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Makabayan files complaint at Comelec

BAGUIO CITY — Members and supporters of the Makabayang Koalisyon ng Mamamayan (Makabayan) coalition filed a formal complaint at the regional office of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) against the proliferation of black propaganda materials linking them to the underground rebel movement.

According to the complaint letter, the black propaganda materials are aimed at progressive partylists under Makabayan coalition namely Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, Gabriela Women's Partylist, Kabataan Partylist, Act Teachers Partylist and Katribu.

The said black propaganda

are intended to demonize the reputation of the partylists mentioned above by means of big streamers, graffiti, stickers and vandalized electric posts, plastered on building walls and overpass scattered all over Northern Luzon stating that Makabayan and the said partylists are associated with the Communist Party

of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front of the Philippines (CPP-NPA-NDFP).

Volunteers and staff of Makabayan removed some of these streamers but since December 2009 they continue to be put up in many places.

"Our chapters all over North-

ern Luzon have informed us of these well-made, costly long tarpaulins or painted signs plastered on eye-catching areas on roads and bridges", said Makabayan Baguio chapter Chairperson Manuel Loste.

Loste said that these cowardly attacks may put the lives

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BCDA pays P50M for Convention Center

BAGUIO CITY — The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) paid a P50 million amortization to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in behalf of the city government for the purchase of the Baguio Convention Center.

The payment was only the third installment made by the BCDA to fulfill its part in the Memorandum of Agreement with the city government and the (GSIS) for the purchase of the facility in the amount of P250 million. The MOA dates back to January 24, 2004.

As per the deal, the GSIS agreed to sell the convention center to the city in amount of P250 million, the payment to be taken from the city's 25 percent share from the lease of Camp John Hay to be remitted by the BCDA.

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Partylists of the Makabayan Coalition, led by Prof. Manny Loste troop to Comelec to file formal complaints against black propaganda directed against them.

Lepanto promises to pay its workers

BAGUIO CITY — After staging a series of pickets to seek dialogue with the management of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company (LCMC) in Mankayan, Benguet, the mine workers were promised to be paid but then again partially.

Lepanto Employees Union-National Federation of Labor Unions-Kilusang Mayo Uno (LEU-NAFLU-KMU) President Manuel Binhaon said that in a meeting between the union and the management, they were told that the company will first pay

P4 million on Saturday, March 20 at 1 pm and another P10 million on Tuesday, March 23.

Binhaon said that around 1,400 rank-and-file employees of the LCMC Mine Department will receive around P2,000 to P2,500 that the company will first pay

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Bayan hits Palace over US HR report

BAGUIO CITY — The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan or Bayan scored the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo by saying that it brought again shame to the country after the United States Department released its 2009 human rights report on the Philippines.

According to the report posted on the website, the arbitrary, unlawful and extrajudicial killings and political killings, including killings of journalists by elements of the security services and by a variety of actors continued to be major problems.

"Concerns about impunity

persisted. Members of the security services committed acts of physical and psychological abuse on suspects and detainees, and there were instances of torture. Prisoners awaiting trial and those already convicted were often held under primitive

BAYAN HITS...to p.7



MAKABAYANG KOALISYON NG MAMAMAYAN. Progressive partylists protes black propaganda before Comelec last Thursday.

Binga stakeholders ink IP site agreement

BAGUIO CITY — The indigenous community of Barangay Tinongdan in Itogon, Benguet can now formally manage certain areas near the Binga power plant with the recent signing of a multi-party agreement.

Benguet Governor Nestor B. Fongwan, SNAP-Benguet Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel V. Rubio and Director Amador P. Batayan of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples-Cordillera...to p.7

Kaduami partners meet on food & dev't

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet — Katinnulong Dagiti Umili iti Amianan Inc (KADUAMI) held its 6th General Assembly on March 17-18 at the Benguet State University's Training Center. KADUAMI holds a general assembly every three years.

The general assembly was attended by 110 delegates representing Kaduami's partners from 120 people's organizations and non-government organizations all over Northern Luzon. It provides an opportunity for partners to collectively reflect on development issues confronting the people of Northern Luzon.

The theme for the 6th assembly is "Empowering communities to assert their right to food and right to development,

and promoting good governance in the context of climate change".

The sessions started with a challenge from the acting chairman of Kaduami, Bishop Marino Inong. He reported that even if we faced many challenges in the last three years, the people proved to be resilient and creative in facing the concerns.

An input from the national chairperson of Kilusan ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas, Danilo "Ka Daning" Ramos provided

the focalpoint for the assembly. He challenged the people of Northern Luzon to promote and uphold pro-people issues in the face of the financial crisis besetting the nation and the world.

He said that as a nation we are at the juncture of history where people's organizations can stamp their aspirations even on governance and policies reflected in government. He KADUAMI...to p.7



Liberal Party's mayoralty bet in Baguio City Jose Molintas, a veteran human rights lawyer and a former city councilor, forwards his human rights based women's program against the traditional need-based women's advocacy, during a candidates forum tackling women's issues at the Baguio Convention Center on Wednesday morning. Photo courtesy of Ace Alegre

