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KUSINA NG KALINGA

PROJECT LAUNCHED TO ENHANCE IMUSEÑO KID'S NUTRITION LEVEL

Pahina 2

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KUSINA NG KALINGA PROJECT LAUNCHED TO ENHANCE IMUSEÑO KIDS' NUTRITION LEVEL

Imus City, Cavite (PIA) – The City Government here launched the Kusina ng Kalinga Project, a 30-day feeding program under the Gawad Kalinga (GK) that is centered on the enhancement of the children's nutrition in the city.

Thru the implementation of the Barangay Nutrition Services (BNS) and in partnership with the LGU and the Genesis Corporation, a total of one thousand 1,000 undernourished children beneficiaries aged 3 years to 12 years from thirty eight (38) barangays will be provided with food during lunchtime from Mondays thru Fridays.

The launching was led by Mayor Emmanuel L. Maliksi together with Vice Mayor Ony Cantimbuhan held on Sunday, January 10, 2021 at GK Alapan Site.

Mayor Maliksi pointed out that it is his administration's goal to lessen the incidence of malnutrition in the city.

"Nakita natin pag stunted ang growth ng mga bata, ang laki ng epekto sa development nila, pag malnourished ang bata nahirapan din sa pag-aaral," explained Maliksi.

(When children's growth

are stunted, it has a tremendous effect on their development, when a kid is malnourished he has difficulty coping up with his studies.)

An intervention at an early age for the proper nutrition is really important said the Mayor.

"Hindi lang basta pagkain, dapat nutritious na pagkain na magsusustena sa kanilang pangangailangang pisikal," Mayor Manny expounded.

(Not just food, it should be nutritious food that would sustain the body's physical needs.)

The project is not just about feeding the children but also enriching the parents with the knowledge on the preparation of simple yet nutritious foods that they could feed their children and the whole family as well.

As the program's slogan reads, 'Bayanihan para sa masustansiyang kinabukasan!' Mayor Maliksi feels strongly for the project's success because of the cooperation given by all the stakeholders for its implementation. **(Ruel Francisco/Imus City Information Office)**

2 miyembro ng FDG, 6 pa tulak; laglag sa buy bust

ARESTADO ng Cavite police ang dalawang miyembro ng Francisco Drug Group at anim pang tulak sa isinagawang buy bust operation sa magkakahiwalay na lugar sa Tanza.

Kasong paglabag sa RA 9165 ang kinaharap ng mga suspek na sina Fernando Aranas, 51, may-asawa, ng Brgy Halayhay; at Rowena Pateros, 41, may-asawa ng Block 5 Lot 23, Hausken Subd., Brgy Julugan 6.

Sa ulat ni Pat Ehdel Manalo, ng Tanza Municipal Police Station, dakong alas-3:40 ng hapon ay nakipag-transaksiyon ang dalawa sa isang poseur buyer sa isinagawang buy bust operation ng mga operatiba ng Station Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU) ng

Tanza, MPS sa Hauskon Subd., Brgy Hulugan 6. Pero hindi alam ng dalawa na pulis ang kanilang buyer na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto nila at pagkakar-ekober ng apat na sachet ng hinihinalang shabu, buy bust money at P3,000 cash na hinihinalang kinita sa pagbebenta ng droga. Ang dalawa ay nasa listahan na kabilang sa miyembro ng Francisco Drug Group na kumilkilos sa bayan ng Tanza at karatig lugar.

Dakong alas-2:50 ng hapon ay nagsagawa ng buy bust operation sa Brgy Sahud Ulan na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto nina Wilfredo Siervo Jr., alias Tonton, 38, ng Tierra Pulong Buhangin, Sta Maria, Bulacan; Mario Pumantoc, alias Mario, 33, truck helper, ng

Relokasyon para sa ISF ng Kawit

NAGSAGAWA ng pakikipagpulong ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Kawit, Cavite sa National Housing Authority kamakailan. Tinalakay dito ang relokasyon para sa informal settler families (ISF) sa bayan.

Ang pagpupulong ay dinaluhan ng mga barangay officials sa pangunguna ni ABC Pres. Alvin Bunag.

Kasama rin si Municipal Administrator Engr. Rey

Santos at Letty Kasilag, ng NHA.

Nabatid na ang NHA ay may nakalaan umanong mga bahay sa mga kwalipikadong ISF sa bayan ng Naic.

Tiniyak ng Kawit LGU na maayos ang paglilipatan at magkakaroon ng trabaho bukod pa sa iba pang pangangailangan.

Sinusulat ito ay isinasabay na ng mga barangay ang talaan ng mga ISF. **RS**

JBC opens application for Chief Justice

MANILA – The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) on Thursday has opened for applicants the position of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (SC).

In an advisory, the JBC said this came after the high court approved last Jan. 5 the optional retirement of Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta effective March 27.

It said interested applicants must visit the official JBC website <http://jbc.judiciary.gov.ph/> and access the Online Application Scheduler.

After filling in the required information in the Online Application Scheduler, the applicants would receive a computer-generated letter of intent in their e-mail addresses.

Applicants must submit complete and accurate digitized versions of the letter of intent and the documentary requirements through e-mail to orsn.jbc@judiciary.gov.ph on their selected date of appointment in the Online Application Scheduler.

The deadline for the submission of applications for the Chief Justice vacancy is on Feb. 15.

Peralta was appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte as the country's top magistrate in October 2019, replacing Lucas Bersamin.

In December, Peralta announced his plan to step down from the post one year ahead of his mandatory retirement on March 27, 2022.

Under the JBC's rules, the five most senior Associate Justices are automatically nominated for the post.

Should the President pick Peralta's successor based on seniority, the most senior magistrate of the high court is Associate Justice Estela Perlas-Bernabe who would retire from the service on May 14, 2022.

The other most senior magistrates are Associate Justices Marvic Leonen, Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa, Alexander Gesmundo, and Ramon Paul Hernando.

The JBC also announced the opening for the position of Deputy Ombudsman for Mindanao after Rodolfo Elman's term ends on March 13.

The deadline for applications to the position is on March 1. **(PNA)**

Pera, dahilan ng pagdukot at pagpatay sa 3 LGBT members?

PERA ang isa sa nakikitang dahilan kung bakit dinukot at pinatay ang tatlong miembro ng LGBT community matapos matagpuan sa isang liblib at mabangin na lugar sa Tagaytay City, Cavite.

Ayon kay Pat. Fidel Querijero, ng Bacoor City Police Station at may hawak ng kaso, bago dinukot si alias Erika ay nagpo-post ito sa kanyang Facebook account ng pagkakaroon nito ng pera at mga alahas.

"Siyempre kung ikaw ang kidnapper at nakakabasa ka ng may pera yung tao" ayon kay Querijero bagama't hindi pa nito kinukumpirma na ito ang motibo.

Naniniwala din si Querijero na matapos dukutin ng pitong armadong kalalalahan noong Decembe 19, 2020 ay itinago sa isang lugar hanggang tinuluyan ang mga biktima.

Ayon pa kay Querijero, tatlong tao lamang ang kanilang iniimbestigahan sa nasabing pagdukot na ipinagtaka nila na may isa pang bangkay na natagpuan sa lugar.

Pero inamin ni Querijero na blanko pa sila sa tunay na motibo sa pagdukot at pagpatay dahil maging ang mga kamag-anak ay wala ring alam na dahian. Ayon naman kay P/Major Juan Oruga, Jr., hepe ng Tagaytay City Police Station, base sa itsura ng mga katawan bago natagpuan ay pinaniniwalaang apat na araw ng patay ang mga biktima.

Gayunman, aniya ang awtopsiya lamang ang

makakapagsabi kung ilang araw na silang patay.

Sinabi rin nito na blangkong pa rin sila kung paano pinatay ang mga biktima pero naniniwala ito na itinaon lang sa lugar ang mga bangkay upang iligaw ang imbestigasyon.

Ayon pa kay Ortuga, wala pa ring pagkakakilanlan sa ikaapat na natagpuang bangkay dahil wala pang dumarating na kamag-anak nito na kasalukuyang nasa punerarya.

Matatandaan na Martes nang natagpuan ang bangkay nina Lino Quilaneta, alias Nicole; at Mark Ian Eridrina, alias Erika.

Pero pagpalik ng mga awtoridad ng Miyerkules ng umaga ay dalaw pang bangkay ang narekober kabilang ang biktimang si Glejar Bondoc, alias Arar, 1st term kagawad ng Brgy Zapote 1, Bacoor City; at isa pang lalake na nakabalot ng packaging tape at may mga sugat sa iba't ibang bahagi ng katawan sa isang liblib at masukal na lugar sa Brgy. San Jose Tagaytay City.

Nadiskubre ang kanilang mga bangkay ng mga kawani ng Department of Public Works and Highways na nagsasagawa ng routine inspeksiyon sa lugar matapos nakaamoy ng umaalangasaw.

Nakilala naman ng mga kaanak ang bangkay ng mga biktima sa pamagitan ng tattoo sa katawan sa kanilang pagtungo sa Mel Chingcunaco Funeral Services sa Bulihan Silang, Cavite. **GENE ADSUARA**

Buong Pebrero, libreng bakuna sa Carmona

ISASAKATUPARAN ng local government unit ng Carmona, Cavite ang libreng bakuna sa buong buwan ng Pebrero.

Ang libreng pagbabakuna ay nakalaan sa mga bata na edad limang taon pababa.

Ito ay bilang panlaban o kontra sa rubella, polio at tigid.

Sisimulan ang pagbabakuna sa Pebrero 1 hanggang Pebrero 28 at hangad na lahat ng bata ay maturukan ng nasabing vaccine.

BFAR nets 9 'buli-buli' in Quezon province

CALAMBA CITY (PIA) - Coastal municipalities in Quezon Province, such as Polillo Island, are the most susceptible to illegal fishing activities.

This was after the combined team of the Bureau of Fisheries - Fisheries Law Enforcement Group (FPLEG), 1st Quezon Provincial Mobile Force Company (1QP-MFC) of the Philippine National Police Maritime Group, Naval Intelligence and Security Group (NISU-32) of the Philippine Navy, and Alpha Company of the Philippine Army 59th Infantry Battalion arrested nine (9) commercial fishing vessels using Danish Seine - locally known as buli-buli or hulbot-hulbot - in the municipality of Mauban on New Year's Eve.

This includes the vessel, Vanessa 1, which local authorities said was a repeat offender of fishing laws.

Local fisherfolk have cried foul over the 'buli-buli' practice because it forces them to lose their source of livelihood.

"Walang mahuli ang mga mangingisda dahil sa mga buli-buli." one of them said.

DA-BFAR National Director Eduardo Gongona said their crackdown on illegal fishing will provide more opportunities to local fisherfolk to earn money and provide food to Filipino families.

"We could not stress enough how proper enforcement of the fisheries

law is to the overall performance of the Philippine fishery sector. Billions are lost to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUUF), including hulbot-hulbot, which has led to heightened and more effective maritime patrol operations even during holidays."

In 2020, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) filed a total of 793 IUUF-related cases; 684 of which were resolved where more than P40-M were collected on penalties for violations of fishery laws.

Meanwhile, the local government units of Alabat and Perez are also rolling out programs to weed out this destructive and illegal fishing method in their towns.

Alabat Municipal Mayor Fernando Mesa said they have allotted P1.5-M for the vessels they will use for pursuing buli-buli.

On the other hand, Perez Municipal Mayor Pepito Reyes donated a parcel of land in their town where BFAR can construct an extension office.

While the nearby municipalities are strengthening their capacity to enforce the law, they are also counting on the other agencies to help them crack down on illegal fishers.

Gongona assured the local chief executives that they will distribute 59 units of patrol boats to capacitate local fishing and bring back the sustainability of muni-

USAP LANG

JUNE BILLONES
0929-8127638

Matino ka bang tsuper?

PAANO bang masasabi na matino at disiplinado ang isang driver?

Dahil ba sa siya ay magaling magmaneho?

Hep! Wala pong magaling sa larangan ng pagmamaneho.

Disiplinado at matinong tsuper...pwede pang sabihin, kaya nga lamang ay mabibilang na lamang sila.

Pero iyong sasabihing mahusay mag-drive ay hindi po tama o karapat-dapat.

Ulitin natin, walang mai-kokonsiderang mahusay na tsuper.

Ang mayroon lamang ay good driver.

Nakikita ang pagiging good driver hindi lamang sa paghawak ng manibela o istilo ng kanyang pagmamaneho.

Ito ay maging sa istilo ng pagpaparada ng minamanehong sasakyan.

Bagsak na bagsak diyan

ang karamihan sa mga bus, taxi, tricycle at jeepney drivers.

Pero mayroon ding tsuper mula sa mga private vehicles at maging sa hanay ng mga motorcycle rider.

Lyon bang tipong basta na basta ipaparada ang sasakyan o motorsiklo sa kalsada.

Kung matino at disiplinado kang driver dapat ay alam mo kung nakakaperwisyo ka.

Halimbawa na lamang na basta ipaparada ang sasakyan sa harapan ng isang bahay lalo at mayroong gate.

Ang siste ay walang pasintabi o paalam sa mayari ng bahay na iwan na lamang ang sasakyan.

Para sa lahat ng tsuper, sana ay maging matino at disiplinado po kayo.

In short, be a responsible driver at all times.

pal waters.

"Napakalaking tulong ng media upang maiparating sa mga iligal na tumigil na."

Mesa said.

[Media is a big help in telling illegal (fishers) to stop (their activities).]

Andanar urges Filipinos to celebrate 'once in a lifetime' PH quincennial

PARAÑAQUE CITY (PIA) -- Presidential Communications Secretary Martin Andanar is encouraging all Filipinos to celebrate the "once in a lifetime" 500th anniversary of the Victory at Mactan despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Andanar made the statement as the government steps up its preparations for the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the victory of Lapu-Lapu in the Battle of Mactan and the Philippines' role in the first circumnavigation of the world in 1521.

In his Cabinet Report sa Teleradyo on Friday, Jan. 9, Andanar said celebrating the country's national quincennial despite the pandemic is important as it reminds the world about the bravery of Filipinos and the Philippines' role in world history.

"Even if we are facing the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that we, the Filipino people, participate in the National Quincennial Commemora-

tions. We just do not remind ourselves what happened hundreds of years ago, rather we are looking back to the foundation of how the Philippines was established and how it shaped our culture and traditions. This reminds us of our roots, and let's tell the world our story and the Filipino identity," he said.

Andanar said part of the government's preparations for the event is the creation of the National Quincennial Commission (NQC), the designated clearing house for all matters relating to the quincennial.

"There are many depictions on what happened during 1521. Many perspectives can be considered. This prompted the national government to create the National Quincennial Commission to provide clarification, right direction, and a national vision to our commemoration of Filipino history," he added.

The NQC will kick off its 100-day countdown for the anniversary of the Battle of Mactan on Jan. 17.

Other activities include virtual contests and seminars open to the public. The full list can be found at the NQC website.

For his part, Vice Chairman of the National Quincennial Commission and concurrent National Historical Commission of the Philippines Chairperson Rene Escalante stressed that Lapu-Lapu's victory in Mactan in 1521 will be celebrated throughout the year, and will be participated in by the international communities and some local government units, particularly in the Visayas region.

"Ito po ay naka-align sa policy ng Duterte administration kung saan gusto niyang magkaroon tayo ng independent foreign policy na hangga't maari ang mga problema na kinakaharap natin ay solusyunan ng mga Pilipino at hindi ng mga dayuhan," Escalante said.

Aside from virtual activities, which can be accessed across the country, the NQC now has at least 411 entries for their Quincennial Art

Competition. Twelve deserving paintings will be picked and displayed at the Lapu-Lapu Memorial Shrine and Museum.

Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas Assistant Secretary Jonji Gonzales, for his part, expressed hope that Lapu-Lapu will finally be given proper recognition as the first Filipino hero, 500 years since the Victory at Mactan.

"As Visayans, we also expect to have Lapu-Lapu to be completely known by the country as our first hero to resist imperial foreign colonization. Kami sa Visayas, we have always wanted na makilala na talaga si Lapu-Lapu, and this is the time na mangyari na ito," Gonzales said.

"Filipinos have survived many great challenges in history, and we will certainly conquer the present and the future trials and adversity with the spirit of humanity and victory. Nothing is impossible with the Filipinos," he added. (PIA NCR)

EDITORIAL

Oo o hindi?

ANG bawat kaganapan o ang lahat ng nangyayari sa mundong ating ginagalawan ay naayon nga ba sa kagustuhan ng Diyos? Pwedeng sabihin oo at maaari rin sabihing hindi, ito ay batay sa paniwala.

Ayon sa pananaw... ibig sabihin ay batay iyon sa kanya o sa inyong sariling komento.

Hindi dapat sabihing ang komento mo ang tama at ang paniniwala ng iba ang mali.

May kanya-kanyang dahilan ang bawat isa para sabihing oo o hindi na kagustuhan ng Diyos ang mga nangyayari sa mundo.

Isa lamang ang katotohanan at ito ay lahat tayo ay mayroong sariling buhay.

Nasa sa atin na lamang kung paano patatakbuhan at pahahalagahan ang buhay na ito.

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BCG MEMBER, 1 PANG TULAK; DEDO SA ENKLUWENTRO

PATAY ang isang miyembro ng Bautista Criminal Group, na sangkot sa motornapping sa Cavite at karatig lugar, gayundin ang isa pang umano'y tulak nang nanlaban sa mga awtoridad sa isinagawang buy bust operation sa magkahiwalay na lugar sa lalawigan.

Kinilala ang mga napatay na sina Arcie Surin, alias "Arcie", may live-in partner, ng Brgy Wawa 2, Rosario, at miyembro ng Bautista Criminal Group; at Samuel Peron, ng Brgy Ibayo, Silangan, Naic.

Sa ulat ni PSSgt Ellezer Tagalog, ng Rosario, Municipal Police Station, dakong alas-7:00 ng gabi ay nag-sagawa ng buy bust operation ang mga operatiba ng Station Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU) sa Brgy. Sapa 3, Rosario, kung saan target si Surin.

Habang nakikipagtransaksiyon si Surin sa isang poseur buyer ay nagbigay ng signal ang huli at nagpakilalang awtoridad at in-aaresto ang una.

Pumalag si Surin at pinaputok ang kausap subalit nagmintis kaya bumuwelta ang awtoridad na nagresulta sa kamatayan ng suspek.

Nabatid na si Surin ay aktibong miyembro ng Bausita Criminal Group na tumatrabaho sa bayan ng Rosario at kalapit lugar sa mga serye ng holdapan at pagtangay ng mga motorsiklo.

Nabuo ang Bautista Criminal Group nina Macris Bautista, Kimwel Legaspi, Jomar Villanueva at Aljon Capiral sa loob ng Cavite City Jail kung saan pawang nakaulang ang mga ito sa kasong Robbery hold-up, motornapping, snatching, akyat bahay at drug pushing. Matapos silang nakalaya, ipinagpatuloy ng grupo ang kanilang aktibidades kasabay ng pagre-recruit ng mga miyembro at nagkaroon ng safe house sa Rosario.

Sa kabila ng pagkamatay ng kanilang lider na si Macris Bautista sa isang

buy bust operation noong August 5, 2020 ay ipinag-papatuloy ng mga miyembro ang kanilang illegal at criminal na aktibidades.

Sa Naic, Cavite, namatay din sa isang buy bust operation si Perol, tinatayang 25-30 anyos, ng Brgy Ibayo, Silangan, matapos na nakipagpalitan ng putok sa mga awtoridad dakong alas-9:50 ng gabi sa naturang barangay.

Narekober kay Perol ang sachet ng shabu, buy bust money at baril na ginamit.

Si Perol, bukod sa pagtutulak ay miyembro din ito ng notoryus na Akyat-Bahay kung saan responsable sa ilang nakawan sa Naic.

GENE ADSUARA

Urban agri project sa Caloocan, sinimulan na

LUNGSOD CALOOCAN (PIA) -- Isang urban agricultural project ang sinimulan na ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Caloocan sa pakikipagtagulungan ng Department of Agriculture (DA) at ng Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). Dalawang bakanteng lote na may sukat na 4,011 sq. meters at 5,076 sq. meters na kapwa matatagpuan sa Sunrise Village, Barangay 167, ang aprupado at inihahanda na para sa proyektong ito.

Magtatalaga ang DA at DAR ng tig-isang agricultural scientist sa lugar para makatulong sa monitoring na pangungunahan ng Pamahalaang Lungsod, habang ang pagtatanim at pag-ani ay isasagawa ng barangay.

Ayon kay Mayor Oca Malapitan, ang programa ay kapaki-pakinabang at napapanahon, higit na sa

Kita ng lechon manok, nilimas ng empleyado

ISANG 27-anyos na empleyado ng tindahan na nagbebenta ng mga lechon manok ang tumangay ng tinatayang P40K na kita sa Bacoor City, Cavite.

Ang pinaghahanap ay kinilalang si Mark Kevin Laya, binata, ng 047 Brgy Mambog 3, Bacoor City.

Ang suspek ay inireklamo ng may-ari ng Don C. Lechon Manok, sa Brgy Mambog 3, Bacoor City, na

PH targets to ratify RCEP this year -DTI

PASIG CITY (PIA) -- The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) eyes the country's ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) this year before politicians get busy for the national elections in 2022. DTI Assistant Secretary Allan Gepty said the RCEP deal will come into force as soon as nine RCEP participating countries ratify the free trade agreement (FTA) in their respective nations.

"[The] plan is to finish the ratification and concurrence by the Senate. Since there's an election [in 2022]," Gepty said.

The nine RCEP participating countries are six members of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and three Asean external partners that shall deposit their instruments of approval.

RCEP is the trade pact

among the 10 member states of Asean and the bloc's five FTA partners – Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, and South Korea.

The deal was concluded last November 15, 2020, in the hopes of shoring up the region's economy amid the COVID-19 crisis.

He added that the RCEP participating countries have committed to work hard to ratify the deal this year so that member countries will start to benefit from the new trade pact.

"It [RCEP] is like a tool that has to be utilized," Gepty said.

The trade official added that DTI ensures the competitiveness of local industries through its current initiatives and programs that are aligned with the RCEP deal.

Gepty cited local sectors that will benefit the most from RCEP which include manufacturing, transportation, and even agriculture, as well as subsectors such as auto parts, chemicals, and construction, among others. **(PIA NCR)**

Hontiveros calls on Beijing to investigate entry of unauthorized vaccines in PH

"SA LAKAS ba naman ng seguridad at surveillance sa China, imposibleng hindi nila malalaman kung sino ang may pakana ng black market vaccines na ito."

This statement from Senator Risa Hontiveros as she called on the Chinese government to actively cooperate with Philippine agencies in investigating the illegal entry of unauthorized China-made vaccines in the country.

"China must explain. Beijing should lead their own inquiry and submit pertinent information to Philippine agencies. Responsibilidad nilang alamin kung paano nakalabas sa bansa nila at nakarating sa bansa natin ang mga ilegal na bakuna," Hontiveros said.

The senator believes a Beijing-led investigation is also in China's best interest: "Transparency from their end could raise the public trust in China-made vaccines, not only in the Philippines but also across the world. Sa huli, makakatulong ito sa pagbano ng mundo laban sa

Guidelines para sa walk-in applicants ng Service Contracting Program, inilabas ng LTFRB

LUNGSOD CALOOCAN (PIA) – Naglabas ang Land Transportation Franchising regulatory Board (LTFRB) ng guidelines para sa walk-in registration na kailangan sundin para sa mga kwalipikadong drayber ng Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) na interesadong sumali sa Service Contracting Program

Ito's para sa mga drayber ng Public Utility Vehicle (TPUJ, MPUJ, at PUB) na bukas na ang ruta ngayong pandemya at gusto ng karagdagang kita.

Ayon sa LTFRB, tatanggap sila ng walk-in registration kada Lunes, Miyerkules, at Biyernes ngayong buong buwan ng Enero para sa mga drayber na interesadong sumali sa naturang programa.

Kailangan lamang nilang magtungo sa tanggapan ng LTFRB Central Office

sa East Avenue, 4th Floor, Multi-Purpose Hall tuwing 10 AM, 1 PM, at 3 PM.

Upang masunod ang Social Distancing, magkakaroon ng queueing number na may cut-off na hanggang 120 na drayber kada araw at niilimitahan lamang kada batch ng orientation sa kwarenta (40) na drayber. Mahigpit ding ipatutupad ang No Face Shield, No Face Mask, No Entry.

Alinsunod sa Republic Act No. 11494, o mas kilala bilang Bayanihan to Recover As One, ang Service Contracting Program ay may layuning masigurado na may maasahan at ligtas na pampublikong transportasyon para sa mga commuters.

Bukod pa rito, ang Service Contracting Program ay magbibigay ng libreng sakay sa ating mga health-care frontliners na patuloy na lumalaban sa COVID-19.

Para sa mga interesado na kumpletuhin ang mga sumusunod na requirements:

- Original at Photocopy ng Professional Driver's License;

- Certification na pirmado ng operator na nagpapatunay na siya ay awtorisadong drayber ng idineklarang unit;

- Photocopy ng valid ID ng Operator (likod at harap) na may tatlong pirma ng operator;

- Photocopy ng OR/CR ng mimamanehong Jeep;

- Photocopy ng Certificate of Public Convenience.

Pagkatapos mag-register, ang kwalipikadong drayber ay sasailalim sa oryentasyon na pamumunuan ng LTFRB at ng Systems Manager.

Ugaliing regular na bisitahin ang LTFRB Official Facebook page para sa mga karagdagang impormasyon na ilalabas, patungkol sa Service Contracting Program sa mga susunod na araw. Para naman sa mga karagdagang katanungan, maaring tumawag sa LTFRB Program Implementing Unit Office - (02) 8529 - 7111 loc 845 o sa LTFRB 24/7 Hotline: 1342. **(LTFRB/PIA-NCR)**

LOLO, NATIGBAK DAHIL SA ALAK?

DAHIL sa umano'y sobrang kalasingan, natagpuang patay ang 66-anyos na lolo nang mahulog sa bangka na nagsisilbi niyang tirahan at tuluyang nalunod sa Tanza, Cavite.

Hinihinilang may ilang oras ng patay ang biktima si Cesar dela Pena, binata, caretaker, ng Brgy Julugan 3, Tanza.

Sa ulat ng Pat. John Paul Cruz, ng Tanza Municipal Police Station, dakong alas-3:30 Lunes ng hapon natagpuang patay ang biktima sa ilog ng Salinas-Julugan sa naturang barangay.

Natagpuan siya ng isang nagngangalang Romulo Pangilinan.

Ayon sa mga nakakakilala

sa lolo ay lasenggero ito at ginagawang libangan ang pag-inom ng alak pagkatapos ng kanyang trabaho bilang caretaker.

Wala rin inuwiang bahay ang biktima at ginagawang pahingaang ang kanyang bangka.

Bago natagpuang patay ang biktima ay nakitang nakikipag-inuman sa kanyang mga kaibigan saka ito bumalik sa bangka na hinihinalang nahulog.

Nabatid pa na ilang ulit na ring nahulog ang biktima matapos itong mag-iinom at natutulog sa kanyang bangka.

Gayunman ay inalam pa din kung may naganap na foul play sa pagkamatay ng biktima. **GENE ADSUARA**

Hontiveros questions announcement that Pfizer will only be for NCR, mega cities

"NGAYON pa lang, nakikita na natin na yung mga big cities ay may kakayahan makipag-unahan at may mga kontrata na ang iilan para sa mga bakuna. Paaano ang mga probinsya na nahahirapan? Tax-payers din ang mga taga-probinsya. Dapat all-in tayo sa pagsusuporta sa kanila."

This according to Senator Risa Hontiveros who questioned the announcement of Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque that the Pfizer vaccine, which has a 90% efficacy rate, is not an option for inoculation programs in the province.

Roque said that because provinces lack ultracold storage facilities, a special requirement for Pfizer vaccines, the brand could only be reserved for mega cities such as Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao.

"Yang ganyang rason ay kung hindi trabahong tamad ay gross incompetence," the senator remarked. "Bakit ipapasa sa publiko ang burden ng kawalan ng pasilidad para sa bakuna? Bakit hindi naisama sa pagpapalano lalo't alam naman ng gobyerno na kail-

angan nitong mag-diversify ng vaccines dahil sa limited global supply?"

Hontiveros said she will bring up the issue during Round 2 of the Senate Committee of the Whole hearing on the vaccination plan on Friday. The senator also earlier brought up concerns about delivery of the COVID-19 vaccines to geographically-isolated areas (GIDAS), which she says the Department of Health (DOH) and the National Taskforce on COVID-19 (NTF) have yet to respond to.

"Give up na ba agad? It is worrisome that we are not even trying to consider or find solutions. I am especially worried because of the bad track record of the DOH in delivering vaccines to regions and areas far-flung from the NCR. This really brings into question just how committed we are to delivering the different options to all Filipinos. At dahil pinupush pa ng Palasyo ang "forfeit on first refusal", parang ginigipit ang pagpipilian ng mga indigent sa probinsya," she said.

BOC-MICP Condemns Two Forty-footer Abandoned and Seized Containers

AS part of efforts of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to decongest its facilities, the Bureau of Customs through the Manila International Container Port (MICP) condemned two (2) forty-footer abandoned and seized containers containing onions in Barangay Maliwala, Bacolor, Pampanga last December 30, 2020.

With the assistance of RJAM Waste Management Services as the condemner, a composite team from MICP's Auction and Cargo Disposal Division (ACDD), Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS),

Enforcement and Security Service (ESS), Piers Inspection Division (PID), and Philippine Coastguard (PCG) escorted and supervised the condemnation of the abandoned and seized goods done by means of burying.

The seizure and condemnation of the said goods are part of Bureau of Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo B. Guerrero's border protection initiatives to protect the public against unsafe goods and to zero out overstaying cargoes to decongest ports and promote trade facilitation. **PR**

Dacera case hearing reset to Jan. 27

MANILA – The Philippine National Police (PNP) sought to reset the preliminary investigation of the case of flight attendant Christine Angelica Dacera, prosecutors said on Wednesday.

In a press statement, the Makati City Prosecutor's Office said the next hearing is scheduled on Jan. 27, after police investigators are still waiting for the results of forensics tests on Dacera's body such as DNA analysis, toxicology/chemical

While most COVID-19 cases are in 'mega cities' like Metro Manila and Davao, Hontiveros highlighted that provinces are also experiencing a surge in cases and are struggling from the pandemic as well. The senator cited Bacolod City as an example, which she says became a COVID-19 hotspot after the 'Balik Probinsya' program of the government.

"Pinabalik ng gobyerno ang karamihan sa mga probinsya nila noong simula ng pandemya. Wag naman natin sila iwanan sa laylayan ng vaccination plan. Let's make sure they don't get the short end of the stick," she concluded. **PR**

analysis, histopathology examination, and laboratory results from the Makati Medical Center. Meanwhile, seven of the 11 respondents attended the preliminary investigation. Out of the seven, only five submitted counter-affidavits.

The PNP also submitted a supplemental complaint of the investigating police officers.

On Tuesday, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said forensics experts from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) have recovered 100 milliliters of urine from the second autopsy on the remains of Dacera, which he said may help uncover the circumstances behind her death.

Dacera was found dead in her hotel room in Makati City around noon on Jan. 1, after a private New Year's Eve party with her friends.

The initial autopsy conducted by the Southern Police District's Crime Laboratory Office on Dacera has ruled the cause of her death as "ruptured aortic aneurysm".

Dacera was laid to rest in her hometown in General Santos City on January 10. **(PNA)**

PH prelates to follow Vatican note on Ash Wednesday observance

MANILA – Catholic prelates said Wednesday they would follow the procedure released by the Vatican on the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday this year.

"Actually (the) sprinkling of ashes on the head is the original way. This was already done last year," Manila Apostolic Administrator, Bishop Broderick Pabillo, said in an interview.

Pabillo said they are waiting for the directive of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) regarding the celebration.

"Last year, priests (had) a choice. We are waiting for CBCP instructions still," he said.

Caloocan Bishop Pablo David said, "We actually did that already last Ash (Wednesday) 2020."

Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco also said he would follow the procedure.

"We would just do the sprinkling, which goes

back to ancient times," he said.

In a note published on January 12, the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments directed priests to say the formula, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel," or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," once to everyone present, rather than to each person.

The note said the priest "cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask, and distributes ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places."

He then takes the ash and sprinkles it on the head of each one without saying anything.

Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 17, marks the start of the Lenten season for Catholics. **(PNA)**

Bataan shares best practices in fight vs COVID-19

BALANGA CITY (PIA) -- Governor Albert Garcia shared the province's best practices in the fight against COVID-19 as Bataan virtually celebrates its 264th founding anniversary.

These include the Kusina sa Barangay, distribution of 25 kilograms of rice to every household, establishment of the 1Bataan-Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) RT-PCR Laboratory in Balanga City, establishment of a Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory at Mariveles District Hospital (MDH),

and designation of both the BGHMC and MDH as facilities that would exclusively treat COVID-19 patients.

Also, the construction of the 300 bed capacity 1Bataan Mega Quarantine and Isolation Facility located in Orani town, and launch of the 1Bataan Seal of COVID-free Barangay.

He added that these projects are the result of everyone's effort in the fight against the unseen enemy. "Like in the war, ang laban ng isa ay laban ng lahat," the official stressed. **(CLJD/CASB-PIA 3)**

ACE HARDWARE HELPS REBUILD LIVES

While the series typhoons late last year have gone, many of those severely affected are still trying to rebuild their lives. To help fast-track recovery, ACE Hardware staff recently donated needed items such as bed & mats, PPEs, and cleaning materials to affected residents of Kasiglahan Village in Rodriguez, Rizal. This activity was held jointly with SM Foundation and the local DSWD chapter. To fulfill its "Helpful Place" promise, ACE Hardware serves communities through outreach initiatives like this, as well as provide customers nationwide with relevant and helpful products.



The ACE Hardware team turns over the donations to the residents of Kasiglahan Village Rodriguez Rizal with SM Foundation and DSWD.



The Kasiglahan Village residents received donations of beds, mats, cleaning materials and PPEs from ACE Hardware that will help them rebuild their homes and keep their families safe from Covid-19 pandemic.

FOR THE LOVE OF DUTY AND DIGNITY

SM CITY BACOR, CAVITE – As we welcome the year with a hopeful heart, we must never leave the stories that defined the greatest values of humanity we encountered during the pandemic. From the bravery of our medical front liners, to the courage of our frontline staff and security personnel, simple acts of kindness made their valuable deeds even more remarkable.

SG Aries Denver Lelis, a security guard from Combined Blue Dragon Security Inc. never hesitated to return what he recovered unattended at one of SM City Bacoor's Mall Entrance. Despite being a breadwinner, he chose to exhibit his integrity through choosing to do what is right. "Hindi ko ipagpapalit ang marangal kong trabaho sap era lamang." said SG Lelis who valued his job over the money he could have had, 'makuntento tayo sa kung ano ang ibinigay ng Nasa taas, at magpasalamat sa Panginoon dahil hindi niya tayo pinababayaan."

SG Lelis did not just stayed true to his sworn duty, but also made an example his son could follow and be proud of. Truly, his deed is reflective of SM's Corporate value of honesty and integrity and bespeaks well of the attribute of a good member of SM Security force, worthy of praise and emulation.



LOVE YOUR CHILD'S EYES WITH EXECUTIVE OPTICAL- SM CENTER IMUS



SM CENTER IMUS, CAVITE – Online learning can be damaging to your child's eyes due to prolonged screen exposure. Worry no more because we can and we'll help you take good care of your child's vision for it is as important as yours. These two cuties are available EXECUTIVE OPTICAL – SM Center Imus! Hurry and grab one for your child now!

POC pangungunahan ang halalan sa volleyball

Nanawagan ang Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) sa Komite ng Olimpiko ng Pilipinas (POC) na magsagawa ng halalan para sa kung ano ang magiging kahihinatnan ng isang bagong pambansang asosasyon sa palakasan (NSA) para sa volleyball.

Ayon kay POC Abraham Tolentino na kinakailangan ang halalan upang maganap bago magtipon ang FIVB para sa pangkalahatang pagpupulong nito.

"Mayroon nang kahilingan mula sa FIVB ilang oras na ang nakakaraan upang magsagawa ng halalan sa volleyball bago ang pangkalahatang pagpupulong ng FIVB ngayong Pebrero," sinabi ni Tolentino matapos gaganapin ng POC ang unang pagpupulong ng board sa East Ocean Palace Restaurant sa Paranaque. "Nais ng FIVB na kilalanin ang isang lehitimong volleyball NSA bago ang pandaigdigang kongreso. Ito ay kagyat."

Sa itinakdang pangkalahatang pagpupulong ng FIVB sa susunod na buwan, ang volleyball NSA ay kailangang magkaroon ng hanay ng mga opisyal sa pagtatapos ng Enero. Kung saan ay nagtakda ang POC ng halalan sa huling buwang ito.

Sa ngayon, mayroong dalawang pangkat na namamahala sa volleyball na hindi pa rin nagkakan-sundo

Iginiit ng unang Philippine Volleyball Federation (PVF) na kinikilala pa rin ito ng FIVB sa kabila ng pagtatanggal sa kanila ng POC ng kanilang katayuan bilang opisyal na NSA para sa volleyball.

Sa kabilang banda, kinikilala ngayon ng isang POC, ang Larong Volleyball sa Pilipinas Inc. (LVPI), ang siyang humahawak sa mga tungkulin ng pambansang koponan.

Gayunpaman, sinabi ng POC na ang alinman sa PVF o LVPI ay hindi kini-

kilala ng FIVB ngayon.

"Kung walang lehitimong NSA, hindi kami maaaring magpadala ng mga pambansang koponan sa mga paligsahang napanarusa ng FIVB sa ibang bansa," dagdag ni Tolentino. "Samakatuwid, hihilingin namin sa lahat ng mga stakeholder ng volleyball na makipagtulungan at lumahok sa mga halalan."

Samantala, patuloy na binibigyang diin ng pangulo ng PVF na si Ed Cantada na ang kanyang pangkat ay ang tanging NSA na kinilala ng FIVB. Inulit ni Cantada na ang PVF ay nakumpirma sa panahon ng FIVB General Assembly ng 2018 at inangkin pa na nakakuha sila ng paanyaya sa susunod na edisyon.

"Ang PVF ay hindi kailanman tinanggal sa pagiging kasapi nito sa FIVB tulad ng paratang. Ang General Assembly ay ang pinakamataas na katawan ng paggawa ng desisyon sa FIVB. Kahit na ang Board of Administration ay hindi maaaring labag sa desisyon nito," sinabi ni Cantada.

Tinanggihan din niya na mayroong isang kasunduan na ginawa upang mahalagang pagsamahin ang PVF at ang LVPI upang maging isang solong samahan.

"Ang PVF ay hindi sa anumang paraan isang bahagi ng ipinanukalang alyansa. Ang PVF ay hindi kailanman sasang-ayon sa isang alyansa. Ang FIVB GA ay nagpasya na pabor sa PVF. Ang desisyon ng pinakamataas na awtoridad sa volleyball ay dapat igtatag. Ito lamang ang PVF na ang pambansang pederasyon na kaakibat ng FIVB," sinabi ni Cantada. "Hindi na kailangan upang maitaguyod ang isang alyansa bilang isang pangkat na kaakibat ng FIVB na mayroon na para sa bansa."

Nanawagan pa siya sa mga miyembro ng sinasabing alyansa na sumama na lamang sa PVF.



Abelgas kampeon sa Espana Chess Club Manila

NANGUNA si top seed International Master elect at Fide Master Roel Abelgas ng Dasmariñas City, Cavite sa katatapos na 23rd Edition ng Espana Chess Club Manila Bullet Swiss Arena na ginanap sa lichess platform.

Tinalo nito si National Master engineer Robert Arellano sa twelve at final round para tumapos ng total 10.5 points at makopo ang titulo sa online chess event na hosted ni engineer Ernie Fetisan Faeldonia, president ng organizing Espana Chess Club Manila.

Si FM Abelgas na top player at coach ng Dasmariñas Chess Academy under the guidance ni Rep. Elpidio "Pidi" Barzaga Jr. ay nakamit ang kanyang unang Kampeonato sa nasabing chessfest. Natunghayan ang event via lichess.com na may time control 2 minutes & zero increments na

tampok ang 92 all Filipino players.

Mga pinataob ni FM Abelgas sa final rankings ay sina Yves Christian Fiel (10 pts.), National Master Elwin Retanal (9.5 pts.), Leonico Arden Abiad (8.5 pts.) at National Master Julius Sinangote (8.5 pts.) na nag occupy ng next four places.

Pasok naman sa top 10 ay sina Raymond Baon (8 pts.), engineer Joel Hicap (8 pts.), Stevenson Garong (7.5 pts.), National Master engineer Robert Arellano (7.5 pts.) at Narciso Gayares (7.5 pts.).

Iba pang nagwagi sa category winners ay sina Treysa Ann Flores (top 2000), Vincent Brimbuela (top 1800), Allan Gabriel Hilarion (top kiddie) at Woman International Master Jan Jodilyn Fronda (top lady) Marlon Bernardino

Tuloy-tuloy na Training bubble ng Gilas Men para sa FIBA ACQ Peb

Ipinagpatuloy ng Gilas Pilipinas Men ang kanilang training bubble sa Inspire Sports Academy sa Calamba bago ang huling window ng FIBA Asia Cup Qualifiers.

Kaugnay nito may 12 manlalaro kasama ang isang beterano ng Basketball ng Pilipinas (PBA) ang pumasok sa "Calambubble" upang simulan ang kanilang pagbuo para sa Pebrero 18-23 na kaganapan sa Angeles University Foundation Sports and Cultural Center.

Nanguna sa paunang pool ng pagsasanay ay ang bantay ng NLEX na si Kiefer Ravena, na inanunsyo sa pamamagitan ng Instagram na tinawag siya muli para sa tungkulin ng pambansang koponan.

Bumabalik din sa pagsasanay sina PBA draftees Isaac Go, Matt at Mike Nieto, at Rey Suerte, at mga bituin sa kolehiyo na sina Javi Gomez de Liaño, Dave Idefonso, Justine Baltazar, Calvin matetikaana, William Navarro, at Kenmark Cariño.

Ang sentro ng Ateneo na Ange Kouame, na ang naturalization ay pinoproseso sa Kongreso, sumali rin sa pagsasanay.

"Ang mga kabataang ito ay hindi lamang napatunayan ang kanilang dedikasyon sa programa ng Gilas ngunit ipinakita rin ang kanilang kakayahang gumana nang maayos bilang isang koponan tulad ng nakita natin sa dalawang laro laban sa Thailand sa huling laro," sinabi ng pangulo ng SBP na si Al Panlilio.

Si Jong Uichico, na itinalaga bilang head coach sa window ng Nobyembre, ay inatasan muli upang sanayin ang Gilas Men kasama ang director ng programang pambansang koponan na si Tab Baldwin, Boyet Fernandez, at Sandy Arespacochaga.

Ang meralco gaffer na si Norman Black at ang punong taktika ng Rain Or Shine na si Caloy Garcia ay pinangalanan din sa coaching staff.

"Nagpapasalamat ako sa kanilang pangako sa patuloy na paglalagay ng pundasyon para sa koponan na bubuhin namin sa 2023," sinabi ni Panlilio.

Habang si Ravena lang ang nakapasok sa ngayon, ilang iba pang mga PBA star ang inaasahang sumali sa training bubble sa huling buwan na ito.

"Napakaganda ng mga talakayan sa PBA at nakakuha kami ng pangako ng maraming mga manlalaro ng PBA na magiging bahagi ng ikalawang batch na papasok sa bubble training sa Enero 22," dagdag ni Panlilio.

Dagdag pa ng kasabay na gobernador ng Meralco 8, "Tulad ng lagi naming pinahalalagahan ang buong suporta ng komisyoner ng PBA na si Willie Marcial at ng PBA board sa programa ng Gilas."

Sa pagdating ng mga umaasa sa Tokyo Olimpiko sa susunod na katapusan ng linggo, nangangahulugan ito na ang mga pambansang atleta mula sa apat na disiplina ay magiging inspire bago ang isang abalang 2021 sa palakasan.



PINAHAYAG ni PSC Commissioner at bagong itinalaga bilang Chef de Mission ng Sea Games Ramon Fernandez sa linghang TOPS Usapang sports via Zoom online week 2 na magiging priority nito ang kalusugan ng mga atleta habang wala sa bansa ang vaccine kontra covid 19. (RGN)

DOF EXEC CITES NEED FOR REVIEW OF PH FOOD PROGRAMS

MANILA – The government's food programs need some enhancement to address any weather-related supply constraints that results in price upticks, a Department of Finance (DOF) official said.

In an economic bulletin, DOF Undersecretary Gil Beltran cited further acceleration of domestic inflation rate in December 2020 to 3.5 percent from month-ago's 3.3 percent, which was traced to the impact of typhoons on several agricultural products.

The rate of price increase of vegetables posted the highest jump at 19.73 percent last December from the previous month's 14.62 percent.

Rice, which has been posting deflation in the past months, posted a 0.10-

percent inflation rate last December.

Meat inflation accelerated to 9.95 percent last month from November's 8.15 percent, which Beltran attributed to the impact of the African swine fever (ASF). Among the regions, he said Cagayan Valley and Bicol registered the highest inflation rate at 6.6 percent due to the devastation brought by the strong typhoons last November and December. Beltran thus highlighted the need to restructure the Department of Agriculture's food programs "so that unaffected regions can supply alternative supplies of vegetables to typhoon-battered regions immediately after a typhoon."

"Likewise, a stronger program to stamp out ASF needs to be set up," he added. **(PNA)**

DOE, USAID partner to promote private investments in energy

MANILA – The Department of Energy (DOE) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have partnered to increase private investments in advanced energy technology to ensure energy security in the country.

The DOE and USAID kicked off Wednesday the three-day Energy Secure Philippines (ESP) activity co-design workshop, which aims to promote private investments in the energy sector.

"The US remains a solid ally and one of the country's major trading partners. We are hopeful that our collaboration to promote energy security and development will be sustained and even enhanced," DOE Secretary Alfonso Cusi said. The virtual workshop be-

tween DOE and USAID will set the targets and strategies for the ESP, update tasks and interventions of the government to lure energy investments from the private sector, identify potential partnerships under ESP, and improve the implementation of the program.

"This activity comes at an opportune time for the energy sector as it plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable economic development, especially now that the country is gearing to recover from the Covid-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic," he added.

Cusi said the ESP will also help the country in deploying advanced energy technology and boost energy resiliency. "We anticipate that the project will contribute to

SEC warns public vs. investing in Masa Mart

MANILA – The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has cautioned the public about Masa Mart Business Center (MMBC), which has been posing as a multilevel marketing program to entice the public into its unauthorized investment schemes. In an advisory dated Jan. 12, the Commission urged the public to avoid or stop engaging in the investment-taking activities of Masa Mart and its related entities or representatives, as they have yet to file the requisite registration statement nor secure the approval of the corresponding permit to sell for such activities.

Masa Mart was found to be offering a Subscription and Gains Program, under which a member may invest at least PHP1,250 to PHP500 million, in exchange for returns of PHP2,746 to about PHP11.65 billion depending on the lock-in period. This entails an interest of up to 30 percent per month or up to 2,561.81 percent per year.

The group also offers

our shared goals with the US government's Asia-Enhancing Development and Growth through Energy or Asia-EDGE Initiative to help combat poverty and foster economic progress," Cusi added.

Joining the ESP workshop are representatives from the National Transmission Corporation, National Electrification Administration, Energy Regulatory Commission, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Climate Change Commission, Mindanao Development Authority, National Grid Corporation of the Philippines, and the Philippine Competition Commission. **(PNA)**

The MMBC PHP5,888 Combo Package, where members could invest PHP5,888 for promised gains of PHP20,000 after six months; and the Do It Yourself Subscription of 24 months, Roll-over Program, where members could generate an income of PHP100,000 to PHP12 million after two years.

Other offers include the United Masa Coin (UMC) or the XUM Coin, which is purportedly a cryptocurrency promoted through a software-controlled app called UmcUSDTBot, as well as a referral program, among others.

The SEC said Masa Mart offers similar investment programs as TBCMMP Masa Mart Inc., which was earlier issued with an advisory on April 14, 2020. Records show TBCMMP and Masa Mart share the same president, Jessie R. Royo. Masa Mart is registered with the Commission as a One Person Corporation under the Revised Corporation Code, and with the Department of Trade and Industry.

However, such registrations only grant the company juridical personality and does not authorize it to issue, sell, or offer for sale securities to the public nor engage in business activities requiring a secondary license from the SEC.

Additionally, Masa Mart does not appear among the registered banks, exchanges, or companies engaged in digital assets with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Neither UMC nor XUM are also included among the list of generally accepted virtual currencies posted on the World Coin Index and Coin Market Cap websites.

Those who act as salesmen, brokers, dealers or agents of fraudulent investment schemes may be held criminally liable and penalized with a maximum fine of PHP5 million or imprisonment of 21 years or both under the Securities

PH open to tie-up with other countries to boost int'l travel: DOT

MANILA – Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said the Philippines is willing to tie-up with neighboring countries to create "international travel bubbles" that would allow for international travel and tourism amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a statement Tuesday, Puyat said these international travel bubbles would demand strict enforcement of health and safety protocols through the establishment of proper infrastructure that is certified by both governments to ensure "symbiotic and harmonious results".

"Whenever feasible, the Philippines is willing to tie-up with neighboring countries first with the main consideration of proximity," Puyat said.

The return of overseas Filipinos who traveled back to the Philippines before the recent travel ban, she said, has served as a "dry-run" to the potential travel bubble with these countries. Local travelers to reboot PH tourism

With no end yet in sight for the Covid-19 pandemic, she said the DOT would continue to focus on local travelers to reboot Philippine tourism for 2021.

"Together with the Tourism Promotions Board, we will spearhead product diversification and enhancement activities with the regions and LGUs," Puyat said.

With the fear of possible transmission of the new Covid-19 variant, she said the country's entry protocols would have be

Regulation Code.

Republic Act 11469, or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, further penalizes those participating in cyber incidents that make use or take advantage of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic to prey on the public through scams, phishing, fraudulent emails, or other similar acts with two-month imprisonment or a maximum fine of PHP1 million or both. **(PR)**

strengthened, with the DOT working on the continued development of health and safety guidelines for the operations of tourism enterprises and activities.

"Hopefully, with the improvement of community quarantine levels, efforts will be intensified to help revive tourism activities and restore job and livelihood opportunities," Puyat said.

For local destinations reopened by their respective local government units (LGU) to tourists, she said the DOT will assist through the standardization of travel protocols and "harmonizing" different LGU requirements.

"To ensure good traveler experience, protocols for each tourism activity should be developed," Puyat said. This could be made possible through further development of the Philippine Travel applications to integrate other local and national government systems and platforms and become a "super app that more travelers can rely on", she said.

To strengthen the country's institutional and policy reforms and help prepare destinations for the new normal, she said the National Tourism Development Plan 2016-2022 will be aligned with the Tourism Response and Recovery Plan —the tourism industry's "blueprint for recovery".

"Recalibration of targets and refocusing to domestic tourism in the short term will be carried out. Such plans will also need to be in harmony with the NEDA's Ambisyon 2040 and Philippine Development Plan," Puyat said.

From January to December 2020, the Philippines only received 1,323,956 foreign visitors, a decline of 83.97 percent from the over eight million arrivals in the same period in 2019, according to DOT data.

Total receipts generated from inbound tourism in 2020 registered an estimated PHP81.40 billion, a decline of 83.97 percent from the 8,260,913 in the same period in 2019. **(PNA)**

Firm offers mobile containersolutions for Covid-19 vaccine

MANILA – As the government prepares to roll out the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) vaccine program this year, Mecotec GmbH and Deutsche Motorgeräte Inc. (DMI) offers a unique cold storage solution in the country which will be available in the first quarter of this year.

Mecotec's MCF8 is a mobile and hybrid container with deep cooling technology to freeze contents from -20°C to -80°C, meeting the handling requirements for various Covid-19 vaccines.

"Vaccine manufacturers, governments, hospitals, and local communities are facing significant challenges in transporting, storing, and distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine options due to the requirement of maintaining a constant temperature from -20°C down to -80°C in order to retain their effectiveness. Currently, very few options are available to handle the distribution requirements of these vaccines," Mecotec chief executive officer Enrico Klauer said in a

statement Tuesday.

A 20-foot MFC8 can store up to 500,000 doses of vaccines, while the 40-foot container can store up to 1 million doses.

The German cooling technology provider has partnered with DMI to be the distributor of MFC8 here. DMI is a sales and distribution firm of high-quality German tools and products used for disaster prevention and relief, medical, and agricultural sectors.

"The local distribution of these vaccines requires a thorough understanding of our geographical complexities. To address the lengthy logistical lead time often associated with transporting goods within our borders, we need a solution that would allow these vaccines to be stored and transported at the required temperature for a longer period of time," DMI president Jess Co said.

Co added the mobile container can address the concerns on delivering the vaccines up to the remote areas in the Philippines. **(PNA)**

Locally-made anti-dengue drug dev't underway

MANILA – Local researchers are now gearing for the Phase 2 clinical trial for an anti-dengue drug, which could possibly be the first treatment for the disease.

"Wala pa pong accepted medicine for dengue (There is no accepted medicine for dengue yet). This will be the first anti-dengue medicine, if ever. First locally-made drug," Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) executive director Jaime Montoya told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) in a message Thursday.

The project is led by researchers from Pharmalytics Corporation, in partnership with De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute, and funded by the PCHRD, Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Fortunato de la Peña said.

So far, he said the PCHRD has already allocated PHP4.69 million for the

Phase 1 clinical trial conducted at the Gentry Medical Center and Hospital in General Trias, Cavite. It ended in 2020.

The Phase 2 clinical trial, which will last for 10 months, will be held at the same hospital and about 600 are expected to participate in the study, he added.

Montoya said Phase 1 clinical trial determined the maximum dose of the drug that could be administered to healthy volunteers without manifesting any serious adverse events nor dose-limiting toxicities.

"Compared to the Phase 1 clinical trial where safety among healthy subjects was evaluated, Phase 2 will focus on testing the drug on a much greater number of volunteers (approximately 600) to test both its safety and efficacy. The volunteers who will be recruited at this stage are dengue patients," Montoya

Filipinas turn to bullet journaling to make 2021 more manageable

MANILA – It's no secret that most plans have been canceled or put on hold as a result of the pandemic. Being stuck indoors for the most part, the days felt pretty much the same. Months of living under uncertain times is taking a toll on people's mental health. Apart from talking to a friend or an expert, more Filipinos are turning to bullet journaling to make life more productive and meaningful.

Bullet journaling, created by American digital product designer and author Ryder Carroll, is meant to help people manage their lives as well as document their thoughts. It's designed to fulfill small, actionable tasks like making to-do lists while at the same time decluttering your mind by listing down personal notes. In social media, the hashtag #bulletjournal or #bujo would show photos of journal spreads that are either minimalist or artistic. Regardless of how your bullet journal looks, it's more important to make sure that it gives you a clear picture as to how you're investing time and energy.

Here's how some Filipinas utilized bullet journaling to get their life together: Nizza Gueco, 33, a freelance writer and owner of online stationery shop "Pluzzle by Nizza", said bullet journaling has helped her stay focused at the tasks at hand to avoid feeling stressed out. "It made me less workaholic and more focused on

each task. Dati kasi basta may gagawin pa, gagawin ko dapat agad kaya na bu-burn-out (I used to be the type of person who would do tasks right away, that's why I get burned out). I'm the type of person na maraming gustong gawin (who has a lot of goals)," she told Philippine News Agency in an interview. Although she had many things to get done, Nizza said she would end up not having accomplished anything because of getting distracted with other thoughts. Her bullet journal has helped her overcome this challenge.

"Bullet journaling helped me compartmentalize every aspect of my life kaya mas naha-handle ko daily schedule ko, (that's why I can handle my daily schedule better)," she added.

Nizza would describe her bullet journal design and theme as functional. She believes that one doesn't necessarily have to be artistic to start the practice.

"Bullet journaling is not about being artistic and having the prettiest spread. Your bullet journal is yours and is supposedly for your eyes only. So even if you are not as artistic as the artists you see on Pinterest and YouTube, if your bullet journal serves its purpose and helps you navigate through your life better, then that is what is important," she said.

This year, Nizza hopes her stationery shop would be able to reach more people so that she could share her

love for art and crafts to like-minded individuals.

"This may sound plastic or cliché, but in all honesty, I love journaling so much and this is where I found my happiness. To do that though, I need to make it sustainable," she said.

Just like a friend, Mikaella Ericka Cea, 18, a second-year nursing student, is new to the #bujo trend. She said she started taking journaling more seriously at the start of the pandemic.

She said she doesn't allow herself to get intimidated or pressured by journal spreads with daily or weekly logs. For Mikaella, the bullet journal should be treated as a "friend" she enjoys spending time with.

"Bullet journaling is meant to be messy and not-so-organized after all. Apart from tracking your progress, to-dos, achievements, and other things that you want to pursue, it is meant to be a tool to know yourself better," she said.

Mikaella also noted that it's enough to be able to see how she has improved through time and celebrate the little victories such as getting better grades.

"When I see that I'm making even a small progress every day, that alone makes me productive and motivated to continue doing what makes me happy. Bullet journaling has also become a stress reliever to me, so whenever I browse my past spreads, I just realize that there's so much more to do for myself to improve in different aspects, may it be in terms of art or academics," she said.

As a self-proclaimed noodles lover, Mikaella also included a page dedicated to the number of times she eats noodles in a year.

Mikaella is looking forward to being able to manage her time wisely so that she would have more time for her hobbies.

"I want to finish the semester with good grades, at the same time, I also want to have more time for art despite my busy schedule," she said.

Goal-oriented Recognizing how she would sometimes feel "lost" amid life's uncertainties, Mara Villaflo, 27, an internal bank auditor, said her bullet journal serves as a reminder to work hard to achieve her short and long-term goals.

"I'm actually the type of person that feels lost when I can't see what I need to do for the day, week, or month so my bullet journal has helped me align my thoughts and keep me on track especially during my current work-from-home setup," she said.

Mara loves doodling, so her bullet journal has also helped her unleash her in-

ner artist. Like most enthusiasts, she would also decorate her journal spreads using stickers and washi tape.

"Although I'm not very good at drawing, I like doodling on my journals. It makes it more personal and sometimes helps me express what I want to say," she said.

If you're interested in starting a bullet journal, Mara, said that consistency is key.

"Bullet journaling may take some of your time. With how busy life is, time may come that you forget to do your spreads of update your journals. Setting schedules on when you update and create spreads help a last," she said.

No matter how busy you are, she said taking five to 15 minutes a day to jot down on your bullet journal can do wonders.

"Bullet journals don't need to be perfect, so just do whatever you want with your spreads. You are allowed to make mistakes and correct them," she added, nothing she would give the same advice when it comes to life.

Personal satisfaction Ruth Abinan, 30, a former hotel membership services officer, uses her bullet journal an outlet to clear up jumbled thoughts in her mind.

"When I was still working, I would seldom write on it because of my schedule. But since I'm currently between jobs, write on it every day to keep me sane during this pandemic," she said.

She gets her inspiration from the art of influencer and calligraphy artist Abbey Sy and vlogger and content creator Kaila Ocampo also known as rainbowholic.

Aside from being a part to-do-list and diary, her bullet journal has also helped her keep track of her sleep schedule, menstrual cycle, and spending habits.

Sometimes, she also uses it to keep track of books she has read and wants to read as well as movies and series she has watched and wants to watch because it gives her personal satisfaction.

In the distant future, Ruth would want to be able to run her own business. For now, she'll work on saving up enough money.

Bullet journaling could be a great addition to any self-care routine. All you need is a blank or dot grid journal and a no-bleed pen. You can also use watercolor, stickers, washi tape, or any other art materials available.

In the words of Lewis Carroll, what matters most is to "take the time to identify the things that interest us and think of ways to pursue them." **(PNA)**

PERALTA NAMES ACTING JUDGE FOR 2 SULU COURTS

MANILA – Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta has designated a new judge to take up pending matters in two Sulu regional trial courts (RTC), including the court which handles the case involving nine dismissed policemen charged over the killing of four military intelligence officers in June last year.

In Administrative Order No. 12-2021 released on Wednesday, Peralta named Judge Alsad Halil Alfad of the Siasi, Sulu RTC Branch 25 as acting judge for two other courts -- the Jolo, Sulu RTC Branch 3 and Parang, Sulu RTC Branch 4 -- and to "take cognizance of all urgent matters pending in the said courts until the return" of Judge Grace C. Tillah-Alasco and Judge Shene Canete.

Court Administrator Midas Marquez told reporters that the judges could not return yet to their posts in the province "because it was on lockdown".

On Tuesday, the Justice

department said it would ask a Sulu court for a travel ban against the nine dismissed police officers.

Last Dec. 31, Sulu Governor Abdusakur Tan announced a lockdown in the province from Jan. 4 to 17 to prevent the entry of a new coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) variant from the United Kingdom, which has already entered neighboring Malaysia.

Killed during the June 29, 2020 shooting were Maj. Marvin Indammog, 39; Capt. Irwin Managuelod, 33; Sgt. Jaime Velasco, 38; and Cpl. Abdal Asula, 33.

The four soldiers were tailing four terrorist suicide bombers when the shooting happened.

The nine dismissed policemen are S/Sgt. Almuzrin Hadjaruddin, Pat. Alkajal Mandangan, Pat. Rajiv Putalan, Senior M/Sgt. Abdelzhimar Padjiri, M/Sgt. Hanie U Baddiri, S/Sgt. Iskandar Susulan, S/Sgt. Ernisar Sappal, Cpl. Sulki Andaki, and Pat. Mohamad Nur Pasani. (PNA)

Army's 2ID slams Karapatan Southern Tagalog for spreading fake news

CAMP CAPINPIN, Tanay, Rizal (PIA) — The Army's 2nd Infantry Division slammed the false claims of Karapatan - Southern Tagalog after the security forces have successfully ensured that all legal and available means to give due respect to NPA casualties by handing over their remains only to their legitimate families.

The Karapatan - Southern Tagalog in their issued statement claimed the government withheld the remains of a slain NPA member, particularly the cadaver of Vilma Salabao, also known as Ka Sandra, one of the five NPAs killed during a shootout on December 17 in the municipality of Baras.

Salabao, an NPA extortion collector, was among the five casualties who figured in an armed engagement against authorities who served an arrest warrant against another NPA member, Antonio Cule alias Dad for frustrated murder.

Following legal process in claiming cadavers, the military on Friday officially announced the remains of Salabao were properly

handed over to her sister Thelma Glindo Solitario after she presented sufficient documents that prove their familial relations.

Previously, the cadavers of Niño Alberga and Jonathan Arias Alberga were properly handed to their immediate families last December 20, while the remains of Westly Obmerga and Carlito Simon were safely turned over to their families on December 21 and December 29, 2020, respectively.

The proper handing over of cadavers have been in close coordination with the PNP, LGUs, and the Antipolo Memorial Homes which denied the persistence of the Karapatan-ST members to receive the remains of dead NPAs even without proof of immediate relationship.

MGen Greg T Almerol, Commander of 2ID earlier gave his sincere condolences to the families of the slain NPA members and expressed that his troops "want our fellowmen to properly be laid to rest even if they fought for the wrong cause because we consider them victims of

New Manila International Airport project, may 50 taong prangkisa na

LUNGSOD NG MALOLOS (PIA) -- Ganap nang isang batas ang ipinagkaloob na prangkisa para sa pagtatayo ng New Manila International Airport o NMIA bilang Republic Act 11506.

Base sa ipinadalang dokumento ni Kinatawan Jose Antonio Sy-Alvarado ng Unang Distrito ng Bulacan, kung saan matatagpuan ang bayan ng Bulakan na pagtatayuan ng NMIA, 50 taong prangkisa ang ipinagkaloob sa San Miguel Aerocity Inc. na siyang konsesyonaryo sa pagtatayo, pagbubukas at operasyon ng naturang paliparan.

Ayon sa kanyang inakda na House Bill 7507, nakapaloob sa prangkisa ang pagbibigay ng palugit na 10 taon upang kumpletuhin ang konstruksiyon ng NMIA at pasimulan ang operasyon nito sa 2,500 ektaryang lupain sa Bulakan na katabi ng Manila Bay.

Inuutusan din ang Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines na bigyan ng operating permit ito sa loob ng isang taon matapos makumpleto ang konstruksiyon.

Sa loob ng nasabing 10 taon, pagkalooban ng pamahalaang nasyonal

ang konsesyonaryo ng iba't ibang tax incentives at exemptions gaya ng income taxes, value added taxes, percentage taxes, excise taxes, documentary stamp taxes, customs duties and tariffs, taxes on real estates, buildings and personal property, business taxes, franchises taxes, supervision fees, levied at pati mga buwis na ipinapatad ng mga pamahalaang lokal.

Inuubliga naman sa nasabing prangkisa ang San Miguel Aerocity Inc. na magbayad sa pamahalaang nasyonal ng 12 porsyento Internal Rate of Return ng NMIA.

Ibig sabihin, magkakaroon ng bahagi ang pamahalaang nasyonal sa kikitain ng operasyon ng NMIA sa ibabaw ng 12% profit margin at 14% naman sa lahat ng kikitain.

Ganito rin ang probisyon sa bersiyon ng Senate Bill 1823 na iniakda naman ni Senador Juan Miguel F. Zubiri.

Para kay Gobernador Daniel Fernando, patunay ito na tuloy na tuloy ang proyektong NMIA.

Kaya't ipinag-utos niya ang paglikha ng panlalawigang komite na tututok at tuwirang makikipag-ugnayan sa konsesyonaryo sa maging daloy ng proyekto, mula sa pagsisimula ng konstruksiyon, panahon ng konstruksiyon, pagtatapos ng proyekto hanggang sa magsimula ang operasyon nito.

Nagpahayag naman si Guiguinto Mayor Ambrosio Cruz, pangulo ng League of Municipalities of the Philippines-Bulacan Chapter, na tuluy-tuloy ang pakikipag-usap ng mga punong bayan at punong lungsod sa konsesyonaryo ng proyekto.

Ito'y upang maging maayos ang pagdaan ng mga kasangkapan at kagamitan na gagamitin para sa konstruksiyon.

Gayundin ang pagrerepaso at pagtutukoy, sa tulong ng konsesyonaryo, ng mga access roads para sa proyekto upang hindi



ROCKSTAR SHOW, NANAIG!

METROTURF FRANCHISE RENEWAL..

Isang magandang laban ang ating nasaksihan sa pagitan ng mga kabayong kalahok na sina Rockstar Show sakay ni Dan Camanero at Line Them Up na sakay naman ni JA Guce sa unang takbuhang noong nakaraan sa Santa Ana Park (PRCI) na kung saan ay nakuhang makalagpas ni Rockstar Show bago sumapit ang meta at managilab sa kabayong si Line Them Up. Sa umpisa ng karera ay agad na kinuha ni Line Them Up ang bandera, kasunod sa tabing balya ang kabayong si Fire Council ni JB Guce at nasa ikatlong puwesto sa gawing labas si Rockstar Show at nasa ika-apat na posisyon si Hookbung Dagat na sinakyan ng hineteng si JL Ramos, pang lima ang kabayong si Silver Glow na ginabayan ni JV Ponce, pang anim si Runawayfromrosenot na nirendahan ni Jim Siego at ang kabayong si Alfie ni AR Manabat ang kulelat sa takbuhang. Pagpasok sa back stretch ay bandera pa rin si Line Them Up ng may apat na kabayo habang kinuha ni Rockstar Show ang ikalawang puwesto, at nasa ikatlo naman si Fire Council, pang apat si Hookbung Dagat at nasa ikalima si Silver Glow. Pagsapit sa huling 400 meters ay nasa harapan pa rin si Line Them Up ngunit nagpapainit naman sa ikalawang puwesto si Rockstar Show kasabay si Fire Council at Runawayfromrosenot. Pagdating sa huling 50 meters ay makalagpas na ang malakas na si Rockstar Show at nanalo ng may higit na kalahating katawan na agwat laban sa nasegundo na si Line Them Up, bumulusok sa pangatlong puwesto si Runawayfromrosenot at pang apat naman si Fire Council. Nakapagtala ang kabayong si Rockstar Show ng tiyempong 1:18 (7'-22"-22'-25") para sa distansiyang 1,300 meter race. Samantala, nakatanggap na ang Metroturf Management ng opisyal na anunsyo mula sa Malacañang hinggil sa pag-renew ng prangkisa sa loob ng dalawampung limang taon o 25 Years Franchise Renewal. Tinitiyak nito sa atin na magkakaroon pa tayo ng aksiyon sa karera ng kabayo sa ating bansa sa marami pang taon na darating. Congrats Bayang Karerista! Congrats Metroturf!

masyadong maka-apekto sa araw-araw na transportasyon, kalakalan at komersiyo ng lalawigan.

Kaugnay nito, sa isang pahayag ni Eduardo Raoul C. Romulo, chief financial officer at treasury head ng San Miguel Holdings Corporation, sa isang panayam na isinagawa ng Bulacan Chamber of Commerce and Industry inaasahang matapos ang konstruksiyon nito sa pagitan ng mga taong 2025 at 2026.

Tinatayang 30 milyong bagong trabaho ang malilikha partikular na sa larangan ng turismo.

May halagang 735.6 bilyong piso ang kabuuang halaga ng proyekto kung saan kasama ang pagtatayo ng walong-kilometrong elevated expressway

mula sa North Luzon Expressway o NLEX sa bahagi ng Marilao patungo sa barangay Taliptip sa Bulakan.

Samantala, bukod sa 8-kilometrong NMIA Expressway mula sa NLEX, may 21 pang mga expressways ang ilalatag ng konsesyonaryo papunta at paalis sa NMIA.

Kabilang diyan ang Skyway Stage 3 extension mula sa Balintawak papuntang Bulakan, Bulacan-Bataan Airport Expressway, Bulacan-Tarlac Airport Expressway segment 1 at segment 2, NMIA-MRT 7 Expressway mula Balagtas hanggang Bulakan at iba pang expressway extension projects mula sa Metro Manila papuntang NMIA sa Bulakan, Bulacan. (CLJD/SFV-PIA 3)

BACCOOR LGU PREPARES FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION, ALLOTS P100M

Bacoor City, Cavite (PIA) – The local chief executive of the city government here, Mayor Lani Mercado-Revilla joined the meeting of the League of Cities in the Philippines (LCP) along with other heads of local government units (LGU) and National Task Force Vaccine Czar Carlito Galvez, Jr. via Zoom.

According to the letter presented by the LGU to the league, the city has a projected population of 707,604 for 2021 with 70% of the total population targeted to be vaccinated.

Mayor Revilla disclosed that the City Government had earmarked about P50M to P100M for the procurement of the COVID-19 vaccine once a vaccine is available.

The distribution of the vaccine according to the Mayor will prioritize the 2,200 city Frontline Health Workers, 312 uniformed personnel, 469 Social Workers, 44,471 Senior Citizens, 12,953 Persons with Disability (PWDs), 1,388 Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) in the city's jail facilities, 1,813 other Frontline Government Workers, 2,618 teachers, 92,525 students, and 85,000 of the indigent population.

Meanwhile, the LGU prefers vaccines developed by companies such as AstraZeneca with its vaccine approved for emergency use and now being administered to health-care workers in the UK; Jansen COVID-19 vaccine from Johnson&Johnson which was approved by the Food and Drug Authority (FDA) for clinical trials in the county around the end of last year; developed vaccine from the US Drug maker Novavax from where the Philippines had secured 30 million doses; Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine the first vaccine for which the US-FDA had first issued the emergency use

authorization (EUA), and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine the second vaccine which was issued EUA by the US-FDA.

With regards the private companies in the city, there is no commitment given yet for the procurement of the vaccines for their employees according to the LGU officials. **(Ruel Francisco with reports from the Bacoor Public Information Office)**

Palace welcomes possibility PH to be 'coinless society' by 2025

MANILA – Malacañang on Thursday welcomed the statement of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Benjamin Diokno that the Philippines could be a "coinless society" by 2025. In a virtual presser, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said it is better to pursue cashless transactions, especially during this time that the country is still grappling with the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

"We welcome this po 'no dahil ang isang karanasan natin sa Covid-19 ay kinakailangang maging cashless society na nga po tayo (because our experiences amid the Covid-19 pandemic have pushed us to resort to a cashless society)," Roque said.

In an online interview with local news firm BusinessWorld, Diokno said the Philippines is expected to be a "cashless society" by 2025, as the National Quick Response (QR) Code Standard, or QR PH, is seen to scale up contactless payments.

In November 2019, the BSP adopted QR PH which aims to push for a QR code standard for all digital transactions nationwide that will be adopted by all financial technology firms

Strict biosecurity needed to aid hog raisers amid ASF outbreak

MANILA – An official of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) said on Tuesday the country needs to improve its risk management standards and sustainability measures so hog raisers can survive and thrive amid the African swine fever (ASF) outbreak.

"ASF has already taken a big toll on the country's pig population. The key to surviving this hog epidemic is a well-studied and properly implemented biosecurity program that will help hog raisers set up practicable measures to prevent or control the spread of infection within a pig farm," BPI Sustainable Development Finance (SDF) head Jo

and banks.

The use of QR technology, according to a statement earlier issued by the BSP, has emerged as the "most expedient" means of payment since it entails code scanning that is faster and easier to do than bringing out a card, tapping and swiping it, and signing a charge slip in most cases. The BSP's goal is to do at least 50 percent of all financial transactions digitally by 2023.

Roque backed the plan for the adoption of digital payments for all financial transactions to stop the further spread of Covid-19 in the country.

"Napakadami na pong gumagamit na cashless transactions at alam naman po natin na 'yung paghawak ng pera, isa po iyang natatunayang pamamaraan kung paano kumakalat ang Covid-19 (Many have already resorted to cashless transactions because there is a study which found that Covid-19 could survive on banknotes)," he said.

Experts have warned the public against the risk of catching Covid-19 through handling banknotes.

Some studies suggested that the coronavirus may remain infectious for weeks on banknotes. **(PNA)**

Ann Eala said in a statement.

Pig Improvement Company (PIC) Philippines general manager Vito Borromeo said analysts projected about 750,000 sows could be affected if ASF continues to spread across the country, causing a supply shortfall and price hike.

The virus will remain in the country and continue to spread until an effective ASF vaccine arrives, and that attaining the supply level in 2019 may take at least 10 years, he added.

"The shortfall will fast track the transformation of the industry to adopt a more modern system of farming, put technology into the process, and innovate solutions to be more efficient and more conscious of the biosecurity that we need to put in place to protect herds," he said.

The BPI said until proper biosecurity discipline is implemented, "it will be really tough to repopulate and ensure that you don't get hit again."

In 2020, the Department of Agriculture (DA) announced the establishment of the first-border inspection (FBI) facilities in the country's major ports, starting at the Manila International Container Port.

It will further strengthen on-site border control inspections for imported animals, plants, meat, and other farm and fishery products arriving in major international seaports in the country.

DA Secretary William Dar said the FBI will be done on all animals, plants, fisheries, and related agricultural products arriving from other countries.

"The FBI facilities will be one of the major accomplishments of the Duterte administration as biosecurity measures like quarantine checks are needed to protect animal, plant and public health, and animal welfare," Dar said.

The FBI facilities will also be put up at Manila South Harbor, Subic Freeport Zone, Port of Batangas, Cebu International Port, and Port of Davao.

Meanwhile, Tugon Kabuhayan convenor Asis Per-

Lola, nabangga ng traysikel

PATAY ang isang di-nakilalang lola nang nabunggo ng tricycle habang tumatawid sa Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Inilarawan ang biktima ng tinatayang 60-anyos, nasa taas na 5 pulgada, kayumanggi ang kulay at puti ang puhok.

Hawak ng pulisya ang driver ng tricycle, na ang motorsiklong Barako ay walang plaka, na si Calixto Bautista, 59, ng Teste Ave., Brgy Salawag, Dasmariñas City.

Sa ulat, dakong ala-8:30 ng gabi naganap ang insi-

dente sa Jose Abad Santos Ave., Brgy Salawag, Dasmariñas City kung saan papatawid ang biktima patungo sa eskuwelahan sa kabilang kalsada nang banggain ng paparating na tricycle na minamaneho ni Bautista.

Isinugod pa ang biktima sa Pagamutan ng Dasmariñas City subalit namatay habang ginagamot.

Sinusulat ito ay nagsagawa ng follow up ang pulisya sa pagkakakilanlan sa biktima upang ipaalam sa mga kamag-anak nito. **GENE ADSUARA**

Cha-cha untimely amid pandemic: PCCI

MANILA – Lawmakers should focus on passing bills that will help in economic recovery and building the country's resiliency rather than amending the Constitution, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) said. "PCCI is cautious at the timing and manner by which the Constitution is being proposed to be amended," the business group said in a statement Monday.

Last week, Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr., said the Charter change (Cha-cha) discussions should focus on amending

ez, in a virtual presser, said the putting up of a border inspection facility would be of great help in ensuring food safety, especially of imported commodities entering the country.

Perez, former director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), said the proper process is that before products entered the Philippines and charged with duties by the Bureau of Customs, they should be first inspected and examined in laboratories for food safety purposes.

"This will not require additional budget on the part of the government because it should be the manufacturers or exporters who should shoulder the lab fees," he said.

Perez said the good thing is that BFAR has already taken preliminary steps in drafting the guidelines on the inspection and labeling of imported goods for fish and seafood products. **(PNA)**

restrictive economic provisions in line with the directive of House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco.

PCCI president Benedicto Yujuico said while the initiative for Cha-cha aims to lift certain restrictions in the economy, there are pending bills that can push for economic liberalization.

Among these bills that should be prioritized include the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) Act, the Government Financial Institutions Unified Initiatives to Distressed Enterprises for Economic Recovery (GUIDE) Act, and the Public Service Act.

"While it may be the fastest option, inserting the provision 'unless otherwise provided by law' in sections of the Constitution that limit foreign equity to 40 percent in business ventures that are considered of critical interest to the Filipino people, could potentially weaken the country's highest law by making it easier for ordinary legislation to amend the Constitution," Yujuico said.

He added the PCCI supports the lawmakers' initiatives to further open the economy to enhance the country's competitive position globally, attract more foreign investors to set up and expand their businesses here, addressing monopolistic and uncompetitive behaviors, and under-investments in some sectors critical to public interest.

"(B)ut this should be done in a deliberate and careful manner that will continue to make the Constitution withstand various economic interests but especially the test of time," Yujuico said. **(PNA)**

'PIYESTA' NG MGA SUGAROL SA CAVITE

MISTULANG piyesta ng iba't ibang klase ng sugal ang naitala sa Cavite kung saan umabot sa isandaan at tatlumpu't siyam (139) ang arestado sa isinagawang magdamagang anti-gambling operations ng mga awtoridad sa magkakahiwalay na lugar sa probinsiya.

Sa ulat ng Cavite Police Provincial Office (PPO), nanguna sa listahan ang pinakamaraming bilang ng klase ng sugal ang tupada (72), tong-its/pusoy (32) billiard (15), mahjong (9), cara y cruz (7); at bingo (4.)

Nanguna ang Bacoor City at Indang sa bilang ng mga dinampot sa tupada na tig-12, sumunod ang Trece Martirez City (9), tig-6 ang Kawit at Naic habang tig-5 ang Imus City at General

Mariano Alvarez (4) habang sa Alfonso ay 2 o kabuuang na 72.

Sa larong tong-its/pusoy, nanguna naman ang Gen Trias na may pinakamaraming bilang na dinampot na 13, sumunod ang Damarinas City (9), Cavite City (4) habang sa Naic at Rosario na tig-3 o kabuuang 32

Sa larong mahjong, 9 naman ang bilang ng dinampot sa Cavite City at Rosario habang kabuuang 15 naman ang nakorner sa larong billiard kung saan lima sa Imus City, Bacoor City (4) at tig-3 sa Ternate at GMA.

Pito naman ang dinampot sa larong cara y cruz sa Dasmaringas City habang 4 na katao ang binitbit sa larong bingo sa Gen Trias City. **GENE ADSUARA**



SUGAL PA MORE: Naaktuhan ng HANEP lensman ang tatlong lalaking menor de edad habang nagsusugal ng larong cara y cruz sa compound ng isang supermarket sa Cavite kamakailan.



ANG mga operatiba ng SOCO habang nagsasagawa ng pagsisiyasat sa nangyaring pamamaril at pagpatay sa dalawang lalaking kakalaya pa lamang sa kulungan habang lulan ng pampasaherong dyip sa Sta. Cruz, Maynila kamakailan. **CHRISTIAN HERAMIS**



BUKOD sa isang pirasong maliit na sachet ng umano'y shabu ay makikita sa larawan ang 4 na pirasong aluminum foil, isang cigarette lighter, 5 open sachet ng hinihinalang shabu at ang isang deadly weapon na rusty concrete nails na may habang 17 pulgada ang nakumpiska kay Lito Egnal y Fabro, Jr. sa isinagawang Oplan GALUGAD ng mga tauhan ng PCP-8, sa pamumuno ni P/Capt. Glenn Amsiwen, sa Block 3 Landscaped Area, UPS4, Brgy. Marcelo Green, P'que City. Ang arresting officer ay sina PSSG Christopher Dela Cruz, B/T Albert Vargas at B/T Leonard Javier. **(JIMMY HAO)**



TATLONG suspek na sina Reynoso Liston, Fernando Hernandez, at Regie Luba Gilhang ay nahulihan ng apat na pirasong maliit na sachet ng umano'y shabu sa isinagawang buy bust operation ng mga tauhan ng SDEU sa Clinic Site, Sampaguita, Brgy. BF sa lungsod ng P'que. Ang naging seizing officer ay si PAT Rejie Boy G. Claro. **(JIMMY HAO)**



DALAWANG suspek ang hinuli ng mga tauhan ng PCP-3, sa pamunuan ni P/Major Elizaldy Matulac, matapos makuhanan ng limang maliit na pirasong sachet ng umano'y shabu sa C5 Extension Road, Kaingin, Brgy. Sto. NINO. Ang naging seizing officer ay si PCPL Joseph Alfaro. **(JIMMY HAO)**



HANEP

Basahin Mo Ito!

KALIBRE

ROMY SANTOS

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'Kwento-pasahero'

SAKAY ako minsan ng hanap ng ibang madadadaksi at habang nasa biyahe ay pumipikit ang aking mga mata dahil dinuduyan sa antok. Pinili kong magtaksi sa halip na magmaneho dala ng matinding antok. Pero sa halip na makatulong ay unti-unting nagigising ang aking diwa dahil sobrang maboka ang taxi driver. Maraming kuwento ang tsuper, sari-saring paksa pero may sense of humor naman. Mulat siya sa mga kaganapan sa bansa at maging sa mga kabulu-kang sistema ng ilang sangay ng gobyerno. Siyempre ay hindi rin nawala sa topic ang kasalukuyang nararansang pandemiya dulot ng COVID-19. Talagang madaldal ang taxi driver pero sabi ko nga ay may mga kabuluhan naman ang kanyang mga sinasabi. Siya iyong tipo na magkukuwento sa kanyang pasahero. Marahil ay upang malibang at hindi mainip ang kanyang sakay habang nasa biyahe. Ang istilo pa niya ay ha-

anap ng ibang madadadanan para makaiwas sa trapik. Laman ako ng mga lansangan kaya kabisado ko ang mga pasikut-sikot. Isa pa ay hindi rin ako mangmang sa kung ano lang ang kaukulan o dapaat na bayad o pasahe sa taksi depende sa destinasyon. Pero sabi ko nga ay naaalih ako sa mga kuwento kaya hinahayaan ko na lamang isa pa ay nasa holiday season pa tayo ng mga araw na iyon. Kaya naman hindi na ako umangal sa sobrang taas ng pasahe, kumbaga ay pamasko o tip ko na lang iyong sobra sa tsuper. Habang nagbabayad ako at bago bumaba ng taksi ay kinausap at sinabihan ko rin ang drayber. Sabi ko hindi araw-araw ay Pasko at mag-ingan din siya dahil baka makatapat ng astig na pasahero. Sa madaling salita ay bistado naman ang kanyang istilo na dadaanin sa kuwento ang pasahero para mapataas ang singil sa metro.

