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PBBM inaugurates LRT-1 Cavite Extension Project Phase 1

By PCO

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos on Friday led the inauguration of the Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) Cavite Extension Project (LICE) Phase 1, marking a significant milestone in modernizing the transport system in the Philippines.

Marcos acknowledged his father, former President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr., for initiating the construction of Metro Manila's first urban rail transit system. This initial endeavor ultimately grew into the larger rail transit system that serves the National Capital Region, including the LICE.

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Photo courtesy of Senate PIA

DA cuts Rice-for-All price to P42 per kilo

By Marita Moaje

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Wednesday announced a price cut for rice sold under the Rice-for-All program to PHP42 per kilo from PHP43.

only for vulnerable groups, including senior citizens, persons with disabilities, solo parents, and low-income families, with a monthly cap of 10 kilos per beneficiary.

The price cut follows President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s decision to reduce the tariff on imported rice from 35 percent to 15 percent, effective July, in a bid to lower rice costs.

Rice remains the country's main food staple with the average consumer spending around 10 percent of their budget on rice.

For lower-income households, especially those in rural farming and fishing communities, rice expenditures can take up as much as 20 percent of their budget.

The DA's price reduction is expected to provide relief to consumers nationwide, supporting efforts to ensure access to affordable rice for all Filipino households. (PNA)

In a press release, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., attributed the price cut to the recent tariff cut on imported rice and a decrease in global rice prices. "The reduction would have been bigger if not for the impact of the peso's depreciation to PHP58 to a U.S. dollar from PHP48 at the start of the year," he said.

However, he noted that further adjustments to the Rice-for-All price might be possible, depending on global price trends and the peso-dollar exchange rate.

The Rice-for-All program is accessible to all consumers, with no purchase limits, unlike the PHP29 per kilo rice, which is reserved

Imee calls for action to improve disaster preparedness

By Wilnard Bacionia



Senator Imee R. Marcos (Photo courtesy of Senate PRIB)

MANILA – Senator Imee Marcos on Thursday called for urgent action to upgrade the country's disaster preparedness and the need for a national climate strategy.

Marcos also emphasized the importance of improving infrastructure and developing green infrastructure solutions.

"Every year, we're battered by storms and floods. If we don't take action now, we will all remain at risk. Three to five typhoons are still to come. There's still time to climate-adapt our homes, at

Continued on page 3...

Public warned anew vs. toxic beauty products sold online

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor

MANILA – An advocacy group promoting sound chemicals and waste management has called on online shopping platforms

to discontinue the sale of banned mercury-added skin-lightening products.

In a news release Wednesday, BAN Toxics said Lazada and Shopee are putting public health at risk

through the continued sale of toxic beauty products.

"We urge these e-commerce platforms to strengthen their regulations and immediately remove all mercury-added products," BAN Toxics campaign and advocacy officer Thony Dizon said.

Earlier, the group conducted online market monitoring and purchased

50 skin-lightening beauty products.

The products were screened and 44 tested positive for mercury, with levels ranging from 7 parts per million (ppm) to an alarmingly high 67,400 ppm -- exceeding the 1 ppm limit set by the ASEAN Cosmetics Directive.

Ten products with the highest mercury concentrations include Lady Gold Super

Whitening Cream (67,400 ppm), Best Beauty Cream-blue container (42,000 ppm), Parley Goldie Beauty Cream (24,900 ppm), Dr. Yanhee Facial Cream Set-blue (23,800 ppm), Dr. Yanhee Facial Cream Set-purple (21,800 ppm), Aneza Gold Beauty Cream with Avocado & Aloe Vera (18,500 ppm), Goree Day and Night Whitening Cream

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Gov't wont stop Duterte if he surrenders to ICC: Palace

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

MANILA – The Philippine government will respect former president Rodrigo Duterte's decision to surrender to the International Criminal Court (ICC), in the event that he is found guilty of alleged crimes against humanity committed during the implementation of his anti-drug campaign, Malacañang said November 13, 2024.

"If the former president desires to surrender himself to the jurisdiction of the ICC, the government will neither object to it nor move to block the fulfillment of his desire," Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin said in a statement.

Bersamin issued the statement after Duterte, during the House of Representatives quad committee hearing on Wednesday, challenged the ICC to begin its investigation into the drug war launched under his watch.

Duterte said he is also willing to "go to prison and rot there for all time," if found guilty.

Bersamin said the

government would cooperate with the ICC, in case the international tribunal opts to issue a "red notice" to Philippine authorities through the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol).

"But if the ICC refers the process to the Interpol, which may then transmit a red notice to the Philippine authorities, the government will feel obliged to consider the red notice as a request to be honored, in which case the domestic law enforcement agencies shall be bound to accord full cooperation to the Interpol pursuant to established protocols," he said.

A "red notice" is a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action.

However, a red notice is not an international arrest warrant and is restricted to law enforcement use only.

An individual placed on a red notice is wanted by a requesting member country or international tribunal.

The ICC is currently

gathering evidence in its investigation into alleged crimes against humanity associated with Duterte's war on drugs in the Philippines.

More than 6,200 drug suspects died in anti-narcotics operations during the Duterte administration from June 2016 to Nov. 2021, according to government data.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has remained firm in his stance that the ICC has no jurisdiction over the Philippines, maintaining that the country has a functioning judiciary.

In February, Marcos said the ICC prosecutors could "produce as much evidence as they want but they could not act upon it in the Philippines."

In March, Marcos also stressed that the Philippines is capable of conducting its own probe into Duterte's anti-narcotics drive.

The Philippines formally cut ties with the ICC on March 17, 2019, a year after the country formally notified the United Nations of its withdrawal from the Rome Statute, which created the international court. (PNA)



UNDER PROBE. Former president Rodrigo Duterte attends an inquiry on his administration's war on drugs at the House of Representatives on Wednesday (Nov. 13, 2024). Malacañang said the Philippine government would respect Duterte's decision to surrender to the International Criminal Court in the event that he is found guilty of alleged crimes against humanity committed during the implementation of his anti-drug campaign. (Photo courtesy of House of Representatives Press and Public Affairs Bureau)

Duterte...

from page 8

have to spend money for operations, intelligence," he said when asked about the budget increase requested for the Office of the President to support the reward system.

"Ang pulis hanggang sweldo lang yan. Pati equipment, office material. Sabihin mo 'yang pulis na may sariling fund for an operation day-to-day to follow up cases sa mga criminals, wala sir. Kailangan pondohan mo talaga ang pulis lalo na if there is a serious crime (Police officers are limited to their salaries, including equipment and office materials. If you expect police to have their own funds for an operation to follow-up criminal cases day-to-day, they don't, sir. You really need to provide funds for the police especially if there is a serious crime)," Duterte said.

Duterte also admitted to issuing lethal orders during such operations.

"At ang order ko sa kanila, sir, nandito na lang rin tayo, 'pag nahuli ninyo, patayin ninyo lahat. 'Wag ninyong dalhin sa... pupunta ng presuhan, papakainin ko pa 'yang mga yan (And my order to them, sir, since we're already talking about this, if you catch them, kill them all. Don't take them to... prison, I will not feed those people.)," he said.

Fernandez further pressed Duterte on reports that excess campaign donations were funneled into the reward system.

Duterte confirmed that surplus campaign funds were used to bolster anti-drug operations, arguing it was to "protect public interest."

Duterte also admitted to personally killing six or seven people he described as "criminals" during his tenure as mayor of Davao City.

The former president made the admission under oath during the questioning of

Gabriela Party-list Rep. Arlene Brosas, who asked Duterte if he had ever personally killed anyone.

"Ako? Marami. Mga 6 o 7. Hindi ko na-follow up sa hospital kung natuluyan (Me? Many. About 6 or 7. I didn't follow up at the hospital if they died)," Duterte said.

Full responsibility

When asked if he could acknowledge accountability before the families of alleged victims of extrajudicial killings (EJKs), Duterte maintained his previous position to take full responsibility.

"I assume full responsibility for whatever happened in the actions taken by the law enforcement agencies of this country to stop the drugs or the serious problem of the drugs affecting our people," Duterte said.

ICC probe challenge

Duterte also challenged the International Criminal Court (ICC) to begin its investigation into his deadly war on drugs.

"I'm asking the ICC to hurry up and if possible, they can come here and start the investigation tomorrow," Duterte said.

"This issue has been left hanging for so many years... baka mamatay na ako hindi na nila ako maimbestigahan (I might die and they won't be able to investigate me anymore)," he added.

He reiterated his willingness to face the consequences if found guilty.

"If I am found guilty, I will go to prison and rot there for all time," he said.

Duterte's war on drugs led to the deaths of thousands and the alleged extrajudicial killings of suspected drug offenders, attracting condemnation from international human rights groups and the International Criminal Court (ICC). (PNA)

DA...

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nakapag-allocate tayo ng PHP500 million. Dito sa Kristine (international name Trami) pa lang meron tayong nasa pipeline, dun sa kakaayos lang ng kanilang submission ng request, nasa PHP147 million (For La Niña, we were able to allocate PHP500 million. For Kristine, we have about PHP147 million in the pipeline for those who have just submitted their requests)," she said.

The fund will be distributed through various channels, including cooperatives and rural banks, to provide financial relief to those in need.

Lopez said about 5,600 farmers from the

affected provinces have expressed their intent to avail of the loan program, mostly from the Bicol region.

"Para sa moratorium, mga (For the moratorium, about) PHP167 million benefitting 1,100," she added.

Young farmers

Meanwhile, the DA is also encouraging the youth to engage in agriculture, offering loans of up to PHP500,000 for young individuals seeking to go into farming, depending on their projects.

"Talagang hinihikayat natin ang mga kabataan na mag-engage sa agriculture. Meron tayong programa para sa kanila (We are encouraging our youth to engage in

farming, we have a program for them)," Lopez said.

The program aims to make agricultural financing more accessible, even for newcomers who often encounter rejection when securing loans from traditional banks.

Interested individuals may avail of the various DA loan programs through their respective municipal agriculturists, who will endorse their applications to cooperatives, rural banks, and other partner banks.

Lopez also noted that the DA, through the municipal agriculturists, monitors those who availed of the program, ensuring proper use of the loan, by visiting them. (PNA)

Gov't...

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consumer side.

An earlier report submitted by the PNP to the President showed that the total number of crimes recorded from July 1, 2022 to Jan. 31, 2024 has plummeted to 324,368, which is 10.66 percent lower than the 363,075 crimes logged between Dec. 1, 2020 and June 30, 2022.

"These crimes, which dipped down in number, are

categorically considered as drug-related crimes and despite the present administration's significant victory against the menace of dangerous drugs, the DOJ promises to keep its foot on the gas in continuously finding ways to effectively combat the perpetrators behind them," Remulla said.

Meanwhile, the justice chief ordered the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor)

to expedite the transfer of detained high-profile drug personalities at the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) to regional prison facilities to cut the alleged continuous production of illicit substances within the national penitentiary.

"Speed up the planned transfer of illegal drug convicts to our regional prisons. You have our full support," Remulla said to BuCor Director General Gregorio Catapang Jr. (PNA)

Gov't to improve educ, training programs for rad techs – PBBM

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos

MANILA – The government will enhance the education and training programs for radiologic technologists in the country, as part of its efforts to improve the healthcare system, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said November 14, 2024.

This developed after Marcos met with the Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) at Malacañan Palace in Manila on November 13, 2024.

“Yesterday’s meeting with the Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) focused on current initiatives and plans to improve healthcare access for all Filipinos,” Marcos said.

“We are working on improving the education and training programs for radiologic technologists to meet the demand for skilled professionals.”

Only three of 41 examinees passed the June 2024 Special Professional Licensure Examination for Radiologic Technologists, based on the results released by the Professional Regulation Commission.

A radiologic technologist is a medical

professional who performs imaging procedures on patients, capturing images of specific areas of the body using radiographic technology to assess their overall health.

Marcos expressed confidence that with the private sector’s support, the government can build an *“efficient and all-encompassing”* healthcare system.

He said the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) would also upgrade its benefit packages and digitize key processes for *“faster and more efficient”* service.

In September this year, PhilHealth president and chief executive officer Emmanuel Ledesma Jr. said its members can expect another increase in health benefits by yearend, noting that the agency is studying the implementation of another round of 30-percent increase in all of its benefit packages.

PhilHealth implemented a 30-percent increase in the coverage rates of most of its benefit packages on Feb. 14, 2024 to reduce the out-of-pocket medical expenses of Filipinos. (PNA)



IMPROVED HEALTHCARE. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (left) meets with the Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) at Malacañan Palace in Manila on Nov. 13, 2024 to discuss ways to improve the country’s healthcare system. Marcos on Thursday (Nov. 14) said improving the education and training programs for radiologic technologists in the country is one of the plans discussed during the meeting. (Photo from PBBM’s official Facebook page)

PBBM...

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“On this day, no one is happier than his son in seeing that his father’s foresight is being validated by another work that expands mass transit that he had built for the people that he loved,” the President said during the inauguration ceremony in Parañaque City.

The President also expressed appreciation for his predecessors, acknowledging their efforts in advancing the LICE project.

“The L-1-CE Project has been a long time in the making—spanning five administrations, starting with President Estrada, to President Arroyo, President Aquino, President Duterte, and now, to mine,” President Marcos said.

“We owe this

progress to the hard work and dedication of my predecessors; we must recognize their roles in helping making this dream a reality,” he added.

Phase 1 of the LICE covers the first five stations: Redemptorist-ASEANA, Manila International Airport Road, Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX), Ninoy Aquino Avenue, and Dr. Santos (formerly Sucat).

The project, set to be operational starting Saturday, November 16, is expected to serve an additional 80,000 passengers daily. It is expected to reduce the travel time between Baclaran, Pasay City and Bacoor, Cavite, from one hour and 10 minutes to just 25 minutes.

“By serving commuters across southern Metro Manila, Cavite, neighboring areas, the whole project creates a smoother, more reliable mode of transport,” President Marcos said.

The project is also expected to accommodate an additional 300,000 daily passengers in the first year of full operations and alleviate traffic conditions in the cities of Parañaque, Las Piñas, and Bacoor, Cavite.

The Chief Executive also affirmed the government’s commitment to a seamless, modernized public transportation system would continue, with additional rail projects like the MRT-7 and the North-South Commuter Railway. |PND. PIA

Imee...

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least to some extent,” she said in a news release.

Senator Marcos, who chairs the Committee on Foreign Relations, mentioned that during the 29th Conference of the Parties on Climate Change, concerns were raised about the impact of former US president Donald Trump’s election on climate resilience and financing, as his administration may withdraw from the Paris Agreement and reduce support for UN climate initiatives.

She cited the need for self-reliance and adaptation to

the new normal, as the new Trump administration may be less generous to international organizations and programs.

“While the rest of the world also struggles with climate change, and experts are willing to help us, we can only count on our own volition and action to adapt to this new normal. The new Trump administration will be far less generous to the UN and other world organizations. Even new loss and damage programs are now at risk of defunding,”

Marcos warned. (PNA)

Public...

from page 1

(17,200 ppm), Dr Yanhee Facial Cream Set-red (13,100 ppm), Goree Beauty Cream with Lycopene (16,100 ppm) and Goree Gold 24K Beauty Cream (16,000 ppm).

About 25 of the tested products have an existing public health advisory issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from 2013 to 2024, warning against their sale and use due to mercury content.

The FDA issued advisories reiterating the use of substandard and possibly adulterated cosmetics which

may lead to adverse reactions, including but not limited to skin irritation, itching, anaphylactic shock and organ failure.

“Despite these health warnings, it has been ‘business as usual’ for the online shopping platforms, which continue to sell these prohibited products without hesitation,” Dizon said.

“We call on Lazada and Shopee to comply with existing regulations. Every seller, both onsite and online, must act with due diligence to prevent the further spread of mercury poisoning from such



TOXIC. Forty-four skin-lightening beauty products sold online through Shopee and Lazada test positive for high levels of mercury and other hazardous substances. BAN Toxics, a waste management group, said Wednesday (Nov. 13, 2024) that these products have 7 parts per million (ppm) to an alarmingly high 67,400 ppm of mercury -- exceeding the 1 ppm limit set by the ASEAN Cosmetics Directive. (Photo courtesy of BAN Toxics)

products,” he added.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury, a global treaty to which the Philippines is a party, also bans mercury-added skin-lightening products exceeding the 1 ppm limit.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), mercury and other hazardous

substances in cosmetics can cause kidney damage, skin rashes, discoloration, scarring, increased susceptibility to infections, anxiety, depression, psychosis and peripheral neuropathy.

Expectant mothers who are exposed to these toxins can transfer them to the developing infant through

the placenta and breast milk, leading to lasting health risks.

BAN Toxics also called on the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the FDA to convene a multi-stakeholder conference to address the issue of fraudulent and health-damaging products in online shopping markets. (PNA)

EDITORIAL

Exception to the rule

IN this time and age when volleyball is trying to dislodge basketball as the national pastime, the support of a generous sponsor like Lao is very crucial.

The Premier Volleyball League (PVL) is not allowing Alohi Robins-Hardy to see action for Farm Fresh in the All-Filipino Conference unless she goes through the draft next year.

According to PVL president Ricky Palou, the last time Robins-Hardy played in the country was in 2021, when the league had yet to turn into a professional league. With that, she is technically an amateur who needs to go through the draft just like the other spikers straight out of college.

Of course, Palou's statement is elementary. Just as in the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), if you want to play professionally for the first time, you have to join the draft to determine which team will acquire your services.

But there was a significant event that happened before Palou made that statement.

Before formally hiring Robins-Hardy, Farm Fresh Team owner Frank Lao was given the green light by Palou provided she had a valid Philippine passport.

Lao moved heaven and earth to help her acquire the crucial document. But when everything was signed, sealed and delivered, Palou suddenly had a change of heart, saying that there was an "oversight" on his part. With that, he would leave it to the team owners to decide whether or not to allow Robins-Hardy to play without having gone through the draft.

Farm Fresh executives did exactly what they were told. They were able to draw the support of five of the 11 team owners with two more verbally promising to affix their signatures to the approval.

But upon realizing that Farm Fresh was on its way to achieving a simple majority, Palou suddenly pulled the plug and declared that Robins-Hardy would not be allowed to play unless she joined the draft next year. Still no deal.

Palou said he was just protecting the integrity of the league. After all, allowing Robins-Hardy to play without going through the draft would create a bad impression not just to other players who went through the rigorous selection process but also to other major stakeholders.

Was Palou's decision good for the league and Philippine volleyball in general? We don't think so.

Look, Robins-Hardy is a Filipino. Her cousin, Philippine Basketball Association veteran Gabe Norwood, is regarded as a local hero

after playing a crucial role in the Gilas Pilipinas team that made a breakthrough appearance in the FIBA World Championships in Spain in 2014.

Robins-Hardy also played for Cignal in the Philippine Superliga (PSL) and, at one point, donned the national jersey during the ASEAN Grand Prix in Nakhon Ratchasima in 2019.

In short, Robins-Hardy could have easily made it to the PVL even without going through the draft.

By forging the win-win solution of allowing Robins-Hardy to play, the PVL will definitely raise its level of play while volleyball-loving Filipinos will get to see a crafty 6-foot-2 setter in action against the best players in the league.

Also, the Philippine National Volleyball Federation can enlist her for the national team anew, giving the country a handsome chance of winning a medal in the Southeast Asian Games for the first time since 2005.

But more than that, it will make Lao happy.

Lao is a very valuable part of the ecosystem of Philippine sports. His Strong Group Athletics is considered the third biggest investor in Philippine basketball behind giant conglomerates San Miguel Corporation and Smart-PLDT.

The well-respected restaurateur also supports the varsity programs of topnotch schools like College of Saint Benilde, Letran College and University of the East while backing Converge in the PBA.

When PVL squad Gerflor folded, it was Lao who dug into his pocket to cover the salaries of the players without asking for anything in return, earning him the love, respect and admiration of fans and the moniker "Good Samaritan" of Philippine sports.

Now, Lao is said to be thinking twice about fielding a team in the PVL next year regardless of the outcome of their campaign.

Losing a team owner like Lao will definitely be a major blow to the PVL. In this time and age when volleyball is trying to dislodge basketball as the national pastime, the support of a generous sponsor like Lao is very crucial.

Yes, policy is the backbone of any organization. Rules are rules, as they say.

But the PVL should have made the smart move of carefully weighing the pros and cons before striking a healthy compromise that would be acceptable to a very valuable investor like Lao.

There are a thousand ways to skin a cat. Sadly, the PVL picked the wrong one.

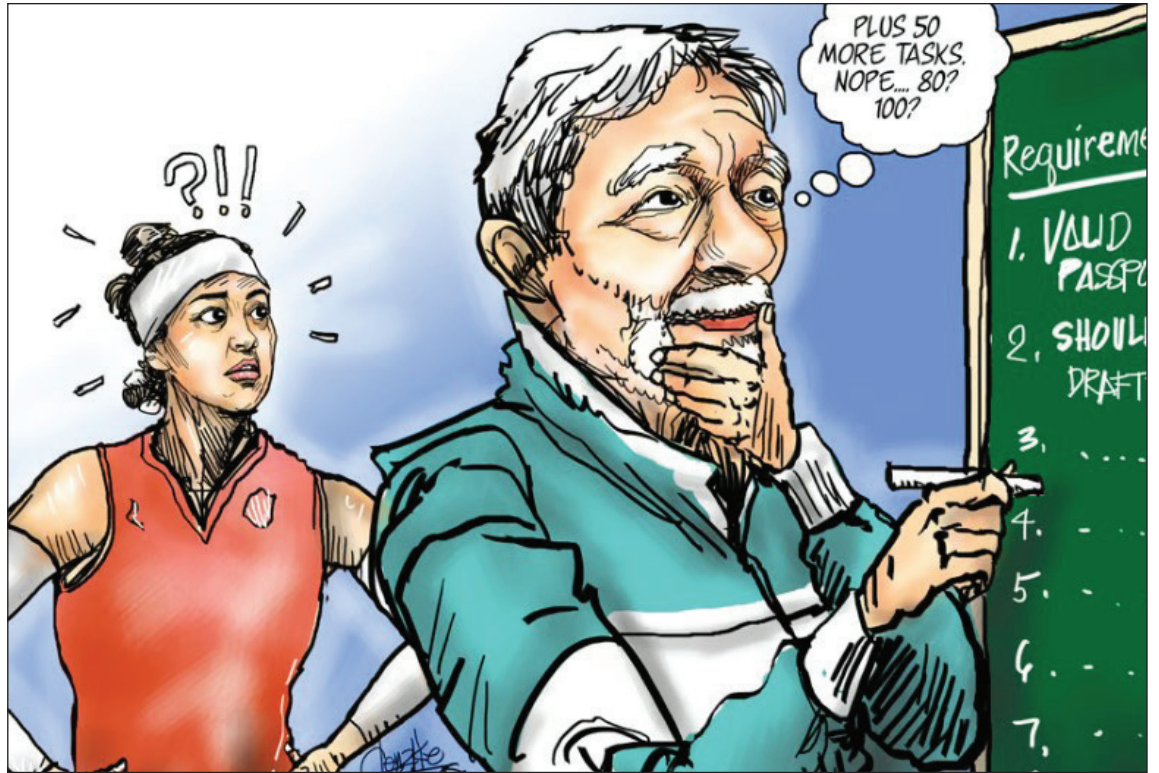


Photo courtesy of tribune.net.ph

KAPIRASONG Kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

Higit kay Gina at sa Mina

PART 1

Noong 06 Marso, pumunta ako sa UP-Diliman para dumalo sa "People's Mining Forum" na inilunsad ng Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment at iba pang organisasyon.

Ang konteksto: ang mainit na debate sa midya tungkol sa kautusan ni Sec. Gina Lopez ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) na ipatigil ang operasyon ng 23 kumpanya ng pagmimina at ipasuspende ang operasyon ng lima pang kumpanya.

Ang sabi sa titulo, tungkol ang porum sa "mining audit" na isinagawa ng DENR sa 41 kumpanya at sa pangangailangan ng pambansang industriyalisasyon sa bansa.

N a k a k a m a n g h a : nagsimula at tumakbo ang porum na may unawaan ang mga dumalo na negatibo ang kabuuang epekto ng malakihang pagmimina sa mga komunidad, kalikasan, karapatang pantao at ekonomiya. Hindi na kinailangang patunayan pa sa mga dumalo ang masasamang epekto.

M a s a s a b i n g tagumpay ang ganitong kalagayan ng paglaban at paglalantad ng mga Lumad, mga pambansang minorya, magsasaka, at iba pang sektor ng lipunan na sumusuporta sa kanila. Tagumpay rin ito ng mga pahayag at ulat ni Lopez

mismo sa tulong ng midyang pag-aari ng kanyang pamilya, ang ABS-CBN.

Kaya naman sa social media, nalalantad ang mga tagapagtanggol ng malalaking minahan bilang mga direktang nakikinabang sa naturang negosyo. Nangunguna na ang dyaryong Philippine Daily Inquirer, na ang presidenteng si Sandy Prieto-Romualdez ay asawa ni Philip Romualdez, pangulo ng Chamber of Mines of the Philippines at ng Benguet Corporation, kumpanyang kasama sa ipinasara ni Lopez. Bahaging may-ari rin ng dyaryo ang malaking kapitalistang si Manny Pangilinan, chairman ng Philex Mines at namumuhunan sa pagmimina.

L u m u l u t a n g din si Dr. Carlo Arcilla, na nagpapakilalang "environmental expert" o eksperto sa kalikasan at propesor ng geosciences sa UP.

Katunayan, kaunting Google lang ang kailangan para maipakitang tuluy-tuloy siyang naglingkod sa mga kumpanya ng pagmimina – at sa gayo'y hindi isang tagamasid na nyutral, obhetibo o akademiko gaya ng gusto niyang ipakita.

Siyang umano'y eksperto sa kalikasan, matagal nang lingkod ng mga sertipikadong eksperto sa pagsira sa kalikasan.

Sa bungad pa lang ng programa, nasabi na ng tagapagpadaloy na isang hakbang patungo sa tamang direksyon ang pagpapatigil at pagsuspende ni Lopez.

Pero kung hindi nagdulot ng kaunlaran sa bansa ang malakihang pagmimina, hindi rin magdudulot ng kaunlaran ang simpleng pagpapatigil rito. Bahagi ang malakihang pagmimina ng isang modelo ng "kaunlaran" na pabor sa malalaking kapitalistang dayuhan at lokal. Posible bang maging bahagi ito ng modelo ng kaunlaran na tunay na pabor sa nakakarami, sa mga mamamayang Pilipino?

Sa unang bahagi ng kanyang presentasyon, inilatag ni Engr. Rodolfo Velasco, Jr. ng DENR ang mga probisyon ng Philippine Mining Act of 1995 hinggil sa umano'y pagtulong ng pagmimina sa mga komunidad at pangangalaga sa kalikasan. Sa ikalawang bahagi, inilathad na niya ang "mining audit" na isinagawa ng DENR. Ang layunin nito, aniya: malaman ang pagtupad o hindi pagtupad ng mga kumpanya sa mga probisyon ng batas hinggil sa pangangalaga sa kalikasan.

Pagkatapos, inilitanya na niya ang bilang ng mga kumpanyang ipinapatigil at ipinapasuspende ang operasyon.

ipagpapatuloy...

Sinag
CAVITENO
NEWSWEEKLY

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TOWN in FOCUS

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House bill banning reservation of parking spaces by standing filed

By Filane Mikee Cervantes

MANILA – A lawmaker on Thursday filed a bill at the House of Representatives that aims to prohibit individuals from physically reserving parking spaces by standing on them.

In filing House Bill 11076 or the proposed “Mindful Parking” Act, Akbayan

Rep. Percival Cendaña said the practice of individuals standing on parking spaces to reserve them and physically obstructing other vehicles violates common courtesy and the basic principle that parking should be on a first-come, first-served basis.

The “unwholesome” practice, Cendaña said, also poses safety risks to those who

stand in spaces designated for motor vehicles.

“It is necessary to regulate the use of limited spaces and resources to promote fairness among users and protect them from harm,” he said.

Parking space, as defined by the bill, refers to a designated area within public or private property intended

for the temporary parking of a motor vehicle.

The proposed measure outlines penalties for both the individual reserving the parking space and the driver of the vehicle intended to occupy it.

The penalties include a PHP2,000 fine for the first offense, a PHP5,000 fine and six-month driver’s license suspension for the second offense, and a PHP10,000 fine with license revocation for the

third offense.

The proposed law requires establishments to adopt and implement policies against this practice with appropriate fines or penalties.

Private establishments failing to comply could face fines ranging from PHP10,000 to PHP50,000.

The Land Transportation Office shall have administrative jurisdiction on violations if the bill is enacted into law. (PNA)

CAVITEVIEW

Mga Caviteño, nagpasalamat sa tulong pinansyal na inihatid ni Pangulong Marcos

By PIA CAVITE

TAGAYTAY CITY, Cavite (PIA) — Nagpaabot ng pasasalamat kay Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ang mga magsasaka at mangingsda sa lalawigan ng Cavite para sa tulong pinansyal na inihatid ng Pangulo ngayong Huwebes, Nobyembre 14.

Aabot sa mahigit P42-milyon ang halaga ng tulong na ipinamahagi ni Pangulong Marcos sa ilalim ng Presidential Assistance to Farmers, Fisherfolk, and their Families program para sa mga naapektuhan ng mga nagdaang bagyo.

Sa tulong pinansyal at sa mensahe ng pagbangon na inihatid ng Pangulo, malaki ang pag-asa ng mahigit 4,200 benepisyaryo na agad silang makakabangon mula g sunod-sunod na kalamidad na nakaapekto sa kanilang kabuhayan.

Para kay Mario De Guia, isang magsasaka mula sa Tagaytay City, Cavite gagamitin niya ang natanggap na tulong bilang puhunan para sa pagtatanim matapos sirain ng bagyong Kristine ang kanilang mga pananim.

“Kami po ay magpapasalamat sa natanggap namin mula kay Pangulong Marcos at Department of Agriculture. Makatutulong po ito sa aming pagbangon, sa aming pagtatanim, sa aming kinabukasan at sa aming pamilya.”

Malaking tulong

naman para kay Ianthe Bacani, isang magsasaka at manininda ng prutas at gulay ang natanggap na tulong pinansyal mula sa pangulo. Aniya, ilalaan niya ito sa pang-upa sa mga magtatanim at panimula para sa kanilang muling pagbangon matapos ang mga nagdaang bagyo.

“Ako po ay nagpapasalamat dahil biniyayaan niya kami ng pera para sa aming mga halaman at gulay, at para makapagtanim, at makaahon muli sa [epekto] ng bagyong Kristine,” ani Bacani.

Nagpaabot din ng pasasalamat si Cavite Governor Athena Tolentino para sa tulong na inihatid ng Pangulo sa mga magsasaka at

mangingisdang Caviteño.

“Kami po ay taos pusong nagpapasalamat sa oras at handog na tulong para sa mga naapektuhang pamilya, magsasaka, at mangingisda. Kaya’t Mr. President, kami po ay nagpapasalamat para sa inyong walang suporta at pagmamahal sa lalawigan ng Cavite,” ani Tolentino.

Kaugnay nito, tiniyak naman ni Pangulong Marcos na tuloy-tuloy ang pamahalaan sa paghahaid ng tulong sa mga magsasaka, mangingisda, at iba pang sektor na naapektuhan ng mga nagdaang bagyo.

Binigyang-diin ni Pangulong Marcos ang mga hakbang na isinagawa ng



Photo courtesy of tribune.net.ph

pamahalaan upang mapalakas ang kahandaan nito sa mga kalamidad na dulot ng climate change.

Aniya, kabilang dito ang Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project, na inaasahang makakapigil sa matinding pagbaha sa lalawigan ng Cavite.

Ayon sa Pangulo, inatasan na rin niya ang mga kaukulang ahensiya ng pamahalaan na suriin ang mga flood control masterplan upang matiyak na kayang-kaya ng ating imprastruktura ang tumitinding pag-ulan at pagbaha.

“Tungkulin nating ihanda ang ating bansa, pagyamanin ang ating makabagong estratehiya, at siguruhin ligtas ang ating mga kababayan. Inatasan ko na ang Department of Public Works

and Highways na muling suriin ang mga flood control masterplan upang matiyak na kayang-kaya ng ating mga imprastruktura ang tumitinding pag-ulan at pagbaha.”

Sa huli, hinikayat ng pangulo ang bawat isa na manatiling matatag at magtulungan sa kabila ng mga pagsubok na pinagdadaanan ng bansa dahil sa mga sunod-sunod na kalamidad.

“Sa kabila ng mga pagsubok na ating pinagdadaanan, nawa’y pumaibabaw ang ating pagkakaisa at pakikipagkapwa. Hinihikayat ko kayong lahat na manatiling matatag, magtulungan, at huwag mawalan ng pag-asa dahil ang pamahalaan at katuwang ninyo sa bawat hakbang tungo sa pagbangon.”



Photo courtesy of PIA

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 90
DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(Otherwise known as PAG-IBIG Fund),
Petitioner/Mortgagee,

File No. FC-DC-1498-24
EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE
OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE
UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED
BY ACT 4118

-versus-

ALLAN C. ROBEDILLO,
Respondent/Mortgagor.
x-----x

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act No. 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (Otherwise known as PAG-IBIG Fund), a government financial institution duly organized and existing under and by virtue of Republic Act No. 9679, with postal address at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, against respondents/mortgagors, ALLAN C. ROBEDILLO with postal address at (1) No. 42 Mangga St., Camarin Novaliches; and 2) Lot 30 Blk. 19, Solar Homes, PH1, Brgy. Langcaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 amounts to TWO HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO PESOS AND 35/100 (Php205,372.35), exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on

DECEMBER 17, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in the Court Room of Branch 90, Regional Trial Court, Ground Floor, Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Buro II, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite to the highest bidder and for CASH or CERTIFIED CHECK, in Philippine Currency, the following described real property together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-575508

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in the Municipality of Dasmariñas, Province of Cavite, bounded and described as follows:

A parcel of land (Lot 30, Blk. 19 of the subd. plan, Psd-042106-065358, being a portion of Lot 3826-New, Imus Estate, L.R.C. Rec. No.), situated in the Brgy. of Langcaan, Mun. of Dasmariñas, Prov. of Cavite, Is. of Luzon. Bounded on the SW., along line 1-2 by Lot 32, Blk. 19; on the NW., along line 2-3 by Road Lot 16; on the NE., along line 3-4 by Lot 28; and on the SE., along line 4-1 by Lot 29, both of Blk. 19, all of the subd. plan. Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan, being S. 42 deg. 45'E., 870 m. from Mon. No. 144, Imus Estate, thence N. 20 deg. 58'W., 9.50 m. to pt. 2; thence N. 69 deg. 02'E., 3.75 m. to pt. 3; thence S. 20 deg. 58'E., 9.50 m. to pt. 4; thence S. 69 deg. 02'W., 3.75 m. to the pt. of beginning, containing an area of THIRTY SIX (36) SQ. METERS. All pts. referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by P.S. cyl. conc. mons. 15x60 cm.; bearings true; date of orig. survey; July 27, 1905 to June 1, 1908 and that of the subd. survey, March 5-15, 21-27, & April 14-20, 1993, which was approved on Sept. 16, 1993.

is registered in accordance with the provision of the Property Registration Decree in the name of

ALLAN C. ROBEDILLO, single, of legal age, Filipino.

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real property and the encumbrance thereon, if there be any.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on JANUARY 7, 2025 at the same time and place without further notice.

Dasmariñas City, Cavite, November 4, 2024.

(Sgd.) ARLYN P. BARCELON
Sheriff IV

(Sgd.) ATTY. MARCELA L. BAYBAY
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

Copy furnished:
HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(Otherwise known as PAG-IBIG Fund)
The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

MARIA VICTORIA D. CAPIRAL
JEFFREY A. RAMIENTAS, C.P.A.
GREATSOURCE CORPORATION
2546 A. Bonifacio St., Bangkal, Makati City

ALLAN C. ROBEDILLO
(1) No. 42 Mangga St., Camarin Novaliches;
(2) Lot 30 Blk. 19, Solar Homes, PH1, Brgy. Langcaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite

Notice posted at:
1. The Bulletin Board of Regional Trial Court, Dasmariñas City, Cavite
2. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Hall
3. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Post Office
4. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Public Market

Ang Caviteño Newsweekly
November 11, 18 & 25, 2024

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ERNESTO SR. DE GRANO UMALI who died intestate on DECEMBER 10, 2023 at Poblacion 8, Talisay Batangas who left a parcel of land covered by TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-45812, Pin 129-00-031-010-102 and APRN AD-00031-01199 located at Sungay West, Tagaytay City, Cavite which has been extra judicially settled by his heirs namely, RENATO B. UMALI, JOSE ANDRES B. UMALI, ROMULO B. UMALI, ERNESTO JR. B. UMALI, ARTURO B. UMALI, JOSELITO B. UMALI, JULIUS P. UMALI, AND MARIA LOUISA P. UMALI as per Doc. No. 168, Page No. 35, Book Number VI, Series of 2024, Notary Public Atty. Juan Paolo O. Luna.

Caviteño Newsweekly
November 11, 18, & 25, 2024

AFFIDAVIT OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the estate of JOSEPH ANICETA LIBUTAN of legal age with residence address at Block 13, Lot 16, Tierra Nevada Subd. Brgy. San Francisco General Trias City, Cavite that on October 17, 2024 the receipt with Invoice no. 531288 issued by Waby Enterprises was lost under his custody and can no longer be found nor located that's why he executed this AFFIDAVIT OF LOSS as per Doc. No. 59, Page No. 12, Book No. XII, Series of 2024, Notary Public Atty. Gervacio B. Ortiz Jr.

Ang Caviteño Newsweekly
November 4, 11, & 18, 2024

Life isn't about finding
yourself. Life is about
creating yourself.

National jr cycling team slots at stake in Batang Pinoy

By Jean Malanum

MANILA – Winners in the 16-17 years age category of the Batang Pinoy road cycling competitions will get priority slots to the national junior team that will see action in the 31st Asian Junior Road Cycling Championships in Thailand next year.

At least one slot each in the national junior team for boys and girls in individual time trial (ITT) and individual road race (IRR or massed start) to the February 2025 Asian championships will be up for grabs in the grassroots games set in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan on Nov. 23 to 28.

The ITT events are set on Nov. 26 and the IRR on Nov. 27, with both events starting and finishing inside the Iwahig Penal Colony, known worldwide as the "Prison Without Walls."

Parents or guardians of participants are advised to secure passports for their

athletes for the smooth processing of their registration, upon the approval of an evaluation committee created by national federation PhilCycling.

Organized annually by the Asian Cycling Confederation, the Asian Championships will include the 44th Championships for elite and Under-23 and the 13th staging of the Para Championships.

The PhilCycling plans to send a full contingent to Thailand, just like in this year's edition in Kazakhstan.

Meanwhile, Philippine Olympic Committee president Abraham Tolentino, also

head of PhilCycling, said the 2025 National Championships for Road will be on Feb. 24 to 28, 2025 in Tagaytay City and Cavite province's Ternate and Maragondon.

The criterium and ITT will still be staged around the Tagaytay City Atrium and along the Lian-Tuy national highway in Batangas.

The criterium races will be on Feb. 24, ITT on Feb. 25, and the road races for men's junior on Feb. 26, men's Under-23 and women's elite on Feb. 27, and men's elite on Feb. 28. (PNA)



PhilCycling National Championships for Road in February 2024 (PhilCycling photo)

DFA chief to engage top G7 diplomats on Indo-Pacific security



Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

MANILA – Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo is set to engage foreign ministers of the Group Seven (G7) member countries on security issues confronting the Indo-Pacific region, the Department of Foreign Affairs

(DFA) said Tuesday.

Manalo is heading to Italy to participate in the expanded G7 Ministerial Meeting on Nov. 25-26, upon the invitation of Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani.

The meeting aims to strengthen G7's role in promoting stability in the face of major

crises taking place globally.

The gathering will focus on the situation in the Middle East, the war in Ukraine, and the stability of the Indo-Pacific, among other key regional issues.

Previously, top diplomats of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States had backed Manila in calling out Beijing's "dangerous and obstructive maneuvers," including the use of water cannons and ramming against Philippine vessels in the West Philippine Sea.

In the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York in September this year, the group said they remain "seriously concerned about the situation in the East and South China Seas and reiterated their strong opposition to any unilateral attempt to change the status quo by force or coercion."

They reaffirmed that there is no legal basis for China's expansive maritime claims in the South China Sea, and again opposed China's "militarization and coercive and intimidation activities" in the disputed waters.

During his trip to Italy, Manalo will also meet with Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the Holy See's Secretary for Relations with States.

Meetings with senior Italian officials to discuss bilateral cooperation are likewise being arranged.

The DFA said Manalo would also meet with Food and Agriculture Organization Director General Qu Dongyu, attend the launch of the Mirei Exhibit and meet members of the Filipino community, and deliver a lecture at the Sapienza University of Rome. (PNA)

Comelec declares 23 more Senate aspirants 'nuisance'



Photo courtesy of PNA

By Ferdinand Patinio

MANILA – The Commission on Elections (Comelec) said Friday that 23 more individuals who filed their certificates of candidacy (COCs) for senator have been declared nuisance candidates.

This brought the number of nuisance senatorial candidates to 70 declared vetted by the poll body's first and second divisions.

The latest batch of senatorial candidates declared as nuisance by the first division are Primo Puso Aquino, Berteni Causing, and Alice Jumalon.

Those declared by the second division were Miranda Cadion, Melissa Fortes, Deviendo Biazon, Epifanio Perez, Phil Delos Reyes, Luther Meniano, Najjar Salih, Vicente Domingo, Roel Lamoste,

Fernando Manlangit, Edgardo Duque, Subair Mustapha, Artemio Maquiso, Robert Tagean, Robert Agad, James Reyes Jr., Jaime Balmas, Jose Bunilla, Eulogio Partosa, and Bethsaida Lopez.

Last week, the poll body declared 47 senatorial aspirants as nuisance bets.

A total of 183 individuals filed their COCs for senator at the Manila Hotel Tent City in Manila from Oct. 1 to 8.

Of the number, 66 senatorial aspirants have been included in the partial/initial list of aspirants for the May 2025 midterm polls.

The remaining 117 COC filers, on the other hand, faced petitions to declare as nuisance candidates filed by the Comelec's Law Department.

Bangsamoro polls

Meanwhile, the Comelec has officially received 111 COCs filed for parliamentary district representatives, and seven Manifestations of Intent to Participate (MIPs) for regional parliamentary political parties (RPPP) in connection with the May 12, 2025 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Parliamentary Elections.

Of the 111 aspirants for parliamentary district representatives, 41 were from Lanao del Sur, 15 from Maguindanao del Norte, 15 from Maguindanao del Sur, 15 from Basilan, 10 from Tawi-Tawi, 10 from Cotabato City, and five from the Special Geographic Area in Cotabato.

The seven filed their MIPs along with their 279 nominees.

A total of 25 seats will be up for grabs for parliamentary district representatives, while 40 seats will be filled by regional parliamentary political parties.

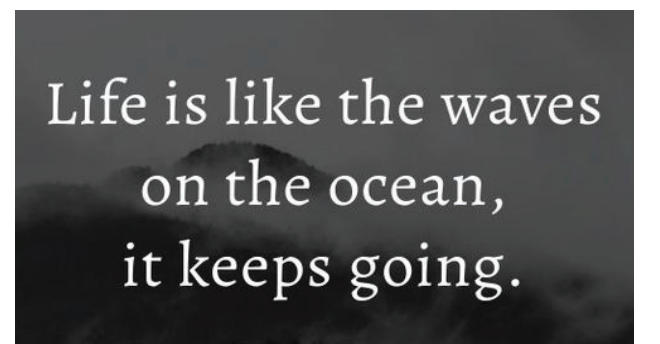
The aspirants filed their COCs and MIPs before the poll body field offices in the Bangsamoro on Nov. 4-9.

Comelec chair George Garcia said the COCs and MIPs filed may be invalidated once the BARMM Parliamentary Elections (BPE) are postponed to May 11, 2026.

"In the event that there will be a law passed (deferring the BPE), we will have another round of filing of COCs (and MIPs)," Garcia said in a press briefing on Friday.

He said the documents may be validated depending on the would-be law if it will allow the COCs and MIPs to be filed for the rescheduled BPE.

"But, under ordinary circumstances, all filings for candidacy will be invalidated. Therefore, we should have a new COC (and MIP) filing," he said. (PNA)



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Duterte confirms existence of 'reward system'

By Filane Mikee Cervantes

MANILA – Former President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday confirmed before a House mega panel the existence of a reward system particularly for police officers who killed big-time drug suspects during his administration's war on drugs.

Under questioning from Kabataan Party-list Representative Raoul Manuel during the 11th hearing of the House Quad Committee (quad comm), Duterte openly admitted that monetary incentives were provided to law enforcement personnel who participated in drug war missions.

"Reward? Correct. Very correct. Talagang totoo. At minsan bigyan ko pa dagdag (It is definitely true. Also, sometimes, I would even add more)," Duterte said.

Former Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) General Manager Royina Garma, a retired police

colonel close to Duterte, earlier told the quad comm about a reward system patterned after the "Davao Model," which included the so-called Davao Death Squad.

She revealed that Duterte instructed former National Police Commission Commissioner Edilberto Leonardo to implement this model nationwide to incentivize police in targeting drug suspects.

Garma said the cash rewards for drug-related killings ranged from PHP20,000 to PHP1 million, depending on the target.

During the interpellation of quad comm co-chair and Santa Rosa City Rep. Dan Fernandez, Duterte said additional funding was essential to finance operations and intelligence, noting that the police officers' basic compensation did not cover such costs.

"That's correct. You
Continued on page 2...



UNDER OATH. Former President Rodrigo Duterte (right) takes his oath before the House Quad Committee in its 11th hearing into the extrajudicial killings that happened during his administration's war on drugs on Wednesday (Nov. 13, 2024). Duterte confirmed the existence of a reward system for police officers who killed big-time drug suspects. (Photo courtesy of House Press and Public Affairs Bureau)

DA: Enhanced loan programs to help farmers recover, boost production

By Marita Moaje

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) continues to enhance its loan programs to help farmers and fishers boost production, aid those affected by calamities, and encourage the youth to engage in farming.

In an interview over Radyo Pilipinas on Thursday, Executive Director of the DA Agricultural Credit Policy Council, Ma. Cristina Lopez, said various loan programs are available for farmers and fishers at low – or even zero – interest rates, especially in the aftermath of disasters.

These include the Agri-Negosyo Loan and the Survival and Calamity Loan Program for farmers affected by disasters, while refinancing options, including moratoriums, are available for those with existing loans.

"Meron tayong mga programang pagpapautang na ito dinadaan natin sa partner lending conduit. Ito ang mga banko at kooperatiba, kasama rin ang DBP (Development Bank of the Philippines) at Landbank (We have loan programs, which we course through our partner lending

conduits. These are the banks and cooperatives, including DBP and Landbank)," she said.

Lopez said the Agri-Negosyo Loan offers loans of up to PHP300,000 with a subsidized interest rate of just 2 percent per annum.

She said this loan is available to farmers actively engaged in farming, even if they do not own the land they cultivate.

Farmers who do not own the land must only provide proof, such as a lease agreement or certification from their association or barangay that they are the ones tilling the land, to be eligible for the loan.

Lopez also noted that each household is entitled to only one loan but exemptions are in place for family members who cultivate separate farms, even though they live under one roof.

The Survival and Calamity Loan Program, meanwhile, is available to farmers or fishers affected by disasters, such as the recent string of tropical cyclones that hit several provinces in the country.

"Para sa mga

may state of calamity, may declaration tayo sa lokalidad nila, meron tayong tinatawag na Survival and Calamity Loan Program. Walang interest ito, ang pwedeng mautang nila ay hanggang PHP25,000. Ito para maka-recover sila ulit at makapagtanim agad (For those in areas under a state of calamity, we have the Survival and Calamity Loan Program. It has no interest and they can borrow up to PHP25,000. This is to help them recover and immediately replant)," Lopez said.

Meanwhile, those who have existing loans but were affected by disasters may avail of a moratorium on loan repayment, which allows borrowers to postpone paying their principal for up to one year if their crops were destroyed.

Moreover, the DA has arranged with lending institutions to offer refinancing options for them.

Lopez said under the Agri-Negosyo and the Survival and Calamity Loan programs, the DA has already released PHP28 billion since 2017.

"Sa La Niña,
Continued on page 2...

Gov't to intensify 'bloodless drug war' – DOJ

By Benjamin Pulta

MANILA – The Department of Justice (DOJ) on Wednesday vowed to intensify the fight against illegal drugs without compromising basic human rights and respect for the dignity of every individual, as emphasized by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during his previous State of the Nation Address (SONA).

"Our bloodless war on dangerous drugs adheres and will continue to adhere to the established '8 Es' of an effective anti-illegal drugs strategy. Extermination was never one of them," Marcos said in his 3rd SONA in July.

"The DOJ pledges to continue stepping up its collaborative efforts with other government agencies to combat illegal drugs and keep our communities safe. Let me take this opportunity

to reiterate that the DOJ is one with the present administration's 'Bloodless Drug War' and we will always bring our A game in fighting the drug menace by steadfastly upholding the Rule of Law," Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla said in a news release.

Remulla made the statement after the President's meeting on Tuesday with officials of the DOJ, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and Philippine National Police (PNP) to formulate strategies on how to strengthen the country's fight against dangerous narcotics and other illicit substances.

He also pledged his full support to the DILG's call to focus the government's anti-illegal drug campaign on the supply side rather than the
Continued on page 2...