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ALFONSEÑOS ASSURED WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING p.2



Alfoseños will now realize their dream of owning decent houses as the local government unit entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Social Housing Finance Corporation for a housing project located in RS Ville, Barangay Taywanak Ibaba. (Photo: Mayor Randy Salamat FB Page)



DA-4A distributes P12.4M agri interventions in Lipa City (p.11)

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ALFONSEÑOS ASSURED WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) -- The local government of Alfonso entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) on May 4 to help Alfonseños realize their dream of owning decent houses.

Alfonso Mayor Randy Salamat said the housing project, located in RS Ville, Barangay Taywanak Ibaba is a rent-to-own scheme payable within 30 years thru the SHFC.

A government owned and controlled corporation, SHFC is the lead government agency that undertakes financing of social housing programs catering to formal and informal sectors with low-income.

Salamat added that application for the housing project is open only to legitimate residents of Alfonso,

thus applicants will undergo appropriate screening from concerned offices.

"Ang tanging makaka-avail ng pabahay na ito ay ang mga lehitimong taga-Alfonso lamang. Hindi po ito magsisilbing relocation site ng mga taga ibang lugar dahil hindi po natin isasantabi ang pagpapanatili ng maayos na peace and order status ng ating bayan," explained Salamat.

(Only legitimate Alfonso residents can avail of the housing project. It will not serve as a relocation site for non-residents because we will not put aside the preservation of peace and order in our town)

Interested applicants can visit their respective barangay halls for details of the housing project and fill up the required application form. **(Ruel Francisco with reports from Randy Salamat FB page)**

DICT activates free Wi-Fi in isolated barangays in Laguna

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) --The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) announced the activation of free wi-fi for all access points in five (5) isolated barangays in the province. Located in two municipalities, the five barangays are: Paowin, Cansuso, and East Talaongan in Cavinti; and Bayate and Tuy-Baan in Liliw town.

DICT Laguna said DICT Luzon Cluster 2 with the support of LGUs, has installed and activated free wi-fi for all sites in Geographically Isolated & Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) within the region in response to the advocacy of the government to expedite the implementation of its free internet services.

"Making sure that no one is left behind, DICT will continue to provide free internet connectivity for every Filipino," DICT Laguna added.

The DICT is the primary policy, planning, coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity of

the Executive Branch of the government that plan, develop, and promote the national ICT development agenda. **(cpg, PIA-4A)**

Mango growers sa lalawigan ng Batangas, pinagkalooban ng mga kagamitang pang-agrikultura

LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS (PIA) --Pinagkalooban ng Department of Agriculture (DA) CALABARZON ng mga kagamitang pang-agrikultura ang mga asosasyon ng mga magmamangga sa lalawigan ng Batangas na isinagawa sa Provincial Agriculture Office sa Brgy. Bolbok sa lungsod na ito noong ika-12 ng Abril.

Kabilang sa mga ipinamahagi ay mini chainsaw, pole pruner, power sprayer, ladder at calcium nitrate o flower inducer na bahagi ng programang High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) ng DA CALABARZON.

Personal na tinanggap ng mga Pangulo ng samahan mula sa Batangas City,

Lipa City, San Pascual, Nasugbu, San Jose, Bauan, Agoncillo, Rosario, Taal at Alitagtag ang mga nabanggit na kagamitang pang-agrikultura.

Ang pamamahagi ng mga kagamitan ay pinangunahan nina DA Calabarzon OIC Regional Executive Director Vilma Dimaculangan kasama sina Regional HVCDP Coordinator Redeliza Gruezo, Regional Focal Person for Mango Ruben Perlas, Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer Fidel Libao at Batangas Provincial Agriculturist Dr. Rodrigo Bautista.

Samantala, nagpaabot ng pasasalamat ang mga samahan ng magmamangga sa lalawigan sa tulong na ipinaabot sa kanila at tini-

Digital shift at IT, isusulong para sa pagtugon sa laban kontra COVID-19

LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS (PIA) --Sa isinagawang pagpupulong ng Batangas Inter-Agency Task Force at Batangas Provincial Health Board kamakailan, dalawang mahalagang punto ang binigyang-diin upang labanan ang mabilisang pagkalat ng COVID-19 virus.

Ayon kay Governor Hermandino Mandanas, kinakailangan nang simulan ang pagbalangkas ng digital shift ng pamahalaang panlalawigan sa pagtugon sa serbisyo publiko at magiging ang pagpapaganap ng epektibong Integrated Health Management sa ilalim ng Universal Health Care Act para matugunan ang mga pangangailangang medikal ng mga Batangueno.

Aniya, napapanahon na ang paggamit ng digital platform sa pagsasagawa ng mga transaksyon lalo na sa panahon na nararasan ang pandemyang dulot ng Corona virus.

Nakapaloob sa nasabing digital shift ang pagkakaroon ng transaksyon sa pamamagitan ng tele-medicine, pagnenegosyo at pampublikong transaksyon o e-commerce para sa banking and finance, pampubliko at papribadong transaksyon, pagbabayad ng mga utilities, pagbili o

pag-angkat ng pagkain at iba pang pangunahing kailangan sa araw-araw.

Ito ang nakikitang paraan ng punung lalawigan upang mabawasan ang exposure at pakikihalubilo ng mga tao sa iba't-ibang lugar gayundin ang pagpapansahan ng mga dokumento at pera na isa sa tinitingnang sanhi ng pagkalat ng COVID-19 virus.

Ito ay matapos na magkaroon ng mataas na bilang ng mga kawani na tinamaan ng virus sa Finance at Social Welfare departments ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Batangas kamakailan.

Samantla, inatasan ni Mandanas ang Batangas IATF at Provincial Health Board na maglagay ng 24-hour command center na tutugon sa pangangailangan, katanungan at iba pang concern ng publiko at mga lokal na pamahalaan sa pagtugon nila sa pandemya sa kanilang nasasakupan.

Pamumunuan ng Provincial Health Office kasama ang mg akaagapay na ahensya upang magbigay ng impormasyon tulad ng hospital transfer, koordinasyon sa pagitan ng ospital at isolation facilities, medical inquiries at vaccine roll-out sa lalawigan.

Bukod pa din, inatasan din nito ang Provincial Health Board na makipag-ugnayan sa mga TTMF o temporary treatment and monitoring facilities na magkaroon ng Mental health Program na titingin sa kalagayang pang-kaisipan at emosyonal ng mga pasyenteng kumpirmadong may COVID-19 na karamihan ay dumadaan sa mental stress at depression. **(BHABY P. DE CASTRO-PIA Batangas with report from Edz Zabarte-PIO Province)**

yak ng Pangulo nito na si G. Domingo Mercado na higit pa nilang palalakasin at patatagatin ang kanilang samahan upang magiging katuwang ng sektor ng agrikultura sa pagpaunlad ng industriya ng mangga sa Lalawigan ng Batangas. **(BHABY P. DE CASTRO-PIA Batangas with reports from Jun Magnaye-PIO Province)**

24 'tulak' swak sa buy bust

DALAWAMPU'T APAT na hinihinalang mga tulak ang binitbit ng Cavite police sa isinagawang magdamagang buy bust operation. Sa ulat ng Cavite Police Provincial Office (PPO), isinagawa ang buy bust operation sa pagitan ng alas-11:45 Huwebes ng gabi hanggang alas2:30 Biyernes ng madaling araw sa limang lungsod at

apat na bayan. Nanguna ang General Mariano Alvarez (GMA) sa pinakamaraming tulak na naaresto (8); sumunod ang Bacoor City (4); tig (3) ang General Trias City at Imus Cityhang (2) sa Dasmariñas City at tig (1) ang Naic, Alfonso, Magallanes at Tagaytay City o kabuuang 24. **GENE ADSUARA**

TESDA seeks industry bodies to combat skills-job mismatch

PASIG CITY (PIA) -- Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Deputy Director General Aniceto "John" Bertiz III has sought for active participation of industry bodies to meet the demands of the industries and private sector especially during pandemic.

Bertiz, who handles the partnerships and linkages at TESDA, made the call as he led the virtual regional orientation on the Implementing Guidelines for the pilot implementation on the establishment of industry boards last April 21.

"The challenges brought by the pandemic combined with the sudden change in the pattern of consumption, production, employment, and use of technology caused by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4th IR), require proactive adaptation by the industry, government agencies, academes, and individuals," he said.

"With these difficulties we are dealing, it is best for the TESDA to strengthen its initiatives to form strategic alliances with the industry and other stakeholders to gain a foundation on valuable intellectual capital and technological resources," Bertiz stressed.

TESDA has been pushing for the revival of the Industry Boards (IBs) adopting the sectoral skills council concept, an industry-led board that

will help workers, employers, educators and government to identify needed skills.

Bertiz pointed out that it will also address the skills gap and improve training standards in various sectors in order to reduce occurrence of skills mismatch between the output of the learning institutions and the requirements of the industries.

"The Industry Boards, in addition, are seen as a potent force to effect the shift from being supply – driven to that of having a demand-driven TVET," he said.

To revitalize the institutional arrangement, TESDA issued Circular No. 17 defining the implementing guidelines for pilot implementation establishing industry boards in the 16 regions across the country.

"This virtual orientation will provide a coherent understanding of the guidelines and to give a clear perspective of what it wishes to achieve in the pilot program implementation among the participants," the former lawmaker stressed. Bertiz congratulated all the participants and staff for the success of the orientation program as he asked for their continuous cooperation in creating strategic partnerships and meaningful linkages to help our fellow Filipinos. **(PIA NCR)**

DOT urges stricter waste management protocols in tourist sites

MANILA – Waste management protocols in tourist destinations must be strictly monitored and implemented even when most tourism activities are on a halt, the Department of Tourism (DOT) said Thursday.

The DOT made the call following the coastal cleanup initiative of the DOT Region 11, dubbed "Scubasurero: Stand up, save our reefs," which collected over 300 kilograms of garbage in the waters of Samal Island in Davao del Norte.

In a statement, the DOT said the pandemic has underscored the importance of sustainable tourism, with environmental protection as one of its major pillars. "Compliance of the public with waste management

protocols will help keep our waters clean, protect its rich marine life, and ensure its beauty will be retained for generations to come," it said.

Through its "Save our Spots (SOS)" campaign, a culture of sustainable tourism is promoted by engaging tourists on responsible travel and involving more people to act for the preservation of natural wonders.

"While the Department is pleased that these water destinations, among many others, continue to attract visitors, the DOT also appeals to tourists and residents alike to maintain cleanliness and only leave trash in designated locations only," the DOT said. **(PNA)**

Church offers use of school to augment shortage in isolation facilities

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) -- In the wake of the full use of the isolation facilities in Tanza town, the Catholic Church leaders here offered the St. Augustine High School as additional temporary treatment and monitoring facility for senior citizens and those who have comorbidities. This initiative of the parish leaders is a welcome measure to help with the current CoViD-19 emergency situation in the municipality. "It is okay to use the school building since classes are still online," the parish priest said. It is also unfortunate that the isolation facilities that cater to mild and asymptomatic cases now had to treat patients with pneumonia. Department of Health (DOH) 4-A Isolation Physician, Dr. Lani Patacsil reported, "Ang dami daming cases ng may pneumonia para nang hospital ang setting ngayon, wala na kamang choice. Dyan na naganap ang gamutan." (There are numerous cases with pneumonia that it is like a hospital setting now,

we don't have a choice. Treatment is being done there.) Moreover, hospitals could not immediately accommodate admissions with patients' waiting list reaching up to a hundred because of the rate of infection of the disease. According to Rural Health Officer Dr. Ruth Punzalan, a sad and unfortunate reality is that patients with moderate, severe or critical symptoms who needed to be admitted in the hospital succumb to the disease at home before they could even be hospitalized. Punzalan calls on the public to help with the project thru donations of hospital beds, oxygen tanks, wheelchairs, and other useful medical equipment. The project for the conversion of the school building into isolation facility is a partnership between LGU Tanza, the DOH, and other civic organizations which is targeted to be opened this month of May. **(Ruel Francisco with reports from Balitang Tanzeño FB Live)**

Pagkakamali, tinanggap ni Remulla

TINANGGAP ni Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla ang kanyang pagkakamali nang humingi ng paumanhin dahil sa mga pahayag nito sa social media kaugnay sa darating na eleksiyon. Sa Twitter account ni Remulla, inamin nito na hindi pa napapanahon at nalagay sa hindi maganda ang pag-usapan ang darating na eleksiyon sa panahon na ang mga Filipino ay nakikibaka sa pandemiya dulot ng Covid 19. "Ako po ay humihingi ng paumanhin tungkol sa hulig post ko. Talking about the next election in the middle of the pandemic was both premature and in bad taste. I want all of you to know that I only have the sincerest intentions in

mind and I am very sorry for the bad timing," ayon sa kanyang Twitter account. Nangako rin si Reumulla na ang mga paksa na kanyang sasabihin sa mga susunod na post ay tumatalakay sa mga aksiyon na makakatulong sa kasalukuyang sitwasyon. "Moving on the topics you will hear from me will be more about how to help the people survive (vaccine efforts and how to recover all the lost opportunities. Action over words," ayon sa kanyang FB account. Sa kanyang naunang post sa FB sinabi ni Remulla ang planong pagtakbo bilang gobernador sa lalawigan ng Cavite. Binanggit din nito na magiging maingay muli ang

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Suportahan ang mga Pinoy scientist

KUMUSTA na ang ginagawang pag-aaral ng Department of Science and Technology. Ito ay ang tungkol sa mga herbal medicines na lagundi at tawa-tawa. Tinitingnan ang kakayahang ng mga naturang herbal na posibleng gamot laban sa COVID-19. Sabi nga ni Dr. Jaime Montoya, Executive Director ng DOST-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development, ay gumugulong na ang clinical trials ng bansa hinggil dito. Ang lagundi at tawa-tawa ay sinasabing nagtataglay ng anti-thrombocytopenic, anti-viral, o anti-inflammatory activity. Kailangang matukoy kung ang lagundi at tawa-tawa ay makakapagbigay ng tinatawag na symptomatic relief sa mga COVID-19 patients. Kung mangyayari ay maganda dahil madadagdag ito bilang isa sa mga pangunahing lunas. Sa darating na Hulyo in-

aasahan ang pagtatapos sa implementasyon ng pag-aaral sa tawa-tawa. Harinawa ay positibo o maganda ang magiging resulta sa ginagawang pagsusuri. Lahat naman tayo ay naghahangad na ganap malusaw na ang virus na ito. Kaya sana nga ay tagumpay ang idudulot ng pag-aaral sa pamamagitan ng gabay ng Poong Maykapal. Ganoon na rin ginagawang pag-aaral sa formulation ng "methylprednisolone sodium succinate - procaine hydrochloride" bilang injectable dosage. Hangad kasi ng mga dalubhasa na makabuo ng potensyal na antiviral treatment kontra sa virus na ito. Suportahan po natin ang ating mga Pinoy na scientist na patuloy sa pagpursigi upang makahanap ng lunas sa naturang virus.

social media ukol sa mga kandidato na nagnanais tumakbo sa iba't ibang posisyon, at titindi rin ang awayan, maraming siraan, bardagulan at walang tigid na pakapalan ng mukha at pagbuhat sa sariling bangko. Pero imbes na umani ng maraming paghanga at suporta, dinagsa ng maraming bashers ang sarili nitong account. "Tatakbo ka nanaman? Ayon kay William Lastimado" "Wag na po Gob. Respeto naman sa natitirang lupa sa Cavite. . . puro na po intsik eh, mkhang kaming taga Cavite na ang nag-

mumukhang dayo" ayon sa isang Jun Jun. Ayon naman kay Lups-malups Yawyaw. "Bago sana magparamdam ng ganyan ay unahin na muna ang kalagayan ng bayan mo. Lubog na wala pa ring pagbabagong nagaganap. "Katakawan sa kapangyarihan. Kakasawa na ang pamamlakad mo. . . wala ka naming significant at mabuting naidulot. Iba naman" ayon kay Niverk Glask "Diyan kayo magaling kilala niyo ang taong Bayan pag malapit na eleksiyon mahiya naman kayo. Ayon kay Vyze Macabugao. **GENE ADSUARA**

EDITORIAL

Posibleng maabuso

HULIHIN, imbestigahan at kung nararapat ay ikulong ang mga mapapatunayang may paglabag na may kaugnayan sa pagsusuo ng face mask. Hindi lamang ang mga walang suot o hindi nagsusuot ng face mask ang ipinahuhuli sa pulisya. Kundi maging ang hindi tamang pagsusuot ng face mask ay kabilang sa pag-aresto. Ang kautusang ito ay indikasyon nahindinakinakayaonahihirapan na ang pamahalaan sa paglobo sa kaso ng COVID-19. Sinasabing hindi lamang para umano ito sa gobyerno bagkus ay sa kapakanan ng mga tao upang hindi makapanghawa sa iba. Puwedeng ikonsiderang tama o maganda ang naturang kautusan para sa benepisyo ng lahat. Katanungan lamang ay ang maaaring maabuso ang paggamit ng kapangyarihan hinggil dito.

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Bacoor LGU pushes for herd immunity, opens new vaccination hub

BACOR CITY, Cavite (PIA) -- In a bid to inoculate more Bacooreños with the arrival of the next batch of CoViD-19 vaccine supply from the Department of Health (DOH), the city government here recently opened an additional vaccination hub at the Niog Elementary School.

A total of 328 residents under the A2 and A3 priority groups were vaccinated during the said launching activity.

Likewise, simultaneous vaccination activities conducted at the Bacoor Coliseum and at the Alima Elementary School vaccination hubs gave out 350 and 329 vaccine jabs respectively for a total of 1,007 senior citizens and those with comorbidity residents vaccinated on May 1, 2021.

The turnout of residents for the vaccination is due to the intensified information campaign for the CoViD-

19 vaccination program by the city government which changed the general perception of the residents particularly the senior citizens in the city from hesitation to trust.

"Nandito kami ngayon para magpabakuna laban sa CoViD-19. Taliwas sa mga unang napapabalita tungkol sa vaccine tungkol sa mga namamatay, mas minabuti nang maging protektado laban sa CoViD-19," a female senior citizen resident proudly said.

(We are here today to get vaccinated against CoViD-19. Contrary to initial reports about the deaths from the vaccine, it is better to be protected against CoViD-19.)

As of May 1, 2021, records show a total of 8,074 Bacooreños inoculated with the 1st dose of the CoViD-19 vaccines. **(Ruel Francisco with reports from the City Government of Bacoor FB page)**

Tugon sa tumataas na bilang ng COVID-19 sa Batangas City, inilatag

LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS (PIA) --Alinsunod sa Executive Order na ipinalabas ng pamahalaang lungsod ng Batangas noong ika-14 ng Abril, may 20 public schools sa lungsod ang nakatakdang gamitin bilang temporary quarantine o isolation facilities upang matugunan ang kakulangan sa pasilidad dahil sa dumadaming kaso ng COVID-19.

Ang mga paaralang ito ay tinukoy ng COVID-19 Incident Management Team (IMT) ayon sa mga requirements ng Department of Health (DOH).

Sa kasalukuyan ay may limang Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities (TTMFs) ang pamahalaang lungsod kung saan dinadala ang mga mild cases habang ang mga severe cases naman ay dinadala sa mga ospital na tulad ng ibang bayan at lalawigan ay full capacity na din sa kasalukuyan. Sa magkasunod na pag-

pupulong ng IMT noong April 13 at April 16, ipinagutos nina Mayor Beverley Rose Dimacuja at Congressman Marvey Mariño ang agarang aksyon para mapigilan ang pagkalat ng virus at masolusyunan ang iba pang suliranin at pangangailangan kaugnay ng tumataas na bilang ng kaso ng nagpopositibo sa COVID-19.

Ipinag-utos nila na maihanda ang budget para makapag-hire ng karagdagang medical workers/personnel, makabili ng mga gamot, medical equipment, mga PPE's at iba pang kailangang gamit upang higit na mapalakas ang COVID-19 response programs ng pamahalaang lungsod.

Ipinag-utos din ang mas maigting na information dissemination campaign at istrikong monitoring ng health and safety protocols para mapigilan ang pagkalat ng virus.

Samantala hiniling naman sa mga lider ng iba't ibang

30-50% staffing capacity, ipinapatupad sa Kapitolyo ng Batangas

LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS (PIA) --Sa isinagawang pagpupulong ng Batangas Provincial Inter-Agency Task Force Against COVID 19 at Provincial Health Board, binigyang-diin ni Governor Hermilando Mandanas ang pagpapatupad ng 30-50% staffing capacity sa lahat ng tanggapan sa Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Batangas.

Kaugnay pa nito, ipinapatupad din ang work from home arrangements at flexible shifts sa work schedule ng mga empleyado upang maiwasan ang pagdami o pagsasabay sabay ng mga ito sa bawat tanggapan.

Ang hakbang ay bilang pagsunod sa panuntunan ng pamahalaan lalo na at nasa General Community Quarantine (GCQ) status ang Batangas. Isang pamamaraan din ito upang mapigilan ang pagkakahawahan sa workplace. Matatandaang nitong nakaraang buwan ay tumaas ang bilang ng mga kawani ng Kapitolyo na nagpositi-

bo sa COVID-19 virus mula sa administrative, finance at social welfare departments nito.

Ang mga empleyadong naglilingkod sa mga nangangiti na tanggapan ay direktang humaharap at nagbibigay ng serbisyo at paglilingkod sa mga Batangueno.

Nauna na dito ang direktiba ng Gobernador na magkaroon ng digital shift upang gamitin ang makabagong teknolohiya at maging paperless at contactless ang mga transaksyon para sa serbisyo at tulong ng pamahalaang panlalawigan, magkakaroon din ng malawakang pagpapayos ng ilang mga tanggapan upang mabigyan ng espasyo ang mga empleyado.

Kabilang sa mga tanggapan magkakaroon ng relokasyon ang Provincial Administrators Office at Provincial Assistance for Community Development. **(BHABY P. DE CASTRO-PIA Batangas with reports from PIO Province)**

PLM gets CHED clearance for limited F2F classes

MANILA -- The Pamanatasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM) will soon conduct a limited face-to-face class after they got the clearance from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) on May 4.

The city government of Manila that runs the university posted on Facebook that because of the CHED approval, PLM students enrolled in the College of Medicine can now go on a medical clerkship program.

Meanwhile, the PLM's College of Nursing, as well as the College of Physical Therapy, are now finalizing

religious denomination na magsagawa ng online spiritual at mental healing sa mga COVID-19 patients at sa City Social Welfare and Development Office (CS-DWO) na magkaroon ng psychosocial debriefing sa mga ito bilang paghahanda sa pagbalik nila sa komunidad. **(PIO Batangas City)**

their plans on which laboratory courses will be opened for the limited face-to-face classes.

"We thank CHED for allowing our medical students to return to hands-on learning. This will definitely help PLM do its part in reinforcing the health care frontlines and ensure that our future doctors and nurses will be equipped with the proper training as they join our brave health workers in healing fellow Filipinos," PLM President Emmanuel Leyco said.

Meanwhile, the PLM administration assured that students who will do the rotation duty at the Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center (OMMC) will have to undergo the reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test and be prioritized for the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) vaccine.

To recall, PLM initiated the process of getting CHED approval for a limited face-

BOC Files Smuggling Cases against General Merchandise Traders

TWO (2) importers and their customs brokers are facing smuggling charges after the Bureau of Customs (BOC) filed criminal cases before the Department of Justice (DOJ) on April 30, 2021.

Carmente School Supplies Trading and its customs broker were charged due to alleged undervaluation & submission of spurious/falsified import documents of various general merchandise worth P3,358,951.87 on October 28, 2020 at the Manila International Container Port (MICP).

The BOC also filed a criminal case against Mumbaki Corporation and its customs broker for alleged misdeclaration of a 40-footer container of general merchandise amounting to P2,266,138.00 on January 8, 2021 at MICP.

The respondents purportedly violated Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), and Article 172 in relation to Article 171 of the Revised Penal Code (RPC), as amended. **PR**

STATEMENT OF SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS ON DUTERTE LAUDING DUQUE AS THE 'HERO' OF THE PANDEMIC

Tama na itong linggo-linggong pa-awarding ceremony ng administrasyon. Walang pinupuntahan ang pagtatakipan nila live on national television habang nadadagdagan ang mga nagugutom, nagkakasakit at namamatay dahil sa palpak nilang pagtugon sa COVID-19.

Hindi pagkilala ang kailangan ng mga Pilipino, kundi PANANAGUTAN. Appointed ang isang

to-face class in February, starting with online consultations with students, parents, faculty, and practicing doctors at the Ospital ng Maynila.

This is to be able to measure how the various stakeholders take the idea of allowing the students to return to hands-on learning.

In April, CHED officials visited the PLM campus to assess the school's preparedness.

PLM officials also presented their plans on how they will enforce the observance of minimum health standards inside the classrooms.

The authority to conduct limited face-to-face classes has been approved until the first semester of the academic year 2021-2022. **(PNA)**

health secretary, hindi sya pinili ng taumbayan, pero appektado ang buhay natin sa kaniyang kawalang-kakayahan.

It was on Secretary Duque's advice that government was late in implementing travel bans from China and the UK. It is under his watch that the country has procured overpriced PPEs and test kits, and delayed hazard pay for healthcare workers. These are just some of the avoidable and yet deadly faults of the DOH under Sec. Duque's leadership. Kaysa mag-celebrate na naman ang administrasyon sa kabila ng kanilang pagpapabaya, suportahan dapat nila ang special audit ng Bayanihan 1 at 2. Let the Health Secretary be accountable if there has been any wastage of the already limited resources of the country.

Let's celebrate the real heroes: the healthcare workers and the breadwinners who brave the threat of this pandemic and risk their lives in the service of their families and communities.

If they really want to be like the heroes of the pandemic, then STEP UP. **PR**

Closed Season para sa Tawilis, patuloy pa ring pinapaigting ng DENR CALABARZON

Alinsunod sa PAMB Resolution No. 49, Series of 2018 at PAMB Resolution No. 63, Series of 2019, ang buwan ng Marso at Abril ay naitalang closed season para sa paghuli ng tawilis. Alinsunod sa mga resolusyon na ito ay mahigpit na ipinagbawal ang panghuhuli, pagbebenta, pagkalakal, pakikipagtransaksyon, pagbibiyaha, at pagdadala ng tawilis habang umiral ang closed season. Kasama rin sa mga inisyatibo na ito ay ang regular na pagmomonitor ng Taal Lake, at pakikilahok ng iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno, tulad ng DENR, NFDI, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), lokal na pamahalaan, at iba't ibang organisasyon para sa mahigpit na implementasyon ng closed season. Hinihikayat din ang iba't ibang akademya para sa pagsasagawa ng mga pag-aaral para sa rehabilitasyon at Ayon sa datos ng Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), nasa 497 metric tons na lamang ang bolyum ng pagdami ng tawilis para sa taong 2020. Ito ay higit na mababa sa naitalang

pinakamataas ng bolyum ng tawilis noong 2017 na 1,342.17 metric ton. Patuloy na ipapatupad ang pagkakaroon ng closed season para sa tawilis hanggang sa mga susunod na taon. Ang lahat ay hinihikayat DENR CALABARZON para mag report ng mga establisementong o mga tindahan na nagbebenta ng Tawilis habang closed season. Maaari ring ipagbigay sa DENR ang sinomang ilegal na nanghuhuli ng tawilis. Ang Sardinella Tawilis, o mas kilala bilang tawilis ay naitala ng International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) bilang endangered species noong 2019. Para sa may mga sumbong ukol sa ilegal na gawain na may kaugnayan sa kalikasan ay maaaring tumawag o magbigay ng mensahe sa 8888 hotline numero 09561825774/09198744369. Ang mga retrato, bidyo, at iba pang impormasyon ay maaaring ipadala sa opisyal na Facebook page ng DENR CALABARZON: <https://www.facebook.com/DENR-R4AOfficial/>. **PR**

NYC launches mobile radio station, youth group vs. corruption

MANILA – The National Youth Commission (NYC) has achieved another milestone in its effort to reach out to the youth and to provide them with an alternative platform to communicate their aspirations and ideas as well as their activities and advocacies after it launched a mobile radio station, 87.9 NYCFM Voice and Advocate of the Youth, on Wednesday. Mounted at the Cyberspace League Broadcast Training Van, the radio station will serve as a laboratory of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) trainees who participated in the broadcast journalism training conducted recently by the NYC. "Not only that, we want the young people to have a space to ventilate their concerns and to disseminate updated information on the current advocacy campaigns of the NYC for

the youth," NYC Chairperson Ryan Enriquez said in a news release on Wednesday. The simple inaugural ceremonies also highlight the manifesto signing for the Kilusang Kabataan Kontra Katiwalian, the latest advocacy spearheaded by the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission headed by Chairman Greco Belgica. "This endeavor is very timely because there is a need to train the youth, especially the SK to do things in the most legally acceptable manner and to avoid the temptations of corruption and as watchdogs to curb corruption," Enriquez said. After the inaugural ceremony, the van kicked off to its maiden destination in Pasig City in cooperation with the SK Federation and Mayor Vico Sotto. **(PR)**

Bangkay ng janitor, natagpuan

NAAAGNAS na ang katawan ng 52-anyos na janitor ng General Emilio Aguinaldo Hospital nang natagpuan sa loob ng kanyang bahay sa Trece Martires City, Cavite. Kinilala ang biktima na si Antonio Biatrix Villagen, may-asa-wa, ng Purok 4 Brgy Osorio, Trece Martires City at janitor ng GEAH. Sa ulat ni PMSgt Richard Chavez, ng Trece Martires City Police Station, dakong alas-6:30 ng gabi ay sorpresang binisita ni Elvira Navarro, dating

kasamahan sa trabaho, ang biktima sa bahay pero laking gulat nito na wala ng buhay at naagnas na ang katawan nito habang nakahiga sa kama dahil upang ipagbigay alam sa barangay officials na nakakasakop sa lugar. Sinasabing ang biktima ay dumaranas ng high blood at iba pang sakit, gayuman, inaalam pa ng pulisya kung ano ang naging sanhi ng kamatayan at kung may naganap na foul play. **GENE ADSUARA**

PTFoMS resolute on Rex Pepino case amid challenges

MANILA – As the death anniversary of radio broadcaster Cornelio "Rex" Pepino draws near, the Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS) is highly confident that the official result of the inter-agency probe into his death will be released soon. Pepino, a veteran commentator and known critic of local politicians, was shot dead by motorcycle "riding-in-tandem" gunmen in Dumaguete City on May 5, 2020 right after hosting "Pokpokin mo Baby" that aired over DYMD Energy FM 93.7. "In spite of the tremendous obstacles faced by investigators and the logistical challenges brought about by the Covid19 pandemic, the Task Force is nearing the final stages of the investigation into Pepino's death. We remain steadfast in our commitment to bring to justice the perpetrators of this despicable crime," Undersecretary Joel Sy Egco, PTFoMS Executive Director, said in a news release on Tuesday. Earlier, the Philippine National Police (PNP) identified a certain Rodel Barillo as the primary suspect in the case after a witness came forward that he overheard the suspect talking about the incident. A court-issued search warrant resulted in the recovery of a 9mm gun from Barillo's residence which the PNP said matched with the bullet slugs found in the crime scene. The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), on the other hand, conducted an exhumation of the body of Pepino wherein a bullet fragment was recovered from the right shoulder of the victim. A detailed forensic examination of the fragment also revealed that it came from a 9mm-caliber bullet. Barillo, however, was shot dead a week after the killing of Pepino. With the alleged gunman dead and the weapon used in the crime seized, the case should have been declared closed. However, in spite of these findings, Egco ordered law enforcement agencies to conduct a much deeper investigation into the mysteries surrounding the death of the broadcaster. "It's theatrical. Just like in the movies where one of the suspects is killed to tie some loose ends. Hindi naman tayo pinanganak hapon (we were not born yesterday)," he said.

Egco said the biggest challenge faced by investigators was the lack of direct eyewitnesses of the grim murder. Even Coleen, who was with the victim at the time of the incident, could not identify with certainty any of her husband's killers. Upon the recommendation of Egco, PTFoMS Chairman and Department of Justice (DOJ) Secretary Menardo Guevarra activated the Special Investigation Team on New Cases (SITN) pursuant to Administrative Order No. 1 (AO1) composed of veteran investigators from the DOJ, NBI, and the PNP. "It is imperative that there is a pro-active involvement of the prosecutor during criminal investigation of cases involving media violence," Guevarra said in his directive that created the SITN. DOJ Prosecutor Eusebio Catalan was appointed to lead the SITN. Other persons of interest (POIs) identified by investigators include police officers Reuel Pinero and Melvin Bularandes of the Negros Oriental Provincial Police Office (NOPPO). Egco explained that the Task Force provided effective and impartial leadership in the conduct of a thorough investigation on the murder of Pepino with the creation of the SITN. "This is the very purpose of PTFoMS: the establishment of an inter-agency task force where all relevant law enforcement agencies of the government work together in solving media violence," Egco said. **(PR)**

Tepok sa sports vehicle

PATAY ang 34-ayos na rider nang bumangga sa likurang bahagi ng isang sports vehicle sa Gen Trias City, Cavite. Isinugod pa sa Gen Trias City Doctors Hospital ang biktima si Mark Navarette Dumrique, binata, ng 113 Buenavista 3, Gen Trias City, pero hindi na umabot ng buhay dahil sa matinding pinsala sa katawan. Hawak ng pulisya ang driver ng kulay puti na Nissan Sentra na may plakang UCZ 728 na si Roberto Castillo Cacho Jr., 27, ng Baliwag, Magallanes, Cavite. Sa ulat ni Corporal Jhocel

Reopening of economy, infra spending to lift employment rate

MANILA – Reopening of the economy and increased infrastructure spending are expected to further boost the country's employment figures, which registered better results as of March 2021. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) on Thursday reported that unemployment rate went down from 8.8 percent last February to 7.1 percent last March, the lowest since the government implemented the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in mid-March 2020 to end-April for Luzon, and end-May 2020 for the National Capital Region. While the latest report is a positive development, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) chief economist Michael Ricafort said this has yet to reveal the impact of the two-week ECQ in NCR Plus that started last March 29 and was extended until April 11. He, however, underscored the differences between the ECQ implementation in 2020 and this year such as on public transportation which was not crippled unlike in 2020 thus, the impact of the strictest movement restrictions last March is not as bad as last year. "Thus, further reopening of the economy from lockdowns would provide a more structural and sustainable solution in terms of increased production, sales, incomes/livelihood that also create/entail more employment/jobs and more working hours," he said. But even with the lockdowns, Ricafort said higher government spending on infrastructure is expected to support employment. He said the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE)

Act, as well as the record-low interest rates of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), are pluses to the economy since these are seen to encourage more investments that will in turn, result in increased manpower requirements and higher economic activities. "The unemployment rate could still gradually ease well into single-digit levels in about one to two years, consistent with the possible recovery of the broader economy in time for the 2022 Presidential election year when there would be increased government spending especially on infrastructure spending and other government projects a few months before the May 2022 elections and increased consumer spending during the campaign period especially in 1Q (first quarter) 2022," he added. Meanwhile, economic managers said eased movement restrictions and requiring the public to heed minimum health standards resulted in the drop of employment rate last March. "Rising labor force participation and falling unemployment have enabled millions of Filipinos to regain their jobs and incomes in March 2021," they said in a statement. Aside from the decline in unemployment rate last March, the PSA said underemployment rate fell to 16.2 percent from 18.2 percent last February, "reflecting the improvement in the quality of jobs." Also, the labor force participation rate increased from 63.5 percent to 65 percent last March. "These resulted in a net job creation of 2.2 million between February 2021 and March 2021, with the number of employed Filipinos increasing from 43.2 million to 45.3 million," the statement said. Economic managers forecast an uptick in unemployment rate in April following the implementation of the ECQ in the latter part of March and the MECQ thereafter. "However, the impact is expected to be less severe compared to April 2020 given our more risk-managed approach to the present quarantines," the statement added. **(PNA)**

buhay sa ospital. **GENE ADSUARA**

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will leave the floor spotless; while UV sterilizers sanitize and disinfect bed linens and dinnerware to protect your family from unwanted viruses. This May, get discounts and online coupons on select home essential items and furniture from SM Home. Shop for your mom and place your order online through the SM Store's Call to Deliver (#143SM) and ShopSM app. For more info and updates, follow SM Home at the SM Store in Instagram or visit thesmstore.com website.

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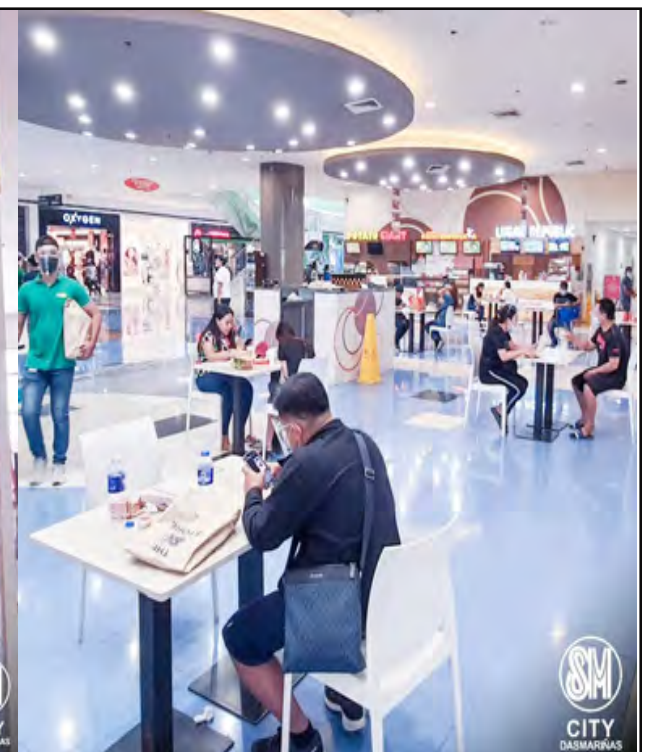
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Brazilian Coach sumali sa staff ng volley coaching ng kababaihan ng PH

Ang Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF) ay nakakuha ng serbisyo ng isang taktika sa Brazil upang sumali sa mga kawani ng coach ng volleyball ng kababaihan. Inihayag ng PNVF na ang 54 na taong si Jorge Souza de Brito ay sasali sa coaching staff na kasalukuyang pinamumunuan ni head coach Odjie Mamon. Ang pag-unlad ay dumating matapos ang Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) na pinayagan ang PNVF na magdala ng isang banyagang coach. "Kami ay nagpapasalamat para sa mabilis na pagtugon ng FIVB sa aming kahilingan at higit kaming nagpapasalamat na ang pederasyon ay pumili ng mahusay na tao para sa trabaho," sinabi ng pangulo ng PNVF na si Ramon "Tats" Suzara. Balikatin ng FIVB ang suweldo ni Souza de Brito, habang ang transportasyon, panunuluyan, at mga allowance sa pagkain ay magmumula sa PNVF. Si Souza de Brito ay isang miyembro ng 1992 Brazilian volleyball team ng mga lalaki na nakuha ang isang gintong Olimpiko. Siya ay magiging isang muling kampeon sa Olimpiko, sa oras na ito bilang coach ng volleyball na pambabae ng Brazil sa Beijing noong 2008. Naging champion coach din siya sa antas ng club, nanalo ng mga titulo sa

kanyang sariling bansa pati na rin sa Turkey at Japan. "Sa malawak na karanasan ni coach Jorge bilang isang coach at manlalaro, sigurado kami na makukuha namin ang paglipat ng teknolohiya na hinahangad natin," sabi ni Suzara. Tulad ng pagsisimula ng PNVF na buuin ang mga pambansang koponan para sa darating na Timog Silangang Asya, lumabas ang mga alingawngaw na ang asosasyon ng pambansang palakasan ay naghahanap upang magkaroon ng isang banyagang coach para sa koponan ng kababaihan. Gayunpaman, nang tanungin kung kinumpirma ng pagdating ni Souza de Brito ang lahat, sinabi ng chairman ng National Team Commission na si Tony Boy Liao na hindi pa siya head coach. Sinabi ni Liao na kausapin agad ni Souza de Brito si Mamon at ang coaching staff upang pag-usapan kung ano ang kanilang mga tungkulin sa oras na dumating siya sa Hunyo o Hulyo. Idinagdag niya na si Souza de Brito ay maaaring tumagal ng isang "aktibong consultant" na tungkulin sa ngayon dahil sa isang maikling window ng buildup ng SEA Games. Gayunman, kinumpirma ni Liao na ang Souza de Brito ay kukuha mula Mamon sa susunod na taon.



PNVF PRESIDENT

Ramon "Tats" Suzara (RGN)

Pinasalamatan ng PH Rowing team ang PSC bilang pag suporta sa Olympics slots

Sinimulan ng pambansang koponan ang kampanya sa 2021 World Rowing Asian-Oceania Olympic Qualification Regatta sa Tokyo, Japan sa isang "pasalamat" sa Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) para sa pagsuporta sa kanilang pagsisikap para sa mga pagkakataon sa Olimpiko. Sinabi ni PSC Chairman William "Butch" Ramirez na umaasa siya para sa higit pang mga kwalipikasyon mula sa pambansang koponan at tinuyak na "ang PSC ay magbibigay ng buong suporta para sa mga atleta anuman ang kasalukuyang sitwasyon, hangga't maaari." "Salamat po sa PSC sa pagsuporta at pagtitiwala sa amin. Regular po ang online consultations namin sa sports psychology and sports physi-

ology "Melcah Jen Caballero said in a news release. Pinasalamatan ni Caballero ang PSC sa patuloy na pagpapalakas ng kanilang kalusugan sa isip, sa pamamagitan ng mga yunit ng Medical Scientific Athletes Services (MSAS) ng ahensya. Ang limang rowers ay maglalaban sa tatlong mga kaganapan - sina Caballero at Joanie Delgaco sa lightweight women's double sculls, Zuriel Sumintac at Roque Abala sa men's lightweight double sculls, at Cris Nievarez sa men's single sculls - mula Mayo 5 hanggang 7. Ang nagbabagong coach na si Edgardo Maerina ay nagbigay ng kanyang sariling pagpapahayag ng pagpapahalaga sa ahensya ng palakasan. "Diresto ang suporta at monitoring nila sa amin. Hindi man

naging madali ang paghahanda, nag-uudyok sa mga atleta natin (Patuloy silang sinusupportahan at binabantayan ng mga ito. Ang mga paghahanda ay hindi madali, ang ating mga atleta ay nauudyok), "sabi ni Coach Maerina, ang kauna-unahang Pilipino na nakikipagkumpitensya sa Olimpiko mula pa1988. Ang tirahan ng hotel ng koponan, mga allowance, at airfare na nagkakahalaga ng higit sa PHP1.4 milyon ay sa-

kop ng PSC. Kasama rito ang karagdagang suporta na sumasaklaw sa mga pagsubok sa reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) sa pagpasok sa Tokyo, at tulong sa tirahan sa kanilang pagbabalik sa bansa. Ang lahat ng nakikipagkumpitensya at hindi nakikipagkumpitensyang mga pambansang koponan ay patuloy na sinusubaybayan ng mga yunit ng medikal ng PSC.

Hall of Famer GM Torre bumisita sa Cabuyao City

Naging panauhin sa Cabuyao City kamakailan si Asia's First Grandmaster G. Eugene Torre kung saan ay nakipag pulong sa alkalde ng Cabuyao. Kaugnay nito ibinahagi ni Mayor Atty. Rommel "Mel" Gecolea ang sports development programs na nagaganap sa nasabing lungsod at kasamang tinalakay ang mga programang maari pang ilunsad upang mapalakas at mapaunlad pa ang larangan ng chess sa Cabuyao City. Kasama rin sa pagpupulong ang ipinagmamalaking chess icon sa Cabuyao City na si Dr. Alfredo "Fred" Paez gayundin sina Vice Mayor Atty. Leif Opiña, BayaniCa Executive Director Mike Aranzanso, at Cabuyao Sports Committee Head Mr. Jerome Lu-alhati. "The visit of GM Eugene Torre will surely help to further promote and develop chess in Cabuyao City. With the support of our LGU, i hope and believe that our city can produce chess masters soon." sabi ni AGM / FA Dr. Fred Paez, ang namumuno ng chess sa Cabuyao City na siya ding Assistant Executive Director sa Southern Luzon ng National Chess Federa-

tion of the Philippines. Kamakailan lamang ay iniluklok si G. Torre bilang kauna-unahang Lalaking Asyano sa prestihiyosong World Chess Hall of Fame ng World Chess Federation. Si G. Torre ay una ng pinarangalan ng Philippine Sports Commission at nahaney sa Hall of Famer ng mga atleta sa ating bansa. Habang ang Laguna naman ang itinanghal na over-all champion sa Professional Chess Association of the Philippines na kauna-unahang Professional Chess League sa buong mundo sa magiting na pamumuno nina chairman Michael Ong Chua at founding Commissioner Atty. Paul Elauria. Ilan sa mga produkto ng sports development ng Cabuyao City na kinabibilangan nina Jeremy Marticio, Vince Angelo Medina at Kimuel Aaron Lorenzo ang kumakatawan sa Pilipinas sa patuloy idinadaos na Zone 3.3 Zonal Chess Championships 2021 online tournament na isinasagawa sa online Torneo platform kung saan ang top 2 finishers ay usad sa World Cup sa Agosto sa Minsk, Russia. (Marlon Bernardino)



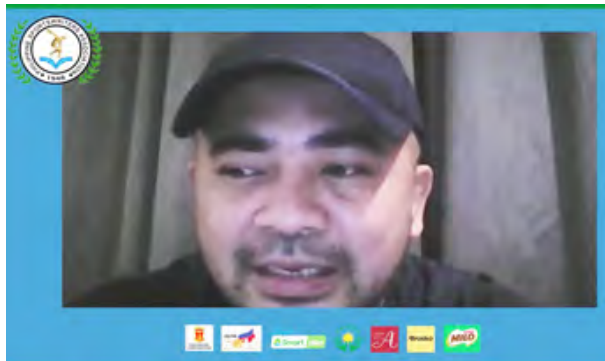
PSC CHAIRMAN William Ramirez

(RGN)

PFA pinaghahandaan ang 2024 Paris Games

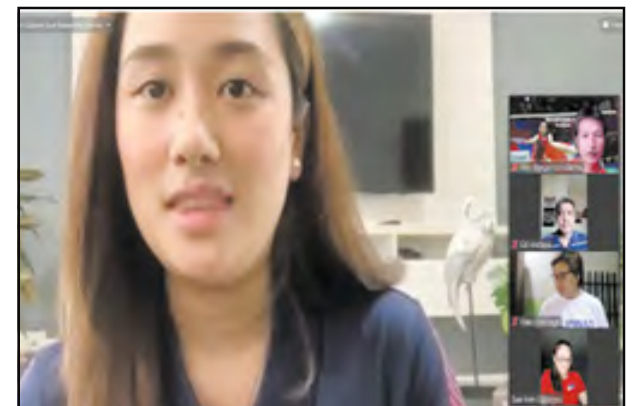
Ang ikatlong pwesto ni Samantha Catantan sa Asia-Oceania Olympic Qualifier ay kumbinsido sa pambansang koponan na si coach Roland Canlas na dapat pagtuunan ng pansin ng Philippine Fencing Association ang pagbuo ng mas maraming babaeng fencers. Sa pagsasalita sa PSA Online Forum isiniwalat ni Canlas ang kanyang mga naobserbahan sa OQT, na sinasabing ang mga Pinay fencers ay may mas malaking pagkakataon na makarating sa Olimpiko na napatunayan ni Catantan, na dalawang panalo lamang sa pag-

kakamit ng isang puwesto sa Tokyo sa foil ng kababaihan. Sinabi ni Canlas na irerokomenda niya ang Pangulo ng PFA at si Ormoc City Mayor Richard Gomez para sa malawak na pangangalap ng mga babaeng talento sa saber at epee, lalo na sa mga rehiyon ng Visayas at Mindanao. Ang plano, ipinaliwanag niya, ay para sa mga bagong rekrut na maunlad para sa 2028 Olympics dahil ang Catantan at ang kasalukuyang mga kasapi ng pambansang koponan ay handa para sa 2024 Paris Games.



FENCING COACH - ROLAND CANLAS

Tinukoy sa PSA Online Forum via zoom online ni Fencing coach Roland Canlas na kanyang nalaman sa OQT, na ang mga Pinay fencers ay may mas malaking tsansa na maabot ang Olimpiko kung saan ito ay napatunayan ni Samantha Catantan, makaraang magwagi sa dalawang pagkakataon lamang at nakamit ang puwesto sa Tokyo sa tagpo ng kababaihan. (RGN)



Ang bagong Philippine Badminton team coach na si Bianca Carlos sa kanyang mga pahayag kaugnay sa pagiging bagong team coach kung saan ay dating manlalaro pa lamang sa hanay ng Philippine Badminton team. Ng dumalo sa lingguhang TOPS Usapang Sports week 18 via zoom online. (RGN)

MusikJuana Songwriting Contest

MANILA --The MusikJuana Songwriting Contest aims to make music as an advocacy tool for gender equality and women's empowerment. The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) will search for a musical piece that will help popularize the contents of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), particularly its 12 areas of concern which are: poverty, education and training, health, violence, armed conflict, economy, power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms, human rights, media, environment, and the girl child. The deadline of the submission of entries will be on June 30, 2021. Winners will be announced and awarded in September 2021, to coincide with the anniversary of the BPfA.

Mechanics, Terms and Conditions:

1. Qualifications of Composers

1.1. The contest is open to all composers and songwriters (amateur or professional) who are Filipino citizens or of Filipino descent, and currently resides in the Philippines. A participant may be an individual or a group of musicians in collaboration.

1.2. Officials and employees of PCW (including those hired under human resource outsourcing companies and individual contract of services) and their relatives up to the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join the competition.

2. Song Entry Requirements

2.1. Each entry must be an original work of the contestant and all rights, including copyright, to the entry must be owned exclusively by the contestant.

2.2. The following works shall not be eligible as entries:

2.2.1. Those which have been previously published, recorded or released in any part of the world;

2.2.2. Those which have been commissioned by a third party;

2.2.3. Those which are found to contain two (2) or more bars of melody or lyrics similar to that of a copyrighted, published, or released song in the Philippines or abroad; and

2.2.4. Any entry which, in the sole discretion of PCW, is not suitable for its advocacy by reason of content.

2.3. The song must contain the principles, com-

mitments, and important provisions of the BPfA, a landmark document for advancing the rights of women and gender equality worldwide agreed during the 4th World Conference on women in 1995. As such, the 12 areas of concern identified in the document must be integrated in the song, in such a manner that its contents will be easily understood by the listening public.

2.4. The lyrics must be in Filipino.

2.5. The melody and lyrics of an entry, once submitted, shall be final and may not be altered or modified prior to the pre- and final screening.

2.6. The entry must be upbeat, appropriate for a jingle.

2.7. The participant can use any musical instrument as accompaniment.

2.8. The song's running time shall be 3 to 5 minutes, inclusive of intro and extro.

2.9. A contestant may submit a maximum of two (2) entries, whether the same be as an individual, a collaboration, or both.

2.10. PCW, at its sole discretion, may disqualify an entry which fails to comply with any of the above requirements.

3. Submission of entries

3.1. The participant must submit the following per entry: **a.** Accomplished Google form with complete personal data as required; **b.** Lyrics of the musical composition; **c.** Mp3 file of the musical composition; and **d.** Signed waiver.

3.2. The deadline for the submission of entries is on June 30, 2021, 5:00 PM Philippine Standard Time.

3.3. Failure to comply with any of the above requirements shall be a ground for disqualification.

4. Intellectual Property Rights

4.1. All entries are deemed to be the property of the respective participants, subject to the rights of PCW hereunder.

4.2. If an entry is selected as a finalist, PCW shall have all rights, title, interest and copyright to said composition.

4.3. The contestant agrees that in the event that his/her/their entry is selected as finalist, PCW shall have the exclusive and unlimited right, worldwide and in perpetuity, to the musical composition (music and lyrics), with the full right and authority to use the musical composition in any

audiovisual work that may be deemed necessary and appropriate by PCW; use in a public performance; To eliminate or edit material which may subject PCW to any legal action; To authorize the adaptation or translation of the work; and to use the same for any purpose, in any manner and by any means, at PCW's sole discretion.

4.4. PCW shall have the right to use any or all of the entries submitted, free of charge, in connection with the information dissemination on the competition and to use any of the finalists' entries for any purpose or usage on any of its activities, without need for any remuneration to the contestant by PCW.

5. Screening

5.1. PCW shall form a Pre-screening Committee composed of PCW specialists, Gender and Development (GAD) experts and musicians/composers who shall check and verify all entries and declare eight (8) finalists for final screening.

5.2. A Final Screening Committee composed of judges from PCW, GAD experts, and the music industry, will choose the winners based on the following criteria:

5.2.1. Lyrics (35%) The lyrics shall be relevant to BPfA, have an identifiable rhyme scheme or pattern, and easy to recall.

5.2.2. Song structure and composition (15%) The entry must have a clear theme or cohesive idea, clearly identifiable sections (like verse, chorus, etc.), and must be between 3 to 5 minutes.

5.2.3. Music and melody (30%) The entry must be upbeat and engaging; The music and melody must complement the lyrics; This will also include the entry's melodic structure, chordal progression, and other technical aspects.

5.2.4. Originality (20%) The entry is new to the ears and must have recall value and appeal.

5.3. The decision of the judges shall be final and unappealable.

5.4. PCW shall have the sole discretion and right to choose/assign the interpreter, producer, and arranger in case there will be a need to repeat the recording for the purpose of distribution to stakeholders.

6. Finalists and Prizes

6.1. Eight participants will move to the final screen-

LUNGSOD NG MALOLOS (PIA) --

Hindi na tanggap ng pasyenteng hindi COVID-19 ang Bulacan Medical Center o BMC sa Malolos ngayong ganap nang Referral Facility ito ng naturang sakit kasama ng katabing Bulacan Infection Control Center o BICC.

Ipinaliwanag ni Gobernador Daniel Fernando na bahagi ito ng ipinatutupad na Bulacan Surge Capacity Plan for COVID-19 simula ngayong Mayo 2021.

Tanging mga pasyenteng may COVID-19 ang tatanggapng mai-admit sa BMC at BICC habang ang mga non-COVID pa-

ing. Prizes for the grand winners are as follows:

1st Prize – P100,000
2nd Prize – P80,000
3rd Prize – P60,000
People's Choice award- P10,000
Consolation Prize – P10,000

6.2. Prizes are subject to the mandatory withholding taxes.

7. Disqualification

7.1. An entry of participant may be disqualified for:

7.1.1. Failure to comply with any of the requirements, or a violation of any of these terms and conditions, or breach of the warranties provided herein;

7.1.2. In collaborations, all members and Entry/ies may be disqualified even if only one (1) of the individual composers, songwriters, or lyricists has been disqualified or has committed a violation warranting disqualification;

7.1.3. PCW shall have the sole discretion to disqualify an entry or a contestant.

8. Announcement of Winners
Finalists and winners shall be notified by PCW through the contact information that they provided during the submission of entries. PCW will organize an event where finalists and winners shall be recognized in September 2021, in time for the Anniversary of the BPfA.

For inquiries, please contact Nevi Calma at 8735-8509 or 0927-392-0375 or email womensmonth@pcw.gov.ph or media@pcw.gov.ph. (PCW)

Bulacan Medical Center, eksklusibo na para sa may mga COVID-19

tients na dating inililipat mula sa mga pribadong ospital ay sa mga district hospital na dadalhin.

Layunin nito na higit na mapalakas ang kapabilidad at kapasidad ng BMC at BICC sa paggagamot sa labis na nakakahawang sakit na ito. Dahil dito, ang BICC na dating may 134 na mga kama ay naging 200 na. Itinaas na rin sa 30 ang bilang ng mga Intensive Care Unit o ICU mula sa 20 ang BMC.

Kaakibat ng pagiging eksklusibo ng BMC at BICC para sa mga pasyenteng tinamaan ng COVID-19, ang Calumpit District Hospital ay isa ngayong specialty hospital para sa Obstetrics and Gynecology Ward o Paanakan at Pediatric Ward.

Mayroon ding inilagay na Pediatric Ward sa Emilio G. Perez District Hospital sa Hagonoy habang dito rin inilagag ang Medical Ward.

Katatagan ng mga bangko ngayong pandemya, tiniyak ng BSP

LUNGSOD NG MALOLOS (PIA) --

Tiniyak ng Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas o BSP na mananatiling matatag ang pundasyon ng mga bangko at ng sistema ng pananalapi ng bansa sa kabila ng dumaraming hindi makabayad ng utang ngayong pandemya.

Ito ay dahil sa Financial Institutions Strategic Transfer o FIST Act na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Duterte bilang Republic Act 11523.

Paliwanag ni Tessa Ramoso Openiano ng BSP Cabanatuan, nakasaad sa naturang batas na maaari nang pakawalan o maipagbili ng mga bangko ang mga non-performing loans o NPL. Ito ang mga utang na hindi nabayaran na 90 araw mula nang ito'y matatang.

Hindi gaya ng mga past due loans na nabibigyan ng grace period o palugit na mabayaran sa loob ng 30 araw mula sa itinakdang

Ang Surgical Ward ay matatagpuan ngayon sa Gregorio Del Pilar District Hospital sa Bulacan habang ginawang general hospital ang mga pasilidad ng Baliwag District Hospital, Rogaciano Mercado Memorial District Hospital sa Santa Maria at ang San Miguel District Hospital.

Magdadagdag naman ng tig-apat na mga ICU sa nasabing mga district hospital para sa mga non-COVID na pasyente.

Nilinaw ni Fernando na pansamantala lamang ang ganitong set-up habang may pandemya.

Bukod dito, dumating na sa Bulacan ang tatlong bagong ambulansya na idadagdag sa operasyon ng mga ospital. Plano pang bumili ng karagdagang mga ambulansya para sa kada ospital na pinapatakbo ng Kapitolyo sa 2022. (CLJD/SFV-PIA 3)

due date, ang NPL ay tala-gang hindi nabayaran sa mahabang panahon.

Kaya't sa pamamagitan ng FIST Act, nabuksan ang pintuan upang mahikayat ang mga nasa pribadong sektor na mas may malaking kakayahan upang sub-ukang mamuhunan sa mga NPL.

Maiibsan aniya ang pasalin ng mga bangko sa NPL at mapapalakas ang liquidity upang mas dumami ang pondong mapahiram sa mga micro, small and medium enterprises.

Binigyang diin pa ni Openiano na ang kagandahan sa FIST Act, naisabatas sa loob lamang ng isang taon mula nang magkaroon ng pandemya.

Isa ang FIST Act sa pangunahing laman ng stimulus package ng administrasyong Duterte upang muling mapasigla at mapalakas ang ekonomiya. (CLJD/SFV-PIA 3)

Keeping music alive: University choir joins virtual competition

MANILA – A university choir in Pasig City which finds music as a source of hope took advantage of the international virtual competition to showcase its talent despite the present challenges due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid -19) pandemic.

When the Bandung Choral Society (BCS) in Indonesia announced the holding of the third world virtual choir festival, the University of Asia & Pacific (UA&P) Chorale decided to give the online competition a shot and keep up with the rapid pace of technological change.

Anna Abeleda-Piquero, music director of the UA&P Chorale, told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) that the 3rd BCS World Virtual Choir Festival has given solace to the members of the university's choir group amid the pandemic.

The BCS World Virtual Choir competition was born last year in response to the situation brought about by Covid-19," Abeleda-Piquero said in an interview with PNA. "When Covid-19 hit, choirs were no longer allowed to travel, hold concerts, compete, or worse, exist at all. BCS gave the opportunity or the platform for choirs to still share the music of their countries even if we still cannot travel through this competition."

The music industry is one of the hardest hit by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Indonesian-based BCS has launched its third online competition that provides a platform for choir singers to keep them active, creative, and connected amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

UA&P Chorale has participated in the mixed choir category and performed its rendition of "Ang Tren" (The Train) composed by Saundra Choi.

"Ang Tren," which is based on the literary piece by Jose Corazon de Jesus about Philippine commuters, imitates the sounds of a moving train.

"A chunk of PH history" Abeleda-Piquero said the UA&P Chorale had picked Choi's "Ang Tren" because they are confident that they would be able to give a soulful rendition to the music piece.

"We chose 'Ang Tren' by Saundra Choi, one of the current genius composers in the Philippines, because my students felt that they can exhibit more creativity with the text and rhythms

elements in the piece than the other pieces we were considering," she said.

Abeleda-Piquero added that the university choir's chosen piece would give its audience an idea about "a chunk of the Philippine history" since trains in the country have already been operating even before World War II (WWII) from 1939 to 1945.

"It was very Filipino, depicting the pre-WWII days when our railroad was very much alive, thus perfect not only for competition but also sharing at the same time, worldwide, a chunk of Philippine history," she said.

It was in 1891 when the first colonial train running from Manila to Dagupan in Pangasinan started its commercial operations, according to a history shared by the Philippine National Railways on its official website.

Virtual rehearsals Since members of UA&P Chorale could not meet to rehearse for the competition, they had no choice but resort to online practice sessions, Abeleda-Piquero said.

"People need to understand that for a lot of singers, the choir is not a hobby. It is a lifestyle, it is a community, it is family. Choristers lamented and struggled to find a way to keep the music alive even if we are not allowed to meet face-to-face," she said.

Performing in the comforts of home is an additional homework, Abeleda-Piquero admitted, but it paid off since the group was able to produce a "beautiful" music video without defying the strict health and quarantine protocols.

With the help of the audio engineer, the UA&P Chorale singers' audio tracks were synchronized, Abeleda-Piquero said, adding that the video recordings of each singer were also submitted to a videographer for editing.

"This is the process: the conductor first chooses a piece of music then prepares the audio tracks that the singers can keep listening to and synchronize with during his/her recording. The singers learn the tracks, put them on earphones, then record his or her voice on another gadget," she said. "We were able to produce the video without meeting face-to-face, thus in strict observance of quarantine and

health protocols." UA&P Chorale's "Ang Tren" rendition is so far the most viewed music video with 48,301 views as of this writing.

The music video was uploaded on the official YouTube account of Tommyan to Kandisaputra, chairman of BCS and artistic director of the third virtual choir competition.

UA&P Chorale is competing against five other participants in the mixed category, which include Indonesia's The Unklab Choir, Umvoice, and Chorus Rusticarum, the United Kingdom's CÔR CF1, and Poland's Gdansk University Choir.

Viewers can listen to UA&P Chorale's "Ang Tren" by visiting this link: <https://youtu.be/NKvk4hLDbtA>.

Apart from UA&P Chorale, the other university choir representing the Philippines for the folklore category is the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) Maestro Singers from Nueva Ecija performing Bienvenido Constantino Jr.'s "Manlagsagsak Takon Amin."

The link to the CLSU Maestro Singers' music video is <https://youtu.be/deAuZzKZx0w>.

Stay optimistic Despite limited movements amid the pandemic, Abeleda-Piquero encouraged her fellow Filipinos to keep a positive mindset and continue honing their skills.

"We are Filipinos. We have been thrown so much challenges such as earthquakes, floods, storms, and droughts in our lifetime, yet we always came up alive and kicking. We are known for our ability to survive and adapt and come up smiling amidst troubles. Why would we let such a tiny, microscopic virus stop us from being who we are? It is just a matter of adapting again," she said.

Abeleda-Piquero also told aspiring singers to look for ways to "keep the music alive even if we are not allowed to meet face-to-face."

"We, musicians, are musicians forever. We will always find a way for our music to reach you and we are showing you again that we, Filipinos, have been one of the most excellent musicians all over the world and we still are, even in this pandemic. Find a way to be who you are," she said.

(PNA)

Healthy meal stations feed pandemic-affected QC residents

MANILA – A healthy community will result in happy and productive citizens.

The local government of Quezon City thus came up with the idea of establishing 295 feeding stations

in day care centers for the most vulnerable and needy residents.

The Social Services Development Department (SSDD), as part of its #GrowQC Nutritious feed-

ing program, prepares meals planned by its nutritionist-dietitians with the help of day care workers and parent-volunteers.

"All our feeding stations established in 295 day care centers can feed up to 100 families a day. Kada araw, nakakapagbigay tayo ng masustansyang pagkain sa 29,500 na pamilya na bahagi ng most vulnerable sector ng ating komunidad (Every day, we are able to provide healthy food to 29,500 families who belong to the most vulnerable sector of our community)," QC Mayor Belmonte said in a statement on Thursday.

Among the meals on the menu are spinach-malunggay soup, miswa veggie soup, adobong kangkong (water spinach), and sautéed cabbage, chayote, and carrots.

The ingredients are sourced from the city's urban farm projects that also provide a livelihood to farmers in Villa Viena in Barangay Novaliches and Sitio Uno in Barangay North Fairview.

"This program also promotes the importance of urban farming. Hinihikayat namin ang mga residents na magkaroon ng sarili nilang urban garden sa kanilang bakuran. Ang lungsod ay handang umalalay sa inyo para makapagsimula kayo (We are encouraging our residents to put up their urban garden right in their backyard. The city will assist you so you can start the project)," Belmonte added.

Most of the beneficiaries are those most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, according to SSDD chief Fe Macale.

"Most of the beneficiaries of our feeding program are those who lost their job(s) due to the pandemic, and so, while the NCR (National Capital Region) is still under MECQ (modified enhanced community quarantine), we will provide them with free and nutritious food every day," Macale said.

Aside from the established feeding stations, the #GrowQC mobile kitchen also goes around the city to bring nutritious meals closer to communities. (PNA)

Gulayan sa Barangay: Cebu town's breeding of communal resiliency

CEBU CITY – When people of different strokes come together to build a common livelihood for the entire community, that is resiliency in the making amid difficulties of the pandemic, with the heaven blessing them with a bountiful harvest.

While this sounds too good to be true, this is happening in Purok Tulingan, Barangay Kawit in the northernmost town of Medellin, Cebu.

Husbands, wives, mothers, community leaders, and various village residents have come together to establish a communal garden called "Gulayan sa Barangay" in their small village. While the husbands are out to catch the bounty of the sea, the wives make themselves busy from dawn to dusk, tending to their communal vegetable garden.

These wives and mothers found that gardening is their new source of inspiration as it complements their usual day-to-day activities. Despite the pandemic that everyone is facing, these wives feel that farming has come out as a good source of livelihood especially that it complements their husbands' fishing that brings good catch from the sea.

"We are not really used to farming as some of our family members are fishers. When we started our small garden, we don't even know how to properly tend it," Virgie Rosos, the president of the 15-member core group of the community garden, said in a statement by the Department of Agriculture in Central Visayas (DA-7) Tuesday.

For them, the Gulayan sa Barangay is not just a communal garden but a social activity brought about by the "bayanihan" spirit as it fosters responsibility and a sense of belongingness during this time of health crisis.

The communal garden has not only taught them unity but also the importance of eating healthy and nutritious food.

Despite coming from various levels of economic standing, residents have dedicated themselves to work as one and committed to cultivating the garden no matter what time of the day.

"Some of us will be here as early as six in the morning to tend our garden and will go home as late as seven in the evening. We take turns in cultivating our crops and vegetables," Rosos said, noting that their garden's produce are chemical-free and safe to consume.

She narrated that they went through a lot of challenges when they started their garden.

As they say, "some people will pull you down" but these things did not dampen their spirit to continue what they have started, she said.

DA-7 said it has seen these efforts and visited to check how the project is going.

Recently, during a project monitoring visit by the DA-7 staff, technical working group, and private volunteer members of the Integrity Circle of the DA-7's Agriculture Dialogue and Information Network Groups (ADING) program, their communal garden showed a haven of fresh and nutritious green, leafy vegetables. The department officials have seen that the garden serves as a convergence of the villagers.

Beaming with pride, Rosos together with her members, toured the ADING members to their garden planted with different varieties of vegetables such as green pepper, patchay, eggplants, tomatoes, and "kangkong", among others, from the vegetable seeds given by the DA.

The garden looks adorned with the different colors flashed by different varieties of vegetables. Indeed, the garden is not just a good source of fresh and nutritious food but also a good source of savings and livelihood.

"We have saved money because we just get food from our garden. We also save the other income of the garden for the group's future expenses," Rosos said.

The group thanked the DA-7's Gulayan sa Barangay, saying members have been reaping good harvests from their naturally-grown vegetables.

Still, the members seek to avail of more assistance such as training and seminars from the DA to enhance their knowledge and skills in farming. (PNA)

DA-4A grants P2.5M to agricultural foundation in Quezon

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) --The Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) granted a total of P2.5M to a Quezon agricultural foundation to improve the marketing and trading of their produced crops.

DA-4A OIC-Regional Executive Director Vilma Dimaculangan initially turned over a check of P1.7-M to Sentrong Pamilihan ng Produktong Agrikultura sa Quezon Foundation, Inc. (SPPAQFI) on May 4, 2021 for the purchase of a truck van for the use of the foundation in the delivery of their produced vegetable crops from farm to market. The remaining P800,000 of the total amount granted is set to be handed to the foundation for the purchase of a weighing scale, vacuum sealer, pallets and crates, and tent that will be used in participating in the KADIWA programs.

"Nagpapasalamat po kami

sa DA-4A dahil napakalak-ing tulong po ng naibigay sa aming halaga. Mas marami pa pong matutulungang magsasaka dahil dito. Umasa po kayo na ima-maximize po namin ang paggamit sa halagang inyong naibigay," SPPAQFI Administrator Carlo Cena expressed his gratitude. (We thank the DA-4A because of the big help of the amount granted to us. More farmers will benefit because of this. Rest assured that we will maximize the utilization of the fund you gave us.)

The P2.5-M was granted through the Enhanced KADIWA Inclusive Food Supply Chain Program with funding from the Bayanihan II Act. The program aims to ensure food availability and accessibility during the period of pandemic and beyond. (CPG, PIA-4A with report from *Reina Beatriz P. Peralta, DA-4A RAFIS*)

Rider, tigbak sa trak na nag-over take

NASAWI ang isang motorcycle rider nang banggain ng isang truck nang tinangka ng driver ng huli na mag-overtake subalit may nakasalubong na isa pang sasakyan sa Silang, Cavite.

Ininugod pa sa Estrella Hospital ang biktimgang si Jaypee Gonzales, 31, subalit idineklarang dead on arrival.

Kinilala naman ng pulisya ang driver ng Isuzu truck na may plakang ABJ 8622 na si Arnold Andres, 25.

Sa ulat ni Pat Ralph Jayson Santos, ng Silang Police Station, dakong alas-12:05 Lunes ng hatngabi naganap ang insidente kung saan kapwa binabagtas ng biktima at suspek ang kahabaan ng Tagaytay-Sta Rosa Road patungo sa south direction.

Pagsapit sa Brgy Tartaria, Silang nang tinangka ng driver ng truck na mag-overtake pero may nakasalubong na papadating na sasakyan at upang makaiwas ay pumihit kaya nabangga niya ang minamanehong motorsiklo ng

biktima.

Ininugod sa ospital ng mga rumespondeng rescuer ang biktima subalit idineklara itong dead on arrival. **GENE ADSUARA**

Gatchalian naalarna sa malawakang harassment sa paniningil sa online borrower

LUNGSOD CALOOCAN (PIA) -- Para kay Senator Win Gatchalian, nakababahalang ang mga naglipanang kaso ng harassment at mapanlinlang na paraan na paniningil ng ilang kumpanyang nag-aalok ng pautang sa online platform.

Ito ay matapos dumulog sa senador ang grupo ng may dalawang libong mga nagreklamo laban sa iba't-ibang online lending companies at lending apps na umano'y nanghihiya, nananakot, nagbabanta, at kung anu-ano pang mapang-abusong pamaraan ng pagsingil sa kanilang mga inutang.

Napag-alaman ng senador na karamihan sa mga nagreklamang ito ay aminadong natuksong mangutang sa mga online lending apps na inalok ng ilang kumpanya dahil na rin sa matinding pangangailangan sa gitna ng pandemyang dulot ng COVID-19.

"Nakakabahalang marinig sa mga nagreklamo ang mga naging karanasan nila, hindi lang ang panghihiya dahil

Calamba City (PIA) - Major hospitals in Batangas province will soon expand their capacity after the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Health (DOH) formally opened the three modular treatment facilities at the Batangas Medical Center (BatMC) last April 30.

Together with DOH - CALABARZON Assistant Regional Director Paula Paz Sydiogco, and BatMC Chief Ramoncito Magnaye, Assistant Secretary Maria Francia Laxamana led the opening of the said facility, which aims to cater to more COVID-19 patients.

DPWH Batangas 2nd District Engineer Sonia Pagglicauan said the agency aims to provide more rooms for treatment and management of COVID-19 patients in the city, adding that the off site modular facilities at the BatMC was made possible through the DPWH Task Force to Facilitate Augmentation of Local/National Health Facilities.

Aside from the 22-bed typical designed and one (1) 10-bed ICU type modular hospital in Batangas City, several modular facilities in DOH hospitals are already completed in other parts of Metro Manila, including an ICU type, 16-bed facility at the Lung Center of the Philippines; four typical designed and one (1) 110-bed ICU type modular hospital at Quezon Institute

DOH, DPWH open BatMC modular COVID-19 treatment facilities

- Philippine Tuberculosis Society Inc. (QI-PTSI) in Quezon City; one (1) typical designed, 22-bed modular hospital at Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium in Caloocan City.

"This will greatly benefit the hospital as it will increase its bed-capacity with additional 10 rooms for intensive care units and 21 rooms for isolation and monitoring of mild Covid symptoms," Sydiogco said of the facility that will be managed by the BatMC.

For their part, the DOH provided the medical equipment needed for the facility, while the regional health office augmented the needed staff, including doctors and nurses.

"The Department of Health extends its utmost gratitude for the DPWH's support and assistance in providing facilities to augment our hospital's need for additional rooms for healthcare service for Covid patients in the province of Batangas," Laxamana said.

"The COVID-19 modular facilities at BatMC will help accommodate possible surge of cases in the province, including patients from adjacent provinces of Laguna, Cavite, and Quezon," said BatMC Chief Ramoncito Magnaye as he thanked the DPWH for helping increase their hospital capacity for treating COVID-19 patients. (PB/DOH 4-A)



LIBRENG COVID-19 TESTING AT COMMUNITY PANTRY, ISINAGAWA NG PHILRACOM

Noong nakaraang linggo ay nagsagawa ang Department Of Health (DOH) at ang Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) ng libreng Covid-19 testing sa PRCI- Santa Ana Park sa Naic, Cavite. 76 na grooms at grooms helpers ang natest para sa Covid-19 sa karerahan ng Santa Ana. Pinamunuan nina Philracom Chairman Aurelio De Leon at Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go ang nasabing proyekto para sa kaligtasan ng mga nagtatrabaho sa karerahan laban sa mapaminsalang coronavirus (covid-19). Una nang isinagawa ang nasabing free covid-19 testing sa karerahan ng Metro Manila Turf Club sa Malvar-Tanauan, Batangas noong nakaraang buwan. Nagsagawa din ng libreng Covid-19 testing para sa mga groom at helper sa karerahan ng MJCI- San Lazaro Leisure Park sa Carmona, Cavite bago matapos ang buwan ng Abril. Maraming karerista ang umaasa na magbabalik na ang aksiyon sa mga karerahan sa lalong madaling panahon. Marso 20 pa nahinto ang karera dahil sa muling pagsipa ng mga nagpopositibo sa covid-19 sa bansa. Ngunit posibleng humaba pa ang pagkakatengga ng karera dahil nagkaroon ng extension ang Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) sa National Capital Region (NCR) plus bubble na kinabibilangan ng Cavite kung saan naroroon ang San Lazaro Leisure Park sa Carmona at Santa Ana Park sa Naic. Sinisiguro ng Philracom ang kaligtasan ng lahat bago magbalik aksiyon sa karerahan. Salamat kay Chairman Reli De Leon at Senator Bong Go sa pagmamahal at patuloy na pag-alaga sa kalusugan ng buong industriya ng karera. Gayunman, hinahanda na rin ng racing clubs ang kanilang stakes races na ilalarga para sakaling magbalik ang operasyon sa karerahan ay agad itong ikakasa. Samantala, gumawa naman ng sariling bersiyon ng community pantry ang Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) sa pangunguna ni Chairman Reli De Leon upang makapag bigay ng ayuda sa tatlong karerahan para makatulong sa mga groom at helper sa araw mismo ng Labor Day Mayo 1 bilang selebrasyon na rin sa "Araw ng Manggagawa". Maging ang mga horse owner ay nagbigay din ng tulong bilang pagpapahalaga sa mga manggagawa ng bawat racing club. Nabiyayaan ng community pantry ang halos 600 stable groom at helper kasama ang kani-kanilang pamilya. Labis na naapektuhan ang mga sota at ibang nagtatrabaho sa karerahan dahil sa pansamantalang pagkakahinto ng operasyon. Kaya lubos ang kanilang pasasalamat para sa ayudang natanggap.

Sekyu, tiklo sa 2 ulit na bigong pamamaril

ARESTADO ang 28-anyos na security guard nang dalawang beses na tinangka nitong barilin ang isang site supervisor matapos umanong ipatanggal sa trabaho ang pinsan nito sa Silang, Cavite.

Kasong attempted murder ang kinaharap ng suspek na si Aljon Dagium Mabandos, 28, dahil sa reklamo ni Joshua Tianzon, 34, site supervisor.

Sa ulat ni Pat Ralph Jason Santos, ng Silang Police Station, bago naganap ang insidente ay nagsasagawa umano ng site inspection ang biktima sa construction sa Purok 4 Brgy Biga 2, dakong alas-9:40 Linggo ng gabi nang lapitan siya ng suspek na sekyu sa lu-

gar at walang sabi-sabing binunot ang service firearm at ipinutok sa biktima subalit hindi gumana ang barrel. Tinangka ng biktima na tumakbo patungo sa isang checkpoint ng pulis subalit hinabol siya ng suspek at nakorner at muling tinutukan ng barrel at kinalabit ang gatiyo subalit hindi ulit gumana hanggang sa dumating ang mga awtoridad na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto nito

Narekober sa suspek ang isang kalibre 9mm pistol at limang bala.

Ayon kay Santos, galit ang suspek sa biktima matapos umanong ipatanggal sa trabaho ang kanyang pinsan na isa ring sekyu.

GENE ADSUARA

DA-4A distributes P12.4M agri interventions in Lipa City

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) --The Department of Agriculture Region IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) distributed a total of P12,398,697 worth of various agricultural interventions to farmers' associations and cooperatives, civil society organizations, and the local government of Lipa City on April 28, 2021 at Lipa Agricultural Research and Experiment Station, Brgy. Marauoy, Lipa City, Batangas.

Agri interventions that include urban mushroom production package, three community garden packages, greenhouse with hydroponics technology, mango production package, corn and cassava production packages, food supply chain financial assistance, and one unit of refrigerated truck were sourced out from the High Value Crops Development Program, Corn and Cassava Program, and Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Program of the department.

DA-4A OIC-Regional Executive Director Vilma M.

Dimuculangan in her message, encouraged all farmers to organize into farmers' association or cooperative to take full advantage of various programs and services being offered by the department.

"We want to ensure that every intervention given by the DA will be sustainable and beneficial to a greater number of farmers. Through our farmers' association or cooperative, we can achieve this and can bring about economies of scale," director Dimaculangan said.

Lipa City Administrator Dr. Percival Lojo representing Mayor Africa, OIC-Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations Avelita M. Rosales, OIC-Field Operations Division Chief Redelliza A. Gruezo, Agricultural Programs Coordinating Officer for Batangas Fidel L. Libao, and other DA-4A personnel were present during the turn-over ceremony of the agri interventions. **(PIA-4A with report from DA-RFO IVA, RAFIS)**

Hontiveros files resolution for special audit on COVID-19 response

SENATOR Risa Hontiveros has filed Senate Resolution No. 710 urging the Commission on Audit (COA) to conduct a special audit on the P570 billion expenditure under the Bayanihan Heal as One Act (Bayanihan 1) and the Bayanihan to Recover Act (Bayanihan 2), as the country's health system remains overwhelmed due to the effects of COVID-19.

"Suko na ba agad ang administrasyon na makibaka laban sa COVID-19? Imbes na umamin sa mga pagkakamali, tahasan pang sinabi na wala na daw silang magagawa at sinisi pa ang mamamayan. Bilyun-bilyon na umano ang ginagastos mula sa pera ng taumbayan, pero hindi naman naiibsan ang pagdurusa ng mga Pilipino. Government must take a hard look in the mirror by doing a special audit of its financial decisions more than a year into the pandemic," the senator said.

Hontiveros also pressed Malacanang to 'faithfully' release the financial reports of the expenditure of Bayanihan 2 as required by the law. Section 14 of Bayanihan 2 requires the Office of the President to release a report every first Monday of the month. She added that it was concerning that the last financial report released to the public was on January 4, 2021, despite the 'overwhelming'

syal ng BPI at PDRF tulad nina BPI President Cezar Conzing; BPI Foundation Executive Director Owen Cammayo; BPI Head of Sales and Service Channels Angelie King; PDRF President Butch Meily at PDRF Executive Director Veronica Gabaldon.

Sa bahagi naman ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Batangas, dumalo sina Governor Hermilando Mandanas, Vice Governor Mark Leviste, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer Joselito Castro at iba pang department heads at opisyal ng pamahalaang panlalawigan. **(BHABY P. DE CASTRO-PIA Batangas with reports from PIO Province)**

need to fund programs amid the spike in cases soon after.

"Kung kailan matindi ang pagsirit ng mga kaso ng COVID-19, saka naman hindi makita ng mga Pilipino kung saan na napupunta ang pera natin. Paano natin mapopondohan nang maayos ang mga gamot, ayuda, pasilidad, at programang panligtas-buhay kung hindi natin alam kung alin-alin ang natugunan na at alin ang hindi pa? Magkano pa ang natitira? Iresponsible at iligal na hindi isapubliko ang mga financial reports sa panahon ng krisis," she remarked.

This is the second resolution for a special audit on COVID funds that Hontiveros has filed. The senator said it was "crucial" to evaluate these expenses as budget deliberations draw closer, adding that government funds must be appropriated to the 'dire needs' of the country. The audit, she said, will help in responding to bottlenecks and inefficiencies proven to be 'fatal'.

Currently, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said the country has spent over P570 billion on the COVID-19 response, which Hontiveros says has yet to be felt on the ground.

"Hanggang ngayon, napakarami pa ring health workers ang hindi nakakatanggap ng hazard pay, maraming pamilya ang hindi pa nakakatanggap ng ayuda, at kulang pa rin ang mga health facilities. Kung tama nga ang paggastos ng P570 billion, bakit may mga pasyente pa rin na karton ang hinihigaan sa labas ng mga ospital?" she said.

"Dapat binabantayan ng gobyerno ang buwis na patuloy na binabayaran ng mga Pilipino sa gitna ng kanilang paghihirap. Karapatan nating malaman kung napapakinabangan nga ba ang bilyon-bilyong pondo na nakalaan at inutang para sa COVID-19. I ask my colleagues in the Senate to adopt the resolution immediately. It is our duty as legislators to exercise our power of the purse judiciously," Hontiveros concluded. **PR**

BOC NAIA intercepts 20,000 tablets of undeclared IVERMECTIN and other regulated drugs

THE Bureau of Customs Port of NAIA (BOC NAIA) intercepted undeclared IVERMECTIN and other undeclared regulated drugs from a shipment imported by Finstad Inc. from New Delhi, India declared as "Food Supplements, Multivitamins and Multi-Mineral Capsules".

According to the Customs examiner, the said drugs including the undeclared 20,000 capsules of Ivermectin were reportedly concealed in the inner portion of the subject shipment and covered by other declared regulated items after subsection of the shipment to 100% physical examination by BOC NAIA.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Director Jesusa Joyce N. Cirunay of the Center for Drug Regulation and Research, said in a reply letter to BOC query, "At present, the drug is under compassionate use in Specialized Institutions authorized by FDA through

the issuance of Compassionate Special permit (CSP)."

Furthermore, Director Cirunay added, "In case Ivermectin has been granted authorization, a valid License to Operate (LTO) as Drug Importer and Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) or Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) shall be presented."

In conformance with the directive of Bureau of Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero, Bureau of Customs NAIA remains committed to expedite the processing and release of Covid-19 vaccines, drugs and other medical supplies but will also be vigilant and further strengthen border security and protection efforts to curb all smuggling attempts to import unregistered, undeclared goods and/or misdeclared goods without the necessary clearance and permits from FDA. **PR**

MMDA strengthens enforcement of traffic rules, regulations in observance of National Road Safety Month in May

PASIG CITY (PIA) -- In observance of the National Road Safety Month this May, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), in coordination with other concerned agencies, continues to strengthen the enforcement of traffic rules and regulations with emphasis on the common causes of accidents in Metro Manila. Presidential Proclamation No. 115-A declares the month of May as Road Safety Month to promote road safety and raise awareness on traffic rules, reduce casualties due to road accidents.

It also highlights the devastation of road death and injury and encourages people to take action to prevent suffering that result from crashes and casualties.

The said campaign aims to impart knowledge on

road safety, especially on the dangers of standing in vehicle blind spots and jaywalking.

It is important to check blind spots, especially when looking out for young children.

The most common areas that drivers miss out are the immediate front of the cabin and the rear of the vehicle.

It is also important to focus on safe driving habits like wearing seat belts and the keeping of speed limits. It is vital that drivers adopt safe driving habits as one moment of carelessness could end in tragedy.

Based on MMDA's Metro Manila Accident Reporting and Analysis System (MMARAS) in 2020, a total of 65,032 accidents were reported, with 337 fatalities, 14,465 non-fatalities and 50,230 incurred damage to properties. **(PIA NCR)**

Virtual groundbreaking para sa P12.77M Batangas evacuation center, idinaos

LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS (PIA)--Pinangunahan ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Batangas at private sector partners nito ang pagdaraos ng groundbreaking ceremony para sa itatayong P12.77M Batangas Evacuation Center sa Brgy. Malainin, sa bayan ng Ibaan noong ika-14 ng Abril 2021.

Sa pamamagitan ng online audio and video teleconferencing, isinagawa ang naturang seremonya kung saan sisimulan ang konstruksyon ng isang two-storey, multi-purpose facility na magagamit sa biglaang pangangailangan sa panahon ng kalamidad o sakuna.

Ang Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) at BPI Foundation Inc., ang nagkaloob ng donasyon para sa itatayong evacuation center bilang bahagi ng proyekto nilang #TaaLove, isang donation drive na nabuo upang magbigay ng

long-term support sa mga komunidad na labis na naapektuhan ng pagputok ng Bulkang Taal noong nakaraang taon.

Pangungunahan ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), isang major private sector vehicle at coordinator sa bansa na nagbibigay-daan at koordinasyon sa disaster management ang mangan-gasiwa sa pagpapatayo ng pasilidad sa pamamagitan ng inisyatibo nitong Project Safe Shelters.

Tinatayang nasa 300 evacuees ang maaaring manatili sa pasilidad oras na magkaroon ng paglilikas bunsod ng iba't-ibang kalamidad tulad ng malakas na bagyo at lindol.

Isinaalang alang din sa pagpapatayo ng pasilidad ang gamit nito bilang isang health infrastructure facility lalo na ngayong panahon ng pandemya.

Nakiisa sa virtual groundbreaking ang mga opi-

MAGKAPATID, KULONG SA PAGPUSLIT NG GROCERY ITEMS

KAPWA binitbit sa kulungan ang magkapatid na nagkutsabahan na ilabas ang tinatayang mahigit P6K halaga ng pinamili sa Kawit, Cavite.

Kasong paglabag sa Art. 310 at Art. 318 ng RPC (Qualified Theft and Other Deceits) ang kinaharap ng magkapatid na Mariz Santos, 22, cashier ng Malvar Supermarket; at Marry Grace, 27, kapwa residente ng Kawit. Sa ulat ni PCMSgt Roldan Requioma, ng Kawit Municipal Police Station, dakong alas-3:28 ng hapon ay pumasok si Mary Grace sa Malvar Supermarket sa Brgy Balsahan-Bisita, Bi-

nakayan, at nagkunwang mamimili. Dumampot ng mga grocery items si Marry Grace pero pagdating sa teller ay mangilan-ngilan lang ang in-scan ni Mariz pero nahalata ito ni Nelvin Barzaga, duty bagger, dahilan upang ipagbigay alam sa guwardiya na nagresulta sa pagka-kaaresto ng magkapatid. Si Mariz ay teller sa nasabing supermarket at nakatatandang kapatid niya si Marry Grace.

Umabot sa halagang P6,026.15 na grocery items ang kanyang dinampot na hindi na-scan ni Mariz na hindi nabayaran. **GENE ADSUARA**



TIKLO ang mga suspek na sina Johnny Mernilo Saja at Alfonso Miguella T. Felix na nakumpiska sa kanila ang limang pirasong sachet ng umano'y pinatuyong dahoon ng marijuana sa isinagawang buy bust operation ng mga tauhan ng SDEU sa Barangay Sun Valley sa lungsod ng P'que. Naging seizing officer si PCPL Emel Dela Cruz. **(JIMMY HAO)**

DINAKIP ang suspek nasi Jhamp Gurpreet Singh na nakumpiskahan ng isang pirasong maliit na sachet ng umano'y shabu matapos masita ng mga Brgy. tanod ng San Dionisio habang nagmamaneho ng motorsiklo sa loob ng Green Hills. Agad rumsponde ang mga tauhan ng PCP -4 at naging seizing officer si Joseph Lee. **(JIMMY HAO)**



PDEA burns P1.84-M illegal drugs

GENERAL SANTOS CITY

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) 12 (Soccsksargen) destroyed on Thursday afternoon more than PHP1.8 million worth of illegal drugs that were seized in various operations in the region. Naravy Duquiatan, PDEA-12 director, said the illegal items, composed mainly of shabu and marijuana, were ordered destroyed by local courts after being used as evidence in previous cases. These were burned at the Monte Cielo crematorium in Purok Intake, Barangay Mabuhay here at about 4 p.m. Duquiatan said the destroyed items consisted of 269.09 grams of shabu with an estimated street value of PHP1,829,820.16, a total of 109.54 grams of marijuana valued at PHP13,144, and expired medicines worth PHP4,255. "This is in compliance with the directive of the President (Rodrigo Duterte) for

the immediate destruction of recovered contraband to prevent their recycling," she told reporters. She explained that they could not just dispose of the seized illegal drugs following their operations, as these would still be used as evidence in the filing of charges against the suspects. The destruction should be based on legal order, especially from the courts, after the issuance of a decision on the cases, she said. "However, these items are no longer needed as evidence in court," Duquiatan said. The PDEA-12, in coordination with other law enforcement agencies, recovered illegal drugs valued at PHP7.1 million in 435 operations from January to March in parts of Soccsksargen. This included some 13,000 hills of marijuana plants valued at PHP2.6 million that were uprooted from an upland plantation Sitio



NAMIGAY ng ayuda ang grupo ng Omega Tau Sigma -Manila Cluster sa may 80 pamilya na biktima sa nasunugan sa Creek site, Lopez Village, Barangay San Isidro, lungsod ng P'que. Pinangunahan ng kanilang Pres. Rod Soriano at Vice Pres. Alwin Manuel kasama sa tumulong sina Gloria Jamo-ay, Gina Daquilanea, Charlie Balontong at OMAR BENASING. Pinasalamatan din si Barangay Captain Noel Japlos kasama ang mga tanod at kapulisan ng PCP -4 na nakutulong sa aktibidad. **(JIMMY HAO)**

KALABOSO

ang suspek na si Alexander San Lorenzo na nahulihan ng isang pirasong maliit na sachet ng hinihinalang shabu habang nag-sagawa ng OPLAN GALUGAD ang mga tauhan ng PCP-2 sa pamumuno ni P/Major Jolly C. Soriano sa 16th St., Puyat, Brgy. Tambo sa lungsod ng P'que. Ang naging seizing officer ay si PCPL NINO L. Anano. **(JIMMY HAO)**



HANEP

Basahin Mo Ito!

KALIBRE

ROMY SANTOS
0977-7844136



HANEP... limang taon na po kami

PARANG kailan lang, nasa limang taon na palang pumapalaot sa larangan ng pamamahayag ang ating pahayagan. HANEP...limang taon na po kami. Last year at ngayong taon na kaarawan ng ating dyaryo ay wala tayong selebrasyon dahil nananatili pa rin sa pandemiya dulot ng COVID-19. Masaya ako at labis na nagpapasalamat sa lahat ng bumubuo ng pahayagang ito. Hindi naman ito magiging matagumpay na ako lamang o solo lang siyem-

pre katuwang ang ilang staff. Sige lang sa laban, tuloy lang sa sirkulasyon kahit tayo ay nasa pandemiya. Ang pagkakasapit sa ikalimang anibersaryo ng HANEP ay kaloob ng ating Poong Maykapal. Diyos ang magtataka at magpapasya sa kung gaano magiging kahaba ang buhay ng HANEP. Natural lamang na ang aking panalangin ay pahabain o bigyan ang HANEP ng mas maraming kaarawan. Salamat Panginoon sa 5th Birthday...More birthdays to come.

SA isinagawang OPLAN GALUGAD ng mga tauhan ng PCP -6 ay hinuli ang suspek na si Lyzaldy Regalado na nakukuhanan ng isang pirasong maliit na sachet ng hinihinalang shabu sa Barangay Moonwalk sa lungsod ng P'que. Ang naging seizing officer ay si PCPL Christian Aaron. **(JIMMY HAO)**



Bong Sbang, Barangay Danlag in Tampakan town, South Cotabato province in January. A total of 449 drug person-

alities were arrested during the operations and are facing charges in local courts. **(PNA)**