

CORDILLERA GUILDER

The Official Publication of College Editors Guild of the Philippines Cordillera

February to August | 2019 | Issue 1

From “ili” to the wider community

Amplifying voices from the
margins see page 5

WHAT'S INSIDE?

▼ NEWS

Human rights officer, Brandon Lee shot and wounded

Cordillera Human Rights Alliance's (CHRA) provincial human rights officer and paralegal volunteer Brandon Lee was shot and wounded by believed-to-be State security agents, dusk of August 6 in his residence in Lagawe, Ifugao...

see page 2

▼ OPINION

Igorotak latta!

I am an Igorot. My mother is of Ibaloy decent, as were my maternal grandparents, their parents, and all my ancestors. I had an idea of what being an Igorot meant—being part of a unique yet discriminated culture...

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▼ FEATURE

CEGP Cordillera in Action

College Editors Guild of the Philippines Cordillera, as the vanguard of campus press freedom in the region, served to its mandate in forwarding the duty of the youth to speak the truths through writing...

see page 6

Graphics by: The Buttrass



PRESS(ED) FREEDOM

Since the dark era of Martial law up until now where killings and threat against the people continues to propagate, journalists have been in the pedestal in upholding democracy and the truth our country needed. To this day, the press continues to be the watchdog and the fourth estate of our country but they do so with danger tailing every issue and anomaly they expose.

Journalists should not falter in resisting an administration where journalists are tagged as criminals and accused of politically-motivated charges, and where disinformation and fake news continue to overshadow the truth. Journalists have to do this while looking out for any bullets that may anytime kill them because of their mandate.

Recently, the Malacanang released an ouster plot matrix accusing known journalists, truth and justice defender, and media outfit, including Ellen Tordes of Vera Files, Maria Ressa of Rappler, National Union of People's Lawyer (NUPL), and Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), as part of a "plot" to oust President Rodrigo Duterte. According to Presidential Spokesperson, Salvador Panelo, the information of this matrix came from an "unknown number."

“
Today, as we celebrate World Press Freedom, the fight for genuine press freedom comes hand in hand with the preservation of our democracy.”

College Editors Guild of the Philippines-Cordillera strongly condemns this attack to the journalists and the media who serve as the watchdog of the truth. CEGP Cordillera also believes that this is a clear manifestation of the government's way to silence its critics.

Today, as we celebrate World Press Freedom, the fight for genuine press freedom comes hand in hand with the preservation of our democracy. In an era of killings, danger and extreme corruption within the government, we need people to deliver what the country needs to know. In the age of disinformation, we need those who truly seek the truth. We need the press to do their mandate despite the threats and attacks towards them.

The guild will continue to uphold press freedom and fight against those who try to shatter its foundations. In this time where threats against the press is relentless, the fight to resist and condemn such acts will be as aggressive. Press Freedom is beyond the freedom to write, it transcends to the right of the people to know the truth and the protection of democracy.###

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CORDILLERA GUILDER
The Official Publication of College Editors Guild of the Philippines Cordillera



from page 1

Brandon

Daoden Kate Sarmiento

Lee has been consistently receiving different threats and harassments, both online and offline, by the 54th IBPA. The threats were only due to the nature of his work as a human rights work and his active participation with the Ifugao Peasant Movement (IPM).

Prior to this shooting incident, 54th IBPA officers led by 1Lt Karol Jar R. Mendoza, 54th IBPA CMO Officer, and LTC Narciso Nabulneg, Jr., came to the IPM office. The said officers insisted on getting information about IPM activities along with names of the IPM members.

Lee then reported this incident to the CHRA. In his report, he had manifested his firm stance against the harassment and intimidation the IPM received from the said officers.

"I will just give you two names you can tell your boss on why we are reluctant to

partner with you, William Bugatti, and Ricardo Mayumi and your boss should understand why. Tell them, if you want a better relationship with the farmer organizations, you shouldn't threaten them," Lee's report stated.

In a press release from CHRA condemning the shooting incident, the organization insists to hold the State accountable for all human rights violations in Ifugao. Moreover, in the statement, the organization condemned and called for the end of Oplan Kapayapaan and Oplan Kapanatagan which only seeks to silence legitimate and legal dissent and to repress the nation of genuine democratic space.

Lee experienced a lot more cases of harassment and death threats earlier in his line of work. In 2015, he received death threats in Ifugao. Along with other IPM members, they received a photo of an Ifugao burial blanket with messages explicitly saying that they will be extrajudicially-killed just like William Bugatti, who was killed in March 2014.

Lee was rushed to the nearest hospital and is now out of critical condition.

VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY



Upon exhaustive discussion, villagers from Alimit Ifugao has come to a resolution to construct a permanent signboard to oppose the impending complex dam project of SN Aboitiz in Alimit river.

Student protest pushes halt on Collection of fees among irregular students in Benguet State U

Quimberlyn Ranchez

Collection of fees among irregular students in Benguet State University (BSU) was retracted after the students protested and filed series of petitions against the BSU administration, on July 12.

Earlier this month, BSU administration has waived fees being collected for "back and advance subjects" among irregular students and shiftees following its university policy.

"Courses (subjects) enrolled not within the curriculum for the term and or failed, dropped or incomplete during the previous semester(s) and re-enrolled this term, shall not be included under the Free Higher Education (FHE) or RA 10931," as stated in the said university policy.

According to the National Union of Students in the Philippines Baguio-Benguet, it was reported that fees were being collected from BSU students despite RA 10931 or the Free Education Act in State Universities and Colleges.

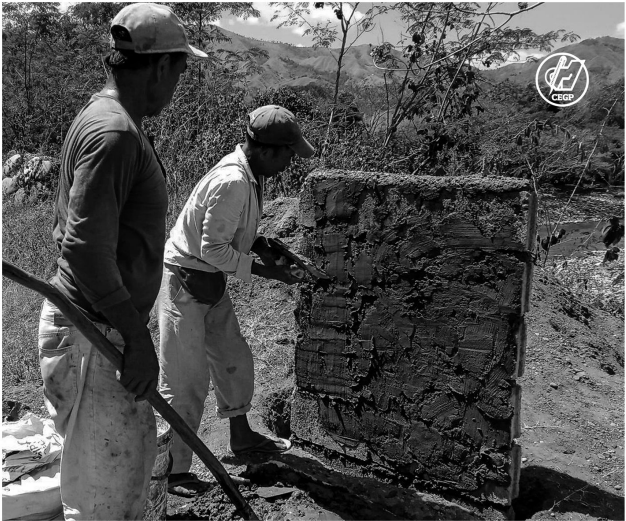
The collection was common among shiftees taking advance or back subject

or those subjects taken too early or too late based on their program's curriculum, which is mainly common to students who are taking their major subject late due to shifting from other courses, based from the report.

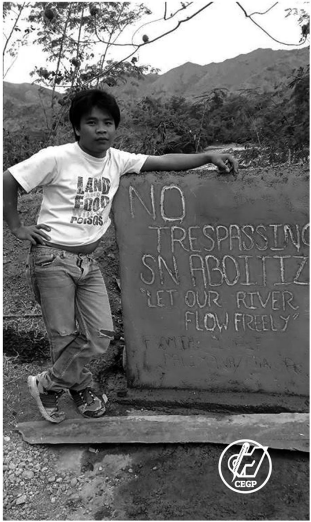
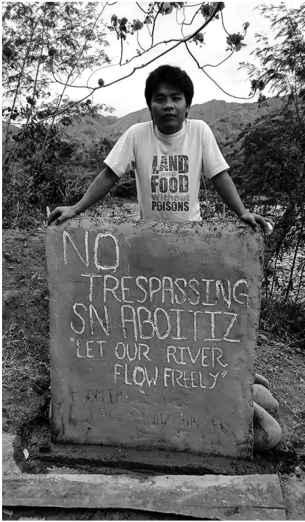
The fee collection was given without much deliberation and proper consultation with the students, in which they detested the hasty collection.

Meanwhile, the students forwarded a petition to the administration of the university, together with the NUSP and Kabataan Partylist, where a dialogue was requested and a position paper against this policy was submitted.

The university admin, a week after, replied and informed the students who petitioned against the policy have the fees no longer being collected. Moreover, the policy was not totally scrapped as the review of the administration is still on-going.



Almost done! The signbord was built by the villagers themselves as a symbol of protest. The project is seen by the community more as "destructive" than "development"



No backing out! The community is solid in their opposition as seen in this permanent signboard!

TIMELINE OF ROTC SCANDAL

1995

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

Seth Lopez, ROTC Cadet died due to injuries from hazing activities by ROTC cadet officers in a Farm House in Tanay, Rizal.

1999

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Arthur Salero, student and ROTC Cadet died of hazing.

2001

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

Mark Welson Chua was murdered by senior cadet officers after exposing the corruption of UST ROTC unit.

2006

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN

ROTC and SIN members tagged leaders of anti-tuition increase campaigns as recruiters of NPA and discouraged students to join the walkout against the 300% tuition fee increase.

2007

POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES - STA.MESA

ROTC unit distributed pamphlets to students tagging student leaders and the PUP Central Student Council Chairperson as NPA recruiters.

2010

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS

ROTC unit tagged student leaders and activists as NPA recruiters and discouraged students to join the walkout against class-size increase per subject.

2014

BENGUET STATE UNIVERSITY

Brenda Dayag, member of the Cadet Officer Candidate Course (COCC) experienced paddling during their training. Aside from that, female cadets are forced to sleep in male cadet quarters.

Jezreal Sacpa testified against ROTC officials that mauled them and exposed sexual abuses by the officers. Sacpa filed a complaint against Emily Sao-anen and Elray Baguiwan. It was dismissed by the BSU administration.

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

Multiple charges of hazing were filed against ROTC Corps Commander including one from a parent of a former cadet. The Student Discipline Formation Office suspended the COCC program after the charges were filed.

ATENEO DE DAVAO UNIVERSITY

Army Capt. Nathaniel Morales of the 10th Infantry Division tagged the College Editors Guild of the Philippines as a part of CPP-NPA-NDPF at a forum titled "Threat to National Security" during the NSTP orientation.

POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES - STA. MESA

Complaint against two ROTC officers for two separate hazing incident was filed by a freshman student.

2015

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES VISAYAS - TACLOBAN COLLEGE

Journalists of the official student publication of UPVTC, UP Vista were tagged as members of NPA during an ROTC lecture class.

2016

UNIVERSITY OF MINDANAO - TAGUM

In a Facebook video, cadets were being hit in their chest and stomach by their senior officers while shouting "Kung gusto mo maranasan ang naranasan ng senior mo, tanggapin mo yan lahat."

TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

A surveillance operation was conducted by ROTC members during a forum on free education in the university.

PAMANTASAN NG LUNGSOD NG PASIG

ROTC Cadets experienced physical abuse and attempted rape cases.

2016

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MINDANAO

UP Mindanao ROTC classes are under the supervision of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' 11th Infantry Battalion. It is a violation of the Sotto-Enrile Accord of 1989 which bans police and military presence within UP campuses.

2017

2019

ILOILO STATE COLLEGE OF FISHERIES

Willie Amihoy, an ROTC cadet of Iloilo State University in Dumaguas, Iloilo was allegedly attacked and killed by his own ROTC corps commander, Elmer Decilao.

Provincial Task Force To End Local Communist Armed Conflict (PTF-ELCAC), kinondena ng mga kabataan Sa Mt. Province

Nel Damaso

Ipinahayag ng Mountain Province Youth Alliance — Anakbayan (MPYA-AB) at iba pang mga kabatan sa Mountain Province ang kanilang labis na pagtutol sa pinaigting na panggigipit at atake sa mamamayan ng Provincial Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (PTF-ELCAC).

Ang PTF-ELCAC ang nag-institusyonalisa sa National Government Agency, Civil Society Organization, lokal na mga ahensya ng gobyerno, State Universities and Colleges at pribadong sektor na lumahok sa kontra-insurhensiyang kampanya laban sa mamamayan, na pinirmahan ni President Rodrigo Duterte sa ilalim ng Executive Order no. 70.

Pinalawig ng PTF-ELCAC ang pagtutok sa mga komunidad ng pambansang minorya at magsasaka, na nagdulot ng mga pandarahas at paniniktik, sa hanay

ng mga pambansa-demokratikong organisasyon at mga masang tagasuporta nito.

Kamakailan lamang, nakatanggap ng subpoena ang isang kasapi ng Alyansa dagiti Pesante ti Taeng Montañosa (APIT-MON), isang alyansa ng mga magsasaka at hardinero sa Mountain Province, na sinampahan ng lokal na PNP ng gawa-gawang kasong "frustrated murder" at "murder" dahil umano sa pagiging sangkot daw nito sa naganap na engkwentro sa pagitan ng PNP at NPA sa Mt. Kapowao, Bauko, na nagresulta ng isang patay at isang sugatan sa hanay ng kapulisan, ika-29 ng Marso ngayong taon.

Ayon sa mga kabataan sa nasabing probinsya, ang programa ng PTF-ELCAC ay walang maitutulong sa komunidad at ipinagkakait lang nito ang kapayapaan ng mga mamamayan sa komunidad.

Konsultahang kabataan held in Kalinga

Shirley Bonilla

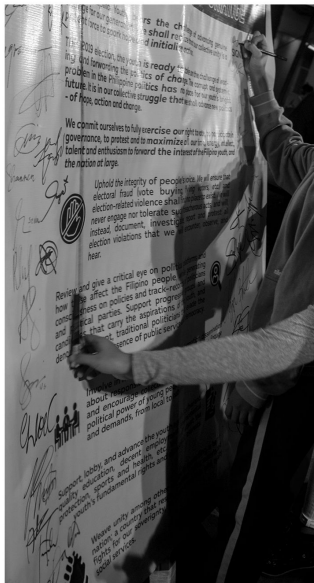
Youth groups from Kalinga successfully conducted a Konsultahang Kabataan (KonKab) on April 9, in time for our commemoration of #ArawNgKagitingan. The activity was attended by student leaders from various schools and Sangguniang Kabataan officials of the province.

Karen Bandao of Cordillera Youth Center discussed the "Anatomy of Philippine Politics". Meanwhile, NUSP Cordillera coordinator Louise Montenegro tackled the youth situation and Youth Agenda while Shanen Dela Cruz, a student-leader from UP Baguio facilitated the a discussion on the youth legislative agenda.





Khim Russel Abalos



KABATAAN PL Cordi, youth leaders sign Youth Covenant for Chane in a youth-led concert

Youth leaders from various schools and organizations in Baguio-Benguet sign the Youth Covenant for Change during the Rock the Vote concert on April 29, 2019 at the Malcolm Square, Baguio City. The Youth Covenant for Change is a commitment of the youth to exercise their right to vote in the 2019 elections and to lead and call for the politics of change.

“As the so-called hope of the nation, the youth has the responsibility to forward the interest of the nation and the people in the 2019 elections. We must recognize the elections as a venue for our voice, our aspirations to be heard. Thus, we crafted and signed our commitment to the Youth Covenant for Change,” said Nico Ponce, Chairperson-elect of UP Baguio University Student Council.

The public signing was part of the Rock the Vote, a concert that calls for a clean and honest 2019 elections, which is organized by the Kabataan Partylist (KPL) and Kabataan Tayo ang Pag-asa (KTAP).

“The Youth Vote is integral in the elections, and thus we choose to elect leaders who will forward the politics of change. The Youth covenant for Change is a step for the youth to protest the corrupt and systematic problem in the Philippine politics. While we are in the middle of human rights, economic and political crises, this covenant becomes a covenant for a better future,” KPL-Cordillera Coordinator Cielo Marie Esmeria said.

ACT Teachers Partylist 3rd Nominee Jeanette Cawiding and Baguio City

We call on the Filipino youth to fulfill their destiny as the Pag-Asa Ng Bayan!

FREE PUBLIC EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS

Following the landmark victory of youth and students with the new law on free education, mandating the provision of free undergraduate education in public universities and colleges, we support the youth's resounding call for the institution of free public education at ALL levels. We believe that this can be achieved by pursuing concrete steps which include stopping tuition increases, the junking of all other school fees, allotting greater state funding for education, and the scrapping of unsound policies that led to the spiraling cost of education. We support the call for the reorientation of our education system towards being nationalist, scientific, and mass-oriented, rather than serving as a money-making venture and as a tool to fuel the global need for cheap labor. Democratic rights in schools must also be upheld.

DECENT JOBS FOR THE YOUTH AND THE PEOPLE

We are one with the youth in calling for an end to contractualization, harassment of trade unions, the labor export policy, and other policies inimical to the labor sector. We are one with the labor sector in calling for the institution of a P16,000 monthly national minimum wage. We commit to implementing a concrete national industrialization program that could generate decent jobs and finally end the spiraling unemployment in the country.

GENUINE AGRARIAN REFORM

We recognize the urgent need to implement genuine agrarian reform. We also pledge to exert all efforts to develop and modernize the agriculture sector, in a way that would benefit farmers and tillers the most. We condemn and call to stop the killings of peasants and agrarian reform beneficiaries.

JUST AND LASTING PEACE

We are united in the belief that the pursuit of just and lasting peace is of primordial importance. We support the calls for the resumption of peace talks between the national government and all internal conflict groups. We commit to exerting all efforts to ensure that justice will be served for all victims of human rights' violations, and putting an end to the culture of impunity that thrives in the country. We also call for the unequivocal release of political prisoners whose continued incarceration have become one of the main barriers in the continuation of peace negotiations.

IMPROVEMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND ALL SOCIAL SERVICES

We stand hand-in-hand with the youth in the belief that social services such as health, housing, and public transportation should be given top priority by providing greater state funding, rather than privatizing, these services.

BETTER INTERNET

We continue to pledge our support to the promotion of Internet usage and the improvement of telecommunications technology in the country. The passage of the youth's principally authored law on free public internet access is a significant step forward. We will also keep in mind that legislation for the Internet should expand – rather than restrict – the relative freedom we enjoy online.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION

We commit to crafting strong legislation that would not only protect the environment but also put an end to the unabated plunder of our lands and seas by foreign companies and big businesses.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

We commit to ensuring that greater democratic space for people's participation in the conduct of the

country's affairs will be provided, along with unrestrained access to government information through the enactment of a Freedom of Information Law. We are one with the youth in strengthening the fight against systemic corruption that has emptied the public coffers of our nation, and realizing the role of the youth in national development.

UPHOLDING NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY

We pledge our support in the fight to uphold our national sovereignty amidst all brewing international conflicts. We also stand firm in the belief that patriotism involves serving our own people and not the whims and orders of foreign hegemonic powers.

THE YOUTH AGENDA FOR CHANGE

Benguet communities cry against continuing disaster brought by Benguet Corp

Odeza Urmatam

Benguet Corporation, Inc. (BCI) and government agencies should be held accountable for the landslide that killed small-scale miners in Itogon, Benguet on September 28, the Kabanguetan Agkaykaysa nga Ilaban ken Aywanan ti Biag, Daga, ken Kinabaknang (KAIBANG) Cordillera Peoples Alliance Benguet said in their statement.

According to the KAIBANG, the BCI conducts a mining contract scheme with the small-scale miners to allow them to mine in the Antamok mining area. With this scheme, the company and the small-scale miners shared an unjust agreement in the production output.

"Most settlers in First Gate, part of the area that was buried in the recent biggest landslide in Itogon, were contract miners who had no security of tenure, no security of shelter, and no protection from the company or compensation for workplace mishaps. These miners gambled their lives with BCI. Thus, the company is accountable for the lives lost in the September 18 landslide that buried First Gate and BCI Tunnel 070," Marty Cabangon of KAIBANG stated.

According to Cabangon, BCI is the oldest and one of the largest mining companies in the Cordillera region, plundering the municipality's land and resources since 1904. He said that the decades of operations has caused massive landslides and subsidence in residential communities and the poisoning of major river systems over the years.

The organization also expressed their rage over the inaction of the Department of Natural Resources (DENR) and its regional line bureaus, and the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) for their decades of inaction towards the pleas of communities in stopping large-scale mining operations.

"BCI must be held accountable for the Itogon tragedy! It must return Itogon to the hands of its rightful owners – the Ibaloi people. The company should also abide with transparency and provide the public copies of its tunnel maps to help communities in disaster preparedness. BCI should also live up to its promise of rehabilitating Itogon. And government agencies especially the DENR should support the demands of the people instead of favoring BCI.

"

One of Kakailian Salakniban Tay Amin a Nagtaudan's (KASTAN) staff came back from community work on March 20 to find their office forcibly entered, with office files and belongings in disarray.

The Abra chapter of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), Kakailian Salakniban Tay Amin's (KASTAN) office in Ubbog, Lipcan in Bangueid towad was found to be forcibly entered on March 20 as staff came back from community work.

Whole staff went on a community work last March 17 and only came back to their office on March 20. According to the staff, their office files and belongings were in complete disarray. It was reported that nothing was stolen from their office. However, everything was looked into including personal belongings.

According to an article from Northern Dispatch, the neighbor found the office padlock already broken, afternoon of March 18.

KASTAN manifests that the office ransack is part of the red-tagging ploy of the current administration. They also stated that the military and provincial government of Abra have already accused them as an allied organization of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army.

KASTAN also said that the office ransack exhibits the on-going Martial Law, not only in Mindanao, but for most parts of the country.

Report from Northern Dispatch

Kastan-Abra's office ransacked



Fees collection continue despite Free Education Act

Khim Russel Abalos

BAGUIO CITY — Kabataan Partylist-Cordillera (KPL-Cordi), the regional chapter of the sole youth representative in the 17th Congress, slams the maneuvers of CHED-UniFAST and the Duterte administration in limiting the access of youth to free education.

Despite the passing of the Universal Access to Free and Quality Education Act or RA 10931 in 2017, following the massive demonstrations and decade-long demand of the youth for free education, KPL-Cordi questions the sincerity of the administration in realizing the youth's aspirations.

"We are deeply appalled by how the CHED and UniFAST have expertly played their tricks in RA 10931 and its IRR, manifested in the collection of 'minimal fees', stricter admission policies and the questionable Return Service System (RSS) which will serve as recompense for the supposed free education", stated Cielo Marie Esmeria, KPL Cordillera spokesperson.

This incoming academic year, millions of Filipino youth is set to pay 'minimal fees' that were not included in the list of 'defined' fees of RA 10931. In the Cordillera, Kalinga State University (KSU) charged each enrollee of fees amounting to Php 1000 – 2500.

Meanwhile, Mountain Province State Polytechnic College (MPSPC) and Benguet State University (BSU) have institutionalized the 'registration fees' for Student Council candidates. Cordillera SUCs are also collecting 'penalty-type' fees for students who were not able to attend college and university activities.

On the other hand, the RSS is also set for full implementation this coming academic year. This new system is drawn out from the Implementing Rules and

Regulations of the RA 10931, Rule 2, Sec 4, stating that "SUCs and LUCs shall formulate and implement a Return

Service System for students befitting from the free higher education provision of this Act, as part of their admission and retention policies"

"RSS is a payment scheme for the free education through forced and unpaid labor for either school or government offices. While BSU has yet to release its quota time for their RSS, reports have been confirmed that Cagayan State University students were contracted to work 15 hours every week. If they will be deployed to these offices as student assistants, their working time will amount to Php 18,000 per semester which is even higher to the actual tuition cost!" Esmeria exclaimed. Further, Esmeria stated, "The neoliberal agents of the government has been ever since relentless in their effort to sabotage the call for free education. Instead of expanding free education, they are desperate in limiting its access. Stricter admission policies and higher passing scores for entrance exams became suspiciously frequent. To add, MPSPC's admission tests have been administered to 'filter' students despite having no such mechanisms in the past years."

"This travesty to our education will not in any way put us back. Rather, will push the youth onward, intensifying our call for a genuine free and quality education for all", said Esmeria.###



Baguio youth slam campus militarization

Christel Baptista

University of the Philippines (UP) Baguio student organizations and institutions, along with other progressive formations outside the university, held a protest action at the UP Baguio Oblation Grounds on Tuesday, August 20 to condemn campus militarization and threats to academic freedom.

This was in response to the state's proposed increase of police and military presence in state universities and colleges to stop the alleged recruitment and kidnapping of students by the New People's Army.

Protesters denounced the Duterte administration's attempt to silence dissent and the growing youth movement. They reiterated the 1989 accord between the UP administration and the Department of National Defense (DND) which bans the entry of the police and military in academic institutions as they are declared as "safe zones."

"UP is a bastion for the vocal and critical youths towards various social issues. As Iskolars ng Bayan, we are equipped not to be silent in times when oppression takes place. Inside the university, we are given our freedom to express our thoughts, may it be positive or negative, through

different activities such as mobilizations, discussions, and other events," said Hannah Añonuevo, UP Baguio University Student Councilor.

Añonuevo also added that the attempt of the AFP-PNP to enter inside schools threatens the democratic freedom and safety of the students. She said that AFP-PNP have cases of red-tagging, surveillance and monitoring of progressive individuals and organizations over the years.

Students also condemned other forms of breach in their democratic freedom such as the imposition of Mandatory Random drug-testing among universities and the Mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) in Senior High schools.

The protest action is in line with the UP system-wide National Day of Walkout and Action.

TOSFI WATCH

*Tuition and Other School Fees Increase

BAGUIO CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
ADVISORY
BAGUIO CENTRAL UNIVERSITY INTENDS TO INCREASE TUITION AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS FEES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020.
CHED MEMORANDUM ORDER (CMO) NO. 3, S. 2012 MANDATES THAT "ALL HESU INTENDS TO INCREASE TUITION AND MISCELLANEOUS FEES SHALL CONDUCT CONSULTATION WITH THEIR STUDENT COUNCIL, UNIVERSITY + + +"
IN VIEW OF THIS CMO, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS SCHEDULED THE CONSULTATION WITH BSU STUDENT COUNCIL, GOVERNMENT (STUDENT) PARLIAMENTS OFFICERS AND COLLEGE BOO OFFICERS) ON:
**FRIDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2019
3:00 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON
FUNCTION HALL, BONIFACIO CAMPUS**
A NOTICE OF MEETING WITH THE BSU AND BOO OFFICERS HAS BEEN SENT TO THE BSU BSU PRESIDENT MICHAEL H. MANUEL, FOR

Baguio Central University
Tuition and other fees increase (details to follow)

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
ANNOUNCEMENT
TO: ALL PARENTS, STUDENTS AND ALL CONCERNED
RE: TUITION AND OTHER FEES, AT 2019-2020
Covering:
Please be informed that Saint Louis University intends to increase tuition and other fees for the Academic Year 2019-2020 as follows:
1. Prebaptism
Tuition Fee - 40% increase over the rate for AY 2018-2019
Other Fees - as indicated in the attached proposed Schedule of Fees for AY 2019-2020
2. For Second and Higher Years
Tuition Fee - 10% per the same rate paid for AY 2018-2019
Other Fees - as indicated in the attached proposed Schedule of Fees for AY 2019-2020
3. The Law, Medicine and Graduate Programs
Tuition Fee - 40% increase over the rate for AY 2018-2019
Second & Higher Years - 10% per the same rate paid for AY 2018-2019
Other Fees - as indicated in the attached proposed Schedule of Fees for AY 2019-2020
In compliance with the requirements of law and pertinent guidelines, a consultation meeting with the concerned parties is scheduled on February 15, 2019.
Attached please find a copy of the Schedule of Tuition and Other fees for

Saint Louis University
6% Automatic tuition Increase for freshies
4-6% OSF Increase for all students

UNIVERSITY OF THE CORDILLERAS
SCHOOL FEES
Proposed Increase in Tuition & Other Fees for Incoming Freshmen
School Year 2019-2020

	PROPOSED FEES (P2019-2020)	CURRENT FEES (P2018-2019)	INCREASE	PERCENTAGE
A. TUITION FEE PER UNIT				
1. Undergraduate				
CAL CBA CCE CHNS CCEC CUC COA College of Nursing	Php. 651.00	Php. 514.00	Php. 137.00	10%
BSN	Php. 651.00	Php. 514.00	Php. 137.00	10%
BSN	Php. 1,101.00	Php. 1,001.00	Php. 100.00	10%
College of Engineering and Architecture	Php. 651.00	Php. 514.00	Php. 137.00	10%
BSCE	Php. 645.00	Php. 507.00	Php. 138.00	10%
2. Graduate School				
Master's Programs except MCE and MCE	Php. 1,221.00	Php. 1,001.00	Php. 100.00	10%
MCE	Php. 1,915.00	Php. 1,745.00	Php. 170.00	10%
MCE/MS	Php. 2,509.00	Php. 2,339.00	Php. 170.00	10%
Doctoral Programs except DE	Php. 1,200.00	Php. 1,001.00	Php. 199.00	10%
Doctor in Information Technology	Php. 2,783.00	Php. 2,500.00	Php. 283.00	10%
B. OTHER SCHOOL FEES				
Insurance*	Php. 75.00	Php. 60.00	Php. 15.00	40%

University of the Cordilleras
10-15% Tuition Increase | 40% OSF Increase





CEGP Cordillera

in Action

Quimberlyn Sanchez

College Editors Guild of the Philippines Cordillera, as the vanguard of campus press freedom in the region, served to its mandate in forwarding the duty of the youth to speak the truths through writing. And the Guild never failed to fulfil its duties through its campaigns and advocacies, conducting different activities within and outside the region.

Abra Leg

The youth of Abra, spearheaded by the Guild, conducted a journalism skills training regarding news writing, photojournalism, feature writing, and a brief on handling school newspapers.

Young journalists involved themselves with information regarding the topics, and short workshops after each part to apply what they've learned into practice. A short discussion on pressing media and social issues were provided to arm them with what they should analyse in their immediate environment.

The said discussion stirred the participants in forwarding the campus press and campus press freedom as the significance of the role of the campus press in making history and throughout the history, good brief on social issues, journalism skills and topics, and internal publication management were highlighted.

The workshop was also successful in building contacts and establishing an initial organizational structure for CEGP in the province. Attendees also included some of the publication's advisers who were grateful for the guild's initiative in helping the students with their issues and pushing for them to write about more relevant topics, as well as being equipped with student publication as well.

Following the CEGP journalism skills training held in the region was a follow-up and having additional members join the assembly as well to solidify the establishing of the organization in Abra.

An orientation on the guild was given to the new attendees, as well as a brief on how to run the organization, the principles and objectives to be met. During the students were then given the chance to voice out their concerns and ideas for running the guild with relevant issues in Abra.

The assembly was able to select CEGP Abra coordinators coming from 2 different publications. Although the organization has merely a small group of coordinators, the solid organization through having its members is a step towards the organizers training them to run the guild on their own.

Series of trainings were conducted which involved activities designed to equip young journalist in particular journalism fields, both in form and content. The framework of the discussion was an input on Advocacy Journalism and Tools for Analysis, followed by a workshop on features and news writing and online publication.

A write-shop was held as a conclusion of the activity to gauge the effectiveness of the training, where selected articles and materials were presented for evaluation.

As 2019 open, the assembly kicked off CEGP's program of work for the New Year with a General Assembly of its members. The assembly started with reporting and updating of publications and a discussion on the Economic and Political Prospects of 2019. And a planning of ways forward soon followed.

With the said assembly, resolutions on various concerns of the chapter were concrete results of the assembly.

The Online project "Timmek ti Umili," which means "Voices of the People" was started. The project aims to highlight the plight and stories of the different people in the Region, and to provide platform for the people, or called the Cordillerans, to voice out their opinion and perspectives on the latest issues that concerns the society today.

The Guild also share updates on the situation of their publications and updated the CEGP directory.

The Guild joins National Students' Press Congress

The 4-day National Students' Press Congress organized by the CEGP National Office was packed with various socio-political discussion, skills training, writing and campus paper competition, community exposure trip and plenary sessions.

It converged student publications nationwide not only to impart valuable knowledge and skills in journalism but rather, serve as venue for young journalists to share their experiences, challenges and methods of management and coping amid all these.

Great impact on the delegates were imparted by the NSPC. The 7 delegates from Cordillera were able to harness their skills and knowledge. Moreso, the NSPC paved way for an even greater link and network among various publications, journalists and professionals (whom served as speakers of NSPC) for future engagement with CEGP Cordillera. ###

ART AS PROTEST



In Bonifacio's time, Filipinos were slaves in their own country. The Spanish promoted social stratification and placed themselves at the top, enriching themselves at the Filipinos' expense. The government deprived the Filipinos of education to keep them blind to injustice and oppression. Even if this was unsuccessful, they made it clear that criticizing them and the system they benefited from meant imprisonment, exile or even death.

Despite this, Bonifacio educated himself about the Philippines' situation and resolved to do something about it. Believing that only a revolution would grant the country true independence, he organized the 'Kataas-taasan, ght.

Kagalang-galangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan' (KKK) or simply 'Katipunan'. Under his guidance, the Katipunan fought against their oppressors to free the poor and the marginalized, who were abused and doomed to grow poorer under the Spanish regime.

Bonifacio embodied nationalism. His revolution was for a free, independent nation—not a colony, and certainly not the neo-colony the Philippines has turned into.

Until today, we are ruled by a system rigged to make the wealthy wealthier, and the poor poorer. Or dead.

We remain under the thumb of the imperialist United States. The US already exercises significant control over our abundant resources, importing labor and raw materials at a low cost and exporting the finished products at a higher price. Still it seeks to gain more through the implementation of international trade policies.

Furthermore, our farmers, the backbone of our livelihood and economy, are underpaid and have no claim over their own lands, lands they themselves cultivated. And as shown in the Hacienda Luisita massacre, protests can mean death.

Our fascist government, using the existence of rebels and terrorists as an excuse to prioritize military development and weapons purchases, vilifies anyone.

Our President buried a dictator in a cemetery for heroes. He supposedly wages a war against drugs, but only kills the poor suspects, bypassing their right to due process. More than 13,000 have died, not all of them confirmed drug pushers or drug users, while the wealthy suspects get to keep their comfortable lifestyles.

History has shown that inaction has only ever helped the oppressors, never the oppressed. And history has shown that liberty isn't free. It has to be fought for. Many of the benefits we enjoy today (e.g. free education, minimum wage, women's rights) exist because of dissent, because of protest, because of progressive citizens speaking up and taking to the streets to make the government listen to their demands. In line with this, the CEGP calls upon fellow students and citizens to act. Begin by starting discussions and spreading awareness about Philippine social realities. Organize into groups and formulate resolutions in answer to these realities. Keep studying to improve our overall analysis of the Philippine situation. Mobilize and protest. Let the people know this is not how it should be. Generations before us had risen and fallen in the struggle for true independence. It's up to us to continue the fight.

Christian Dave Ruz

IGOTORAK LATTA!

John Rey Aquino

I am an Igorot. My mother is of Ibaloy decent, as were my maternal grandparents, their parents, and all my ancestors. I had an idea of what being an Igorot meant—being part of a unique yet discriminated culture. But I never experienced discrimination from being an Igorot, not because I denied my ethnicity, but because I am an Igorot in diaspora.

To be in diaspora means to have moved away from one's homeland. I spent my childhood in Bulacan and Nueva Vizcaya and not in Benguet where the Ibaloy hold their ancestral lands. I didn't grow up in the ili, or the community. I know close to nothing about our culture, but I always wanted to know more, learn more.

That's why when the opportunity to study in Baguio came to me as I passed the college entrance exam, I immediately decided to push on and entered university. I hoped to be exposed to Igorot culture, and Baguio is the place to start. And yes, I learned some things.

I discovered that tourists pay money to take pictures with "genuine" Igorots in Botanical Garden and Mines View Park. I understood the marketability of Igorot handmade wooden craft and woven cloth sold in souvenir shops. I realized how that traditional bahag worn by men is a 'costume' and not a 'traditional attire.' No sarcasm intended, I saw a culture that has been bastardized and appreciated for its unfamiliarity instead of its uniqueness. Baguio is not a place to learn Igorot culture, I realized—it is a place where the Igorot must find ways to live and are forced to exhibit their ethnicity like museum displays.

Another opportunity to learn came to me in April last year. I joined the Peoples Cordillera Day celebration in Kalinga with a jeepload of schoolmates. It took half a day to travel from Baguio to Balbalan, Kalinga, where we lived for four days. The community warmly welcomed us along with all three thousand visitors who came to the celebration.

My visit to Kalinga, and the Peoples Cordillera Day celebration, was inspired by the story of Macli-ing Dulag, a Kalinga pangat, a chief elder who lived in the days of Martial rule in the country. In those turbulent years, the government wanted to build a hydroelectric dam in the Chico River. Apo Macli-ing opposed the government plan and united the affected Igorot tribes in to firmly stand in opposition. It was a bold move for someone who was just an "ordinary" man to oppose the government, especially the project's proponent, none other than the former president Marcos. As a result, the Igorots' unity against the dam, with Apo Macli-ing's leadership, triumphed in ending the proposed dam project.

Had the dam been built in Chico Dam, the farmers would lose their lands to floods. Families who lived near the river would have also been displaced. The Chico Dam project would have resulted in another diaspora—a diaspora where the Kalinga peoples lose their ancestral lands that have been passed down through centuries and generations. These lands give livelihood to the indigenous peoples. When Apo Macli-ing said that "Land is life," he meant just the same.

I have always seen Igorot culture to be unique. If in Baguio it is indigenous culture that is lost, in Kalinga, and in many other parts of the Cordillera, lands are lost. Like Igorot ancestral lands, our culture was passed down through centuries and generations until today. The Chico Dam Movement may have prevented the dam, but in other parts of the Cordillera, corporate mining, hydroelectric dams, and development aggression projects continue to threaten the

indigenous ancestral lands. Still, my participation in the Cordillera Day celebration taught me that indigenous culture survives as part of the Igorots' long history of protecting ancestral lands.

Back then, I wasn't exactly proud of being Igorot, but I didn't deny it either. With all that I have learned, I came to embrace my ethnicity. I realized I must be proud of my ancestry, not only of our culture but also of the historical fact that the Igorots were able to collectively resist Spanish colonial influence in its 300-year-rule in the country. Apo Macli-ing did not waver in the face of the Marcos dictatorship, and neither do the Igorots of today as we face an unreasonable ruler who pretends to run the country with love and nationalism.

This year, I look forward to joining activities with higher militancy, in the spirit of Apo Macli-ing's martyrdom and other banwar of the Cordillera. Now, more than ever, I look forward to stories that will keep the flame of the Igorots' collective strength burning. I look forward to once again witness

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I look forward to once again witness stories of resistance and bravery that will satisfy my eagerness to learn because, in the end, Igorotak latta.”



Nurture and defend

Ochama Labbagan

I was raised by advocacy workers. I never understood as a child what their work is and why they chose it. They could have been professionals in a more profitable field but they chose the road less travelled.

Growing up they would tell me stories of the undying culture that we, indigenous peoples, have. The collective good is prioritized and we are tasked to be the keepers of our land. They said that our culture is rooted in the land that sustains us.

These were all trivial things to a child. Back then, all I cared about when going to our province is that I am back in the mountains, feeling the cold breeze. I guess I just didn't relate to being an indigenous person.

When I became a teenager I wanted to understand my roots. I decided to join a youth performing organization whose productions are based on IP culture. We performed Igorot songs and danced with gongs and bamboo instruments. Also, we were depicting stories about the IP way of life. Our skits portrayed IP values such as sharing and responsible use of resources, simple living and self-reliance, and tenets that enhance and nurture people's welfare and the common good.

Maybe my parents were rubbing off on me because eventually I found myself joining a youth organization under the Cordillera people's movement advocating for IP rights and democracy.

A different side to the simple and peace-loving Igorot was revealed to me. Despite our harmonious ways, we are victims of institutionalized discrimination and oppression. I was exposed to the reality that IPs are survivors of massacres, discrimination, abuse, and poverty wreaked by colonizers, that even now we are still largely ignored, misunderstood, and undervalued by society.

IP communities are among the poorest and most neglected by governments around the world. We are dictated by modernization with disregard to our traditions and way of life. The thrust of globalization heightens the exploitation of our resources for mindless consumption. "Development" is forced down our throats and if deemed uncooperative, our communities are militarized. These are attacks to our culture and identity as indigenous people.

But the Igorot did not stand idle as our lands were plundered and destroyed. We have a brave history of standing up against oppressors. One valiant story of struggling for our land and culture was that of Ama Macling Dulag, the Butbut tribe chieftain slain by the Marcos regime. He united previously warring tribes against the Chico River Hydro-electric Dam Project that would have caused the displacement and loss of livelihood of Igorots in the area. His assassination is now annually commemorated during April 24 as the People's Cordillera Day and is a celebration of the people's struggle.

Truly, the IPs' struggle for self-determination is just. The bravery of Apo Macling and our ancestors must serve as a binding force for the people in the community to act as one. It is high time for us to continue striving for a development that are cultural

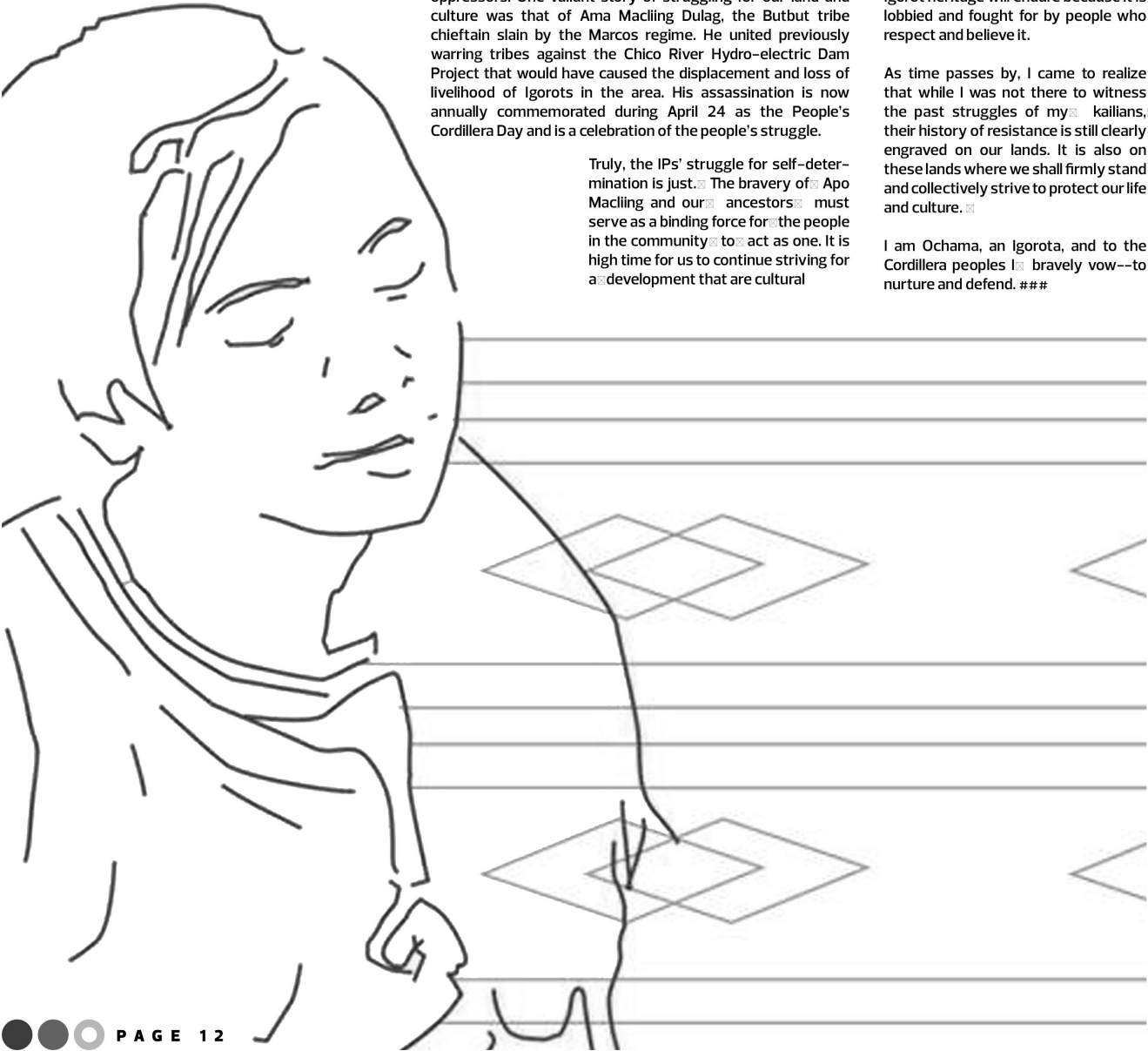
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Let me share a
little poetic
story
In the fields of
payyew where
the heart of
umili.
Nurturing the
presence of
undying beliefs
and right
This is my
home, the land
of our life.

ly-sensitive and ecologically-balanced
— a development that is from and for
the people.

The movement made me understood that to be keepers of the land meant caring and respecting the environment. It dawned on me like an epiphany why my parents chose their line of work. We have a duty to nurture and defend our land, our culture. Centuries of foreign onslaught may have besieged it but the Igorot heritage will endure because it is lobbied and fought for by people who respect and believe it.

As time passes by, I came to realize that while I was not there to witness the past struggles of my kailians, their history of resistance is still clearly engraved on our lands. It is also on these lands where we shall firmly stand and collectively strive to protect our life and culture.

I am Ochama, an Igorota, and to the Cordillera peoples I bravely vow—to nurture and defend. ###



I was born to an indigenous family and the eldest among nine siblings. My parents came from the indigenous peasant sector. They only have some paddies to till as our family's main source of living. Inherited from their parents, we belong to the poorest of the poor.

Being the eldest, I was taught to always look at the welfare of my younger brothers and sisters. I make sure that house hold chores are done before our parents arrive and that my siblings are fed and bathed well. I was always the father and the mother every time my parents were not around, until now.☹

Despite this and distance of our sitio to the school, I was able to finish my elementary with high honors. I was lucky to avail scholarship programs during my high school and college. But it wasn't enough to cover my expenses. My parents did their best, sacrificed a lot, even sold some of our very minimal properties to meet my needs. There was a time, when we were hopeless. Finals was approaching and my father was not home yet. He went to work in Abra as a small scale miner. Literally, my Papa had to climb mountains and cross rivers just to come home because he knew I was waiting. We were waiting.

Finally on March 25, 2010, my parents and I proudly made our way to the stage to get my precious gift to them – my diploma. My family and our community expected me to get a good paying job so I can help sending my siblings to school.

The thing is, during my college days I was involved in extra curricular activities. I immersed myself learning about the history and contemporary issues of farmers and my fellow Indigenous people. We talked and discussed about their problems and plight. Their problems on the lack of social services were not new to me. I saw my family's situation in every peasant I met and talked to. I was agitated by their situation – our situation. I thought I should act to contribute in changing the society for the better. A society where everybody lives equally, attains free education and health services justly.

I became an a leader of the Anakbayan chapter in the province, a progressive youth organization. We talked about issues confronting the youth sector – from tuition fee increase to student rights and welfare. We held meetings and conferences to educate, organize and mobilize the studentry. With this kind of work, I was red-tagged, harassed and vilified as a recruiter of an armed group. But time and again I still pledge allegiance to our organization.

It is always a child's dream to give back to their parents. I studied hard to give them a better life and to pay off their sacrifices. But I woke up one morning and realized that it is not right that I should only focus on uplifting my family. Many families out there have worse situations and needed much help. So I studied harder to be a part of a bigger and greater cause to change the society.

During the midterm elections I volunteered on campaigning Katribu Party list to secure a congressional seat representing the IPs. We were sent to different municipalities to educate our fellow indigenous people about its platforms. Until now, I continue to help different sector – the youth, women and middle forces.

I have no money, properties and titles to brag about but I am prouder that I am part of the struggle to liberate the people from the madness of the oppressors. ###



From “ili” to the wider community

Amplifying voices from the margins

Rogyn Beyao



Education remains a privilege among Cordilleran Youth

The data from DepEd included the students (most of them are in the tertiary level) who came from other regions to study in the Cordillera thus the number of youth who are in school is high. Also the data from DepEd

- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishery & Veterinary Medicine
- Other disciplines (including criminology)

It is notable that the number of enrollees for the other disciplinary courses shoots up from 5,531 in 2006 to 10,046 in 2012. The top three courses mentioned are also the in demand courses in the global market since 2006. Most of these courses are also offered in almost all of the higher educational institutions in CAR and some also specializes on some of the courses such as those related to medical, business, information and technology. Although the country, including the region is still agricultural based, the courses related to agriculture are only offered at the Benguet State University in CAR.

Although the number of enrollees is increasing every year, the actual number of graduates is very low compared to the high number of

Although the number of enrollees is increasing every year, the actual number of graduates is very low compared to the high number of enrollees every year. In the latest CHED data (2010), for the 93,000 average enrollees in the tertiary level every year, only 14,000 actually graduated every year. This means that many of the students dropout from school. This is also the case with the primary and secondary education level.

From the research conducted by the UP Population Institute in the Cordillera in 2013 (as shown in the diagram below), among the youth in CAR ages 15-24 years old, only 8.60% did not attend any formal education. Although the Cordillera has a higher rate of educational attainment compared to the other regions

especially those where indigenous peoples are also concentrated, only few actually graduated from college and even from high school level. From the same study, only 30.60% reached tertiary or college level, 33.80% reached secondary or high school level and 9% for vocational (short courses), and only 18.10% graduated from high school.

In addition, based from the DepEd report, the dropout rate in primary or elementary education level in the Cordillera increased from 4.7 in 2002-2003 to 5.1 in 2012-2013.

This is also consistent with the overall education situation in the Philippines where the dropout rate is yearly increasing leading to the increasing number of out-of-school youth in the country. Based on the 2013 report from UNESCO's Institute for Statistics, although the Philippines has a high rate of educational attainment, the country is among the top 5 countries which has the biggest number of out-of-school children with a record of 1.5M out-of-school children. The first top 4 includes Nigeria (10.5 million); Pakistan (5.1 million); Ethiopia (2.4 million) and

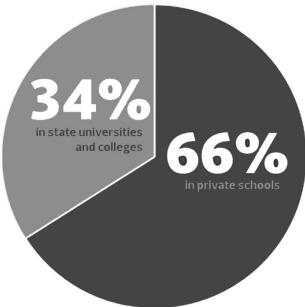
India (2.3 million).

According to the Child Poverty in the Philippines by Celia Reyes, Aubrey Tabuga, Ronina Asisand Maria Blesila Mondez, among the primary reasons why the dropout rates remain very high is because many families could hardly afford to keep their children in school. It is also a fact that even if public primary and secondary education is almost free or require a minimal fee, schooling still requires allowances, clothing, and learning materials. Most of the public schools, even in the Cordillera, also require the students to contribute for the salary of the guards, for cleaning materials and other donations requested by the schools.

During the round-table discussion (dialogue among the education sectors in Baguio City) in 2012 and 2013, the DepEd and CHED regional offices in CAR also said that the increasing dropout rates of youth in schools in the region may be attributed to various reasons, and poverty is among them. Other reasons may include bullying of fellow students or strict handling of teachers.

For those who were fortunate to reach the tertiary or college level, as mentioned earlier, many have to dropout from school because most of them cannot afford the high school fees. This is especially true for those who were enrolled in Private Colleges and Universities where the tuition and other school fees are increasing almost every year. Most of the major PHEI's in CAR increased their tuition fees for the AY 2018-2019 from 6% to 10%.

In addition to the tuition and other school fees, the students studying in Baguio City and La Trinidad and who are in boarding houses needed a minimum of P3,000/month for their basic allowance to cover the cheapest rent for boarding house, twice a day meal (usual for most college students), transportation (excluding taxis) and basic other school related materials and activities.



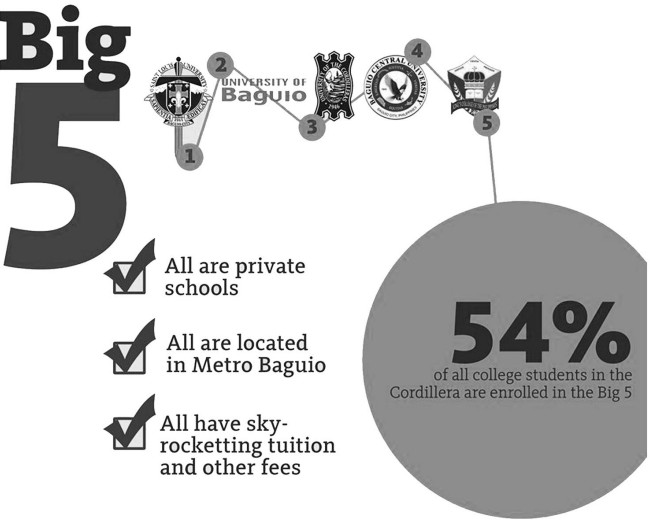
included those enrolled starting from the pre-school level. Although there are more young men in terms of population, it is noticeable that a bigger number of young women are enrolled in the tertiary level. Almost every year since 2002, the student population in the Cordillera is increasing. Since 2006, among the courses popular to the students and with the highest number of enrollees are the following:

- Medical & Allied
- Business Administration
- Engineering & Technology
- Education & Teacher Training
- Information Technology related
- Law and jurisprudence

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Napateg a kinabaknang

Composed by
Rev. Judith Aniceto (UCCP)
Performed by
SHENGNET, anti-open pit mining
cultural group

Napintas a lugar
Ucab ti nagan na
Nabaknang a daga adu't balitok na
Napintas ti apit kadagiti um-uma
Bendisyon ti Apo kadata'y nga annakna.

CHORUS:
Dios ti agbabantay, Dios ti tumultulong
Ti daytoy a bantay lugar naianakan
Inta'y nakasursuruan iti na Kristiyanoan
Ugali a napateg iti kaamaan

Kitaem man kabsat ti
mapaspasamak,
Banbantay nadadael
Mulmula napukawen
Uray dagiti danum naawan da metten
Gapu ti open pit
Awanen ti pagyanan

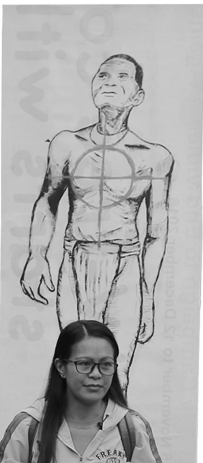
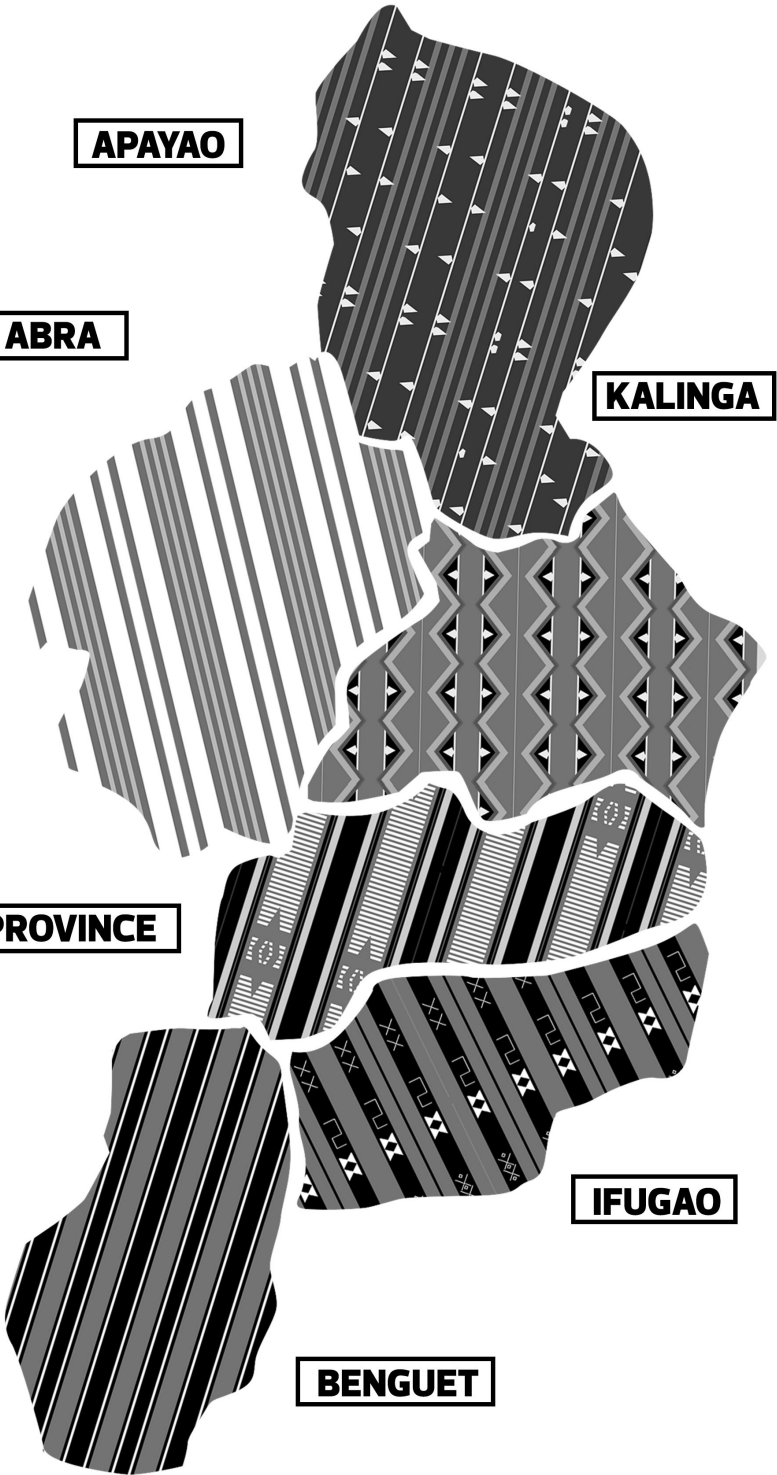
Sadino ti papanan dagiti tatao,
Nadadael a bantay ap-apalan iti kaaduan
Gapu ti open pit lumugar ag-ap-apa,
ag-aama, ag-iina, agtitinik-ol da

Bumangon ka kabsat,
Agmaymaysa tayo,
Tapnu ilaban ta'y ti kalintegan tayo
Denggen yo ti asug dagiti tatao
O agriing tayo,
Agtinulong tayo.

Ned Tuguinay

**Sa taniman ng
ating bayan,
Basyo ng bala
ang nasa
bungkalan.
Pataba ang
katawan- sunog,
laspag, duguan.**

**Sa tag- ani ng
sambayanan,
kakamtin ang
katarungan!**



Venazir Martinez

JOIN CEGP!

WHO MAY JOIN?

Membership in the CEGP shall be open to student publication, writers organizations, media organizations, whether print or digital of a college or university, vocational, or technical school, seminary, or convent

Interested individuals may also join the CEGP pool of secretariat.

For inquiries, partnerships and trainings,

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throughout the history, good brief on social issues, journalism skills and topics, and internal publication management were highlighted.

Baguio Leg

The Guild's Baguio-Benguet chapter, as the first to be established in the region, also participated in the various activities of the Guild in order to strengthen the chapter.

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CEGP is the oldest, broadest and only-existing alliance of tertiary student publications in the Philippines and Asia-Pacific region, has been at the forefront of the struggle for genuine press freedom, both in the campus and mainstream press.

This publication is published with the support from



IN ACTION CEGP CORDILLERA

