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pahina 2

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SM CITY TRECE MARTIRES



INIHARAP sa media ni Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso ang pitong suspect sa pagbebenta ng droga sa lungsod. Si Nasfira Abdulla, alyas Nastrifa, ay nahulihan ng 735 gramo ng hinihinalang shabu na may market value na P5-M sa Barangay 648, San Miguel. Sa isinagawa namang buy bust operation sa Juan Luna, Tondo ay nahuli kina Jonathan Balingit, 24; Esmelita Tumbangan, 61; Renalyn Silverio, 40; Aldwin Castillo, 43; at Mark Echalar, 42, ang 100 gramo ng umano'y shabu at may street value na P680,000. Iniutos at pinatiyak ni Mayor Isko kay Manila Police District Director B/Gen. Leo M. Francisco ang pagsasampa ng mga kaukulang kaso at pagkakapiit sa mga naturang suspek. **CHRISTIAN HERAMIS**

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NOVELETA MEDICAL FACILITY IMPROVED WITH ADD'L ROOMS, AMBULANCES

Trece Martires, Cavite (PIA) – Noveleta town Mayor Dino Reyes-Chua together with Municipal Health Officer Dr. Maria Hilda Bucu led the turn-over of two new ambulances and the inauguration of the additional medical rooms of the Noveleta MedCare Hospital in Barangay San Jose 1 on Tuesday, September 28, 2021.

The two new L300 FB type ambulances are dedicated for the 'Doc to Doors' program of the Municipal Health Office while six (6) new hospital rooms for an additional 12 bed capacity for the medical facility, equipped with air conditioner, LCD TV, comfort rooms, oxygen tanks, and nurses' station gave the medical hospital an upgrade.

Mayor Chua said that the new ambulances and the additional rooms will augment the present medical capacity of the hospital to help more indigent 'Kababayans' infected with CoViD-19 as they get treatment and fully recover from

the disease at a very small or no cost at all.

During the event, Mayor Chua revealed that plans are set to open a Dialysis center on the third floor of the building to expand the medical services of the facility.

He also thanked the management of PNB and Asia Brewery for providing 600 doses of Astrazeneca vaccine which will be used for the LGU's vaccination program.

Mayor Chua announced that registration for the inoculation of children aged 12 to 17 years in the locality is now open in preparation for the go-signal for their vaccination.

Currently, the vaccination efforts of the LGU had fully vaccinated 48% of the targeted 70% of the population belonging to the A1, A1.8, A1.9, A2, A3, A4, and A5 while 72% had received the 1st dose of the CoViD-19 vaccine. **(Ruel Francisco with reports from Bagong Noveleta/Dennis Abrina)**

Tanza Catholic shrines up for renovation

Trece Martires, Cavite (PIA) – The first phase of the three-phased renovation of the Diocesan Shrine of San Agustin in the municipality of Tanza recently commenced with collected funding of P11M from donations already on hand.

This phase will focus on the repairs of the main altar, and the construction of a sanctuary, and sacristy and is expected to be completed by December 2021.

The second phase will deal with the horizontal transit of the church which according to Diocesan Shrine of San Agustin Rector, Reverend Father Virgilio Saenz Mendoza, will be more difficult due to structural defects found and must be totally torn down.

Renovation for the second phase will require an estimated budget of P50M

thus, the church is now saving up and sourcing for said funds.

Father Mendoza added that total renovations for the shrine might cost about P100M with renovations seen to be complete by December of 2022 if funding will be available.

A major change to be expected in the holy shrine are the images of 'Tata Usteng' and the Santa Cruz will be placed facing the parishioners instead of sideways.

Additional Sunday mass service were made to give way to observance of quarantine protocols since the space in the church will be tight due to the ongoing repairs.

Likewise, the renovation for the Sto. Rosario parish in Barangay Amaya was also launched with fundraising

ICT RevoluLuzon for Economic Transformation

THE Department of Information Communication Technology (DICT) and the National ICT Confederation of the Philippines (NICP) convened on September 23-24, 2021 for the Convergence of Luzon ICT Champions Conference 2021, carrying the theme "ICT RevoluLuzon for Economic Transformation. CLICk-CONEX 2021 brought various stakeholders including the academe, government agencies and other technical savvy and information technology enthusiasts in exploring possible opportunities and developments on cracking the code for the creation and running of a #DigitalPh.

Hosting this year's event is the Cavite ICT Council. On behalf of Governor Jonvic Remulla, Atty. Jesse Remulla Grepo, Provincial Legal Officer delivered his message to the attendees highlighting the provincial government's initiatives and programs on industry, commerce and infrastructure and stressing the role of ICT in enabling a healthier economy. He also emphasized that exploring digitalization and participating in digital revolution will be an avenue in conquering the true essence of freedom.

Mr. Michael Tiu Lim, President of the NICP welcomed the participants and showed his indebtedness on the involvement of different agencies to support the campaign on digitalization and innovation of the digital economy. He also explained the programs lined up by NICP to sustain the modernization of information technology.

On the other hand, keynote speaker DICT Secretary Gregorio Honasan expressed his full support to the celebration as he conveyed the government's campaign on strengthening digital economy, fast-tracking digital infrastructure, intensifying broadband availability and accelerating the rollout for free wireless connectivity for the enhancement of online learning in various platforms and linkages of the

for the project titled: 'Simbanihan: Isang Libong Bayanihan para sa Pagpapaayos ng Simbahan,' with project cost estimated at P25M. **(Ruel Francisco with reports from Balitang Tanzeño)**

community for progression of business and economic growth in the country.

The conference overview was delivered by Ms. Teresita M. Leabres, President of the Cavite ICT Council. Meanwhile, Digital Philippines, DICT Undersecretary Emmanuel Rey R. Caintic clarified the DICT programs for the countryside concentrating on cybersecurity, resource sharing and capability building.

The first part of the program generally discussed topics on revolutionizing academe landscape towards borderless learnings. Speakers include University of the Philippines Open University Chancellor Dr. Melinda Dela Pena Bandalaria who explained "Challenges and Opportunities in the Academe in the New Normal"; Asia Pacific College President Ma. Teresita Medado tackled "Developing ICT Strategies towards Dynamic Academe", while Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) President Engr. Tirso Ronquillo discussed the "Academic Revolution in the New Normal Towards Economic Development".

In the afternoon, ICT Industry Development Division-DICT Director Emmy Lou Versoza Delfin communicated the topic on "Building a Strong Startup Ecosystem in the Countryside". On the other hand, "ICT Revolution in Digital Cities" were highlighted in the talks given by Tuguegarao City Mayor Jefferson Soriano, Taytay City Mayor George Ricardo Gacula II, Balanga City Mayor Francis Anthony Garcia and Legaspi City Mayor Noel Rosal. Each speaker reiterated the significance of the ICT programs in digitalization and economic progress as they presented the good practices in their respective localities.

The second day of the event opened with a short recap of the previous day's sessions by Dr. Roderick M. Rupido, Director for Alumni Affairs, Office of the University President at Cavite State University Main Campus.

It was then followed by discussions on empowering governance in the healthcare system which was the highlight of the first part of the second day. DICT Director Evamay Dela Rosa, OIC-Office of the Assistant Secretary, Digital Philip-

2 local biz awarded in Carmona 1st Tourism Summit

Trece Martires, Cavite (PIA)

– In celebration of World Tourism Day, the Municipal Government of Carmona thru its Municipal Information, Tourism, Culture and Arts Office (MITCAO) held the 1st Tourism Summit on Monday, September 27, 2021.

The activity with the theme: "Tourism for Inclusive Growth" recognized two local business establishments among 432 participants from the array of tourism enterprises, government agencies, universities,

topic "Meeting the Challenges in the Healthcare System: The Role of ICT" while Director IV of the Knowledge Management and Information Technology Service, Department of Health Dr. Enrique A. Tayag, PHSAE, FPSMID, CESO III talked about "Managing Breakthroughs in the Healthcare System". Meanwhile, Albay Second Congressional District Representative Jose Ma. Clemente Salceda deliberated "Formulating Policies on Transformation of Incubation and Startup Technologies in Health and Economy".

Revitalizing industry towards a stronger economy was the focus of discussion during second part of the session. Lectures emphasizing digital information and the need to shift to digitalization and information technology modernization were delivered by the following speakers: Mr. Ryan Uy, Product Management Head, StarPay who conversed on "e-Commerce and Fintech"; Mr. Edmar Adlay, Eastern Telecoms tackled "Expanding Luzon to Strengthen Business in the New Normal"; Ms. Ella Mae Ortega, General Manager of IT Services PT&T discussed "Security Driven Network" with Mr. Jomar Cortez, Solutions Engineer, VST ECS Phils. Inc.; Ms. Madel Icalla, DX Associates, MVSoltech explained "Digital Transformation Focused on People, Process and Technology"; and, Mr. Jonathan De Luzuriaga, President of Philippine Software Industry Association explored on "Integrating Digital Tools/Platform in Industry Operations".

The successful event was a big boost to the information technology industry and the organizers hoped that all the lectures and discussions will ignite the digital revolution in the hearts of the attendees to enhance the present situation of the economy.

and other organizations.

The recipients of the 1st Outstanding Tourism Enterprise Award were Wing Crib Chicken Corner, and the Manila Jockey Club, Inc., which had shown concern for the welfare of its employees and the community during this CoViD-19 pandemic.

Proprietor-owner of the Wing Crib Chicken Corner, Mr. Edward Joseph Silva said that it had been a very challenging year for him and his business which he established in 2020 during the height of the pandemic.

Silva said that formation of manpower schedule was the first major challenge due to the quarantine restrictions that gave limit to the movement of the people.

Skeletal manpower had to be followed to keep the personnel and the clientele safe, and for operations to continue despite the erratic conditions brought by the protocols implemented. The staff were given hazard pay to somehow incentivize their efforts. They also took part in the distribution of relief goods to 100 residents in the barangay as a way of giving back to the community.

Silva said, "Let's be strong, let's not give up... whether rich or poor, everyone is affected by this pandemic. If we try to engage in business, let's take a risk, let's not think about what others say. And above all, let us trust in the Lord."

The Manila Jockey Club, Inc. (MJCI) is the most beautiful race track in Asia which was founded in 1867, and started as a social club in Manila.

According to San Lazaro Leisure Park Head, Dr. Ron Laymera, the racetrack had since then moved from one place to another, until it settled on its current location in April 2003.

Through the years the property diversified, aside from the racetrack a subdivision was developed, and a football field among others shared MJCI Food & Beverage Head, Ms. Cecille Villanueva.

Villanueva said that they came up with sharing with about 150 families from the staff and employees of the company greatly affected with the temporary closing of business due to lockdowns and quarantine restrictions.

Horse owners and other business partners donated to help the families and they were regularly given rice, groceries and other relief packs during the pandemic.

The company also has a Health & Safety Committee which helped minimized the CoViD cases among the employees and their families.

"Tourism is a connective network, once tourists and visitors come in, businesses will thrive. Lahat po ay magtulongan upang makaakit ng mga bisita dito sa Carmona upang yumabong ang mga negosyo at turismo na mayroon dito sa atin," said Laymera. **(Ruel Francisco with reports from the Municipality of Carmona)**

GOV'T SPENDING TO CONTRIBUTE MORE IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY

MANILA – Government spending, which expanded by 0.7 percent year-on-year last July, is expected to post faster growth in the coming months and boost economic recovery.

Citing Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) data, the September 2021 issue of Market Call attributed the minute growth in government spending last July to government agencies' focus on finalizing their proposed 2022 budget with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

"We expect NG (national government) spending to significantly pick up pace in the coming months with the Presidential elections in May 2022 only some nine months away," said Market Call, the joint publication of First Metro Investment Corporation (FMIC) and University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P).

BTr data show that state expenditures posted faster growth of 34.20 percent year-on-year last August, while it jumped by 10.94 percent year-on-year in the first eight months this year. As of end-August this year, government expenditures reached PHP2.963 trillion while total revenues amounted to PHP2.005 trillion.

This brought the budget gap to PHP958.2 billion, 29.36 percent higher than the PHP740.7 billion in the same period in 2020.

NTF begins vax procurement negotiations for 2022

MANILA –The government is negotiating with four manufacturers to acquire between 90 and 100 million doses of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine next year.

National Task Force (NTF) Against Covid-19 chief, Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., also announced during an inoculation event at a mall in Clark, Pampanga that the purchase of six million doses of the single-shot Johnson & Johnson, to be added to the January 2022 allocation, will be finalized this week.

"NG spending should go full throttle starting August as the economy needs the stimulus especially from infrastructure spending," the report added.

The Market Call said "the rosy outlook supported by economic data in the past months now have paled a bit", partly due partly to latest lockdowns implemented to address another rise in the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) infections. The government implemented a two-week enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila from August 6 to 20, and then a modified ECQ from August 21 to September 15.

The government has also pilot-tested the granular lockdown in Metro Manila to determine the best way possible to further reopen the economy while ensuring that Covid-19 infections are addressed.

Economic managers further lowered the full-year growth projection for this year to 4 percent to 5 percent from 6 percent to 7 percent earlier, on account of the latest development on the pandemic and its impact on the economy.

"We remain confident that the economy will overcome the current obstacles -- especially with faster vaccination rollouts and better weather conditions in the last four months of the year," the report added. (PNA)

Last week, the NTF got confirmation of the delivery this month of 18.3 million doses of Pfizer, Moderna, and Sinovac vaccines while the United States committed to send another 5.3 million doses of Pfizer through the US-COVAX sharing agreement.

So far, the Philippines has already received 77,410,640 doses since February, with 46,380,460 doses utilized since the rollout began on March 1. Of the total delivered vaccines, 48.7 million doses were procured by the na-

USAP LANG
JUNE BILLONES
0968-7122927

'PIYESTANG' PUSTAHAN SA HALALAN?

UMAALINGASAW na at sadyang amoy na amoy na ang simoy ng Kapaskuhan.

Ilang buwan na lamang kasi at sasapit na ang araw ng Pasko pero mayroon pang isang nangangamoy.

Singhut na singhot na ang amoy sa kabila na nasa pitong buwan pa ang hintayin.

Walang iba siyempre kundi ang 2022 national and local elections sa darating na Mayo.

Kung tutuusin mas nauna pang umalingasaw at naamoy ang simoy ng halalan.

May pambato na ba kayo para sa susunod nating pangulo at sino naman ang inyong bet para next vice president?

Sa mga senador ay mayroon na ba kayong mga line up?

Mayor at vice mayor ng inyong lugar ay may napipisil na ba kayo kasama ang mga konsehal?

Kung kayo ay nasa lalawigan, sinong napupusuan ninyong gobernador at bise gobernador mag-ing mga provincial board member?

Pero tila hindi sa kung sino ang mga iboboto ang paksa ng usap lang ng

ating tropang kalye.

Pustahan sa halalan ang sentro ng kanilang usapan bagaman mayroon silang kanya-kanyang 'manok' sa eleksiyon.

Partikular na umikot ang usapan na may kasamang pustahan ay para sa pagkapangulo at vice president.

Simple lamang ang kanilang pamumuhay kaya naman simple din ang pustahan nila.

Alak at pulutan lamang ay sapat na sa kanilang pustahan sa kung sino ang mananalong president and vice president sa susunod na taon.

Sa huli ay sila-sila rin naman ang makikinabang at maghaharap sa umpukan para sa tagayan.

Sabi nga nila, silang mga karaniwang tao o mahihirap ay nagkakaroon ng pustahan kapag may magaganap na halalan.

Barya-barya o maliit na pustahan lamang subalit bawat isa sa kanila ay mayroong napipisil at napupusuang ibobotong mga kandidato.

Naniniwala sila na ang mga mayayaman ay 'piyesta' ang pustahan kapag mayroong halalan.

Tama ba sila? Ano sa palagay ninyo?

tional government, 19.6 million doses were donated through the COVAX Facility, 5.3 million were purchased by local government units (LGUs) and private sector, and 3.6 million doses were donated by other countries.

"Sa pagpasok po ng fourth quarter, inaaasahan natin ang pagdating ng malalak- ang delivery mula sa iba't-

ibang manufacturer (In the fourth quarter, we are expecting larger vaccine deliveries from different manufacturers)," Galvez said during a media briefing.

"Based on our latest negotiations with the vaccine manufacturers, we are confident that at least we will be receiving 100 million vaccines by end of October," he added. (PNA)

EDITORIAL

Hindi apektado ng survey

KUNG ngayong panahon na isasagawa ang eleksiyon ay tiyak na ang pagkapanalo ni ganito bilang next president at si ganito naman para pangalawang pangulo.

Ganito ang tema ng pagbabalita na ang source ay mula sa ilang nagsasagawa ng mga survey para sa 2022 elections.

Katanungan lamang ay mayroon bang kredibilidad ang mga nagsasagawa ng survey.

Malinaw na ito ay isa lamang survey mula sa limitadong bilang ng mga respondent.

Ang isa pang tanong ay sinu-sino ba o saan nanggaling ang mga kinausap o pinagtanungan?

Hindi mahalagang impormasyon o makabuluhang balita ang alin mang survey results.

Gayunman ay higit na nakararami na ang matatalinong botante na hindi apektado ng kung ano mang survey.

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Minors aged 15-17 to avail first of Covid-19 jabs

MANILA – The pilot pediatric vaccination in the National Capital Region (NCR) will be done through phases.

Citing the approved guidelines for the pediatric age-group vaccination eyed to begin on October 15, Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Francisco Duque III on Monday said the inoculation of 15 to 17 years old will be done first, followed by the 12 to 14 years group.

Parental or guardian consent is needed before a minor can receive a shot while the vaccination will be piloted in select NCR hospitals to closely monitor the possible adverse effects.

"Para sa ganoon, kung magkaroon man ng mga adverse event following immunization ay at least nasa loob na po ng hospital at mabilis na matugunan kung magkaroon man ng emergency (So that in case there will be adverse events, following immunization, at least we are inside the hospital and we can immediately address the emergency)," he said during a press briefing held in Clark, Pampanga where officials witnessed a mall vaccination activity.

Minors with comorbidities will be prioritized at jabs sites Philippine Children's Medical Center, National Children's Hospital, Philippine Heart Center, Pasig City Children's Hospital, Fe Del Mundo Medical Center, and Philippine General Hospital.

The Food and Drug Administration initially approved the emergency use authorization of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for the inoculation.

National Task Force Against Covid-19 chief Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. said pediatric vaccination was closely studied before approval.

"Nagkakaroon po kami ng continuous research. Also, 'yung mga ginagawang vaccination ng mga different countries (We are also conducting continuous research based on the vaccination held in different countries)," he said.

After the 14-day test run in the six hospitals, Galvez

said the vaccination will be expanded to other local government units within Metro Manila for another two weeks.

"After 30 days, magakakaroon na po tayo ng rollout sa buong NCR at sa mga areas na meron na po tayong average na more than 50 percent 'yung mga A2 [senior citizens] na vaccinated na (After 30 days, we will roll out this program in the entire NCR and in other areas that have vaccinated 50 percent of their A2 population)," he added.

Metro Manila Development Authority chair Benhur Abalos said NCR mayors are all set for pediatric vaccination.

"They have been doing the preregistration of minors. It's just a matter of identifying those who have comorbidities of those in the list. All the mayors are ready. They're very enthusiastic about the pilot, especially the children. They are very much prepared," Abalos said in another interview. (PNA)

'STAY OUT OF ELECTIONS,' PRRD WARNS POLITICAL WARLORDS, NPA

MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday issued a stern warning to political warlords and the New People's Army to stay out of the May 2022 elections and he would not think twice about using the police and military to ensure orderly polls.

"I will not allow fraud, tapos yung mga tigas tigas. May mga ano diyan lalo na yung matagal na sa politika. Political warlords na may mga armas (and those acting tough. Especially those who have long been in politics, political warlords with arms)," he said in a late night public address.

He made the remark as armed personnel prepares to prevent communist terrorists from collecting "permit-to-campaign" fees from politicians.

"Pati kayong mga NPA huwag kayo sumali...Huwag kayo makialam dito sa elections (Also NPA, stay out of this. Do not interfere with elections)," he added. Duterte, meanwhile, reiterated that he wanted to give Filipinos "clean" elections

84% of eligible population in NCR vaccinated by November

MANILA – Around 84 percent of the eligible population in the National Capital Region (NCR) is expected to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 by November, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chairman Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos Jr. said on Monday.

During the vaccination rollout at SM City Clark in Angeles City, Pampanga, Abalos said 75.57 percent of the NCR's eligible population is now fully vaccinated and is expected to reach 84 percent next month.

By December, he said about 92 percent of NCR's population is expected to be fully vaccinated.

"In one month, ang projections po namin, aabot siguro tayo ng mga 84 percent, dahil 'yung mga naka-first dose ay magsi-second dose at 'yung mga AstraZeneca naman magpapabakuna po 'yan by December 2, ito po ay aabot ng 92 percent (In

one month, based on our projections, we will reach 84 percent. Because those with first doses will get their second dose and those with AstraZeneca will be vaccinated by December 2, it will probably reach 92 percent)," Abalos said. He noted that active Covid-19 cases in NCR have also "plateaued" at around 25,000 cases, down from the previous peak of 40,000 active cases.

As of Saturday, he said the Covid-19 reproduction rate in Metro Manila is at 0.83, down from a high of 1.9 percent recorded on August 14.

"Maski may konting (Even if there are a few) aberrations, what is important, look at the trend -- it is all going down," Abalos said.

To ensure the continued downtrend in Covid-19 cases in the region, he said the Metro Manila Council -- composed of the 17 NCR mayors -- have implemented lockdowns covering 2,774 families in 397 households, 88 condominium units, nine buildings, and 25 compounds.

"Ibig sabihin talagang maliliit na lang para 'yung mga healthy population makapagtrabaho at gumana ang ating ekonomiya (It means it is getting smaller so that the healthy population can work for the economy to get going)," Abalos said.

Earlier, DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said NCR has shown a slow downward trend with its Covid-19 cases, noting that there was a 28 percent decrease of reported Covid-19 cases compared to the past week.

From September 27 to October 3, she said the average daily reported cases in NCR was 3,121, compared to 4,320 from September 20 to 26. (PNA)

"The President's call for peaceful elections is a powerful reminder to all would-be candidates and their campaigns, to reject violence. The Comelec shares the President's sentiment," Comelec Spokesperson James Jimenez said. (PNA)

Get vaccinated, win P1 million

MANILA – The government has gone to great lengths just to encourage vaccination against the dreaded Covid-19.

On Monday, the Department of Health (DOH) Facebook page posted the "Resbakuna Bakunado Panalo" program that will give vaccinated individuals nationwide a chance to win between PHP100,000 and PHP1 million in cash.

One hundred winners will be selected during the October to December monthly draws while PHP1 million will be at stake during the grand draw before year-end.

To join, register for free by texting RESBAKUNAREG <space> NAME/AGE/ ADDRESS, and send to 8933.

The next step is sending the raffle entry, with a charge of PHP1 per text message, in this format: RESBAKUNA <space> first letter of vaccine brand/how many doses/local government unit/date of vaccination, and send to 8933.

A confirmation text will follow.

All raffle entries will be stored in the Bakunado Panalo database and will be included in the monthly and grand draws, which will be managed by DOH in partnership with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation.

Those who are partially vaccinated will get an equivalent of one raffle entry and two raffle entries if fully vaccinated, for a total of three entries if both vaccine doses will be registered.

Those who received a single-shot Covid-19 vaccine will be automatically given three raffle entries.

Partially vaccinated senior citizens will get two raffle entries and six raffle entries for the fully inoculated elderly.

To date, a total of 21,800,974 Filipinos are now fully protected against Covid-19 while 24,579,486 are waiting for their second dose. (PNA)

PH vax target now 80% of 110M population

MANILA – As vaccine deliveries are arriving at a faster pace and the younger age group will be included in the inoculation drive, the government has set the bar higher in its population protection goal.

From 70 percent of the country's 110 million population or about 77 million, the National Task Force (NTF) Against Covid-19 said the goal can be increased to at least 80 percent now.

"We will be recalibrating our vaccination program and modify our critical timeline," NTF chief Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. said Monday during a press briefing with Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque in Pampanga.

He added the recalibrated inoculation drive is also driven by the data on the production of vaccines.

The Philippines has already received a total 77,410,640 doses of the Covid-19 jab, with 46,380,460 administered nationwide.

Of the total administered jabs, 24,579,486 were given as the first dose and 21,800,974 were second doses.

"We have enough supply, with more than 31 million [doses] in our current stockpile," he said. "The 100 million target this October is still on track."

Galvez said deliveries this month include about 10 million doses of Pfizer vaccines, 5 million Moderna doses, 10 million Sinovac, and another 5.9 million doses donated by the United States (US) through the COVAX Facility.

"The arrival of US-COVAX vaccines this month is very significant. The COVAX donation has accounted for more than 19,653,730 doses and then we expect to receive 6.7 million more this October," he said.

The Germany government will likewise send 844,800 doses of AstraZeneca jabs, also via the COVAX Facility, Galvez said. (PNA)

MAYOR MALIKSI, NAGHAIN NG COC BILANG FIRST NOMINEE NG BUKLOD FILIPINO PARTYLIST

TINAPOS ni Mayor Emmanuel Maliksi ang bulungang tatakbo siyang kongresista ng Imus, Cavite 3rd District nang magharap ng kandidatura bilang first nominee ng Buklod Filipino partylist nitong Miyerkules, Oktubre 6, kasama ang kapwa nominadong sina Batangas City Vice Mayor Jun Berberabe at Imus Councilor Vince Amposta. Huling termino ni Maliksi bilang alkalde ng siyudad. Sa kanyang Facebook page, sinabi ni Mayor Maliksi na pumayag siya na hirangang first nominee ng Buklod Filipino partylist upang maipadama sa mas marami pang Pilipino ang

kaunlaran nasimulan at naitaguyod para sa mga Imuseno at sa lungsod ng Imus.

Wika ng alkalde: "Ito ang unang hakbang natin para sa pangarap na ang kaunlarang ating nasimulan at naitaguyod sa Imus ay matamasa ng mas marami pa nating kababayang Pilipino."

Ayon kay Konsehal Amposta, pangunahing layunin ng Buklod Filipino partylist na katawanin ang hiling at panwagan ng mga underserved communities at siguraduhing nabibigyan ng prioridad ang kapakanan ng bayan. **(Eli Taparan)**

DA, PARTNER PUSH URBAN FARM SCHOOL TO MODERNIZE AGRICULTURE

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) has intensified its campaign to promote urban agriculture through the help of private sector despite challenges brought about by the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

During his visit to an urban farm in Novaliches, Quezon City, Agriculture Secretary William Dar said incorporating modern technology in agriculture will bear great results.

"Technology-based agriculture is the platform, and agripreneurship is a key strategy to modernize the country's agriculture sector and contribute to its growth," he said on Wednesday.

He also said greater engagement with the private sector is necessary to invest in agriculture.

Accompanied by other DA officials, Dar visited Growtech Farms owned by Agrosheeriff client Martin Escalona of Simplicity Solutions real estate.

Dar said the Growtech Farms greenhouse is the pilot urban farm project of Agrosheeriff in the country.

The facility, which is intended for growing strawberries, lettuce, and other vegetables, features Israeli agricultural equipment and technologies including hydroponics and irrigation fertilizer systems.

The DA, through its new banner program, National Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP),

seeks to address the challenges brought about by the pandemic to Filipino families especially in Metro Manila and other urban areas nationwide.

Escalona, through Growtech Farms, expressed his plans to offer farming classes.

DA's Agricultural Training Institute Director Rosana Mula said her office can assist Escalona with the establishment of an urban farm school.

Meanwhile, Agrosheeriff Business Development Manager Roman Kataev explained that among Agrosheeriff's long-term goals are to ensure food security in the Philippines, improve the quality of fruits and vegetables, reduce im-

DFA brings home 73 Pinoys home from Cambodia, Myanmar

MANILA – The Department of Foreign Affairs, in coordination with the Philippine Embassies in Cambodia and Myanmar, organized a sweeper relief flight on October 5 via Myanmar National Airlines flight number UB 9905 to repatriate distressed Filipinos from Cambodia and Myanmar.

In a news release on Thursday, the DFA said the flight carried 73 distressed overseas Filipinos -- including one infant, two minors, and five senior citizens -- who lost their jobs and had been stranded in Cambodia since the start of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic. The flight also

MANILA – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is boosting research and development (R&D) by making it more accessible across the country.

In his message during the Asean Summit on Spin-Off Technologies Tuesday, DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez said the agency is organizing Regional Inclusive Innovations Centers (RIICs) throughout the country to democratize the development of startup communities.

Lopez said R&D is the "real heart" and the "DNA" of entrepreneurship, thus making it inclusive will enable more startup communities and support young entrepreneurial talents in technology and creative industries.

RIICs serve as the integrating portal to region-based resources that can be tapped by entrepreneurs.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) can also utilize the RIIC to position their products in the global value chain to ensure that they have competitive edge in the global market.

"The presence of startup enterprises capitalizing on

ports, increase high-tech jobs, and increase the interest of young people to work in agriculture.

The private group offers open field irrigation systems, custom-built greenhouses, optimized hydroponics and fertigators, and watering system kits and equipment, among other services. **(PNA)**

included distressed Filipinos from Yangon, Myanmar.

The Filipino repatriates expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the Philippine government and the Philippine Embassy for organizing the flight and helping them return home to be with their families and loved ones.

Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, the Philippine Embassy in Cambodia has facilitated the repatriation of 1,110 distressed overseas.

This is the 14th repatriation program of the embassy since 2020 and the fourth sweeper flight arranged for 2021. **(PR)**

DTI making R&D more inclusive

rigorous R&D to generate new products, services, processes, or other solutions is vital to the growth of the country's knowledge economy," Lopez said.

He added the development of local talents in technology and creative industries will also help in job creation, increasing customer demand, and more vibrant trade in goods and services.

Lopez further cited startup development programs that will promote Philippine products and services in the world market.

These programs include the Global Acceleration Program (GAP), Strategic MSMLE and Startup Link (SMARTLink), Startup Acceleration and Incubation by DTI (AID), International and Local Exposure As-

UN announces P380-M funding for PH anticipatory action pilot test

MANILA – The United Nations has announced Thursday a contribution of over PHP380 million to fund the pilot test for anticipatory action against typhoons in the Philippines.

The announcement was made by UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in the Philippines Gustavo Gonzalez during a high-level meeting co-chaired by the Defense Secretary and chair of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Delfin Lorenzana.

The pilot's framework is designed to support 270,500 most vulnerable people in 44 municipalities across Bicol Region and the Eastern Visayas three days prior to landfall of a category four or five typhoon.

With the two-year funding from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund mechanism (CERF), the pilot's anticipatory interventions will be executed by different UN agencies, while the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) will provide overall coordination.

"This work would not be possible without international collaboration and I welcome the resource partners and recognize their

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sistance Program (iLEAP), and Startup Venture Fund (SVF).

"We do need an ecosystem approach to enhancing innovation and value creation and to supporting our startups and other enterprises in order for them to engage productively in the global knowledge economy," Lopez said. **(PNA)**

commitment, both globally and nationally, in advancing humanitarian response, disaster risk reduction and addressing climate change," Gonzalez said.

"The United Kingdom, Germany, European Union and Canada are key contributors to the CERF and these resource partners, together with the World Bank, are also pioneering supporters of anticipatory action," he added.

Lorenzana said the Philippine government is "inspired to embark on this joint anticipatory action program" and is eager to further explore how to contextualize the pilot and ensure it empowers the local government units.

The UN is launching a series of anticipatory pilots this year, including in Burkina Faso and Niger for drought; Nepal and South Sudan for floods; and Madagascar for the plague.

According to the UN, there is a "compelling amount of evidence" that acting before the disaster hits "cuts the costs of humanitarian response, preserves people's dignity and allows for faster recovery by protecting hard-won development gains that were already achieved". **(PNA)**

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READ: PH backs UN 'anticipatory action' to typhoons: Locsin

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OCTOBER IS SUPER MONTH AT SM

OCTOBER 2021

Deals for Days. Mark your calendars for super deals everyday throughout the month of October as The SM Store celebrates Super Month.

BOGO Super Deals. Visit Aseky this Super Month and purchase two mobile accessories of the same design for the price of one! This Buy One, Get One promo is available on selected earphones, power banks, wallets, and cables until October 31, 2021 at all participating SM branches nationwide.

EAT ALL FOR YOU!

Check out delicious deals on Booky from Yellow Cab, Wing Zone, Pepe Cubano, and Yogortito.

FOUNDER'S WEEKEND
Oct 15 + 16 + 17, 2021

Get the Epiphone ENCORES-GC electric guitar and other Super Deals for up to 60% off when you shop at Crescendo stores from October 15 to 17, 2021.

Enjoy working out from home with its compact space saving treadmill! Four P10,999-75, you can score this Fitbit treadmill L3 HP 75 fitness at 35% off! Only P12,999-75! Enjoy this markdown price only during Super Month at selected SportHouse branches until October 30, 2021.

It's a super deal! Score a new 128GB model of the 13-inch MacBook Air 2017 for up to 10% off at Power Mac Center.

A highlight of Super Month is Founder's Weekend from October 15 to 17. Enjoy supersized deals at The SM Store as it celebrates the birthday of Mr. Henry Sy Sr. It also highlights SM's shoe store beginnings with the very first Super Shoes Day on October 15.

10 DAYS OF DEALS
SUPER 10.10 SALE
OCT 1 - 8, 2021
OCT 10, 2021

Super 10.10 Sale. Shop at The SM Store until October 9 and get a P100 super-cashback voucher with a minimum P1,000 single-receipt purchase. On October 10, SMAC cardholders will be entitled to an extra 10% off with a minimum P1,000 single-receipt purchase. Ongoing until October 18 at all SM Store branches nationwide.

Walk in comfort with lightweight and breathable shoes like the Grandpas Rally Laser Cut Sneaker from Cole Haan. Cop this stylish pair and other Super Deals at SM for up to 60% off when you shop at Cole Haan stores nationwide from October 15 to 17, 2021.

Enjoy a sumptuous Chinese feast with all-you-can-eat yumcha (Chinese dumplings) for only P688 at Shanghai Saloon at The Podium this Super Month until October 31, 2021.

SM SUPER TIKTOK CHALLENGE

Gather the fam, friends, and fur babies and flex your TikTok skills to the tune of SM's iconic jingle, "We've Got It All For You", and get a chance to win P100,000 shopping money.

Super 10.10 Sale. Shop at The SM Store until October 9 and get a P100 super-cashback voucher with a minimum P1,000 single-receipt purchase. On October 10, SMAC cardholders will be entitled to an extra 10% off with a minimum P1,000 single-receipt purchase. Ongoing until October 18 at all SM Store branches nationwide.

Add to your cart from the comfort of home with Super Deals at SM Malls Online! Enjoy everyday shopping and dining deals for the entire month of October. Keep an eye out for supersized weekend deals from October 15 to 17, including the much-awaited Super Midnight Flash Sale.

Enjoy all day roux at Nikkai for P795 at The Podium this Super Month.

SM SUPER RIDERS

Upload a selfie with your super delivery rider and get a chance to win a Suzuki Skydrive Sport Motorcycle for your rider and P10,000 SM shopping money for yourself with SM Super Riders.

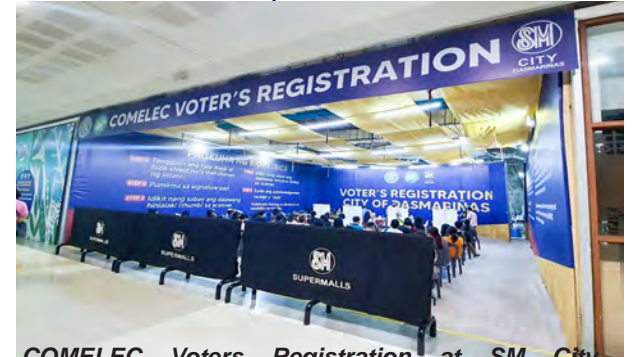
SM celebrates the birth month of its founder Henry Sy Sr. this October with Super Month, a month-long festivity filled with special treats, amazing deals, and super experiences. Discover amazing deals on your favorite brands at The SM Store and super shopping and dining deals at the SM Supermalls from October 1-31, 2021. It's been 63 years since Mr. Sy opened his first shoe store in October 1958 in downtown Manila, and the retail group where it all started leads the celebrations with its Super 10.10 Sale ongoing until October 10 at all SM Store branches nationwide. Shop at SM until October 9 and get a P100 super cashback voucher with a minimum P1,000 single-receipt purchase. On October 10, SMAC cardholders will be entitled to an extra 10% off with a minimum P3,000 sin-

gle-receipt purchase. A highlight of the Super Month is the Founder's Weekend from October 15 to 17, 2021. Enjoy supersized deals at The SM Store as it celebrates the birthday of Mr. Sy and SM's shoe store beginnings with the very first Super Shoes Day on October 15. Enjoy huge discounts on top shoe brands across all branches nationwide. The Founder's Weekend also features a Super Sale, a BDO-MasterCard Rebate, and bank and e-wallet promos. Mark your calendars for The SM Store's Super Deal of the Day with daily deals from October 19 to 28 on essentials and extras and everything in between. Whether it's for that much-deserved pampering and glow up, toys and baby's necessities, your kitchen and home beautification projects, or you simply want to get a

head start on Christmas shopping. Get ready to shop 'til you drop in store, or add to your cart from home with The SM Store's Shop SM and Call To Deliver. The celebration continues at the SM Supermalls, with more shopping and dining Super Deals at your favorite SM mall or at home with SM Malls Online. Enjoy super offers for the whole family at participating stores and with partners Grab, Visa, and Booky throughout the month. Plus, get a chance to snap up exclusive Super Weekend Deals, including BOGO deals, supersized treats, and SM Malls Online's much-awaited Super Midnight Flash Sale. There's more super fun ahead with the Super Tiktok Challenge ongoing until October 15, 2021. Gather the family,

friends, and fur babies and flex your TikTok skills to the tune of SM's iconic jingle, "We've Got It All for You", and get a chance to win P100,000 shopping money. SM also celebrates our tireless Super Riders on this Super Month. It's time to give back to these everyday heroes who tirelessly deliver everything from essential items such as groceries and medicines to food from our favorite restaurants. Simply upload a selfie with your super delivery rider and get a chance to win a Suzuki Skydrive Sport Motorcycle for your rider and P10,000 SM shopping money for yourself. SM Super Riders is ongoing until October 17, 2021. Celebrate Super Month this October and enjoy super deals, super eats, and super treats at SM.

COMELEC Voter's registration at SM City Dasmariñas



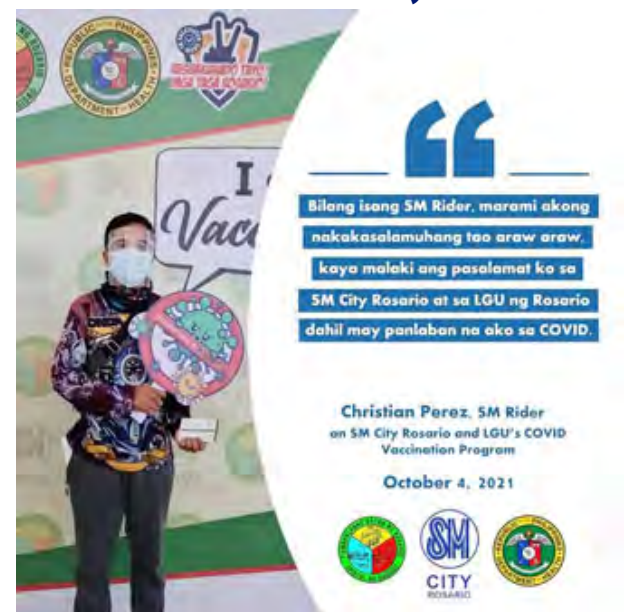
COMELEC Voters Registration at SM City Dasmariñas is located at the upper ground floor, annex building in front of Yakimix



Biometrics is being done during the registration for the voter's identity.

SM City Dasmariñas and Commission on Elections (COMELEC) have officially teamed up to provide voters a convenient registration venue. This gives the people to have a safer and more convenient option amidst crisis on COVID-19. The registration started on September and it is now extended! Voter's Registration schedule at SM City Dasmariñas: October 11-15, 18-22 & 25-30. Visit SM City Dasmariñas Facebook page for details.

SM Rider receives COVID vaccine from Resbakuna at SM City Rosario



Forward in the fight against COVID -19, Rosario LGU together with SM City Rosario works unceasingly to protect the Rosario residents. Recently, this rider from SM Rosario got vaccinated and was very grateful for this chance. Riders are frontliners too who are doing a huge role in helping us with essentials during this time of pandemic. For your vaccination schedule, you can directly coordinate with Rosario LGU or you can register online thru this link: <https://bit.ly/2Xmu1Bq>



PATULOY NA WEBINAR NG PSC BATANG PINOY AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGUS)

Ang Philippine Sports Commission sa pamamagitan ng Batang Pinoy (BP) at Philippine National Games (PNG) ay nagpapatuloy sa kanilang mandato na paunlarin ang mga atleta sa grassroots sa kabila ng pandemya.

Ang dalawang programa ay nakatakdang magsagawa ng ikaapat na bahagi ng isang serye ng mga webinar bilang paghahanda sa muling pagpapatupad ng programang grassroots.

Na sinimulan at inasahan ang pagdalo ng mga local government unit (LGUs) sa webinar na magbabahagi ng mga pag-update sa international technical rules.

"Pinagsamang pagsisikap sa pagitan ng LGUs at ng PSC ay matiyak na ang mga batang naghahangad na mga atleta ay mabigyan ng sapat na oras at mapagkukunan upang lumago at maabot ang kanilang buong potensyal," sinabi ni PSC Chairman William "Butch" Ramirez sa isang pahayag.

Sa kasalukuyang kala-karan ng mga mas batang atleta na sumisira ng mga tala ng Olimpiko, sinabi ni Ramirez na oras na upang maayos na mapamahalaan at masiguro ang mga hinaharap na hiyas ng bansa.

Sa pakikipagtulungan sa National Sports Associations (NSA) at accredited na Mga Opisyal ng Teknikal na accredited ng International Federation na 11 magkakaibang Palakasan, tinakay ang pag-update na karaniwang mga patakaran ng palakasan na maaaring gampanan sa mga laro.

Ang mga isports ay ang mga sumusunod: taekwondo, table tennis, chess, athletics, weightlifting, archery, karatedo, cycling, swimming, muaythai, at arnis.

Ang mga kalahok mula sa North Luzon Cluster ang magiging unang pangkat na sumailalim sa pagsasanay at ang bawat LGU ay nagpadala ng tatlong kinatawan para sa nasabing webinar bawat isport.



PAGSASANAY SA LABAS NG BANSA PARA SA PHILIPPINE NATIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM

PINAGBABASIHAN ng koponang Pambansang Football Team ng Pilipinas ang buong pagsasanay sa California bilang paghahanda sa darating na kampanya sa AFC Asian Cup.

Ito ay para sa biyahe ng Estados Unidos na dapat gawin, ayon kay head coach Marlon Maro, dahil imposibleng isagawa ang harapan na pagsasanay sa bansa dahil sa mahigpit na patakaran at mga kinakailangan sa gobyerno hinggil sa mga kaso ng COVID-19.

Sinabi ni Maro na ang koponan ay kailangang makabalik sa larangan ng pinakamabilis sa pagsasalaang-alang sa paligsahan na nagsisilbing kwalipikado sa 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup na gaganapin tatlong buwan mula ngayon sa India (Enero 20-Pebrero 6).

"Yung face-to-face malabo sa atin kasi malinaw naman ang paninindigan ng gobyerno maliban kung nabakunahan ang pangkalahatang populasyon, doon pa lang tayo magbukas. And we cannot wait for that moment kasi January na yung laro.

"So ang plano pa rin is punta talaga ng US kasi doon bukas na sila."

Ipinahayag ni Maro ang inilaan na plano ng iskwalid sa online session ng Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) Forum. kung saan ay katuwang ang coach na si Rose Ton Barinan at midfielder na si Rocelle Mendaño.

Gayunpaman, ang pagsasanay sa Irvine, California, ay nababalewala pa rin dahil ang ibang mga manlalaro at ilang miyembro ng coaching staff ay hindi pa nakakatiyak ng kani-kanilang mga visa sa US.

Sa ngayon, ang seksyon ng visa sa US Embassy sa Maynila ay tumatanggap lamang ng mga emergency visit sa Amerika.

"Yun ang problema natin yung visa. Kaya sana maka-magamit tayo ng iskedyul," sabi ni Maro, na idinagdag ang Philippine Football Federation (PFF) ay tumitingin sa paghingi ng tulong ng katapat nito sa US, na naging napaka-suporta sa lokal na pedera-

syon ng football mula sa simula pa lamang.

Ang koponan ay sariwa mula sa matagumpay na kampanya sa katatapos na Asian Cup qualifiers sa Tashkent, Uzbekistan kung saan pinangunahan nito ang Group F.

Upang maghanda para sa pagpupulong sa Uzbekistan, ang koponan ay nahahati sa dalawang seksyon - ang isa ay sinanay sa US, habang ang iba na walang mga visa ng Estados Unidos, na sinanay sa bansa sa pamamagitan ng pagsasanay sa online sa ilalim ni coach Barinan.

"Yung situation namin, magka-iba yung training lalo na yung mga local na nandito sa Manila via Zoom meeting lang," she said, give credit to strength and conditioning coach Red Sajonia for really paghahanda ng mga players.

"Mahirap talaga kasi kailangan ng match fitness, mabuti yung mga players pagdating sa Uzbekistan nakapag-adjust agad."

"Mahirap pero andyan naman yung mga coaches namin to guide us," dagdag ni Mendaño sa sesyon na ipinakita ng San Miguel Corporation (SMC), MILO® Philippines, Amelie Hotel Manila, Braska Restaurant, Daily Tribune, at ng Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR).

Hindi dapat iyon ang kaso sa sandaling magsimula ang pagsasanay ng Filipina booters para sa Asian Cup, sana sa kalagitnaan ng Nobyembre.

"Hindi na natin magagawa iyon," sabi ni Maro. "Tinitingnan namin ito at sana, magkaroon kami ng buong koponan sa California hindi katulad sa unang bahagi ng aming kampanya sa pangkat kwalipikado na dalawang seksyon ng paghahanda. Hindi namin magagawa iyon dahil sa AFC Cup, ang 12 pinakamahusay na mga bansa sa Asya ay naroroon sa India. "Ang nangungunang limang koponan sa AFC Cup ay susulong sa Australia para sa World Cup, kung saan wala pang koponan ng Pilipino ang makagawa nito.

IPINAGDIRIWANG NG PSC ANG BUWAN NG IP SA WEBINAR SA MGA KATUTUBONG PALAKASAN

Ang mga dalubhasa sa pandaigdigang at lokal sa tradisyunal na palakasan ay pamagat ng Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) na sinuportahan ng 2021 Indigenous Sports and Games Webinar Series: Pagpapanatili at Pagtataguyod ng Rich Cultural Heritage ng ating mga ninuno simula ngayong Oktubre

Ang serye ng apat na bahaging webinar ay kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng Indigenous Peoples 'Month na magsasama-sama ng mga kilalang tagapagsalita ng mapagkukunan sa larangan.

Ang Opisyal ng Turismo ng Hungduan, Ifugao Haydee Hermosora ay magbubukas ng serye sa isang forum ng panayam sa "Punnuk", isang ritwal ng pasasalamat na pagkatapos ng pag-aani na isinagawa at isinagawa ng mga residente ng Hungduan at kalaunan ay na-tag bilang isa sa Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity ng United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) noong 2015.

Tatalakayin ni Propesor Jo-Ann Gimenez Grecia ng Department of Professional Education, University of East (UE) Manila ang tungkol sa "Pagtuturo sa Mga Larong Pilipino: Pananaw mula sa Non-Lumad na Physical Educator" sa Oktubre 21.

Sinundan ni Director Ferdousi S. Cerna ng Bureau Office of Education, Culture, and Health ng National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) na magpapaliwanag ng "Cultural Sensitivity" sa Oktubre 28.

Ang pagtatapos sa serye ay si Propesor Pere Lavega, Pangulo ng European Association of Tradisyunal na Palakasan at Mga Larong na magpapakita ng "Mga Tradisyunal at Katutubong Laro bilang Intangible Cultural Heritage" sa Nobyembre 5.

Ang Komisyoner ng PSC na si Charles Raymond A. Maxey, namamahala sa programa ng Mga Larong Katutubo, sinabi niya na inasahan niya ang makabuluhang pananaw mula sa lahat ng apat na inanyayahang tagapagsalita.

"Naniniwala kami na ang mga pinarangalan na mapagkukunang tagapagsalita ay higit na hihimok hindi lamang ang mga Katutubong Tao (IP) ngunit lahat ng mga Pilipino na itaguyod at ipakita ang aming tradisyonal na mga laro," sinabi ni Maxey sa isang pahayag.

Inasahang dadalo ang ilang mga kalahok sa lahat ng apat na sesyon na magsisimula sa ala-1 ng hapon. sa pamamagitan ng Zoom. Ang apat na bahagi na webinar ay nakikipagtulungan sa NCIP at Pocari Sweat.



ANG Philippine Women National Team sa pangunguna ni coach Marlon Maro kasama sina Assistant coach Rose Ton Barinan at midfielder na si Rocelle Mendaño. Sa kanilang pagdalo sa online weekly PSA Forum na tumalakay ng mga mahahalagang update hinggil sa pagsasanay ng kanilang koponan upang paghandaan ang AFC Asian Cup, maging ang 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. Bagaman patuloy pa rin ang kaso ng COVID-19. (RGN)

Over 43K businesses now with gov't-issued safety seals

MANILA – A total of 43,332 public and private establishments nationwide have been issued safety seal certifications, an assurance to the public that health protocols are put in place amid the quarantine restrictions.

The safety seal certification program indicates the compliance of establishments to the minimum public health standards (MPHS) set by the government.

In a news release issued Tuesday, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said the certification program is beneficial to the country's recovering economy as it boosts the confidence of consumers in going out and patronizing business in the new normal with the assurance that a business establishment is compliant with health protocols.

He encouraged more businesses to adopt the seal as an effective measure in curbing the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

"Businesses can do their share in the fight against the pandemic and create a healthy space for consumers to transact their purchases and for employees to gainfully and safely earn a living," Lopez said.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año told owners of establishments, especially those in areas under strict quarantine restrictions, to take the time to apply for a safety seal.

"Applying for a Safety Seal is not mandatory. However, business establishments are highly encouraged to apply since this will also help them attract customers which eventually leads to increased sales and profit," he said.

Since its implementation in May 2021, a total of 85,731 applications were received by the issuing agencies as reported by the Safety Seal Technical Working Group (TWG); 50.54 percent or 43,332 applications were approved while 11.50 percent or 9,858 applications were either denied or referred to the appropriate agency.

The remaining percentage represents those that are still in the inspection process.

"I commend and congratulate the establishments that have taken the lead in securing their Safety Seal certifications. This will build confidence that their respective companies are committed to ensuring the health and safety of their stakeholders and workers," said Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III.

Under the program, a business establishment is eligible to apply for a safety seal given that it is duly registered, adopting the Staysafe.ph app or any other local government unit-mandated digital contact tracing application and strictly following and implementing the MPHS.

"The implementation of the Safety Seal Program is a very laudable initiative that highly reinforces our country's response to combat Covid-19. As we gradually reopen our economy, it is important to ensure that our people are safe, and adherence to Minimum Public Health Standards is one vital key to this aspect," Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said.

The Department of Tourism (DOT) also reaches out to tourism establishment owners to get the seal.

"The Safety Seal certification program bodes well with the DOT's priority to ensure the health and safety of both tourists and tourism workers. Let us continue to make travel fun and safe for all," Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said.

The Safety Seal Technical Working Group assured the public that the government exerts the best efforts with a whole-of-government and whole-of-society coordination in support of the Inter-Agency Task Force's Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Treat-Reintegrate (PDITR) strategy.

They urged the public to be more informed on the various ways to keep safe from the coronavirus and its variants, following the announcement on the new classification framework advocating the principles of 3C's (Closed, Crowded, and Close Contact) Strategy.

The framework employs

PH employees want to get inoculated vs. Covid-19: study

MANILA – A recent study done by a health maintenance organization (HMO) showed that most Filipino employees want to get inoculated against coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

Only 7.6 percent of the 2021 PhilCare Wellness Index's 1,500 respondents from across the country said they did not want to be vaccinated. Results of the study were presented virtually on Tuesday by lead researcher, Fernando Pargas, a University of the Philippines-Diliman professor.

More than half (64.5 percent) of the respondents are from the private sector, 10.4 percent from the government. The 25.1 percent is composed of those who work for their own business; self-employed; and those working in a household. Respondents are from the services, industrial and agricultural sectors.

Pargas said that majority (82 percent) of them are confident of the Covid-19 vaccinations and trust the vaccines' efficacy and safety.

Further, about four out of five respondents also trust the health services that administer the vaccines and are confident that vaccines could end the pandemic.

Almost half (49.1 percent) are not yet inoculated, but 34.7 percent of the respondents expressed willingness to get a shot. At least 14.4 percent of them already have their vaccination schedule when the survey was done from September 4 to 20.

Former Health chief En-

Alert Level Systems that determine the protocols and allowable operational capacity of business establishments per city or municipality.

Since September 16, Metro Manila is classified under Alert Level 4 which means that establishments and activities classified as high-risk for transmission are not allowed to operate. **(PR)**

rique Ona commented that the problem is not vaccine hesitancy, but the lack of vaccines. During the presentation, he suggested that the government must allot more funds for the vaccines and the capacity to produce one.

"(The government) needs to invest and have the fund so the country would have the capacity to produce vaccines," Ona remarked. He also commented that when it comes to health care, the public should not depend solely on the government.

Pargas said about 87.2 percent of the respondents agreed that their workplace is adapting well to the pandemic, having a clear strategy to respond to its economic impact. Many (86.7 percent) of the respondents said a good system is in place to ensure their safety. Also, a majority (85.3 percent) of the respondents said their workplace has a program that promotes their health and wellness.

With this, Ona noted that employers who are spending for the welfare of their employees are actually investing. "Any expense of employers for the (health and wellness) of employees is not an expense, but an investment for the good of the company," he said.

Meanwhile, Pargas emphasized that many of their respondents "strongly agree" about their right to get vaccinated, and many are also seeking information about the vaccines.

Ona, who chaired the study, said providing the public the right information would also prevent them from self-medication. "Give them the right information. At the same time, make them aware of what is wrong information," he noted.

The study, according to Pargas, aimed to get a bigger picture of how workers have adjusted after more than year of the pandemic, and how the "new normal" affects their health and wellness. **(PNA)**

SEC urges public to become smart investors

MANILA – The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is calling on the public to secure their financial future by becoming smart investors, as it joins the celebration of World Investor Week from October 4 to 10.

The World Investor Week is a global campaign by the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) that encourages securities regulators to put a spotlight on efforts to promote investor protection.

This year's theme focuses on sustainable finance and the prevention of frauds and scams.

"The SEC is pleased to take part in this year's World Investor Week, taking cues from the IOSCO's mission to boost financial literacy in order to promote sustainable economic growth and prevent the spread of scam and fraud among the investing public," SEC chairperson Emilio Aquino said in a statement Wednesday.

"We recognize the importance and continue to strive for a scam-free financial environment, which will only be possible if we work together with the public in exposing and avoiding fraudulent scheme(s)," he said.

As of October 5, the SEC has issued 87 advisories against groups and individuals who have been soliciting investments from the public without the necessary license from the Commission.

A total of 126 and 50 advisories were issued in 2020 and 2019, respectively.

The Commission has also issued four cease-and-desist orders against 15 groups and individuals, including Chiyuto Creative Wealth Documentation Facilitation Services and Royal O' Consultancy Services, for their unauthorized investment-taking activities during the same period.

Further, the SEC currently has 48 cases pending in court for violations of Re-

public Act 8799, or The Securities Regulation Code (SRC).

So far, a total of 187 individuals have been charged with violations of the SRC, with the SEC securing 17 judgments of convictions against 19 individuals meted with a total of imprisonment of 572 years and a total fine of PHP25 million imposed by various courts.

The SEC is encouraging the public to heed the IOSCO's guidelines in becoming an investor, so that they may protect their hard-earned money and avoid fraudulent entities.

The IOSCO defines a smart investor as one who researches investment opportunities independently, avoids "get rich quick" schemes, and never discloses personal information on an unexpected call or other communication.

A smart investor should also verify that the investment professional he is transacting with is duly licensed; understand the risks that exist in all investments, and plan for investments based on their future needs and goals.

Moreover, a smart investor realizes the value of sustainable finance, whether it be environmental, social, and governance investing, socially responsible investing, or impact investing.

The Commission formally opened the celebration of World Investor Week in the Philippines through a bell-ringing ceremony in partnership with the Philippine Stock Exchange on October 6.

On October 8, the SEC will host a free webinar on how to spot and unmask investment scams, which will be livestreamed on the Facebook page of the Commission and the SEC Campaign Network Partners.

The SEC will continue to host different events throughout the month of October, as it prepares for the celebration of Investor Protection Week from November 8 to 12. **(PR)**

S-PaSS users now over 3-M

MANILA – There are now over three million users of the Safe, Swift and Smart Passage (S-PaSS) travel management system, the one-stop online communication and coordination platform for travelers and local government units (LGUs), Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Fortunato de la Peña reported on Friday. Developed by DOST Region 6, the S-PaSS enables travelers to digitally check travel policies and requirements, apply for the necessary travel documents and acquire the approved documents online.

Using the same platform, the LGUs can post their latest travel policy and travel requirements publicly.

"S-PaSS is a Filipino innovation that aims to facilitate travels amid the (coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic. It was developed so that the public could travel safely, and swiftly, without the need to sacrifice their health and safety," he said

Nova coop joins Duterte admin's PUV modernization program

MANILA – As the Novaliches Development Co-operative Inc. (Novadeci) marked its 45th anniversary last September, it added another milestone in its business operations by joining the Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program (PUVMP) of the administration of President Rodrigo R. Duterte.

It has partnered with the government-run Land Bank of the Philippines (LandBank) in financing the acquisition of 32 units of air-conditioned electric jeepneys from Hyundai Motor Company to be operated by the Novadeci Transport Service Cooperative (NTSC) members who are holders of franchise for public utility jeepneys (PUJs) and utility vehicles (UVs).

Ma. Elaine Caranay-Dela Cruz, a member of the Novadeci board of directors, said the e-jeepneys will be deployed to serve commuters between Novaliches, Quezon City/Caloocan City and Malinta, Valenzuela City.

She said at least 15 units of the environment-friendly passenger vehicles have been delivered to the Novaliches-based coopera-

in a virtual presser.

De la Peña noted that the S-PaSS is an easy-to-use, web-based application.

Enhancements were made to provide a better user experience to travelers and LGUs. These include a more intuitive graphical user interface; visually appealing graphics and color scheme; streamlined navigation; and mobile-responsive layout.

According to de la Peña, the LGUs can use the S-PaSS to monitor data in real-time. This would help our governors and mayors to take immediate actions, such as imposing quarantine restrictions.

"We look forward to our partnerships with other agencies, particularly the DILG (Department of the Interior and Local Government). We have high hopes in transferring the technology later in response to the clamor of many stakeholders from the different LGUs to harmonize S-PaSS and the different contact tracing apps," he said. **(PNA)**

As its funds, stocks and other properties continue to grow, the cooperative also has expanded its package of services and benefits to its members whose number has risen to about 70,000 as of August 2021 from 41,083 in 2019 and from just 70 when it was registered on Sept. 3, 1976.

Its members include professionals, transport operators, government and private employees, vendors, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), sari-sari store and small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) owners. Among the cooperative's

package of services and benefits are loans and savings deposits; memorial life and pre-need plans; insurance coverage (life, fire, car, and accident); medical-dental clinic and drug store; cooperative-run supermarket; and scholarship for children of qualified members.

As additional benefit for its members, it has put up two housing projects located in Barangays Bagumbong and Caybiga in Novaliches, North Caloocan City. Novadeci has also partnered with the Social Security System (SSS) as an agent for collection/non-collateral services.

As a result of its impressive performance, Novadeci has received several awards, including the "Gawad Pitak sa Ginintuang Kooperatiba" which was given by the LandBank in 2008. At present, the Novadeci Sports and Convention Center costing PHP400 million is nearing completion on a 1.15-hectare site along Gen. Luis St. in Barangay Nagkaisang Nasyon, Novaliches, Quezon City. **(PNA)**

BEFORE PNA, THERE WAS PHILIPPINE NEWS SERVICE

MANILA – The private news outfit Philippine News Service (PNS) was the country's first news agency, organized on Oct. 1, 1950, but it had to cease operations after martial law was declared.

"The Handbook of Journalism" by former Manila Times executive editor Jose Luna Castro said PNS was organized as a news-gathering cooperative by the publishers of the major dailies The Manila Times-Mirror-Taliba, Manila Chronicle, Manila Bulletin, Philippines Herald, Evening News, Bagong Buhay, and Fookien Times.

Its main function then was to supply daily news and photos from the provinces to the newspapers.

Radio and television stations also used PNS stories for a fixed monthly fee or subscription.

Major foreign news agencies, such as the Associated Press (AP), United Press International (UPI), Reuters, and Agence France-Presse (AFP), and a few private entities were among the subscribers. Through the old mail system, using stamps and envelopes, PNS also maintained a news exchange agreement with other wire

agencies -- Antara of Indonesia, Bernama of Malaysia, Kyodo of Japan, Yonhap of South Korea, Central News Agency of Taiwan, and Tass News Agency of the former Soviet Union, to name a few. When President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in September 1972, PNS stopped its 24-hour daily operation since its major clients -- newspapers, radio, and TV stations -- were padlocked and guarded by government troops.

At the time of its closure, PNS had some 120 news correspondents from 70 provinces and 60 cities. There was no actual order to close shop but PNS discontinued its daily operations on the second floor of the National Press Club (NPC) building in Intramuros, Manila.

Baldomero Olivera, Os mundo Abad Santos, Romeo Abundo, and Oscar Rojo served as PNS general managers during its nearly 23-year run. Birth of PNA

When Marcos allowed a handful of newspapers and broadcast outfits to reopen, a group of former newspaper editors asked then Department of Public Information Secretary Francisco Tatad to explore the possibility of opening a government news agency by acquiring the World War II-vintage teletype machines and other equipment of the PNS.

The persistence of the editors to once again set up an even more dynamic wire news agency bore fruit when PNS was allowed to reopen under a new name, the PNA, as the government's official news outfit. Negotiations for the acquisition of the PNS equipment were done by a group of former newspapermen from Tatad's office, including then Bureau of National and Foreign Information (BNFI) Director Lorenzo Cruz and Press Undersecretary Amante Bigornia, both deceased now.

The amount paid by the government for the old PNS teletype machines, typewriters, mimeographing machines, a photo darkroom, and cameras was used to pay the delayed salaries of the PNS staff in Manila from September to December 1972. Jose Pavia, the late former executive editor of the defunct Philippines Herald, was the first general manager of the PNA.

BIZ GROUPS SUPPORT POLICIES RESTRICTING MOBILITY OF UNVAXXED

MANILA – While respecting the decision of individuals who do not want to get vaccinated, several business groups believe that the government and the private sector have the authority to have stricter policy for unvaccinated individuals.

Thirteen business groups said this measure will protect the unvaccinated population, who is now the vulnerable group amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, and will allow the economy and jobs to recover.

"While we also steadfastly believe that everyone has the right to decide on vaccination, we do believe that the state and the private sector should be able to restrict the activities of unvaccinated persons for the common good," the business groups said in a joint statement Monday.

The groups that issued the statement include the Bankers Association of the

Philippines, Cebu Business Club, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Go Negosyo, Investment Houses Association of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, Philippine Business for Education, Philippine Ecozones Association, Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Philippine Retailers Association, Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, US-Asean Business Council, and WomenBizPH.

They also put forward the idea of allowing the private sector to impose stricter requirements for unvaccinated employees and customers, such as declining unvaccinated job applicants, "in the interest of the health and safety of both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated".

On the other hand, the groups said they will continue providing opportunities for unvaccinated employees to get their Covid-19 jobs. The private sector also urged the government to implement the same policy among state employees.

"According to most experts, the unvaccinated are more likely to get seriously sick which would add to the strain on the healthcare system putting both Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 patients at risk of not having access to medical treatment. In addition, there is evidence that unvaccinated persons may be more dangerous carriers of the virus," they added.

The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases based its decision for declaring specific community quarantine measures depending on the healthcare utilization of a locality. When healthcare utilization increases, the government implements stricter community quarantine protocol.

Data from the health department also showed that most of the Covid-19 patients admitted to hospitals were unvaccinated individuals.

Meanwhile, the private sector also urged the government to facilitate access to vaccines to help in faster deployment of Covid-19 jobs throughout the country. **(PNA)**

He headed its initial 11-member staff, together with the late Renato Tiangco, also formerly of the Herald and a foreign news agency wireman, as managing editor and Severino Samonte, as national and provincial news editor. PNA was created under a Special Department Order issued by Tatad. It was placed under the BNFI, its first mother bureau that provided its funds. Launched on March 1, 1973, as the national government's official news agency, PNA initially used the editorial offices vacated by the PNS at the NPC building. At the outset, four PNA correspondents were assigned to cover four Philippine Constabulary (PC) zones in Camp Olivas, Pampanga; Camp Vicente Lim, Laguna; Cebu; and Davao. PC was the predecessor to the Philippine National Police, which was launched in 1991. Currently, PNA is a division of the News and Information Bureau, which is headed by Director Gigie R. Arcilla. The agency is under the direct supervision of Secretary Martin Andanan of the Presidential Communications Operations Office. **(PNA)**

DAYUHAN, NABALIAN NG BUTO DAHIL SA E-BIKE

BALI ang buto sa kanang bahagi ng hita ng British national na nabangga ng electric bike habang naglalakad kasama ang asawa sa Rosario, Cavite.

Nilapatan ng lunas sa Divine Grace Hospital ang biktimgang si Keith Allan Hargreaves Feltham, 78. Inaresto naman ng pulisya si Genieva Samson, 33, may-ari ng electric bike. Sa ulat ni Pat Ivan James Suliba, ng Rosario Police

Station, naglalakad ang biktima kasama ang misis dakong alas-7:00 Linggo ng umaga sa kahabaan ng Gen Trias Drive, Brgy Tejeros Convention at pagsapit sa tapat ng Royal Star Appliances ay nabangga ng electric bike na minamaneho ni Samson.

Dahil sa lakas ng pagkaka-bangga, bali ang buto sa kanang hita ng dayuhan at kinailangan isugod sa ospital upang lapatan ng lunas. **GENE ADSUARA**

KOTSE VS MOTOR, 1 PATAY; 1 SUGATAN

NASAWI ang rider habang kritikal ang angkas nitong senior citizen nang bumangga sa kotse sa Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Sa mismong pinangyarihan ng insidente inabutan ng kamatayan ang biktimgang si Leonel Gegawin, 43, habang isinugod sa Pagamuitan ng Dasmariñas ang angkas nitong si Dionel Gegawin, 69.

Kinilala naman ang driver ng Toyota Inova na may plakang NAY 5409 na si Ludovina Accebedo, 60.

Sa ulat ni PSSgt Jesus Bae, ng Dasmariñas City Police, dakong alas-4:30 Lunes ng hapon naganap ang insidente kung saan minamaneho ni Leonel ang

motorsiklong Honda na may plakang WM 3533 at angkas naman si Dionel. Binabagtas nila ang kahabaan ng Governors Drive sakop ng Brgy Sampaloc 4, Dasmariñas City, galing sa area ng GMA patungo sa Palapala.

Minamaneho naman ni Ludovina ang Toyota Inova patungo rin sa direksiyon ng Palapala at pagliko sa direksiyon ng Providence cemetery ay nabangga ang kaliwang puwitang bahagi ng sasakyan.

Dahil sa lakas ng pagkakabangga ng motorsiklo, agad na namatay ang driver nito habang isinugod sa ospital ang kanyang angkas. **GENE ADSUARA**

Yorme at Doc Willie, naghain na ng kandidatura

Naghain na ng kanilang certificate of candidacy (COC) sina Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso at kanyang running mate na si Dr. Willie Ong para sa pagka-Pangulo at pangalawang Pangulo sa darating na 2022 national election. Magkasabay na dumating sa Harbor Garden Tent sa Sofitel Hotel sa Pasay City sina Domagoso at Ong upang maghain ng kanilang kandidatura kung saan sinalubong ang mga ito ng kanilang mga tagasuporta.

Nauna nang sinabi ni Domagoso na pinili nitong running mate si Dr. Ong dahil naging epektibo ito sa pamamahala niya sa lungsod ng Maynila bilang

punong ehekutibo kung saan isa ding doktor ang kanyang bise alkalde na malaking tulong sa pagtugon lalo na sa panahon ng pandemya.

Si Dr. Ong ay kilala sa social media na may higit 18 milyon na followers sa kanyang Facebook at higit 6 milyon subscribers sa kanyang YouTube channel.

Si Dr. Ong ay muling sasabak sa politika sa ilalim ng partido kung saan Presidente si Domagoso sa Akyon Demokratiko. Matatandaan na sumabak sa pagka-Senador si Dr. Ong noong 2019 election kung saan nasa ika-labing-walong pwesto. **(Leonard basilio)**

BOC COLLECTS P134M FROM 3RD QUARTER DISPOSITION OF OVERSTAYING CONTAINERS

The Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group (AOCG), the Auction and Cargo Disposal Monitoring Division (ACDD) and the ACDD units of all BOC Collection Districts nationwide, disposed a total of 814 overstaying containers through auction, condemnation for the 3rd quarter of 2021. In accordance with the BOC's mandates for revenue collection, border protection, and enforcement, the Bureau collected an aggregate value of P134,643,698 from public auction of 336 containers of assorted items. 35 containers of twine, yarn droppings, muslim books, medical supplies, broadcasting equipment, among others, were donated to various agencies ang local government units while 443 containers of used clothing, rotten foodstuff, used oil, used furniture, among others, were condemned, disposing a total of 814 containers from July 2021 to September 2021.

These overstaying containers, which were abandoned and/or seized, were disposed of in accordance with Sections 1139 and 1141 of the Customs Mod-

ernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), which provide for the conditions and modes of disposition, respectively.

Furthermore, in relation to CAO 17-2019, cargoes which weren't withdrawn within the regulatory period of 30 calendar days from payment of duties, taxes, and other charges shall be deemed abandoned, unless covered by duly issued alert order, and upon the finality of the Decree of Abandonment, the Bureau shall then determine the proper disposition among auction, condemnation or donation.

Significantly, these disposition activities are aimed at efficiently facilitating trade by eliminating port and yard congestion, thereby ensuring smooth flow of business within the agency.

The BOC, through continuous monitoring and compliance with its mandates, assures the public that it will remain steadfast in its efforts of ensuring unhampered delivery of its services, especially in these trying times that the movement of goods, essentials and non-essentials, is deemed both substantial and critical. **PR**

10-story Bagong Ospital ng Maynila to be completed in December

MANILA – The construction of the 10-story Bagong Ospital ng Maynila is expected to be finished by December this year, according to the city government of Manila. The PHP2.3-billion hospital, located along Quirino Avenue, broke ground in June last year.

It will be fully airconditioned with 384 beds, 12 intensive care units, and 20 private

rooms.

There will also be a three-story parking area and a helipad for emergency cases.

The old building of the 52-year facility will be used by students of the Paman-tasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila College of Medicine once the new hospital, which has a total floor area of 29,951 square meters, is already operational. **(PNA)**



SUPER SWERTE, NANGUNA! OUR TITO, BUMULAGA SA COJUANGCO CUP!

Nanguna ang paboritong kabayo na si Super Swerte na sinakyan ng former Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) jockey of the year awardee na si Jessie Guce sa ginanap na "5th Henry Cojuangco Cup" Division 2 na inilarga sa pista ng San Lazaro Leisure Park sa Carmona, Cavite. Hindi binigo ni Super Swerte ang mga taga hanga at ang mga karerista na sumuporta sa kanya matapos angkinin ang titulo sa nasabing pakarera. May ilang karerista ang nagduda sa kakayahan ni Super Swerte dahil sa pagkatalo nito kay Pangalusian Island sa 2020 Presidential Gold Cup, ngunit nakabawi naman si Super Swerte matapos biguin si Pangalusian Island sa 2021 Commissioner's Cup. Sa simula ng labanan ay kalmadong lumabas ng aparato si Super Swerte at hinawakan ang bandera, kasunod si Lucky Savings na ginabayon ni Pabs Cabalejo, pangatlo si Courageous ni Claro Pare Jr., Pang-apat si Spandau Ballet na nirendahan ni John Paul Guce at nasa huli si Shining Vic ni AR Villegas. Pagdating sa tres oktobos ay nakadikit ang mga kalaban sa winning horse at pagpasok sa far turn ay biglang umunat si Super Swerte kaya bumalik sa tatlong kabayo ang kanyang kalamangan. Pagdating ng rektahan ay nagdire-diretso na ang paglayo ni Super Swerte sa kanyang mga katunggali, at walang kahirap hirap na tinawid ang meta. Nakapagrehistro si Super Swerte ng tiyemping 1:41.6 (26-25-25-25') para sa distansiyang 1,600 meters. Nasungkit ng owner ni Super Swerte na si Ginoong Sandy Javier Jr. ang premyong P300,000 bilang 1st prize, habang P112,500 ang napunta sa mayari ni Lucky Savings, nakopo naman ng kuwadra ni Spandau Ballet ang P62,500 bilang 3rd place, habang nauwi ng 4th placer na si Courageous ang P25,000. Bumulaga naman ang tersero liyamadong kabayo na si Our Tito na sinakyan ni Dan Camanero matapos sungkitin ang titulo sa ginanap na "5th Henry Cojuangco Cup Division 1 na inilarga sa parehong karerahan. Sa simula ng labanan ay sumabay sa agos si Our Tito at nakapanood lang sa mga nagbababakan sa unahan habang naghihintay ng pagkakataon. Papasok sa huling kurbada ay nasa ika-anim na posisyon pa si Our Tito at nang makakita ng tiyempo ay nagsimula ng gumalaw mula sa tabing balya ay pumihit ito sa bandang labas upang hindi maharangan sa kanyang dadaanan. Sa rektahan ay pinagalaw nang todo ni Dan Camanero si Our Tito at ipinakita ang husay nito matapos ungusan ang nangungunang si reigning Presidential Gold Cup champion Pangalusian Island at ang paborito sa labanan na si Righteous Ruby. Tumawid sa meta si Our Tito ng may isang kabayong kalamangan mula sa nasegundo na si Righteous Ruby. Nakapagtala si Our Tito ng tiyemping 1:40.6 (24-24-25-27') para sa distansiyang 1,600 meters. Nakubra ni Our Tito ang premyong P600,000 bilang 1st prize, habang P225,000 ang nasungkit ni Righteous Ruby bilang 2nd place, P125,000 naman ang nauwi ni Pangalusian Island bilang 3rd place, habang nahamig ng 4th placer na si Gomper Girl ang P50,000. May kabuoang P1M na papremyo ang ipinamahagi sa naturang event na inisponsoran ng San Miguel Corporation.

PROVET CONDUCTS RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP WEBINAR

In support to the World Rabies Day celebration with the theme, "Rabies: Facts, not Fear", Cavite Provincial Veterinary Office headed by Dr. May Magno in partnership with the Department of Health Region IV-A conducted a webinar on Responsible Pet Ownership on September 30, 2021 via Zoom and Facebook live platform.

The webinar aims to raise awareness and educate the participants about rabies and vaccination. Dr. Gladys Credo, Provincial Rabies Program Coordinator-Animal Side and Ms. Annabelle Dilig, Provincial Rabies Program Coordi-

nator-Human Side expertly answered the queries of the participants composed of students, parents, teachers, DepEd nurses, municipal/city veterinary and agriculture office' employees, some PGC and PHO employees.

Several audio-visual presentations on responsible pet ownership and rabies facts were also shown at the webinar. Mr. Alvin Mojica, Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs graced the event and delivered message of support to the program. Likewise, he encouraged fellow Cavitenos to be responsible pet owners. -- **PICAD**

Noveleta LCE inaugurates LGU priority projects

Trece Martires, Cavite (PIA) – The local chief executive of Noveleta town, Mayor Dino Reyes-Chua celebrated his birthday with the inauguration of several priority projects on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. Mayor Chua, together with MAYNILAD official Norman Kahulugan, Tubig Pag-asa Program Manager Mari-dette Tabuco, and Sitio Aplaya Residents Association President Belinda Sacapano led the ceremonial water drinking and formal water gate bulb opening of the Tubig Pag-asa water system.

The 'patubig' or water system will supply around 302 families in Sitio Aplaya, Barangay San Rafael III.

"Lahat po tayo ay nag-simula sa malinis na tubig, hindi na po mahihirapan ang ating mga kababayan dito sa Sitio Aplaya para sa malinis na tubig na maiinum, na dati ay hinahakot pa natin mula sa labasan," Mayor Dino Chua said.

(We all start with clean water, the families here in Sitio Aplaya will no longer have difficulty to access clean drinking water which was fetched from outside the area.)

During the day, the Mayor headed the turn-over of Noveleta College of Technology, a new ambulance for the 'Doc to Door' program of the Noveleta Health Office, the inauguration of several facilities: new Fire Station Building in the municipal grounds, San Jose Fitness Gym, new E-Library located in Brgy. San Jose 2, the new wing of the Noveleta MedCare Hospital, and the street lights along the stretch of Baran-

gay San Rafael III and IV. He also led the ground breaking ceremonies for the construction of the following: the Noveleta Crematorium and Columbarium; Cavite State University (CvSU) Noveleta Campus in TIP compound and the Unlad Noveleta Gymnasium in Brgy San Rafael III. Mayor Chua will seek reelection together with Vice Mayor Arlyn Torres and the party-members of the municipal council in the coming May 2022 elections. (**Ruel Francisco with reports from Mayor Dino Reyes-Chua FB page/Dennis Abrina**)

BOC Reports Accreditation Statistics for 3rd Quarter

AS part of the Bureau of Customs' (BOC) efforts to enhance trade facilitation and promote transparency, BOC through the Account Management Office (AMO) reported the statistics concerning accreditation for the third quarter of 2021. Being an integral part of transactions with the Bureau, accreditation remains one of the top priorities of BOC for this year. As a result of adapting online processing of accreditation for regular and non-regular importers, as well as customs brokers, it was reported that for the third quarter of this year, a total of 5, 308 regular and 115 non-regular importers and 767 customs brokers were accredited to transact with the Bureau.

AMO also reported efforts to physically inspect facilities and offices of aspiring importers to ensure the legitimacy of their application and avoid dummy ac-

Legarda: Ensure safe and more comfortable life for our elders in their twilight years

IN celebration of the Elderly Filipino Week, three-term Senator, now Deputy Speaker, Loren Legarda renewed her call for stronger implementation of Republic Act No. 9994, or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, which she principally authored.

"I authored the law in the 14th Congress to provide additional benefits and privileges to our Filipino senior citizens as my tribute to our elders who have been and continue to be part of nation-building. To take care of the elderly has been a time-honored practice of Filipinos because the present generation owes a lot to them and their hard work," Legarda recalled.

Legarda explained that among the salient provisions of the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 are: the exemption from the value-added tax (VAT) on the sale of goods and services from all establishments and a twenty percent (20%) discount on the purchase of medicines, medical and dental services, diagnostics and laboratory fees; actual fares for land transportation, domestic air transport services and sea shipping; utilization of services in hotels and similar lodging establishments,

restaurants and recreation centers; and, admission fees in theaters concert halls, other similar places of culture, among others. In addition to the VAT exemption and 20% discount, senior citizens who are considered minimum wage earners shall be given exemption from the payment of individual income tax under the law. Indigent senior citizens identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) are also entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to Php 500 to augment their daily subsistence and other medical needs. DOH will also facilitate free vaccination against the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease for indigent senior citizens and they are automatically covered by Philhealth benefits. Whereas, death benefit assistance of a minimum of P2,000 shall also be given to the nearest surviving relative of a deceased senior citizen. Another important provision of the Expanded Senior Citizens Act is the activation of a "senior citizens ward" in every government hospital all over the country for the exclusive use of senior citizens who need hospital confinement by reason of their health conditions.

"I am calling on the local government units to monitor and ensure that commercial establishments, hospitals, and other concerned institutions observe the strict implementation of the law and that our senior citizens receive the assistance and incentives that they rightfully deserve. Let us ensure that our senior citizens enjoy safe and comfortable life in their twilight years," Legarda said. The three-term Senator also shared that senior citizens are still qualified to avail livelihood programs from the government, such as the DOLE Pangkalahatan, and DSWD Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP). Aside from livelihood, other government programs that our senior citizens may benefit from are DSWD AICS and DOH MAIP.

"Despite their age, we can

Iloilo town officials cleared in questioned infra bidding

MANILA – The Supreme Court (SC) set aside a decision of the Court of Appeals (CA) which found officials of an Iloilo town liable in a questioned bidding process.

Associate Justice Amy Lazaro-Javier of the SC Second Division granted the petition of Sta. Barbara municipal engineer Noel Jaspe and municipal budget officer Ma. Nege-nia Araneta to dismiss the grave misconduct suit filed against them in connection with a 2006 bidding due to the "forced misapplication" of the law.

Jaspe was the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) vice chair while Araneta was a member during the bidding that time for five infrastructure projects, including concreting and asphaltting of five streets and the construction of a building.

Three bidders secured documents for the projects -- Topmost Development and Marketing Corp. (TDMC), F. Guerra Construction Inc. (FGCI), and AFG Construction and Construction Supply (AFG).

A BAC member, Agustin Sonza Jr., questioned the withdrawal of TDMC and FGCI, which informed the committee by enclosing their letters in their bid envelopes.

Sonza claimed the withdrawal was part of the bidders' internal sharing scheme and recommended that the BAC declare a failure of bidding.

Municipal administrator and BAC chair Lyndofer

still empower and enable our senior citizens by giving them access to government programs and resources for income-generating opportunities for them to uplift their lives and their family," Legarda said.

"As among the vulnerable sector in our society, I also encourage our senior citizens to receive COVID-19 vaccines with the permission of and in consultation with their personal doctors. Always observe safety health protocols, and stay healthy because senior citizens are more prone to the COVID-19 virus and other health risks," Legarda concluded. **PR**

Beup, however, said under Republic Act 9184 (Government Procurement Act), a bidder who has submitted a letter of intent and passed the eligibility stage may still decide to bid only for certain projects or not participate at all even on bidding day itself.

Sonza filed a complaint before the Ombudsman, claiming irregularities, and accused then Sta. Barbara Mayor Isabelo Maquino and Beup for conspiring with TDMC and FGCI.

Maquino was not charged because his liability, if any, was dismissed when he did not run for re-election while Beup's appointment was co-terminus with the mayor.

A complaint for grave misconduct was subsequently filed against Jaspe, Araneta, and municipal agriculturist Sanny Apuang by Graft Investigation and Prosecution officer Theodore Banderado.

The Ombudsman for the Visayas found the BAC members liable for grave misconduct in April 2014 and ordered them dismissed from the service, with the accessory penalties of cancellation of eligibility, forfeiture of retirement benefits, and perpetual disqualification from holding public office.

CA upheld the decision in September 2018.

In clearing them, the SC said "there is no modification or withdrawal of bids" and said the "adverse findings of the Ombudsman and the Court of Appeals derived as they were from a forced misapplication of (the law) should be struck down".

"For a charge of grave misconduct or any grave offense to prosper, therefore, the evidence against the respondent should be competent and must be derived from direct knowledge. Reliance on mere allegations, conjectures and suppositions, as in this case, warrants the dismissal of the charge," the SC said in the decision promulgated on September 22 and recently released online.

The ruling, the SC said, may also benefit the dismissal of the case against Apuang, who did not appeal his case. (**PNA**)

BINATILYO 'KINUYOG' NG 3 BINABAE

NAANGASAN matapos na dumayo sa birthday celebration, kinuyog ang menor de edad na lalaki ng tatlong bading sa Rosario, Cavite.

Dumulog sa tanggapan ng Rosario Police Station ang ina ng biktima.

Itinago sa pangalang Martin ang 17-anyos na biktima.

Arestado ang dalawa sa tatlong itinurong suspek na sina Bernardo Hiles, 18; at alias Jayson.

Sinusulat ito ay pinaghahanap ang isa pang suspek na si Bernald Hiles, 19.

Sa ulat ni PSSgt Ronna Abutin, ng Rosario MPS, dakong alas-11:45 Martes ng gabi ay pinagtulungang kuyugin ng mga suspek ang biktima sa bahay ng isang Ambet Arevalo sa

Brgy Sapa 2.

Bahagyang naantala ang pagsampa ng reklamo ng biktima kasama ang kanyang nanay.

Ayon kay Abutin, hindi umano nagustuhan ng mga suspek ang asal ng biktima na lasing kaya pinagtulungang bugbugin.

Hindi na nagbigay ng ibang pangpahayag ang imbestigador.

Nabatid na binidyuhan pa ang pambubugbog ng mga suspek sa biktima na hawak ng pulisya.

Dumayo lamang ang biktima sa lugar kung saan isa siya sa bisita ni Arevalo na nagdiwang ng kaarawan. Kasong paglabag sa RA 7610 ang isinampa kaso laban sa mga suspek. **GENE ADSUARA**

Nawalan ng supply ng kuryente dahil sa nakaidlip na tsuper

NAGDULOT ng brownout sa ilang lugar sa Cavite makaraang halos mabuwal ang poste ng Meralco na nabundol ng ten wheeler truck ng nakaidlip na driver sa Naic, Cavite.

Kinilala ang driver ng Isuzu ten wheeler truck na may plakang RHP 852 na si Almer Guso, 32, ng Brgy Marulas, Kawit.

Sa ulat ni PSSgt Anthony Macario, ng Naic Police Station, minamaneho ni Guso ang 10-wheeler truck

at binabagtas ang kaha-baan ng A. Soriano Highway patungo sa direksiyon ng Maragondon dakong alas-2:30 Martes ng madaling araw nang nakaramdam ito ng antok.

Pagsapit sa Brgy Ibayo, Silangan, ay nawalan ng kontrol sa manibela at pagdilal ay poste ng Meralco ang tumambad sa kanya dahil upang mawalan ng suplay ng kuryente sa ilang bahagi ng Cavite. **GENE ADSUARA**

Mga residente ng CALABARZON, hinikayat magpabakuna para sa tsansang maging milyonaryo

HINIKAYAT ng Department of Health (DOH) - CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) ang mga residente na magpabakuna at maging milyonaryo.

AYON kay DOH-CALABARZON Regional Director Eduardo C. Janairo, kinakailangan lamang na magpabakuna upang makasali sa "Resbakuna: Bakunado, Panalo" promo at may tsansang manalo mula P5,000,00 hanggang P1 milyon.

"This is to encourage everyone to enlist and have their Covid-19 vaccine for them to have additional protection against the virus. This cash price will also serve as an incentive for winners for getting vaccinated and doing their fair share in preventing the spread of the virus in the community and putting a stop to the pandemic,"

ayon kay Janairo. Ang "Resbakuna: Bakunado, Panalo" promo ng DOH ay mamimili ng 50 na mananalo para sa buwan ng October at 50 winners din para sa buwan ng November na tatanggap ng P5,000 bawat isa.

Para sa buwan ng Disyembre, 12 winners ang pipiliin, 10 winners dito ay 3rd prize na tatanggap ng P100,000 habang isang 2nd prize na mananalo ng P500,000 at ang grand prize ay P1 milyon.

Ang isang partially vaccinated ay makakakuha ng one raffle coupon habang ang fully vaccinated ay tatlong raffle habang ang mga senior citizens na bakunado ay doble ang bilang ng kanilang entries o ibig sabihin na ang partially vaccinated at makakakuha ng dalawang raffle entry habang anim ang fully vaccinated.

27 katao, tiklo sa 'bato'

ISANG 15-anyos na binatilyo at apat na babae ang kabilang sa dalawampu't pito na hinihinalang tulak ang binitbit ng Cavite police sa isinagawang buy-bust operation sa magkakahiwalay na lugar sa lalawigan.

Sa ulat ng Cavite Police Provincial Office (PPO), sa pagitan ng alas-12:30 Lunes ng tanghali hanggang alas-2:30 ng madaling araw nagsagawa ng buy bust operation sa limang lungsod at apat na bayan sa lalawigan. Nanguna sa listahan ng

may pinakamaraming bilang ng tulak na inaresto ang lungsod ng Dasmaringas na anim; sumunod ang Naic na lima habang tig-tatlo ang Gen Trias City, Cavite City at Bacoor City habang tig-dalawa naman sa Imus City, Silang at General Mariano Alvarez (GMNA) at isa sa Alfonso kabuuan na 27.

Sa nasabing buy bust operation, isang 15-anyos mula sa Alfonso ang kasama habang apat na babae ay mula sa Gen Trias City, Naic, at Dasmaringas City. **GENE ADSUARA**

DINAKIP sina Amad K.Abo, Esmail Taha Abdillah at Salahudin Burak Zumbaga sa isinagawang buy bust operation ng mga elemento ng Drug Enforcement Group -Special Operation Unit-5 sa Dr. A. Santos Ave., Barangay San Dionisio, Paranaque City. Nakumpiska sa mga suspek ang 20 pirasong medium sachet ng hinihinalang shabu na tumitimbang ng isang kilo at may street value na P6.8-M. Naging seizing officer si Pat Jan Ervin Baltazar habang saksi ang kagawad ng Brgy. San Dionisio at media representative. **(JIMMY HAO)**



ARESTADO si Nasfira Abdulla sa isinagawang buy bust operation ng Station Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU) ng Manila Police District (MPD) Station-14, sa loob ng Islamic Compound sa Palanca St., San Miguel, Maynila nitong Oct. 4. Narekober sa suspek ang tinatayang may timbang na 735-gramo ng hinihinalang shabu na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang 5 milyong piso. **(JEROME AMOROSO)**

Upang makasali sa promo, step one, text RESBA-KUNAREG name/age/address at i-send to 8933. Step two, text RESBA-KUNA 1st letter of vaccine brand/number of doses/local government unit/date of vaccination at i-send sa

8933. Ang promo ay inisponsor ng Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation at DOH. **GENE ADSUARA**



KALIBRE

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Very good si Mamang Tsuper; Ayaw ba ni mayor sa alcohol?

MATAGAL ang pananatili sa isang pampublikong sasakyan ng pasaherong tawagin nating si Kulas. Mahaba ang biyahe nasa kulang isang oras ang pamamalagi ni Kulas sa pampasaherong dyip.

Nasa harapan ng dyip nakaupo si Kulas na katabi ng tsuper at sa tagal ng biyahe ay hindi nakaligtas sa kanya ang isa sa mga obserbasyon. Pinagmamasdan pala ni Kulas ang drayber dahil nakapukaw sa kanyang atensiyon.

Tuwing tatanggap ng bayad at magsusukli ang tsuper ay hindi nakakalimot mag-spray ng alcohol sa kanyang mga kamay.

Sa haba at tagal ng pagmamasid ni Kulas ay sadyang hindi nakalimot ang drayber sa pag-alcohol tuwing hahawak o tatanggap ng pera mula sa mga nagbabayad na pasahero.

Very good si Mamang Tsuper, 'ika nga ay iba na ang nag-iingat.

@@@

SPEAKING of alcohol,

may isa namang alkalde na tila umiwas dito. May live activities si mayor sa facebook account at sa kasagsagan ng event ay lumapit ang bodyguard.

May bitbit na alcohol ang bodyguard at akmang iisprayan sa mga kamay si mayor. Pero tumanggi ang alkalde at hindi nagpalagay o nagpaspay ng alcohol sa kanyang bodyguard.

Ayaw ba ni mayor sa alcohol? O baka naman ayaw ipahalata o ipakita ni mayor na maarte siya dahil naka-live nga.

Pwede rin naman na hindi talaga maarte si mayor. May pandemiya ngayon kaya kahit harapan ay pwedeng gumamit ng alcohol.

Hindi kagaya noon na pagkatapos humarap lalo at makikipagkamay sa mga tao ay apurado ang maaarteng pulitiko sa paggamit ng alcohol pero siyempre ay simplehan lamang o patago.

