointer for a dog. I sent him through obedience school. I am proud of him because when I say "sit", he sits. If I say "roll", he rolls. But as the saying goes, "If you walk like a duck and you talk like a duck saying 'quack, quack, quack', you must be a duck!"

My dear colleagues, let us not open the avenue for our constituents to label us "Blind Followers, oblivious and hostile to reason". Simply put, let no one accuse us of being ducks coz this 7<sup>th</sup> Sanggunian is surely not a pond where we could swim in.

I am now ready for interpellation.

PROTECT YOUR HEALTH  
LOSE/GAIN WEIGHT  
VISIBLE RESULTS IN 7 DAYS  
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NE, HULI-HULI CHICKEN DAYTOY LAKOMI APO:

# No agtayyek dagiti matuno a manok, makatulongda a mamagsasarak manen kadagiti sigud nga am-ammo wenno kailian-kaeskuela

(Part 3 of 3)

## MAS MODERNO itan a panagluto:

Iti bukodmi a panamagdilig gapu iti padas ken kapaliiwan, nasaysayaat itan ti wagas ti panagtuno iti manok no idilig iti napalabas a duapulo a tawen. Ngamin, imbaliktad iti screen a barut, uray la a makatiritir ti tengged, sa napudot pay dayta screen, adu pay ti dapo a maigamer iti manok, banag a makadadael idiy raman ti manok. Maalak pay ketdi idi ti agbain ken mangay-ay kadaydi immuna a padimi iti simbaan, isu ti maysa kadagiti agibaliktad ket no dadduma sumgiab diay apuy, sumaretset ti dutdot ti takiagna, naikkat pay ti buok ti dua a kidayna ta nadilpatan ti nagbilat nga apuy. Tssskkkkk.

Kadagiti immuna-una a tawen, kagudua la ti manok idi: maysa a saka ken maysa a payak. No asino ti maipatang a pagyanan ti tengged, adda tengged diay maysa a pisi ti manok.

Ket kas pangulo ti simbaan, inkalikagummi a padasen a sukatan ti wagas. Adda natakuaat a maysa a moderno ken panglakagan. *Rotisserie*. Paguddogen ti bassit a motor a matempla ti panaguddogna iti kasapulan a kapardas maisurot iti pannakaluto ti manok.

Sabali itan. Sangabukelen ngem awan latta ti ulona. Kaaduanna iti *rotisserie*, Kontrolado ti panagtayyek ti de-motor a paglutuan. Maikkan iti pudno a tiempo a pannakalutona, iti panagtayyekna ken iti nasayaat a rekado. Nupay adda latta asuk kas gagangay no adda apuy, ngem narasay ketdi ti dapo a dumket iti maluto a manok, banag, a naimimas ti raman ti naluto a manok.

Matemplaan ti manok. Adda met rukod kangato wenno temperatura ti manok babaen ti termometro. Adda met ited ti Department of Health a permit iti panagluto.

Kadagiti boluntario, nasken met a saanka a nakawakray lattan iti buok. Adda apronmo, adda glovesmo, saanka la a nakauyos. Nasken nga agparangka met a "nalinis ken nadalus" a makipagiggem iti makan ken maiserbi a manok.

Adu ti pre-sale ta nakaro dagiti kakabsat a lilider nga aglako. Nakapsutka kano a lider no saanka a makalako iti ad-adu ngem 100 a tiket [wenno manok].

Adda pay makalako iti 1200 laeng no iwarasna kadagiti am-ammo ken gagayyemna.

Adda am-ammoni ti makailako iti nasurok a sangaribu. Daytoy a kabsat ket napasnek met iti simbaan a yanmi. Sabali pay no am-ammoni iti maysa kadagiti alumni group a yanmi, makalako iti aganay a 900 ket no idiligmo iti lakuenna iti lakuen ti presidente, ay, tay kuna tay maysa nga am-ammoni, saanka a maibilang a lider ti gunglo no nabababa ngem 100 ti mailakom.

(Kasla ngamin obligasion wenno responsibilidad ti maysa a presidente ti gunglo a nasken a no mabalin, no mabalin, rimbawam ti lakuem ngem ti lakuen ti kameng. Dayta ket ekspektasion. Adda ngamin dagiti presidente ti gunglo [puera delos Buenos] a limitado met a kas koma kaniak- bagay saanak a presidente ngem aglakoak latta] ti mailakoda. Imbes isuda koma ti mangikalikagum, tay kunatayon, lead by example)

Maawatak no ti kabsat ket agpatingga la iti 25 wenno 50 ti malakona.

Ngamin, agsasallupangen ti maiwarwaras a tiket iti manok. Kitaem la ti kaabayamo iti mitingan, mayal-aludoy a maipasa ti sangabagelbel a tiket, a no dadduma, nakarigrigat ti mangpaay. Yawatannak ti tiket; vice versa ngem kadakami, saan a nasken ti pareho a bilang. Ti nasken, makitinnulongka. Give and take. Scratch my back, I scratch your. There a symbiotic relation dita.

Ti pananggatang wenno panangilako iti tiket ket bin-ig a boluntario. Awan ti inkapilitan ngem adda kenka ken dayta konsensiam a tumulong. Dadduma ket ikkandaka pay ketdi ti quota wenno minimum a bilang ti lakuem ta kunada a dayta la ti wagas a maparuar ti goal ti gunglo.

Wen ken saan, ti panangyaplikarko ditoy. Agtalinaed a 'boluntario' ti balikas kaniak.

## PARADISE PAGE

AMADO I. YORO

Disnudo no mano ti gatangen wenno lakuen.

Apay ngamin kunak a baklayem no saanmo mabaelan. Apay nga isubom ti tinapay no di met kabaellan ti ngiwat.

Ti ketdi kaaduan a wagas nga ar-aramidek ditoy, ibagak wenno itedko ti lima wenno sangapulo, malakom man ken saan, basta siguraduem nga isubli iti aldaw a naikeddeng.

Adda makuna a psycho-social effect daytoy, ta imbes nga isublina ti 5 wenno sangapulo, umayto manen a dumawat iti mabalin nga ad-adu ngem ti immuna.

Pagpaayan ti maurnong a pondo, damagem?

Depende diay programa a suportaran ti gunglo.

Iti biangko, kaaduanna a maipaay iti scholarship, para iti church operation, para iti medical & dental mission, para iti tulong kadagiti biktima ti bagyo wenno layus, adda pay dagiti aglako ti manok tapno nayon iti pannakisalipda iti kinamutia, kinareyna ti gunglo. Pondo a nayon ti pannakaipataray ti kombensyon wenno komperensia a no dadduma ket aggapu dagiti delegado iti Filipinas, Canada, Guam, US Mainland, Alaska ken dadduma a lugar.

Daydi Hulio 2007, naipaay iti pannakaisagana ti dakkal a programa ken reunionni a taga Sinait nga agnaeden iti ballasiw.

Adu ti mapagsasarak ti manok kadagiti dati nga aggayyem ken aggaammo.

Agasem iti ti personal a padasmi, iti las-ud iti nasurok a 45 years a pulos a saankami a nagkita, uray man la koma no sinnurat, toy kinaraduan, kinaklase iti haikul, agkita manen, maysan a naan-anay nga abogado iti Manila, ni Atty. Edgar

Borje, nakalawlawan ti musingna, idinto a dakami a kutokoto iti komunidad, rumasrasayen ti aligusgosmi iti kaluluto iti manok!

Ket dayta a reunion ti maysa a nakalalagip ken marka ti estoria ti Sinait ta nabuangaymi ti

**Sinaitenians International & Global Network [SIGN]** nga isu a mangsakup ti programami a *Medical/Dental/Charitable and Cultural Mission*. Kas gagangay iti reunion, adda aggapu iti sabsabali a lugar iti lubong. Ket ibilangko a nagasat dayta a reunion ta ditoy pay Waikiki, Honolulu, Hawaii – Isla ti Paraiso – ti nakaangayanna. Saan a gapu ta dakami ti Chairman ti Sinaitenians International 2<sup>nd</sup> Grand Reunion idi Agosto 2007, babaen ti tulong amin a kamengmi, dagiti volunteers ken supporters, balligi daytoy a panagtitipon.

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KET naipasngay ti baro a gunglo a pang-international dagiti taga-Sinait, Ilocos Sur; nairana iti 2<sup>nd</sup> Grand Reuniona iti Hilton Hawaii Village, Waikiki, idi Agosto 11, 2007.

Daytoy a pasken ket dinar-ayan dagiti naggapu iti New Jersey, Kansas, Canada, Manila, Virginia, Ohio, Washington, California, Kaaduanna iti Hawaiian Islands: Oahu, Maui, Kauai, Big Island.

Toy nagsurat ti chairman ti nomination and election committee ngem inallawat ni Danny Agsalog apaman a nainominar ken nabotosan a director-PRO toy nagsurat.

Newly Elected Directors of Sinaitenians International & Global Network [SIGN] 8/11/07:

Ronnie Cabacungan Salvador [California] – President; Augusto Concepcion [Honolulu, Hawaii] – vice president; Dolly Concepcion Willing [Honolulu, Hawaii] – Secretary; Dra. Estrella Pada Taong [Honolulu, Hawaii] – treasurer; Lito Iloreta – [Kauai, Hawaii] Auditor; Amado I. Yoro [Ewa, Hawaii] – PRO; Manuel Cabacungan [Waipahu, Hawaii]; Andy Sotelo [Ewa Beach, Hawaii]; Francis Nueva [Sinait,

Philippines]; Divina Nueva [Sinait, Philippines]; Antonio Ipalari [Waipahu, Hawaii]; Atty. Edgar Borje [Manila]; Joe Dayoan [Virginia]; Arturo Dayaon [California]; Dr. Edison Cabacungan [California]; Florecita Abbie Peralta [Waipahu, Hawaii]; Romeo Guzman [Maui, Hawaii]; Hermie Gaspar [Kapolei, Hawaii]; Adoracion Balagso [Waipahu, Hawaii]; Commissioner Marcelino Ines [California]; Glenn Ilar [California\*]; Danny Inez [California\*]; Reginald Dayoan [Hawaii]\*; Federico Ilac, Jr. [New Jersey]\*;

(\*appointed)

The members of the Board of Directors were installed by Consul Gen. Ariel Y. Abadilla on August 11, 2007 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Agtakem dagitoy iti kada dua a tawen babaen iti nasional eleksion.

Manamnama a maangay ti sumaruno a Grand Reunion 2009 iti Manila, Philippines babaen iti panang-coordinate no Atty. Edgar Borje (Direktor).

Daytoy ti bassit a lubong a paggargarawami sipud pay idi immaykami iti Hawaii idi Hulio 1971 : [agdama ken napalabas]

Simbaan: St. Paul's Episcopal & Philippine Independent Church – Honolulu; Gumil: Gumil Hawaii, Gumil USA, Gumil Oahu; OFCC Alumni: Sinait National High School Alumni Assn of Hawaii, Divine Word College of Laoag College Alumni Assn of Hawaii, Gunglo ti ili ken probinsia; Annak Ti Sinait Iti Hawaii; Ilocos Surian Assn of Hawaii; Vigan Assn of Hawaii; Isabela Hawaii Assn; Media Group: Tri Media Council, Hawaii Filipino American Media Council, Federation of Filipino American Media Assn of USA & Canada; Lions Club International: Honolulu Fil-Am Lions Club, Leeward Lions Club.

Saanto a maibus ti manok. Adda latta dagiti aggapu iti sabali a lugar. Patiek nga adu latta ti mairanud iti masakbayan. Adunto latta dagiti agluto iti manok kadagiti sumaganan nga aldaw, bulan ken tawen.

Naimbag, nagasat ken nabunga a panag-fund-raisingyo appo.

## DOST prepares to lessen the impact of climate change

From page 1

flood, wildfire and other natural disasters, what of the country like the Philippines?

Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) reported on the national government's preparation and DOST intervention measures being undertaken to minimize the disastrous impact of climate change on the Filipino people.

"Although global warming evidence have been succinctly presented by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it is important that trend assessment of local climate change be done," Secretary Alabastro said.

To help the country ad-

dress climate change, the DOST come up with the following interventions: collection of more data; enhancement of local capabilities; and sharing of resources.

The DOST-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), with its 85 synoptic and agromet stations has been monitoring and gathering data patterns as part of the government's preparation to counter the effects of climate change. Data patterns show that since 1961 to 2003, there has been a decrease of cold days and an increase in the frequency of hot days in the country. The Philippines is also projected to experience stronger tropical cy-

clones, given the country's vulnerability in the climate change affecting the North-western Pacific, the most active tropical basin in the world. Of the total 1,128 tropical cyclones that entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility in the period of 1948-2005, 56 percent reached typhoon intensity.

There are several S & T mitigation measures being pursued by the DOST. One is the R & D on Bio-fuel that involves feedstocks, processing and vehicle - testing. The plausibility of using electric vehicle has already been proven and eventually a hybrid of those vehicles will also be initiated. Also, in coordination with the national and local government units,

improvements in agricultural methods in response to the changing climate are also being studied. The DOST also succeeded in reducing waste and deleterious emissions through its diffusion and implementation of cleaner production and environmental verification technologies. The adoption of energy efficient new technologies, being practiced by the SMEs, reduced the use of fossil fuel-based power sources.

Risk assessment and mapping of areas prone to weather changes and natural hazards has also been started, as part of the adaptation strategies, as well as launching of information campaigns focusing on the community-based early

warning system from the grassroots level to the local chief executives. However, it has yet to improve its seasonal forecasting capability to ensure that agricultural productivity will increase.

The possibility of acquiring Doppler radars came to PAGASA late last year when it has received about P 3 billion worth of foreign grants to help rehabilitate and acquire the equipment needed in accurate observation, flood forecasting and agro-meteorology. Doppler radars are capable of determining the quantity of rainfall of a particular place and PAGASA aims to install 10 of these by 2010. PAGASA has also received about P 500 million worth of grants from the national government.



**SIBOL HOTSPRING.** Maysa daytoy kadagiti kuna ni Gob. DV Savellano a dakkel ti potensialna nga agbalin a tourism destination ti probinsia.

TEKSTO: MANCIELITO S. TACADENA/ LADAWAN: FLOYD PAJAS

## Sibol HotSpring, Aw-asen Falls potensial a tourist spots

DAKKEL ti potensial nga agbalin ti Sibol HotSpring kas tourist destination no madevelop ti lugar. Daytoy ti kinuna ni Ilocos Sur Gob. DV Savellano bayat ti ibibisitana iti pagpampannakkel a disso iti ili a Gregorio del Pilar.

“Ti nakaskasdaaw a kinapudot ti danum ken ti natural a rock formations a Makita iti lugar ti pakaatrakaran dagiti turista. Sabali laeng ti kuna dagiti agindeg a makaagas iti sakit iti kudil ti danum manipud iti hotSpring” kinuna ti gobernador.

Nangyawid pay ni Savellano iti danum manipud ditoy nga ipaeksamenna iticiencia and Technology tapno mapaneknekan no pudno a makaagas daytoy.

Kinuna met ni Mayor Gilbert Ciriaco a madaman a maplanplano ti pannakaipasdek iti swimming pool

iti aglawlaw ti hotSpring a mabalin a pagdigosan dagiti pumasiar a turista kasta metten kadagiti cottages a mabalin a paginanaan ken umianan dagiti maisar-ong. Mangdutok kan pay ti LGU iti guardia a mangkita iti kinadulus ti aglawlaw ti hotSpring.

Nupay kasta, ti kan koma pannakasimpa ti dalan a dumanon iti ilida ti rumbeng a maiyuna tapno nalaklaka a madanon ti lugar.

Kabayatanna, maysa pay ti Aw-asen Falls iti ili a Sigay a dakkel ti potensialna nga agbalin a tourist spot. Kas panangilawlawag ni Bise Mayor simeon waldas, maidilig daytoy iti sikat a Pagsanjan Falls iti Laguna ngem sumagmamano pay laeng a bisita ti nangpadas a mapan iti lugar gapu iti kinarigat ti dalan. Saan met a makalsadaan ti maysa a paset ti dalan a bakras ti bato a bantay isu a ti pannakatikap daytoy

tapno agbalin nga agdan ti kasayaatan nga aramidenda tapno lumaka ti idadanon iti lugar.

Abuten ti ti dua nga oras a pinnagnaan tapno madanon ti nadaeg a baresbes.

Dinawat metten ni Mayor Erlinda Gaerlan ti tulong ti gobierno probinsial tapno madevelop ti Aw-asen Falls a mainayon iti pangawis ti sigay. Iti agdama, ti kinalamiis ti klima a nakaawagan ti lugar kas Summer capital ti Ilocos Sur ti kangrunaan a pakaam-ammuan ti ili kadagiti turista.

“Malaksid iti kinangato ti Sigay, adda ordinansami a maipariti agpuhan iti kayo a para lako a para lako isu siguro nga agtaltalinaed ti nalamiis a klima iti ilimi” kinuna pay ti Mayor. (Manielito S. Tacadena/NBN Vigan)

## Training for new LC SK officers ongoing

BY DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ  
STAFF REPORTER

AFTER THE training and seminar of the new barangay officials in Laoag City, the city Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) is now conducting a similar seminar for newly elected Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials.

City DILG officer Reynaldo Garo said the training is dubbed Integrated Sangguniang Kabataan Organizational Leadership and Reorientation (ISKOLAR) program.

ISKOLAR seeks to develop an entire generation of empowered SK leaders who would act as catalysts for change and development in Philippine society in the future.

Garo added that all SK officials will be trained to develop and enhance their competencies through the provision of technical resources, service and guidance to education, leadership, advocacy and their legislative needs.

The training focuses on the SK officials' skills and knowledge in becoming an effective, efficient and responsive leader; to strengthen their moral values with the four pillars of politics of service namely Maka-Diyos, Maka-Bayan, Maka-Tao and Maka-Kalikasan [Pro-God,

Pro-Country, Pro-People and Pro-Environment]; to assist them in the formulation of a Local Youth Agenda and develop them into becoming self-reliant, dynamic and creative community leaders.

Discussions would center on righteous leadership, national government and its relation to local government, basic information on SK, competencies and general youth issues and concerns.

The SK training and seminars

had been clustered into six and would have two-day sessions each.

According to Garo there would be a total participants of 577 SK chairpersons and kagawads [council members].

The training is staged and managed by the city DILG and the SK Federation of Laoag.

The budget for food of all the participants and resource speakers would be sourced from the participants' respective SK budgets.

## Organic agriculture and certification now pushed

From page 14

bal market is enormous. Dr. Tejada said organically produced products from the Philippines could be globally competitive with those from China, Korea, and India, which are the world's top producers.

However, it would be difficult to attain global competitiveness if some producers of organic fertilizers mix inorganic fertilizers with their organic materials. A system of “policing” the producers of organic fer-

tilizers must be put in place so that the bright prospects would not be derailed.

By the way, let me emphasize again that there is no such thing as organic rice, organic corn, organic fruits, organic sugar, etc. Principles in chemistry are being violated by these terms. For those who are already in the market and are using such labels, they may as well label their products as organically produced rice or something to be honest and appear knowledgeable.

## MVF proposes another RHU at Laoag market

From page 14

for a clinic and pharmacy due to its wide area and location near the mayor's office at the LCCC.

THE ILOCOS TIMES learned that the said area has been vacated some months back with no reason announced.

Mateo, for his part, welcomed the mayor's proposed project saying this would give health services to the people at the LCCC, especially vendors who could not avail of the basic health services provided by the city government at the City Health Office and the other two existing RHUs in the city located at the eastern and western part of the city's poblacion area.

Mateo further stated that the project would be very timely as he said he has received reports that an unidentified person is checking blood pressure (BP) at the market for a fee.

Learning this, Fariñas said the CHO and the RHUs of the city government, including the Department of Public Safety (DPS) paramedics are giving free health services to the people.

The mayor said the BP-check-for-a-fee being done at the LCCC should not be tolerated. He then instructed LCCC personnel to investigate the matter.

Meanwhile, all the barangays in Laoag would soon be served by a Botica ng Barangay through the initiative of Laoag Councilor Sonia B. Siazon.

Siazon has sponsored a resolution requesting the regional Department of Health office for the said project.

This project, according to Siazon, would provide cheaper medicines to the people of Laoag as well as nearer pharmacies to them, especially those who live in the city's rural barangays.

## GAD Center in LC now open

From page 14

Social Welfare and Development Office (CSDWDO) personnel in the center to Laoag Mayor Michael V. Fariñas for them to handle persons that face the cases mentioned earlier.

The shifting schedule was thought of after no specified time was given the city Philippine National Police (PNP) for possible turnover after apprehension.

Holding centers or separate rooms for minors have also been constructed in the GAD Center.

The GAD Center also hosts the Braking Barriers for Children (BBC) organization, which is a joint project of the Katipunan ng Maykapansanan sa Pilipinas, Inc. (Kampi) and the Danish Society of Polio and Accident Victims. The said organization provides free comprehensive rehabilitation services to poor children with disabilities aged 0-14. This project is funded by the Danish International Development Assistance (Danida). Three rooms were provided for BBC.

The BBC has the Stimulation and Therapeutic Activity Center

(STAC), which provides free comprehensive rehabilitation, pre-schoolers special education and stimulation activities.

The STAC serves as an informal venue for socialization for children with disabilities and their families and a training resource for physical and occupational therapy, social work and inclusive education.

Corpuz further mentioned that the GAD Center also has a Capability Building which offers sewing, dressmaking and tailoring classes.

THE ILOCOS TIMES learned that the GAD Center is one of the pet projects of the current Laoag City administration as it way of helping people who are in dire need of assistance.

Meanwhile, Fariñas is hopeful that with the GAD Center, family problems as well as problems concerning minors would all be solved with the help of the BBC and the GAD Assistance Center.

The GAD Center was formally opened on May 19 with Laoag Bishop Sergio L. Utleg blessing the edifice and which was attended by Fariñas and city government officials.

## Brgy fiesta pinangayed ti kaunaan a Patupat Festival

BANAYOYO, Ilocos Sur—Kas panangitandudoda iti produktoda a patupat, inangay ti Brgy. Banbana-al itoy nga ili ti kaunaan a Patupat Festival bayat ti panagfiestada idi Mayo 6. Naipakita ditoy ti kadakkelan ken kaatiddogan a patupat idinto a napili pay tikapintan ken kadalusan ti presentasyonna a patupat. Nangpangayed pay iti parambak ti Patupat Eating Contest a nangipakitaan dagiti agindeg iti laingda a mangan itoy a produktoda.

Segun ken ni Barangay Chairperson Aida Orpilla, napanunotda nga angayen ti Patupat Festival tapno mayam-ammo ti barangayda a banbana-al a paggapuan ti naimas a patuapat.

“Adu ngamin a kameng ti R.I.C. ditoy ti agar-aramid iti patupat ken dagitoy pay ti masansan a pagaramiden ni mayor no adda pasken ti ilimi” kinuna pay ti kapitana.

Sinaludaran met ni Mayor Severino Galanga daytoy nga addang dagiti opisiales ti Bannana-al kagiddan ti panangibagana a maysa daytoy nga “innovation” iti fiesta a rumbeng a tuladen dagiti kabangibanga abarangay ti ili tapno saan la nga agpatinnga iti salsala ti parambakda.

Inkari met ni Ilocos Sur Gob. DV Savellano ti panangitulongna iti product development ken promocion ti patupat. Daytoy ket babaen ti pannakaisuro tapno lalo pay a pumintas ti disenio ken wagas ti pannakaisagana daytoy.

“Dakel ti masakbayan ti produktoda ket sapay koma ta agtultuloy daytoy” innayon pay ni Savellano. (Manielito S. Tacadena/NBN Vigan)

Congratulations on your 11th Anniversary!

# ILOCANDIA COMMUNITY BANK

*May our partnership remain strong  
as we promote sustainable growth and development  
in the countryside especially in the  
agrarian reform and other marginalized  
communities.*

*Sustainable Income for People in Agrarian Grassroots*

National Livelihood Development Corporation  
(NLSF - LIVECOR)



**National Livelihood Development Corporation**

## MESSAGE

On behalf of the National Livelihood Development Corporation, congratulations Ilocandia Community Bank on your 11<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

We laud your institution for its contributions to the creation of livelihood opportunities in the country that has enabled thousands of independent micro and small businesses to thrive.

Through the years, we are very pleased that the organization has remained strong in its commitment to provide quality support services to its clients and members. We are confident that your operations will be continually

enhanced and elevated paving the way for your continued viability and sustainability.

We assure you that we will continue to work with you in delivering the needed development services to our marginalized sectors particularly in the agrarian reform communities (ARCs).

Thank you for your great contributions and support to our efforts.

**GONDELINA G. AMATA**  
President

TO BOOST BASIC HEALTH SERVICES

# MVF proposes another RHU at Laoag market

BY DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ  
STAFF REPORTER

**IN A BID to further boost the basic health services in the city, Laoag Mayor Michael V. Fariñas has proposed the establishment of another Rural Health Unit (RHU) and a botica (pharmacy) at the Laoag City Commercial Complex (LCCC).**

According to the mayor, the RHU and pharmacy would serve all the people at the supermarket whether they are vendors, consumers, employees or anyone else who would wish to avail of the health services provided by the city government.

In a regular staff meeting at the City Hall, Fariñas instructed assistant city engineer Fred Agpaoa and city health office Dr. Renato Mateo to draw up a project design, cost estimate and management staff.

The proposed location for the said project would be at the second floor of the LCCC, near the City Mayor's Office, the area presently has vacant stalls.

Reacting to this, Agpaoa said he would immediately act on the matter as he said the proposed location is good and appropriate

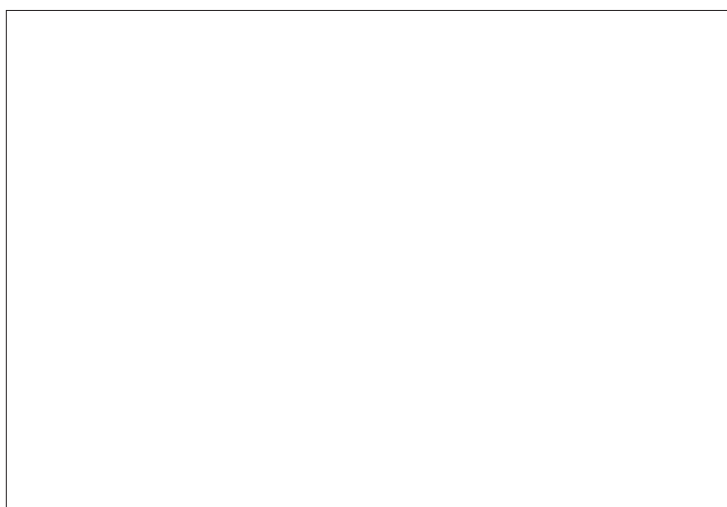
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MAKATI Mayor and Boy Scout Association Executive Pres. Jejomar Binay discusses the Boy Scout movement in Ilocos Norte with Ilocos Norte Gov. Michael Keon during the mayor's visit to the province last week. Keon said they are looking at developing the camp site located at the Dungon-Dungon estate in the northern part of the province for the possibility of hosting a national or even an Asia Pacific Jamboree.

JOEL RAPAGON

## GAD Center in Laoag now open



BY DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ  
STAFF REPORTER

THE LAOAG City government announced that the Gender and Development (GAD) Center in the city is now open and will serve as a crisis center for women facing difficult circumstances, especially sexually abused children and other family-related problems.

The said center is open for both genders regardless of age.

Ms Aurora Corpuz, city social welfare and development officer, said the GAD Center would serve as a temporary shelter for persons that are facing problems which include problems between husbands and wives, problems with children's relationships and others misunderstandings, while they wait for the resolution of their respective problems.

As such, Corpuz said she would propose a shifting duty of City

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## Organic agriculture and certification now pushed

TWO YEARS after Executive Order 481 was signed and declared that it is a national policy to promote organic agriculture nationwide, the Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), now appears to be all out in the promotion of organic agriculture. At the same time, the Organic Alliance of the Philippines has started to train trainers on organic agriculture and certification.

In his speech during a training at UP Los Baños, BSWM Director Silvino Tejada said this sudden shift in agricultural production policy was caused by a number of factors. First, the Green Revolution in the mid-sixties failed to sustain production targets to cope with the rapidly burgeoning population. Secondly, the rising costs of agricultural inputs, primarily inorganic fertilizers and chemical pesticides, exact a heavy burden on our farmers.

He added that for sustainable agricultural development to proceed, the importance of soil ecol-

**HARVEST TIME**  
BY SOSIMO MA.  
PABLICO

ogy must be recognized and production systems must be harmonized with sound environmental principles. Likewise, local resources must be harnessed to save on foreign exchange and "return back to the soil what we got in the first place".

Furthermore, "we contribute to decreased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere" to help "prevent global warming and climate change" by converting rice straw and other agricultural wastes into compost instead of burning them.

Dr. Tejada said, however, that a major bottleneck in organic agriculture is the lack of sufficient farmer knowledge on the hazards of agricultural chemicals on the environment as well as on the farmers. "We count on the support of the private

sector to propagate and disseminate the principles of organic agriculture to our farmers," he said.

He added that there is a need to look back at farming wisdoms that are slowly lost by modern farming methods, and "invigorate them with scientific practices". For instance, composting practices can now be hastened by using decomposition enhancers (like Biosec) or new modalities such as vermiculture.

Dr. Tejada added farmers must be encouraged to go through organic certification to be globally competitive. In other words, their products must be certified to be organically produced to enjoy higher prices in the global market. For one thing, the prices of organically produced products are 20 to 50 percent higher than non-organically produced products.

Secondly, the market for organically produced products consists of the health-conscious, the affluent, and those with a strong concern for the environment. The local market may be limited but the glo-

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