

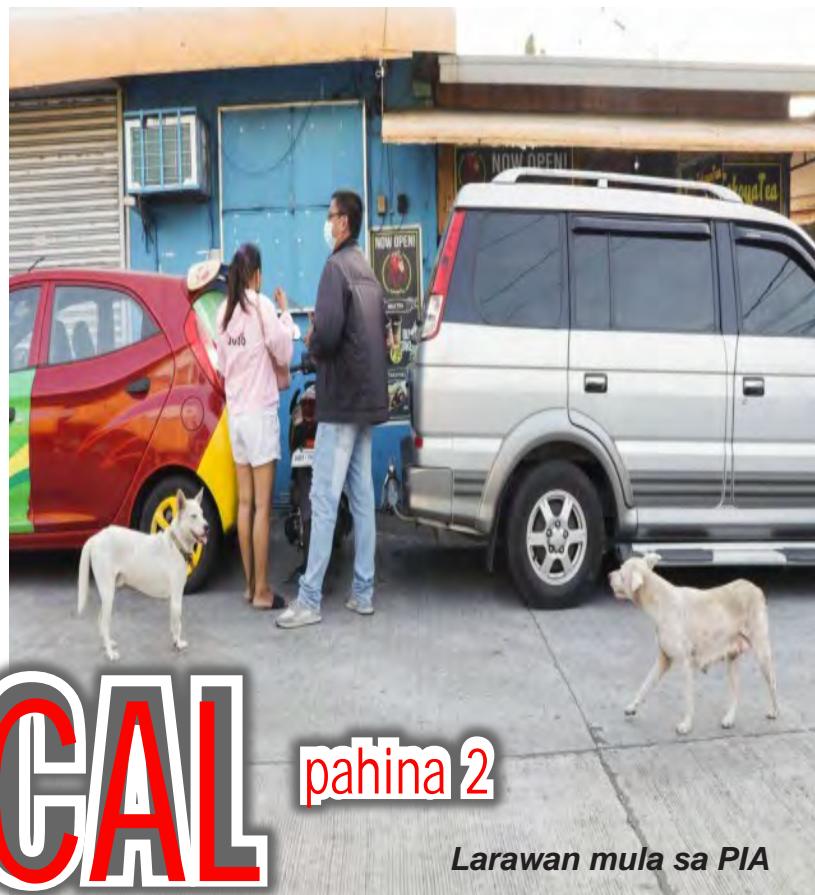
HANED

Basahin Mo Ito!

Taon 6 Blg.2

Mayo 17-23, 2021

P10.00



PROPOSED LOCAL ORDINANCE TO PROTECT PUBLIC, DOGS' WELFARE

pahina 2
Larawan mula sa PIA



DPWH Sec. Mark Villar inspects CALAX Subsection 4. (from L-R) DPWH Director for PPP Service Alex Bote, BBB Chair Mae Lamentillo, DPWH Undersecretary for Planning and PPP Maria Catalina Cabral, DPWH Secretary Mark Villar, MPCALA Holdings Inc. Vice President for Tollways Development and Engineering Art Monge and DPWH OIC Chief, PPP Service, Engr. David Galang. (Photo & caption: MPTSouth) —*story on p.5*



LTO CAVITE. The facade of the newly-inaugurated district office of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in Imus, Cavite. The LTO on Wednesday (May 12, 2021) said the new office will provide a "much-improved" service to a greater number of clients. (Photo courtesy of LTO) —*story on p.11*

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PROPOSED LOCAL ORDINANCE TO PROTECT PUBLIC, DOGS' WELFARE

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) --Cavite 4th District Rep. Pidi Barzaga proposed the drafting of a city ordinance in Dasmarinas that will address the perennial problem on stray dogs biting residents, not only to protect the public but the dogs' welfare as well.

According to Rep. Barzaga, the city government allocates almost a million pesos of the LGU's funds on a monthly basis for the purchase of rabies vaccine. He also cited that 50% of the victims were children or members of the household of dog owners.

As part of the initiative, the city government will undertake the construction of a big impounding center to house stray dogs captured with the support of a centralized dog catching system.

The proposed ordinance will affirm that all stray dogs will be caught and brought to the center. Dog owners will redeem their dogs within 10 days with corresponding fine. Dogs that

will not be redeemed within said period will be placed for adoption, while those that will not be adopted will be "euthanized" as provided by Republic Act 8485 or The Animal Welfare Act of the Philippines.

Moreover, all residents who want to breed dogs will be required to obtain a dog breeder's permit from the city government. Puppies also need to have a cage with corresponding space. A public hearing will be held for the drafting of said ordinance with concerned stakeholders present to solicit their views on the proposed ordinance.

According to the FB Page of Rep. Barzaga, the ordinance will not only address the safety of the public but also prevent the proliferation of stray dogs, resolve related sanitation problems and significantly reduce LGU expenses every month on anti-rabies vaccine with the savings allotted for other health projects. (*Ruel Francisco with reports from Congressman Pidi Barzaga's FB page*)

Di lang dahil sa covid

HUWAG lumabas ng bahay, hindii lang dahil sa Covid, kundi nagbabala rin ang Department of Health (DOH)- CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) sa publiko na mas nakakabuti kung manatili sa bahay dahil sa sobrang init ng panahon. Ayon kay Regional Director Eduardo C. Janairo, huwag balaewalain ang epeko ng matinding init ng panahon dahil ang init na nakukuha mula sa araw ay nagdudulot ng sakit.

"It is best to stay at home or indoors dahil hindi lang Covid ang dapat nating iwasan ngayon kasama na rin dito ang sobrang init ng panahon na nararanasan natin. Hangga't maari ay iwasan nating lumabas ng bahay mula alas-9 ng umaga hanggang alas-3 ng hapon dahil ito ang pinakamainit na oras na makakapagdulot ng masamang epeko sa ating kalusugan,"

ayon kay Janairo. Ilan sa mga sakit na nakukuha sa init ng araw ay sunburn, heat cramps at heat stroke.

Payo ni Janairo na kung ikaw ay nasa loob ng bahay, manatili ka sa malamig na bahagi ng bahay at kung hindi maiwasang lumabas, umiwas mula sa direct sunlight at magsuot ng light colored na damit na pangontra sa init.

Payo pa ni Janairo na uminom ng maraming tubig. Nitong May 12, nagtala ang Sangle Point sa Cavite ang heat index na 46 °C, Ambulong, Batangas na 42 °C at Tayabas City, Quezon na 37 °C.

Ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA), nagtala ang Dagupan City sa Pangasinan sa pinakamataas na heat index na 51°C nitong May 8, 2021. Ang heat index ay ang

2 nakamotorsiklo, dedo

DALAWANG rider ang nasawi sa insidente sa magkahiwalay na lugar sa Cavite.

Kinilala ang mga biktima na sina Arven Dumayo, 48, fish vendor, ng Brgy Aniban 1, Bacoor City; at Sandro Manlangit Manuel, 32, ng Brgy Maliksi, Gen Trias City.

Sa ulat ng pulisia, dakong alas-11:40 ng gabi naganap ang insidente kung saan minamaneho ni Dumayo ang kanyang motorsiklong Baja 110 at binabagtas ang kahabang Centennial Road nang pagsapit sa Brgy Panamitan, Kawit, ay nawalan ng kontrol sa manibela at bumangga sa terrace ng isang bahay.

Dahil sa lakas ng pagkakabangga ay tumama ang ulo at katawan nito sa segmentong bahagi ng terrace kaya mabilis na isinugod sa Kalayaan Hospital sub-

alit pagkalipas ng halos 12 oras ay namatay din ito.

Magkasalubong namang binabagtas nina Manuel at driver ng Isuzu AUV na may plakang CCC 7444 na si Laonardo, Fajardo, 56, ng Pasong Kawayan 2, Gen Trias City, ang kalsada na sakop ng Brgy Pasong Kawayan 1, at ang una ay minamaneho ang motorsiklong Rapido 110 patungo sa opposite direksiyon habang si Fajardo ay sa direksiyon patungo sa Manggahan dakong alas-6:30 Miyerkules ng umaga.

Sinakop ni Manuel ang kabilang kalsada dahilan upang makasalpukan nito ang sasakyen ni Fajardo na nagresulta sa maluhang sugat sa katawan at isinugod sa Gen Trias Medicare Hospital pero namatay habang ginagamot.

GENE ADSUARA

Welder, patay sa steel bar?

NAMATAY ang 36-anyos na welder nang nakuryente dahil sa isang steel bar na hinihinalang dumikit sa linya ng kuryente sa Dasmarinas City, Cavite.

Kinilala ang biktima na si Albert Buscas, nasa wastong edad, na namatay sa pinangyarihan ng insidente.

Sa ulat ni Corporal Michael Ryan Gapit, ng Dasmarinas City Police Station, dakong alas-12:05 ng tanghali naganap ang insidente sa Wilcon Depot sa Brgy Paliparan 1, Dasmarinas City, kung saan nagwe-welding ang biktima sa ibabaw ng

scaffolding.

Nangailangan ang biktima ng steel bar kaya tinawag nito ang isang Alvaro Diaz upang iabot nang sa paghawak ng biktima sa bakal ay nakarinig sila ng pagputok ng kuryente hanggang sa nahulog ang huli na nagresulta sa kanyang kamatayan.

Hinala ng imbestigador na dumikit ang bakal sa isang linya ng kuryente, bagama't patuloy ang isinagawang imbestigasyon at kung may naganap na foul play sa pagkamatay nito.

GENE ADSUARA

Kumasa sa parak, 'tulak' tigbak

PATAY ang 38-anyos na hinihinalang tulak nang nanlaban sa awtoridad sa isinagawang buy bust operation sa Naic, Cavite.

Kinilala ang umano'y tulak na si Larry Miranda, binita, ng Freedomville, Brgy Bucana, Sasahan, Naic.

Sa ulat ni Pat John Arlan Quimilat, ng Naic Police Station, dakong alas-12:35 Martes ng madaling araw

nagsagawa ng buy bust operation ang mga operatiba ng Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) ng Naic MPS sa Freedomville Brgy Bucana, Sasahan, kung saan target si Miranda.

Sa kalagitnaan ng transaksiyon sa pagitan nina Miranda at poseur buyer ay nahalata ng una na pulis ang kanyang kausap dahil upang magbunot ng baril at ipinutok sa awtoridad subalit nagmuntis kaya gumanti ang huli.

Nakuha sa pag-iingat ni Miranda ang isang kalibre 38 na baril at sachet ng shabu.

GENE ADSUARA

DA-4A turns over P3.9M agri & marketing interventions to GenTri farmers

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) --The Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON turned over a total of P3.9-M worth of agricultural and marketing interventions to the farmers of General Trias, Cavite on May 10.

DA-4A OIC-Regional Executive Director Vilma M. Dimaculangan led the distribution of the interventions as part of the celebration of the Farmers and Fisherfolk Month with the theme "May Pandemya man o wala, Masasaka't Mangingisda, Maaasahan ng Bansa." Dimaculangan handed over about P2,107,970 worth of interventions to the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Maggugulan ng Lungsod ng General Trias with funding from the Bayanihan II Act and High Value Crops Development Banner Program Quick Response Fund.

The interventions include: mushroom house, mushroom bags, bagging machine, improvised autoclave, heavy dust cast aluminum pressure cooker, multipurpose portable spin drying dehydrator, air fryer, continuous vertical band sealer, assorted vegetable seeds, budded calamansi, garden tools, plastic drum, mulon, knapsack sprayer, seeding trays, organic fertilizer, multitiller, grass-cutter, greenhouse with hydroponics, and plant growth enhancer.

Aside from the abovementioned interventions, the farmer-beneficiaries also received P600K worth of bags of muriate of potash fertilizer with funding source from the Taal volcano eruption quick response fund of DA-4A.

On the other hand, the General Trias Dairy Raisers Multi-Purpose Coop (GT-DRMC) received a P1.2-M financial grant through the Enhanced KADIWA Program. The first tranche worth P1M was used by the cooperative for the purchase of a hauling van while the remaining P200K will be utilized for the procurement of an automatic sealing machine.

"Sa ngalan po ng aming kooperativa, kami po ay nagpapasalamat sa pamunuan ng DA, lalo na kay Ma'am Vilma, dahil napakalaking tulong po nitong financial grant na naipagkaloob sa amin. Malaki po ang aming kakulangan, pero sa tulong ng DA ay matutugunan po ang lahat ng aming pangangailangan. Tunay nga pong sila'y laging nakaalay sa mga magsasaka," GTDRMC Chairman Alfonzo Papaun Reyes said.

In her message, Director Dimaculangan thanked the farmers for their continued drive in producing food and recognized them as true heroes especially in these trying times. (*CPG, PIA 4A with report from DA-RFO IVA, RAFIS*)

2 sunog sa Cavite

Hindi pa man naideklarang fire under control ang sunog sa Carmona, sumiklab din ang isa pang sunog sa isang 2 storey na bahay na pagmamay-ari ng isang Lisa Evangelista sa Brgy Sapa II Rosario, na nagsimula dakong alas-11:00 Martes ng umaga.

Itinaas sa unang alarma ang sunog at idineklarang fire-out dakong alas-11:53 ng umaga. Wala namang naiulat na nasaktan o nasugatan sa dalawang sunog na naganap at inalam ng Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) ang sanhi ng sunog.

GENE ADSUARA

temperature na nararamdamang ating katawan o ang temperature na kailangan ng katawan.

GENE ADSUARA

LGU GenTri approves financial assistance to repatriated documented OFWs

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) -- The City Government of General Trias recently approved City Ordinance No. 20-46, an ordinance granting financial assistance to repatriated documented Gentriseño Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who lost their jobs due to the CoViD-19 pandemic.

Documented OFWs who are bonafide residents of the City of General Trias with valid passport, work visa, and contract of employment duly processed with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) or the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) can avail of the program.

Interested applicants are required to present the following: copy of passport or travel document; copy of valid ID/Documents showing proof of residency in the City of General Trias; copy of flight ticket or boarding pass as proof of return to the Philippines or arrival stamps/sticker attached to the passport; proof of overseas employment contract, Overseas Employment Compensation registration, OWWA or POEA registration, residence IDs, working

visa/re-entry visa, or work permit to stay in the receiving country; and proof of loss of employment due to CoViD-19 or proof that the host country are included in the list of those heavily affected by the CoViD-19 pandemic.

Applications including requirements must be submitted using the links provided in the City Government of General Trias Facebook page until May 14, 2021. It is also advised that applications will undergo evaluation and approval.

Meanwhile, applicants who had submitted their application including requirements to the Public Employment Services Office (PESO) need not apply online.

Approved applications will be advised regarding the schedule and manner of payout.

The financial assistance to documented OFWs is the city government's initiative under the leadership of Mayor Antonio 'Ony' Ferrier to somehow help alleviate the effect of the loss of their livelihood caused by the ongoing pandemic. (*Ruel Francisco with reports from the City Government of General Trias FB page*)

43 sabungero, tiklo

UMABOT sa apatnapu't tatlo na mga sabungero ang binitbit ng Cavite police dahil sa illegal na tupada sa magkakahiwalay na lugar sa lalawigan.

Sa ulat ng Cavite Police Provincial Office (PPO), isinagawa ang anti-illegal gambling operation sa pagitan ng alas-11:30 Linggo ng umaga hanggang alas-2:10 Linggo ng hapon sa apat na lungsod at tatlong bayan.

Sa Trece Martires City, apat na katao, kabilang ang isang government employee, ang inaresto nang naaktuhang nagsasagawa ng tupada sa Brgy Osorio dakong alas-11:30 ng umaga at narekober ang apat na sasabunging manok, 2 tari at P600 na pusta.

Tinatayang P1,200 halaga ng pusta ang nasamsam naman sa isinagawang

tupada sa Sitio Cacabay, Brgy Sabang 2, Ternate dakong alas-12:30 ng tanghali kung saan tatlo katao ang nareste at narekober ang 1 sasabunging manok at tari.

Anim na katao naman ang dinampot nang lumusob ang mga operatiba ng Imus City Police Station habang nagsasagawa ng tupada sa Montera Subd., Brgy Bucandala 5, dakong alas-11:30 ng umaga at nasamsam ang P2,200 na pusta, dalawang panabong at dalawang tari.

Hindi naman nakaporma ang labing-isa katao nang bitbitin matapos naaktuhan habang nagsasagawa ng tupada dakong alas-2:10 Linggo ng hapon sa Sitio Maynilaan Brgy Liit Silang, at narekober ang P6,600 na pusta, dalawang sasabunging manok at tari.



Cellphone istorbo sa trabaho?

ANG bawat bayan o lungsod ay mayroong mga nagsisilbing nagwawalis sa lansangan o kapaligiran.

Street sweeper kung sila ay bansagan at kalimitang sa umaga ang kanilang trabaho.

Bukod sa walis at pandakot ay mayroon din silang maliit na push cart o kariton na pinaglalagyan ng drum ng mga basurang mawawalis at madakot.

Napag-usapan lang natin ito dahil na rin sa kwento ng ilang ating katropa.

Puna lang kasi nila ang isa sa mga babaing street sweeper na pwede natting tawagin sa pangalang Juana.

Pansin lang nila na madalas habang marahang itinutulak ni Juana ang kariton ay sige lamang siya sa kagagamit ng cellphone.

Ang kasama ni Juana ang nagwawalis at dumadakot ng mga dumi.

Kunsabagay, ang tropa na rin ang nagbigay ng kahulugan o kasagutan.

Kumbaga ay maaaring palitan ang style ni Juana at kasama niyang street sweeper.

wang tari.

Halagang P340.00 ang nasamsam na pusta sa tatlong sabungero na naaresto nang lumusob ang mga operatiba ng Bacoor City Police dakong alas-11:00 Linggo ng umaga dahil sa sumpong na may isinasagawang tupada sa Holy Infant, Gardenia Valley, Brgy Molino 3, at narekober ang tatlong sasabungin, at dalawang tari.

Nagpulasang naman ang mga sabungero nang sorpresang dumating ang Gen Trias City Police at tanging apat na katao ang kanilang dinampot nang naaktuhang nagsasabong dakong alas-4:00 ng hapon sa Sitio Santusan, Brgy Mang-

Pwedeng nagsasalitan ang dalawa sa pagwawalis at pagtutulak ng karon.

Natitiyempo lamang kapag si Juana ang nagtutulak ng kariton ay doon sa lugar ng tropa napapadaan.

Maaaring tama, 'di po ba? Pero hindi naman iyan ang punto ng ating usapan.

Ang cellphone, bow!

Talaga nga naman na kahit anong ginagawa ay nariyan ang paggamit ng cellphone.

Kung tutuusin ay nasa oras ng duty na dapat ang cellphone ay mahigpit na bawal.

Hindi lamang ang street sweeper maging ang halos lahat ng trabaho sa field ay kakambal ang cellphone.

Ganoon din ang mga nagtatrabajo sa mga opisina, ang cellphone ay nasa bulsa o kamay.

Work related ba o sadyang nararapat na hawak at gagamitin ang cellphone sa panahon ng pagtatrabajo?

Maraming kautusan, maraming bawal... nai-papatupad at nasusunod ba?

gahan, at nasamsam ang P760 na taya, 2 sasabunging manok at isang tari.

Anim na katao pa ng inaresto sa isinagawang tupada sa Stateland View Subd., Brgy Manggahan, Gen Trias City dakong alas-12:30 Linggo ng tanghali at nasamsam ang P2,200 na pusta, dalawang sasabunging manok at isang tari.

Sa Tanza, apat katao ang inaresto ng nagsagawa ng anti illegal gambling habang nagsasabong dakong alas-5:40 Linggo ng hapon sa Brgy Halayhay at nasamsam ang P460 na pusta, isang sasabunging manok at tari. **GENE ADSUARA**

EDITORIAL

Puso at isip sa halalan

GUSTUHIN man o hindi ay sadyang darating at darating ang halalan kahit nasa panahon ng pandemiya.

Hindi lamang dapat pinagusapan bagkus ay kailangan ng waste o naaayong paghahanda. **Preparasyong** ang karap-dapat ay hindi mag-uugat sa posibleng dagok sa kalusugan at kaligtasan.

Lumalakad ang panahon o lalakad pa ang mga oras at araw sa pandemiya.

Sa susunod na taon o sa panahon ng eleksyon ay hindi batid ang pandemiya kung ano na.

Makabuluhan ang ibinibigay na mga aral ng pandemiya at mahalaga rin ang puso at isip sa halalan na dapat pakatandaan.

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Publisher/editor-in-chief

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KELOT, TEPOK SA PAGTAWID SA LOOB NG SUBDIBISYON

NASAWI ang isang lalaki nang banggain ng isang motorsiklo habang tumatawid sa kalsada sa loob ng isang subdibisyon sa Gen Trias City, Cavite.

Idineklarang dead on arrival sa Gen. Trias Medicare Hospital ang biktima si Edmond Degoyo, nasa wastong edad, ng Lancaster New City Subd., Brgy Pasong Kawayan 1, Gen Trias City dahil sa maluhang sugat sa ulo.

Sinusulat ito ay ginagamot din sa nasabing ospital ang driver ng motorsiklong Motorstar 155 na si Jay-Cris Alvarez, 25, ng nasabing subdibisyon.

GENE ADSUARA

DOH-CALABARZON reminds vax recipients to take 2nd shot

CALAMBA CITY (PIA)

--The Department of Health Region IV-A (DOH IV-A) reminds COVID-19 vaccine recipients to take their second dose of vaccines to get full protection amid the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the region.

In a press release, Regional Director Eduardo Janairo emphasized that although they will not be completely immune against the coronavirus, those who got vaccinated against the disease will be able to form antibodies needed in combating severe forms COVID-19. "Tandaan natin na nag-karoong na nga maraming variant ang virus kaya napakaimportanteng makumpleto natin ang ang bakuna natin upang masiguro na ang katawan natin ay may kumpletong panlaban sa COVID-19," Janairo explains.

In its May 4 report, the DOH said around 132, 180 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to priority groups in the Calabarzon region using vaccines made by drugmakers

Sinovac and Oxford-AstraZeneca.

Around 154,347 (93.8%) have already received their first dose, while 10,154 (5.2%) were given their second shot.

Despite getting inoculated, the region's top doctor reminded those who have been vaccinated have to continue following minimum health protocols such as wearing face masks, physical distancing, and regular handwashing as they may still get infected by the virus.

"Only upon receiving the second dose of Covid vaccine can you get the full protection against the virus. Huwag po natin itong ipagwalang bahala dahil mahirap po ang magkakasakit dahil sa covid. Mahirap ma-hospital at hindi rin madaling gumaling dahil dito," Janairo said.

According to the region's top doctor, those who received AstraZeneca vaccines will have 12 weeks to get their second dose, while those who were inoculated with Sinovac shots have 28 days or 4 weeks to get their second shot. (PB/DOH 4-A)

Negosyo Center Sampaloc-Tanay equips MSMES in photography, editing

ANTIPOLO CITY, Rizal--

The Department of Trade and Industry - Rizal Provincial Office through the Negosyo Center Sampaloc-Tanay recently spearheaded a photography and photo editing webinar benefitting local Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. NC Sampaloc-Tanay's first virtual seminar was conducted on April 30. Business Counselor Aryan Llamares highlighted the importance of high-quality photography for MSME's social media and digital channels in order to capitalize on their products and services.

Prior the start of the webinar, DTI-Rizal Business Development Division Chief Sharon Dioco thanked The Tanay Municipal Government and Epson Philippines in behalf of DTI Rizal Provincial Director Desiderio Jurado III for making the training possible.

Mr. Luis Cruz, Epson PH Pre-Sales Engineer, presented Epson's photo and proofing printers and discussed different printers which are suitable for a specific medium for printing that MSMEs use in packaging and labeling of products.

While Albert Pedrosa, Can-

on Professional and Certified Adobe Expert, served as the speaker for basic photo editing, handling, posing, and lighting the subject for photography.

He discussed basic principles such as the rule of thirds, composition, story, patterns diagonal lines and triangles as well as technical aspects such as the roles of the aperture, shutter speed, ISO, focal length, temperature and focusing.

Pedrosa also stated during the webinar, that a balance between technical and creative sides of photography should be achieved.

MSME participants were then given an opportunity to raise questions to the speakers through an open forum which included questions from both Zoom and Facebook Live participants.

Bienvenido Magpantay of the Tanay Municipal Government then concluded the webinar by thanking the organizers, speakers, Epson Philippines, and DTI Rizal, for efforts in the development of MSMEs and potential business owners in Tanay through capability building activities. (PIA-Rizal with reports from DTI4A)

3 katao, arrestado sa milyong halaga ng 'bato'

ARESTADO ang tatlo katao matapos mahulihan ng shabu na nagkakahalaga ng isang milyong peso sa isinagawang buy bust operation ng Manila Police District Station 2 SDET sa Maynila.

Kinilala ang mga inaresto na sina Anna Loivina, 38; Atilano La-yosa Jr., alyas Raprap, 37; at Dianne Joy Desiderio, 35, pawang magkakapitbahay sa Malaya St. Brgy. 124 Zone 10, Tondo, ng naturang lungsod.

Sa isinagawang imbestigasyon ni PCPL Ryan Jose, ng Moriones Police Station 2, dakong 5:00 ng Sabado ng madaling araw nang ikasa ng kanilang Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU) ang buy-bust op-

eration sa isang eskinita sa Malaya St.

Kumagat sa pain ang tatlong suspek nang kanilang pagbilhan ang poseur buyer ng pulisya ng shabu kapalit ng P500 na marked money.

Nakuha sa 3 ang nasa 150 gramo ng shabu na nagkakahalagang P1,020,000 at isang baril na may tatlong bala at P2,000 cash. Dinala na sa MPD Crime Laboratory ang nakumpisang illegal na droga para isailalim sa eksaminasyon habang naharap ang mga suspek sa kasong paglabag sa RA 9165 o Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 at RA 10591 o Illegal Possession of Firearms and Ammunitions. (leonard basilio)

Importers, Customs Broker Face Criminal Complaints

ON May 7, 2021, the Bureau of Customs, through the Bureau's Action Team Against Smugglers (BATA) in coordination with the Manila International Container Port (MICP) and the Port of Cebu, initiated the filing of criminal complaints before the Department of Justice (DOJ) against two (2) importers and one (1) customs broker.

The first case involves P1.77 million worth of misdeclared two 40-footer containers of minerals and exhaust fans consigned to GJ & M Global Resources. The consignee and its customs broker were charged for the alleged misdeclaration of importation on January 7, 2021 at the Port of Cebu.

The respondents purportedly violated pertinent provisions of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA); and Article 172 in relation to Article 171 of the Revised Penal

Code (RPC), as amended. The second case was against Atlantic Globe Movers, Inc. for the alleged unlawful importation of 930 master cases of Fortune Blue cigarettes amounting to P47.498 million on February 18, 2021 at the MICP.

The importer allegedly violated the CMTA, Customs Memorandum Order No. 20-2006, Republic Act 10963, otherwise known as the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Act, National Tobacco Administration (NTA) 079-2005, NTA Memorandum Circular No. 03, s. 2004, and the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines.

BOC remains committed in investigating and filing criminal cases against stakeholders involved in the illegal importation of goods.

Since January 2021, a total of 32 criminal cases have been filed before the DOJ. PR

Voters' registration extension beyond September 30 very unlikely

PASIG CITY (PIA) -- An official of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) said extending the voter registration period past September 30, 2021 is "very unlikely" as they are strictly following timelines in connection with preparations for the May 2022 national and local polls.

Comelec Spokesperson James Jimenez over the weekend said they cannot just focus on the registration as there are more preparations to be done for the May 2022 national polls.

"Unfortunately, it's not likely to have it extended because the day after the close of registration, the filing of the Certificate of Candidacy will commence, which means we have to start preparing for election day documents, what we call project of precincts, and the only way we can start doing that is if we close the voters' registration," he said during the virtual launch of the Vote Pilipinas campaign.

Vote Pilipinas is an information campaign that uses "innovative, visual and us-

er-friendly" information with the aim to attract Filipinos to register and participate in next year's elections.

"It would be very difficult to prepare for the elections if the number continues to change. We print only the exact number of ballots. So if the number of voters is a moving target, our printing will also be a moving target. So we have to put a stop to it at some point," Jimenez added.

The Comelec is looking to register 4 million new voters for the May 2022 polls. There are already 3,222,137 applications in the past six months.

Distributing registration forms in community pantries to encourage people to register is welcome, Jimenez said.

"Yes, they can do that. There's no problem with that," he said. "In fact, some people have already approached us to ask about that. We also gave out forms when we had a walk around in a few barangays in Quezon City. So yeah, you can do it in pantries. That will help a lot." (PIA NCR)

DPWH Sec. Villar: CALAX Silang section to be completed in 2022

SILANG, Cavite --Department of Public Works and Highways, Hon. Secretary Mark A. Villar along with executives from MPCALA Holdings Inc. (MCHI) inspects the progress of CALAX Sub-section 5, which is slated to be opened to motorists this third quarter of 2021. CALAX Subsection 5 is a 7.2km, 2x2 lane expressway that will link Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road to Silang, Cavite. Once operational, this section of CALAX is expected to serve 5000 vehicles daily, helping decongest traffic along Governor's Drive, Aguinaldo Highway, and Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road.

Seen during the drive-through inspection are toll structures of the upcoming Silang East interchange, and other miscellaneous works being conducted to ensure road quality and safety of motorists in the expressway.

"I am very pleased that despite the mobility challenges brought about by the pandemic, construction for CALAX Subsection 5 remains on track and would soon be made available to motorists in the third quarter of 2021. It is a vital portion of CALAX that would help accelerate economic progress of Region IV-A, as it links the two provinces of Cavite and Laguna," stated DPWH Secretary Villar.

MPCALA President and General Manager, Robert V. Bontia further shared that as of date, CALAX Subsection 5 is already 94% completed. Like DPWH, they look forward on the seg-

ment helping spur growth to the community and the Region.

Simultaneously, MPCALA and DPWH have started and have reached 18.3% construction progress of the next 2.8km CALAX Subsection 4 which will link Aguinaldo Highway to the upcoming Silang East interchange and this segment is set to be completed by 2022.

"DPWH continues to exert full effort in the acquisition of right-of-way for all the remaining segments to be able to deliver the project by the end of 2022", added DPWH Secretary Villar.

The currently operational segments of CALAX run from Mampasan to Sta. Rosa, Laguna and serves around 10,000 vehicles daily.

Upon completion, CALAX will span 45-kilometers with eight (8) interchanges at the following locations: Kawit, Governor's Drive, Open Canal, Silang (Aguinaldo) Highway, Silang East, Santa Rosa-Tagaytay, Laguna Boulevard, and Laguna Technopark. It shall serve about 45,000 vehicles while cutting travel time between Cavite and Laguna from 2 hours to under an hour.

MPTC holds the concession rights for the CALAX, Cavitex, C-5 Link Expressway, North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), NLEX Connector Road and Harbor Link, Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), Subic Freeport Expressway (SFEX) and Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

Gobyerno dapat itulak ang gawang lokal na bakuna laban sa COVID-19 –Gatchalian

LUNGSOD CALOOCAN (PIA) -- Hinikayat ni Senator Win Gatchalian ang gobyerno na maging maagap at pag-aralan ang posibilidad na magkaroon ang bansa ng sariling bakuna laban sa COVID-19, habang mainit na pinagdedebatihan ng mga lider mula sa iba't-ibang bansa ang pagsuspindi ng intellectual property rights sa paggawa ng COVID-19 vaccines.

Hinimok ni Gatchalian ang mga pangunahing ahensya tulad ng Department of Science and Technology (DOST) at Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) kung paano mabibigyan ng insertivo ang mga lokal at dayuhang mamumuhunan na magtayo ng planta dito sa bansa at gumawa ng sarili nating bakuna.

Ayon sa Vice Chairperson ng Senate Committee on Economic Affairs, dapat seguruhin ng gobyerno na mabilis at maisasaayos ang mga kailangang dokumento tulad ng authorization o product registration sa Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

"Ang pagkakaroon ng access sa mga bakuna ang pinakamalaking hamon sa mga bansang katulad natin. Sakaling ma-waive ang patent rights ng mga bansang kabilang sa World Trade Organization (WTO), mabibigyan tayo ng pagkakataon para masimulan ang paggawa ng sarili nating anti-COVID-19 vaccines," sabi ni Gatchalian.

Upang magtuloy-tuloy ang ganitong plano, iginiit ni Gatchalian ang pagkakaroon ng mga pasilidad para sa mga research projects at pag-aaral kung paano

maaaring maging kaagapay ang mga pharmaceutical companies sa paggawa ng bakuna dito sa bansa. Sinabi rin ni Gatchalian na dapat ding paghandaan ang mga imparastruktura para sa storage at logistics capability na kailangan para sa tamang pamamahagi ng mga bakuna.

Ipinanawagan ng mga kinatawan ng South Africa at India sa WTO noong Oktubre ng nakaraang taon ang pag-waive ng IP rights sa paggawa ng COVID-19 vaccines ng mga miyembrong bansa nito habang nagpapatuloy ang pandemya. Ang kanilang panukala ay umani ng suporta sa mga developing countries ngunit inalmahan ng mga bansang may mga malalaking pharmaceutical companies.

"Sa ngayon ay nakadependent tayo sa ibang bansa pagdating sa suplay ng bakuna laban sa COVID-19 para maatim ang herd immunity. Naniniwala ako na dapat ay pagsikapan natin ang posibilidad na makapagtayo tayo ng sarili nating produksyon," sabi ni Gatchalian.

Sa kasalukuyan, mayroong anim na lokal na kumpanyang nagpahayag ng interes sa paggawa ng bakuna at nakikipag-ugnayan na sila sa mga ahensya ng gobyerno.

"Win-win solution kapag makagawa tayo ng bakuna kontra COVID-19. Kapakanan ng lahat ang nakasalalay dito. Bukod sa kasiguruhan sa bakuna, makakapagbigay pa ito ng mga bagong trabaho," ani Gatchalian. (PIA NCR)

'30,000 a week': Hontiveros appeals to PhilHealth to continue free dialysis coverage amid pandemic

SENATOR Risa Hontiveros continues to ask the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to continue the 144 day dialysis coverage for all patients while the country remains in a state of emergency, similar to what the agency provided in 2020.

Hontiveros said the modular hemodialysis facility for COVID-19 positive patients at the National Kidney Institute (NKI) is a welcome development but it is an insufficient way to ease the burden of other dialysis patients who are unable to work or who have lost their jobs because of the pandemic. Dialysis sessions regularly range from P12,000 to P15,000 a week, but sessions for COVID positive patients can cost up to P30,000 a week, according to advocacy group Dialysis PH president, Rey Abacan, Jr.

"Paano mo babayaran ang panggamot na ganyan kamahal na nawalan ka pa ng trabaho o hindi ka makapagtrabaho dahil sa sakit mo? Lunod ka sa utang. Hindi pa kasama dito ang pang araw-araw na gastusin ng pamilya mo. Sickness should not be a death sentence just because you're poor," the senator said.

"Chronically ill patients should not be turned into collateral damage of the pandemic. So much time, attention and resources are being taken away from them, even if their lives were already on the line before the pandemic. Kritikal ang kondisyon ng mga pasyenteng ito, they cannot

wait for additional resources. They need treatment immediately," she added.

Hontiveros said the national health insurance agency should upgrade its benefit package from 90 free dialysis sessions to 144 while hospitals continue to remain devastated. The senator stressed that the coverage should also include personal protective equipment (PPEs), the COVID-19 testing required before their sessions, as well as other supply costs being passed on to patients.

"PhilHealth must review its policies in consideration of the full horror story of hospitals these days. Hindi lang COVID ang pumapataw sa mga Pilipino ngayon. Marami sa mga kababayan natin ang naiwan, at tuluyan, ay namamatay habang nakatutok tayo sa COVID-19 lamang," she said.

The senator said that as the budget season approaches, it is important for the Senate to reevaluate its budget for the Health Department, and to make 'considerable' increases for diseases and health programs other than COVID-19.

"Oportunidad talaga ito para patibayin ang ating health care system. Nararamdam na natin ang mga epekto ng pagkaitas ng budget mula sa Health Department sa gitna ng health crisis. Sana matuto tayo para sa next budget season because the price of our wrong priorities is too steep to pay," she said.

"Ang mga dialysis patients mismo ang nagsabi, parang ginagawa silang sacrificial lambs. Dapat lahat makabangon sa pandemyang ito. No one should get left behind by our pandemic response," Hontiveros concluded. PR

Iyon mula sa PAGOR ang inilaan sa pagbili ng mga gamit para sa ospital. Ang ospital para sa mga OFW ay inisyatibo ni Secretary Bello na inaasahang isa sa ipamamana ng administrasyon. Duterte bilang pagkilala sa mahalagang kontribusyon ng ating mga bagong bayani sa pag-unlad ng ating ekonomiya. (DOLE)

Konstruksyon ng ospital para sa mga OFW, minamadali na ng DOLE

LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA -- Minamadali na ng labor department ang konstruksyon ng kauina-unahang ospital sa bansa para sa mga OFW at inaasahang matatapos ito ngayong taon, pag-uulat nitong Linggo.

Nitong nakaraang linggo, nagbuo si Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III ng isang top-level committee na siyang mamumuno sa pagbili ng mga gamit para sa ospital at pagkuha ng medical personnel na man-

gangasiwa sa pasilidad sa Pampanga.

Ang Committee on the Construction of the OFW Hospital and Diagnostic Center Project sa ilalim ng Administrative Order No. 89, series of 2021, ay parehong pamumuan nina Undersecretaries Renato L. Ebarle at Ana C. Dione. Nilalayon na mabenipisuhan ng ospital ang mga overseas Filipino worker at operasyon ng hospital, sa pakikipagtulungan sa

Technical Working Group: isa para sa Human Resources na siyang mamumuno sa pagkuha ng medical personnel na siyang mamamahala sa operasyon ng ospital at ang isa pang committee ay para sa Bidding and Procurement of Hospital Equipment. Ang huling nabanggit ang siyaring naatasan na mangasiwa sa bidding process at pagkalap ng sapat na budget para sa pamamahala at operasyon ng ospital, sa pakikipagtulungan sa

Health Department. Isang kasunduan sa pagitan ng Provincial Government ng Pampanga at ng Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) para sa konstruksyon ng medical facility sa Barangay Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga ang nilagdaan noong nakaraang taon. Naantala ang konstruksyon dahil sa pandemyang Covid. Sa ilalim ng kasunduan, magbibigay ang provincial government ng lote kung

saan itatayo ang pasilidad. Maliban sa DOLE at ang Provincial Government of Pampanga, kasama rin sa proyekto ang Department of Health (DOH), ang Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), at ang Bloomberg Cultural Foundation. Sa P550 milyong budget para sa 100-bed capacity ng ospital, P400 milyon mula sa Bloomberg ang inilaan para sa konstruksyon ng gusali para sa ospital at ang natitirang P150 mi-

HOW TO KEEP YOUR CAT PURR-FECTLY HAPPY FROM PET EXPRESS

Fun, playful, independent, loving, curious, smart and entertaining, and easy to care for, cats are lovable and adorable pets. Pet parents have found their company comforting and a source of joy especially during the pandemic, when we spend more time at home.

That is why it is important to keep your kitty happy, healthy, groomed and well-fed. Pet Express, the one stop -shop for all your feline essentials, has a wide variety of high-quality cat food, supplements, cat toys, cat litter and accessories to help you in taking care of your feline friend.

Likewise, Pet Express shares some practical tips from American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on how to keep your kitty purr-fectly healthy and happy:

1. Feed your cat with love. Give your cat the healthy diet they need. Treats should be at least 10% of their diet. Kittens should eat a kitten formula food that is in high calorie for their growth.

2. Provide fresh water daily. Clean, fresh water is essential for your cat's good health.

3. Groom your cat regularly. Cats are self-groomers but they will also benefit from regular brushing and combing whether they have short or long fur. It also reduces the amount of shedding and cuts down the incidence of hairballs.

4. Make sure you have enough litter boxes and quality cat litter placed in a quiet and accessible location. Keep it clean regularly and wash it with a mild detergent and refill it weekly.

5. Train your cats to use scratching post. Cutting your cat's nails every two weeks will less likely scar your furniture. A sturdy scratching post made with sisal, burlap or tree bark is a must-have.

6. Make sure they have fun times. Cats love to play, and toy mice, kibble feeder toy, catnip and feathers are great sources of amusement. Also, a good Cat Condo or Play Gym will make your cat happy and active.

7. Choose a feline-friendly vet. A vet specializing in cat's health and anatomy can be an ally in keeping your cat in best health.

8. Spay and neuter your cat. Female cats should be spayed and male cats neutered by five months of age. This will prevent them from any reproductive diseases.

Pet parents can now place their order online thru Pet Express website- www.petexpress.com.ph and on their Call and Collect services in selected branches. Also, you can book a vet or do rush kitty-sentials shopping with Pet Express' PAWSONAL SHOPPER, just book an appointment at 0917.8091864. For more info and updates, follow PetExpressPH on Instagram and Facebook.



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Make sure your cat has fresh, clean water with Cat H2O to stay hydrated.



Always consult your vet for recommended dietary supplements and cat care.



Pagsasama ng mga atleta sa listahan ng prayoridad sa pagbabakuna

Si Senador Francis "Tol" Tolentino ay umapela sa Inter-Agency Task Force para sa Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) na isama ang mga atletang Pilipino bilang mahalagang manggagawa sa listahan ng prayoridad ng gobyerno na mabakunahan laban sa nakaamatay na Covid-19.

Sinabi ni Tolentino habang ang parehong mga banguhan at propesyonal na atleta ay mananatiling hindi kasama sa "A4 Priority" ng gobyerno sa nagpapatuloy na paglulunsad ng bakuna sa buong bansa.

"Dapat ding unahin ang mga atleta dahil ang pag-unlad ng palakasan ay dapat maging bahagi ng proseso ng pag-recovering post pandemic," sabi ni Tolentino. "Ang pisikal na kagalingan ng ating mga atleta ay sumasalamin sa kalusugan ng bansa."

Ginawa niya ang apela dahil ang Tokyo Olympics ay nasa kaunti lamang sa dalawang buwan ang layo mula Hulyo 23 hanggang Agosto 8 at ang mga atleta para sa ika-31 Hanoi Timog-silangang Asian Games ay hindi pa nagsasanay nang sama-sama. Ang Hanoi SEA Games ay itinakda mula Nobyembre 21 hanggang Disyembre 3. Pitong Pilipino - ang weightlifter na si Hidilyn Diaz, gymnast Carlos Yulo, poste ng poste na si EJ Obiena at boxer na sina Eumir Felix Marcial, Nesthy Petecio, Carlo Paalam at Irish Magno - ay hanggang ngayon ay kwalipikado para sa Tokyo.

Nakuha na ni Marcial ang dalawang dosis ng bakuna sa Las Vegas at siya ang una sa Malaysia.

Samantala, umabot sa 626 na mga atleta ang nakilala para sa Team Philippines

sa Hanoi Sea Games. Inanunsyo ng Pangulo ng Komite ng Olimpiko ng Pilipinas na si Rep. Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino na ang sports tycoon na si Enrique Razon ay nangako ng mga bakuna sa Moderna para sa delegasyon ng Philippine Olympic, kabilang ang mga tauhan ng administratibo at media.

"Ang mga bakuna ay nasa pagbiayahe [para sa mga atleta na nakatali sa Olympics], ngunit ang problema ay lahat ng ating mga atleta na nakatali sa Olimpiko ay nagsasanay sa ibang bansa," sabi ni Abraham Tolentino. "Susubukan naming makipag-ugnay sa aming mga katapatan kung posible na isama ang aming mga atleta sa programa sa pagbabakuna ng kanilang mga bansa."

Sina Yulo at Obiena ay nagsasanay sa Japan at Italy, ayon sa pagkabanggit, sa higit sa isang taon ngayon habang ang mga boksingero ay nasa Thailand.

Naglaan din ang pangulo ng POC ng USD40,000 na bigay mula sa Olimpiko ng Asya ng Asya para sa inokasyon ng mga atletang nakasalalay sa SEA Games.

Binigyang diin din ng senador na ang mga propesyonal na atleta sa Philippine Basketball Association at iba pang mga propesyonal na liga - anuman ang palakasan - ay dapat ding isama sa A4 Priority ng IATF.

Naunang inaprubahan ng IATF-EID ang kahilingan ng PBA na magsagawa ng buong mga kasanayan at scrimmage sa mga lugar na inilagay sa ilalim ng General Community Quarantine (GCQ) o Modified GCQ

Kwalipikado na sa Tokyo Olympics si Cris Nievarez

ROWER Cris Nievarez



Si Rower Cris Nievarez ay naging ikawalang Pilipino na makakakita ng aksyon sa Tokyo Olympics ngayong taon.

Kinumpirma ng Philippine Rowing Association (PRA) ang pag-unlad.

"Masaya kaming ibinahagi na ang Philippine Rowing Association ay nakatanggap ng kumpirmasyon mula sa World Rowing na kwalipikado kami para sa Men's Single Sculls (M1x) para sa Tokyo Olympic Games. Binabatit kita, Cris!," sinabi ng PRA sa isang maikling pahayag.

Hiningi ang kanyang reaksyon, sinabi ng chairman ng Sports ng Pilipinas na si Butch Ramirez na inaasahan niya na malulusot ito ni Nievarez.

"Alam ko na si Cris at ang buong koponan sa ay pinaghironan para dito. Karapat-dapat ito," sabi ni Ramirez.

Tinapos ni Nievarez ang ikasiyam na pangkalahatang sa mga kwalipikadong Olimpiko kamakailan sa Tokyo.

Gayunpaman, sa maraming mga kadahilanan tulad ng Japan, na nanalo ng apat na regatta na kaganapan sa mga kwalipikasyon, na nagho-host din ng Palarrong Olimpiko, mga ranggo sa mundo, at ilang mga panuntunang pagiging pandaigdigang, tumango si Nievarez.

Mga kalahok sina weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz; boxers Eumir Marcial, Irish Magno, Nesthy Petecio, and

Carlo Paalam; gymnast Carlos Yulo; at polo vaulter na si EJ Obiena bilang mga kinatawan ng Pilipinas sa Tokyo Olympics.

"Patuloy na suportahan siya ng PSC hangga't maaari sa quest na ito," Ramirez said. "Sa aking libro, ang anumang mga atleta na sa pamamagitan ng kanyang mga aksyon ay nagbibigay inspirasyon ---- alinman sa maliit na bata o isang buong henerasyon upang maging mas malusog --- ay isang kampeon. At ito ang kung ano ang ating mga atleta sa ating mga tao. Tumayo sila bilang mga beacon ng pagasa. Isang inspirasyon panatilihang nakikipaglaban at huwag sumuko."



Mandaue kampeon sa VisMin Cup Visayas

Nilabanan ng Mandaue ang laban at nagwaging kampeonato ng Pilipinas VisMin Super Cup Visayas leg.

Nasungkit ng Mandaue ang best-of-three series matapos tambakan sa puntos ang Talisay, 89-75, sa Alcantara Civic Center sa Cebu.

Bumaba ng hanggang siyam na puntos sa ikalawang kwarter, ang Mandaue ay nabuhay sa kalagitnaan ng ikatlong kwarter, na nagpapatuloy sa 18-1 run na inilagay ang koponan para sa mabuti, 54-44.

Ang blowout ay tinatakan sa ika-apat na kwarter matapos na mai-convert ng koponan ang mga kritikal na triple upang mabuksan ang tingga ng hanggang 22 puntos, 88-66, sa natitbang 1:41.

Pinangunahan ni Ping Ex-ciminiano ang Mandaue, na nanalo ng PHP500,000 mula sa sponsor ng liga na Chooks-to-Go, na may 15 puntos, limang rebound, isang assist, at tatlong steal.

Sa huli ay pinangalanan siyang Most Valuable Player (MVP) ng serye.

Sina Michole Sorela at Alfrancis Tamsi ay nagdagdag ng 12 puntos mula sa bench.

Hihintayin ng Mandaue ang nagwagi sa Mindanao leg, pansamantalang mag-sisimula sa Mayo 25, sa grand finals ng unang komperensiya ng VisMin Super Cup.

Naglagay si Patrick Cabahug ng 21 puntos sa 4-of-8 three-point shooting, tatlong rebound, at isang bloke upang maisabay ang Talisay, na pinagkaitan ng titulo sa kabila ng pagpunta sa 10-0 sa phase ng pag-uuri upang makhuang unang tuwid na puwesto sa serye ng kampeonato.

Makakakuha pa rin ang koponan ng PHP100,000 mula sa Chooks-to-Go bilang runner-up na gantimpala.

Si Jaymar Gimpayan, ang regular season MVP, ay nagdagdag ng 12 puntos, 11 rebound, dalawang assist, at isang bloke.



KENNETH DUREMDEZ - MPBL COMMISSIONER

SINABI ni MPBL Commissioner Kenneth Duremdez sa lingguhang PSA weekly Forum online, para sa pagbubukas ng kanilang liga ito ay dedepende lamang sila sa maaaring desisyon ng IATF, dahilang sa paibaiba ang deklarasyon ng kwarantina bunsod ng pabago bago ang nagiging results sa nag po positibo sa covid. (RGN)



COACH - MIKE REYES

May ngiting sinagot ni KCS Computer Specialist-Mandaue City coach Mike Reyes sa lingguhang TOPS Usapang sports via online zoom kaugnay ng kanilang pagiging kampeon sa nakaraang Visayas leg ng Chooks-to-Go Pilipinas VisMin Super Cup sa Alcantara Civic Center, kung saan masayang masaya ito sa kanilang unang pagkakataon sa kampeonato. Kaugnay nito muling sasagupa sa Visayas sa Super Cup Finals sa Agosto at lalabanan ang maghahari sa Mindanao leg na nakatakdang magbukas sa Mayo 25. (RGN)

DENR renews call for proper disposal of used face masks

QUEZON CITY -- As the pandemic continues, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has renewed its call to discard used face masks properly to prevent risks of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) transmission.

"Protection against COVID-19 goes beyond following the minimum health protocols and the use of face masks and face shields. Our responsibility extends to the disposal of these healthcare items which are potentially contaminated," said DENR Secretary Roy A. Cimatu.

The DENR chief also underscored the importance of responsibly discarding COVID-19 litter especially disposable face masks because these have now affected terrestrial and aquatic animals.

"We have seen that while face masks protect us, these have become the newest threat to animal life because of entanglement, and have added up to marine litter," Cimatu said.

Meanwhile, DENR Undersecretary for Solid Waste Management and Local Government Units (LGUs) Concerns Benny D. Antiporda, himself a COVID-19 survivor, emphasized the participation of households in the proper segregation of used face masks from other solid wastes.

"We never thought that these healthcare wastes will end up in our doorsteps. Before, these items are just found in operating rooms of hospitals. So, let's put our used face masks in a separate container and properly label it as household healthcare waste, even specifically indicating it as face mask," he said during his guesting in the radio program "Ang Tinig Klima" last week.

"Let's do this so we won't jeopardize the lives of garbage collectors and whoever takes out trashies at home. If we will not practice this, and masks contaminate other solid wastes, these people will have the risk of getting infected by the virus and consequently infecting our own households in the end," he added.

Antiporda pointed out that LGUs have already been reminded to separate medical wastes upon collection for proper treatment in sanitary landfills.

During the program, Antiporda also urged the public against using unnecessary single-use plastics.

"Coffee stirrers can be replaced with biodegradable alternatives such as popsicle sticks. On the other hand, softdrinks are already in plastic bottles, so why use plastic straws? You're only adding insult to injury," Antiporda added.

Plastic coffee stirrers and plastic softdrink straws were declared as non-environmentally acceptable products by the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) in February 2021.

"I call on the businessmen producing these two plastic items to divert to other products much more necessary to the public instead," appealed Antiporda who is also the Alternate Chair of the NSWMC.

"There are some resistance from other government agencies but we will abide by the call of the President to ban unnecessary single-use plastics," he said. (**DENR**)

P169.6M halaga ng insetibo sa Service Contracting Program naipamahagi na ng DOTr, LTFRB sa mga tsuper

LUNGSOD CALOOCAN (PIA) -- Umabot na sa P169.6-milyon na halaga ng payout ang naipamahagi ng Department of Transportation (DOTr) at Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) sa mga tsuper ng pampublikong sasakyang sumali sa Service Contracting Program.

Ipinagbibigay alam din ng LTFRB na ang mga PUV driver na nakasali sa programa mula noong nakaraang taon hanggang ika-30 ng Abril 2021 ay makatanggap ng one-time incentive na P25,000. Kung ang PUV driver naman ay mao-onboard mula ika-15 Mayo hanggang ika-15 Hunyo 2021, P20,000

Mga isyu sa pagsasaka, naging paksa sa sectoral forum

LUNGSOD NG CALAPAN, Oriental Mindoro (PIA) -- Sa isinagawang Regional Conference on Peace and Development (RCPD) sa Mindoro State University (MinSU) kahapon, ipinahayag ni Peronilo Dimailig, magsasaka at dating Provincial Agriculturist ng Lalawigan at tumatayong Officer for Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang mga isyu o problemang kinakaharap ngayon ng mga magsasaka sa Lalawigan.

Isa sa nais niyang bigyang-pansin ay ang promosyon ng organic agriculture sa mga urban area sa Lalawigan sapagkat aniya, malaking tulong ito para sa kapakanan at kalusugan ng mga mamamayan. "Malaking problema itong promotion ng organic farming sa mga urban area sapagkat kulang sa impormasyon at educational campaign on organic agriculture for health consciousness ng pamilya. Gayundin, kulang ang organic inputs at allocation para sa magsasaka na kailangang aksyunan ng gobyerno," ayon kay Dimailig.

Hinihikayat ni Dimailig ang mga magsasaka na gamitin ang mga materyal na ang kalyad ng mga butong pananim ay isa rin sa binigyang-dii ni Dimailig upang maging maganda ang aniyang mga magsasaka sa pagtatanim ng gulay sa kanilang mga bakuran, partikular sa mga urban area. Mahalaga rin aniya ang subsidiya ng gobyerno tungkol sa organic farming.

"Kinakailangan dito ay may organic certification o accreditation ng gobyerno para maka-establish ng seed production sa bawat munisipyo o barangay sapagkat ang mga government agency ay nahihiapan na ring mag-procure ng mga binbing pananim

ang kanyang matatanggap na one-time incentive. Bukod pa rito, maaring makatanggap ng dagdag na P7,000 ang mga PUV drivers na kasali sa programa kung sila ay maglolog-in sa Systems App ng limang (5) araw sa loob ng isang linggo.

Paalala sa mga drayber-Huwag kalimutang mag log-in sa LTFRB Driver App tuwing namamasada para makakuha pa ng additional weekly payout. Maaari itong i-download mula sa <https://go.sakay.ph/driver> gamit ang Android phone. Regular na bisitahan ang LTFRB Official Facebook page para sa mga karagdagang impormasyon na ilalabas, patungkol sa

nasa kapaligiran tulad ng mga nabubulok na dayami na aniya ay malaking tulong sa usaping organikong pagsasaka. Ito aniya ay dapat pagtuunan ng pansiñng mga magsasaka.

Bilang rekomendasyon dito at para na rin mabigyang-pansin sa State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Pangulong Duterte, sinabi ni Dimailig na kinakailangang maglaan ng mga extension worker na naka-focus sa organikong pagsasaka sa mga urban area dahil aniya ay kulang ang mga technician sa iba't ibang bayan upang tumutok sa ganitong sistema ng pagsasaka.

Isa pang nakita sa isinagawang pag-uusap ng sektor ng mga magsasaka bago pa ang ginanap na RCPD ay ang pamamahagi ng vegetable seeds. Ayon kay Dimailig, matagal na dapat na-distribute ang mga binbing gulay subalit ang mga ito ay hindi kaagad naibigay kung kaya't karamihan sa mga butong pananim ay na-expire na at hindi tumubo kung itanim man.

Ang kalyad ng mga butong pananim ay isa rin sa binigyang-dii ni Dimailig upang maging maganda ang aniyang mga magsasaka sa pagtatanim ng gulay sa kanilang mga bakuran, partikular sa mga urban area. Mahalaga rin aniya ang subsidiya ng gobyerno tungkol sa organic farming.

"Kinakailangan dito ay may organic certification o accreditation ng gobyerno para maka-establish ng seed production sa bawat munisipyo o barangay sapagkat ang mga government agency ay nahihiapan na ring mag-procure ng mga binbing pananim

Service Contracting Program sa mga susunod na araw. Para naman sa mga karagdagang katanungan, maaring tumawag sa LTFRB Program Implementing Unit Office - (02) 8529-7111 loc 845 o sa LTFRB 24/7 Hotline: 1342.

Lubos ang pasasalamat ng DOTr at LTFRB sa malasakit at serbisyo na inihatid ng mga driver para sa ating mga commuter. (**PIA-NCR**)

gayundin ang pag-distribute sa mga magsasaka. Dapat sana ay may alokasyon ang gobyerno para sa seeds for public use intended for organic agriculture," pahayag ni Dimailig.

Natukoy din sa pagpupulong ng sektor ng magsasaka ang problema sa marketing. Anila, walang specific market para sa kanilang mga ani kung kaya't rekomendasyon ng kanilang grupo ang magkaroon ng trading post o center para sa mga ani ng mga magsasaka para sa marketing ng kanilang mga produkto. Nakita rin doon na dapat palakasin ang mga organisasyon upang maging mabilis ang proseso sa pagkuha ng mga ayuda mula sa gobyerno. Sa ipinakitang presentasyon ni Dimailig sa sectoral forum, nirekomenda niya na dapat ay magkaroon ng clustering para sa mga magsasaka partikular sa kanilang mga produkto.

"Kailangan natin ang sistema dito. Kailangan ng clustering ng mga commodities. Halimbawa, kung ang isang barangay ay nagtaniam ng talong, dapat sa ibang barangay ay iba naman. Hindi yong kung talong ang itinanim ng isa ay talong na lahat o kaya'y sitaw. Dapat may sistema tayo dito para iba-iba ang dating at makilala ang lugar sa ganitong sistema.

Kaya nga nandito tayo para sa unification ng ating mga sector upang umangat tayo sa ating sektor ng pagsasaka," paglilinaw ni Dimailig.

Samantala, binigyang-diin ni Dimailig ang pagpalakas ng mga samahan o organisasyon ng mga magsasaka dahil aniya ito ay isang paraan upang mas maging produktibo ang mga myembro. Aniya, ibibigay ng gobyerno ang mga tamang kasanayan upang hindi na pumunta sa mga commercial rice trader lalo't sa paggamit ng mga facility na kung saan ang mga pribadong rice trader ay kumpleto sa mga kagamitan tulad ng post-harvest facilities, mga makinaryo at iba pa. Huling binanggit ni Dimailig sa kanyang presentasyon na nais din niyang maipaabot sa gobyerno ay ang masyadong taas ng cost of production sa bahagi ng mga magsasaka na kung saan madalas na lugi pa ang magsasaka sa kanilang kinikita sapagkat mas mura ang halaga ng kanilang mga produkto kapag binibili ng mga trader. Bilang hiling ng mga magsasaka, sana anila ay magkaroon ng mabilisang monitoring ang gobyerno para sa ancestral land conversion upang magamit ang mga lupang dapat ay sila ang nakikinabang. (**LTC/PIA-OrMin**)

PCA namahagi ng 'cash & food subsidy' sa mga magsasaka sa Pagbilao

PAGBILAO, Quezon (PIA) -- May 55 magsasaka ng kabilang residente sa bayang ito ang tumanggap kama-kailan ng cash at food subsidy mula Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), isang ahensiya ng pamahalaan na nasa ilalim ng Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka.

Ayon sa lokal na pamahalaan ng Pagbilao, ang bawa't isang benepisyaryo ay tumanggap ng tulong o ayuda na nagkakahalaga ng P5,000 kung saan ang P3,000 ay ayudang pera at ang P2,000 naman ay ayudang pagkain. Ang mga food subsidy na tinanggap ng bawa't isang benepisyaryo ay kinabibi-

langan ng isang 25 kilong sako ng bigas, dressed chicken at mga itlog. Para, ma-encash ang ayudang pera sa mga accredited payout center, binigyan ang mga benepisyaryo ng unique reference code at e-voucher na may QR Code.

Ayon sa PCA, ang pamahagi ng ayuda ay bahagi ng kanilang programang "Cash and Food Subsidy for Marginal Farmers and Fisherfolks" na naglalayong makapagbigay ng tulong sa sektor ng mga magsasaka ngayong panahon ng pandemya (**Ruel Orday-PIA Quezon**)

Hontiveros: Dekalidad na trabaho, dapat itatag para sa mga kababaihan

HINIMOK ni Senador Risa Hontiveros ang lahat ng mga kinaukulang ahensya ng gobyerno na lumikha ng mas de-kalidad na mga trabaho para sa mga kababaihan.

Nagbabala si Hontiveros na kung mabibigo ang gobyerno na tugunan ang patuloy na pagbagsak ng bilang ng mga kababaihang may trabaho ay mababalewala ang mga naging pag-usad para bawasan ang gender gap sa employment. Ayon kasi sa Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), bumaba sa 46.9% ang pakikilahok ng mga kababaihan sa lakan-paggawa noong Enero 2021.

"Dapat na mag-step up ang gobyerno upang matiyak na ang mga kababaihan ay hindi maiwan pagdatin sa mga oportunidad sa ekonomiya at trabaho," sinabi ni Hontiveros.

Partikular ding hinimok ng Senador ang pakikipagtulungan sa pagitan ng Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) at ng Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) na lumikha ng mga programang magbibigay ng disenteng trabaho na angkop sa mga pangangailangan ng kababaihan ngayon.

"Kahit naman noong walang pandemic, limitado ang mga trabaho para sa mga kababaihan. Kadalasan, ang mga kababaihan ay nasa care work — personal service workers, nurses, teachers, at household service workers. Ngayong may krisis pangkalusugan at pangekonomiya, tumindi ang pangangailangan sa mga sektor na yan, but they are hard-hit and underpaid," ayon sa Senadora.

Binanggit din ni Hontiveros ang ulat mula sa Asian Development Bank (ADB) na nagsasabing maaaring maraming trabaho ngayong taon, ngunit ang mga ito ay may mababa ang kalidad at hindi gaanon matatag.

"Marami ang naging parte ng gig economy o informal job sector, ngunit maaaring hindi sila masasalo ng ating social system sa pangmatagalanan. Kaya hindi lang basta-bastang

PH Red Cross continues serving most vulnerable

MANILA — As we commemorate the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, we call to mind the principles that form the foundation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and reflect on how the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) lived up to and continue to live up to these principles.

This year, some 192 national societies around the world celebrate the Red Cross's unstoppable commitment to make the world a safer and more peaceful place.

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC), in its 74 years of service, has been unstoppable in fulfilling its mandate as auxiliary to the government in alleviating the suffering and uplifting the dignity of the most vulnerable.

Through its volunteers, logistics, and information technology, the PRC has been always first, always ready, and always there to respond to every disaster or emergency be it a typhoon, earthquake, fire, road crash, blood request, health crisis, and even the pandemic.

In 2020, the PRC continuously conducted ongoing response operations for those affected by the Mindanao earthquakes, Typhoon Tisoy (Kammuri), and Typhoon Ursula (Phanfone) in 2019, and supported individuals affected by Typhoon Ompong (Mangkhut), which hit the country in 2018 and the Marawi siege in 2017.

The year 2020, however, proved to be a tumultuous year as the rumblings of Taal Volcano started to be felt just days after the New Year.

PRC swiftly deployed its upgraded logistics of a rescue truck, a tactical vehicle, 4 water tankers, 9 ambulances, and 4 hot meal vans to feed 5,300 families who

trabaho ang dapat ibigay sa mga Pilipino, lalo na sa kababaihan. Dapat may tamang pasahod at benepisyong itinatakda ng batas," ayon kay Hontiveros.

Nauna nang itinulak ni Hontiveros ang institusyonalisasyon ng mga programa sa pampublikong trabaho (PEP) na gagariya na magkakaroon ng kabuhayan ang mga kababaihan tulad ng sa kasong India, South Africa, at Argentina.

"When we bring more women to productive work and when we help them reach their full potential, pwedeng tayo rin mismo ay magtayo ng sariling enterprise na magbibigay ng trabaho sa iba pang kababaihan. Hindi lang ito pag-sugpo sa kahirapan, kundi tutulong na magsulong sa atin tungo sa new and improved normal," pagtatapos niya. **PR**

were displaced to 79 evacuation centers in Batangas a day after the eruption. It also distributed much-needed non-food items such as surgical masks, tarpaulin, mosquito nets, hygiene kits, and tents as temporary shelter. PRC also provided psychological first aid, conducted child-friendly activities, traced individuals, and assisted 10,300 individuals in restoring family links.

It was at this time that the news of a deadly virus in Wuhan started to set off alarms about the potential worldwide impact of the spread of this disease. The initial, and to this day, reminders to the population were to wear masks, wash hands, and keep distance. PRC said its response was to source masks and personal protective equipment (PPE) and distribute these to health workers, returning residents, and other "at risk" members of the population. Not content with this response and fresh from his analysis of the 1918 pandemic, PRC Chairman Richard J. Gordon started to look at the resources available in the Philippines to face this pandemic. What he saw appalled him particularly in the field of testing. All the country had were the manual testing machines of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM).

A study of the testing process in China pointed the way to the testing protocol that was the most appropriate, the machinery and equipment that would be required, the physical facilities that would house these machines, the manpower skills that would operate these machines and produce the desired results and the financial resources that would bring all these together.

PRC was unstoppable in procuring and transporting equipment and materials required in a lockdown scenario where there were no regular flights. The simple solution: charter planes to bring in the machinery, the test kits and the other equipment critically needed.

The first laboratory was built in 10 days. Medical technologists were on board in a matter of days. Initially, medical technologists from PRC's blood centers were deployed to man the molecular laboratories. They had to be trained. The machines had to be debugged. The operating protocol had to be developed.

All these came to fruition on April 14, 2020 with the inauguration of the first molecular testing laboratory in the country. In what was originally planned to be a demonstration of the capability of the laboratory to Metro Manila mayors, National Government Officers including the Secretary of Health and the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases hailed the

establishment of the first automated reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing facility in the country. In the words of the DOH Secretary, this was a game-changer, the gold standard in testing had arrived in the country.

The test labs soon got their baptism of fire as tens of thousands of returning residents had to be tested in addition to the tens of thousands who had never left the country but similarly had to be tested. Those who had the virus had to be isolated to prevent its spread. The target for immediate testing set by Gordon then was 13 percent of the population of Metro Manila, which was the positivity rate at that time. These "positives" had to be provided treatment. Their families had to be provided for. PRC did all these in the midst of establishing a nationwide network of molecular laboratories. In November, a little over 6 months after the opening of the first laboratory, PRC had performed one million tests.

At the end of 2020, PRC accounted for about 25 percent of all the tests done in the country with its 13 molecular laboratories in Metro Manila, Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. The labs were established where they were needed, discounting the financial viability of setting up in such "missionary locations".

Looking at this accomplishment, Gordon was not satisfied.

He wanted testing to be made available to as many of the population that needed it. Testing had to be democratized, to be made more affordable. With the help of scientists from the University of Illinois and University of the Philippines, PRC introduced and developed saliva RT-PCR testing in the country, a less invasive, more economical, but still an effective alternative to oro and naso pharyngeal swabbing.

Apart from PRC Molecular Laboratories, the PRC initiated a whole gamut of Covid-19 responses to alleviate human suffering and uplift human dignity: from the distribution of face-masks, PPEs, and cadaver bags; establishment of the 1158 hotline of PRC; to the provision of negative pressure ambulance services, cash grants, food packs, hot meals, hygiene kits, water, hand washing facilities, and psychosocial support.

In 2020 alone, PRC established 72 medical tents to support hospitals and isolation facilities. These tents were able to cater to more than 24,000 patients since they were deployed in March 2020.

In spite of having its hands full with its Covid-19 response, PRC continued to vaccinate for Measles-Rubella and Polio, reaching over one million children

vaccinated in one year.

In October and November last year, the country was hit by Typhoons Rolly and Ulysses but not even Covid-19, Measles-Rubella and Polio or its other response and relief operations stopped PRC from providing relief and recovery assistance to those in need.

Immediately after Typhoon Rolly has devastated Catanduanes, PRC deployed its Humanitarian Caravan consisting of 10 and 6 wheeler trucks, 6x6 truck, ambulance units, food truck, family and alpinter tents, generators, tower light, portable radios, water treatment units, Galmobile (desalination unit), and water bladders in Bicol, ready to respond to the impact of the strongest typhoon in 2020.

These assets allowed PRC

to immediately assist in the relief and clearing operations of the province.

Through its satellite phones, Chairman Gordon was the first in the country to establish communication lines in Catanduanes, enabling PRC to assess the situation and identify immediate needs. Gordon also ordered the deployment and installation of a VSAT in Catanduanes to provide the people access to the internet enabling the PRC Catanduanes Chapter to provide timely reports and the public to contact their relatives in other parts of the country or abroad to update them of their situation.

Gordon himself flew to Catanduanes to inspect the area and immediately provided food and non-food items in San Andres, a third-class municipality badly hit by the typhoon.

Because of limited access to Catanduanes at that time, the PRC chief sent off the M/V PRC Amazing Grace on November 25, 2020 to bring in thousands of non-food items such as hygiene kits, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, 10-liter and 20-liter jerry cans and galvanized iron sheets to be used for roofing repair -- part of PRC's recovery efforts for those whose homes suffered damages due to the typhoons.

It was also loaded with three additional vehicles -- a Willys jeep, a Toyota Hilux and a payloader, to be used during the operations and relief distributions in Catanduanes and other affected areas in the Bicol Region.

The MV PRC Amazing Grace delivered to Catanduanes not only relief items but hope--that there is deliverance from despair through the mercy of God and through the thousands of people who are with the survivors of Typhoon Rolly. PRC provided livelihood, cash assistance, shelter repair assistance, hot meals, water, and psychosocial support in the provinces of Catanduanes, Albay, Camarines Norte, and Camarines Sur.

Just as the country was reeling from typhoon Rolly, typhoon Ulysses devastated the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela. Immediately the PRC also deployed a humanitarian caravan to Cagayan and Isabela to intensify the rescue and relief efforts. The caravan consisted of a 10,000 liter-water tanker, a food truck, an ambulance, a rescue boat, a Land Cruiser for assessment, and two 10-wheeler trucks for non-food items namely sleeping kits, jerry cans, and hygiene kits, and tarpaulins.

PRC also assisted in the clearing of debris and mud in both provinces to provide access to cities or municipalities which could not be accessed for aid at that time.

To help people desperately looking for a hospital where they can bring their loved ones who are in need of medical attention, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) built the first emergency field hospital (EFH) in the Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP) compound with 18 tents. The EFH acts as a step down facility where those who are already recovering from Covid-19 in hospitals can be admitted to make available hospital beds to more serious Covid-19 cases. PRC also mobilized doctors and nurses for the EFH.

The EFH was established near the hospital so those who tested positive and have to be admitted have access to doctors, nurses, X-ray, T scan, and other medical facilities. PRC also established isolation facilities in universities that agreed to partner with the PRC out of humanitarian spirit namely Ateneo de Manila University, University of the Philippines, De La Salle University College of Saint Benilde, and Adamson University. The isolation facilities of PRC address the problem in the surge of Covid-19 cases by isolating asymptomatic spreaders in multi-generational households.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have gone a long way from 158 years ago, when the Red Cross was established by Henry Dunant following the battle of Solferino. Now, the 192 Red Cross National Societies provide humanitarian services not only during times of war but also in disasters, emergencies, and pandemics.

The Philippine Red Cross under the leadership of Gordon has done well. Despite limited resources, it has graduated into the big leagues of super Red Cross Societies that are able to effectively alleviate human suffering and assist the most vulnerable at all times. Together with our corporate partners, partner national societies, the IFRC, and the ICRC, the PRC can do a lot more for humanity. **(PR)**

BFAR 4A namahagi ng mahigit 205K Tilapia fingerlings sa mga iba't ibang bayan sa CALABARZON

LUNGSOD NG CALAMBA (PIA) -- May kabuuang 205,700 piraso ng Tilapia fingerlings ang naipama-hagi ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource (BFAR) 4A sa may 10 bayan sa CALABARZON sa nakaraang buwan.

Noong Abril 30, may 100,000 piraso ng Tilapia fingerlings ang ipinagkaloob ng BFAR 4A sa pamahalaang lokal ng Sinaloa, Laguna bilang katugunan sa kahilingan ng pamahalaang lokal upang ipama-hagi sa mga fish cage/fish pond owners sa nasabing bayan.

Maliban sa Tilapia fingerlings, kabilang din sa kahilingan ng pamahalaang lokal ang maisama ang bayan sa mga programa ng BFAR 4A tulad ng lake/river seeding, pamama-hagi ng mga gamit pang-pangisdaan at mabigyan ng librene pagsasanay sa fish processing.

Lubos naman ang nag-ing pasasalamat ng lokal na pamahalaan at MAO sa BFAR 4A sa pagtugon sa kanilang kahilingan na mabigyan ng paunang 100,000 piraso ng Tilapia fingerlings.

Ang pamamahagi ng semi-lya ay pinangunahan ng Provincial Fisheries Office (PFO)-Laguna at ng BFAR 4A Fisheries Production and Support Services Division (FPSSD) kaagapay ang MAO Sinaloa.

Nauna rito, may kabuuang 105,700 piraso ng Red at IExcel Tilapia fingerlings ang naipinamahagi na ng BFAR 4A-Freshwater Demonstration Fish Farm (FDFF) sa mga lalawigan ng Cavite, Laguna, Batangas at Quezon simula Abril 19-23, 2021.

Ito ay bilang pagtugon ng BFAR 4A sa kanilang kahilingan na mabigyan ng mga panimulang aalagaan at palalakihin na Tilapia sa kani-kanilang mga palaisdaan.

Kabilang sa mga bayan na binigyan ng Tilapia fingerlings at bilang ng ipinagkaloob ay ang mga sumusunod: Mendez, Cavite, 300 piraso ng red Tilapia at 300 piraso ng hito at 10,000 piraso ng Tilapia fingerlings sa iba pang mga lugar sa Cavite; sa Laguna, kasama ang Calamba 3,300 piraso, Los Baños, 10,000 piraso, at San Pablo, 100 piraso; sa Batangas, nabigyan ang mga bayan ng Malvar 5,000 piraso at Lobo 10,000 piraso; at sa Quezon naman ang mga bayan ng San Antonio 2,000 piraso at Lucban 65,000 piraso.

Ang pamamahagi ay nag-ing matagumpay sa pakikipag-ugnayan at pakikipagtulungan ng Provincial Fisheries Office ng Batangas, Cavite, Quezon at Laguna. (**CPG, PIA-4A at ulat mula sa BFAR 4A FB Page**)

Kauna-unahang electric coop-owned radio station sa Pinas umere na

CASTILLEJOS, Zambales (PIA) -- Nagsimulang umere ngayong araw ang 98.3 Radyo Kidlat ng Zambales II Electric Cooperative o ZAMECO II.

Ito ang kauna-unahang istasyon ng radyo sa buong Pilipinas na pinapatakbo ng isang electric cooperative.

Ayon kay ZAMECO II OIC-General Manager Romwil De Jesus, magiging kaagapay ng kanilang mga Member-Consumer-Owners o MCOs ang naturang istasyon sa paghahatid ng mga mahahalagang balita

patungkol sa kooperiba at energy sector sa pangkalahatan.

Ito rin aniya ay magiging instrumento rin sa pagtataguyod ng turismo sa Zambales. Target nitong maabot ang mga MCOs lalo na ang mga nasa liblib at malalayong lugar.

Sa kanyang naging mensahe, sinabi ni ng PhilReca Partylist Representative Presley De Jesus na target magkaroon ng kahalintulad na istasyon ang lahat ng 121 electric cooperatives sa buong bansa. (CLJD/RGP-PIA 3)

Saklaw ng service area ng

CabSec lauds nutrition frontliners in fight vs hunger, malnutrition

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga (PIA) --

Cabinet Secretary and Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger Head Karlo Nograles highlighted the crucial role of barangay nutrition scholars (BNS), nutrition action officers (NAO), and other frontliners in the nutrition community in battling hunger and malnutrition amid the pandemic.

In his keynote message during the "Webinar on Hunger and Malnutrition... Addressing the WHY" led by the National Nutrition Council (NNC) Central Luzon, Nograles lauded their efforts as he encouraged them to sustain and increase their investment in nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programs.

"Good nutrition is very important especially now that we are experiencing this [COVID-19] pandemic. That is why I call on your continuous dedication in ensuring that our kababayans are healthy so that we will have healthy and productive citizens against COVID-19," he said.

This, as he called on them to continue implementing programs that will help the nation bounce back for the new normal—a healthier one where the public are more nutrition conscious. In turn, Nograles said that the task force to End Hunger is working on a law to institutionalize the BNS and NAOs so they may be accorded with additional benefits and security of tenure.

"This pandemic has made it very clear for all of us how important your role is. It has made it clearer that nutrition is one of the sustainable ways that we can fight any pandemic and virus, including this COVID-19 virus," he said.

Aside from this, he said that the government is all out in its aim to fight hunger and malnutrition through different initiatives including

ZAMECO II ang mga bayan ng Cabangan, San Felipe, San Narciso, San Antonio, San Marcelino, Castillejos at Subic. (CLJD/RGP-PIA 3)

the Tutok Kainan program for the nutritionally at-risk pregnant women.

"We thank the NNC for implementing the National Dietary Supplementation Program for nutritionally at-risk pregnant women. This program operationalizes the First 1,000 Days of Life Law. Through the Tutok Kainan Supplementation Program, we ensure that our pregnant mothers are not only well-fed but are also equipped and sustained with the proper nutrients they need for themselves and for the children in their womb," Nograles said.

The task force Zero Hunger, he added, is also working in bringing to the forefront the discussions on the mandatory food fortification program in accordance with the mandates of the Philippine Food Fortification Act of 2000.

"This law requires the fortification of wheat flour with Vitamin A and iron; cooking oil with Vitamin A; and rice with iron," he said.

Nograles added that the task force crafted the National Food Policy to promote the consumption and utilization of safe and nutritious food that will meet the dietary requirements of nutritionally-vulnerable groups including children under five years old.

"Some of the programs we have identified include infant and young child feeding, integrated management of acute malnutrition, national dietary supplementation program, micronutrient supplementation program, and the mandatory food fortification," the official said.

He also stressed the partnership of the task force with private sectors, civil society organizations, and non-government organizations to address hunger and hunger-related issues.

"It is apparent that our problem with hunger and malnutrition is a daunting one. It is multi-faceted and multi-dimensional. Thus, we need unique and different approaches and strategies to battle it. With this, we need not only a whole-of-government approach,



PAGBABALIK NG KARERA

MARLON BAGUS
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Nagbabalik aksyon ang karera ng kabayo sa bansa at muling lalarga simula sa Mayo 13, 2021. Ito ay ayon mismo sa Philippine Racing Commission (Phirlacom) Chairman Aurelio "Reli" De Leon kasunod ng pagbibigay ng "Go Signal" mula sa Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) para sa paboritong libangan ng bayang karerista. Bilang pagtugon sa kahilingan sa liham mula sa pamunuan ng Metro Manila Turf Club Inc. (MMTCI) hinggil sa pag-aprubra ng IATF upang ipagpatuloy ang mga karera, ang lupon ng Phirlacom ay nagsagawa ng biglaang pagpupulong at nagkaisa na inaprubahan ang pagdaraos ng mga karera weekend days Huiberes at Biernes Mayo 13 at Mayo 14 nang walang OTB, pati na rin ang weekend Sabado at Linggo Mayo 15 at Mayo 16. Ang operasyon ng OTB ay nakadepende sa pagdedeklara ng General Community Quarantine (GCQ) o Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ). Apat na araw ng karera ang nakalinya sa Metro Turf sa Malvar, Batangas. Sa Mayo 16 ay inaabangan ang pagdaraos ng stakes race na may 1milyon na papremyo para sa unang Maiden Stakes para sa tatlong taong gulang na mga kabayo. Marami ang umaasa na sana ay magtuloy tuloy na ang pagbabalik ng karera sa bansa at marami rin ang naghahangad na muling makabawi ang industriya ng karera sa gitna ng isang kahila-hilakbot na hamon sa kalusugan at kaligtasan na dulot ng pandemya. Patuloy naman ang kamustahan at diyalogo ng Phirlacom sa pangunguna ni Chairman Reli De Leon at PJA President Deng De Leon. Nagpalitan ang mga hinete ng mga opinyon at kuro-kuro kung paano maitataas ang kompiyansa ng bayang karerista ganun din naman ang pag-taas ng mga papremyo sa mga stakes races. Pina alala rin ni Chairman Reli De Leon ang pag-papatupad ng anti game fixing law.

but a whole-of-society approach," he pointed out.

He also shared that since the task force was created, it was also to link 240 agrarian reform beneficiary organizations under the Department of Agrarian Reform to institutional buyers.

"In its first year of implementation, they have recorded gross sales amounting to PhP PhP148,863,000. We also give our farmers credit assistance for their food

production, processing and marketing activities. This is to ensure to ensure food and nutrition security, and mitigate hunger and malnutrition in urban and rural communities," he said.

All these initiatives, he said, requires the support and efforts of nutrition frontliners at the grassroots level to ensure efficient implementation as he urged them to strengthen their advocacies at the ground. (CLJD/MJSC-PIA 3)

Isko approves release of city employees' midyear bonus

MANILA — A total of 8,745 employees of the Manila City government will soon receive their midyear bonus after Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso approved the release of the PHP350 million budget on Monday.

The budget will come from the 2021 executive budget.

Under City Ordinance No. 8702, or "An Ordinance appropriating the amount of twenty billion pesos (PHP20,000,000,000) under the General Fund Executive Budget of the City of Manila for FY 2021", the PHP350 million will be al-

located for Manila's regular employees.

It will reflect on their payroll accounts starting May 18. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, Domagoso said in a statement that they must honor the midyear bonus agreement.

"Para po ma-ibsan ang hirap na tatahakin ng ating mga manggagawa natin sa pamahalaang lungsod dahil sa Covid-19 pandemic (This is to at least alleviate the difficulties of our employees in the city government because of the Covid-19 pandemic)," he said. (PNA)

New LTO Cavite office to provide 'much-improved' service

MANILA – Motorists in Cavite are expected to enjoy “swift, enhanced, convenient and much-improved” public service through the newly inaugurated district office of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in the city of Imus.

In a Facebook post on Wednesday, the LTO said the two-storey office building, with an area of 1,135 square meters, has centralized air-conditioning system, accessible emergency exits, uses the Land Transportation Management System (LTMS) for licensing transactions, and features an all-glass façade, is “a first in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon).” “The new district office will cater to all LTO-mandated requirements such as application and renewal of

driver’s license, MV (motor vehicle) registration, and other miscellaneous transactions,” the LTO said.

The new office, it said, will also allow the LTO Cavite District to serve more clients through its enhanced operational capacity. It said these improvements manifest the LTO’s move towards modernization, ease of doing business, and transparency.

The building was officially inaugurated and blessed on Wednesday with Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade and LTO Chief Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante.

The LTO Imus district office began operations in 2018 and has served clients for two and a half years before the increasing demand necessitated the construction of a new office building. (PNA)

SC: Mental incapacity in marriage a legal, not medical concept

MANILA – The Supreme Court (SC) has made a fresh interpretation of the law on the declaration of nullity of marriage. During its deliberations on the annulment case *Tan-Andal v. Andal*, the SC en banc voting unanimously on Tuesday pronounced that “psychological incapacity” is not a medical but a legal concept.

Article 36 of the Family Code provides that a marriage contracted by any party who was psychologically incapacitated to comply with the essential marital obligations of marriage is void, even if such incapacity becomes manifest only after the marriage is solemnized.

“It refers to a personal condition that prevents a spouse to comply with fundamental marital obligations only in relation to a specific partner that may exist at the time of the marriage [or] may have revealed through behavior subsequent to the ceremonies. It need not be a mental or personality disorder,” the tribunal said.

The court added that “it

need not be a permanent and incurable condition” and “the testimony of psychologist or psychiatrist is not mandatory in all cases. The totality of the evidence must show clear and convincing evidence to cause the declaration of nullity of marriage.”

As late as 2000, in the case of *Marcos v. Marcos*, the Supreme Court had already said personal medical or psychological examination is not a requirement for a declaration of psychological incapacity. The requirement was further relaxed in 2015.

Meanwhile, advocates of women’s rights said the Supreme Court decision “is a welcome development for litigants of annulment cases involving ‘psychological incapacity’ since the high costs and lengthy Court process are among the major complaints of parties going through annulment.

Women’s reproductive health rights and legalized divorce advocate Elizabeth Angsioco said removing the requirement for psychiatrists and psycholo-

Pagpapalaganap sa bisa ng VCO laban sa COVID-19, hiniling

PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN (PIA) -- Hinihiling ngayon ng Sangguniang Panglungsod ng Puerto Princesa sa City Information Department na pagalanip ang ginawang pag-aaral ng Department of Science and Technology (DOST) hinggil sa kabutihan dulot ng Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) laban sa Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID19).

Sa kanilang regular na sesyon kahapon, inaprubahan ng konseho ang ‘Resolution Number 1186-2021-A resolution earnestly requesting the city information officer to disseminate to the public the results of the DOST clinical study of the effectiveness of VCO against COVID 19’ na iniakda ni City Councilor Henry Gadiano. Bago ito ay binanggit ni Gadiano sa kaniyang privilege speech na tila hindi alam ng mga mamamayan ang resulta ng ginawang pag-aaral ng DOST sa VCO kung saan makakatulong ito para labanan ang COVID-19.

“Parang hindi tayo aware sa kanilang clinical studies, kaya pinapaki-usap natin sa city information office na palaganapin ang balitang ito” pahayag ni City Councilor Gadiano.

Ayon pa opisyal, mismong

gists will hopefully result in shortening the process and minimizing costs of court proceedings in annulment cases.

“This will particularly help women who have been trapped in abusive relationships caused by the psychological incapacity of their husbands. It may now be easier for them to seek the annulment of their marriages, and thus, be free from abuse and violence,” she said.

Despite the SC decision, Angsioco still stressed the need for a divorce law in the Philippines.

“A divorce law will deal with valid marriages that have broken down while annulment is for marriages that are void from the start. Hopefully, this decision by the highest Court may help push Congress into immediately passing the divorce bill into law,” she said. (PNA)

DOST na ang nagrekomenada na nakakatulong ito sa mga mild cases patient ng COVID-19.

“No less than ang undersecretary ng DOST ang nagsabi na ito pong Virgin Coconut Oil po ay 98 por siyento na nakakatulong sa paglaban ng COVID- 19”, giit pa niya.

Matatandaang sinabi ni DOST Secretary Fortunato Dela Peña na ang VCO, bilang adjunct supplement, ay makakatulong sa mga probable and suspect COVID-19 cases na nagpapakita ng sintomas para hindi lumala ang kanilang nararandaman pero nilinaw niya rin na kailangan pa ng maraming pagaaral para malaman ang bisa at galing nito bilang adjunct therapy para sa mga COVID-19 patients na may iba pang sakin o co-morbidities.

Noong December 3, 2020 sa DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) virtual presser, kinumpirma ng DOST-FNRI na batay sa kanilang pagaaral sa VCO, lima sa 29 COVID-19 probable and suspect cases ang nabawasan ang sintomas sa pangalawang araw na paggamit ng VCO. (MCE/PIA-MIMAROPA)

Magsasaka at manggingisa, bida sa kabilang pandemya

LUNGSOD NG SURIGAO, SURIGAO DEL NORTE -- Nakiisa ang Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) sa buong bansa sa pagdiriwang ng “Buwan ng Magsasaka at Manggingisa” ngayong Mayo.

Sa pamamagitan ng temang, “May pandemya man o wala, ang magsasaka’t manggingisa, maaasahan ng bansa,” tampok ang kontribusyon ng ating mga bayani sa bukid at palaisdaan upang magkaroon ng sapat na pagkain ang bawat Pilipino sa kabilang nararanasang epeko ng COVID-19.

Ang bawat isa ay maaaring maging parte ng selebrasyong ito sa pamamagitan ng pagsalvi sa “Thank A Farmer and Fisherfolk Today” campaign kung saan

Palace sees ‘better Christmas’ with more Covid-19 vax

MANILA – Filipinos may be celebrating a “better Christmas” this year with the arrival of the bulk of the national government’s Covid-19 vaccine orders in the coming months, Malacañang said on Tuesday.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque made this statement as he welcomed the arrival Monday of the first batch of 193,050 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccines donated through the World Health Organization-led (WHO) COVAX Facility.

Before the arrival of 193,050 Pfizer vaccines on Monday night, he said 7,571,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses had been delivered to the Philippines as of May 8.

The country now has four brands of Covid-19 vaccines in its inventory namely “CoronaVac” from China’s Sinovac Biotech, “AstraZeneca” from a British-Swedish manufacturing company of the same name, “Sputnik V” from Russia’s Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology,

and “Pfizer” from an American drugmaker of the same name.

Roque said the government expects to have a total of 11,364,000 doses of different Covid-19 vaccine brands in its inventory for this month alone.

“Ngayong Mayo, ina-sahan natin na aabot sa mahigit labing isang mi-lyon or 11,364,000 doses (This May, we expect to reach over 11 million or 11,364,000 doses),” he said in a press briefing from Davao City.

He noted that more Covid-19 vaccine doses from Pfizer (1,100,000 doses), Sinovac (500,000) and Sputnik V (2,000,000) are expected to arrive this month.

With the arrival of more Covid-19 vaccines, Roque expressed hope that Filipinos would be able to spend this year’s Christmas with their families and friends.

“Sa awa ng Diyos at ang patuloy na magpapatupad ng ating Covid-19 plan, hari nawa ay magiging masaya ang ating Pasko kung saan makakasama natin ang ating pamilya at mahal sa buhay (By the mercy of God and as we continue to implement our Covid-19 plan, may our Christmas be a happy Christmas where we can be with our family and loved ones),” he added.

Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. earlier said simulations show that herd immunity could be reached in Metro Manila and six nearby provinces by November, or after a 180-day vaccination drive with 120,000 doses administered daily.

He said the national target for daily vaccination would still be 500,000 jabs per day after the country’s vaccine supplies start to increase by the third quarter. The government initially aimed to inoculate 70 percent of the country’s 110 million population to achieve herd immunity, but Galvez said the lack of vaccines required adjustment to a “more realistic target.” (PNA)

SILANG'S CENTURIES-OLD CHURCH NOW A DIOCESAN SHRINE

As a testament of the ever-growing devotion of Silang folks to its Patron Saint - Our Lady of Candelaria, the Bishop of Imus His Excellency Reynaldo Evangelista, along with the Council of Presbyters granted the elevation of the old Silang Parish as a Diocesan Shrine in a solemn ceremony last week.

Phillip Lacson Medina of Silang Parish Council for Culture and Heritage, shared that this promotion of Nuestra Señora de Candelaria to a Diocesan - the first in Upland Cavite, "is a testament of the ever-growing devotion to Our Lady of Candelaria whose Marian devotion history can be traced back as early as 1640."

"A timely event, as the nation celebrates 500 years of Christianity, this declaration acknowledges Silang Church's role in the mission of evangelization since most of the upland churches were born from the Mother Church of Silang," adds Medina.

Silang Church made the news in 2017 when its complex and Retablos Mayor and Mayores were declared National Cultural Treasure (NCT) by the National Museum. Since then, the local parishioners are active year after year in their devotion and promulgation of faith.

It was in April this year,

when Silang folks - spearheaded by its local faithful leaders, submitted its application for the promotion of Silang Church from parish to Diocesan Shrine.

The 298-page dossier contains the history, iconography, devotions and traditions relevant to the deepening of Marian Devotion in upland Cavite.

A special Ad Hoc Committee was, then, created by its Parish Priest Rev. Father Marty Dimaranan composed of laity devotees appealing for the Diocesan Shrine cause.

Said committee is composed of Seminarian Bro. Earl Tan, local church leaders Hilario Pallera, Jay Belandres, Lynette Velasco, Ellen Estrada, Donald Manzon, Dulce Zacarias, Charles Daven Capagcuan, Hervinne Manzon, Harold Aquino, Joshua Vidal and heritage advocate Phillip Medina. Along with the cooperation of the Silang Parish Pastoral Council, Barangay Pastoral Council, Knights of Columbus, various Marian organizations and the Cofradia de la Virgen de Candelaria.

After going through the process of deliberation by the Council of Presbyters Diocese of Imus, the solemn declaration went through memorably amidst the strict health protocol of the pandemic.

Now a Diocesan Shrine, Nuestra Señora de Can-

delaria is no longer just a parish, but a shrine of Mary open to all pilgrims, a challenge by the Bishop to all Silanguenos to make the devotion ever stronger than before, Medina explains. An honor bestowed to few churches, both the church and the state recognize the church's history and local's intense devotion. Since its early beginnings in 17th

century, where the church was first made of wood and a beautiful statue was placed on the main altar of the church, Silang has evolved to be a National Historical Landmark (2008, National Historical Institute) and a National Cultural Treasure (2016, National Museum). Silang now celebrates its 426th year as a Diocesan Shrine. (PR)

Cardinal Advincula to get 'red hat' in Roxas City on May 28

MANILA — Manila Archbishop-elect Jose Cardinal Advincula will receive his "red hat" this month.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) news website reported on Wednesday that the ceremony is set to be held at the Immaculate Conception Metropolitan Cathedral in Roxas City on May 28.

Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines Archbishop Charles Brown will lead the rites and bestow the cardinal's ring to Advincula.

Fr. Emilio Arbatin, spokesperson of the Capiz archdiocese, said some 300 people will be allowed inside the cathedral in compliance with health protocols amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Those who are allowed to attend the event are Advincula's immediate family, some bishops, priests,

and a representative from each of the archdiocese's 67 parishes and mission stations.

In October 2020, Pope Francis announced the 13 new additions to the College of Cardinals, including the Filipino bishop.

The 69-year-old archbishop is the country's ninth cardinal, following cardinals Orlando Quevedo, Luis Antonio Tagle, Gaudencio Rosales, Jose Sanchez, Ricardo Vidal, Jaime Sin, Julio Rosales, and Rufino Santos.

On March 25, the Holy Father appointed Advincula as Archbishop of Manila, succeeding Tagle, who is now the head of the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. The archdiocese has yet to officially announce the date of Advincula's installation. He is Manila's 33rd archbishop. (PNA)

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KALIBRE

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'Mapalo' ng PNP chief

BATA pa noon, mula Tagkawayan sa Quezon ay tumulak ng Maynila. Kumaha ng pagsusulit sa Philippine Military Academy at hindi naman nabigo. Naging isang alagad ng batas at masasabing pulis na may integridad. Kamakailan ay bumalik at muling tumuntong sa lupa ng Tagkawayan ang naturang bata na isa nang ganap na pulis. Hindi lamang basta isang pulis bagkus ay kasalukuyang haligi at ama ng ating pambansang pulisia. Iyan ay walang iba kundi si Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, ang hepe ngayon ng Philippine National Police. Home town ni Gen. Eleazar ang naturang lugar at isinagawa niya ang inspeksyon sa Tagkawayan Municipal Police Station

sa Quezon Province. Bahagi ito ng ipinatutupad na Intensified Cleanliness Campaign policy ng PNP chief. Kilala ang heneral bilang istriktu hindi lamang sa mga 'basurang' pulis kundi maging sa dumi o kalat ng paligid. Kaya naman ayaw niya ng maruming presinto dahil ang kalinisan ng buong kapaligiran ng police station aniya ay humahatak ng tiwala at respeto ng publiko. Tama naman at kung tutuusin ay hindi na kailangan ng direktiba o surprise visit and inspection sa halip ay kusang ipanatili ang kalinisan. Ang problema nga lamang ay nakararami ang walang kusang-palo. Sige, antayin na lang natin silang 'mapalo' ng PNP chief dahil sa 'kababuyan' at katamaran.



DECLARED A NATIONAL CULTURAL TREASURE, SILANG'S NUESTRA SEÑORA DE CANDELARIA IS NOW A DIOCESAN SHRINE where both the Church and the State recognize the church's history and level of devotion. Photo shows Silang's Rector and Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Marty Dimaranan raising the formal declaration during the solemn ceremony held at the church last May 4. (Photo courtesy of Ministri ng Pananaliksik at Komunikasyon or MPK)



NAKIISA sina NCRPO chief, Major General Vicente Danao, Jr., at Manila Police District director, B/General Leo Francisco sa mga kapatid na Muslim sa paggunita kamakailan ng pagdiriwang ng Eid'l Fitr o ang Feast of Ramadan. Ang dalawang heneral ay naghandog ng dressed chicken sa loob ng Golden Mosque sa Globo De Oro sa Quiapo, Maynila. (Christian Heramis)



Happy belated Birthday to Cisum Ian F. OCAMPO (April 29,2021) Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aldrin Moncada OCAMPO.
Greetings coming from ALMA Moncada OCAMPO and Family, Jaime and VIRGIE HAO