

DA turns over P16M rice processing complex in Piddig



DEPARTMENT of Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala and Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos lead the ceremonial ribbon cutting for the formal turn-over of the P16 million Agri-Pinoy Rice Processing Complex to the farmers' association in Piddig meant to promote agri-business and boost farmers' productivity by taking advantage of the value chain.

LEI ADRIANO

By LEILANIE G. ADRIANO
 STAFF REPORTER

PIDDIG, Ilocos Norte—The Department of Agriculture has formally turned-over a state-of-the-art rice processing complex (RPC) to this town's farmers' association on July 24 with Secretary Proceso Alcala as guest of honor and speaker.

Attended by 48 Zanjera groups with more than 13,000 officers and members in the rice-producing towns of Piddig and Solsona, the DA secretary hopes this will inspire local farmers here to appreciate the help of the government and push for development reforms at the grassroots levels.

Funded by the DA with a counterpart from the Piddig farmers' association, the RPC in Piddig is one of the 28 milling facilities established by the national government in rice-producing provinces entire the country.

Under the program, the DA funded 85 % of the cost of the RPC and the remaining 15% is a counterpart of the beneficiary. As part of the agreement, the program beneficiary must undergo proper training to qualify as recipient of the RPC.

Employing the concept of value chain in managing an agribusiness, the RPC will be manage by a competent farmer-organization here with the local government unit of Piddig, overseeing its operation and management.

For example, instead of selling *palay* products to traders and transporting them to Bulacan, the RPC can directly buy the farmers' produce here and process it for milling and other value-added products to be known as a product of Piddig.

This way, local farmers and producers here will directly benefit from the program instead of middlemen.

Piddig Mayor Eduardo "Eddie" Guillen who is a civil engineer by profession and a businessman him-

self, said that based on the value chain analysis, if *palay* is sold at P18-P20 per kilo to traders, the value chain can be as much as P20 if the same kilo of *palay* is processed for value adding product locally.

In her speech, Ilocos Norte Governor Ma. Imelda "Imee" R. Marcos hopes that the newly-established RPC will work well in Piddig considering extreme weather conditions and occurrence of typhoon greatly affecting the production of farmers here.

"This is a great and historic town of Piddig better known for warfare and for heroism than for agriculture. *Mahirap ang lupa rito. Mas malaki ang bahaging Cordillera at Ilocos Norte mountain ranges kesa sa patag na bukid. Ganun pa man, napakagaling ng ating mga magsasaka rito, ipinagmamalaki natin sila na kahit papaano nakakatiis subali't sila rin ang unang napinsala ng tagtuyot,*" Ms. Marcos said citing Ilocos farmers' current situation which needs to be properly addressed among others.

Responding to the farmers' request for more small water impounding projects, farm inputs and equipment, Mr. Alcala assured Ilocos farmers that they would become the first beneficiaries of at least five solar power pumps to be tested here.

During his dialogue with farmers, Mr. Alcala announced a surprised raffle draw where he also distributed various farm inputs and machineries which include five shallow tube wells, 10 male goats or bucks, two units of rice thresher, three hand tractor and two hand tractor with trailer among others.

Paoay is Most Competitive Municipality in PH

By LEILANIE G. ADRIANO
 STAFF REPORTER

PAOAY, Ilocos Norte—This booming fourth class municipality in Ilocos Norte is this year's most competitive municipality in the country in terms of government efficiency.

Based on the 2015 Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) released by the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) last week, the local government unit of Paoay, the home of the famous Saint Augustine Church, attracting hundreds of tourists daily landed the first spot, for the 3rd to 6th class municipality category.

Cities and municipalities were ranked on three pillars—economic dynamism, government efficiency, and infrastructure. With the objective to accurately rank the locality's competitiveness, LGUs were classified according to four categories: 3rd to 6th Class Municipalities, 1st to 2nd Class Municipalities, Component Cities, and Highly Urbanized Cities.

Among the 978 participating municipalities, Paoay, Ilocos Norte shone in the National Competitiveness Summit.

Paoay Vice Mayor Jessie Galano, in his capacity as acting town mayor, said they are grateful for the award which means their efforts and programs are paying off.

Launched in 2012, Ilocos Norte's tourism brand dubbed as "Paoay Kumakaway (Paoay is waving)", along with the construction of the Paseo De Paoay, a major tourism complex strategically located beside the Paoay church and the introduction of local fiestas, making the sand dunes of Paoay as the center stage has contributed to this town's tourism boom.

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AROUND THE PROVINCE

DPWH says it's ready for rainy season

SAN NICOLAS, Ilocos Norte—The Dept. of Public Works and Highways second engineering district chief Engr. Mathias Malenab announced that his office is 100 percent ready in terms of maintenance crew, equipment and service vehicles this coming rainy season.

Mr. Malenab said all heavy equipment are deployed and ready to respond in cases of emergency.

As of press time, Mr. Malenab said crews are checking on the boundary of San Nicolas and Laoag to monitor any flood incidences caused by heavy monsoon rains in the province.

Mr. Malenab is hopeful that the DPWH national office will also release soon the funding for the road widening project in the said area in order to have a continuity in the flow of water.

For the meantime, the road widening project in the province's second district was temporarily suspended due to the continuous raining.

What is good, Mr. Malenab said, is that all the road widening projects are ahead of scheduled completion based on their performance records.

In addition to this, Mr. Malenab reported that here were no damages caused by the typhoon "Egay".

He said that crews are presently roaming around monitoring the status in all the national highways in the second district. (Dominic B. dela Cruz)

Ilocos town exec surrenders 6 unlicensed firearms

BADOC, Ilocos Norte—The municipal vice mayor of this town has surrendered at least six firearms and several packs of ammos to the Philippine National Police Badoc station here on Tuesday.

P/Chief Insp. Dexter Corpuz, Badoc police chief said Badoc Vice Mayor Thomas Torralba went to municipal station here to voluntarily surrender six of his firearms with expired licenses.

Mr. Corpuz said the surrendered firearms including an M-16 rifle earlier seized by police operatives in his house on June 15, 2015 were part of a search warrant earlier issued by a judge in Pangasinan.

Record shows the former mayor and now the vice mayor of this town after her wife Arlene Torralba assumed as mayor has 11 firearms under his name. All of these have expired licenses.

In a separate interview, P/Sr. Supt. Albert Ocon, acting provincial director of the Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office (INPPO) said the vice mayor is expected to surrender four firearms more.

Mr. Ocon said they have no idea where the vice mayor kept his firearms as they failed to locate these firearms during the search warrant operation earlier conducted in his house at Brgy. Garreta including his farm house in Saud.

Aside from the vice mayor, two of his brothers were also included in the search warrant operation where police recovered about 38 grams of prohibited drugs, 1,590 pieces of assorted live ammos, an M-16 armalite rifle and two 9mm pistols from the Torralba brothers.

To date, the vice mayor is facing charges for illegal possession of firearms after he posted bail worth P180,000 in court. His brother Henry was also at the Ilocos Norte Provincial Jail pending a court hearing of his case on illegal possession of prohibited drugs and firearms. (Leilanie G. Adriano)

SP institutio na lize s youth offic e

By LEILANIE G. ADRIANO
STAFF REPORTER

LAOAG CITY—Following a year of volunteerism and engaging their fellow youth to make their presence felt in the entire province of Ilocos Norte, the SIRIB Youth Office (SYO), launched in 2014 to carry out youth-oriented programs under the Office of the Governor, is now a permanent department of the provincial government.

Certified as urgent by Ilocos Norte Governor Ma. Imelda "Imee" R. Marcos, members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan unanimously approved the ordinance establishing the SYO of the provincial government of Ilocos Norte, defining its functions and appropriating funds and for other purposes. The SYO shall be headed by an executive director duly appointed by the governor.

At present, the SYO which is currently housed at the Ferdinand E. Marcos Sports Stadium in this city spearheads the SIRIB Express program of the provincial government with an initial budget allocation of P7.5 million in 2014.

The SIRIB Express is an exclusive youth-oriented program of the provincial government. It aims to engage the youth aged 15 to 29 years old and help the provincial government in its effort to empower the youth sector and harness their potential in nation building.

"Sirib" is an Iluko term which means knowledge. The SIRIB express is meant for youth education development in the province through the establishment of its own programs to assess the

needs and create opportunities for out-of-school youths, indigents and job-seeking graduates.

Also, the creation of SIRIB Express was an offshoot of the "Capitol Express", a roving one-stop shop in support of the province's localized Millennium Development Goals program, which aims to bring in government frontline services closer to the grassroots levels.

James Caesar Ventura, president of SIKa (Sirib Ilokano Kabataan Association), a non-government Ilocano youth organization with at least 5,000 active members said the institutionalization of the SYO is a welcome development to the Ilocano youth composed of 26 percent of the total Ilocos Norte population.

According to Mr. Ventura, the youth must be prepared to take responsibility of the province, contribute to its growth and be involved in its governance.

Mr. Ventura said "this can only be achieved if we have empowered and enabled youth in our province. With the implementation of the SIRIB Express program and the establishment of the SYO through Executive

Order 226-14, we have seen how the Ilocano youth have become active, selfless and self-steering partners of the provincial government, volunteering their time and effort in government programs and services.

In times of natural disaster such as the disturbance created by tropical storm "Egay", Mr. Ventura said SIRIB youth volunteers are actively monitoring the situation, helping disseminate storm warning signal and providing safety precautions to Ilocos Norte residents via SMS and in social media.

With the passage of the said ordinance, Mr. Ventura added the SIRIB express program and other youth activities will be sustained while ensuring and strengthening the idealism, active engagement and youth volunteerism of the Ilocano youth.

Considering the youth's huge population, the governor reiterated, "Their (youth) energy is what we need if we want to fast track our development in the province. They are the future. We need to train them and turn them as 'best partners' on mobilizing development programs in Ilocos Norte".

Batac eyes legislative award anew

By DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ
STAFF REPORTER

BATAAC CITY—The Sangguniang Panlungsod here is again eyeing the Local Legislative Awards for 2015 after winning the said award twice—in 2009 and in 2012.

The said award is initiated by the Philippine Councilors' League (PCL) in partnership with the Dept. of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

In their two previous wins, Batac won over Laoag City under the component city category but was unable to advance to the national level search both times.

Relative to this, Batac Vice Mayor and council presiding officer Ronald Allan M. Nalupta said his office is ready for the province-wide evaluation as they already received an information from the DILG about the evaluation.

Mr. Nalupta said that this time, they are more prepared considering their experiences in the past two evaluations made as they are hoping to win the title again.

He also expressed hopes that the evaluation would not be affected by the alleged copied ordinances as well as the "killing" of resolutions and measures presented to the council.

"Lalo ket iti numero uno a kitikitaen da ditoy, appo, ket diay numero uno met a responsibilities iti Sanggunian to legislate laws. Datayo a ket nakasagana tayo meten whatever will be the outcome of the evaluation and we will accept win or lose, appo," Mr. Nalupta said.

Batac City DILG officer Janet Duarte said she already coordinated and discussed with the Sanggunian, headed by the presiding officer as well as the council secretary regarding the criteria of the search.

As the city DILG officer, she promised to assist the Sanggunian and recommend if there are any need for additional documents, information and innovations.

She said that the province-wide evaluation was set on August to September this year.

Laoag City councilor Joseph Tamayo, majority floor leader of the Laoag council, meanwhile said they are still preparing for the evaluation to give a better presentation.

Mr. Tamayo hopes that there should be no "favoritism" this time though he admitted that Batac has a better performance in terms of legislation.

"Ngem napinpintas met iti measures mi ngem isuda ken naannayas pay iti panang-conduct mi iti session ta awan dagitay agga-apa kada agsisinnungbat", Mr. Tamayo said.

Mr. Tamayo believes there was "favoritism" before because the chairman of the committee was DILG provincial director Roger Daquioag who was once a city DILG officer in Batac but he hopes there would be a balanced and fair evaluation treatment this time.

Mr. Tamayo recommended to all the members of the city council to participate during the evaluation with respect to their respective areas of concern if there might be questions or queries the evaluators need.

Laoag councilor Franklin Dante Respicio, who chairs the committee on laws, also announced that all members of the city council together with the council secretary are ready to sit down and discuss the search.

Reacting to this, acting provincial DILG officer Roger Daquioag denied the favoritism issue emphasizing that the result was based on the assessments and criteria set by the DILG on the different areas of

concern with corresponding points.

Mr. Daquioag said that after the assessment, an exit conference will be conducted and he singled out that it is not only him who decides the winner.

Record shows that the chairman of the committee is the provincial director and is joined by the PCL provincial federation president, the provincial agriculturist, provincial social welfare and development officer, provincial budget officer, provincial environment and natural resources officer and a PCCI representative as members.

Mr. Daquioag said discussions or exchange of ideas that even resulted to misunderstanding of measures being presented between the members of the city council does not affect the evaluation because it is a part of the deliberation as members of the august body and not a part of the criteria.

He stressed that the evaluation is purely based on documents.

He also said that "killing" of resolutions or ordinance has no effect in the evaluation though the criteria includes as to how many ordinances and resolutions are approved and how they benefit the people based on the five areas of concern.

The award recognizes the exemplary performance of sanggunians particularly the cities and municipalities for legislating measures that help build the foundation of meaningful local administration and development and the competition runs from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015.

The competition aims to highlight innovations and excellence in the legislative process with the end view inspiring other local legislatures to perform better and to institutionalize a system of recognition of the legislative body for exemplary performance.

Paoay is Most Competitive Municipality in PH

From page 1

The Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index is a program meant to encourage local government units to gather and voluntarily submit data which are used to measure their performance on three pillars anchored on global standards: economic dynamism, government efficiency, and infrastructure.

The data submitted by the lo-

cal government units, through the assistance of a partner academe and the Regional Competitiveness Committees, is used for the final scoring and ranking.

This program is conducted by the NCC, aligned with the goal to improve the country's overall competitiveness, through collaborative efforts between the national and local government agencies, and the public and private sectors.

ATTENTION

WHOLESALE AND RETAILERS!

Ilegal iti gumatang iti kaha iti sigarilyo nga awan iti selyo na nga aggapu iti uray sinno nga agararamid ken aglalako!

Selyo = Nabayadan nga Buwis

Amin nga kaha iti sigarilyo ket masapul nga adda selyo na manipud Abril 1, 2015 kas annureten iti regulasyon iti BIR no. 7-2014



Nababa nga buwis ti sigarilyo



Nangato nga buwis ti sigarilyo



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* Iti selyo a naikabil ket para iti lokal nga naaramid nga sigarilyo laeng.

** Iti pak-daar para iti salun-at iti pakete iti sigarilyo ket nakasaad iti bangir a parte iti kaha.

Daytoy a pakaammo ket binayadan iti PMFTC Inc.

Good from evil, evil from good

(The following is an article written by Fr. Roy Cimagala)
THE twists and turns of life today have been such that we can derive good from evil, and vice-versa, evil from good. We have to learn how to properly deal with this peculiar phenomenon so that we can manage to reach our ultimate goal without getting lost along the way.

We can derive good from evil because God will always be around, providing us with all the grace that we need, as well as his eternal mercy and compassion when we happen to be downed by our weaknesses, the temptations and trials around, and sin itself. There is nothing impossible with God. He can take on any evil and nullify it.

Editorial

And we can also fall into an evil state in spite of the many good things around precisely because we can dare to separate ourselves from God and just make use of the many good things today, like the new technologies, without him. Sooner or later, these good things will just spoil us and lead us into evil.

A more serious case is when we can be endowed with good if not superior intellectual and spiritual powers but fail to refer them to God. Our goodness, superiority and righteousness could occasion pride, vanity and self-righteousness. This is the classic example of how evil can be derived from good.

The crucial point in this issue is that we should try our best to be with God always, something that we have to work out day in and day out. Our petition to God should be something to the effect that we feel a sharp pain right in our flesh, like a wound freshly inflicted, once we distance ourselves from God.

God's patience is infinite. And so, we should never despair whenever we fall into some immoral predicament that may seem persistent. These days, for example, when we cannot but be affected by all sorts of sweet poisons like consumerism, materialism, hedonism, technologism, etc., we should see to it that we get hold of at least a shred of hope in God's mercy and compassion.

We all know that our best intentions and best efforts would not be enough to confront the daily onslaught of these sweet poisons and blinding false lights. To dominate these things which usually have a possible double effect, we need to pass by a learning curve, and so we cannot avoid committing some mistakes, big and small.

Especially in the beginning of the process of mastering the many new things that can have dual effects on us, we cannot avoid dirtying ourselves from time to time. And even if we may already achieve a certain level of dominion over them, the danger of falling can still take place. And in fact, the falls in this stage is graver and more painful than those in the beginning stage.

And yet we should never lose hope. Somehow, even if we hate sin and do our best to avoid falling, God allows these falls to take place to give us a more intimate knowledge of our weakness and of God's ever powerful mercy.

The temptations and falls can still be useful since they can serve to enrich and deepen our knowledge of things in general, something that we may miss if we have not been tempted and have not tasted the bitterness of our falls and the precious lessons they can give.

That's why saints have also been sinners. We can cite the example of St. Mary Magdalene whose deep contrition and love for Christ sprang from her grievous sins. And big sinners have also become big lovers of God, as in the case of St. Augustine.

It would seem that while it's true that the corruption of the best is the worst, the reverse can also be said—the redemption of the worst is the best. This is a thought that should come to our mind whenever we happen to fall into some grave sin. There's always hope. God is willing to forgive and to give us more than we deserve.

Let's be a Mary Magdalene or an Augustine, or a Peter or the prodigal son, the lost coin, the lost sheep. Let's make our sinfulness a powerful motive to go back to God. Let us live out those words of St. Paul that it is when he is weak that he is strong. Let's fill ourselves with the conviction, based again on St. Paul's words, that where sin has abounded, God's grace has abounded even more.

Let's learn to derive good from evil, and to avoid turning good into evil.



My Facebook, my politics (Or why I chose to work for government)

TOO OFTEN I see posts on Facebook 'unraveling' how the youth today are not engaged or just swiping their phone screens and drooling at their laptop, posting about every minute aspect of their lives "like delusional movie stars and supermodels!" That is followed by the three-hour "Noong panahon namin, mas ok kasi..." I seriously don't want to get into the fray of who's the better generation and who's not. We often fall into the trap of looking at the past through rose-colored windows and demanding that the next generation should meet predetermined expectations. But the observation that only a handful of my generation are interested in politics and governance needs critical analysis.

As one article I've read before would put it, "It's not that we don't want to participate nor are we too lazy to think about social issues, maybe we are just overwhelmed." In the face of the complexities of modern life and the crisis we see in our society and in the world, I find that idea rather true. Maybe we are at a loss for words or solutions for all this bedlam.

But maybe, the judgment of "apathy" is wrong altogether. Maybe my generation is trying to experiment and discover new ways to engage. After all we witnessed the "Occupy Movement", the "Arab Spring" and stories of the young going around the world helping remote villages. Inasmuch as there are news of collapse and destruction, maybe the young of today are not "dumber" nor "lazier" than those before them; maybe we want to create and explore alternatives. Maybe we're at a point where we are stuck with solutions concocted before us that don't work or too obsolete to use under modern circumstances. Just imagine being born in the world and being given the daunting task of averting global warming! Enduring the blunders and oddities of modern life and facing a world where the advertisements never really fulfill their promises and dreams are being sold at every street corner, we get very suspicious.

Facebook has all the tell-tale signs. It is, by a far cry, an interactive and more "emotional" platform

Generation Z

JUNE ARVIN C.
GUDOY



words like "governance", "public welfare" and "politics"? Why would I work in government? What the heck?

Five years ago, I made the decision to come back to my province and work for the government. From working in a

for anything under and above the sun. McLuhan's global village has become more real than ever. The "selfie" has also become an everyday requirement. A friend of mine told me one time "Hindi kaya propaganda ang mga feel good quotes at mga 'better life' at 'health is wealth' na yan?" Maybe so (we were drunk), but it's consensual propaganda. They give us what we want to see and what we want to believe. We are told that media in all its forms can be one way of letting the individual escape from the rigor, worries and uncertainties of everyday life. There's a tendency for us to isolate ourselves from the worries of everyday living and from the ramshackle state of society. What vaudeville and circus did for the early part of the 20th century, Facebook and Instagram are doing the same for our time. However, I beg to say that this time is really more interesting as we see the clowns undressed and exposed 24/7 livestreaming, on 15 seconder clips, weird "velpies" and candid pictures on social media. Now, the clowns have no make-ups and the emperor is indeed naked. In a world where everything can go wrong and everything can fail with one Facebook post or one terrible upload on Instagram, it gets pretty exciting and disconcerting at the same time.

Growing up watching Britney Spears and N'Sync and waking up every morning today to Miley Cyrus and Justin Bieber, boy, IT IS traumatic. Why was my generation not as cool as the Hippies? Why were those people with flowers on their hair prancing around like there's no tomorrow? What were they fighting for to make them crazy enough to risk fighting with the police and spending much of their time in jail? Why are we obsessed with cat pictures, run-for-whatever and ways to cut nasal hair? I mean seriously, if you asked me back then, why would I be interested in big

BPO company, with a hefty salary and partying every weekend in Baguio, I chose to come back and work for the local government unit. Back then I didn't realize the consequences of my actions. My family was never political. I was never a student leader nor was I actively involved in school politics. I was a well-known bum back in college, enjoying the heyday of War Craft, Age of Empires and Max Payne (those glorious years of my life). Why I decided to come back remains, for me, still a mystery to this day. I was a college instructor for two years and I thought perhaps working in government perhaps is the real-life application of what I'd been preaching to my students inside the four walls of my classroom. But it wasn't easy. I wanted to write my resignation letter during my first week in government. It was career suicide.

In the dictum of my Facebook and Instagram feeds, in order to have a well-rounded life, you need to stay away as much as you can from serious political issues, only comment when you have to and end the story right there. In social media, there is no problem that cannot be cured by a fun run, a nice cupcake, the latest showbiz intrigue and the ever potent retail fix upload. Participation in government has become a staple game for the old guards and "politics" has become synonymous with greed for power and suspiciously amassing wealth for oneself. Governance, for others, has become a farce that people love to watch on TV or read on online newspapers with our interests set keenly on what's the next secret to be revealed and who's the next politician due for the gallows of public opinion. Showbiz is now political. Showbiz has now become personal. Politics has been reduced to spectator sports, where we raise our voice in front of our laptop and rant on our posts and not hoping it can

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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 Ilocos abroad.

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The need for spiritual direction

WE ALL NEED to have spiritual direction. We have to allow the intricate workings of our spiritual life, which has to contend with all sorts of things in life, to be guided by somebody else, because though we are the ones who make the final decisions and choices, we all need to be enlightened, guided, suggested, even corrected.

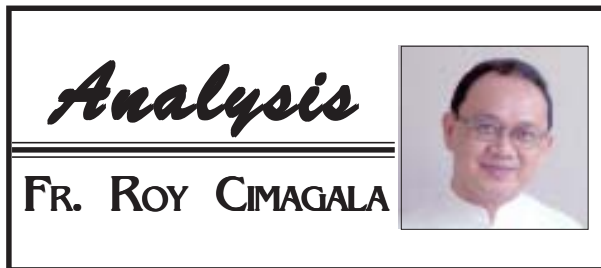
Yes, we need spiritual direction because we have to explore our spiritual and apostolic possibilities, map out our plans for spiritual growth, expose and cultivate our hidden potentials, develop virtues and enliven our piety, not to mention, make strategies for our ascetical struggles.

This is part of the social character of our life. We do not live by our lonesome. Neither do we grow and develop toward maturity and fulfillment just by ourselves. We always need others—parents, teachers, friends, and those whom we allow to enter into the intimate world of our spiritual life.

We should never think that we can by ourselves direct our lives properly, that is, to direct ourselves to our ultimate supernatural goal. We are not engaged in some earthly destination only.

We need to open up to those who can guide us spiritually, letting ourselves be known as much as possible, just like a person consulting his doctor even though he has no particular complaint to make. We just want to make sure that we are in the right direction.

Besides, spiritual direction will help us to live humility, simplicity and sincerity, which are basic and indispensable virtues we need if we want to live our life properly. Much of the problems we have at present are due precisely to the absence of



these virtues.

We need to have an open attitude, because even if there's such a thing as a proper sense of privacy, it does not mean that we can just go on with our life solely depending on our estimation of things. We should explode the myth that our sense of privacy and openness in spiritual direction are two incompatible things.

Of course, our spiritual director should be someone we can trust, someone we can confide in, first of all because of his or her competence and authority, plus the other human elements that would facilitate our opening up with him. In short, there is friendship.

Let's remember that our life is always a complicated life that has to grapple not only with the normal stages of development but also the many issues brought about by the different aspects of our life—our emotional and psychological self, our family and professional life, and the social, cultural, political, historical environment we live in, etc.

Especially these days when the temper of the times and the pace of world development speak of an ever-increasing number of issues to tackle, we should feel the more urgently the need for spiritual direction.

We should try our best to be transparent and, in fact, to be brutally sincere especially when we find

ourselves in some vicious predicament. This we can do if we consider spiritual direction not merely as some psychological exercise, but precisely as a spiritual exercise, based on our faith and love for God.

We have to remind ourselves that in spiritual direction, the main protagonist is, more than us and our spiritual director, the Holy Spirit. This is crucial, because without this awareness, our spiritual direction can degenerate into something merely human, with hardly any spiritual, let alone, supernatural value.

Without that awareness, our spiritual direction cannot be properly called spiritual direction, and it can be dangerous. We would be at the mercy of merely human and worldly conditionings.

Let's always remember that the Holy Spirit is always intervening in our lives. Though his promptings can be conveyed in many ways, one very important way is precisely through spiritual direction, where we make a conscious effort to prepare ourselves for it.

That's why both the spiritual director and the directee should bring things to their prayer, considering them in the presence of God and trying to discern what the Holy Spirit is trying to show them.

Our trust in our spiritual director should be such that we can say things as they are, calling a spade a spade, without embroidering them. We should allow the spiritual director to probe our spiritual life as much as he wants, even trying to see the deeper motives behind our thoughts, words and deeds, so that the appropriate piece of advice can be given.

If both director and directee do things well, we can expect to reap a lot of spiritual benefits.

New development financing framework must take into account emerging global challenges and be risk-informed

ADDISABABA, Ethiopia—The new financing framework due to be agreed at Addis Ababa for the universal post-2015 development agenda needs to be bold and transformative in supporting countries to tackle the challenges of eradicating poverty, environmental degradation, vulnerability to natural hazards, and protracted conflicts, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark, said.

"All sources of finance, public and private, domestic and international are needed," Helen Clark said, at the plenary of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. "We must ensure that all countries, and in particular the poorest and most vulnerable, are able to access the financing opportunities which are available."

The four-day meeting brings together Heads of State and Government, ministers, and representatives from civil society and business. It follows two previous financing for development conferences in Monterrey, Mexico (2002), and Doha, Qatar (2008), which promoted international co-operation on financing for development across aid, trade, debt relief, and international private finance.

In her remarks, Helen Clark stated that Official Development Assistance (ODA) will remain essential for many

countries, such as Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States and others in special development situations, adding that one source of development finance should not substitute for another.

"The challenge is to ensure that different sources of finance complement and reinforce each other," said Helen Clark. "We need ODA to have more catalytic impact, including through support for building the capacity to access a wide range of financing instruments, including climate finance."

She added that ODA can also be catalytic in strengthening domestic resource mobilization, and that capacities for inclusive growth and development need to be built within governments at all levels, and in public institutions and legal and regulatory frameworks.

Noting the reversal of development gains in some West African countries due the recent Ebola outbreak, Helen Clark emphasized the need to invest in building human capital, as rising levels of education, skills, and health status are the backbone of development.

She also called for focus on sectors which will generate decent work and create the virtuous cycle of rising incomes which boosts demand and rates of savings to finance fur-

ther investments.

"The financing needs to meet internationally-agreed development goals and national aspirations are great. Yet our world has more wealth, more knowledge, and more technologies at its disposal than ever before," said Helen Clark, who also chairs the UN Development Group, that consists of the heads of all UN funds, programmes and departments working on development issues.

"Enabling all countries to access these drivers of development has to be at the heart of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and realizing the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals to protect our planet and to leave no one behind."

She reiterated UNDP's dedication to supporting national partners to build the capacities they need to access finance, strengthen domestic resource mobilization, and advance inclusive and sustainable development.

The Third International Conference on Financing for Development is one of four major development-related UN processes occurring this year, from that on disaster risk reduction in Sendai, Japan in March, to the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals in September in New York, USA, and the climate change conference in Paris, France where a new global climate agreement is due to be reached. (UNDP)

My Facebook, my politics

From page 4

change anything, rather we want our voice to be heard ('post to be read and liked')

Now, I can perhaps naively suggest that poverty is a pressing issue that severe unemployment and irresponsible planning are putting peoples' lives into jeopardy and we are unconsciously putting them in situations where they cannot fully develop themselves. And even if they try it will be very difficult to live in a place where people still talk about "empowerment" as the name of the game rather than "enabling" people to support and grow on their own. The touchstone for good governance, I believe, is not only making it less constraining for people, but making government more relevant for them in times of dire need. It is more important to "enable" people in order to create check and balance and promote social justice. You do not "empower" the youth for they have all the power they need. You can only "enable" them.

The reality, I learned, is complicated; selfish policies and careless planning are behind the magnified disasters that we see on TV and on the faces of crying kids we share on Facebook. Often, the 1 million "likes" and "comments" will not give the kid food or an education, though some are lucky to get help from people who really care. For some, becoming vigilant and making sure services are delivered is important and for others giving contributions can be one way of helping. Three years in the field and I learned that it is not simply the basic formula of giving and helping. Planning and strategy is everything. Ultimately, failures and challenges will surface and will test the spirit. One ill-advised decision can mean wasted public resources and compromising the future of an entire neighborhood.

In governance, it is crucial to ensure transparency and accountability. Corruption thrives in a society where people are oblivious on how government works. For the people to believe in the policies you are trying to implement, they have to know you and believe you first. Everything is indeed personal. Trust is very important for a people who have been promised heaven and earth in the last four elections.

And some ask, how do we get this generation to vote much less become vigilant about social issues? I guess the question is phrased the wrong way because it assumes that "we" are not participating. Most of us are. A better question would be "How to get more of the youth involved?"

The young needs to be reminded of their history though not the same way some of our teachers did when we were young. Back then, we were forced to memorize the names of our heroes and the details of their personal lives, but rather we need to focus on reminding the young what made these ordinary people "heroes" in the first place. We need examples of heroism, not in the battlefield or during a bloody revolution, but examples on how a handful of determined people, armed with an acute sense of the past, changed the tides of history. We need to be conscious of history lessons, considering that we live in a country "... whose troubled history teaches compassion, hope, of hopes thwarted, perseverance, of human frailty, humor, irony, humility and pride." We need down to earth believable lessons rather than the pomp of grand historical gestures. We don't need the past's conception of "heroes" at this point. What we need are people who can inspire others to be their own heroes, in this grand parade of human frivolity called history.

Hearing the stories of young volunteers who are using their free time to help government deliver basic services, talking to out-of-school youth coming home from distributing government newspapers in the remote towns of the province and listening to students sharing their stories from the field gave me the inspiration I need to push myself to work more. I spend some of my time just sitting down with them sharing jokes and serious conversations on social and political concerns. Indeed, making the young part of the search for solutions gives them the dignity they deserve. It is their encounter with the community that radically changes their perspective.

It is indeed a long way before we can say that we finally have the government that we deserve. Beneath the OOTD's and the hashtags are young people who are thinking of improving (perhaps revolutionizing) the castles of despair they read and watch in the net. What you see on Facebook and Instagram are somewhat superficial, often an idealized world where we are given control about everything. You might not see most of us on the streets, in the rallies or seldom post anything political but most of us are aware and deeply care about our society. We are not saying we will get this thing right, right away and that we will be better at everything we do. After careful thought, we will tell you that we also desire a better world. There is a Utopia inside of us which refuses to die. The people who post about their last dinner, the quirky habits of their pets, the last event they attended, their upcoming trip and what they feel today—they are my friends, my high school batch mates, my workmates, my generation—the people I see and talk to everyday. They care.

Working with young government employees and youth volunteers in the field has also taught me one thing—do not deliver a lecture. We hate being told and preached at. We are tired of ivory tower intellectuals whose last names are a challenge to pronounce. We appreciate it more if you show us how it is done and why something doesn't work because that's when we learn and improve ourselves—by acquiring knowledge through experience. You can lecture for a day and we can fake listening. You can buy all the ad time and perhaps put up personalized ads on our newsfeed everyday but nothing beats learning by doing. Being on the field with barangay ranger officers and barangay health workers, talking to them and asking their sentiments would give you a better story. A story that is more honest and more personal.

In the end, government will not make you rich. Public service demands a lot and it will make you poor eventually—if you do it right. You become a victim of "abonation"—paying out of your pocket for emergencies and not expecting the government to pay you back. Teachers say teaching is "sacrifice", then government service should be the ultimate sacrifice. It is a vocation you cannot fake. You stay in government because of a vision greater than yourself and not because you want to enjoy the comforts of idleness and job security. You don't get paid for overtime and more is demanded of you beyond the job descriptions in the civil service forms you filled out.

As a young government officer, I realized that the best way to make sure citizens know the value of what you are doing is to make them be a part of it. You listen to their suggestions and then decide as a group on the best way to implement a task. As more people get involved in a project, the more they see its value and thereafter pass the story to the people they know. What is important is what we "share" and not what we just "like".

(To be concluded)

Dadapilan ken siak iti kinaagtutubo

KASLA NAGBIAG ti napalabas ken ti kinaagtutubok iti nasarakak a ladawan ti dadapilan iti BAMBOO Ylocos ni Ilocos Sur Bise Gobernador DV Savellano.

Ladawan ti dadapilan, ti nuang, ti tao, ti unas, ti bariles.

Gapu itoy, inspiradoak a nanglukib ti napalabas ti kinaubingko. Ti dadapilan ti

ladawan ti panagubing ken panag-dakkeltayo sakbay a nagtanyak-taktayo a kas iti narukatan a tumaytayab iti tangatang t a p n o biroken ti

kaibatogan a lubong.

Dakkel ti kaipapanan ti dadapilan iti biagko, iti pudno a biag ti maysa nga ubing, anak ti manalon, anak ti dua ti akemna nga ama-ina gapu iti ipupusay ti nasapa ti inak ta agtawenak la idi iti 12.

Ibilangko ti bagik a maysa a ‘tawataw’ ken kallautang gapu ta siak, siak mismo ti nangpanaw ti lugarko saan a gapu iti kita ti biag ngem tapno padasen a sapulen ti sabali a kaibatogan. It portray my real life when I was in Tapao in the 50’s, 60’s before I left Tapao in 1966 as a ‘tawataw’ in Manila, then I came to Hawaii in July 1971

Daytoy a one-eyed jack nuang, bakkuko a tangbaw ti dadapilan, ti agassawa a bukel ti dadapilan a pagdingpil ti unas. Kastoy a buya ti nagubingak nga aramid iti Tapao, Sinait. Saan a makaadayo daytoy a nuang nupay awan ti patinggana a magmagna nga aglawlawlaw iti sirkulo ti dadapilan nga agpespespes iti tubbog ti unas a mabalin nga aramiden a basi, wenna tagapulot. Daya kayo ti unay a madingpil iti mamin-ano daras nga umusok-usok ket agbalin nga usang, ti usang no magango ken mayangyanan, mausar a pagaron ken pagluto iti bennal wenna tagapulot. Daya ubing simbolona ti panangrugi nga agbiag, masursurona ti agbiag iti aglawlawlaw a nuang a mangpaguddog iti dadapilan—ditoy ti lubong iti panagubing, namsek iti sursuro ken pannakatenneb nga agbiag kas kadagiti marim-it ken mapespespes a ninayon ti unas

Kadagiti nasapa a parbangon nga aguddog ti dadapilan, dagiti naladaw a sardam.

Naisuratko ti sarindaniw: Urat iti daniw; dagiti panagbirok Amado I. Yoro Pedro Bucaneg Awardee 2002 1 1 / 0 3 / 2 0 0 8

Urat iti daniw

Amado I. Yoro
Historic Ewa Villages, Hawaii

Agpang Uno- Ti puon ti ramut namsek latta dagiti balikas a nainaw idiy Tapao; nabig latta nadarisay nga ayat natenneb, wen ti daniw nadarisay iti birtud ti inayrayay ti raya a mangsiray puso nga agayat sibibiag ti daniw a nasangal idiy Kalye Bagumbayan, Laoag City ti birtud ti pul-oy naamoda a dumges a mangdayyeng ti isip nga agayat

Agpang dos- ti panagbirok addan dagiti ramutda iti Fernandez Village Ewa Dagiti birtud ti arbis Nasam-itda a mangdenggep uray nauneg a sennaay: panagbirok ti kinaasino....

Wen, birbrokek pay la ti kinaasinok

ket tangadek latta ti langit Wen ti langit, Yanna ti init, Yanna ti gagan-ayan Yanna itan ti Southern Cross ken ti Big Dipper.

[Adda dagitoy: Ti lawwalawwa: aglaglag-oy iti sanga ti kayanga; Ti kulibangbang agkunkunnot ti banglo dagiti sabong; Ti linnaaw naikorona iti

Paradise
Page

AMADO I. YORO



karuotan.

Uray ti pudot Ti inayrayay ti landok kadagiti konstraksion; Uray iti sensilio ken pedaso ti doliar masukansukat ti ima; A mangiggem kaibatogan ti presio ti biag ken nagling-etan.]

Agpang tres—Pannakigasangasat Matnag latta ti lua ken ling-et iti daga ti arbis matnagda met nga agtedted ta siboganna ti mula, maipasngay dagiti umuna

ken maudi nga apit iti kalgaw dagiti umay-pumanaw a panagani bunga ti daga linuom ti ayat-kaasi ken bara ti dungngo

Agpang kuatro – Panagsirmata Agburayok ti isem; ti iliw kenka ammok ta tangkal

ti uppat a sulit agbariw-aska ngarud takuaten ti kinaasino iti labes ti mangliwengliweng a taaw iti sabali a sentenario

Ti biag ammok nga aguni met dagiti saltak

Sagpaminsan nga agpadlawda ti napalabas

Taliawem ti inam a daga agur-urayto latta

Toy bamboo and cogon hut ken dagidagi a way

Lussoken ti tangatang a mangbirok ti ladawam

Ti birtud ti musika nasamsam-it pay daytoy ti rosas

Agtalinaed latta iti ima a mangyawat ti rosas

Kadagiti kaipapanan ti sentenario ti panagbirok

Maipasngayto ti maysa a Moses iti Kailokuan..

No maminsan, maysa met nga kita ti unas ti tao—dumakkel, madapil, mapespes, matenneb, mausang, adu a wagas ti

panagserbina iti bukodna a lubong, iti bukodna a komunidad, iti bukodna apagsiriban, talento ken pangipaayan iti bukodna a panagserbi a tumulong iti padana.

Maysaak met nga unas a maimula, dumakkel ken madingpil iti rigat. Maysaak met a nuang a naapput ti matana nga aglawlawlaw.

Maysaak met a dadapilan. Maysaak met nga usang, Adda panawen ti amin a pannakayanak, iti pannakatubay, iti pannakausar, iti panawen a kasapulan, iti panawen iti panagbiag ti tao. Kas iti dadapilan a natubay, naturno, naikkan iti wagas a panagserbi, kasta met ti tao a masukog, matubay ken masubok iti ania man a kita ti pannakasuotna iti panagbiag.

IDI NOBIEMBRE 2012, a naikkanak ti gundaway a nagbakasion kalpasan iti dandani kinse a tawen iti kaudian a bakasionko idi 1997, Awanen ti pagilasinan ti daan a dadapilan.

Awanen ti anawang. Adda pay met ketdi a nabati ti dua a dadakkel nga akasia [algarroba] kadagiti lima a kapuon idi pumanawak iti Tapao kadagiti panawen ti 1966 a panagbariw-as. Kalkalpas idi ti



MESA a dadapilan idiy Ilocos Sur.

panagraduarko iti sekundaria kas maysa kadagiti adda iti umuna a sangapulo a graduates, ditoyak nga eskuela a nagbalin a Battalion Adjutant.

Malagipko nga impakadak ken ni tatang: Dawatek ti pammalubosmo, Ama, bay-annak a pumanaw ta sapulek ti kaibatogak a lubong. No agsubliak, siakto laeng ti anakmo a nakasarak ti bassit a balligina, ket no saanakon nga agsubli, mabalin man a napaayak wenna diak nasapulan ti birbrokek. “Papanam ngarud,” dinamag ti amak.

“Uray sadinon, tatang. Makaamo ditan. Iturongnakto ti gasat iti nalawa a ciudad”, insungbatko.

Ket dita a nakigasangasatak. Nagalla-allaak. Nakipagyanak iti pangamaek iti buniag iti Libertad Pasay City ta isu ti maysa kadagiti mangimaton iti furniture factory nga ipatpataray ti kayongna nga insik. Tapno awan ti makunada kaniak, tumulongak met iti ania man a maaramidko: agdalus, agbarnis. Umanayen a pagiddaak ti nagsusukot a tabla a maaramid a tugaw, lamisaan. No manganen ni pangamaek, manganak metten.

Nasarakak ti kasinsinko a Diego iti sidiran ti Chinese Cemetery iti Tabunting, Binondo, Manila ket dita a nakipagyanak iti barongbarong.

Tugpatugpa a diding. Gapu ta adda met pamilianan, awan ti pagyanak iti uneg, ngarud,

nangaramidkami iti bassit a kuarto iti sidiran. Umanay la a pagiddaak.

Malem kadagiti kaarrubami ti agrabaho iti sementerio ken isu ti pannakapatasda. Naammuan ni kasinsin Diego nga agbirbrokek ta temporario a trabahador a mangsukat iti kaawan ti agnagan iti Genaro Guzman ta nagbakasion kano idiy probinsiada a Cagayan.

Naigasatak ta innaladak a mangisuno iti Genaro Guzman. Daya ti nausar a naganko iti payroll. Tallo a pisos ken limapulot sentabos ti maysa nga aldaw. Naanusak ti turkias a tarong nga adda itlogna ken nakelnat ken nabugguongan a balangeg. Iti komposanto, dakami ti agkurob, agkakkab, agkali iti tanem. Ling-et a kasta unay. No agsirena ti pangngaldaw, dita a mangaldawkami uray man iti ngarab ti abot. Agaramidkami pay iti panteon dagiti babangkang nga Insik. Nadumaduma ti kadakkel ken kangato.

Dagitoy dua nga akasia ti dakkel a salinong ti aguddog a dadapilan uray agmalmalem a paagdapil. Dua ti nuangmi nga agsinnublat a maipako iti awan patinggana a dalanna nga agrikrikus. No agpaksay ti nuang, alistuam a karosen nga ikkaten iti dalanna nga aglikaw.

Nakallalagip ti dadapilan, ti nuang, ti biag nga intedna iti biagko.

Bigat ken malem a panagkiraw iti binurnay a maaramid a basi. Aglebbek iti gamu a rekado ti basi:

napagango a bukel ti samak, napagango nga ukis ti kariskis, aggelgel iti napagango a bulong ti samak. No lumnedan ti rekado wenna gamu ti binurnay a basi, mabalinen sangkakuna ni tatang.

No saan a basi ti aramidenmi, tagapulot a linata, tinipay ken sinukog. Adu a kalti ti maaramid.

Nanginngina ti basi, kuna ni tatang. Isu a manmanokami nga agluto ti tagapulot.

Naasir ti basi kadagiti kapurokan nga agpatagnawa. Linata wenna ginalon ti gatangenda. No panawen ti kampania ti politika, umayda agsakdo ditoy sirok ti balay. Adda manggulpe ti sangaburnay.

Iti aganayen a 44 a tawen a kaawanko sadiay, nagsubli kaniak ti kinaubingko. Ad-adun a panawen ti kaaddak iti ballasiw—ditoy Hawaii nga imbilangko a maikadua a taeng.

Adda kadayo met laeng ti abilidad a mangipakat ti kayattayo nga aramiden. Rumuk-attayo iti sirkulo iti dadapilan ket iwarastayo dagiti matatayo nga iti naminsan naikkan iti abungot ket itan ta makitatayo ti nalawlaw a lubong, ditoy nga agserbitayo kadagiti makasapul ti tulongtayo.

Kapintasan nga aramid ti mangted ti paset ti adda kadayo. Saan iti gatad, saan iti kaadu, ti kangrunaan, ti maited a sipupuso ken siraragsak.

(Adda nayona)

Chiz to NTC: Crack the whip on internet speed row

SENATOR Francis Joseph “Chiz” G. Escudero urged the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to immediately rectify the questionable set-up of routing internet data to other countries instead of doing so on the Philippines’ own unified internet exchange point as a simple measure to speed up internet service.

“The NTC should start cracking the whip and fix the system immediately. It cannot be ‘business as usual’ anymore. Let’s do away with the mentality of just accepting the present situation and start doing something about it,” Mr. Escudero said.

The senator said the NTC should start by asking the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the country’s largest telecommunications company, why it continues to refuse to connect to the country’s own internet exchange facility called the Philippine

Open Internet Exchange (PHOpenIX) which was developed by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) primarily to allow a faster exchange of data among users.

“PLDT does not want to connect to PHOpenIX. Instead, it connects to the Hong Kong Internet Exchange (HKIX) through its private Vitro Internet Exchange (VIX). I find this questionable because routing data overseas and then terminating here in the country takes a lot longer than routing and terminating data flow within the country,” Mr. Escudero explained.

“Why doesn’t PLDT just connect to PHOpenIX? PLDT is the biggest telco in the country. Its sheer size, and the influence it wields in the information and technology industry, could very well change the IT landscape overnight. But by refusing to connect to PHOpenIX, PLDT is holding the country’s

internet world hostage,” he added.

The senator said PLDT chooses to route data outside the country despite the availability of PHOpenIX, which allows all-local data traffic routing.

Mr. Escudero also asked the NTC to look into reports that PLDT refuses to establish direct peering with telco competitors, saying this may be considered a monopolistic business practice.

Earlier, the senator cited recent reports by global internet providers Ookla and Akamai that showed the dismal state of internet speed in the Philippines. The latest Ookla household download index report ranked the Philippines 21st out of 22 countries in Asia, trailed only by Afghanistan.

“The problem is that government agencies that are supposed to monitor these telcos and help consumers don’t seem to feel the urgency of the situation,” he said.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 15, LAOAG CITY

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE
CANCELLATION AND/OR
CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN
THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF
ALWIN CABLINGAN, JR. IN THE
LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY
OFFICE OF LAOAG CITY
FROM **NO ENTRY TO
CABRERA, ON THE PLACE OF
BIRTH FROM NO ENTRY TO
LAOAG CITY, ILOCOS
NORTE, AND ON THE NAME
OF FATHER FROM DECEASED
TO ALWIN CABLINGAN**

ALWIN CABLINGAN, JR.,
Petitioner,
-versus-
ALWIN CABLINGAN,
FLORENTINA L. CABLINGAN
THE CIVIL REGISTRAR OF THE
CITY OF LAOAG, CIVIL
REGISTRAR GENERAL,
NATIONAL STATISTICS
OFFICE, MANILA AND ALL
OTHER PERSONS WHO HAVE
OR CLAIM ANY INTEREST
WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED
THEREBY
Respondents.

Sp. Proc. No. 16722-15
x-----x

ORDER

In a verified petition, petitioner through counsel, prays for the correction of entries in his birth records.

It is alleged in the petition that petitioner is of legal age, married, Filipino, and a resident of Brgy. 6, San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte; that respondent Alwin Cablingan is the biological father of herein petitioner who is already deceased while Florentina Cablingan is the paternal grandmother of petitioner; that petitioner was born on February 10, 1987 at Laoag City to the common-law Spouses Alwin Cablingan and Ma. Concepcion Cabrera who were living together as husband and wife without any legal impediment to marry each other; that when petitioner secured a copy of his Birth Certificate from the National Statistics Office, he discovered that there was no entry in the item for his middle name which should be "Cabrera"; in his place of birth under the items (City/Municipality) (Province) which should be "Laoag City, Ilocos Norte"; and in the item name of father, it was erroneously entered as "Deceased" instead of "Alwin Cablingan"; that since birth, petitioner has been known as the child of Alwin Cablingan, in fact he is registered with the name Alwin Cablingan, Jr.; that from the demise of his father on July 14, 1986 until the present, he and his mother have been receiving financial support from his father's relatives; that in order to set straight petitioner's birth records so as far to conform with what is true and correct and to avoid confusion and doubt as to his identity, this petition is instituted.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, this Court sets the same for hearing on **August 15, 2015 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning**, in the sala of Branch 15 of this Court, Second Floor, Marcos Hall of Justice, Laoag City at which date, time and place, any interested person may appear and show cause why the petition should not be granted.

Let copies of this petition and this Order be served upon the Local Civil Registrar of Laoag City, the Civil Registrar General, National Statistics Office, Manila and the Office of the City Prosecutor

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

SO ORDERED.

Given in chambers, this 11th day of June, 2015 at Laoag City.

(SGD) BENJAMIN D. TURGANO
Judge

July 13, 20, 27, 2015*IT

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE
CORRECTION AND CANCEL-
LATION OF THE ENTRIES IN
THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE
BIRTH OF MINOR DAPHNE
CASTILLO DOLOSA SPECIFI-
CALLY THE NAME OF FATHER
EUGENE ROSELLA DOLOSA
AS WELL AS OTHER INFOR-
MATION RELATING TO THE
FATHER EUGENE ROSELLA
DOLOSA AND THE CANCEL-
LATION OF THE AFFIDAVIT OF
ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND
ADMISSION OF PATERNITY OF
EUGENE DOLOSA IN THE
SAME CERTIFICATE OF LIVE
BIRTH OF DAPHNE CASTILLO
DOLOSA,

EUGENE ROSELLA DOLOSA,
Petitioner.
-versus-
THE OFFICE OF THE CIVIL
REGISTRAR-GENERAL,
NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE
(NSO), AND THE LOCAL CIVIL
REGISTRAR OF BATAK CITY,
ILOCOS NORTE, MELENDRINA
UCOL CASTILLO AND ALL
PERSONS WHO HAVE OR
MAY CLAIM ANY INTEREST
THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED
THEREBY,
Respondents.

SP. PROC. NO. 5500-17
x-----x

ORDER

This is a verified Petition filed by petitioner Eugene Rosella Dolosa through counsel, Atty. Yvette Convento-Leynes praying to the Court to direct the Local Civil Registrar of Batak City, Ilocos Norte and the National Statistics Office, to do the following:

1. TO CANCEL the following entries in the Certificate of Live Birth of DAPHNE CASTILLO DOLOSA, to wit:

a. Under the entry of the name of child, the last name "DOLOSA" be cancelled/deleted;

b. The name of the father EUGENE ROSELLA DOLOSA be cancelled/deleted as well as other information indicated in the Certificate of Live Birth pertaining to the Father, to wit:\ Name: EUGENE DOLOSA
Citizenship: United States
Religion: Roman Catholic
Occupation: Supervisor
Age: 27

2. TO CANCEL the Affidavit of Acknowledgment/Admission of Paternity on Page 2 of the Certificate of Live Birth of Daphne Castillo Dolosa made by petitioner Eugene Dolosa

Finding the Petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the Court hereby sets the initial hearing on **AUGUST 27, 2015** at 8:30 o'clock in the morning at the Session Hall of this Court located at the Hall of Justice, Batak City, Ilocos Norte, at which date, time and place, all interested parties may appear and show cause why the 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 Local Civil Registrar of Batak City, Ilocos Norte; the Civil Registrar General; the Prosecutor's Office 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 pub-

lication in accordance with the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1079.

SO ORDERED.

Given in Chambers, this 7th day of July, 2015 at Batak City, Ilocos Norte, Philippines.

(SGD) ANGELO M. ALBANO
Judge

July 27, Aug. 3, 10, 2015

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
Branch 15, Laoag City

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE
CANCELLATION AND/OR
CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN
THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF
ALWIN CABLINGAN JR. IN THE
LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY
OFFICE OF LAOAG CITY ON
THE MIDDLE NAME OF THE
CHILD FROM **NO ENTRY TO
CABRERA, ON THE PLACE OF
BIRTH FROM NO ENTRY TO
LAOAG CITY, ILOCOS NORTE,
AND ON THE NAME OF
FATHER FROM DECEASED TO
ALWIN CABLINGAN**

ALWIN CABLINGAN, JR.
Petitioner,
-versus-
ALWIN CABLINGAN,
FLORENTINA L. CABLINGAN,
THE CIVIL REGISTRAR OF THE
CITY OF LAOAG, CIVIL
REGISTRAR-GENERAL,
NATIONAL STATISTICS
OFFICE, MANILA AND ALL
OTHER PERSONS WHO HAVE
OR CLAIM ANY INTEREST
WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED
THEREBY,
Respondents.

Sp. Proc. No. 16722-15
x-----x

ORDER

In a verified petition, petitioner through counsel prays for the correction of entries in his birth records.

It is alleged in the petition that petitioner is of legal age, married, Filipino and a resident of Brgy. 6, San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte; that respondent Alwin Cablingan is the biological father of herein petitioner who is already deceased while Florentina Cablingan is the paternal grandmother of petitioner; that petitioner was born on February 10, 1987 at Laoag City to the common-law spouses Alwin Cablingan and Ma. Concepcion Cabrera who were living together as husband and wife without any legal impediment to marry each other; that when petitioner secured a copy of his Birth Certificate from the National Statistics Office, he discovered that there was no entry in the item for his middle name which should be "Cabrera"; in his place of birth under the items (City/Municipality) (Province) which should be "Laoag City, Ilocos Norte"; and in the item name of father, it was erroneously entered as "Deceased" instead of "Alwin Cablingan"; that since birth petitioner has been known as the child of Alwin Cablingan, in fact he is registered with the name Alwin Cablingan, Jr.; that from the demise of his father on July 14, 1986 until the present, he and his mother have been receiving financial support from his father's relatives; that in order to set straight petitioner's birth records so as to conform with what is true and correct and to avoid confusion and doubt as to his identity, this petition is instituted.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, this Court sets the same for hearing on **August 14, 2015, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning**, in the sala of Branch 15 of this Court, Second Floor, Marcos Hall of Justice, Laoag City, at which date, time and place, any interested person may appear and show cause why the petition should not be granted.

Let copies of this petition and this Order be served upon the

Local Civil Registrar of Laoag City, the Civil Registrar General, National Statistics Office, Manila and the Office of the City Prosecutor.

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.

In the meantime, let summons be issued to the above-named respondents who are hereby required within fifteen (15) days after service of the said summons within which to file with this Court their answer to the petition and/or any pleading thereof.

SO ORDERED.

Given in chambers, this 11th day of June, 2015 at Laoag City.

(SGD) BENJAMIN D. TURGANO
Judge

Copy furnished:
· Petitioner
· Atty. Lourdines C. dela Cruz
· City Civil Registrar, Laoag City
· Civil Registrar General, NSO, Manila
· Office of the City Prosecutor, Laoag City
· Office of the Solicitor General
· RTC-OCC, Laoag City
· File
July 20, 27, Aug. 3, 2015

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL
SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH
WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the deceased MR. ALEJANDRO C. DOMINGO consisting of a Bank Account maintained with BDO, BATAK BRANCH in the amount of US\$2,945.56 inclusive of interest and with the PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK, BATAK BRANCH in the amount of US\$288.98 inclusive of interest have been the subject of Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate Waiver of Rights executed by his heirs in favor of Severa Victoria C. Domingo ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Windell D. Chua as per Doc. No. 492; Page No. 100; Bk. No. XXXIII; S. of 2015.
July 13, 20, 27, 2015*IT

DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL
SETTLEMENT AND ABSOLUTE
SALE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the deceased MARCELO AGCAOILI consisting of one-half (½) share of a parcel of land designated as Lot No. 11175-A of the subdivision plan (LRC) Psd-62109, being a portion of Lot No. 11175 of the Laoag Cad. covered by TCT No. T-13887 containing an area of 218 sq. m. situated in the Barrio of Sta. Balbina, City of Laoag has been adjudicated by his heirs extrajudicially and simultaneously sold to Marinette G. De Leon and Neil Louie G. De Leon ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Juan Conrado A. Respicio II as per Doc. No. 212; Page No. 43; Bk. No. CCCLVI; S. of 2013.
July 13, 20, 27, 2015*IT

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH
WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late PACITA M. ASUNCION consisting of a bank deposit with the BANK OF COMMERCE-BATAK BRANCH under Time Deposit Account No. 063-40-001704-4 and Savings Account No. 063-20-001473-3 have been the subject of Deed of Adjudication with Waiver of Rights executed by her heirs in favor of EUGENIO V. ASUNCION ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Kira M. Espino as per Doc. No. 57; Page No. 12; Bk. No. IX; S. of 2015.
July 13, 20, 27, 2015*IT

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Ilocos Norte
Municipality of Paoay

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that EVA CABUTAJE MORATIN has filed with this office a petition for Change of First Name from "EVARESTA" to "EVA" in the birth certificate of EVARESTA G. CABUTAJE who was born on September 28, 1974 at Paoay, Ilocos Norte and whose parents are Pablo G. Cabutaje and Juanita A. Galapia.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition to this office not later than August 3, 2015.

(SGD) ROBERT M. GUIEB
Municipal Civil Registrar

July 20-26, July 27-Aug. 2, 2015*IT

Publication Notice
R.A. 10172

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Ilocos Norte
Municipality of Bangui

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

CCE-0033-2015 RA 10172 July 14, 2015

In compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to OCRG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 Guidelines in the Implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2012 (IRR on R.A. 10172), notice is hereby served to the public that LEONEL A. BAROT has filed with this Office, a petition of correction of sex from "FEMALE" to "MALE" in the Certificate of Live Birth of LEONEL AGUEDAN BARUT at Bangui, Ilocos Norte and whose parents are Casimiro A. Barut and Trinidad V. Aguedan.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his/her written opposition with this Office not later than August 3, 2015.

(SGD) GLORIA B. AMUDO
Municipal Civil Registrar

July 20-26, July 26-Aug. 2, 2015*IT

Publication Notice
R.A. 9048
R.A. 10172

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

CFN-0004-2015 July 10, 2015
CCE-0042-2015 R.A. 10172

In Compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to OCRG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 Guidelines in the Implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2012 (IRR on R.A. 10172), Notice is hereby served to the public that **ROBERT MAGBULOS BALBAS** has filed with this Office, the petition for change of first name from "**CARLITO**" to "**ROBERT**" and correction of entry in date of birth from "**JUNE 26, 1963**" to "**APRIL 7, 1963**" in the certificate of live birth of **CARLITO M. BALBAS** who was born on June 26, 1963 at Badoc, Ilocos Norte and whose parents are Ricardo Balbas and Esmeria Magbulos.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than August 3, 2015.

(SGD) PABLO M. REYES
Municipal Civil Registrar

July 20-26, 27- Aug. 2, 2015

DEED OF ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late ROSARIO P. NOLASCO consisting of three (3) bank deposits (savings/time) at PNB, LAOAG MAIN BRANCH and PNB-ALLIED, LAOAG CASTRO BRANCH under Acct. Nos. 159567000013, 1595670460000015 and 0492010909 has been adjudicated by his heirs ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Jason Bader L.I. Perera as per Doc. No. 455; Page No. 91; Bk. No. 141; S. of 2015.
July 13, 20, 27, 2015*IT

DEED OF ADJUDICATION WITH
WAIVER AND QUITCLAIM

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late ELIZABETH TANG KIM SIN CHUA consisting of a bank account before the PNB (ALLIED BANK) under Savings Account No. 0490-95674-2 has been the subject of Deed of Adjudication with Waiver and Quitclaim executed by her heirs in favor of Henry Y. Chua ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Isidro Corpuz as per Doc. No. 452; Page No. 91; Bk. No. CLXXX; S. of 2015.
July 13, 20, 27, 2015*IT

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R.A. 9048 Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)
 Republic of the Philippines
 Local Civil Registry Office
 Province of Ilocos Norte
 Municipality of Pasuquin

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048 a notice is hereby served to the public that **NOEL D. VISITACION** has filed with this office a petition for change of first name from **"FRED"** to **"NOEL"** in the birth certificate of **FRED VISITACION** who was born on March 4, 1962 at Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte and whose parents are Alfredo Visitacion and Lucina Domingo.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than August 3, 2015.

(SGD) FELIZA C. RATUITA
 Municipal Civil Registrar

July 20-26, July 27- Aug. 2, 2015

Publication Notice
 R.A. 10172

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

CCE-0036-2015 R.A. 10172 July 21, 2015

In Compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to OCRG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 Guidelines in the Implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2012 (IRR on R.A. 10172), Notice is hereby served to the public that **EMILLIE RASAY ARELLANO** has filed with this Office, a petition for correction of entry in the date of birth from **"AUG. 9, 1980"** to **"AUGUST 8, 1980"** in the certificate of live birth of **EMILLIE MEDINA RASAY** at Brgy. #8, Sarrat, Ilocos Norte and whose parents are Hilarion Rasay and Perla Medina.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than August 10, 2015.

(SGD) JOANA. DUQUE
 Municipal Civil Registrar

July 27- Aug. 2, Aug. 3-9, 2015

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Ilocos Times wishes to inform our advertisers, contributors and other clients that all advertisements, contracts, articles and other materials should now only be course through the publisher, IPC.

Any transaction entered into with other persons will not be honored. The official email addresses of THE ILOCOS TIMES is ilcostimes@yahoo.com & publisher@ilcostimes.com, and its current website is www.ilcostimes.com. For ad placements, please contact the publisher @ mobile nos. 0916-7463967 or 0928-4651658

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the deceased MR. ALEJANDRO C. DOMINGO SR. consisting of two (2) parcels of land designated as Lot Nos. 10085 and 40345 under ARP Nos. 05-019-00751 and 05-022-00722 containing an area of 1,894 sq. m and 1,468 sq. m. situated at Brgy. 35 and 31 both of Batac, Ilocos Norte have been the subject of Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate executed by his heirs ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Windell D. Chua as per Doc. No. 181; Page No. 38; Bk. No. XXXIV; S. of 2013. July 13, 20, 27, 2015*IT

DEED OF ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late **PRIMO VALMONTE** and **VICTORIO B. VALMONTE** consisting of a Savings Joint Account at the BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS (BPI), LAOAG CITY, ILOCOS NORTE BRANCH has been adjudicated by their heirs ratified and acknowledged before Notary Public Alfredo L. De Luna as per Doc. No. 515; Page No. 104; Bk. No. III; S. of 2015. July 27, Aug. 3, 10, 2015



Calling the attention of the following people: (1) **IRENE MANAYE** of Brgy. 1, San Joaquin, Sarrat, Ilocos Norte/ Brgy. 2, San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte mother of **Marcus Gian Emmanuel Manaye**, 7 years old; (2) **Father/Mother of Princess Nicole**, 10-months-1 year old of age who was given in Burgos, Ilocos Norte; and (3) **LOIDA D. VILLA and EDWIN SANTOS REALIN** parents of **Emmanuel Joshua Villa Realin**, 11 months old. The said children are presently in the custody of Shekinah Home Dingras Ilocos Norte Inc. up to date. The parents are requested to appear at Shekinah Home or any Municipal Social Welfare Offices the soonest possible time.

Non-appearance of the said parents will compel Shekinah Home Inc. to declare them as legally available for adoption as per R.A. 9523.

Please contact Ms. Jandarille Ibana, Social Worker of Shekinah Home Dingras Ilocos Norte Inc. with cp no. 09214465118.

Thank you very much. We are hoping for your prompt response regarding our request.

(SGD) Jandarille Ibana, RSW
 Social Worker
 Shekinah Home Inc.

(SGD) Daniel Joseph A. Eclarin
 General Manager
 Shekinah Home Inc.

July 27, 2015

MAKE IT A HABIT TO READ



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Weight gain during pregnancy

EVERY woman on the way to becoming a mommy is excited to nourish her baby starting at the womb. This is true because a person's growth and development begin at the time of conception. It is also the period when nourishing the baby should commence.

During pregnancy, a pregnant woman should achieve a normal or typical weight gain. For a woman whose weight before pregnancy is in the normal range, the average weight gain should be 11 kilograms (or about 24 pounds) distributed as follows:

as kakanin, sandwiches and pasta dishes. She may also need to take iron and other nutritional supplements, upon advice by her doctor.

A woman should include iron-rich foods like liver, heart, kidney, lean meat, and leafy and yellow vegetables in her daily diet to prevent iron-deficiency anemia during pregnancy. Vitamin C-rich foods like kasuy, mango, guava and papaya must also be included to help the body absorb iron better.

On the other hand, a pregnant woman whose increase in weight is 3 kilograms or more per month in

reduce weight. The table below shows the amount a pregnant woman should eat compared to a non-pregnant, healthy woman daily.

A pregnant woman should be cautious of rapid weight gain because it may also mean that there is edema (manas) or water retention. Consult a doctor if edema is present and the blood pressure is high. Salty foods and condiments should be avoided when experiencing such conditions.

A variety of foods should comprise the eating plan of a pregnant woman. This ensures that she is

Food Groups	Amounts Needed Daily	
	Non-pregnant Women	Pregnant Women
Energy Foods Rice Rootcrops (potato, gabi, etc.) Sugar Fat	5 cups, cooked 1 small-sized 5 level teaspoons 6 level teaspoons	5 1/4 cups, cooked 1 small-sized 6 level teaspoons 7 level teaspoons
Body-Building Fish/Meat/Poultry Milk Egg Dried beans or Nuts	1 3/4 servings* 1 glass 1/2 medium-sized egg 1/2 cup, cooked	2 1/4 servings* 1 glass 1 pc 1/2 cup, cooked
Regulating Foods Vegetables (kangkong, ka/abasa, pechay, etc.) Vitamin C-Rich Foods (papaya, bayabas, etc.)	3/4 cup, cooked 1 serving** 1 serving fruit, and 1/2 cup, cooked	3/4 cup, cooked 2 servings** 1 1/2 serving fruit, and 3/4 cup, cooked
Other Fruits and Vegetables (pinya, eggplant, chicho, etc.)	vegetables	vegetables

If weight gain is inadequate, a mother is at risk of delivering a baby with low birthweight, or to have premature delivery, abortion, or brain and nerve damage to the baby. On the other hand, if weight gain is excessive, the mother may experience difficulties during labor and may give birth to a large, sickly baby.

A pregnant woman is considered to have slow weight gain if the increase in weight is less than 500 grams per month in the first trimester and 250 grams per month in the second trimester. A pregnant woman who is not gaining enough weight or is seriously underweight before pregnancy, should take more food particularly calorie-rich foods such

the second and third trimesters is considered as having excessive weight gain. A pregnant woman who is gaining weight too rapidly or whose weight before pregnancy is above normal, must reduce her intake of fatty foods, fried foods, sweets, snacks, and softdrinks. More leafy green and yellow vegetables, as well as fruits, should be taken.

A pregnant woman needs additional servings of food to prepare the body for childbirth but it does not necessarily mean she should eat for two. Eating for two leads to higher weight gain.

Bear in mind that pregnancy is also not the time to go on a diet to

getting all the nutrients her body needs and that the baby is well-nourished and will be born healthy and strong.

Health potential of yacon being studied, food products to be developed soon

ACCORDING to Wikipedia, yacon (*Smallanthus sonchifolius*) is a perennial tuber plant related to sunflower and is native to Peru. The texture and flavor is crisp, sweet-tasting and has been described as a cross between a fresh apple and watermelon.

The tuber is now gaining popularity outside of South America. This is because of its sugar component, fructooligosaccharides (FOS), which humans do not metabolize. This means that since FOS is somewhat an indigestible sugar, it does not increase blood sugar levels and thus, can be used to sweeten products for people with diabetes.

Yacon's popularity already reached the Philippines, particularly patronized by an increasing number of diabetics and health-conscious individuals. With this, the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (FNRI-DOST) investigated the potential health benefits of yacon. This will help contribute to the database for yacon which will then be the basis for the development of value-added products and thus promote production and utilization.

In the said study, samples of yacon leaves and tubers were collected from two farm sites in Barangay Oyao, Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya and Barangay Aposkahoy, Claveria, Misamis Oriental. Chemical composition were determined using the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) methods while total solids, color and water activity of freeze-dried and air-dried leaves were analyzed using the Atago refractometer, Minolta chromameter and Novasina thermoconstanter, respectively.

The total phenols and antioxidant properties of yacon leaves were analyzed at the Institute of Plant Breeding, University of the Philippines Los Baños while the FOS content of freeze-dried yacon leaves and tubers were analyzed at the Japan Food Research Laboratory.

Results revealed that yacon tubers grown in the country have high FOS content and balanced potassium to sodium ratio while the leaves have significant amounts of antioxidant and phenols. This means that yacon tubers and leaves are potential raw materials for the development of functional food and beverage products.

With yacon's niche as a functional food, it is expected that research-based food products from yacon will soon be available in the country. The creativity and adaptability of the Filipino taste will guarantee that yacon will find a place in the Filipinos' dining table in the years to come.

KUMAINMENT No. 3

3. Kumain ng gulay at prutas araw-araw.

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Longest sea zipline on the world

RETIRED Col. Ricky Nolasco, owner of the Hannah's Beach Resort and Convention Center, disclosed that they are about to break their own record on the longest over the sea zip line in the whole world.

Mr. Nolasco said they opened a 1.2 kilometer zip line in 2013 in Barangay Balaoi, Pagudpud.

*The Bards
of Blaise*

JOPO & ACEYORK GUERRERO

According to him, the first zip line they built broke the record of Haiti's over the water zip line which only measures less than a kilo-

meter.

Mr. Nolasco bared that soon they will be opening an improved and longer over the water zip line in the same area in Pagudpud.

"It will be a 1.7-kilometer zip line with a more adventurous and extreme features," the resort owner said.

The zip line ride will cost less than P1,000 with a discount to those who are staying at the hotel.

He added that besides the improved zip line, they will also be opening a 9-hole golf course and a diving site.

But Mr. Nolasco, who is also the president of the Pagudpud Home Stay and Resorts Association, stressed that damaged bridges and daily power outages are affecting the tourism industry in Barangay Balaoi.

"Last year, two old bridges in our area were destroyed due to wear and tear. But until now, we cannot see any effort by the government to repair them," he lamented.

Mr. Nolasco also disclosed that besides the accessibility problem, daily power outages are hurting their businesses.

"We are experiencing ten brownouts per day forcing us to spend a lot on generators," Mr. Nolasco said.

He underscored that the local government should act on these problems because their establishments are contributing a lot to the public coffers.

BARD NOTES: *Happy bard-reading to Mayor Chevylle Farinas, Vice Mayor Michael V. Farinas, Provincial Treasurer Josephine Calajate, Piddig Mayor Eddie Guillen, INWD General Manager John Teodoro, PNB Laoag Branch Manager Metty V. Guerrero and Dr. Miramar Bumanglag.*

PhilRice has new exec

PRESIDENT Benigno S. Aquino III has appointed Dr. Calixto M. Protacio, a horticulturist and academician, as the new executive director of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice).

Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala swore him into office on 10 July replacing DA Assistant Secretary Edilberto M. De Luna who served as the officer-in-charge after the retirement of Dr. Eufemio T. Rasco, Jr. in February.

During the Leadership Turnover Ceremony, Dr. Protacio asked for the support of all PhilRice staff members to continue serving the Filipino farmers.

Dr. Protacio has worked with various institutions, such as the University of the Philippines Los Baños as professor and director of the Institute of Plant Breeding and Crop Science Cluster, Philippine Agricultural Scientist as editor-in-chief, University of California, Riverside as post-doctoral research associate, Pennsylvania State University and Louisiana State University as graduate research assistant.

He finished his Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture, Major in Horticulture, at the University of the Philippine Los Baños and PhD in Plant Physiology from Pennsylvania State University, USA.

Dr. Protacio hails from Guinobatan, Albay.



Hannah's Zipline: the world's longest

Legarda reminder: Increase preparedness to prevent disasters

IN OBSERVANCE of the National Disaster Consciousness Month, Senator Loren Legarda reminded government authorities, communities and citizens to boost disaster resilience efforts and reiterated the need to shift from reactive efforts to proactive strategies in strengthening the country's defenses against natural hazards and climate change.

"Most natural hazards turn into disasters because of the lack of preparedness. Preparation, not reaction, is the name of the game," said Ms. Legarda, United Nations Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for Asia-Pacific.

The senator said that community preparations for disasters

should include regular pruning of trees, dredging of canals and esteros, and the practice of segregating garbage. She also called on communities to heed disaster warnings to prevent disasters.

Ms. Legarda stressed that both the national government and local government units (LGUs) must think long-term and do more for improved urban planning and disaster reduction.

"For one, let us look at the enforcement of building standards. Disaster resilience requires good building standards and effective enforcement. LGUs must confront the worsening floods. Thus, they must update their data on flood hazards and vulnerabilities, develop their information base on flood

losses, invest in flood protection and mitigation, identify safe land for families to live in and implement the Ecological Solid Waste Management Law at full speed," she said.

Ms. Legarda also said that regular structural evaluation of schools, hospitals, private and public buildings and bridges, and the retrofitting of these structures must be done to withstand strong temblors. The regular conduct of safety drills is also important.

"We have seen enough tragedies. Nobody can say we have not been warned. Prevention is always better than cure. We must learn from our past experiences, practice enhanced disaster preparedness, and be proactive in reducing disaster risks," Ms. Legarda concluded.

Women city leaders rethinking futures of Philippine cities

THE PHILIPPINE Center for Foresight Education and Innovation Research (PhilForesight) of Northwestern University in collaboration with the World Futures

Studies Federation and the UNSECO Participation Programme, Step Beyond Australia and the Center for Engaged Foresight held a two-day workshop entitled *Transforming Philippine Cities: An Integrative Foresight Course for Women City Leaders*, hosted by University of the Philippines (UNP) in Vigan City, Ilocos Norte, last June 26-27. 41 participants, mostly women, from local and national government agencies (LGUs, NEDA) as well as CSOs (Civil Service Organizations) and from the Academe attended the course. The futures course is one of the key events of the University of Northern Philippines 50th founding anniversary celebration.

The workshop on integrating strategic foresight and foresight thinking into women city leaders was co-facilitated by Dr. Mei Mei Song of Tamkang University in Taiwan, Janelle Marr, director of Step Beyond based in Australia, Cesar Villanueva of World Futures Studies Federation (WFSF), Shermion Cruz, Director of PhilForesight and Ariana Lutterman, University of North Carolina.

Facilitators gave lectures and action learning workshops on vari-

ous futures and strategic foresight tools to explore alternative and preferred Philippine city futures. This futures thinking and strategic foresight capacity building exercise was organized to introduce the emerging field of foresight and futures studies, generate new questions and concepts informed by women perspectives for city futures, public policy, strategic planning and governance. It is one of the five World Futures Studies Federation, a UNESCO and UN consultative partner, locally supported learning labs for the Global South. Futures studies and foresight courses were also held in Mexico, Haiti, Malaysia and Democratic Republic of Congo.

One of the participants exclaimed that "This is my first time to hear about futures studies and I have developed a deeper appreciation of the field and that it is good to know that there is also a different approach to city planning." Various sectors expounded their commitment to integrate futures thinking into their respective fields, cities and organizations while also looking forward for further partnerships to advance futures literacy and foresight integration in city governance. (PhilForesight-NWU)



FUTURES TEAM. Organizers and facilitators poses after the two-day foresight workshop. (From left) Angelica Hernando, Janelle Marr, Mei Mei Song, Shermion Cruz, Ariana Lutterman, Michael Barreiro, Cesar Villanueva, and Tony Agustin.

PHILFORESIGHT PHOTO

Largest organic coffee plantation bears fruit



DEPARTMENT of Agriculture Undersecretary Emerson Palad leads the planting of coffee on July 23 as part of the coffee plantation's ongoing expansion.

LEI ADRIANO

By LEILANIE G. ADRIANO
STAFF REPORTER

PIDDIG, Ilocos Norte—The largest organically-grown coffee plantation here finally bears fruit after a year.

In July 2014, the local government unit of Piddig initiated the planting of an initial 10-hectares of Arabica coffee now being developed as a model convergence project in the country.

Filled with excitement, at least 18 member-agencies of the Philippines' first Regional Convergence Initiative (RCI) project backing the on-going development and expansion of the coffee plantation here

climb up the long and winding rugged terrain leading to a tropical pine forest where these coffee trees are planted in between.

Led by the Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Emerson Palad, in his capacity as the national committee chairman of the country's model convergence project in Luzon, several coffee tree seedlings were again planted on

Thursday, July 23, at the 560-hectare coffee farm site, situated about 1,000 meters above sea level at Brgy. Dupitac, Sitio Lammin in Piddig town.

"*Nakita po natin ang napakalaking potential ng lugar at dinadagdagan po natin ang itinatanim doon na coffee kasi yung itinanim natin noong isang taon ay namumunga na po,*" said

Mr. Palad.

According to Mr. Palad, more coffee seedlings worth more than P50 million will be rolled out this year.

On the same day, Mr. Palad along with other top officials and members of the RCI met with Piddig farmers who are direct beneficiaries of the project.

Through a public and private partnership scheme in support of the National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development under the administration of President Benigno Aquino III, the Piddig coffee plantation benefits about 1,000 families, most of them are beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

As a model project for RCI, Piddig through the administration of Piddig Mayor Eduardo "Eddie" Guillen, initiated said project, gaining the full support of national agencies such as the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Tourism, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Interior and Local Government, National Anti-Poverty Commission, National Commission on Indigenous People, National Economic Development Authority, Cavite State University, Benguet State University, Mariano Marcos State University and the Rocky Mountain Arabica Coffee Co., a leading producer and exporter of Arabica coffee in the Philippines.

Batac division launches 'Kapihan sa CSDB'

By DOMINIC B. DELA CRUZ
STAFF REPORTER

BATAK CITY—As a means to disseminate all pertinent information to all people concerned, the Batak City Schools Division has launched the "Kapihan sa CSDB" program.

City schools division superintendent Vilma Eda said the Kapihan aims to strengthen the relationships between the city DepEd and the members of the media thru the information dissemination on the programs and activities of the DepEd.

The Kapihan was formally launched on June 23 at the office of Ms. Eda and was attended by the school heads and educators of Batak with their respective topics to discuss.

Oplan Balik Eskwela

BATAK education program supervisor designate on values and education counseling Ms. Aileen Joaquin reported on the Oplan Balik Eskwela (OBE) that lasted from May 25 to June 6, 2015.

Ms. Joaquin said the OBE was in coordination with the different agencies, communities and interest groups to prepare and ensure the smooth flow of opening of classes this school year.

The OBE addressed the various school opening concerns like traffic safety and security, price monitoring of school supplies, medical and emergency services, prepara-

tion of school buildings and roads, public transportation, supply of utilities in schools, weather outlook and the LGU support.

The city DepEd adhered to the "No Collection Policy" wherein no teacher or school administrator collected any amount during the enrollment period and during the first day of classes on June 1.

Ms. Joaquin also reported that classrooms and school facilities were all prepared prior to the first day of classes.

The police with the help of the barangay officials and tanods played a vital role during the first day of classes wherein there was a smooth flow of traffic.

The DOH thru the rural health unit and the hospitals also promised to give their services to those in need of health assistance.

BNHS offers special program in the arts

THE Batak National High School, known to be the biggest and fast growing secondary school in Batak with two other campuses in Payao and Poblacion has the diversity among the learners that led this school to the adaptation and offering of three other curricular programs to fully respond the demand of the fast changing adversaries in education.

At present, the BNHS offers the K-12 curriculum for the regular students. Science and Technology in-

clined students are enrolled in a separate program, the Special Science Curriculum which was initiated in SY 2010-2011 aside from the Special Education Program.

The school also gives irregular students an opportunity to study through the Open High School Program that started in SY 2012-2013.

Lately, the school acquired its new complement this year affirming it to operate a new curriculum for the student artists, the Special Program in the Arts.

BNHS principal Ditas G. Domingo said that this new curriculum offers the artistically-inclined and adept students to be recognized and explore the rest of the world of arts.

The SPA program offers three skills in its laboratory school year where 42 equally talented Grade 7 students enrolled wherein 11 of them are musically gifted, eight are visually genius and 23 are bodily-kinesthetic intelligent.

Ms. Domingo said the presence of SPA signifies a better ground for student's fuller development especially in the field of performing arts and visual arts.

School-based immunization program

NURSE II, HEPO designate Mirasol Mangasep announced that the DOH brought a school-based immunization program to all Grade 1 public elementary and Grade 7 high

school students regardless of age.

Ms. Mangasep said the program is a part of the country's 2007 commitment to eliminate the vaccine-preventable diseases including measles, rubella and tetanus diphtheria.

Grade 1 teachers will get the status of measles vaccination of each pupil. For Grade 7 students, they shall be vaccinated with both MR and Td vaccines regardless of immunization status.

Health teams from the DOH go from classroom to classroom with a letter of consent by the parents.

Support from stakeholders

QUILING Elementary School teacher III OIC Evangeline Agcaoili announced a donation of 10 computer units from Mr. Romeo Inocencio Chan, chief executive officer of Fiesta Brands Incorporation for Quiling Elementary School which was delivered on June 1.

The computers were requested by the teachers and PTCA for the pupils of the said school starting Grade IV on their Edukasyong Pantahanan at Pangkabuhayan subject.

Scholarship offering

THE Batak Junior College (BJC) is presently looking for interested applicants or possible trainees who wants to avail a free training on Bookkeeping NC III and Dressmaking NC II under Private Education

Student Financial Assistance (PESFA) Scholarship.

BJC TVET department head Ms. Eliza Salvador said that scholarship benefits are free training cost, student allowance of P2.80 per hour, free book allowance and assessment fee.

Duration of the training will be 35 days for Dressmaking and 37 days for Bookkeeping.

Ms. Salvador said that she needs additional 10 people to complete the 20 persons required training and will start as soon as possible upon completion of the required number.

ALS and Abot-Alam Programs

ALTERNATIVE Learning System and Education Program Specialist II Designate Ms. Pepsi Duldulao reported the updates on the ALS accreditation and equivalency test results wherein the city division posted 29.53 percent passing rate in 2014 ALSA&E test.

Out of 149 test takers, a total of 44 passed the A&E test secondary level and their graduation will be announced soon when their ALS Diplomas and certificates are available.

For 2015 ALS A&E test registration is tentatively scheduled on July 16-August 15, 2015 and the testing center will be held at the BNHS poblacion campus.