

TOWN in FOCUS

ASEAN states send air assets, aid to 'Kristine'-hit PH p. 5



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Federation of Parents-Teachers Association of Bacoor City Oath-Taking

By MIS-STAFF

BACOR CITY – The City Government of Bacoor, in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd), witnessed the oath taking and induction of officers of the Federation of School Parents Teachers Association of Bacoor City (SPTA) today at the Revilla Hall.

The event, which saw the participation of 550 officers from 48 schools, was officiated by Mayor Strike B. Revilla. Other dignitaries present included Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista Mendiola, Sangguniang Panglungsod Members, Team Revilla, Education Program Specialist II Mr. Arwin Ternida, IT

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Photo courtesy of Bacoor.com.ph

AFP eyes stronger logistics, maritime security ties with S. Korea Navy

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) are looking to further enhance their logistics cooperation, aside from defense and maritime security.

This came as ROKN Naval Logistics Command chief Rear Adm. Sangmin An made a courtesy call to AFP vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Arthur Cordura at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Wednesday, the AFP said in a news release Thursday.

“The visit served as an opportunity to reinforce the strong defense ties between the Republic of Korea and the Philippines. Both sides discussed ongoing cooperation in logistics and supply chain management, as well as areas for further collaboration in defense and maritime security,” the AFP added.

South Korea provided the first two guided missile

frigates of the Philippine Navy (PN) that were delivered in 2020 and 2021.

Two more missile corvettes and six offshore patrol vessels are presently being constructed by South Korean defense contractor HD Hyundai Heavy Industries, and are slated for deliveries from 2025 to 2028.

In the same statement, Cordura thanked the ROKN for its continued support of various initiatives aimed at enhancing the logistical capabilities of the Philippine military.

He also highlighted the importance of bilateral cooperation, especially in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

“The meeting is part of the AFP’s broader efforts to strengthen partnerships with its international allies and improve its operational readiness in addressing evolving security challenges,” the AFP said. (PNA)

PH nominated to lead World Health Assembly in 2025

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor

MANILA – The Philippines is set to be the President-nominee of the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA) to be held in Geneva, Switzerland in May 2025.

This is after the

75th Regional Committee Meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Western Pacific where member states in attendance gained consensus to nominate the Philippines.

“Filipinos are recognized as bridge-

builders in the international community. Our nomination by the Western Pacific Member States as WHA78 President is a recognition of our collective contribution and leadership in international health,” Health Secretary Teodoro

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Department of Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa (Photo courtesy of the World Health Organization)

House of Representatives mobilizes P411-M aid for 'Kristine' victims

By Jose Cielito Reganit

MANILA – Upon the instructions of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., a large-scale relief operation has been launched by the House of Representatives to assist the families severely affected

by Tropical Storm Kristine, Speaker Martin Romualdez said on Wednesday.

As part of this operation, Romualdez facilitated the request for the immediate release of PHP390 million in cash aid, which will be distributed to 22 districts

affected by the typhoon in the Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas, and Mimaropa, as well as through four party-list representatives.

“Malinaw po ang direktiba ni Pangulong Marcos: walang pamilyang Pilipino ang maiiwan sa pagtulong ng pamahalaan sa mga nasalanta ng bagyong

Kristine (President Marcos’ directive is clear: no Filipino family will be left behind in the assistance from the government to those affected by Kristine). We are making sure the government’s assistance reaches our affected countrymen as quickly as possible,” he said in a news release.

Additionally, House Deputy Secretary General Sofonias Gabonada said the Office of the Speaker and the Tingog Party-list are preparing 2,500 relief packs per representative, for a total of 62,500 packs worth more than PHP21 million to be distributed to affected

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Manila senior citizens to get P1-K monthly allowance starting 2025

By Ferdinand Patinio

MANILA – Elderly residents in the country's capital city will see their monthly allowance from the city government double starting next year.

Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna on Thursday signed Ordinance 9081, increasing the monthly cash benefit of the city's senior citizens from the present PHP500 to PHP1,000 effective January 2025.

The payout will start in March 2025, as the cash allowance will be distributed every quarter.

During the rites for the signing of the measure at the City Hall, Lacuna said this is in response to the constant requests of senior citizens for a higher monthly allowance.

"Our grandfathers and grandmothers do not fail in asking for a hike in their allowance. Now, we have doubled it," she said.

The present PHP500 monthly cash allowance for the city's senior citizens is released every four months, equivalent to PHP2,000.

Present during the signing of the ordinance were its principal authors Councilors Philip Lacuna, Fa Fugoso, Uno Lim, Nino Dela Cruz, Jong Isip, Rod Lacsamana, Maile Atienza, Macky Lacson, Lei Lacuna, Charry Ortega, and Marjun Isidro, as well as Office of Senior Citizens' Affairs chief Eilnor Jacinto and Secretary to the Mayor Marlon Lacson.

According to Councilor Lacuna, the

ordinance was based on State policy to protect and serve the rights of the elderly is enshrined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, specifically under Article XIII, Section 11, which expressly provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, which shall endeavor to make essential goods, and health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost and further giving priority for the needs of the elderly, among others.

Isip, meanwhile, noted that with these provisions of the Constitution and the Local Government Code (LGC), it is ensured that the elderly are accorded primordial opportunity to have access to essential goods, and health and social services based on their needs.

Further, the provisions

of the LGC empower the Manila city government to adopt measures to ensure the protection of health, social, and moral welfare of its inhabitants, more so for the senior citizens, she added.

"Hence, in pursuit of the above mandate, the increase of the monthly monetary allowance of senior citizens from the current PHP500 to PHP1,000 is imperative and it is thus a significant support to our senior citizens to enable them to have access to the best quality of health care services, as well as necessary medicines and essential goods," they added.

The city's new allowance rate for the elderly matches the national government's social pension for indigents being disbursed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. (PNA)



CARING FOR SENIORS. Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna and Vice Mayor Yul Servo (seated 3rd and 4th from left) lead the signing of Manila City Ordinance No. 9081, increasing the monthly cash benefit of the city's senior citizens from the present PHP500 to PHP1,000 effective January 2025, at the Bulwagang Antonio Villegas in Manila City Hall on Thursday (Oct. 24, 2024). Payout will be every three months starting March 2025. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

LTFRB...

ensure the safety, comfort, and convenience of all passengers traveling to their provinces to be with their families for the All Saints' and All Souls' Days.

"In anticipation of the increased volume of travelers, we have ramped up our preparations through intensified inspections at bus terminals nationwide," Guadiz said.

Guadiz assured the public that the agency is well-prepared for the influx of passengers during the holidays when Filipinos are expected to travel across cities and provinces to pay their respects to their departed loved ones.

He said they are coordinating with bus operators to ensure safe travel for the riding public.

"We are working closely with bus operators to ensure that all units are

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roadworthy and compliant with safety protocols," Guadiz said.

"Also, we have deployed personnel to monitor the implementation of fare regulations and to assist passengers at terminals, ensuring that there are sufficient buses to accommodate the expected surge of commuters."

He also said the roadworthiness of the vehicles, including their papers and special permits, will be checked at terminals.

Road inspectors will also check on drivers to ensure that they are not intoxicated as an on-the-spot alcoholic sobriety test will be done, he added.

He assured Filipino commuters that the LTFRB would deploy personnel to monitor the situation on the ground.

Guadiz, meanwhile, told passengers to plan their trips early to make their travel more comfortable.

He likewise encouraged them to remain vigilant and report any irregularities during their trips to the authorities.

"Our team will be on the ground throughout the holiday period to ensure smooth and efficient transportation services, and we encourage the public to report any irregularities," Guadiz said.

"We urge everyone to plan their trips early and travel responsibly. Together, let us ensure a safe, peaceful, and meaningful observance of Undas."

He said the LTFRB remains vigilant in safeguarding the rights and safety of every passenger. (PR)

DSWD...

from page 8

our national stockpile — these are family food packs that are scattered in all our warehouses throughout the country — was around two million pieces," Gatchalian said.

As of Thursday morning, Gatchalian said there are still 1,982,000 family food packs in DSWD warehouses nationwide.

"Nabawasan mula kahapon hanggang ngayon kasi nagri-release na tayo (It decreased from yesterday because we are releasing)," he said.

In the Bicol Region, which was among the hard-hit areas, there are around 170,000 family food packs before the onslaught of Kristine, which is now down to 121,000 as local government units (LGUs) continue to withdraw supplies.

"Pero hindi tayo tumitigil diyay, habang nagwi-withdraw sila, nagpapadala na tayo ng karagdagang another 100,000 family food packs sa Bicol — en route na iyon ngayon (But we are not stopping there, while they are withdrawing, we are already sending another 100,000 family food packs to Bicol — that is en route now)," Gatchalian said.

The agency still has enough funds for the provision of cash assistance for the recovery of those affected by the inclement weather, he added.

"The DSWD has available funds, ready to mobilize financial assistance in the coming days. Hindi naman 'yan nauubos (That doesn't run out). That's on top of our regular assistance funds at meron din kami 'yung disaster funds namin (and we also have our disaster funds)," Gatchalian said.

In an interview with GMA-7 Unang Hirit, Gatchalian said role of the DSWD is to make sure that LGUs have sufficient relief resources since they are the first respondents during disasters and calamities.

"Ang DSWD, ang role namin is suportahan ang ating mga local government units kung sakaling kulangin sila ng mga goods (The DSWD's

role is to support our local government units if they will have shortage of relief goods)," he said.

Gatchalian said the LGUs of Bicol have so far picked up their requests of 50,000 boxes of family food packs from the agency's Field Office 5 to support relief operations for their respective constituents.

As of 6 a.m. Thursday, the DSWD has so distributed over PHP55 million in humanitarian assistances to regions affected by Kristine.

These regions are Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Cordillera Administrative Region, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Soccsksargen and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

DSWD Field Office (FO)-Central Luzon Region Director Venus Rebulda said her FO is actively accommodating relief requests from Aurora, Bataan, and Bulacan and to have these promptly distributed to Kristine-hit families.

Cagayan Valley regional director Lucia Suyo-Alan said his FO has enough relief supplies for the affected families even as the storm made a landfall over Isabela.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said 10 persons have been reported dead, two injured and nine missing.

OCD Director Edgar Posadas said the figures are still up for validation.

The deaths are from La Union, Quezon, Albay, Naga City, Catanduanes and Masbate, he added.

Meanwhile, Philippine Ports Authority Assistant General Manager Mark Jon Palomar reported that 7,313 passengers are reported stranded in various ports nationwide, while 1,733 Roll-on, Roll-off (Ro-Ro) vessels are unable to travel.

He said food is being provided to the stranded passengers courtesy of the DSWD. (with Zaldy De Layola/PNA)

Local...

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"If we are to provide support under the PUV Modernization, it should create jobs in the Philippines and not directed to imports. So we are finding and developing the manufacturing solution," Rodolfo said in a Viber message.

"Recognizing that we

are the nascent stage of the industry, and the fast pace of technology advancement, partnerships with other companies who have the technology and who are willing to support localization is important," he added. (PNA)

7 dead, 431K families affected as 'Kristine' batters most of PH

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA – Seven persons were reported dead as Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami) battered most of Luzon and parts of the Visayas, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said Thursday.

In its latest situation report, the disaster response body said the deaths include six from Bicol and one in Calabarzon.

Four persons were reported injured in Bicol while another seven persons were reported missing -- five in Bicol, one in Calabarzon, and one in Ilocos region.

These reports of casualties are still undergoing validation, the NDRRMC added.

Meanwhile, a total of 431,738 families or 2,077,643 persons from 2,124 barangays in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western

Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Caraga, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) were affected by the weather disturbance.

As of this time, 43,463 families, which is equivalent to 163,184 individuals, are being sheltered in 4,567 evacuation centers while another 8,003 families or 32,877 persons are being aided outside.

Inclement weather caused by Kristine also affected the operations of 86 ports in nine regions.

Meanwhile, stranded passengers were placed at 5,980 persons along with 1,351 rolling cargoes, 106 vessels, and 12 motor bancas in various ports in Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas and Eastern Visayas.

Around 1,007 houses were also reported damaged in seven regions. (PNA)



KRISTINE'S FURY. Philippine Coast Guard rescuers assist in the retrieval of the bodies of two residents after a landslide in Sitio Libas, Barangay Maguilton, Guinobatan, Albay on Wednesday (Oct. 23, 2024). The NDRRMC reported that Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (Trami) has so far left seven people dead and has affected over 431,000 families. (Photo courtesy of PCG)

Federation...

Specialist of DepEd Mr. Julie Boy Valleroso, and SPTA President Roma Gail Buezon. The oath-taking ceremony marked a significant milestone for the SPTA, symbolizing their commitment to supporting the education sector in Bacoor. The newly inducted officers are poised to play a crucial role in fostering

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stronger partnerships between parents, teachers, and the local government.

"This is a testament to the strong partnership between the City Government of Bacoor and DepEd, working together to provide quality education for our children," Mayor Revilla stated during his message to the new officers.

"We believe that empowered parents are essential for creating a conducive learning environment for our children." The event emphasized the shared responsibility in nurturing the future of Bacoor's youth through collaboration and mutual support. (Bacoor.gov.ph)

PH...

from page 1

Herbosa said in a news release Thursday.

"Thank you to our neighbors in the Western Pacific for the trust and confidence," he said.

The nomination is considered historic being the first time that the Philippines will be the President of the assembly since the foundation of the WHO in 1948.

The WHA is the highest decision-making body of the WHO. It is attended by delegations from all 194 WHO member states, 37 countries and areas in the Western Pacific.

It determines the policies of the Organization; appoints the director-general; supervises financial policies; and reviews and approves the proposed programme budget. It is held annually in Geneva.

Its officers are formally elected by acclamation at the start of each session in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the WHA.

The President oversees the conduct of the WHA and guides the Assembly in

its critical discussions and decisions on global health policies and initiatives.

The President may appoint the five vice presidents to act in its place during meetings or parts thereof. The vice presidents can also be selected by lot at the session where the election takes place.

Member States traditionally elect a President from each of the six WHO regions -- Western Pacific, South East Asia, Africa, Americas, Europe, Eastern Mediterranean -- rotating every year.

The Philippines hosts the WHO Regional Office in the Western Pacific.

The last time a WHA President came from the Western Pacific was in 2019, from the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The Philippines aims to further emphasize the importance of resilient health systems and international cooperation in the face of global health challenges through the leadership in the WHA. (PNA)



Photo courtesy of pna.gov.ph

House...

from page 1

families.

Gabonada said a separate relief mission is also being prepared by Ako Bicol Party-list Rep. Zaldy Co, the chairperson of the House

Committee on Appropriations.

The PHP15 million cash assistance per district and party-list representative comes from the Department of Social Welfare and Development's

(DSWD) Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) program.

The relief efforts are being coordinated with Tingog Party-list, which has been instrumental in providing on-the-ground support for the affected areas.

The districts covered by the aid include some of the most affected areas in the Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas, Calabarzon, and Mimaropa, where extensive damage to homes, infrastructure, and

livelihoods was reported.

Gabonada said mechanisms have been set up to ensure that the AICS funds reach the constituents of the 22 affected districts *"as quickly and efficiently as possible."*

Meanwhile, Romualdez also called on the private sector and non-government organizations to complement the government's efforts.

"This is the time for solidarity and cooperation. We welcome any additional

support that can help our people get back on their feet," he said.

The relief operation is part of the larger response strategy of the Marcos administration to address the immediate and long-term needs of those affected by natural disasters.

Romualdez assured that the government would push for sustainable recovery programs to help the affected communities rebuild their lives. (PNA)

EDITORIAL

Digital world war

IN the current state of geopolitics where conflicts are engulfing parts of the world, the security of information has become pivotal, making the internet a vital front where battles are fought as viciously as those on the ground.

The internet highway or the submarine fiber optic cable network around the world, through which data zips faster than the blink of an eye, is the artery of trade and commerce that makes it a potential target for attack during a conflict.

The fiber optic grid crisscrossing the globe, found mostly under the seas, is also through which more than 95 percent of communications is transmitted.

In the Asian region, the Philippines is among the likely hotspots in the event of a conflict between superpowers. The country, because of its position on the globe and its unique Western ties, is the center of the international data backbone. By this year, there will be seven trans-Pacific subsea cables connecting the Philippines to the US.

The campaign to secure the grid has been ongoing for years highlighted by the friction with Pacific Light Data Communication (PLDC), the company that has a substantial Chinese ownership and that had partnered with Google and Meta (formerly Facebook).

In 2020, however, Team Telecom of the US Department of Justice recommended disapproval of the undersea cable connection to the US. Giants Google and Meta refiled their application to connect Taiwan and the Philippines to the US, abandoning the Hong Kong portion, and "without ownership and control by a Chinese entity."

Due to the American pressure, the Dr. Peng Telecom Media Group, a Chinese stakeholder in PLDC, sold its stake at a loss in February 2022 and was replaced by a Canadian investor.

With the aggressive moves of China in the West Philippine Sea, concern has grown over the submarine structures.

China retaliated for the American siege on PLDC by delaying its approval of permits for companies to repair or lay new cables under the sea.

Concerns were raised at the recent UN General Assembly about the security of the global cable network.

The US, Australia, France, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and the UK issued a joint statement calling for undersea cables to be secured

from risks that include surveillance, intentional damage and compromise of data and communications.

The Center for Security Strategy and Technology at the Observer Foundation in New Delhi cited in a report the risk of surveillance and snooping by Chinese telecom companies, including the risks posed by undersea cables.

Data transmitted through undersea cables that could be compromised include information about US military personnel and the movements of warships and other military assets.

China's HMN Technologies is the latest entrant into the specialized field of cable laying that previously was dominated by just three companies: US-based SubCom, French firm Alcatel Submarine Networks and Japan's Nippon Electric Company.

HMN Technologies was once owned by Huawei and is still considered by the US to be an affiliate of the Chinese tech giant.

Huawei's equipment has been banned in the United States and other countries over fears that they can be used for espionage.

A Washington Post report said that concerted US lobbying has led to three other trans-Pacific cable projects being routed through the coastal waters of Indonesia and the Philippines to avoid Beijing-claimed waters, inflating the costs of the projects.

Chinese state mouthpieces said the concerns about the security of submarine cables is a two-way street since Beijing also worries about espionage or sabotage when cable-laying ships of the US and other Western countries operate in areas China claims.

China also has a huge commercial motivation for dominating the fiber optic grid. Preventing foreign companies from operating in their claimed territories would allow it to continue to dominate the network, providing ongoing business for its companies and fulfilling its digital Silk Road ambitions.

Chinese companies, while relatively new to the field, have become highly competitive with Western cable-laying companies by offering to build and repair subsea cables at cheaper cost.

Securing the communications infrastructure is a vital component for shielding the sovereignty and dignity of the Philippines.

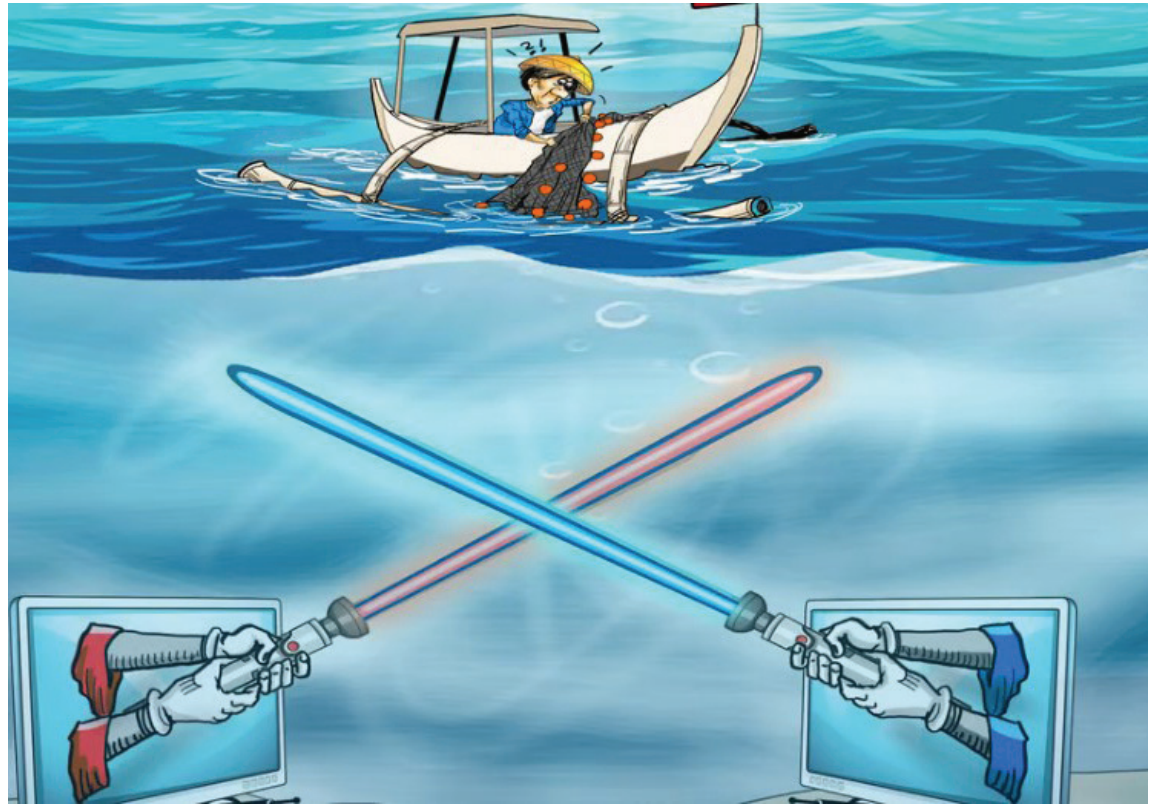


Photo courtesy of tribune.net.ph

KAPIRASONG kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

Renan Catapang Agtay

PART 1

Noong Hulyo 26, dalawang taon na mula nang pumanaw si Renan Catapang Agtay – tubong Batangas, iskolar ng bayan sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas, naging aktibista ng League of Filipino Students, at sumampa sa New People's Army o NPA sa Cagayan Valley at maglingkod dito nang ilang taon.

Nang bumaba siya mula sa pagiging NPA at nag-aral muli sa kolehiyo sa kanyang probinsya, patuloy siyang tumangan sa rebolusyunaryong paninindigan at umugnay sa mga kasama at kaibigan sa pakikibaka. Nang pumanaw siya bunsod ng karamdaman na natuklasan sa loob ng maikling panahon matapos niyang bumaba, pinarangalan siya ng mga kasama't kaibigan, gayundin ng pormasyon sa rehiyong Cagayan Valley ng NPA at Communist Party of the Philippines.

Taong 2000 pumasok sa UP-Diliman si Renan, sa kursong Chemical Engineering. Napili niya ito, pabiro niyang sabi, dahil tuwang-tuwa siya sa amoy ng mga kemikal sa laboratoryo noong hayskul. Kahit hindi pa aktibista, lumahok siya at mga kaibigan niya sa Edsa 2, ang makasaysayang pagkilos na nagpatalsik kay Joseph Estrada sa pagkapangulo.

Pero ang nakapagmulat sa kanya, aniya, ay ang Philippine Collegian – partikular ang mga progresibong nilalaman nito

sa ilalim ng pamunuan nitong katunggali ng mga aktibista.

Bagamat may nauna nang nagekrut sa kanya sa LFS, naging pormal ang pagiging miyembro niya nito nang pumirma siya sa membership form na iniabot ni Karen Empeño, ang aktibistang kasama ni Sherlyn Cadapan na dinukot ng mga tauhan ni Jovito Palparan sa Hagonoy, Bulacan noong 2006. Ani Renan, si Karen din, na kasabayan niya sa Kalayaan Residence Hall, ang nagsama sa kanya sa Vinzons Hall, sentruhan ng mga aktibista sa kampus.

Bilang kasapi ng LFS, kumilos siya sa College of Engineering at pagkatapos ay sa buong pamantasan. Bukod sa likas na mapagpatawa at palatawa, nakilala rin siya ng mga kasabayang aktibista na masipag – "go lang nang go," sa mga salita noon at niya – matatag sa paninindigan, matalas magsuri, at handang magsakripisyo. Makwento, mahilig sa kwento, magaan – giliw na giliw sa kanya ang mga kasama at kaibigan, at gustung-gusto siyang kasama sa gawain, tambayan, at bahay.

Taong 2003, matapos ang anim na buwang pakikipamahay, nagpasya si Renan na sumapi sa NPA. Nakilala siya sa mga alyas na "Ka Gao" at "Ka Bangis."

Ayon sa isang parangal sa kanya na inilagay sa Facebook, "Naging kagawad siya ng seksyong pampolitika ng sentrong himpilan ng panrehiyong kumand ng BHB sa Hilagang Silangang Luzon.

Dahil sa taglay na kaalaman sa syensya, naitalaga rin sa gawaing ordnans. Huli siyang naitalaga sa gawaing propaganda, edukasyon at kultura."

Sa kanyang pagdalaw, ikinukwento niya ang mainit na pagsuporta ng masa sa Hukbo, ang mga labanang militar sa rehiyon na kinasangkutan at nabalitaan niya, at ang mahusay na pakikitungo ng mga kadre at pulang mandirigma.

Paborito niya ang mga kwento ng magsasaka na mainit ang pagsalubong sa pagbabalik ng NPA matapos magpuna ang huli sa malulubhang pagkakamali na nagawa noong dekada 1980 at maipaliwanag ang kilusang pagwawasto.

Noong 2008, bumaba sa pagiging NPA si Renan at nag-aral sa Batangas. Noon pa man, aniya, nagtataka na siya kung bakit pagod na pagod siya tuwing aakyat ang ikaapat na palapag ng gusali ng paaralan – habang ang mga kaklase niya'y nagtatakbuhan pa.

Hindi nagtagal, natuklasang mayroon siyang renal failure – ang sakit na ikinamatay ng kuya niya ilang taon bago noon – at kailangang mag-dialysis.

Saunti-unting paghina ng katawan, natanggap na niya ang kamatayan. Bago siya pumanaw, sabi niya patungkol sa anim na taong dialysis: "Hindi ba't tagumpay na ang ganoon katagal sa isang lipunang malakolonyal ipagpapatuloy..."

Ang
CAVITENO
NEWSWEEKLY

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TOWN in FOCUS

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ASEAN states send air assets, aid to ‘Kristine’-hit PH

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

MANILA – Four Southeast Asian nations – Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia, and Indonesia – are sending assistance to the Philippines to support its ongoing recovery efforts after the devastation left by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name Trami).

At the Saturday

News Forum in Quezon City, Office of Civil Defense (OCD) administrator Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno said Singapore would send its air assets to assist in the delivery of relief to affected regions.

“Although, again, hindi natin pro-problemahin iyong family food packs, hygiene kits subalit iyong pagtulong sa atin ng mga ibang bansa namely –

automatic iyong tulong ng Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia – pormal na iyan. Nagpadala rin sila ng air assets (Although, again, we don’t have a problem with the relief items, but other countries are helping us namely – it’s automatic for Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia to help – that’s formal. They’ve also sent their air assets,” he said.

Nepomuceno did not mention further details about the assistance but noted that any additional help is “a sign of solidarity with our partners.”

In a statement on Saturday, the Singaporean Ministry of Defense confirmed that the Singaporean Armed Forces (SAF) is deploying one Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) C-130 transport aircraft to aid in humanitarian efforts in the country.

“The SAF’s contributions underscore the warm and friendly bilateral and defense ties and close Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) cooperation between Singapore and the Philippines,” it said.

The RSAF C-130 aircraft will provide airlift support to deliver humanitarian aid supplies to communities affected by the storm. (PNA)



ASEAN AID. A personnel of the Republic of Singapore Air Force conducts a pre-flight check in preparation for a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief mission to the Philippines following the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine. Apart from Singapore, neighboring countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei have also sent assistance to the Philippines, Office of Civil Defense administrator Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno said in a forum on Saturday (Oct. 26, 2024). (Photo courtesy of the Singaporean Ministry of Defense)

CAVITEVIEW

DTI Calabarzon boosts MSMEs digitalization program

By Anna Mole

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in Calabarzon continues to enhance the competitiveness of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in both local and global markets by providing them access to business digital solutions.

In a recent episode of the Philippine Information Agency Calabarzon’s Sulong Calabarzon program,

DTI Calabarzon Regional Director Marissa Argente emphasized the MSMEs digitalization program, which addresses the unique needs and challenges faced by local businesses. The program provides targeted support through training, tools, and resources to help these businesses transition to digital platforms.

“We have specific training on how our entrepreneurs can be more digitalized so that they can have access to local and

global markets. We teach them how to use digital tools effectively to expand their businesses through credible online platforms,” Argente said.

According to Argente, the digitalization program, aligned with the government’s vision of fostering innovation and creating an inclusive economy, is a significant step toward achieving a digitally-enabled economy where businesses of all sizes can thrive in a

highly competitive and increasingly digital global market.

Among the digital solutions provided to MSMEs is the QR payment system, which enables businesses to accept payments from various e-wallets and banks.

“We also want a QR code system where all the payments are transacted there, so we are partnering with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) so that we can have a QR code system in every market in the region.”

She emphasized that the QR code system would empower small businesses in remote areas to participate in the digital economy, bridging gaps in access to formal banking services.

The director added: “It is necessary for us to use the technology that is our way because times are changing. We’ve taught them how to use online payment systems to offer more convenient options to consumers.” (AM/PIA-4A)



Photo courtesy of pia.gov.ph

Republic of the Philippines
Fourth Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 130, Trece Martires City
rtc1tmt130@judiciary.gov.ph
09198753023

IN RE: PETITION FOR ISSUANCE OF
OWNER'S DUPLICATE OF TRANSFER
CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 077-
202200673 OF THE OFFICE OF THE
REGISTER OF DEEDS OF TRECE
MARTIRES CITY

LRC CASE NO. 6832-032-24

MARYANN B. ANGOBUNG,
REPRESENTED BY HER ATTORNEY-
IN-FACT – GOLDSTAR REALTY AND
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.
Petitioner.

x-----x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Filed before this Court is a verified Petition for Issuance of
Owner's Duplicate of Transfer Certificate of Title No. 077-
202200673 issued by the Registry of Deeds for the City of
Trece Martires, in the name of MARYANN B. ANGOBUNG,
the registered owner.

After being satisfied that the Petition is sufficient in form

and substance, the same is hereby set for Initial Hearing on
November 6, 2024 and January 29, 2025 both at 8:30 o'clock in
the morning, at which date, hour, and place any and all interested
persons are required to appear and show cause why the petition
should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Notice of Hearing be published for three
(3) consecutive weeks, at the expense of the petitioner, in a
newspaper of general circulation and posted at the Trece Martires
City Market, the City and the Barangay Halls where the property
is situated, as well as on the land itself located at Lot 14 Blk 3,
Green Forbes City, Brgy. Hugo Perez, Trece Martires City, Cavite
and other copies be furnished to the Registry of Deeds for the
City of Trece Martires, Office of the Solicitor General petitioner,
and her counsel.

The Sheriff of this Court is hereby directed to post copies of this
Notice accordingly. The petitioner is likewise directed to submit a
copy of the petition with its annexes to the Registry of Deeds for
the City of Trece Martires and the Office of the Solicitor General.

Send a copy of this Order to the Office of the Clerk of Court
(OCC) for raffle of the publication.

SO ORDERED.

Trece Martires City, Cavite, July 8, 2024.

(SGD.) GAYSOL C. LUNA
Presiding Judge

Copy Furnished:

SALVE Law Offices
ATTY. ALLAN O. SALVE
Counsel for Petitioner
Unit 106, Pasig Royale Mansion
Evangelista Street, Brgy. Santolan
1610 Pasig City, Metro Manila

MARYANN B. ANGOBUNG
Petitioner
B3 L15 Green Forbes City Subd.
Brgy. Hugo Perez, Trece Martires City, Cavite

GOLDSTAR REALTY AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Attorney-in-Fact
2nd Flr., SGS Bldg., Felix Avenue,
Karangalan Village, Brgy. San Isidro, Cainta,
1900 Rizal

REGISTRY OF DEEDS FOR THE CITY OF TRECE
MARTIRES
Trece Martires City, Cavite

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL
134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village
Makati City

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
Trece Martires City, Cavite

Ang Caviteo Newsweekly
October 14, 21 & 28, 2024

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
CITY OF IMUS, CAVITE

BDO UNIBANK, INC.,
Mortgagee,

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL
ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT NO.
3135, AS AMENDED, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4118

-versus-

SPOUSES REBBIENE JOPIA ROLLAN
AND CHRISTIAN SABADO ROLLAN,
Mortgagors.

F.C. Case No. 19191-24
x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as
amended by Act 4118, filed by BDO UNIBANK, INC.,
mortgagee, with office address at 33rd Floor, BDO Corporate
Center Ortigas, No. 12, ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City,
against SPOUSES REBBIENE JOPIA ROLLAN AND
CHRISTIAN SABADO ROLLAN, mortgagors, with residence
and postal address at #331B. San Ramon Street, Tondo
North 1013, Manila and/or Block 11 Lot 2, Brgy. Bucandala,
Imus, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as
of August 15, 2024 amounts to TWO MILLION SEVENTY
EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWO PESOS AND

41/100 (Php2,078,102.41), Philippine Currency, including interest
and penalties, but excluding attorney's fees, sheriff's fees and
all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the
undersigned will sell at public auction on November 12, 2024
at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the main
entrance of the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC-Imus Hall of
Justice, Aguinaldo Highway, Imus City, Cavite, to the highest
bidder, for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following
property with all the improvements therein, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2021019354

"X X X

LOT NO: 2 BLOCK NO: 11 PLAN NO:
PCS-04-029545
PORTION OF: CONS. OF LOT 5880, IMUS ESTATE & LOT
18, BLK. 7, PSD-04-231799
LOCATION: BRGY. OF BUCANDALA, MUN. OF IMUS,
PROVINCE OF CAVITE
XXX

BOUNDARIES:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT(S)
1-2	NORTH	RD. LOT 10, PCS-04-029545
2-3	EAST	LOT 3, BLOCK 11, PCS-04-029545
3-4	SOUTH	LOT 9, BLOCK 11, PCS-04-029545
4-1	WEST	LOT 1, BLOCK 11, PCS-04-029545

XXX

AREA: FIFTY FOUR SQUARE METERS (54), MORE OR
LESS
X X X"

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the
said date, it shall be held on November 19, 2024 at 10:00
o'clock in the morning without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate
for themselves the title to the said property and encumbrance
therein if any there be.

City of Imus, Cavite, October 3, 2024.

(SGD) ROSVIDA C. NOCUM
Sheriff IV

APPROVED:

(SGD) ARMIE A. FRANCISCO
Clerk of Court VI

Copy Furnished:

JACEL DL. FLORENCIO
BDO UNIBANK, INC.
REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT UNIT
33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas,
No. 12, ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City

SPS. REBBIENE JOPIA ROLLAN AND CHRISTIAN
SABADO ROLLAN
#331B. San Ramon Street, Tondo North 1013, Manila and/or
Block 11 Lot 2, Brgy. Bucandala, Imus, Cavite

Ang Caviteo Newsweekly
October 14, 21 & 28, 2024

Republic of the Philippines
Fourth Judicial Region
Regional Trial Court of Cavite
Office of the Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff
New Justice Hall, J.P. Rizal Avenue, Kaybagal
South, Tagaytay City

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund),
Petitioner-Mortgagee,

NO. TG-24-100
FOR: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of
Real Estate Mortgage under Act No.
3135, as amended by Act No. 4118

-versus-

JANET P. PARREÑO,
Borrower-Mortgagor.

X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-judicial foreclosure sale under Act 3135, as Amended by Act No. 4118, filed by 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 principal office and place of business at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Loan and Mortgage Agreement ("MORTGAGE") executed and notarized on November 19, 1999 by Borrower-Mortgagor, JANET P. PARREÑO, single, of legal age, Filipino citizen, with residence and postal addresses at (1) B9, L4, Phase 2A, Pacita 2 Complex, San Pedro, Laguna and (2) Lot 14, Block 5, Rancho Imperial de Silang, Brgy. Tartaria, Silang, Cavite, in favor of the Petitioner-Mortgagee, over a real estate property including improvements thereon, described in and covered by TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. (T-891794) 25781 of the Registry of Deeds for Tagaytay City, in order to satisfy the outstanding loan obligation of the Borrower/Mortgagor in the amount of THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND FOUR

HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX PESOS AND 99/100 (Php350,436.99), inclusive of interest and other charges, as of July 2, 2024, the undersigned Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff of the Regional Trial Court of Cavite thru her deputy, Alex E. Martinez, will sell at public auction on December 4, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, at the New Hall of Justice of Tagaytay City, to the highest bidder, for Cash or Manager's Check and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all its improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. (T-891794) 25781
Registry of Deeds for PROVINCE OF CAVITE

"IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in the Mun. of Silang, Prov. of Cavite bounded and describes as follows:

A parcel of land (Lot 14 Blk. 5 of the cons/subd. plan Pcs-04-014127, being a portion of lots 27-91 Blk. 1; lots 1-61, 30-79 & 88-101 Blk. 2; lots 1-29 Blk. 3, lots 10-41 Blk. 4; lots 1-60 Blk. 5; lots 1-51 Blk. 6, Blk. 7; Open Space lot 1; Alley lots 1,2 & 13 Rd. lots 1,3,4-10 & 24 all of Pcs-04-12899), situated in the Brgy. Tartaria, Mun. of Silang, Prov. of Cavite. Bounded on the SW., along line 1-2 by lot 13; on the NW., along line 2-3 by lot 12, both of Blk. 5; on the NE., along line 3-4-5 by Rd. lot 9; and on the SE., along line 5-1 by lot 16 Blk. 5, all of the cons/subd. plan. Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan being S. 68 deg. 11'E., 4996.33 m. fr. BLLM No. 1, Cad-45-D, Silang Cad.; thence N. 31 deg. 11'W, 4.50 m. to pt. 2; N. 58 deg. 49'E., 10.50 m. to pt. 3; S. 31 deg. 11'E., 2.65 m. to pt. 4; S. 29 deg. 20'E., 1.86 m. to pt. of beginning, containing an area of FORTY SEVEN SQ.M. & TWENTY FIVE DECI. (47.25). All pts. referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by PS cyl. conc mons 15x60 cm; bearings true; date of orig. survey, Dec. 7, 1973 to Dec. 4, 1975 & Aug. 1-30, 1998 and that of cons/subd survey, July 10-25, 1998 and was approved on

is registered in accordance with the provisions of the Property Registration Decree in the name of*

JANET P. PARREÑO, of legal age, Filipino, single."

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on December 11, 2024 without further notice.

Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate

and verify for themselves the TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. (T-891794) 25781, the encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

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

Tagaytay City, Philippines, October 17, 2024.

ATTY. VARBRA ANN A. VARIAS-DIMAYUGA
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

ALEX E. MARTINEZ
Sheriff-in-Charge

Copy Furnished:

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund)
Petitioner-Mortgagee
The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

MARIA VICTORIA D. CAPIRAL
c/o JEFFREY A. RAMIENTAS
Attorney-in-Fact of the Mortgagee
GREAT SOURCE CORPORATION
2546 A. Bonifacio St., Bangkal, Makati City

JANET P. PARREÑO
Borrower-Mortgagor
(1) B9, L4, Phase 2A, Pacita 2 Complex, San Pedro, Laguna
(2) Lot 14, Block 5, Rancho Imperial de Silang, Brgy. Tartaria, Silang, Cavite

WARNING: IT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED TO REMOVE, DEFACE OR DESTROY THIS NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF THE AUCTION SALE UNDER THE PENALTY OF LAW

Ang Caviteo Newsweekly
October 21, 28 & November 04, 2024

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
CITY OF IMUS, CAVITE

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(PAG-IBIG FUND),
Mortgagee,

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL
ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT NO.
3135, AS AMENDED, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4118

versus-

ROBERT P. PAREJA for himself and as
Attorney-In-Fact, of his wife, IMELDA R. PAREJA,
Mortgagors.

F.C. Case No. 19201-24
X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND), mortgagee, with principal office at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, against ROBERT P. PAREJA for himself and as Attorney-In-Fact, of his wife, IMELDA R. PAREJA, mortgagors, with residence and postal addresses at Blk. 11 Lot 5 Prima Homes Subd., Alapan 1-C, Imus, Cavite and/or Lot 6 Blk. 9, Dreamville 4 Imus Subd., Alapan 1C,

Imus, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of September 10, 2024 amounts to SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED NINETY NINE PESOS & 71/100 (Php724,399.71), Philippine Currency, including interest but excluding penalties, attorney's fees, sheriff's fees and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned will sell at public auction on November 19, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC-Imus, Bulwagan Ng Katarungan, Aguinaldo Highway, Imus City, Cavite, to the highest bidder, for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all the improvements therein, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2012034486

"A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 6 BLK. 9 OF THE SUBD. PLAN, PSD-04-200927, BEING A PORTION OF LOT 1556-C-1, PSD-042109-065639, L.R.C. REC. NO. 8843) SITUATED IN THE BRGY. OF ALAPAN-1C, MUN. OF IMUS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON THE N.E., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 8 BLK. 9; ON THE S.E., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY ROAD LOT 11; ON THE S.W., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 4; AND ON THE N.W., ALONG LINE 4-1 BY LOT 5, BOTH BLK. 9, ALL OF THE SUBD. PLAN. X X X CONTAINING AN AREA OF THIRTY SIX (36) SQUARE METERS. X X X"

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on November 26, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for

themselves the title to the said property and encumbrance therein if any there be.

City of Imus, Cavite, October 10, 2024.

(SGD) ROSVIDA C. NOCUM
Sheriff IV
Branch 22

APPROVED:

(SGD) ARMIE A. FRANCISCO
Clerk of Court VI

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

ATTY. CAESAR S. EUROPA
Attorney-In-Fact,
24K ACCOUNTS CONSULTANT, INC.
3F Fass Inteli College Bldg., No. 11, Pittsburgh St., Brgy. Silangan, Cubao, Quezon City

ROBERT P. PAREJA
IMELDA R. PAREJA
Blk. 11 Lot 5 Prima Homes Subd., Alapan 1-C, Imus, Cavite and/or
Lot 6 Blk. 9, Dreamville 4 Imus Subd., Alapan 1C, Imus, Cavite

Ang Caviteo Newsweekly
October 28, November 04 & 11, 2024



Address: Unit F 2nd Floor, Wilbincom Building J.P. Rizal Ave. Kaybagal South, Tagaytay City, Cavite 4120
 Email: gensaicareercorp@gmail.com
 Contact Number: 046 6862046

JOB VACANCY

(1) JAPANESE LANGUAGE TRANSLATOR

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Administrative tasks to ensure proper function and coordination between departments
- Translate documents from English to Japanese and vice versa
- Compose and post content for the company's official website and other social media platforms
- Act as translator between Japanese clients and Filipino staff
- Acts as liaison officer between Japanese clients
- Communicate directly with clients to foster and encourage trusting relationships

Qualifications:

- Must be a collage graduate or equivalent of JLPT N2 or N1
- Fluency in the Japanese Language, both spoken and written
- Should be able to travel to meet with clients
- Works under minimal supervision but works well with a team

Interested applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumes to gensaicareercorp@gmail.com

Shortlisted applicants will be notified for the next step in the hiring process.

Vaccine expert calls for preventive, innovative solutions vs. dengue

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor

MANILA – Immunization against dengue prevents severe cases and offers broader protection, an expert said Tuesday.

In a news release, Vaccine Expert Panel head Nina Gloriani said sustained preventive efforts and innovative solutions are important in combating the mosquito-borne disease.

Department of Health (DOH) latest data showed that the number of dengue cases recorded from Jan. 1 to Oct. 4 is 82 percent higher than during the same period last year.

There are 269,467 confirmed infections as compared to 147,678 cases last year.

School-aged children, particularly those up to 9 years and between 9 to 16 years, remain the most vulnerable to dengue.

While the DOH's 4S strategy is essential, Gloriani noted that it is not consistently implemented across the nation.

The 4S strategy means search and destroy mosquito-breeding sites; self-protection; seeking early consultation; and support fogging and spraying in hotspot areas.

"Complacency is a problem we're seeing not just in communities but perhaps among authorities as well," she said.

"There are at least two new dengue vaccines currently in development. The goal is to prevent severe cases and offer broader protection."

First, second generations

The introduction of second-generation dengue vaccines offer hope for more effective prevention vs the first generation.

First-generation vaccines can be given to people who already had dengue infection. Anyone who wants to get this jab must first undergo screening.

The second-generation vaccines may be given to population groups with or without a history of dengue infection.

They use the dengue virus 2 imitating the dengue infection and engaging the body's natural defenses.

They also focus on targeting dengue's four serotypes and include components that address the non-structural protein 1, which is associated with severe dengue.

Gloriani said first-generation vaccines pose challenges on accessibility and convenience due to the testing requirement while the second-generation ones allow wider use and provide expanded coverage.

The World Health Organization has recommended the use of second-generation vaccine among children aged 6 to 16 years in areas with high dengue burden and high transmission intensity.

Other Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam are already introducing the next generation vaccines.

On the other hand, the Philippines is taking a more cautious approach to ensure sufficient public education on vaccination.

In 2024, more than six million cases of dengue were recorded in Brazil, peaking during the summer between the months of January and March.

"Brazil has faced significant outbreaks and tried mass immunization with the vaccine. However, vaccinating a large portion of the population requires more resources, which is not always feasible," Gloriani said. "The goal is to vaccinate a large enough segment of the population to achieve herd immunity."

She added dengue cases can be managed, especially in countries like the Philippines where the disease remains endemic, with integrated approach to dengue prevention and control, including vaccination and public education. (PNA)

111 dead, 1.7M families affected by twin cyclones

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA – The death toll from the effects of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name Trami) has climbed to 111, while combined with Typhoon Leon (international name Kong-rey), affected families have reached 1,789,276.

In its situation update Tuesday, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) however said only 14 deaths have been confirmed so far -- nine in Zamboanga Peninsula, two in Central Luzon, two in Cordillera and one in Northern Mindanao.

Meanwhile, 97 deaths are under validation --

54 in Calabarzon, 36 in Bicol, five in Central Visayas and two in Zamboanga Peninsula.

The number of injured were placed at 74, of which only 10 are confirmed as of this time.

Still undergoing validation are reports of 30 missing persons.

Meanwhile, the number of affected families equivalent to 7,134,954 persons are living in 10,181 villages in 17 regions nationwide.

Of this number, 121,814 families or 531,387 persons are being served inside 5,872 evacuation centers while another 84,137 families or 403,727 individuals are being helped outside.

Damaged houses were placed at 83,777 and these were reported in 16 regions.

Agriculture damage was estimated at PHP2.8 billion in nine regions while infrastructure damage was placed at PHP1.54 billion in 10 regions. (PNA)

De Lima: Duterte drug war modeled after Davao Death Squad

By Zaldy De Layola

MANILA – Former senator and Justice secretary Leila De Lima on Tuesday echoed former Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office general manager Royina Garma's claim that the drug war of ex-president Rodrigo R. Duterte was patterned after the so-called Davao Death Squad (DDS).

During the House quad committee (quadcom) investigation on extrajudicial killings (EJKs) linked to Duterte's bloody campaign against illegal drugs, de Lima said the reward system used to incentivize killings in Davao City was expanded nationwide during Duterte's presidency, leading to devastating consequences.

She called it the Davao Model, allegedly used by Duterte to fight illegal drugs during his term as Davao City mayor.

The party-list candidate said the DDS operated in two distinct periods -- from 1988 to 1998 when Duterte first served as Davao mayor and 2001 to 2016 when the DDS transformed into the official Heinous Crimes Investigation Section under the Davao City Police Office.

Rewards system

During the first period, assassins composed of rebel returnees and Philippine National Police (PNP) officers were paid approximately PHP15,000 for each killing.

Of this, PHP5,000 went to police handlers and PHP10,000 was split among the assassins.

"Their safehouse was located inside the Napolcom (National Police Commission) compound in Barangay San Pedro," de Lima recounted. "After the summary execution of targeted victims, the DDS members regrouped at their safehouse and divided the reward."

De Lima further detailed how Duterte himself played a hands-on role.

"Duterte sometimes personally gave out the kill orders and the reward money directly to the assassins themselves," she alleged.

During the second period, rewards ranged between PHP13,000 and PHP15,000 per killing.

The payment was divided, with PHP3,000 to PHP5,000 going to police handlers and the rest split among the civilian "abanteros" or hitmen, who were typically rebel returnees.

"A team of one PNP handler and three civilian abanteros was given an average of three targets every month," de Lima claimed.

De Lima said the structure of the DDS was not confined to Davao City as Duterte replicated the Davao Model nationwide during his presidency.

Operators

She claimed that Duterte's trusted police officers from Davao, including then-PNP chief Senator Ronald Dela Rosa, were appointed to key positions in major urban cities to lead the campaign of killings under the pretext of anti-drug operations.

"Duterte used the Davao system of barangay-based lists of victims," de Lima said. "Barangay officials were required to identify drug offenders in their communities, who were then targeted in riding-in-tandem operations by death squads and official nanlaban (fought back) operations conducted by the PNP."

De Lima stressed that the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) investigation into the DDS, conducted in 2009, was crucial in understanding how Duterte's death squads operated.

"The CHR investigation provides crucial insight into how Duterte organizes his death squads using active police officials as their leaders," de Lima, then the CHR chair when the constitutional body conducted its probe into the DDS, said.

The CHR investigation also shed light on the incentive system for the death squads, revealing how intelligence funds were used to finance logistics and rewards for the killings.

The DDS was not a loosely connected group of killers but a highly structured and state-backed death squad, according to the former senator.

"Most of our unofficial findings in the CHR investigation were eventually confirmed by Edgar Matobato and Arturo Lascañas," De Lima said, referring to the former DDS insiders who testified about the group's inner workings.

Matobato is a self-confessed hitman who publicly exposed the operations of the DDS in 2016.

His revelations were supported by Lascañas, a former senior police officer who later came forward to corroborate the existence of the DDS and its operational methods.

Lascañas, in particular, submitted a detailed 186-page affidavit to the International Criminal Court, which de Lima described as "the most comprehensive account on the DDS from its founding in 1988 up to 2016."

In the affidavit, Lascañas identified Duterte, codenamed Superman, as the leader and mastermind of the DDS.

"MRRD (Mayor Rodrigo Roa Duterte) alias Superman was the highest leader and mastermind of the DDS," de Lima quoted from the affidavit.

The affidavit also named SPO4 Sanson Buenaventura as the logistics and finance officer who handled the clearance for death squad operations, and SPO3 Lascañas as the overall team leader for operations and planning.

Lascañas said the death squad's finances came from the Peace and Order or intelligence fund of Duterte's office.

The fund provided weekly gas allowances, monthly cash stipends, and other incentives for the hitmen, who were tasked with eliminating both petty criminals and high-value targets.

"In so-called special project killings, they were rewarded anywhere from PHP100,000 to PHP1 million, depending on the status of the target," de Lima revealed, quoting Lascañas' affidavit.

Lascañas confirmed that the DDS maintained mass graves, including the Laud Quarry and the Mandug site, where the remains of the victims were disposed of, a detail corroborated by other testimonies.

Evidence

In her testimony, de Lima also referenced Garma's affidavit, presented during a previous hearing, which described a similar reward system.

Garma worked closely with the DDS even before 2016, according to De Lima.

This link between the Davao Model and Duterte's national drug war was critical to understanding how extrajudicial killings were incentivized and executed on a larger scale.

De Lima urged legislators to consider the CHR's findings and the testimonies of Matobato and Lascañas as crucial evidence.

She emphasized that accountability must be sought for the thousands of victims killed during Duterte's drug war. (PNA)

Transportation sector ready for 'Undas' 2024

By Darryl John Esguerra

MANILA – The Department of Transportation (DOTr) and its attached agencies are prepared for the expected influx of travelers for the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on Nov. 1 and 2.

In a Palace press briefing Monday, DOTr Secretary Jaime Bautista said transport agencies have made all necessary preparations in anticipation of the increased volume of passengers at airports, seaports and bus terminals.

"Every year, we have this Oplan Biyaheng Ayos (safe trip) para sa ating mga mananakay. So, ready tayo. Katulong din natin diyan ang Philippine Coast Guard (Every year we have those Oplan Biyaheng Ayos for our passengers. So, we are ready. The Philippine Coast Guard is also helping us)," Bautista said.

Bautista said around four million of passengers are expected to travel to various provinces this week.

"Actually, millions 'yung tinitingnan natin. Every year naman millions 'yung estimate natin. Siguro 'yun lang bus passengers lang natin aabutin 'yan mga 1 to 1.5 million passengers. Airports and seaports siguro easy diyan mga 3 million ang magbi-biyahe (Actually, we are looking at millions. Our

estimate is millions every year. Maybe that's the only bus passengers we will reach, that's about 1 to 1.5 million passengers. Airports and seaports are probably easy, about 3 million will travel there)," he said, when asked about the expected number of travelers.

All airports and seaports in the country are already operational following Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami), although some minor seaports in Calabarzon and Bicol Region sustained damages worth around PHP100 million, Bautista said. (PNA)

DepEd chief optimistic on benefits of AI for quality education

By Stephanie Sevillano

MANILA – Education Secretary Sonny Angara on Thursday expressed optimism on the possible benefits of the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to improve the quality of education in the Philippines.

In an ambush interview at the sidelines of the University of the Philippines' (UP) AI Horizons PH 2024 Conference, Angara said utilizing AI may advance efficiency in learning.

"Talagang pinag-aaralan namin ano iyong posibilidad diyan. Kasi nakikita natin, may pakinabang talaga diyan yung mga guro, meron din pakinabang sa mga estudyante (We are really studying the possibilities there. Because we see that there's really a benefit for teachers, even for students)," he said.

In particular, Angara said the technology may assist teachers in dealing with learners.

"Parang matitipid ng oras ni teacher dahil makapag-focus siya doon sa mga nangangailangan. Tapos iyong mga advanced students, pwede na rin mauna kasi sa tulong ng (Teachers can save time and they can focus on those in need. Then the advanced students, they can proceed with the aid of the) AI," Angara said.

To realize technological advancements and the use of AI, Angara said, there are still 2,000 schools needing electric power and 40,000 schools needing electricity upgrades.

"I think, as you all know, AI needs good power, good bandwidth. So we have to ensure that these systems can handle the technology of the future," he said in a separate speech during the conference.

Before AI, Angara said the DepEd has ongoing partnerships for the utilization of other innovative software and tools that help elevate learning systems including Khan Academy, I AM The Code, and Canva, among others.

AI in governance

Experts from UP, meanwhile, said AI can also help address not only education but also the administration's top governance agendas.

"UP's AI-powered Research and Innovation Conference is unique. It's different. Because in UP, we have AI expertise, but we also have AI-powered experts in agriculture, fisheries, and livestock for food security," UP Special Adviser to the President for Research and Innovation Giselle Concepcion said in a press conference.

"We think that these are the top priority areas of national development in the country. So, we think that UP and some members of academe from other universities can come together to make a difference, meet with government and academe and industry to come up with AI-powered solutions to the challenges we face today."

AI may also be utilized in addressing some challenges in employment, disaster management, climate change, and local government operations, among others.

The UP's two-day AI Horizons PH 2024 Conference, which will run until Oct. 25, showcases various AI projects relating to education and governance.

Among the specific breakthrough projects cited in the conference are advancements in object detection, speech technology, environmental governance particularly on biodiversity databases, automated essay scoring systems, and road monitoring systems, among others. (PNA)

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DSWD assures sufficient relief goods stockpile, funds for 'ayuda'

By Darryl John Esguerra

MANILA – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Thursday assured it has sufficient stockpile of relief goods and budget for the provision of financial assistance for recovery efforts of those affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami) which continue to batter most of Luzon and parts of the Visayas.

In a Palace press briefing, Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian said family food packs have

been prepositioned to the DSWD's regional, provincial and municipal hubs ahead of the onslaught of Kristine, in line with its "Buong Bansa Handa" program which replenishes supply of essential goods all-year round.

"Sa katunayan, bago natin naramdaman iyong epekto ng Bagyong Kristine, ang national stockpile natin – ito iyong mga family food packs na nakalalat sa lahat ng mga warehouses natin sa buong bansa – nasa kulang-kulang two million pieces (In fact, before we felt the effects of Typhoon Kristine,

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RELIEF OPERATIONS. The Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office 5 distributes family food packs to 2,185 families from 20 barangays affected by severe tropical storm Kristine (international name: Trami) in Baras, Catanduanes on Wednesday (Oct. 23, 2024). DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian assured sufficient supply of FFPs, as well as funding for the provision of financial assistance. (Photo courtesy of DSWD Field Office 5 - Bicol Facebook)

Local EV firm gets nearly 1K orders from PUV modernization

By Kris Crismundo

MANILA — Tojo Motors Corp., a local electric vehicle (EV) "fabricator", has received close to 1,000 orders of EV units for public utility vehicle (PUV) modernization.

On the sidelines of the 12th Philippine Electric Vehicle Summit (PEVS) in Pasay City on Thursday, Tojo Motors chief executive officer Ralph Legaspi said the company would need additional capital to boost its capacity to meet the growing demand driven by the government's PUV Modernization Program.

A Laguna-based EV fabricator, which designs, fabricates, manufactures, and assembles the EV unit, Tojo Motors is expected to deliver 576 units for the transport cooperative servicing Makati-Manila area, 150 units for Novaliches-Malinta route, 120 units for Blumentritt-Baclaran route, and 120 units

in Calamba area.

Legaspi said these orders are Class 2 four-wheeler EVs.

"We target to deliver them within two years—maximum," he said.

"I have to increase the production. We are always looking for funders to invest because our target is to produce more than 150 (units) per month," the executive said.

Its Laguna facility, which has 70 employees, can produce 150 EV units a month.

The three-wheeled e-tricycles plying the roads of Boracay Island are made by Tojo Motors.

It also deployed EVs in Naga and General Santos.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary Ceferino Rodolfo said the government's PUV Modernization Program will stimulate the local assembly and manufacturing of EVs.

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LTFRB grants special permits to 753 buses for Undas travelers

MANILA – The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has granted special permits to 753 buses as it ramps up its preparations for the expected volume of passengers traveling for the observance of Undas this year.

LTFRB Chairperson Teofilo Guadiz III said the board has issued 272 special permits equivalent to 753 buses.

The figure may increase as more operators applied for special permits on Tuesday, Guadiz added.

He pointed out that

the special permits are valid from Oct. 25 to Nov. 10.

Additional special permits may also be issued if the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) determines that additional buses are needed, he said.

"As early as Oct. 15, nag-approve po kami ng special permit para sa mga buses po na makabiyahe po sa mga hindi nila ruta, doon po sa mga mahahabang ruta like Bicol, sa Cagayan, and Laoag (we approved a special permit for buses to travel routes that are not theirs – long routes like Bicol, Cagayan, and Laoag),"

Guadiz said in a news release on Thursday.

"Meaning to say, may special permits na po kaming binigay to as many as... as of now, may 1,200 bus na po kaming binigyan ng special permits, including mga UVs po na gustong bumiyahenitong panahon ng Undas (we have already given special permits to as many as... as of now, we have already given special permits to 1,200 buses, including utility vehicles that want to travel during this Undas season)."

He said the move is to *Continued on page 2...*



UNDAS PREPS. Commuters flock to the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange on March 27, 2024 for the Holy Week rush. The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) said Thursday (Oct. 24, 2024) it has granted special permits to 753 units as it ramps up its preparations for the expected volume of passengers traveling for the observance of Undas this year. (PNA photo by Avito C. Dalan)