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LGU Imus City opens Isolation Facility to decongest full bed capacity of hospitals



'Palakasan system' huwag pairalin ng LGUs sa rollout ng bakuna -Gatchalian nang nagpabakuna kaysa sa mga

By Lucia F. Broñio

LUNGSOD CALOOCAN -- Nanawagan si Senator Win mga lokal na opisyal na huwag pairalin ang palakasan system at siguruhin muna ang pagbakuna ng gobyerno at artista na nauna

ng mga health care workers. senior citizens at persons with comorbidities.

Ani Gatchalian, sana'y Gatchalian ngayong araw sa hindi na tularan pa ng ibang local government units (LGUs) ang mga napabalitang mga opisyal

DSWD provides technical assistance to LGUs during ECQ in NCR+

QUEZON CITY-- As part of to PhP1,000.00, provided that Department of Social Welfare Development (DSWD) said that it will provide the list of beneficiaries of Emergency Subsidy Program (ESP) to the local government units (LGUs) covered by the latest financial assistance of the government to low-income beneficiaries that are affected by the imposition of the enhanced community quarantine from March 29 to April 4.

The list of beneficiaries served in the ESP implementation may be used by the LGUs as a reference for identifying the individuals who will be given aid in their respective localities. Based on the issuance of the Department of Budget and Management, an eligible individual is entitled

technical assistance, the the assistance given to a family should not exceed the cap of P

> DSWD added the LGUs may include other beneficiaries such as low-income individuals living alone and belonging to the most affected and vulnerable sectors.

> DSWD will provide the list to the LGUs today, at the earliest, to enable them to start the distribution of the aid to the qualified recipients that will be given in cash or in kind depending on the discretion of the LGUs.

> The DSWD commits to assist the LGUs of the National Capital Region, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal to ensure efficient and effective delivery of the needed assistance. (DSWD)

nasa priority list ng vaccination program ng pamahalaan.

"Nauunawaan ko ang continue to page 3

By Ruel B. Francisco

IMUS, Cavite -- The city government here has formally opened on March 28, the St. Dymphna Isolation Facility in Barangay Palico IV in response to the alarming rise in the number of CoViD-19 cases in the city.

During the blessing and inauguration of the facility, Mayor Maliksi said, the facility presents two basic advantages. The facility offers a comfortable and conducive place to isolate

asymptomatic and mild cases for residents who could not afford proper home quarantining, and decongest the hospital's full bed capacity as it will serve as a stepdown facility where convalescing CoViD-19 patients can continue the treatment and care until they are fully recovered.

"This way the hospitals can accommodate other patients with moderate and severe symptoms who will be needing immediate medical attention and continue to page 3

PDIC warns public vs new financial scams amid pandemic

By Jimmyley E. Guzman

PASIG CITY -- The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) warns public of new financial scams amid the pandemic.

According to PDIC, certain individuals pose as PDIC using employees documents to lure victims either to believe that they can help them recover investments lost in the stock market for a fee or tricks victims into paying a sum

of money in order to receive funds remitted from another country through the issuance of surety bonds for tax payments. In another scam, presents a fake document purportedly issued by a bank with forged signatures officials claims that international bank transactions require PDIC insurance for a fee.

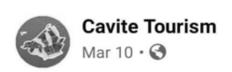
PDIC advises the public to ignore calls, messages or emails from individuals with "too

continue to page 3



Bacooreño Elderlies and Children Receive Free Medicines

Some 1,417 senior citizens and 700 children of Barangays Alima, Sineguelasan, Banalo, Mabolo 1,2 and 3, and Dulong Bayan in the City of Bacoor received free medicines and vitamins as well as insect repellent lotion from the Provincial Government of Cavite. This was made possible thru the Botika on Wheels program which was brought to the city on March 5, 2021. The BOW team were welcomed and accompanied by the respective Punong Barangays in distributing the medical supplies.



Tara at mamangha sa mga sining likha! Abangan ang makukulay na depiksyon ng pinagsama-samang elemento ng sining biswal na likha ng mga natatanging Cav... See More



in the National Capital Region, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal or NCR Plus.

Rodrigo President Duterte approved the release of P22.9 billion to fund the assistance.

"The use of the ayuda for partisan political purposes for the 2022 national elections is strictly prohibited. The DILG will not tolerate the politicization of government aid or tolerate the practice when we see it or made aware of it," DILG spokesperson, Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya, said.

Violators shall be held liable under Section 82 of the General Appropriations Act, which prohibits the use of the name, visage, appearance, logo, signature, or any other analogous image of any public official, whether elected or appointed, in all programs, activities, and projects of the government.

Administrative charges under Commission on Audit (COA) Circular 2013-004 may also be filed against public officials violating the prohibition.

from page 8

The COA Circular also prohibits the display of pictures, images, logos, initials, or any other graphic representation of the implementing officials in all government programs and projects.

The public may file complaints with the DILG, together with photos and other documentary evidence.

Malaya assured the public that safeguards are in place to ensure that the funds will get to the intended beneficiaries and that there is an appeals process in local government units (LGUs).

"We will make sure that the funds downloaded to the LGUs are used for purposes they were intended for. Before distribution, the mayor should issue an executive order detailing therein the type, manner, or process of distribution so that the public is properly guided. They are also required to create a Grievance and Appeals Committee per LGU where people can submit complaints," he said.

The LGU Grievance and Appeals Committee, he added, shall handle all complaints from the public with dispatch.

The DILG will also create a Joint Monitoring and Inspection Team (JMIT) in each LGU headed by the DILG City/ Municipal Local Government Officer Operations representatives of the DSWD, Philippine National Police (PNP), City or Provincial Prosecutors Office, and civil society organizations.

The JMIT will address complaints or grievances from their constituents concerning the financial aid, monitor LGU compliance with applicable guidelines, seek the assistance of higher authorities in case of undue delay or systemic anomalies in the distribution, and cause the filing of administrative or criminal cases against public officials or individuals involved in irregular or unlawful practices relative to the financial aid.

As part of the JMIT, the PNP will immediately investigate and do case build-up on reported cases of anomalies, irregularities, or graft and corruption concerning the aid distribution. (PIA NCR)

from page 8

Eastern Samar ambush, and the Lapanday Foods Corporation attack, among others.

Sec. Esperon, however, also called for support for the NTF-ELCAC in reaching its goal of eradicating the Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) by 2022 through the Whole-of-Nation and Whole-of-Government approach in hopes to attain lasting peace, order, security, and development for the country.

NTF-ELCAC "Itong ay magdudulot sa ating ng pagkakaunawaan, pagbabalikloob, pagtahimik, pagpapa-abot ng serbisyo, at pag-unlad ng mga lugar na dati nang magulo dahil sa NPA," he pointed out.

The event, which coincided with the 52nd anniversary of the terrorist communist NPA, drew in the public's support and condemnation organizations that "promote violence" as a means to achieve their goals of overthrowing the government.

"Organizations that promote violence will never have a place in this world. We will never celebrate Terrorist Organizations," some participants expressed.

Meanwhile, members of the League of Parents of the Philippines and Liga Independencia Pilipinas appealed on the Netherlands Government to "terminate" Sison's asylum status that may curtail the attacks by the NPA.

"We appeal to the Netherlands Government to expel Joma Sison together with his coterrorists," they expressed in their joint manifesto.

PTCAO LAUNCHES ONLINE **CAVITE DAY ART FAIR 2021**

IN line with the celebration of Cavite Day, the Provincial Tourism and Cultural Affairs Office (PTCAO) conducted Cavite Day Art Fair 2021 on March 22, 2021 via Cavite Tourism Facebook fan page. The online activity showcased the unique works crafted by artists of Alitaptap Community of Amadeo, aiming to sustain creativity, build cultural arts resiliency, and aid in mitigating losses amid the pandemic.

The online gallery featured eight (8) artists with a total of 28 artworks combined: (1) Bokeng Ancanan with Woods, Blue Rush, Sunrise In My Mind, Unseen Celebration, and Time; (2) Crisanta T. Ancanan with Babae, Lagusan 1, and Lagusan 2; (3) Bobby Balangit with

Barayt-Barayt 1, Barayt-Barayt 2. Hiroshima, and Umi Hirosaki's House; (4) Emard Cañedo with Do Not Across, Pag-Asa, and Ligaw; (5) Winston Hernandez with Patio Tirona, Pink Katipunan, Ako At Ang Aking Pang Araw-Araw Na Kalayaan, and Bibingka Heirloom; (6) Adrian Jay S. Manuel with Hayahay, Nude, and Crown of my Time; (7) Mac Eparwa with Untitled 1, Untitled 2, and Untitled 3, and (8) Othoniel Neri with Frank Sinatra, What a Wonderful World, and Moon River.

Some of the artworks uploaded are for sale at very affordable prices.

Moreover, the art fair also encouraged other Cavitebased artists who wish to promote or sell their works. –(PTCAO)

OFBANK....

its interest to be a duly licensed Digital Bank and followed it up with an application last Feb. 1 for the conversion of its thrift bank license into a digital bank license. The OFBank offers four digital products and services that includes a Digital Onboarding System with Artificial Intelligence (DOBSAI), which allows the real-time opening of a mobile banking deposit account on supported iPhone or Android devices.

As of December 2020, a total of 19,887 DOBSAI accounts in the OFBank have been opened with an outstanding balance of P104.37 million.

Aside from deposit savings accounts, the OFBank's digital services also includes fund transfers, bills payments and applications for multi-purpose loans.

The volume of OFBank's electronic banking inflows totalled 45,997 accounts as of December 2020 for transactions amounting to P467 million, with outflows from 62,633 accounts of P372.41 million.

NDF

"The State of the Netherlands has provided Joma Sison and the ruling members of the terrorist group CPP-NPA-[National Democratic Front | a sanctuary and a staging ground in Utrecht, Netherlands, to propagate their senseless war of terror and aggression against

people," they said. They also cited the Joma-led group's reported use of landmines forbidden under international law, and how their legal fronts, under the umbrella National Democratic Front, "sabotage development" through obstructionist policies.

the government and the Filipino

"All of these have the blessings or direction of Sison," they lamented.

The League of Parents of the Philippines or the "Liga ng mga Magulang" was formed fueled by issues on the CPP-NPA's supposed recruitment of the youth into the armed movement. The

from page 8

A total of 3,517 transactions amounting P40.72 million were done by OFBank clients for the Premyo Bonds second offering and 380 transactions valued at P8.27 million for the RTB-25 (Retail Treasury Bond-25) issuance that were all coursed through the bank's mobile application.

The OFBank's global digital reach spans 112 countries, with its clients able to access online the services of 763 merchants onboarded in its mobile application via the LinkBiz.Portal.

These merchants include 124 utility and service companies, 186 educational institutions, 277 government agencies and local government units (LGUs), cooperatives/associations/ foundations/corporations, hospitals/healthcare/clinics, and 16 banks, credit card companies and insurance companies.

The OFBank's approved conversion to digital bank is the first phase of the three-stage licensing framework of the BSP on the establishment of new digital banks. (DOF)

Liga Independencia Pilipinas, on the other hand, is a coalition of at least 48 organizations nationwide that promote peace development building, among others.

"We know and believed that the Netherlands is a state that pushes humanitarian actions and which has been wrongfully deceived by Joma Sison and his co-conspirators," they added.

"Now is the time to expel these terrorists from their sanctuary. They have brought so much hate, manipulation, death, and destruction to our society and our lives while evading prosecution," they further said.

The groups said these terrorist enablers pass themselves as victims, feigning persecution and harassment by the Philippine Government, but "attack the peaceful lives of the Filipino people from the safety of Europe." (PIA NCR)

CPP.....

Commissioner for Human Rights, and Gustavo Gonzales, United Nations resident and humanitarian coordinator in the Philippines, a report on the atrocities committed by the NPA against civilians and their properties detailing that since 2010, the CPP-NPA-NDF caused 532 violent incidents, including the destruction of civilian-owned properties, in the hope that appropriate charges for violation of international humanitarian law will be filed against the communist group. The data were collected by the AFP-Human Rights Office (AFPHRO) from field units.

Also tagged with the CPP-NPA's five decades of violence are the Inopacan mass murder, the Taganito attack, Plaza Miranda bombing, Borongan

'Sagot-for-sale' tuloy pa rin; distance cheating sugpuin -Gatchalian

By Lucia F. Broñio

LUNGSOD CALOOCAN --Binigyang-diin ni Senator Win Gatchalian na dapat paigtingin ng Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), at ng mga paaralan ang kanilang pagiimbestiga at pagsugpo sa ano mang uri ng distance cheating, sa kabila ng patuloy na paglaganap ng "sagot-for-sale" sa ilalim ng distance learning.

Sa ilalim ng sagotfor-sale, may mga magulang na nagbabayad ng ibang tao upang sagutan ang modules ng kanilang mga anak. Ayon sa ilang mga ulat, may mga mag-aaral at mga magulang na nag-aalok ng kanilang serbisyong sagutan o gawin ang requirements ng ibang mga mag-aaral sa halagang P150 hanggang P500 piso. Kabilang sa mga requirements na ito ang mga modules, mga research papers, mga essays, at kung minsan ay video editing. Binabayaran ang mga naturang requirements sa pamamagitan ng online banking o virtual wallets.

Ayon sa mga ulat, ang mga nagpapagawa ng kanilang mga requirements ay kadalasang nagmumula sa junior high school, senior high school, at mga taga kolehiyo. Minsan ay ginagamitan pa ng mga hashtags tulad ng #AcademicCommission, #AcademicWriting, at #AcademicService.

Para sa mga mag-aaral na gumagawa ng mga academic requirements na ito, ang kinikita nila ay ginagamit na pantustos sa mga pangangailangan sa pagaaral sa tahanan. Para naman sa mga magulang na nag-aalok ng kanilang serbisyo, ang kanilang kinikita ay ginagamit na pantustos sa pang-araw araw na pangangailangan.

Ngunit babala ng Chairman ng Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture, bukod sa kukulangin ang mga mag-aaral ng kaalaman at kahusayan kung papayagang magpatuloy ang iskemang sagotfor-sale, magdudulot din ito aniya ng kawalan ng integridad ng mga mag-aaral.

"Kung hindi natin wawakasan itong sagot for sale at iba pang anyo ng pandaraya sa distance learning, lalong hindi matututo ang mga mag-aaral. At kapag nalusutan nila ito sa unang pagkakataon, uulit-ulitin na nila ang ganitong pandaraya. Dekalidad na edukasyon ang nakasalalay dito," ani Gatchalian.

"Ang layunin natin sa pagpapatuloy ng edukasyon ay matiyak na ang ating mga kabataan ay hindi lamang natututo. Hinuhubog din natin sila para maging matapat, mahusay, at mapagkakatiwalaan," dagdag na pahayag ng senador.

Maliban sa pagimbestiga sa mga insidenteng ito, binigyang-diin din ni Gatchalian ang kahalagahan ng pagpapaigting sa kakayahan ng mga guro na masuri o matukoy ang anumang uri ng pandaraya pagdating sa academic requirements ng kanilang mga estudyante. Dagdag pa ng mambabatas, dapat maging prayoridad ang investment sa mga "assessment technology" upang maiwasan ang pandaraya sa digital education. (PIA NCR)

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at the Ospital ng Imus where the official rollout of the vaccination was held, second, the CoViD-19 Drive-Thru Vaccination Site at the Robinson's Place Imus, and third, the Onsite CoViD-19 Vaccination/Mobile Vaccine Clinic, and lastly, the upcoming conduct of house-to-house vaccination of residents who are not capable of being physically present at the vaccination centers.

Maliksi said, "Ang kulang na lang po ay ang mga bakuna upang makamit natin ang sinasabing 'herd immunity' at mapagtagumpayan natin ang laban sa CoViD-19. Hinihimok ko rin ang mga pamunuan ng ating karatig bayan kung kailangan nila ang tulong para sa pagpapabakuna ng kanilang mga frontliners ay maaari nilang magamit ang CoViD-19 Vaccination sites."

City Administrator
Emoy Francisco, DOH DMOIV Dr. Armida CalveloCamposagrado, City Health
Officer Dr. Randy Calingasan,
President of the St. Dymphna
Isolation Facility Mr. Jacky
Castro Chan, and Imus Chinese
Community Liaison Officer Ms.
Bea Tan attended the significant
event. (Ruel Francisco, PIACavite)



Senator Win Gatchalian

Palakasan....

papel na ginagampanan ng mga lokal na opisyal. Ako man ay may mga kamag-anak na naninilbihan sa local level ngunit sa panahon ng pandemya, mas kailangan natin ang mga health care workers," paliwanag ni Gatchalian.

"Sakaling magkasakit o mabawasan ang mga medical frontliners, mapipilayan tayo. Hindi naman pwedeng gumamot ang mga mayors at governors kung nabigyan na sila ng bakuna," dagdag pa ng senador.

Ipinunto ni Gatchalian kung gaano ka sensitibo ang kasalukuyang sitwasyon kung saan ang limitadong suplay ng bakuna ay pinalala pa ng tumataas na bilang ng mga bagong kaso ng nagka-COVID-19 kaya't

from page 1

importante na ang nasa prayoridad ng vaccination program ay masunod.

Ayon sa senador, nasa 1.5 milyon ang bilang ng medical frontliners sa buong bansa na kailangang mabakunahan sa lalong madaling panahon at batay sa pagtatala, noong March 23, 2021 ay umaabot pa lang sa 508,332 ang kabuuang bilang ng mga nabigyan ng unang dose ng bakuna sa kanilang hanay.

Mula sa naunang kategoryang B3 na kinabibilangan ng iba pang essential workers, inanunsyo kamakailan ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) at ng Malacanang na itinaas na sa kategoryang A4 ang mga governors, mayors at barangay

captains kasama ng iba pang grupo ng frontline personnel katulad ng mga uniformed personnel na ayon sa IATF ay may mahalagang ginagampanan tuwing may mahigpit na quarantine tulad ng ECO.

Sa pagtatala ng DILG, nasa 1,715 ang bilang ng mga governors at mayors sa buong bansa samantalang nasa 42,046 ang bilang ng mga barangay captains na kasama na sa A4 classification.

"Pagdating naman ng July, pag dumagsa na yung vaccines, kahit mauna na yung mga mayor, governors, at barangay leaders. Palakasan kasi ang nangyayari dito sa atin. Habang kulang pa ang suplay ng bakuna, unahin na muna natin ang medical frontliners," pagtatapos ni Gatchalian. (PIA NCR)

LGU....

treatment," added Maliksi.

The 5-storey, 141 room facility can accommodate more than 500 patients (Suspect, Probable or Confirmed) who are asymptomatic or with mild symptoms of the disease.

Patients will be provided food, medicines, and proper medical care thus, the use of the facility will mitigate the chances of the further spread of the infection since the said CoViD-19 cases are limited within the confines of the facility.

Consequently, the Ospital ng Imus (ONI) and the Medical Center Imus (MCI) announced their facilities have reached 'full bed capacity' with the emergency room and CoVid ward of the latter health facility in full capacity as of March 27, 2021.

Due to this situation, hospital officials advised the public to seek treatment from other health care facilities within the city or in neighboring cities.

During his speech, Maliksi shared the LGU in collaboration with the DOH and the City Health Office developed four safe measures for the quick and safe administration of the CoViD-19 vaccines.

First, the vaccination site

PDIC....

good to be true" promises or information regarding return of investments, deposit insurance, money transfers or any financial-related transactions.

Likewise, the public is reminded to avoid providing personal and sensitive financial information to any person who claims to be an employee of a financial institution or government agency without verification.

The Corporation encourages the public to visit its website, www.pdic.gov.ph for information and updates on

from page 1

PDIC.

The PDIC also clarified that, as state deposit insurer, its mandate is to protect depositors by way of providing deposit insurance up to the maximum deposit insurance coverage of PhP500,000 per depositor.

Further, PDIC explains that it is not involved in investments or any means to recover loss from any investment, does not provide insurance for international fund transfers, and it is not a surety bond firm that insures the issuance of surety bonds for tax payments. The state deposit

insurer warned that it shall not be liable for any financial implications resulting from any related act, promise, pledge or guarantee made in PDIC's name by unauthorized individuals.

The public is enjoined to report any information regarding said scams to PDIC's Public Assistance Department at (02) 8841-4141 or tollfree number 1-800-1-888-7342 (outside Metro Manila) during office hours, or through e-mail at pad@pdic.gov.ph, or private message to PDIC's official Facebook account at www. facebook.com/OfficialPDIC. (PIA NCR)

USAID's TB Platforms, Transcom Asia PH hold webinar on infection prevention, control for TB

and COVID-19

PASIG CITY -- Transcom Asia PH, in collaboration with USAID's TB Platforms, recently held a webinar on infection prevention and control (IPC) for TB and COVID-19.

Personnel of Transcom Asia PH based in Pasig CIty, Iloilo and Bacolod participated in the webinar.

According to USAID TB Platforms, this partnership hopes to educate employees on basic IPC guidelines both for tuberculosis and COVID-19 specifically informing employers and employees how to cope with the rising cases of both killer diseases.

USAID's TB Platforms MDRTB and Patient-Centered Care Specialist Dr. Christian Villacorte, during the online discussion, highlighted that TB is a killer disease but it is treatable and preventable.

Attended by Transcom's Human Resources Manager and other supervisors, Transcom will continue to coordinate with USAID's TB Platforms in the implementation of social and behavior change communication

strategies for TB in support of #EndTB campaign.

The virtual presentation went live on Transcom Asia PH's Facebook page and still available for viewing at this time.

Meanwhile, Transcom Asia PH and USAID's TB Platforms will produce audiovisual materials on IPC for TB and COVID-19 as well as social and behavior change communication materials to promote positive health-seeking behavior for TB amid the COVID-19 pandemic. (PIA NCR)



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EDITORYAL

Quick fixes don't work

Many of the medicines have shown potential in ending the blight and are within easy reach of ordinary families.

The latest assessment of OCTA Research, that has become the authority in tracking the progress of the pandemic in the country, indicated that the country is merely going through a vicious loop of lockdowns and later on infection surges when the restrictions are relaxed.

A better solution is needed rather than keeping people inside their homes since the situation is not expected to improve, as people have to go out to earn a living.

Put forward by a medical workers' group is that the government should step up the hiring of frontliners and for the Department of Health (DoH) to devise a plan where the mild cases, which make up 98 percent of the daily numbers, are attended to while hospitals are decongested by taking care of those more severely afflicted.

The average new daily infections in the bubble called NCR Plus dropped following the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) which was expected.

The latest figure, OCTA said, is 19 percent higher than the previous week but "much lower compared to previous weekly increases of 60 percent."

"The ECQ had a greater effect in reducing the reproduction number compared to the GCQ (general community quarantine)," OCTA assessed.

"[The result] indicates that the interventions imposed by the national government, in particular the ECQ, were effective in slowing the growth of the pandemic in NCR Plus," it said.

New and more contagious strains of the virus, however, have rendered the stop gap measures of raising quarantine levels an exercise in futility.

It has been a year that the same procedure is applied whenever the problematic upswing arises, but the situation has worsened compared to when it started, so a better solution is needed.

On Friday, the DoH reported 15,310 positive tests that raised the total case count to 771,497, although 604,368 or 78.3 percent of the total had recovered.

The DoH said the 3,709 cases were late additions, but the 11,601 actual tally would still be a record high.

More tests are being conducted using the less reliable antigen scheme, but it adds to the arsenal of detection tools, thus, the daily numbers are expected to further rise.

There is already an acceptance among experts about the existence of a more vicious threat but the solution remained the same.

The fact that the spike in virus infections is worldwide means that the situation is not anywhere near the desired normal.

Health workers should get all the credit for forging on despite the unending wave of challenges, while government planners suffer virus fatigue in terms of devising new solutions.

Vaccines have a long way to go before being counted on as a solution since even the COVAX Facility of the World Health Organization that poor countries are relying on suffered setbacks worldwide due to delivery delays from pharmaceutical firms.

What takes the cake is that the Food and Drug Administration is taking its sweet time in reviewing the effectivity of alternative and indigenous cures presented to it.

Many of the medicines have shown potential in ending the blight and are within easy reach of ordinary families while the government will have better use of its resources if alternatives are made available.

People have been innovating to get through the crisis. It is the government's turn to be more imaginative in coming up with solutions to a likely long-term plague.



APIRASONG ritika Ni Teo S. Marasigan

Banas kay Llamas

PAGTATANGGOL kay Pang. Noynoy Aquino at pagbanat sa Kaliwa. Iyan ang tampok na pinagkakaabalahan ngayon ng mga lider ng Akbayan na nasa gobyernong Aquino. Mainitinit pa man ang isinulat ni Joel Rocamora, lider ng Akbayan at kasalukuyang hepe ng National Anti-Poverty Commission, laban sa "Noynoying," heto na si Ronald Llamas, lider din ng Akbayan at pampulitikang tagapayo ng pangulo. Ayon sa isang balita, nagsalita si Llamas sa paksang "The Democratic Left and the CPP-NPA-NDF" sa isang porum ng National Defense College of the Philippines sa Camp Aguinaldo. Sa isang banda, kailangan ni Llamas na linawin sa mga opisyal-militar ang pagkakaiba ng pulitika niya sa pulitika ng CPP-NPA-NDF. Hindi ba't may mga pagtatangkang pagmukhaing malapit ang gobyernong Aquino sa Kaliwa para galitin ang mga opisyalmilitar at sundalo? Hindi ba't may iniluluto umanong kudeta laban sa gobyerno – na ang sabi ng iba'y pakana rin nito? Gusto syempre ni Llamas na mapatatag ang gobyerno, makabig ang militar papalapit dito, at mapanatili ang sarili sa pwesto. Kahit pa wala namang ipinapatupad na repormang maka-mamamayan gobyernong Aquino.

Pero sumobra si Llamas, para siguro lagyan ng drama at gawing mas "kapani-paniwala" para sa militar ang paglilinaw ng kaibahan niya sa Kaliwa. Siniraan niya ang Kaliwa at sa pinakamasahol ay gumatong sa ahitasyon ng militar na supilin at dahasain ang mga miyembro nito. Una, pinalaganap niya ang

kasinungalingang basta tinukoy na "kontra-rebolusyunaryo" ng Kaliwa ay awtomatikong target na nito ng pagpaslang. Ikalawa, binuhay niya ang isang isyung lipas na – ang umano'y pagbabanta ng Kaliwa sa buhay ng mga kasama niya sa Akbayan na sina Walden Bello, Etta Rosales at Ric Reyes.

Balik-tanaw: Disyembre 2004, naglabas ang Ang Bayan, pahayagan ng Communist Party of the Philippines, ng larawan ng mga tunguhing kontrarebolusyunaryo sa daigdig at kung sinu-sino ang kaugnay ng mga ito sa bansa. Naroon sina Bello, Rosales, at Reyes. Hindi lumutang ang pangalan noon ni Llamas. Pinalabas ng mga nabanggit na isang "hit list" ang larawan at nagwala, nag-ingay sila para magprotesta. Syempre, lahat ng paninira nila sa Kaliwa ay sinabi nila at itinurol nila ang isyu kay Prop. Jose Maria Sison, punong tagapayong pampulitika ng National Democratic Front of the Philippines.

Naglinaw si Prop. Sison: Kinikilala ng Kaliwa ang karapatang magpahayag hindi nito pinaparusahan ang mga naghahayag lang kahit ng mga kaisipang pseudoprogresibo o tahasang kontrarebolusyunaryo. Sabi pa niya, kailangan, may kasong kriminal at ebidensyang prima facie rito para maatasan ang New People's Army na artestuhin ang mga sangkot. Sa kabila ng paglilinaw, umingay pa ang isyu pero namatay rin. Buhay pa ngayon ang mga nag-akusang ipinapapatay sila. Ano kaya ang tingin nila? Tagumpay ang kampanya nila? O talagang napraning lang sila? Wala naman silang public apology.

Anu't anuman, may dalawa pang kasinungalingan si Llamas sa porum, na parehong gumagamit ng salitang "demokratiko." Una, ang pag-iiba ng "demokratikong Kaliwa" sa CPP-NPA-NDF - na malamang ay tinatawag "Stalinistang Kaliwa." Syempre, sa paggamit ng salitang "Stalinista," hindi ang pagsusulong ni Stalin sa interes ng sambayanang Ruso ang tinutukoy, kundi ang umano'y pagiging "diktador" nito. Sa madaling salita, ang tinutukoy ng "demokratiko" ay ang prosesong pang-organisasyon umano ng kanilang panig ng Kaliwa - hindi ang aktwal na paglilingkod sa nakararami.

Ikalawa, inulit niya ang sinasabi ng mga intelektwal demokrasyang makaelite: na sa pagpapalawak ng "demokratikong partisipasyon" sa balangkas ng kasalukuyang sistema para saklawin ang mga grupong naeetsapwera nito, masusugpo "ekstremismong pampulitika" at ang paggamit ng "marahas na mga pamamaraan." Na para bang sapat na ang naturang partisipasyon, kahit hindi naman para sa nakararami ang nagiging resulta ng prosesong nilalahukan. Hindi repormang maka-mamamayan ang iniaalok ni Llamas, kundi pampulitikang akomodasyon at pamamahagi ng kurakot.

Sa ganitong gamit sa salitang "demokrasya," pinagtatakpan ng diin sa demokratikong proseso ang kawalan ng mga demokratikong layunin – kaya nahuhubaran na ang pagiging progresibo ay pagpapanggap na lang ng taong sa esensya'y kontra-progresibo.

04 Abril 2012

FOCUS In FOCUS

Nat'l Historical Commission completes conservation of Magellan Monument



CAVITEVIEW

Gender matters in achieving biodiversity goals

By Jimmyley E. Guzman

PASIG CITY-- With the ongoing global pandemic exacting a heavier toll on women, training key actors to integrate gender perspectives into efforts to achieve biodiversity and environmental goals is crucial.

This was the core message at the online launch of the gender and biodiversity training materials for South East Asia and the Pacific, which were designed to promote greater genderresponsiveness in biodiversity policy and programming.

In celebration International Women's Day on 8 March, the launch titled Gender Matters in Biodiversity Conservation: Launch regional training materials held on 25 March 2021 via Zoom and Facebook live was organised by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

In his speech, Alexander

Shestakov, Director of the Science, Society and Sustainable Futures Division of the Secretariat of the CBD, said the gender and biodiversity training materials are critical to achieving all the objectives of the CBD.

"The preparation of these training materials is a recognition that there is a real need to build an understanding of and capacity to address gender inequalities in respect to biodiversity," Shestakov said, emphasising the timeliness of the training materials given the "disproportionate impacts" of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It has been found that women are carrying a higher burden of care and facing more job insecurities and job loss, as well as an increased rate of gender-based violence", he said.

He said the ACB is wellplaced to serve as a coordinating body for the entire ASEAN region to promote the use of the training materials among key individuals and organisations across the member states.

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim, in opening

the online event, expressed commitment to mainstreaming gender in alignment with developing biodiversity synergies across sectors and subregions. The ACB has recently reinstituted its Gender and Biodiversity Committee to reach out to the ASEAN Member States and support their national efforts on gender and biodiversity.

"We welcome collaborations with the regional mechanisms for gender equality and women's empowerment to strengthen our biodiversity and gender mainstreaming initiatives in the Region", Lim said, citing the By Susan G. De Leon

PARAÑAQUE CITY-- After almost a month, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines' Materials Research Conservation Division (NHCP MRCD) has finished conserving the 1866 Magellan Obelisk at the Liberty Shrine, Mactan, Lapu-Lapu City.

Earlier this year, the Lapu-Lapu City Government, with the guidance of the NHCP, repainted the ca. 1981 Lapulapu Monument at the Liberty Shrine. Similarly, the NHCP MRCD has already done in conserving the 1980 Antonio Pigafetta Monument at Plaza Independencia, Cebu City.

Last year, the Rajah Humabon Monument repainted under the auspices of the Cebu City Cultural and Historical Affairs Office (CHAO). CHAO also underwent training with the NHCP MRCD in conserving historic objects and sites.

They are expected carry over conservation efforts for the Heritage of Cebu

Monument and other sites and structures in Cebu City.

This April Cebu Province will begin commemorating its part in the 500th anniversary of the first circumnavigation of the world.

It will commence in the islands of Pilar, Poro, and Pacijan, all part of Cebu's Camotes Islands.

It will be followed by Cebu City on April 7.

Owing to the sudden increase of COVID-19 cases and the enhanced community quarantine over the National Capital Region, the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas takes over the functions of the National Quincentennial Committee in the Visayas until April 7.

On April 14, Cebu City will host the D-Day of the 500 Years of Christianity, and on April 27, Lapu-Lapu City will be the ground zero of the D-Day of the 2021 Quincentennial Commemorations in Philippines: the 500th anniversary of the Victory at Mactan. (PIA NCR)

ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women, the ASEAN Committee Women, the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, and the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network.

Apart from Shestakov and Lim, resource persons in the panel, such as Tanya McGregor, Gender Programme Officer of the Secretariat of the CBD; Maricel Aguilar, Gender Specialist in Philippines; Dr. Mary Kristerie Baleva, ACB External Relations and Policy Specialist; and Katherine Viñegas, Senior Advisor of Deutsche Gesellschaft Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, shared their insights on the training materials and how best to disseminate them among a wider audience.

McGregor explained that the three modules of the materials aim to support behavioural change through discussion and sharing of different perspectives related to gender issues.

"It is desired to foster good regional practices for gender-responsive biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. These materials provide a flexible and adaptive learning approach, guided by facilitator nodes and participants' handouts," she said.

McGregor pointed out that steps to synergise gender biodiversity concerns, including support to the genderresponsive implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and assessment of possible genderspecific indicators, have been undertaken in the region.

Sharing good practices on the ground, Viñegas said efforts to mainstream gender into the NBSAPs of Lao PDR and Myanmar, and into the General Management Plan of Lampi Marine National Park, an ASEAN Heritage Park, improved capacities and led to greater recognition of women empowerment and gender equality.

The initiative to develop regional training materials on gender and biodiversity stemmed from the consultative regional expert workshop in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2017, organised by the Secretariat of the CBD, with support from the Government of Sweden, United Nations Environment Programme's Asia Pacific Office, and GIZ Philippines. (PIA NCR)



Screengrab of the online launch of regional training materials on gender and biodiversity

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

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND) Represented by ATTY. NICOLINA C. MADRID, Mortgagee,

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135 AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

-versus-

JOEBETH A. MAGKAISA Mortgagor.

FC NO. 17001-20

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), Represented by ATTY. NICOLINA C. MADRID, mortgagee, with principal office at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, against JOEBETH A. MAGKAISA, mortgagor, single, of legal age, Filipino citizen, with residence and postal address at Lot 31 Blk. 7 Ph. 6 ACM Woodstock Homes, Alapan I, Imus, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of December 27, 2019 amounts to TWO HUNDRED TWENTY TWO THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWELVE PESOS and 19/100 (P222,112.19), Philippine Currency, including interest and penalty charges but excluding attorney's fees, sheriff's fees and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff IV will sell at public auction on April 20, 2021 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, Cavite, to the highest bidder, for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all the improvements therein, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITE NO. T-803710

"A parcel of land (Lot 31, Blk. 7 of the subd.-plan, Psd-04-101436, being a portion of Lot 1288, Imus Estate (Rs-04-002511), L.R.A. Rec. No. 8843), situated in the Bo. Of Calsadang Bago, Mun. of Imus, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the W., along line1-2 by Lot 29, Blk. 7; on the N., along line 2-3 by Rd. Lot 7; on the S., along line 3-4 by Lot 33, Blk. 7; and on the E., along line 4-1 by Lot 32, Blk. 7; all of the subd. plan. x x x containing an area of THIRTY SIX (36) SQ. METERS. x x x"

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 April 27, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. without prior notice.

Prospective bidders/buyer are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said properties and encumbrances thereon if any there be.

Imus, Cavite, Philippines, November 4, 2020

ISRAEL S. MEDINA Sheriff IV

APPROVED:

ARMIE A. FRANCISCO Clerk of Court V Officer in Charge

Copy Furnished:

Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig Fund) The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

ATTY. NICOLINA C. MADRID S.P. Madrid & Associates Unit 1911, 19/f Herrera Tower V.A Rufino cor. Valero Streets, Makati City

JOEBETH A. MAGKAISA

Lot 31 Blk. 7 Ph. 6 ACM Woodstock Homes, Alapan I, Imus. Cavite

Ang Caviteno March 29, April 5 & 12, 2021

Global AKO OFW throws support Yes for Peace

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan

CALOOCAN CITY-- The Advocates and Keepers Organization of Overseas Filipino Workers (AKO OFW) has expressed its support for Yes for Peace – Bayanihan ng Bayan, a non-government initiative initiated at the University of the Philippines (UP) System and eventually supported by the government.

Dr. Celerino "Chie" Umandal, Founding Chairperson of AKO OFW, a global organization of OFWs with members in Europe, the Middle East and Asia committed their help in advocating for and mobilizing their members for the planned "30 Million in 30 Days" open people's referendum phase of the campaign this coming September, during an episode of the UP UP (Usapang Pangkapayapaan, Usapang Pangkaunlaran) Pilipinas of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) hosted by Colonel Gerardo M. Zamudio, deputy wing commander of the PAF's 355th Aviation Engineering Wing.

"The active support of AKO OFW to Yes for Peace will give us the opportunity to counteract the International Solidarity works being waged by the Communist Party of the Philippines – New People's Army – National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) to put the government's resolve to end the local communist armed conflict into bad light," Zamudio, who hosted the peace and development broadcast program, welcoming Umandal's expression of support.

For his part, Ernesto Angeles Alcanzare, President and Chief Executive Officer of Yes for Peace, Incorporated said September is the National Peace Consciousness Month, which is celebrated annually to arouse public awareness on the need for "people's participation in bringing about a just, inclusive, sustainable and lasting peace."

"Given the scarce resources that the country could possibly afford to conduct a massive campaign, we believe that September is the most appropriate time for the activity. We shall once again seek the endorsement and active support of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) as soon as we have finished refining the system and approaches that shall be undertaken," he added.

Alcanzare went on to describe how they envision the campaign reaching out to the 42,046 barangays nationwide through the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) considering that only barangay officials, barangay tanods or watchmen and watchwomen, barangay health workers, and Sangguniang Kabataan are the only persons authorized to go house-to-house in their respective villages.

"Could we not consider asking for the help of the Department of Education to reach out to pupils and students in both public and private elementary and high schools? After all, we are targeting the youth, particularly the children of OFWS, who are most vulnerable to recruitment by the legal fronts of the CPP-NPA," said Coco Naik, Vice-Chairperson for Political Affairs of AKO OFW.

"By getting DepEd on board, we can pre-empt their recruitment into the armed struggle by being made to believe that they will be heroes by being part of the goal of violently overthrowing the government," Naik added

Alcanzare confessed that Yes for Peace has been adopted by the DepEd as part of the Education for All Program initiated worldwide by the United Nations as far back as 1995 during the term of the late Secretary Ricardo T. Gloria and was implemented as a component of its peace education program through the Araling Panlipunan and Gawaing Pagpapaganda ng Ugali.

"All Secretaries and offiacers-in-charge of the DepEd have issued a Memorandum for the implementation of Yes for Peace," he said.

"In August 2018, the Rotary Club of Camp Aguinaldo convinced then Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Eduardo Año to support Yes for Peace," he revealed, adding that, "I am dumbfounded that barely six days after the J-7 issued a directive to support Yes for Peace, France Castro of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) badgered Secretary Leonor Magtolis-Briones into withdrawing DepEd support to Yes for Peace which she claimed she never heard of during the hearing on the proposed budget of DepEd."

Emil Carreon, a co-host of UP UP Pilipinas wondered, "Is Castro really a teacher? How could she claim not knowing a campaign that DepEd has been waging in classrooms across the nation albeit silently for more than two decades?"

"The suspension caught us by surprise because there was no reason cited," said lawyer Domingo B. Alidon, president the DepEd National Employees Union (DepEd NEU), which has been behind the campaign as far back as 2001.

"Perhaps, Secretary Leonor Magtolis-Briones and the DepEd management had no choice because Castro and the Makabayan bloc would have given DepED a hard time in getting our budget approved," Alidon said.

"We just learned about the reason behind it when we got hold of a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting that particular budget hearing when Castro insisted that elementary and high school students should not be involved in Yes for Peace because they are too young to understand the complexities of the national quest for peace," he elaborated.

"We are now aghast why Castro is silent on the recruitment of junior and senior high school students by legal front organizations of the CPP-NPA," he added.

"Be that as it may, we shall endeavor to do the best that we can to convince Secretary Briones to once again support Yes for Peace to help put an end to the armed conflicts," Alidon volunteered, adding that, "As far as we see it, the questionnaires can be distributed and retrieved through the modular education system that has been set-up by the schools districts in all cities and municipalities nationwide."

National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) Commissioner Yusoph J. Mando, Secretary General of Yes for Peace – Bayanihan ng Bayan and concurrent NCMF Representative to the National Task Force to End the Local Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) told the PIA-NCR, "I shall personally liaise with the NTF-ELCAC, DILG, DepEd, OPAPP, the Post Office and other concerned agencies for the most effective, economical and doable means to implement Yes for Peace."

"Particularly, I will propose that the questionnaires of Yes for Peace be incorporated into the learning modules distributed and retrieved by DepEd nationwide as DepEd NEU president Atty. Alidon, AKO OFW's Dr. Chie Umandal and Ka Coco Naik have suggested," Mando said,

"Perhaps, it is the most cost-efficient and resource effective of doing it," he added.

For his part, Jeffey Celis, better known as Ka Eric Almendras, Chairperson of SAMBAYANAN (Sentrong Alyansa ng mga Mamamayan para sa Bayan), an organization of former members of the Communist Party of the Philippines – New People's Army (CPPNPA) said in an earlier episode of UP UP Pilipinas, "Yes for Peace could be an instrument in raising people's awareness on their inherent right to peace, documenting their stand against the armed struggle and terrorism and mobilizing their pro-active involvement and collective participation in bringing peace and development to their communities."

Celis was the Chairperson of the Sectoral Unification, Capability Building, Empowerment and Mobilization (SUCBEM) cluster of the NTF-ELCAC, which proposed for the incorporation of the adoption and refinement of Yes for Peace as one of its undertakings to end the local armed conflicts into the National Action Plan submitted by National Security Adviser Hermogenes C. Esperon, Jr. and approved by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

It can be recalled that the UP Board of Regents has committed its support to Yes for Peace inside and outside the University when it declared all campuses a Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) and offered it as a venue and mediating institution between the government and all armed revolutionary forces in December 1992, an offer that the CPP-NPA-NDF has consistently ignored until President Duterte declared the CPP-NPA as a terrorist group and finally called off peace negotiations before signing Executive Order No. 70 that created the NTF-ELCAC. (PIA NCR)

Word Search Puzzle

Transportation

Find and circle all of the transportation words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters will reveal an additional method of transportation.

С	D	Ε	L	S	Κ	Τ	Υ	L	Е	Μ	Α	С	Μ
٧	А	Ν	L	С	Ν	Α	Ε	G	S	Κ		S	0
Е	Н	Ν	U	Е	С	0	Α	Κ	0	Т	Е	Α	Τ
W	Ν	R	0	Н	٧	I	W	Е	С	D	I	В	0
Α	Т	I	Τ	Е	R	Α	S	М	Α	0	G	I	R
Н	Α	R	R	R	Ν	С	Т	L	0	0	R	С	С
S	0	В	Α	А	Α	0	В	0	Ν	В	Υ	Υ	Υ
Κ	В	С	М	L	Μ	R	G	D	R	R	Ι	С	С
С	S	K	Α	Т	Е	В	0	Α	R	D	Т	L	L
I	Α	Т	Ε	L	В	L	U	Ε	W	F	Ν	Е	Е
R	0	J	L	L	Α	L	F	S	Α	Ρ	Ι	Н	S
R	M	0	Ρ	Е	D	Α	Ι	R	Ρ	L	Α	Ν	Е
L	R	Е	Т	0	0	С	S	М	Н	0	R	S	Ε
Ε	Т	U	Н	С	Α	R	Α	Ρ	Ρ	0	Т	0	Ν

Sudoku

	2							
					9	6	8	
		5	6		3			
		7		2				9
	8		3		4		5	
3				5		1		
			1		2	7		
	9	3	7				_	
							4	

Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each

3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9.

If you use logic you can solve the puzzle without guesswork.

Need a little help? The hints page shows a logical order to solve the puzzle. Use it to identify the next square you should solve. Or use the answers pag if you really get stuck.

AIRPLANE RAFT

BICYCLE RICKSHAW BLIMP ROCKET

BOAT ROLLER BLADES CAMEL SCOOTER

CAMEL SCOOTER CANOE SHIP

CARRIAGE SKATEBOARD

ELEVATOR SKIS ESCALATOR SLED

FERRY SNOWMOBILE GONDOLA SUBMARINE

HORSE TRAIN

JET TRAM

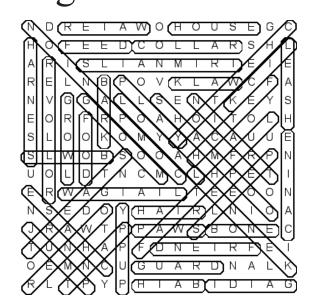
MOPED TRUCK

MOTORCYCLE VAN

PARACHUTE WAGON

Sagot sa nakaraan

YACHT



4	9	8	3	7	1	6	5	2
2	5	7	4	8	6	9	~	3
1	3	6	9	5	2	8	4	7
6	2	3	7	1	8	4	9	5
9	7	5	Б	3	4	1	2	B
8	1	4	2	9	5	7	3	6
3	8	2	1	4	7	5	6	9
5	4	9	В	6	3	2	7	1
7	6	1	5	2	9	3	8	4

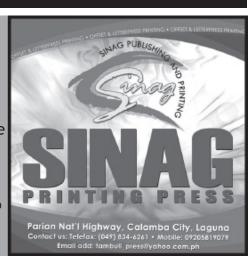
Sudoku hint

8	56	32		49	50			14
	51		17	43	57	26	52	29
12	53	44	16		54		55	
45	5	1		33	6		4	
	34	3	122		35	18	7	
	36	37	В	31		19	13	23
	24		10		9	21	25	15
2	46	3	26	a	38		40	
3			A	41		27	42	11

Quick fixes don't work...p 5

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P6.00

CPP-NPA ruins dreams, destroys families, oppresses IPs -Esperon

QUEZON CITY -- National Security Adviser Secretary Hermogenes Esperon Jr. on Monday branded the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing the New People's Army as "ruiners of dreams, destroyers of families, and oppressors of Indigenous Peoples."

Speaking during yesterday's commemorative event of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) titled "National Day of Solidarity, Condemnation and Outrage Against the CPP-NPA-NDF," Esperon led all stakeholderis in strongly castigating the atrocities committed against Filipino families by the group led by

"global terrorist" Jose Maria Sison.

"At ano na nga [ba] ang nadulot ng CPP-NPA? Pagkasira ng mga pangarap at kinabukasan ng ating mga kabataan, na siyang pinagluluksa ng [ating] mga magulang na nawalan ng anak," the NTF-ELCAC Vice-Chairperson said.

"Nagdulot ng pagkawasak ng mga pamilya, pang-aapi sa mga katutubo, at sa pangkalahatan, hindi umangat ang ating kanayunan at bansa," he added.

To reacall, the Armed Forces of the Philippines earlier submitted to Signe Poulsen, representative to the Philippines of the Office of the High continue to page 2

OFBank is officially first digitalonly bank in PH after obtaining BSP banking license

MANILA-- The Overseas Filipino Bank (OFBank) has officially become the first branchless digital-only bank in the country's history after securing a digital banking license from the Monetary Board (MB) of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

A wholly owned subsidiary of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK), the OFBank was able to commence its banking operations in June last year using its then existing license to operate as a thrift bank.

The MB issued the OFBank's digital banking license last March 25.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said "this milestone in the country's banking history not only fulfills President Duterte's campaign pledge to create a bank that caters to overseas Filipinos, but will also help the Philippines leapfrog to the digital economy."

"When President Duterte said he would create a bank that would serve overseas-based Filipinos, he wanted a bank that would be trailblazer in terms of modernizing and expanding the scope of the services it offers to them," Dominguez said.

"I commend the OFBank and the LANDBANK under its president-CEO Cecilia Borromeo for their tireless efforts that have led to the bank's transformation into the Philippines first branchless and digital-only banking institution," he added.

The OFBank was created under Executive Order (EO) No. 44 that was signed by President Duterte in September 2017.

To fulfill the EO's provision on the "need to establish a policy bank dedicated to provide financial products and services tailored to the requirements of Overseas Filipinos (OFs), the Philippine Postal Savings Bank (PPSB) was acquired by LANDBANK and converted into the OFBank.

On June 29 last year, the OFBank was launched virtually amid the COVID-19 pandemic as the Philippines' first branchless and digital-centric government bank. While fine-tuning its operations, systems and processes to enable its official transition into a digital bank, the OFBank operated as a thrift bank.

In December 2020, the BSP issued Circular No. 1105 on The Guidelines on the Establishment of Digital Banks, clearing the way for the OFBank to apply for a license as a digital bank.

On January 20, 2021, the OFBank submitted a Letter of Intent to the Supervisory and Policy Research Department of the BSP signifying

continue to page 2



National Security Adviser Secretary Hermogenes Esperon Jr. joins peace-loving Filipinos in marking National Day of Solidarity, Condemnation and Outrage Against the CPP-NPA-NDF on Monday, March 29. (Screengrab)

No 'epal' in latest ECQ 'ayuda' -DILG

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan

CALOOCAN CITY-- The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on Saturday warned against "epal" or using a politician's name, photo, or image in the distribution of "ayuda" (financial assistance)

to NCR Plus areas covered by the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ).

Epal is a derogatory term used to describe someone who likes to meddle or insert themselves into other people's businesses, or a politician wanting to get political mileage.

The DILG and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) recently issued the guidelines for the distribution of financial assistance of P1,000 per individual – with a maximum of P4,000 per family – to residents affected by the ECQ continue to page 2



The Department of the Interior and Local Government has warned against the use of a politician's name, photo, or image in the distribution of aid worth P1,000 per individual, or a maximum of P4,000 per family, in the NCR Plus, which is under enhanced community quarantine. (PIA NCR file photo)