

**TOWN in FOCUS**

Faking religion to illegally work abroad, BI uncovers new human trafficking modus p.5



VOLUME XXXIX No. 42 Abril 24-30, 2023 P6.00

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# Cavite gov't pushes for enhancement of programs, services for elderly



Photo courtesy of Cavite PIA

By Ruel Francisco

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite — The provincial government of Cavite is recalibrating its programs and services for senior citizens as it continues to improve the welfare and development of the country's elderly sector.

Through the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO), the provincial government gathered heads and representatives of the Office of

Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) from 23 towns and cities for a one-day consultation dialogue.

The PSWDO has partnered with the National Commission of Senior Citizens in facilitating the dialogue and aligning the programs and services for the elderly sector.

Recognizing the senior citizens' integral role in society, Vice Governor Athena Bryana D. Tolentino, in a statement, stressed the importance of pushing for the

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## 3 agencies commit to empower Filipino veterans community

By Susan De Leon

QUEZON CITY -- The Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO), the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP), and the Philippine Veterans Investments Corporation - Industrial Authority (PHIVIDEC-IA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 18 April 2023 at the Veterans Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City to establish a formal partnership for mutual cooperation and support for programs dedicated to the betterment and well-being of the Filipino Veterans.

The signing of the document will allow the three organizations to fully commit and collaborate on projects that

empower the Filipino Veterans Community and motivate the future defenders. Specifically, PVAO, VFP, and PHIVIDEC-IA will work together on the following: promotion of the medical welfare of veterans; promotion of the heroic deeds of the veterans; and development of systems to ensure the smooth delivery of veterans' benefits.

Included in the promotion of the veterans' medical welfare are the continued construction of Veterans Wards throughout various hospitals across the country and the conduct of medical missions in different provinces.

For the promotion of the veterans' heroic deeds, support will be given for

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## PH is 5th worldwide in 'zero-dose children' -UNICEF

By Alaine Allanigue

QUEZON CITY-- Trust in giving vaccines to toddlers dropped by 25 percent amid the COVID-19 pandemic, making the Philippines one of the countries with the most number of "zero-dose children" in the world.

"Of the 67 million children globally, who missed out on routine vaccination between

2019 and 2022, 48 million did not receive a single routine vaccine, also known as 'zero-dose.' The Philippines has one million zero dose children, the second highest in East Asia and the Pacific Region, and the fifth highest globally," according to UNICEF Tuesday, in line with the observance of World Immunization Week 2023.

The agency said that public perception of the importance of vaccines for

children against various diseases has decreased in 52 of the 55 countries studied.

"According to the Vaccine Confidence Project and published today by UNICEF, the perception of the importance of vaccines for children declined by about 25 [%] in the Philippines and by more than a third in the Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea, Ghana, Senegal, and Japan after the start of the pandemic," UNICEF said in a

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## Suspend face-to-face classes if it gets super hot -DepEd

By Jumalynne Doctolero

LAS PIÑAS CITY-- Schools in the country may suspend face-to-face classes and switch to modular distance learning if the weather is hot and there is no electricity.

According to DepEd Spokesperson Michael Poa, this is in accordance with the memorandum order issued to public and private school heads on April 20.

Poa said schools have the authority and responsibility to suspend in-person classes and switch to alternative delivery modes (ADM), during "unfavorable weather and environment" such as, but not limited to, "extremely high

temperatures" that may affect the conduct of classroom learning and endanger the health and well-being of students.

"Because the situation of our schools is different. So school heads will determine. We also do not want the extremely hot weather to affect the health of our learners, so we have reminded the school heads that they can immediately switch to ADMs," said Poa.

On Thursday, the heat index in Dagupan, Pangasinan and NAIA, Pasay City reached 43°C.

PAGASA has already warned that the country will experience even hotter weather in the coming days. (PIA-NCR)



Photo courtesy of PIA NCR





Photo courtesy of PIA CALABARZON

## Senate.....

Before, they are the ones who buy from us but now because of our need for oil and other petroleum products, what we buy from them got really bigger,” she noted.

Ryan Romeo Perez, Board of Investments Legal and Compliance Division chief, revealed that there are minimal investments coming from Brunei companies in the Philippines but noted that it is more on the professional, scientific and technical activities.

“If all investment promotion agencies, including [the Department of Trade and Industry] DTI, will aggressively promote certain industries and sectors, perhaps we can improve on our exports on our certain commodities,” Perez said.

Marcos, however, is looking forward to the DTA intensifying the cooperation between the two countries’ halal (Islam permissible food) sectors.

“I think this is very interesting considering that there is an existing memorandum of understanding to explore opportunities and since we know fully well that halal products here in the Philippines are inordinately

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expensive, sometimes triple or quadruple the price of regular food,” she added.

The lawmaker said around 145 million Muslim tourists from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Middle East could potentially come to the Philippines if income tax of travel agencies and other operators will be reduced.

All the government agencies concerned, including the Department of Finance (DOF), concurred with every provision of the DTA.

Dir. Emee Macabales of DOF explained that the DTA will allow for the affirmation of the country’s commitments with other ASEAN countries especially on the form of taxation.

“This will also complement our existing agreements with other ASEAN countries. To date there are five. And so, we hope to add the DTA with Brunei to that,” Macabales said.

She recalled that the PH-Brunei DTA was originally negotiated as early as 2001 and was revisited in 2010.

If the Senate will be

able to ratify the agreement this year, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) will inform the Brunei’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs which signal the start of its implementation on Jan. 1, 2024.

According to the records of DFA, there are currently 20,100 overseas Filipino workers in Brunei who are mostly professionals and 1,700 are working as domestic helpers.

The PH-Brunei DTA, which is the Philippines’ 44th DTA to be signed, shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the contracting states and to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a Contracting State irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

According to a previous statement by former Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, the agreement will strengthen economic cooperation and enhance investment flows and economic activity between the Philippines and Brunei.

Dominguez further said by addressing the adverse effects of double taxation, the agreement can help bring in more foreign direct investments from Brunei or find more jobs there for Filipinos. (PNA)

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Araneta Miguel, Loi Dominic Tan Arancon, Naif Abubacar Malawani, Elmond Ordoñez Monteron, Rose Anna Opalla Abuhan, Jose Marie Quilinguin Whiteside, Lovely May Bernal Janguin, Mamauag Rey Vincent Panganiban, Jerusalem Bungalan Dulnuan, Marie Rannelle Villaluz Dulnuan, Desiree Chaclag Pasong, Dizzy Dominong Buyuccan, Jefferson Balay-odao Cadap, Tetchie Paclay Assudo, John Bryan Latawan Cong-o, Sherwin Mendez Balagat, Faidzal Ganion Sendad, Joey Alcantara-Gumera, Joel Bacsal Purog Jr. and Melody Bedey Mamilig.

BJMP, he said, has produced 17 lawyers, among them are Joy Anne C. Pascual, Midzfar H. Omar, Richard O. Banaldia, Orlando V. Montalban, Arrianna A. Obias, Raquel S. Madrigal, Michael F. Rodeles, Hannief A. Ampatuan, Maria

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Jeremiah T. Salamero from the National Capital Region.

Meanwhile, Abalos said the PNP takes pride in their 43 Bar passers -- Michelle Sardane Olaivar, Erving Dominguez Chan, Alvin Laborte Villalon, Caesar Ian Cordero Binucal, Alvin Delos Santos Lepiten, Leonard Agwiking Danasen, Jericho Partido Rapiz, Marlo Yee Gabato, James O Bad-e, Jenyvie Butalid Nagtalon, Cherry Madriñan Ricafort, Christian Philip Mariñas Reduca and Febelyn Digap Tebes, Alex Correa Becerra, Roland Gliocam Molino, Joy Pingad Dayag, Rogelio Gutierrez Marcelo, Ailyn Don Delos Angeles, Jazal Dela Cruz Andrada, Joan Collado Mecono and Lorena Castillo Ripalda.

Other PNP passers include Marifel Otap, Sabandal, Roderick Isong, Marifer

Fe Alconaba-Bonggat, Allan Christian C. Benitez, Roxanne P. Calabon, Gretchel C. Cartujano, Russel C. Lucaney, Myna Zosette Mesias, Marlon M. Olavides, Sheena L. Guarin and Gene Dee E. Tañedo.

The DILG chief likewise mentioned that BFP has gained 14 new lawyers -- Marie Jada Dolloso, Jonah Gale Apo, Jaiza Abasolo, Joseph Bello, Vianney Joy Tiwaken, Rizza Laurio, Marlou Suralta, Ma. Cyril Sugbo, Billy Abasolo, Benrae Valmonte, Dhea-amor Cabug, Frank Paul Cuevas, John Michael Valmore and Abdul Azis Macabanding.

Napolcom also has two new lawyers -- Katrina Andrea L. Bringas and Evelyn Antonmete B. Lumbis; while NCMF has one Bar passer, Ashraf Hashemie Mastura Muhammad.

“Sa ating mga kasama sa PNP, BJMP, BFP, Napolcom at NCMF, taos-puso ko po kayong

## DOH nagbabala sa mga nakukuhang sakit ngayong tag-init

By Christopher Hedreyda

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna – Nagbabala ang Department of Health (DOH) sa inaasahang epekto ng tag-init sa kalusugan gaya ng heat stroke, cholera, typhoid fever kasama na ang dengue at ilan pang iritasyon sa balat.

Ayon sa DOH, sintomas ng heat stroke ang pagkakaroon ng lagnat na sobra sa 40°C; pamumula, panginginit, at panunuyo ng balat; kulang o sobrang pagpapawis; sakit ng ulo; pagkahilo at pagsuka; pagduduwal; at pangangalay o pamumulikat.

Payo ng DOH na maaaring maagapan ang mga sintomas at epekto ng heat stroke sa pamamagitan ng paglipat sa pasyente sa malamig o makulimlim na lugar, tanggalin ang mga damit na dumadagdag sa init ng katawan, maglagay ng cold compress sa iba’t-ibang

bahagi ng katawan, o ibabad ang katawan sa malamig na tubig.

Nagbigay rin ng babala ang kagawaran sa pagkain ng mga isda at lamang dagat na apektado ng red tide na maaaring magdulot ng hika, pagsusuka, at pagkalason.

Upang makaiwas sa sakit, payo ng DOH na siguraduhing malinis ang pinagkukunan ng supply ng tubig, uminom ng sapat na dami ng tubig upang manatiling hydrated, magsuot ng mga damit na manipis o may komportableng tela, at iwasang magbilad sa araw o kung kinakailangan lumabas ay panatilihing gumamit ng sunscreen o sunblock.

Maaaring mapalawig ang nararanasang init ng panahon hanggang Setyembre 2023 dahil sa pagpasok ng El Niño sa bansa, ayon sa Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration o PAGASA. (CH/PIA-Laguna; may ulat mula DOH-CHD CALABARZON)

## Peace....

*from page 8*

drugs are distributed, who controls the drug trade in that area. Kung minsan naririnig natin, mayroong talagang scalawag diyan,” he said.

“So kailangan talaga natin bantayan nang mabuti that these activities that are growing have to be dismantled.”

The 1st Joint NPOC and RPOC Clusters’ Meeting was organized to provide updates on the peace and order issues in the country and to aid policy decisions as well as facilitate immediate action from concerned agencies.

Among the 2016-2022 accomplishments include the successful conduct of surveillance and intelligence operations by the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA), anti-insurgency and anti-terrorism efforts, anti-illegal drugs campaign, and effective COVID-19 response.

Through the anti-insurgency and anti-terrorism efforts, coupled with the

revitalized National Task Force on Ending Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), the government disbanded 67 guerilla fronts, neutralized 8,645 Communist Terrorist Groups (CTG), and facilitated the surrender of 28,713 rebel members.

In the fight against illegal drugs, the government reported a total of 261,642 anti-illegal drug operations conducted from 2016 to 2022, which resulted in the arrest of 376,582 drug personalities and the seizure of 12 tons of marijuana, 14 tons of shabu, 190,324 pieces of ecstasy, and 500 kilograms of cocaine.

With regard to the overall peace and order situation, the government reported that the total crime volume in 2022 decreased by 11.87 percent, from 235,059 in 2021 to 207,143.

Crime solution and crime clearance efficiency by the end of 2022 were at 82.28 percent and 96.72 percent, respectively, it said. (PND)

binabati. Patuloy po tayong magkaisa at magtulongan sa pagtupad ng ating mga tungkulin sa bansa sa pamamagitan ng abogasiya (To our colleagues in PNP, BJMP, BFP, Napolcom and NCMF, I sincerely congratulate you. Let’s continue to unite and work together in the fulfillment of our duties to the country through law),” said Abalos.

Abalos also urged both existing and new lawyers in the Department to remain dignified in their legal practice both in the physical and online space, as stipulated in the updated “Code of Professional Responsibility and Accountability (CPRA),” which was recently launched by the Supreme Court (SC).

The CPRA is part of SC’s plan to revise the 34-year-old “Code of Professional Responsibility” by making it more responsive and relevant.

The Supreme Court said a total of 3,992 out of 9,183 examinees or 43.47 percent, passed the 2022 Bar examination.

The oath-taking of the successful examinees will be at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City on May 2.

For the second time, the Bar went digital using laptops with an exclusive program, instead of the traditional pen and paper, and administered the exams in multiple testing sites nationwide. (PNA)



## Cavite residents get free medical services

By Ruel Francisco

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite — More than 400 residents from Mendez town and Dasmariñas City availed themselves of free healthcare services in a medical mission organized by the provincial government of Cavite from April 14 to 15.

The medical mission conducted by the Cavite Provincial Health Office (PHO) in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Governor (OPG), provided free consultations, medical check-ups, and health counseling to residents who had difficulty accessing basic health care facilities.

In Mendez, a total of 260 residents benefitted from the medical mission conducted in coordination with the Solo Parents Association of Mendez.

Dr. Idgee Gabriel B. Bondoc and Dr. Bryan Ross F. Villa led the medical team in providing free medical services. Apart from the basic medical check-up, residents also received

free prescribed medicines and supplements from the provincial government.

For her part, SPAM President Charity A. Pereña thanked the provincial government and concerned offices for helping the association's members and families to get free medical services.

Meanwhile, more than 200 residents in Dasmariñas City received the same services in a separate medical mission organized in partnership with volunteer doctors from the General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital and other private hospitals.

Barangay Chairperson George Del Rosario who requested the outreach program thanked the provincial government for the free medical services given to his community.

Citing the importance of volunteerism, the Cavite Provincial Information Office said the medical missions proved that communities can work together to address healthcare problems and improve the lives of those in need. (Ruel Francisco, PIA Cavite)



APAT SA BAYAN. TAPAT SA USAPAN.

PGC'S MEDICAL MISSION  
APRIL 13, 2023 | MENDEZ, CAVITE  
WWW.CAVITE.GOV.PH - WWW.JONVICREMULLA.COM

Photo courtesy of PIA NCR

### 3 agencies...

awarding ceremonies for veterans, improvement or development of facilities at military shrines, printing of educational materials relating to Filipino veterans and their heroic deeds, digitization of records of Filipino veterans found at the United States National Archives, and creation of new historical shrines and markers.

Lastly, the promotion of data sharing of information concerning veterans will be undertaken between the three organizations to ensure the proper distribution of benefits to veterans.

PVAO Administrator, Undersecretary Reynaldo B. Mapagu, VFP Acting President, Col. Cesar P. Pobre PA (Ret), and PHIVIDEC-IA Administrator, MGen Jesus A Manangquil, Jr. AFP (Ret), represented their respective institutions during the signing ceremony which was witnessed by VFP officials, representatives from various veterans organizations under the VFP, and officials from PVAO and PHIVIDEC-IA. PVAO Multi Sector Governance Council Chairperson, MGen Jose Magno Jr. AFP (Ret), was also present during the ceremony.

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“The PVAO, the [PHIVIDEC-IA], and the VFP are understood to carry out their mandate individually and on their own, but because [the veterans’ welfare] is a common concern, the three government agencies decided to address the mandate by agreeing to be partners believing that it is more practical, efficient, and effective,” Col. Pobre said.

He also underscored the importance of working together for the benefit of the country’s veterans.

“This explains why we are here today to sign the tripartite agreement, affirming the partnership way of dealing with the common task of looking after the Filipino veterans – a task that is not always singular but crucial,” Col. Pobre said.

MGen. Manaquil, meanwhile, highlighted the potential of the current and future estates of PHIVIDEC-IA in terms of generating revenues that can be used for the benefit of the Filipino veterans.

“The PHIVIDEC, on our part, more than ever, recognizes not only in harnessing the full potential of the veterans and the AFP retirees but also in providing for the welfare of our veterans and AFP Retirees,” he said.

USec. Mapagu, for his part, thanked the VFP and PHIVIDEC-IA for the continued support to the Filipino Veterans Community, acknowledging that empowering the veterans is not a one-man job.

“We acknowledge that we cannot accomplish much for the community without building meaningful and productive partnerships with our stakeholders such as the VFP and the PHIVIDEC-IA,” he said.

“As we move forward in fulfilling this MOU, I look forward to more opportunities of collaboration between all of us. I strongly believe that with our concerted efforts, we can accomplish more projects that will benefit our veterans and their families and empower the Filipino Veterans Community,” USec. Mapagu added.

MGen Magno also expressed his happiness in seeing various organizations coming together to improve the welfare of veterans such as himself.

Through the signing of the MOU, the three agencies hope to strengthen their collaboration and be able to empower the whole Filipino Veterans Community by effectively ensuring better services for the veterans and their families. (pvao/pia-ncr)

### PH....

statement earlier.

Only China, India and Mexico maintained or improved the perception of the importance of the vaccine.

In most countries, people aged 35 and under appeared to be more likely to have low trust for children after the pandemic began.

However, overall support for vaccines remains high at the moment. In half of the 55 countries surveyed, 80 percent said it was important for children. Among the routine vaccinations given in the Philippines are against tuberculosis, hepatitis B, polio, pneumonia, measles, mumps, rubella, etc. Vaccine hesitancy in the Philippines

According to UNICEF, which is a United Nations agency that responds to youth welfare, vaccine hesitancy in the Philippines can be attributed to

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cultural factors and fear of the health of vaccines.

“At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, scientists rapidly developed COVID-19 vaccines that saved countless lives. But despite this historic achievement, fear, and disinformation about all types of vaccines circulated as widely as the virus itself,” said Catherine Russel, executive director of UNICEF.

“This data is a worrying warning signal. We cannot allow confidence in routine immunizations to become another victim of the pandemic. Otherwise, the next wave of deaths could be of more children with measles, diphtheria, or other preventable diseases.”

It can be recalled that those opposed to vaccination against COVID-19 protested during the height of the deadly virus in the Philippines. (PIA-NCR)

### Cavite...

enhancement and alignment of various programs that will cater to their needs and further improve their welfare.

During the dialogue, NCSC Commissioner Ricardo Rainier S. Cruz III discussed the gains and challenges of the existing programs, particularly the social pension for indigent senior citizens, carried out by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Cruz stressed that more senior citizens would soon enjoy the social pension as they push to rationalize the selection of the beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, Commissioner Reymar R. Mansilungan presented Republic

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Act 11350, or the National Commission for Senior Citizens Act, along with other legislations implemented by the national government to ensure the welfare of senior citizens.

Ms. Jhoana M. Nodora of DSWD-Region IVA provided an update on the programs and services for senior citizens offered by their agency, including social pensions for indigent SCs, centenarians, and assistance to elderly persons.

The PSWDO hoped that the dialogue would help the OSCA of various towns and cities and other agencies involved in formulating appropriate programs for the elderly sector of society. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with reports from PICAD)

## Violence against women, a public crime penalized by law-PCW

By Alice Sicat

QUEZON CITY -- The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) has expressed deep concern over a viral video showing a police officer maltreating his live-in partner.

In the video, the officer is seen pointing a gun at the woman, kicking and hitting her, and using foul language. The photo showing the woman’s battered face after the abuse highlights the problem of Violence Against Women (VAW) in the country.

According to data from the Philippine National Police, in 2022, 7,424 cases of violations of the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act

were reported. In 2021, there were 8,430 cases. The PCW emphasized that these numbers represent women with rights, dreams, families, and lives that matter.

The PCW reiterated that all forms of violence, especially violence against women, should not be inflicted on anyone. The commission called for respect, love, and non-violent treatment towards women. Violence against women is a grave human rights violation and is considered a public crime, penalized by the country’s laws.

The PCW encouraged women and girls who fall victim to violence in intimate relationships to speak out and seek help. The commission also called for police

officers to be protectors of women from violence, not perpetrators of it.

The PCW recognized that ending VAW does not happen overnight and called for a focus on addressing the root cause of the problem, which is gender inequality. The commission also called for a collective effort from the community to eradicate VAW.

The PCW hopes that the video of the police officer abusing his partner serves as a wake-up call to address the problem of VAW. Until VAW is eradicated, the commission will continue to push for the protection of women’s rights and promote actions towards a VAW-free Philippines. (PCW / PIA-NCR / Pexel Photo)



## Ang CAVITENO NEWSWEEKLY

LINGGUHANG PAHAYAGAN NG LALAWIGAN NG CAVITE NA INILALATHALA TUWING LUNES / PRINTING PLANT: SINAG PUBLISHING & PRINTING SERVICES, NATIONAL HIGHWAY, BRGY. PARIAN, CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA. TEL NOS. (049) 834-6261 & (049) 5763112 / OFFICE ADDRESS: BLK. 25, LOT 4 PH-1 GREENSBOROUGH SUBD., SABANG, DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE / SUBSCRIPTION FEE: ONE YEAR P360.00 SIX MONTHS: P180.00 / COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATE: P200 PER COLUMN CM AND LEGAL NOTICES P160 PER COLUMN CM / MEMBER: PUBLISHER'S ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (PAPI) / RAJA JENNIFER E. DELA PEÑA MANAGING EDITOR / P.L. VILLA, RC ASA CONTRIBUTING EDITORS / JACQUILOU LIRIO, NATALIE FLORENCE DELA PEÑA, STAFF WRITERS / RUEL LANDICHO LAY-OUT ARTIST / . EMAIL ADD: tambuli\_press@yahoo.com & sinagprinting@gmail.com

ISSN: 0115-9038

## EDITORIAL

### Testing Acorda's mettle

"Crime rate in the Philippines is relatively high with the country ranked 124th out of 163 countries in terms of peace and security.

In appointing General Benjamin Acorda the new chief of the Philippine National Police, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. gave him practically the same marching orders he handed the newly retired General Rodolfo Azurin Jr. eight months ago.

When Azurin took over the helm of the 220,000-strong PNP, he revealed a 180-degree turn in the policy thrust of the PNP under Marcos, from one that went hard against criminals, especially those engaged in narco-trafficking, to one anchored on compassionate policing.

Notwithstanding claims by the PNP that the crime rate has been going down, Azurin this week admitted that the PNP under him had been viewed as being soft on criminals, thus the impunity by which attacks on high-profile individuals had been carried out.

Just to cite a couple of examples of why many people have expressed feeling more secure and safe going out of their houses during the Duterte administration, there were the brazen murders of journalist Percival Mabasa and Negros Oriental Governor Roel Degamo.

Marcos, during the turnover of command at Camp Crame in Quezon City, told Acorda to increase police visibility as a deterrence to crimes mostly committed in public like robberies.

Acorda has over three decades of experience in police work, his last assignment being in intelligence, but he'll need all the help he can muster from within the PNP and the government in general if the crime situation in the country is to improve.

Compared to other Asian countries, according to the 2020 Global Peace Index, the crime rate in the Philippines is relatively high with the country ranked 124th out of 163 countries in terms of peace and security.

The country's homicide rate at the time of the study was at 6.3 per 100,000, significantly higher than the average homicide rate for Asia of 2.3 per 100,000 people.

If police visibility is to increase, the PNP will need to assign more of its personnel to do actual policing instead of office work. But even doing this would not put the Philippines anywhere near the ideal policeman-to-population ratio.

The PNP's strength in 2022 was pegged at 227,410 with a corresponding P2P ratio of 1:572 or one cop for every 572 people, against the 1:450 ratio recommended by the United Nations for effective policing.

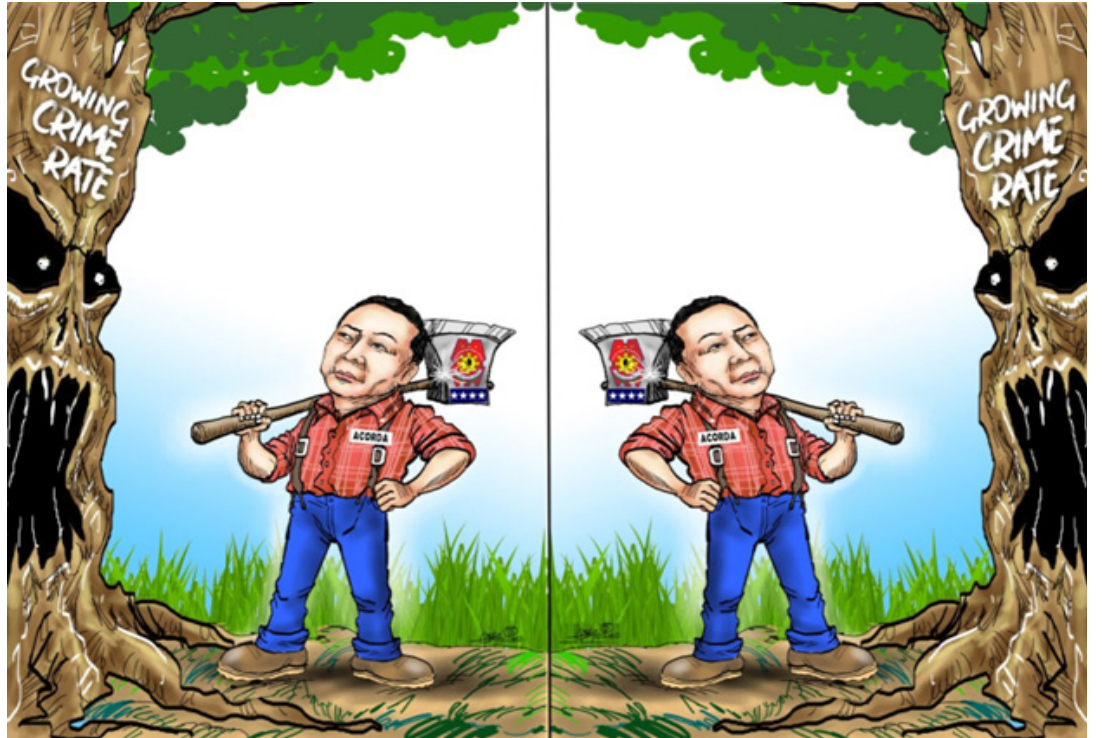
The PNP's target strength of 290,000 by 2028 would bring the P2P ratio to 1:494, with the expected population increase already factored in, a big improvement from the present 1:527 ratio but far from the UN ideal.

Bringing down the crime rate, however, is not the sole responsibility of the PNP and other law enforcement agencies as the Philippines, with its 21.6 percent poverty rate, has a lot of people at the fringes of society who are tempted to turn to crime to survive. Also contributing to the impunity and the high crime rate is the prevalent corruption, including in the PNP, that makes it difficult to prosecute crimes.

While not as bad as the United States, the Philippines also has a gun culture that contributes to the high crime rate. With gun-making a clandestine cottage industry in some provinces like Cebu, criminals have found it easy to obtain the guns they use in committing crimes. Still, all is not lost as the government has been steadily investing in hiring police officers, in equipping them with modern policing tools, and in providing them with training.

Among the big challenges for Acorda would be cracking down on corruption in the police force, weeding out misfits in uniform, and earning back the trust of the population.

Acorda has until 3 December 2023, his 56th birthday, to make his mark before himself retiring from the PNP. Like Azurin, maybe the few months Acorda will have as PNP chief are too short for his stint at the top to matter. We all would like to be proven wrong by the erstwhile PNP spy chief now serving as top cop of the land.



# KAPIRASONG Kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

## May BookSale pa sa Iyong Buhay

Matagal na akong tumatangkilik sa BookSale. Hindi ko lang ibinablog dahil, sabi nga ni Mong Palatino sa isang pag-uusap namin, "madamot" daw ako. Na medyo totoo naman. Implikasyon din na "feelingero" ako – feeling dadagsa ang mga tao sa BookSale kapag ibinenta ko sa blog na ito. Syempre, ang matibay kong dahilan ay kontra ako sa komersyalismo. Pero ngayon, naiisip kong libro naman ang ibinebenta at sa murang halaga pa kaya ayos lang. Higit pa rito, maraming progresibong librong mabibili rito.

Noong una akong pumupunta sa BookSale, inspirasyon ko sa pangangalahig ang mga "success stories" na narinig ko sa ibang tao tungkol sa magagandang librong nabili nila. Hayaan ninyong ibahagi ko ang ilan. May kakilalang nakabili ng isa sa mga volume ng Das Kapital ni Karl Marx at may ilan namang isa sa mga volume ng Collected Works nina Marx, Vladimir Lenin at Mao Zedong. Ako naman, dalawang beses nang nakabili ng Fanshen, sikat na libro ni William Hinton tungkol sa rebolusyong agraryo sa Tsina.

Ang hinala ko, batay sa karanasan, sa US galing ang kalakhan ng mga libro sa BookSale. Kaya narito ang mga basura ng kulturang popular nila. Ganoon din ang mga sulatin ng mga maka-Kanan at antikomunista sa kanila – na syempre ay basura. Bagamat minoritya, marami na ring progresibo o liberal na mga propesor sa mga unibersidad at kolehiyo sa US – kaya nga naging panakot sa publiko ng Kanan sa US ang mga "tenured radical" o mga aktibista ng dekada '60 at '70 na naging propesor.

Hinala ko, ni-require o itinulak ng mga propesor na ito ang mga estudyante nila na magbasa ng samu't saring librong progresibo o liberal. Sa kung anong dahilan – hindi siguro gustong itago ng mga estudyante? – bumabagsak ang mga libro sa mga bentahan ng mga segunda-manong libro, hanggang umabot sa BookSale. Ang totoo, narito ang mga pinakasikat na mga aklat ng mga pinakapopular na awtor na liberal at progresibo. Halimbawa ang A People's History of the United States ni Howard Zinn.

Napag-uusapan na rin lang si Zinn, sa Original Zinn [2004], libro ng panayam sa kanya – na sa BookSale ko rin nabili, syempre pa – pinansin niya ang isang penomenon sa panahon ng rehimeng W. Bush sa US: ang pagiging popular ng mga libro nina Howard Zinn (shameless self-promotion!), Noam Chomsky, Michael Moore, Barbara Ehrenreich, Jim Hightower at iba pang awtor na kontra sa imperyalista, militarista at makakorporasyong mga patakaran ng gobyernong Amerikano. Mabenta ang mga libro nila.

Ngayon, parang tumatagos na rin ang mga bagong librong ito sa BookSale. Sa paglilibot ko ngayon sa iba't ibang branch – sangay? – ng BookSale, masasabi kong tiyak na makakabili ang taong pursigido ng isa o ilan o lahat ng sumusunod na mga libro:

>> Thieves in High Places [2003] ni Jim Hightower. Simple at nakakatawang paglalantad sa kontra-mamamayang mga patakaran ng rehimeng W. Bush at ng gobyernong Kano sa kalakhan. Punong-puno ng datos at optimismo sa kakayahan ng mga mamamayan.

>> The Best Democracy Money Can Buy [2000] ni Greg Palast. Mga imbestigatibong ulat hinggil sa pandaraya ng pangkating W. Bush sa halalang pampresidente noong 2000, maruruming pakana ng mga korporasyon ng US, at neo-liberal na globalisasyon.

>> Nickel and Dimed [2001] ni Barbara Ehrenreich. Oo! Marami na ngayong kopya ng librong itong minsang nirebyu ko. Ilang beses na akong nakabili, pinakamura ang P20.00! Ipinamimigay ko sa mga kaibigan na parang panyo ng Salmo 91 o agua bendita.

>> Bait and Switch [2005] ni Ehrenreich. Kung tungkol sa pakikipamahay sa maralitang manggagawang Kano ang unang libro, tungkol naman ito sa pakikipamahay sa mga manggagawang white collar. Nakakatawa, mapagmuni at mapagmulat pa rin.

>> The Worst Years of Our Lives [1990] ni Ehrenreich. Okey, hindi ito kasama sa mga mas bagong libro, pero maganda pa rin. Matalas at mapagpatawang komentaryo sa

iba't ibang aspekto ng buhay sa US noong dekada '80, panahon ng opensiba ng Kanan.

>> Sister Outsider [1984] ni Audre Lorde. Hindi rin ito kasama sa mga mas bago pero ayos. Koleksyon ng mga sanaysay tungkol sa napakapersonal at tagos-sa-butong feminismo at kontra-rasismo at sa pagiging manunulat at makata. Minsan, P5.00 lang!

Iyan ang mga librong nakikita kong nagkalat ngayon sa iba't ibang sangay ng BookSale. Pero sa mahabang panahon ng pagbalik-balik ko rito, marami-rami na rin akong nabiling libro nina Zinn (kontra-imperyalista at anarkista-sosyalista), John Berger (Marxista), at Cornel West (kontra-rasista at sosyalista bagamat tinutuligsa ng iba). Dito rin ako nakarami ng libro ni bell hooks (kontra sa rasismo, seksismo at kapitalismo). Paglilinaw: Hindi ko sinasabing nabasa ko sila lahat at mapera ako. Dahil hindi.

Ilang paalala at personal na pakiusap: Pinakamainam kung pupunta sa BookSale nang alam ang mga awtor at librong target basahin. Mahirap isa-isahin ang mga libro at sana'y nakatulong ang entri na ito. Huwag maingay – at sana'y sundin iyan kahit ng mga empleyado. Huwag ihambalos ang mga libro o gumawa ng ingay gamit ang mga ito. Masakit sa tenga, lalo na ng mga naghahanap ng libro sa baba ng mga lagayan. Huwag makipagsabayan o makipagkarera sa isang erya sa ibang tumitingin.

Panghuli: May isang sinabi si Prop. Ramon "Bomen" Guillermo hinggil sa pagbabasa na tumimo sa akin at sana'y naisasabuhay ko sa blog na ito. Bilang mga progresibo, hindi tayo dapat magbasa para makapagbasa lang; magpakasarap sa matatayog na ideya, magagandang kwento o mahuhusay na pagkakasulat; o magyabang. Sana'y nagbabasa tayo para ipaglingkod ang natutunan natin sa sambayanan, para maunawaan ang ating bansa at mundo kaalinsabay ng pagsisikap na baguhin ito.

Sana'y nagbabasa tayo nang "paglaya ang tanaw ng diwa." (Shameless self-promotion!)

19 Abril 2009



# TOWN in FOCUS

TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS TOWN in FOCUS

## Faking religion to illegally work abroad, BI uncovers new human trafficking modus

By Susan De Leon

QUEZON CITY--The Bureau of Immigration (BI) warned of a new human trafficking modus targeting Filipinos planning to work abroad as household workers.

In a report to

immigration Commissioner Norman Tansingco, officers of the Bureau of Immigration's (BI) travel control and enforcement unit shared that two females, 36 and 37 years old, were intercepted when they attempted to depart on board a Cebu Pacific flight to Dubai at

the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 last April 14.

According to the report, the two victims claimed they were Muslim pilgrims, and are planning to travel by bus to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate in Umrah.

They also claimed that

they recently converted to Islam and plans to stay for 7 days in Saudi.

However, the officers noted numerous inconsistencies in their statements. The duo later admitted that their documents were fabricated, and that they were recruited via Facebook by a woman that processed their visas and tickets.

The victims shared that they were instructed to pose as Muslims to be able to depart the country.

The new scheme disappointed Tansingco. "These traffickers will stop at nothing to earn from their racket," the BI Chief said. "They have even abused religion to evade immigration inspection," he added.

The two victims were turned over to the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) for further investigation and to initiate cases against their recruiter. (bi/pia-ncr)

## CAVITEVIEW

### A glimpse at the history, cultural festival of Libagon

By Marcelo Pedalino

THE municipality of Libagon in Southern Leyte is found at the eastern side of Sogod Bay, a body of water that looked like being trapped by a cleavage of land in the map. The word "Libagon" itself supposedly evolved out of a cleaved lot, a direct mispronunciation from the Bisayan word "libaong," which means a depression in the ground. The story goes that Spanish authorities met a peasant who pointed at a depressed portion of the land when asked what was the name of the place. It has since been known by the name Libagon, a barrio of Sogod.

Over time, just as the name of the town came out of a casual encounter, its name and location actually kept on changing. It all began in the year 1884, when Domingo Espina was elected municipal captain. He held office in a Libagon that was called Sogod del Norte. Succeeding Espina as leader was Don Nicolas Idjao, an appointed municipal mayor by a certain Gen. Bursett at the onset of the American rule. Both Espina and Idjao governed the constituents of Libagon which was at this period of time called Sogod del Norte, and at this time also Leyte was under the American military government.

In 1904, Ladislao Decenteceo, a resident of Consolacion, which was then a barrio of Libagon/Sogod del Norte, was elected municipal mayor. He made a bold move of transferring the seat of government to Consolacion, and reduced Libagon/Sogod del Norte into a barrio.

Noteworthy to note in this historical episode was that during the Decenteceo administration, Mariano Espina was elected councilor. It was Espina who worked, and succeeded, in establishing and declaring Libagon, no longer Sogod del Norte, as an independent town. On October 16, 1913, Libagon, the name and the place, became an independent municipal government, with Mariano Espina as the first Municipal President. The arbitrary splitting and constant moving came to an end.

Exactly 110 years has passed, and those intervening years saw the flourishing of the

municipality of Libagon under the administration of almost a dozen local chief executives all throughout the American regime until the Philippines gained independence from the United States of America on July 4, 1946. Before the US-driven freedom, however, Libagon was not spared the devastation brought about by World War II, especially during the Japanese occupation in 1943-1944. The people of Libagon showed their mettle and survived the war by actively involving and supporting the guerilla movement that eventually drove the Japanese forces, causing their defeat, in the island of Leyte. They stood proud of their sons who died, as well as those who lived through the Death March after the fall of Bataan. The victories and the freedom won by the local guerillas in their encounters with the Japanese forces in 1944, aptly referred as the "Liberation Movement," enlivened the life of the people.

The town of Libagon continued to ink its place in the new Philippine Republic that grew out of the ruins of second world war. After July, 1946, local governance in Libagon exemplified by the election and administration of subsequent Municipal Mayors "normalized" the conduct of the town's social, economic and political affairs. Moving on the political tempo of the national government, the Municipality of Libagon was witness to the two-party Presidential system from the time of President Manuel Roxas to President Diosdado Macapagal, echoing and passively participating in a very centralized system of governance.

Nevertheless, Libagon had been privileged to having been served by committed and dedicated public officials, among others: Mayor Francisco E. Espina, Mayor Mario Espina, Mayor Rito Monte de Ramos, and Mayor Salvador Resma.

During the Martial Law rule of former President Ferdinand Marcos, Atty. Domingo P. Espina was appointed municipal mayor and was eventually elected during the 1980 elections. Later on though, in 1986, with the EDSA Revolution, the political changes in the national government affected the local

government with local officials being replaced by new appointees. The local chief executives who held the political reigns after the Edsa Revolution are the following: the late Mayor Rogato J. Paitan, former Mayor Domingo P. Espina, former Mayor Rizalina B. Espina, Mayor Oliver E. Ranque, and the current Mayor Sabina B. Ranque.

Then the passing of Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, brought in pronounced changes in the administrative and political structures in the local government, with the devolution of authorities, human and financial resources from the central government. The expanded power authority devolved to the local government proved to be jolting, yet challenging to the local government bureaucracy. Old Municipal Hall (Centennial Building)

Libagon municipality stood out as having a two-story municipal building made of wood, an iconic landmark to a place that used to be here and there. Its construction was carried out by a bayanihan system, locally called "boluntaryo." The structure was designed by a German architect with materials gathered from Patag Daku, a dense mountain range in the town rich with native trees. The cut trees were transported by the townfolks using a carriage pulled by carabao. This traditional

transportation system is called "balsa."

Carpenters working on the wooden building were hired from Bohol. It was said that in order to lessen their exhaustion and tiredness they were accompanied by a "banda," a live band singing their souls out for fun and enjoyment, while the workers build the building.

The distinct structure survived the rigors of war and natural calamities, the latest was Typhoon Odette on December 16, 2021. In the last decade or so, with a new, concrete municipal building just a stone's throw away, its official function may have been diminished, but not its glory, its importance and secured place in local history. The old, centennial building was then used and occupied by the following offices:

- Municipal President and Mayor's Office
- Municipal Library managed by Marietta Espina Navarro
- Municipal Session Hall where sessions and Gala parties are held
- Office of the Municipal Judge - Judge Ibarra Castañares
- BIR Office - Manuel Espina, Head
- Office of the COMELEC - Camelo Edillo, COMELEC Officer
- Office of the Treasury - Enrique Rodriguez, Municipal Treasurer
- Office of the Municipal Civil Registry - Milagros Arriola, Head
- PHLPost Office - Francisco Bautista, Postmaster
- Municipal Jail - Roberto Dajao, Chief Inspector
- Pangilil festival

Pangilis has been a long tradition carried over from generations. Rooted from "lumads" since the early 1900s, Pangilis is celebrated every July 17, or the day after the Feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, July 16. While devotees pay homage to Our Lady on her fiesta day, they likewise look forward to the fun-filled, well-attended Pangilis event following the fiesta. Much like the

fiesta in perspective, Libagongnons celebrated the Pangilis occasion as a personal thanksgiving for graces received, like safety, protection, good health, and blessings or good fortune, and other personal reasons, as well as prayerful expression of faith.

As the name of the tradition suggests, the root word of Pangilis is "ilis," meaning to change. The day begins with the usual Diana, an early morning beat and sounds of drums and bugles at break of dawn. By eight in the morning devotees gather inside the church to participate in the annual meeting of the Kapunongan sa Nuestra Senora Virgen del Carmen, a religious organization. During this gathering a new set of officers is elected, including the Hermano and Hermana Mayor. Thus, "ilis" or changing of the new Hermano and Hermana Mayor, the main sponsor traditionally of the Church-based fiesta activities.

The outgoing Hermano and Hermana Mayor will then lead the procession along with the devotees, and hand-over the venerated image to the newly-elected leaders. With the parade/procession done, people from all walks of life proceeded to the day-long revelry in the town's center. Pangilis celebration is highlighted by an abundance of food, rhythmic dancing, folklore games, and various competitions. Also, among the day's highlights is the ad hoc crowning of the festival king and queen using some indigenous flora especially cadena de amor.

The celebratory activity then extends until the wee hours of the night. The unique Pangilis tradition and festival instills a sense of pride among residents and locals, enhances cultural identity of the community, and preserves the arts, culture, and heritage that is truly Libagongnon. (MMP/PIA Southern Leyte with Neil Christian Nantes, Libagon Information Officer)



Photo courtesy of PIA



**Republic of the Philippines  
Fourth Judicial Region  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
City of Bacoor  
Email: [rtcbcrocc@judiciary.gov.ph](mailto:rtcbcrocc@judiciary.gov.ph)  
Telephone No. 09273707489**

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

-versus-  
Foreclosure No. 2023-65  
For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of  
Real Estate Mortgage

SHEILA B. BLANCO married to  
JOSE RONALD R. BLANCO,  
Mortgagors.

X-----X

#### NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE

Upon Extra-judicial petition for Sale under Act 3135 as Amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund), at The Petron Mega Plaza Bldg., No. 358 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, and against the mortgagors, SHEILA B. BLANCO married to JOSE RONALD R. BLANCO, at Blk. 261 Lot 3 Group 6 Zone 13, Target Range Ext. Pembo Makati City, Metro Manila, to satisfy the mortgagee indebtedness which as of February 21, 2023, amounts to THREE HUNDRED NINETY THREE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY EIGHT PESOS & 86/100 (P393,168.86), Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest, and penalty charges but exclusive of other fee incident to this foreclosure, the undersigned or her duly authorized representative will sell at the public auction on May 18, 2023 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, at the main entrance of the Hall of Justice of Bacoor City, Cavite, to the highest bidder for CASH and In Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-1301379

"A parcel of Land (Lot 26 Blk. 13, of the subd. Plan, Psd-04-182650, being a portion of Lot 4762-B-1 (LRC) Psd-99595, L.R.C. Rec. No. 8843), situated in the Bo. of Mambog, Mun. of Bacoor, Province of Cavite, Is. of Luzon. X x x, Containing an area of THIRTY SIX (36) SQ. METERS, more or less."

"All sealed bid 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, it shall be held on May 25, 2023, without further notice."

Prospective buyers or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property and encumbrances, if any there be.

City of Bacoor, April 17, 2023.

(Sgd.) MELY C. HERMOSURA-VISTA  
OIC-Clerk of Court V

By:

(Sgd.) ELIAS E. ESCALA  
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

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

ANTONIO E. ESCOBER  
2/F AZPHI Bldg., Ma. Aurora St., cor. E. Zobel St., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati City

SHEILA B. BLANCO married to JOSE RONALD R. BLANCO  
Blk. 261 Lot 3 Group 6 Zone 13, Target Range Ext. Pembo Makati City, Metro Manila  
Blk. 13 Lot 26, Greenpoint Homes, Mambog IV, Bacoor, Cavite 4102

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this notice of Extra-judicial Sale on or before the date of sale.

Ang Caviteño Newsweekly  
April 24, May 01 & 08, 2023

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

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION  
(NHMFC),  
Petitioner/Mortgagee,

-versus-

File No. FC-DC-0620-023  
EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF  
REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT  
3135, AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

LUZVIMINDA D. BAUTISTA &  
MA. THERESA D. BAUTISTA,  
Respondents/Mortgagors.  
X-----X

#### NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION (NHMFC), a government owned and controlled corporation created under P.D. No. 1267, with postal address at 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City against respondents/mortgagors, LUZVIMINDA D. BAUTISTA & MA. THERESA D. BAUTISTA with postal addresses at Lot 14, Block 06 Diamond Village - Dasmariñas 2, Brgy. Salawag, Dasmariñas City, Cavite; D. M. A. Aurora St. Subd. Cainta, Rizal and Parola DM 1 Aurora St., Cainta, Rizal and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of March 31, 2023 amounts to TWO MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWENTY TWO PESOS & 31/100 (Php2,701,322.31), exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on June 01, 2023 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, Burol 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-498824

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in the Mun. of Dasmariñas, Province of Cavite bounded and

described as follows:

A parcel of land (Lot 14, Blk. 6 of the cons./subd. plan, Pcs-042106-008016, being a portion of the cons. of Lots 5777-C-2, Psd-04-02106-059852 & Lots 5777-C-3-C & 577-C-3-D, Psd-04-042106-066093, LRC Rec. No. ), situated in the Bo. of Salawag, Mun. of Dasmariñas, Prov. of Cavite. Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 13; on the SE., along line 2-3 by Lot 12 both Blk. 6; on the SW., along line 3-4 by Rd. Lot 5; on the NW., along line 4-1 by Lot 16 Blk. 6, all of the cons./subd. plan. Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan being S. 47 deg. 58'E., 823.43 m. from Mon. 171, Imus Estate; thence E. 82 deg. 05'E., 8.88 m. to pt. 2; thence S. 7 deg. 55'W., 11.00 m. to pt. 3; thence W. 82 deg. 05'W., 8.00 m. to pt. 4; thence N. 7 deg. 55'E., 11.00 m. to the pt. of beginning, containing an area of EIGHTY EIGHT (88) SQ. METERS. 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, July 27, 1905-June 11, 1908 & that of the cons./subd. survey, April 20-June 20, 1993 & was approved on Jan. 6, 1994. is registered in accordance with the provisions of the Property Registration Decree in the name of LUZVIMINDA D. BAUTISTA, Filipino, of legal age, single.

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 publication auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on June 15, 2023 at the same time and place without further notice.

18 April 2023, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO C. ESTOGERO, JR.  
Sheriff IV

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

Copy furnished:  
NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION  
(NHMFC)  
104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

LUZVIMINDA D. BAUTISTA & MA. THERESA D. BAUTISTA  
Lot 14, Block 06 Diamond Village - Dasmariñas 2, Brgy. Salawag, Dasmariñas City, Cavite;  
D. M. A. Aurora St. Subd. Cainta, Rizal and Parola DM 1 Aurora St., Cainta, Rizal

Ang Caviteño Newsweekly  
April 24, May 01 & 08, 2023

## BOC seizes P150M in smuggled agri products

By Susan De Leon

QUEZON CITY-- As much as P150 million worth of agricultural products, which include frozen meats and fresh fruits from China, were discovered and seized by Bureau of Customs (BOC) personnel during a series of inspections conducted in six warehouses in different places in Metro Manila recently.

The operation, conducted on April 12, was led by agents of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service-Manila International Container Port (CIIS-MICP), Enforcement and Security Service-MICP (ESS-MICP), ESS-Quick Reaction Team (ESS-QRT ), which went to six cold storage

facilities, after Customs Commissioner Bien Rubio issued Letters of Authority (LOAs).

After the representatives of the warehouses recognized the LOA, the group immediately inspected the warehouses, which resulted in the discovery of imported agricultural products, including frozen beef, pork, chicken, round scad, squid, and fish products, as well as fresh fruits estimated to be worth P150 million.

Deputy Commissioner for Intelligence Group Juvymax Uy said they received derogatory information and acted on it immediately. He also thanked the commissioner for the speedy issuance of the LOA required to inspect the facilities.

Suspected contraband products were discovered in various warehouses in the cities of Caloocan City, Manila and Navotas City.

One of the warehouses in Navotas City, however, was found empty because it is still undergoing construction to be converted into cold storage. (PIA-NCR)

**YOU SHOULD  
NEVER REGRET  
ANYTHING IN LIFE.  
IF IT'S GOOD,  
IT'S WONDERFUL.  
IF IT'S BAD, IT'S  
EXPERIENCE.**


#### ERRATUM

In our issue of January 16, 23 & 30, 2023 RE: National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation vs. Rosauro N. De Villa married to Estellita A. De Villa Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-392584 was erroneously printed as Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-992564

Our Apology,  
Editor

Ang Caviteño Newsweekly  
April 24, 2023





Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES BOARD**  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor NIA Bldg., EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1100

Prowater Solutions Corporation,  
Applicant. Case No. 23-3589

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**NOTICE OF HEARING**

This is an application for Certificate of Public Convenience to operate and maintain a waterworks system within Golden Horizon Villas I, Golden Horizon Villas 2 and Acropolis at Golden Horizon Subdivisions, Barangay Hugo Perez, Trece Martirez City, province of Cavite, with the following proposed rates:

PROPOSED TARIFF						
Residential and Institutional						
Pipe Size	0-5 m3 (min)	6-10 m3	11-20 m3	21-30 m3	31-40 m3	Over 40 m3
1/2"	P 128.50	26.90	28.20	29.50	32.10	38.50

Commercial and Industrial						
Pipe Size	0-15 m3 (min)	16-30 m3	31-500 m3	501-1000 m3	Over 1000 m3	
1/2"	P 769.50	53.90	64.10	77.00	128.30	


This application will be initially heard by the Board on **15 May 2023**. The hearing will start at **9:00 o' clock in the morning** at the NWRB-WUD Conference Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, NIA Building, EDSA, Quezon City, at which time applicant shall present its evidence.

At least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled hearing, applicant shall publish this notice once in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the province of Cavite and serve by personal delivery or registered mail a copy of the (i) application and its attachments, and (ii) this notice, to all affected parties appearing on page 2 hereof.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above scheduled date of hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant.

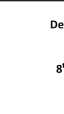
Failure on the part of any person affected to file its opposition on time and to appear at the hearing will be construed as a waiver of their right to be heard. The Board will proceed to hear and decide the application based on the evidence submitted.

Likewise, failure by the applicant to appear at the hearing shall amount to lack of interest on its part and the instant application shall be dismissed accordingly.



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Telephone no. (63-2) 9222793, (63-2) 9222603, (63-2) 9222641  
Telefax no. (63-2) 9222834  
www.nwr.gov.ph  
"Yamang tubig pangalagaan, para sa kinabukasan"



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
**MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU**  
Regional Office No. IV-CALABARZON  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor, DENR by the Bay Bldg., Roxas Boulevard  
Ermita, Manila, Philippines  
Telefax. No. (+632) 5310-88-97  
Email: region4a@mgb.gov.ph  
Website: region4a.mgb.gov.ph

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT OF TOP QUALITY CORPORATION**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 76 of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2010-21, the Consolidated Implementing Rules and Regulations Act no. 7942, otherwise known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, that Top Quality Corporation with address at 1423 The Mondrian Bldg., Pablo Ocampo Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City has filed an application for Exploration Permit particularly described, as follows:

**I. Application No. :** EPA-IV-146  
**II. Date of Filing :** July 24, 2019  
**III. Area Location :** Maragondon, Cavite

**IV. Description of the Applied Area**

A. Geographical Coordinates

CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
1	14°13'00.00"	120°42'00.00"
2	14°14'30.00"	120°42'00.00"
3	14°14'30.00"	120°42'30.00"
4	14°15'00.00"	120°42'30.00"
5	14°15'00.00"	120°43'00.00"
6	14°13'30.00"	120°44'00.00"
7	14°13'30.00"	120°43'30.00"
8	14°13'00.00"	120°43'30.00"

Sketch Plan: Please refer to "Annex A"  
Size: The applied area covers One Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Four and 0000/10000 (1,134.0000 hectares) hectares.

**B. Restrictions**

The applied area shall subject to Section 15 ("Areas Closed to Mining Applications"), Section 16 ("Ancestral Lands") and Section 105 ("Entry to Lands") of DAO No. 2010-21, and Section 4 DAO No. 2012-07, as amended, which provide, among others, that:

- The following areas are closed to mining applications: areas covered by valid and existing mining rights/applications, old growth/virgin forests, proclaimed watershed forest reserves, protected areas and other areas expressly prohibited by law;
- The following areas shall also be closed to mining applications except upon written consent/prior clearance by the concerned government agency or private entity; areas near or under public or private buildings, cemeteries, archeological and historical sites, bridges, highways, waterways, railroads reservoirs, dams and other infrastructure projects, public or private works, including plantations or valuable crops;
- In case of areas occupied by Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and/or covered by Certificates of Ancestral Domain/ Land Claims/Titles (CAD/CALC/CADT/CAL), the Free and Prior Informed Consent shall be secured from the concerned IPs;
- In cases of surface owners, occupants and concessionaries that may be covered by the applied area, their permission shall be obtained prior to entry into their lands by the eventual Permittee for purposes of undertaking sand and gravel extraction therein;
- Prime agricultural lands, in addition to land covered by R.A. No. 667 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, as amended, including plantations and areas devoted to valuable crops, and Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries Development Zones and fish refuge and sanctuaries declared as such by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture;
- Tourism development areas, as identified in the national and local tourism development plans; and
- Other critical areas, island ecosystems, and impact areas of mining as determined by current and exiting mapping technologies, that the DENR may hereafter identify pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations, such as, but not limited to, the National Integrated Protected Areas System.

**V. Activities to be Undertaken**

Per the submitted Exploration Work Program, the following activities will be conducted:

- Research Work  
The following aspects of research works shall be implemented prior to any exploration activities in the project area.
  - Nature or Type of Study or Undertaking  
This will involve the study and evaluation of available data from previous works in the area that will be collected or accessed by the researcher. Technical reports from the archives of the MGB will also be renewed.  
  
The research that all be undertaken will be basically for gold, copper, silica, sand and gravel, aggregates and other construction materials, and other related metallic and non-metallic present in the area. Previous geological studies/reports prepared by technical men of private companies and government agencies regarding the area under consideration will be carefully reviewed and studied. The result of this work will hopefully serve as working basis and reference for the conduct of exploration activity.
  - Reconnaissance/Regional Survey or Studies  
All available data from concerned government and private entities shall be compiled and collated on the following aspects:
    - Geophysical Data;
    - Lithological Data;
    - Mineralization/Alteration Studies;
    - Various Thematic Maps covering the Target Area; and
    - Detailed Cost Estimates.
- Reconnaissance/Regional Survey or Studies

The purpose of regional geologic survey is to determine and locate potential areas that were subjected to previous explorations. A handheld Geographical Positioning System (GPS), clinometer and tape will be used in the conduct of geological mapping. Mapping along old benches, road cuts, trails, ridges and creeks are also conducted. Data are encoded and plotted in a computer software such as Map Info. For enhanced presentation, Coral Draw software are being used.

- Remote Sensing Studies
- Regional Geological Survey
- Regional Ore/Rock Sampling
- Regional Geophysical Survey

3. Semi-detailed Survey or follow up Studies  
Based on the research study, it is assumed that the area warrants a semi detailed geological mapping in order to be able to determine the most promising areas for priority based on previous works. In this phase, sampling of rock outcrops will be plotted on the map at a scale of 1:25,000 or 1:10,000 whatever is deemed appropriate and necessary in order to better understand the geological setting and potential mineralization trend and location in the area.

4. Topographic Survey  
Topographic survey will be undertaken to establish the topographic configuration of the project area in order to provide the accurate ground control points to determine where the actual exploration activities will be conducted. Survey controls are necessary to undertake the proposed exploration works. The topographic survey will also be needed in planning, construction and development works and ore reserve calculations.

5. Detailed Geological Mapping  
At this phase, the most effective usual geological mapping style that will be conducted in the compass-tape traverse method; additional mapping and rock sampling will be made. All structure and significant outcrops will be noted including the lithological variations.

6. Drilling  
At least 50 drill holes are planned and proposed to be able to determine the subsurface mineralization/ materials at a deeper horizon. A drilling company will be contracted to undertake the job.

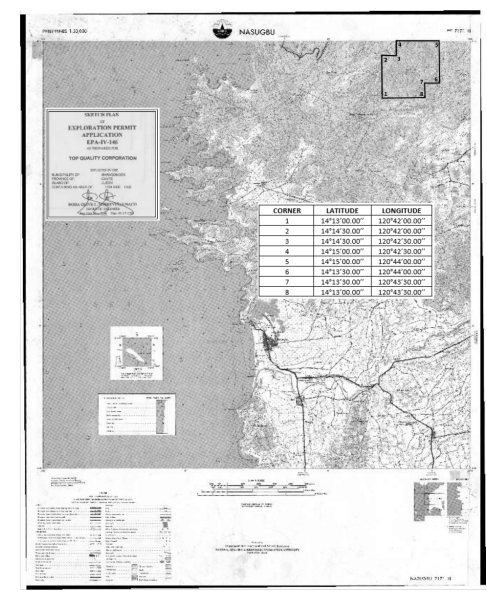
7. Data Analysis and Interpretation  
Screen Fire Assay will be made of analysis for gold while for silver and on the precious metals, Four Acid Digest with ICP-OES finish will be employed. XRF will be used for magnetite sand (after magnetic separation) and limestone.

Any and all persons having adverse claims, protests and/or opposition to the subject application are hereby notified that their adverse claims, protests and/or opposition should be filed within ten (10) days from the last date of posting with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Regional Office (RO) No. IV-CALABARZON or through any Community Environment and Natural Resources Office concerned for filing in the MGB RO No. IV-CALABARZON for purposes of its resolution by the Panel of Arbitrators pursuant to the provisions of R.A. No. 7942 and DAO No. 2010-21. Adverse claims, protest or opposition should be accomplished in accordance with Sections 203 and 204 of DAO No. 2010-21 and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the applicant by the adverse claimant.

For further particulars, please course your inquiries to the Regional Director, MGB RO No. IV-A (CALABARZON) located at 8<sup>th</sup> floor, DENR by the Bay Building, 1515 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila.

(SGD) Dondi M. Sarmiento  
Regional Director MGB CALABARZON

Cc:  
Cavite Provincial Governor  
Municipal Mayor of Maragondon, Cavite



## PH cites advances in indigenous peoples' rights protection and progressive humanitarian tradition at dialogue with UN committee on the elimination racial discrimination in Geneva

GENEVA – The Philippines, led by Hon. Allen A. Capuyan, Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, engaged in a Constructive Dialogue with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on the combined 21st to 25th periodic reports on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination on 19-20 April 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Philippine delegation particularly highlighted the significant strides made in the promotion and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights pursuant to the 1997 Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) and other relevant laws during the period under review (2009-2018). These include the enactment of 215 laws, including the landmark Bangsamoro Organic Law, covering a wide range of rights under ICERD, the issuance of 260 Certificates of Ancestral Domains Titles and 252 Certificates of Ancestral Land Titles, awareness programs on cultural practices and ancestral domains, and expanded access to health services and educational assistance, among others.

In line with its rights-based development agenda pursued through participatory and inclusive processes, the Philippine Government, through the NCIP, fully enforces the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent process especially as regards development projects involving mining and energy infrastructure.

To further improve the provision of services to indigenous cultural communities, the NCIP, in collaboration with other government agencies, is working with the World Bank to strengthen its institutional capacity to collect comprehensive data on Indigenous Peoples that will be accessible to policy-makers and stakeholders through a single digital portal.

The Philippine delegation also emphasized that the government continues to advocate Indigenous Peoples' issues and interests, including in the areas of environment and climate change, disaster risk reduction, and gender development, in its bilateral and multilateral engagements in the UN and other fora. In this regard, the Foreign Assisted Program and International Relations Office of the NCIP was recently created to ensure Indigenous Peoples' representation and effective participation in the conduct of the country's external relations.

In addition, the delegation cited the Philippines' longstanding humanitarian tradition and abiding commitment to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol, recalling the recently launched Complementary Pathways program offering durable solutions for refugees by providing a safe and regulated avenue of admission and stay in the country through education, as well as the country's accession to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The Philippines also recently issued an administrative regulation to establish a fair, efficient and non-adversarial procedure for the protection and assistance of refugees and stateless persons. An inter-agency committee was institutionalized in

February 2022 tasked to facilitate access to socio-economic services by refugees and stateless persons.

While the accomplishments are significant, Chairperson Capuyan nonetheless acknowledged that more has to be done by the government amidst various challenges, including the weaponization of human rights by leftist extremists that actively radicalize Indigenous Peoples and misrepresent them in the UN to advance their violent agenda of overthrowing the duly constituted government of the Philippines.

Chairperson Capuyan underscored that the Philippine Government embraces a whole-of-nation and whole-of-government approach to protect the Filipino people from the "efforts of the CPP-NPA-NDF to divide the Filipino people and propagate violence".

"The Philippine Government is in full throttle in operationalizing ICERD... We unify our people, we capacitate our people, and we mobilize our people for a better future with no one left behind", he added.

Joining Chairperson Capuyan in the delegation were Philippine Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, H.E. Evan P. Garcia, Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat Executive Director, Undersecretary Severo S. Catura, and Council on Welfare of Children Chairperson, Undersecretary Angelo M. Tapaes, as well as other officials from the Department of Justice, Office of the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court, Council for the Welfare of Children, Philippine Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva, Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat, and NCIP.

The Philippines signed and ratified ICERD on 7 March 1966 and 15 September 1967, respectively. Article 9 of the ICERD obligates States Parties to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, for consideration by the Committee, a report on the legislative, judicial, administrative and other measures adopted giving effect to the provisions of the Convention. The Philippines' last constructive dialogue with the Committee was held in 2009.

The Committee raised questions and observations on the following themes: domestic law and institutional framework to implement ICERD, hate speech, statistics on Indigenous Peoples, situation of minority groups and Indigenous Peoples, situation of Internally Displaced Persons, and training courses on racial discrimination.

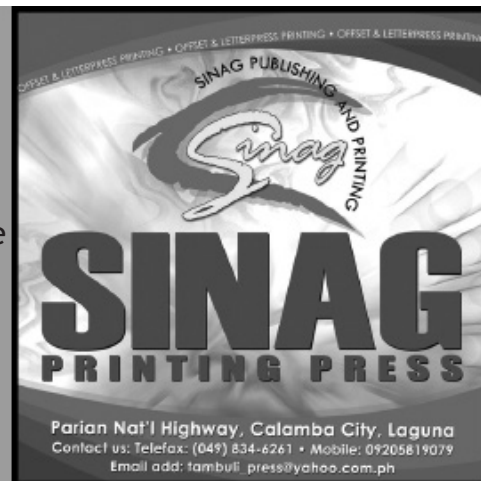
The Committee is composed of 18 experts from different countries with Ms. Verene Albertha Shepherd (Jamaica) as Chair and Mr. Michal Balcerzak (Poland) as Rapporteur for the Philippines.





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# Senate panel scrutinizes PH-Brunei tax treaty

By Wilnard Bacelonia

MANILA – The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on Tuesday opened discussions on the Double Taxation Avoidance (DTA) agreement that was signed by the Philippines and Brunei Darussalam on July 16, 2021.

The agreement seeks to eliminate double taxation and deter tax evasion on the income generated from cross-border transactions.

It is also expected to encourage the transfer of technology and skills between the two countries.

Senator Imee Marcos, who chairs the committee, stressed the need for the Philippines to weigh the pros and cons of

entering into the agreement, even as she noted that such treaties will promote international trade and investments.

Marcos specifically inquired about the benefits that the Philippines is expected to reap from the deal, citing the current product exchanges between the two countries.

“Lumalaki ang ating negative trade balance sa kanila eh, di ba? Pabaliktad. Nung dati, sila ang bumibili sa atin pero ngayon sa pangangailangan natin sa langis at sa iba’t iba pang mga produkto ng langis ay talagang lumolobo na ‘yung binibili natin sa kanila (Our trade balance deficit with them is getting bigger, right? It’s the opposite.

*continue to page 2*



SCRUTINY. Committee on Foreign Relations chair Senator Imee Marcos asks representatives of government agencies about the benefits of the Double Taxation Avoidance agreement between the Philippines and Brunei during a Senate hearing on Tuesday (April 25, 2023). Marcos’ panel will study the agreement further before bringing it to the Senate plenary for concurrence. (Courtesy of Senate-PRIB)

## 92 new DILG lawyers urged ‘to serve the people well’

By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan

MANILA – Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benjamin “Benhur” Abalos Jr. urged the 92 newly minted lawyers of the agency to conduct themselves professionally at all times and serve the people well.

Abalos, who is a lawyer himself, commended the 15 new lawyers from the DILG Regional Offices and 77 from its attached agencies such as the Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), National Police Commission (Napolcom), and National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) for successfully passing the 2022 Bar examination and encouraged them to use their aptitude in law to serve the people and deliver justice to the public without fear.

“Bilang mga abogado, marapat lamang na ating tiyakin na ang hustisya ay ating maihatid nang walang takot at buong karangalan para sa kapakanan ng mga mamamayan (As lawyers, it is our duty to ensure that justice is delivered without fear and with honor for the benefit of the people). Your success is the

success of the whole country. May this achievement be an inspiration and hope for our fellow Filipinos and ignite your hearts to serve others, especially those who are marginalized,” Abalos said in a statement on Tuesday.

“Congratulations to the new lawyers! This only marks the beginning of your long but meaningful journey in the legal profession. I encourage all of you to display impeccable practice of your profession with the hopes of inspiring profound trust in our justice system in the country,” he added.

He said that among the 15 DILG regional office employees who passed the Bar examination are Gerald A. Gallardo from Region 1; DILG Quirino Provincial Director Salvacion Z. Baccay, Gmelina T. Manaligod and Judy Mar S. Dela Cruz from Region 2; Maria Fatima L. Cruz from Region 3; Francisco Deocareza from Region 5; Drib Laurence B. Ingles, Jeffrey A. Lopez, Karen Ann Beniga and Tereza Ruby N. Leprozo from Region 7; Begie T. Lucenecio and Duchess Christile Marie M. Cobacha from Region 8; Louie B. Limbraro from Region 11; Ernie Y. Gultiao from Region 13; and,

*continue to page 2*

## Peace councils task to protect peace, order in PH

MANILA -- President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Tuesday tasked the members of the national and regional peace and order councils to address cases of political violence as well as those stemming from the illegal drug trade, which he said are today’s two biggest concerns threatening peace and order in the country.

Addressing the 1st Joint National Peace and Order Council and Regional Peace and Order Council Meeting 2023 in Malacañang, President Marcos said Tuesday’s event is timely as his government confronts

the increasing violent activities, particularly after last year’s election.

“They happened just after the election and they just... halos sunod-sunod. Kaya’t naging very prominent sa pag-iisip ng taong-bayan na masyado na talagang naging malala ito,” he told the meeting participants.

“And of course, that is true because even one is too much. But nonetheless, in terms of the political violence, I think, I hope, and we must continue to look out for, and watch out for this is that the experience that we have been having,” the chief executive pointed out.

The peace and order councils must also focus on addressing the proliferation of illegal or loose firearms that fuel violence in the country, he said, as he also warned about the rise of warlordism.

The other overwhelming problem confronting the country today when it comes to peace and order is violence perpetrated by drug syndicates quarreling over territory with the involvement of some members of the police force, according to the chief executive.

“It stems from the territorial fights over areas where



Photo courtesy of PIA NCR