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MMDA to implement weekend traffic adjustments in Alabang, Balintawak, due to Skyway3 project

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Cavite coops join ladderized training to boost business



Cavite coop representative participants to PCLEDO's Coop i-Create, a Ladderized Training for Cooperatives (LTC) pose for a picture at the end of their 4th session on January 24, 2020. (Photo courtesy of PICAD/PCLEDO)

By Ruel Francisco

TRECE MARTIRES CITY – Some 15 selected cooperatives in the province represented by their chairpersons and managers participated in the Coop i-Create, a Ladderized Training for Cooperatives (LTC) that commenced last January 10, 2020 held at the Cavite Cooperative Development Center.

The five-session business development training was initiated by the Provincial Government of

Cavite through the Provincial Cooperative, Livelihood and Entrepreneurial Development Office (PCLEDO) which aims to provide potential entrepreneurs with comprehensive support that would enhance their skills and competencies to enable them to establish and operate their own competitive businesses on a sustainable basis.

The initial session on January 10, was officially opened by PCLEDO Business and Entrepreneurial Head, *continue to page 3*

DOH Calabarzon intensifies massive info drive on COVID-19

By Fredmoore S. Cavan

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna – The Department of Health (DOH) Region IV-A has intensified its massive health education and information drive to increase public awareness on the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

In a statement, the DOH Region 4A said its Rapid Response Team composed of health officials of the agency has been providing health education and information to various local health officers, public and private hospital staff, social workers, and barangay health workers in the region.

In a dialogue with private hospitals held on February 11, Regional Director Eduardo C. Janairo stressed that educating health workers on the COVID-19 is important as not to cause panic and hysteria.

“We have to educate

and properly inform our health workers on what the disease is all about, its signs and symptoms, how to prevent its transmission, its treatment and what to do in case a patient is identified in their area,” Janairo said.

Janairo emphasized that individual and community participation is important to prevent the virus from spreading “There are so many things that we must learn and do to prevent the spread of the virus and it the proper information must start from us, ‘health workers’, to properly and accurately handle the information dissemination in the community,” the regional health chief added.

To avoid misinformation, Janairo also urged the public to rely only on the official statements and updates from the DOH.

He also advised the *continue to page 3*

Higher spending on infra, social services to fuel PH growth this year

MANILA -- Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has said that higher state spending on infrastructure and social services, supported by a low inflation rate and an expansionary monetary policy, will allow the government to “dramatically increase” the pace of economic growth this year, despite the trio of challenges arising at the onset of 2020 from the Taal Volcano eruption, the African Swine Fever (ASF) and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Dominguez said these unexpected challenges may dampen growth, but would not be significant enough to alter economic targets for this year, more so now that the 2020 national budget has been passed on time and a special law has been enacted allowing the government to continue using the unexpended project funds under the 2019 budget.

These resources will provide the government the tools it needs to accelerate public spending to offset the

effects of the fresh challenges to the domestic economy, Dominguez said.

Positive developments in the Philippine economy, such as the government's much-improved tax effort and the implementation of game-changing reforms, will be amplified by the hoped-for passage into law this year of the remaining packages of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP), which, in turn, will help modernize taxation and produce a more business-friendly environment for investors, the Finance chief said.

“The key reforms already in place, and the ones *continue to page 3*

US conducts wildlife crime scene investigation training for PH gov't

MANILA -- From February 10 to 14, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) conducted a Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation course for 19 Philippine government participants in Pasay, Metro Manila.

Participants included representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Bureau of Customs, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police – Maritime Group, and National Bureau of Investigation.



The course consisted of lectures and practical exercises

on evidence collection, crime scene management, and latent print and impression evidence development to support prosecutions against wildlife-related offenses. Additionally, a Philippine Department of Justice prosecutor led a session focused on best practices and lessons learned from recent environmental cases involving wildlife.

In his remarks to participants, U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission John Law emphasized that the US and Philippines shared a strong concern for wildlife crime, and stressed the U.S. commitment to expanding cooperation against this challenge. (US Embassy in Manila)



CALAX FIRST SEGMENT TOLL COLLECTION EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 11, 2020

Class 1 1 	Php 47.00
Class 2 2 	Php 95.00
Class 3 3 	Php 143.00

TRB CASE # 2019-03

CALAX
A METRO PACIFIC TOLLWAY


 @OfficialCALAX
  @OfficialCALAX
  @mptsouth

Photo from: Official CALAX Facebook Page

PRRD ...

DA in partnership with concerned LGUs have to date depopulated a total of 216,000 heads of hogs since the disease surfaced last year.

"This is only 1.7 percent of the 12.7 million national swine population. About 13 percent of the 216,000 were actually ASF-infected, but due to the 1-7-10 protocol, we had to cull all hogs within the one-kilometer radius," Dar said.

In executing the ASF zoning plan and guidelines, he cited three specific measures to control the spread of ASF: public awareness, surveillance, and border control and movement management.

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"On public awareness, we must ensure that meat dealers and vendors comply with the slaughter requirement. We urge the public not to bring pork and pork products from infected areas to free areas. Please comply with the restrictions imposed at airports, seaports, and bus terminals in bringing pork and pork products," the Agri chief said.

"We are requiring all veterinary and agriculture officers to provide us with regular reports on ASF surveillance, and coordinate with the respective DA-Regional Field Offices in case of unusual diseases and deaths of pigs, and other livestock and poultry animals," he said.

"We are also seeking the assistance of the Philippine National Police and barangay leaders to help us in securing quarantine checkpoints at provincial, city and municipal borders," the DA chief added.

He also enjoined all LGUs, national and local agencies, the private sector and hog raisers to apply the "whole of the nation approach" to support and complement the attendant activities to manage, contain and control ASF.

"We are intensifying all our efforts, and putting in mind that we can effectively control ASF and we will regain freedom from this disease," Secretary Dar concluded. (Rita dela Cruz, DA Communications Group)

Sen.....

"Suportado namin kayong lahat ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte," Go said. "Sa abot ng aming makakaya ni Pangulong Duterte, suportado namin kayo."

The Senator also affirmed his support for measures promoting the welfare of the country's law enforcers, including the PNP, BFP, BJMP and the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) Height Equality Act filed by Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa.

"Isa po sa aking susuportahan 'yung PNP, BFP, BJMP and BuCor Height Equality Act,'" Go said in his speech. The proposed bill reduces the current height requirement for candidates to the PNP and other law enforcement bureaus.

Go also shared that he has filed a measure to provide free legal assistance to police and military officers, explaining that law enforcers sometimes hesitate to implement the full force of the law, fearing harassment from powerful personalities who may file cases against them in connection with the performance of their official duties.

"Kailangan din nating pagbutihin ang lahat na suportang legal na ibinibigay ng pamahalaan upang hindi maapektuhan ang over-all performance ng hanay ng mga pulis at sundalo. Minsan, sa pagtupad nila ng kanilang tungkulin, sila ay nakakasuhan at nasususpindi sa trabaho," he said.

Go, in July of last year, filed Senate Bill (SB) 393, otherwise known as An Act Providing Free Legal Assistance To Any Officer or Enlisted Personnel of the Armed

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Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police on Any Charge Before the Prosecutor's Office, Court or Any Competent Body Arising from an Incident or Incidents Related to the Performance of Official Duty.

"Palaging nasa frontline natin ang ating mga kapulisan at mga sundalo sa kampanya ng pamahalaan upang masiguro na ligtas ang ating mga mamamayan mula sa banta ng mga kriminal, lalo na ang mga drug syndicates at mga terorista," Go said.

The Senator also shared that "the long-term modernization plans of the PNP and AFP are being implemented as scheduled."

"We also continue to modernize and strengthen the capabilities of the BFP through training and the provision of new equipment, such as the brand new firetrucks and equipment we distributed last February 11," Go emphasized.

"I also filed the proposed Fire Protection Modernization Act of 2019 so that the BFP can hire more personnel, acquire more modern fire equipment and train its firefighters, among others," he added.

Go then pledged to pay back all the hardships and sacrifices of the police with his unremitting support in promoting their welfare and in delivering fast, accessible, and quality services for their families.

"Hindi basta-basta ang propesyon na inyong pinili dahil lagi kayong malapit sa panganib at araw-araw nakataya ang inyong buhay. Kaya naman po bilib ang

inyong Kuya Bong Go sa tapang at buo ng loob ninyo," Go said, reiterating the vital role of law enforcement in society.

"As fire fighters, correction officers, police officers, and forensic experts, you are vital in creating a peaceful, orderly and just society. Without a doubt, our criminologists serve as the backbone of our nation's law enforcement and public safety efforts," the senator added.

During the ceremony, Go also expressed his respect and admiration for the topnotcher of the batch, Fahadale Saripada Abbas, a Filipino-Muslim who hails from Davao City.

"Proud po ako na ang inyong topnotcher ay mula sa Davao at isang Muslim na Maranao," he said, adding that he and Duterte, when he was still mayor of Davao City, would visit Filipino Muslims from far-flung barangays and assist them in their pilgrimage to Mecca.

"Nung mayor pa si Tatay Digong, sa Davao dati, pinupuntahan namin ang mga pinakamalalayong barangays na puro Muslims. Tinutulungan namin sa kanilang pilgrimage sa Mecca," he said.

"Pantay-pantay po ang pagtingin namin sa mga Muslim sa Davao. Every year po may mga pinapadalang deboto na Muslim sa Mecca. Once in a lifetime lang po ito. Pinipili namin ang pinaka-deserving. Mahal po ni Pangulo ang mga Muslim at gusto niya na magkaisa tayo. Parepareho naman tayo na Pilipino," he added.

Ending his speech, the Senator urged the newly-licensed criminologists to continue supporting the government's campaign against

Cavite-Laguna Expressway toll collection starts

By Ruel Francisco

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite – Collection of the initial base toll rates for the CALAX subsections 6, 7 and 8 that opened to traffic have been implemented with the approval and issuance of the Toll Operating Permit and Notice to Start Collection from the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB). Approved CALAX toll rates for the 10.7-km first segment that starts from the Mamplasan Entry and the Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Interchange is at Php47 for Class 1 vehicles (cars), P95 for Class 2 vehicles (buses and small commercial trucks) and P143 for Class 3 vehicles (large trucks or trailers).

"The end-to-end opening of the First Segment of CALAX is imperative to reduce traffic congestion in various parts of Laguna specifically Laguna Boulevard and Aguinaldo Highway. Now that all lanes are accessible, it serves as a viable

option for motorists given the growing traffic demands in the area," said MPCALA Holdings Inc. President and General Manager Roberto V. Bontia.

Since partial opening last October 30, 2019 about 10,000 vehicles passed daily on the said CALAX segments.

Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark Villar along with the DPWH team and MPTC executives conducted a final inspection on December 23, 2019.

CALAX is a 45 kilometer 2x2 lane expressway that will connect CAVITEX in Kawit, Cavite to the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) at Mamplasan Interchange in Biñan, Laguna with preparations for the construction of the second segment already on the way. (Ruel Francisco, PIA- Cavite/with reports from MPCALA Holdings Communications Office)

Localized...

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agencies and organizations, in order to better respond to issues and concerns affecting residents in conflict-ridden communities.

These include the conduct of forums involving the youth, labor and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) sectors, provision of immediate cash assistance and livelihood interventions to former rebels, continuous consultations with families of combatants, and the protection of industries from CPP-NPA infiltration.

Peace through dialogue

Mayor said the conduct of LPEs aims to empower local government units, as it brings the government closer to the people through the more timely and efficient delivery of much-needed services.

"Ang mga local officials talaga ang frontline natin dito, ang mga governors, mayors, at actually marami na tayong mga local officials na active dito, lalong lalo na sa Davao del Norte, Davao de Oro, at iba pang mga bahagi [ng bansa]," Mayor said.

(Our local officials are on the frontline here, the governors, mayors and other officials, especially in Davao del Norte and Davao de Oro, as well as in other places.)

By responding to the needs of the rebels and their families, he pointed out that LPEs promote good governance and more importantly, allow people to be part of the peacebuilding process.

illegal drugs, crime and corruption. "Nais ko pong ipaalala na galit kami ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa korapsyon. Para sa amin, dapat ibalik sa mga Pilipino ang pera ng mga Pilipino hanggang sa pinakahuling centavo," he said.

"Kaya sana suportahan din po ninyo kami ng Pangulo sa adhikaing ito, lalo na kapag nagtatrabaho na kayo sa gobyerno. Sama-sama nating ituloy ang pagbabago," he ended. (OSBG)

"Mostly talaga ang focus natin ay yung mga tao dun sa komunidad, dahil ang nakikita natin, karamihan, ang nagiging cause nga nito ay yung mga issue ng pangangailangan ng ating mga kababayan," Mayor said.

(Our focus mostly are the people in the communities, because we see that their issues and concerns are born out of their most basic needs.)

Mayor assured rebels who wish to surrender and avail of the government's livelihood programs that they are welcome to do so and have no reason to be afraid.

"Kung sino 'yung willing at voluntary naman na makikipag-usap sa atin, ayun ang ating ineentertain, ina-accommodate kung among pangangailangan (We accommodate the needs of whoever comes to us willingly and voluntarily)," Mayor said. No need for armed violence

As the government agency tasked to implement a comprehensive peace process across the country, OPAPP continues to strengthen its efforts in finding a long-lasting solution to the armed rebellion, Mayor said.

He said that the agency is offering its hand of peace to the rebels, but they must also show reciprocity on their part and stop carrying out acts of violence against the people.

"We recall the incidents of armed violence of the NPA last December, despite the agreed ceasefire. We refer to the continued recruitment of our youth in schools through the CPP-NPA-NDFP's legal front organizations. If they want peace, let us talk peace, but stop the violence," Mayor said.

"Wala naman po sigurong isang mamamayan na ayaw ng kapayapaan," (There probably is no person who does not seek peace), he added. (OPAPP)

Gov't lifts deployment ban to Kuwait

By Susan G. De Leon

QUEZON CITY—The Government has lifted its deployment ban to Kuwait, as the two governments reached an agreement for better working conditions of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III announced on Friday the full resumption of deployment of workers to Kuwait after the POEA Governing Board approved Resolution No. 7 on February 13, allowing the resumption of processing and deployment of all types of workers bound to the Gulf estate.

Bello, who chairs the POEA governing board, said the approval was made in view of the filing of charges against the suspected killers of OFW Jeanelyn Padernal Villavende.

"After due consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and with the filing of appropriate charges against the perpetrators [in the killing] of OFW Jeanelyn Villavende, the

Governing Board of the POEA unanimously approved the lifting of the remaining ban in Kuwait with respect to the deployment of household workers," Bello said.

Last month, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) imposed a total deployment ban of OFWs to Kuwait following the findings by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) that Villavende was sexually abused and brutally murdered.

However, in view of the approval early this month by the Kuwait and Philippine governments of a harmonized employment contract for Filipino domestic workers in the oil-rich country, the POEA governing board lifted the ban on the processing and deployment of OFWs to Kuwait, except newly-hired and returning domestic workers.

More than 50 percent of close to 250,000 documented workers in Kuwait are household workers. (DOLE/PIA-NCR)



Labor & Employment Secretary Silvestre Bello III (FILE PHOTO)

DOH....

public not to share unverified or fake news circulating on social media about the COVID-19.

"Importante na makinig lamang sa mga balita at official information mula sa DOH at huwag nang ikalat ang mga fake news na lumalabas at nababasa sa social media upang hindi magkaroon ng misinformation at magkagulo," Janairo said.

Janairo added that only the DOH is the only primary and credible source of information about the COVID-19.

Since the

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announcement released by China health authorities on the COVID-19 last January, it has caused panic to the public leading to the shortage of face masks due to fear of the virus. The new strain of virus has also led to proliferation of misinformation on various social media platforms.

As of Sunday noon, Feb 16, the DOH has recorded a total of 16 patients under investigation and no confirmed case of the coronavirus disease in the Calabarzon region. (PIA4A/DOH4A)

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Strategic Business Planning (Workshop/Writeshop) and Endorsement and Partnering with Business Coaches/Hands-on Entrepreneurs and Accountants for Preparation of their Pro-Forma Financial Statements.

The participants were expected to have gained the proper business skills of planning, organizing and implementing knowledge to achieve the goal of producing competitive products for a wider market.

Meanwhile, lawyer Kherby B. Reyes, PCLEDO OIC, challenged the participants saying, "Set your goal to reach more people."

She added: "Rest assured that all of us at PCLEDO will always be present to give assistance in order for you to achieve these goals."

Final session and graduation for the successful participants is slated on February 18, 2020. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with reports from PICAD)C

Cavite...

Ms. Liza C. Gabatan who welcomed the participants and gave a detailed over-view of the program.

Dr. Aldrin P. Antivola, Business Efficiency Advisor/Organization Therapist, served as the program facilitator and prepared the entrepreneurial mind-setting lectures and discussed the topics namely: Motivating a Cooperative to Start a Business; NACH – Need for Achievement; How to Develop an Entrepreneurial Mindset in 7 Days or Less; Understanding the "Law of Attraction" and Designing and Understanding a Business Model.

Succeeding sessions of the ladderized training program were completed on January 17, 23 and 24 with the third and fourth sessions focusing on topics on Operational Management, HR Management, Communication Skills, Financial Management, Cash Flow Management and Legal inputs, Strategic Business Plan which covered the topics

Higher...

forthcoming, have produced a pro-people economy and tangibly improved the quality of life at the grassroots. We will pursue the socioeconomic reform program of the President with a decisiveness that this administration proved it can deliver," Dominguez said at the Wallace Business Forum held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City over the weekend.

Dominguez said that had the passage of the 2019 budget not been delayed last year, the economy would have expanded at a faster clip at 6.8 percent, rather than 5.9 percent in 2019.

He noted that while 2020 began with the "unexpected challenges" of the ASF, the Taal volcano eruption and COVID-19, the government has been on top of the situation and has acted decisively on them.

The ASF has been contained through the strict enforcement of biosecurity measures, an intensified anti-smuggling campaign and heightened meat inspection efforts.

Meanwhile, concerned government agencies and local government units are fast-tracking the release of production support, livelihood and financial assistance to affected farmers and fishers, and the implementation of recovery and rehabilitation plans for areas affected by the Taal volcano eruption last month.

As for COVID-19, Dominguez said the government responded to this public concern decisively and continues to implement proactive measures to keep our people safe.

COVID-19 would most like have a significant impact on the tourism sector, given the various levels of travel bans imposed by national governments and of voluntary decisions of airlines to cut flights to and from China.

The country's exports

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to, and imports from, China might likewise be briefly affected owing to the temporary closures of factories in Chinese cities, which has been under lockdown in a bid by Chinese authorities to contain the virus, Dominguez added.

"While these developments may dampen our growth somewhat, these threats are not enough to force a dramatic reduction in our growth estimates. The 2020 budget has been passed on time. A special law allows us to use the unexpended project funds from 2019. Greater public spending in infrastructure and social services, supported by an expansionary monetary policy and a benign inflation rate, should allow us to dramatically increase our pace of growth this year," Dominguez said.

Dominguez reiterated that he hopes Package 2 of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP)--the Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Rationalization Act or CITIRA--would be finally passed into law by March.

CITIRA aims to bring down the corporate income tax (CIT) rate to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) average and replace the badly tangled incentives regime with a targeted, transparent, performance-based and time-bound system. The old tax incentives scheme entrenched old businesses while discouraging new enterprises from competing in the market.

Dominguez said he also expects the rest of the CTRP packages to be passed this year.

These are the proposed Passive Income and Financial Intermediary Taxation Act (PIFITA), which is seen to make the country more attractive for long-term investments through reforms in the financial sector; and the real property valuation reform bill, which aims to adopt globally benchmarked standards and inculcate a higher degree of professionalism in property

valuation.

"While we await the passage into law of these remaining tax reform packages, we continue to implement measures that will reinvigorate our capital markets, boost investor confidence, and enhance financial inclusion," Dominguez said.

These include the following:

- The release of the amended set of regulations that will allow the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) to finally take off. "This will democratize wealth by opening access to thousands of small investors wanting to be shareholders in secure and profitable real estate projects. "In turn, this will allow big players in real estate to raise up more capital to further invest in our country, a win-win situation for all," Dominguez said;

- The issuance of the Philippines' lowest and first ever zero-coupon Euro Global Bond in the international capital markets. The overwhelming response from the market for the 3- and 9-year global bond issuance worth 1.2 billion Euros underscores the international investor community's deepening confidence in the Philippine economy, he said;

- The first-time sale of the Premyo Bonds last year, enabling the Treasury to raise P4.96 billion or over 65 percent more than the initial issue size of P3 billion. Access to the bonds were made easy and convenient through the use of online purchasing platforms. These bonds opened yet another channel for ordinary Filipinos to be included in the financial mainstream; and

- The continuing review of government contracts to protect taxpayers and ordinary citizens from onerous provisions. "This review sends a clear message that the government is determined to create a pro-business environment in the country. But while the government is interested in inviting businesses to our economy, the interests of the whole nation should be a primary consideration," Dominguez said. (DOF)

Ang
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Papi

EDITORIAL

COVID-19 contained

“WHILE the outbreak is not over yet, the Philippines can certainly be said to have reacted quickly, in precise fashion.

Kudos to the Philippine government for its handling of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. By now, it is safe to assume that the Philippines has hurdled Valentine's Day and avoided further spread of the virus, perhaps a sign of maturity for the Filipino people, and actual practice of the guidelines for prevention of COVID-19 issued by the Department of Health (DoH).

We are reminded of the famous book written by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, “Love in the Time of Cholera,” about a love affair set in the Caribbean that happened during a cholera outbreak. It was described as a time of immense and constant fear, but also as a time of love and passion. In the end, the reader learns that the symptoms of love are perhaps the same as those for cholera, for one can suffer and learn of purpose from both matters. We call on Filipino writers to look into writing about love in the time of COVID-19.

While the outbreak is not over yet, the Philippines can certainly be said to have reacted quickly, in precise fashion, not just to physically contain and quarantine those who were infected, including those patients under observation, but also the nation's fears and concerns. There was no panicky response that elicited a frantic and anxious populace. There was no ransacking of goods, except for masks, the prices of which capitalist pigs marked up, and the overall outlook by the country was of mild concern, which was addressed by the authorities.

The downplay of the virus by the country's leader was risky. He turned out to be correct all along. President Rodrigo Duterte, in a taped message aired last Wednesday, asked Filipinos to “remain calm, vigilant, and responsible.” This was exactly what was needed to be heard by everyone. The President added, “I also ask for your trust and cooperation, support as we face the challenge. Let us unify together as one nation. This challenge can be overcome.”

Calculated decisions that appeared to have been sat upon, but were really subject to intense scrutiny and analysis, turned out to be the right ones. The travel ban on incoming planes from China was well-taken. Taiwan was not spared in view of the One China Policy, which makes perfect sense, but was later lifted in view of reduced threats. Other travel bans involving Hong Kong and Singapore are being looked into but are still being studied as of this moment.

The Philippines also did not run out of facilities for this problem. The Southeast Asian Games housing in Capas, Tarlac was immediately put into good use for its usage as quarantine zone for Filipinos repatriated from ground zero in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Aside from this, the government readied the 10,000-bed drug rehabilitation facility in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, and Caballo Island near Corregidor Island, which previously served as quarantine zones for Filipino peacekeepers back in 2014 who went to Ebola-stricken Liberia.

There still remain challenges — our countrymen who remain under observation in our government hospitals, the Filipinos in the quarantined cruise ship in Japan, and the thousands of overseas Filipino workers in countries that have infected citizens. All government offices, including local governments, continue to be hard at work in avoiding the further spread of COVID-19, and in bringing home Filipinos from places hit hard by the infection.

Meanwhile, the Philippines has to look into the effects of this pandemic, especially a possible downturn in the economy. It is no secret that the Philippines is tied closely to the Chinese economy and even our local tourism should expect a huge dip. The government has no choice but to look for other avenues to recover lost income.

The DoH, Department of Tourism and the Department of the Interior and Local Government have issued a joint memorandum to encourage local tourism and encourage local governments to continue holding fiestas and other public events, provided precautionary measures are implemented. The President last week also called for the owners of the country's airlines to promote local tourism.

Some commentators have criticized the government for cancelling the Visiting Forces Agreement at the worst time when a pivot to COVID-19 infected China is unavailing at this moment.

Everything happens for a reason, and this might be the time for the Philippines to realize true independence and support from its own citizens. Love in the time of COVID-19 may actually translate into absolute love and passion for one's own country.



KAPIRASONG Kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

The Greatest

SA isang banda, matagal na siyang patay bilang mang-aawit. Kahit may mga kwento-kwentong magaling pa rin siyang kumanta kapag hindi nakadropa, alam ng mga tunay na tagahanga ang totoo: Hindi na siya makakakanta pang muli, lalo na nang kasing-husay ng dati. Pagkatapos daw ng Bodyguard siya nagbisyo, at lahat ng live na pagkanta niya matapos, bagamat may mahusay, ay padausdos. Hanggang sa may mga walkout sa konsyerto niya nitong huli: sabi ng isa, kahit patay na daga, hindi niya kayang aliwin.

Kakatwa ang mga sinasabi sa YouTube ng mga nanghihinayang na tagahanga. Kapag may pangit siyang pagtatanghal, may mga matatag na nagsasabi, taliwas sa ebidensyang napakarami, na may trangkaso siya, inuubo lang sa pagkakataong iyun. May mga nagsasabing sana sila na lang ang tumanggap ng lahat ng drogong tinira niya. Sa huling bahagi ng dekada '90, kung saan papasagwa ang mga pagkanta niya, may mga nagsasabing sana itinigil na niya sa puntong iyun — sa puntong iyun mismo — ang droga.

Marami ang sumisi sa asawa niya sa pagkagumon niya sa bisyo. Noon ngang nabalitang magpapakasal sila, isang kaibigan ang nagsabi sa telebisyon na magkasalungat ang personalidad nila ni Bobby Brown. Pero nagpatuloy lang siya. Matapos umano siyang gumaling sa droga, kinumpirma niya: nagdroga siya para sa kanyang lalake, for his man, na siya namang laging tema ng kanyang mga awit. Klasikong patriyarkiya, pahiwatig ni Oprah Winfrey: nagpakaliit siya — siya! — para maging malaki ang lalake sa buhay niya.

At iyun na nga: kahit sa pagkamatay niya, droga, masalimuot na buhay-mag-asawa, pagbagsak ng kalusugan, at hindi musika ang napag-uusapan. Kung pag-usapan man, madalas, ay naglalaman ng pagkukumpara

sa ibang mang-aawit — na babae, dahil hindi naman pinagsasabong ang mga mang-aawit na lalake. Walang patutunguhan, dahil may solidong posisyon ang bawat kampo, nakasalalay sa kanyang panlasa, at gusto lang ipakita ang pagiging tapat sa idolo sa pagtatanggol dito at pag-atake naman sa iba.

Namayagpag siya sa pag-arangkada ng neoliberalismo sa mga abanteng kapitalistang bansa — at isa marahil ang “Greatest Love of All” sa mga himno nito. Kakatwang sinabayan ng pagbagsak ng boses niya, at ng tema ng pag-ibig sa mga kanta niya, ang sinapit ng ideolohiyang ito sa tatlong dekada. Isang rurok ang sikat niyang pagkanta ng “Star-Spangled Banner” para suportahan ang mga tropang Amerikano sa gera sa Iraq — na bumungad sa “Katapusan ng Kasaysayan” matapos bumagsak ang “sosyalismo.”

Sinasabi ngayon na hinawan niya ang landas sa tagumpay sa mainstream ng ibang Aprikano-Amerikanong babaeng mang-aawit. Hinawan din ang landas niya ng mga nauna — ng ninang niyang si Aretha Franklin, pinsan niyang si Dionne Warwick, mga idolo niyang sina Gladys Knight at Chaka Khan. Pero nagawa niya ito, tulad ni Michael Jackson, sa pag-iwas sa pagiging masyadong “Itim” sa pagkanta, bawas ang sanlaksang manerismo ng pagkantang Gospel. Nagpakaputi siya para matanggap ng mainstream.

Pero sa kanyang rurok, wala talaga siyang katulad. Sa kanya masasapul ang pag-iiba ng mga Aprikano-Amerikano ng singing sa sanging. She can sang! Iyung “I Will Always Love You,” kahit mahusay, simula na ng pagbagsak ng kalidad ng boses niya. Sino pa ang konsistent na mahusay ang live na pag-awit? At ang live na pagtatanghal ay mas maganda sa nakarekord na orihinal? Sino ang nakakapagsanib

ng husay sa pagbirit sa pagbibigay-damdamin sa inaawit? At sino ang pinakamasarap, magandang panoorin?

Kitang-kita ang husay niya kumpara sa mga parangal sa kanya ngayong patay na siya. Marami sa mga gumagaya, parang kalamnan ng katawan ang gamit; siya, parang walang kahirap-hirap, parang puno ng lambing. Marami sa mga nagkaisip sa panahon ng pamamayagpag niya, inakalang laging may katulad niyang mahusay na mang-aawit. Ngayon, sa pagkamatay niya, sa paghahanap ng mga katulad niya na hindi niya katulad, namamalayan nilang bukod-tangi ang panahong para lang siyang hangin sa paligid.

Sabi ng isang kaibigan, kapag nakita niya ang paborito niyang si Joni Mitchell, kasabihan niya ito: “Hey, Joni. I look at life from both sides now.” Ano ang katulad na masasabi kay Whitney? Marami, pero pinakamaganda ang pagbalik sa una niyang kanta: You give good love. Sa lahat ng pagtatanghal, kitang-kitang ibinigay niya ang lahat. Kapag kumakanta, larawan siya ng ligaya sa paggawa ng gustong gawin, sa pagpapasaya sa iba gamit ang sariling talento — bagay na ipinagkakait sa nakarami sa lipunang ito.

Namatay siya matapos mag-iwan ng mga palpang pagtatanghal, ng mga eksenang mapaghihinalaang siyang baliw. Hindi naman niya kinailangang magtangka pang mag-comeback at muling mamayagpag. Hindi naman niya kailangang kumanta pang muli. Lohika ba iyun ng kapitalismo na kailangang laging magprodyus? Ng pagiging celebrity na kailangang bumawi? Ng buhay-mang-aawit na hindi mabubuhay kung hindi magtatrabahong muli? Hindi ba siya pwedeng nagpahinga at iba ang ginawa sa buhay?

Dahil sa rurok naman ng talento niya, wala siyang katulad, siya ang pinakamahusay.

17 Pebrero 2012

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

MMDA to implement weekend traffic adjustments in Alabang, Balintawak, due to Skyway3 project

By Jimmyley E. Guzman

QUEZON CITY – The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) announced that traffic adjustments will be implemented in Alabang and EDSA Balintawak starting today, February 14 (Friday) due to the construction of Skyway Extension and Skyway Stage 3 Project.

At the Balintawak Interchange, starting 11pm of February 14 (Friday), one lane closure will be implemented on EDSA Balintawak Northbound towards North Luzon Expressway to give way to the erection of vertical bridge support under the EDSA Bridge as part of the Skyway

Stage 3 project.

Light vehicles going to NLEX and Monumento may take the Balintawak Interchange ramp going to Cubao and take the U-turn slot after Cloverleaf Market going to NLEX.

On the other hand, two lanes will be closed on EDSA Balintawak going to Cubao on February 16 (Sunday) for the erection of interconnection flatform tower on top of EDSA Bridge.

Light vehicles coming from Monumento via EDSA before reaching Balintawak may turn right to A. de Jesus St. then left to C3 to destination.

The lane closures will be until March 5.

Further, girders will

also be launched along A. Bonifacio where one lane going to NLEX will remain passable and two lanes for those going to Manila for 8 nights from 11pm to 5am on February 22 to 29.

Motorists are advised to take the following alternate routes:

1. Light vehicles going to NLEX and Monumento may take the Balintawak Interchange Ramp going to Cubao and take the U-turn slot after Cloverleaf Market going to NLEX.

2. Light vehicles going to Novaliches and NLEX may take zipper lane at the left immediately before the construction site towards destination.

3. Light vehicles from NLEX (going to Manila/Caloocan) may take the Balintawak Interchange Ramp going to Monumento via EDSA then left to A. De Jesus St. then left to C3 to destination.

The construction will last for 21 days or until March 5, 2020.

Meanwhile in Alabang, starting 6am of February 16 (Sunday), a one-way traffic scheme for southbound vehicles will be implemented in West Service Road of South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) from Alabang Hills to Alabang Zapote Road to give way to the construction of Skyway Extension from Hillsborough to Filinvest Exit.

Skyway Hillsborough off-ramp will be closed to traffic and Class 2 vehicles such as buses and delivery vans from Magallanes to Alabang are not allowed along the elevated Skyway.

One-way traffic will also be implemented on Northbound lane of Alabang

temporary Steel Ramp from 5am to 9am, daily. The same traffic scheme will also be done along Skyway from Sucat Interchange to Alabang-Zapote Road and on Southbound lane of Alabang temporary Steel Ramp daily from 9am to 5am of the following day.

Affected vehicles northbound are advised to take the Alabang via-duct at grade level.

The construction will last for three months, the MMDA added.

Both the Skyway Stage 3 and Skyway Extension Projects are part of the government's "Build, Build, Build" program.

The Skyway Stage 3 is a 14.8-kilometer elevated tollway project which connects Skyway/SLEX Buendia to NLEX Balintawak while the Skyway Extension project extends the existing toll road to Susana Heights/Muntinlupa-Cavite Expressway. (MMDA/PIA-NCR)

CAVITEVIEW

Healthy eating, lifestyle the best weapon against infection

AS of Feb. 10, 2020, there are a total of 18 admitted patients under investigation (PUI) and one confirmed case of the 2019 novel coronavirus Acute Respiratory Disease, now officially named by the World Health Organization as COVID-19 in Central Visayas, according to the Department of Health Central Visayas Center for Health Development.

This recent viral outbreak has brought panic and anxiety among Filipinos not only in Central Visayas but also in the entire country.

The DOH, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other health experts are working hard to contain the virus and search for possible cure. However, we as individuals can contribute by preventing ourselves from acquiring this infection.

Viral infections are caused by the virus in the body. Depending on the type of virus and the person's current state of health, various viruses can infect almost any type of body tissue from the brain to the skin. According to the Institute of Medicine, globalization has increased the spread of infectious diseases and is a threat to our immunity. One example is the COVID-19.

With the anxiety and panic that these reports have created, the National Nutrition

Council Region VII thru Dr. Parolita A. Mission, Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator reminds the public to stay vigilant and practice healthy eating and lifestyle to help fight against common viral infections including this current coronavirus epidemic. Mission encourages the public to do the following:

A. Eat healthy

Consume at least five servings of fruits and vegetables every day. Fruits and veggies are loaded with Vitamin C. This vitamin is one of the biggest immune system boosters of all. In fact, a lack of vitamin C can even make you more prone to getting sick. Foods rich in vitamin C include citrus fruits like oranges, dalandan or "ukban" and lemon. They are also rich in folate (folic acid) and dietary fiber and other antioxidants. Green leafy vegetables like malunggay, camote tops, and alugbati are also good sources of dietary fiber, Vitamins A, C and K, and minerals such as iron and calcium that help boost our immune system along with fruits.

Load yourself with foods rich in Vitamin A. This immune boosting vitamin can be sourced from sweet potatoes, carrots, broccoli, spinach, red bell peppers, eggs, and vitamin A fortified foods like milk and

cereals.

Include foods high in Vitamin E in your daily diet. This vitamin improves immune function by neutralizing free radicals. Vegetable oils, nuts such as peanuts, almonds, seeds and green leafy vegetables are rich source of this essential vitamin.

Do not forget Zinc. This mineral helps the immune system and wards off viruses. Zinc can be sourced from meats, shellfish, legumes like beans, seeds, nuts, dairy products, eggs and whole grains.

The WHO has also been reminding the public to be wary of raw food. It is therefore recommended to lessen the consumption raw or uncooked foods and avoiding crowded areas as much as possible to

lessen the possibility of acquiring such infections.

B. Exercise and be physically active

Another healthy reminder is to exercise and be physically active. Exercise and physical activities help maintain the ideal body weight as well as reduces blood sugar and cholesterol level. At least 30 minutes of exercise or an hour of physical activity is recommended daily.

C. Keep hydrated

Keeping our body hydrated is one very essential reminder to fight against infections. Fluids in the body needs to be constantly replenished to keep your tissues healthy. So, don't forget to bring your bottle of water for your daily eight (8) glasses of water.

D. A good rest is a must

Healthy diet and regular exercise partnered with a well-rested body does not only strengthen the immunity but also improves cardiovascular health, lowers blood pressure, helps control body weight, and protects against a variety of diseases

including viral infections. Therefore, remember to have eight hours of sleep every day.

Supporting these tips, the National Nutrition Council released three (3) nutrition tips to boost the immune system. This includes having a balanced diet and practice of proper hygiene by washing your hands for 20 seconds, and help young children do the same. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. As much as possible, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands as viruses can enter your body this way and make you sick. (<https://bit.ly/2Sg3uAL>)

To date, vast number of viral infections cannot be treated with typical antibiotic. In fact, most human viral infections can be effectively fought by the body's own immune system. Thus, strengthening our immune system should be our steppingstone towards prevention. Because prevention is a lot less costly than cure. (NVS/NNC-7)



**HEALTHY EATING AND LIFESTYLE
YOUR BEST WEAPON AGAINST INFECTION**

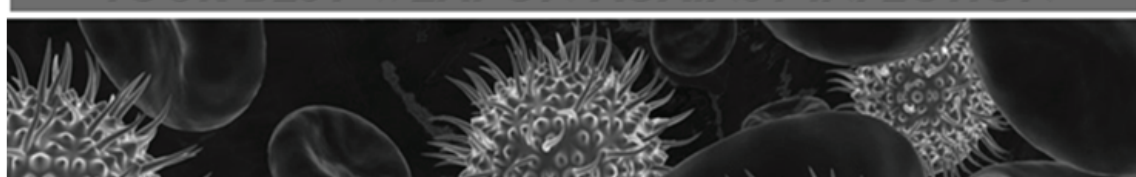


Photo courtesy of PLA

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
City of Bacoor, Cavite

Foreclosure No. 2019-242
For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of
Real Estate Mortgage

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORP.,
Mortgagee,

-versus-

MELCHOR P. PECHON,
Mortgagors.

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extrajudicial for Sale under Act 3135 as Amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee-assignee, NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORP., of 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, and against the mortgagors, MELCHOR P. PECHON, of 190 Ranger Road, Brgy. Holy Spirit Veterans Village, Diliman Quezon City, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of October 31, 2019, amounts to ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY NINE PESOS & 77/100 (P1,843,929.77), Philippine Currency, exclusive of penalty charges, the undersigned or her duly authorized representative will sell at the public at the public auction on March 3, 2020 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 properties with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-477580

"A parcel of Land (Lot 6, of the cons./subd. Plan, Psd-042103-008216, being a portion of the cons. Of Lots 9 & 11, Blk. 6, Pcs-5578, L.R.C. Rec. No.) situated in the Brgy. of Molino, Mun. of Bacoor, Province of Cavite. x x x , containing an area of EIGHTY (80) SQUARE METERS".

"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 March 10, 2020, without further notice."

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

Bacoor City, Cavite, February 03, 2020

ATTY. LIZA D. VICTA
Clerk of Court VI

Copy Furnished:

ATTY. DANTE Q. RIZADA
5th Floor, Filomena Bldg., 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village,
Makati City

MR. MELCHOR PECHON
190 Ranger Road, Brgy. Holy Spirit Veterans Village, Diliman
Quezon City
Camella Homes Springville Heights, Blk. 6, Lot 6, Molino,
Bacoor, Cavite

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
February 10, 17 & 24, 2020

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH SALE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JAIME S. CARREON who died in the City of Imus, Province of Cavite leaving 3 parcel of land covered by Transfer Certificate of Title Nos. T-520502; T-520925 and T-520924 situated in Bo. Of Medicion, Mun. of Imus, Prov of Cavite has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No.99; Page No. 20; Book No. 02; Series of 2019 Notary Public Atty. Constancio DC. Velasco.

Ang Caviteño Newsweekly
February 10, 17 & 24, 2020

Dominguez: Economy to remain strong amid headwinds from COVID-19, other challenges

By Susan G. De Leon

QUEZON CITY-- The Philippine economy would be able to sustain its momentum of growth this year despite the challenges posed by the global spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the eruption of Taal Volcano and the outbreak of the African Swine Fever (ASF), the country's finance chief said.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III told senator during a senate hearing that the economic team stands by its target of attaining a gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of 6.5 to 7.5 percent notwithstanding the aggregate effects of these challenges to the country's economic performance this year.

"At this moment, it is reasonable to expect that while these developments might slightly restrain our economic expansion, these threats are not enough to force a dramatic reduction in our growth estimates," said Dominguez, who heads the economic team, during the joint hearing of the Senate committees on health and demography, and on finance on Tuesday, February 4, 2020.

Sen. Christopher Lawrence Go, the chairman of the Senate health and demography committee, presided over the hearing.

While the hearing was called to study ways of mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the economy, Dominguez said this development should be assessed together with the effects of the recent Taal volcano eruption and the ASF outbreak to determine whether these require revisiting economic growth targets this year.

"While these developments may dampen our growth somewhat, domestic tourism is expected to increase as more people would likely prefer to travel within our borders, thus boosting domestic consumption. With our 'Build, Build Build' program firing on all cylinders this year, complemented by a benign inflation rate and a stable monetary policy, we expect the economy at large to sustain its momentum," Dominguez said.

Given that the COVID-19 outbreak is still on its early stages, it would be difficult for the economic team to estimate its potential economic costs at this time, Dominguez said.

"A significant impact on the economy will most likely be centered in the tourism sector. The travel and tourism industry around the globe is taking a hit as a result of the various levels of travel bans imposed by national governments and of voluntary decisions of airlines to cut flights to and from China."

The Philippines may also suffer a short-term slight decline in exports, particularly in the sale of electronics and auto parts, because of a possible disruption in the global supply chain as a result of the temporary factory closures in China, which is the country's top trading partner, he added.

"Incidentally, our top imports from China such as steel, machinery and petroleum are products that do not seem to carry the virus, though we will continue to take all necessary precautions," Dominguez said.

The Finance chief noted that what happened during the previous outbreaks of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), H1N1, and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) might give us a glimpse of how the COVID-19 could impact the economy.

He recalled that during the SARS episode, tourist arrivals to the Philippines dropped by 1.3 percent, from 1.93 million in 2002 to 1.90 million in 2003, according to the Philippine Statistical Yearbook. But the tourism sector rebounded quickly the following year, with arrivals increasing 20.1 percent to 2.3 million visitors.

The number of tourist arrivals continued to rise until the H1N1 outbreak in 2009, which was also the period when the global economy was reeling from the effects of the global financial crisis.

Thus, the financial crunch at that time could have had a larger impact on the downtrend in tourist arrivals, Dominguez said.

As for the MERS-CoV outbreak in 2012,

Dominguez said the tourism sector also proved to be resilient during that period.

Dominguez pointed out that even with a slight decrease in tourist arrivals in 2003, tourism direct gross value added actually increased by 8.8 percent, compared to the preceding year owing to increased average spending per tourist.

In the last few years, he said the country's tourism direct gross value added has been rapidly rising, mainly because of a substantial increase in arrivals from China,

Thus, during the period when travel restrictions are in place for the health and safety of Filipinos, it is very likely that tourism direct gross value added will decrease this year, he said.

"It is still too early to ascertain the economic effects of these efforts to safeguard our people, but the Department of Tourism will provide periodic updates as the situation evolves," he told senators at the hearing.

Dominguez said the Department of Tourism (DOT) has committed to continue aggressively looking for opportunities in partnership with all tourism stakeholders to sustain the gains of the tourism sector and will intensify the promotion of local destinations among domestic travelers.

The lockdown imposed by the Chinese government on Wuhan, the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak, which is also considered the hub of transport and industry for central China, could create some supply chain problems that will affect trade and industries in other parts of the world, Dominguez said, but "at this point, it is too early to estimate (its) full economic impact."

To address the possible temporary decline in the exports of electronics and auto parts, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has committed to work closely with affected Chinese and China-based companies, which will be looking to strengthen their operations by adding a production site outside of China, Dominguez said.

As for the ASF outbreak, Dominguez noted that the government has been successful in intercepting contaminated pork imported from other countries through the Bureau of Customs (BOC)'s intensified anti-smuggling campaign and the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)'s heightened meat inspection efforts.

The Department of Agriculture (DA), has, to date, reported that the number of culled swine has reached 193,350, which led to a decline in hog production in 2019 by 9.5 percent compared to the preceding year.

While customs authorities have been intercepting the entry of contaminated pork like what it did recently with 25 tons of meat from Guangzhou, China, the DA has also been strictly enforcing biosecurity measures and setting up more quarantine checkpoints, as well as providing more disinfection facilities to manage, contain, and control the spread of the ASF, Dominguez said.

As for the impact of the latest Taal Volcano eruption, Dominguez said that an explosive eruption could still happen, and "unless and until this actually happens, we can only speculate on the full impact of this episode on the economy."

As of Jan. 20, estimates from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) show that the total foregone income in the economic sectors owing to the eruption could reach P6.66 billion pesos or 0.26 percent of the 2018 gross regional domestic product of the CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) corridor.

"The bulk of the foregone income comes from agriculture and fisheries sector, services, and industry," Dominguez said. "Short of a major eruption, the damage to our crops and the challenges of dislocated communities to which the government will continue to respond, will not significantly impact our overall growth projections."

He said the DA and the concerned local government units (LGUs) are expediting the release of production support, agri-fishery aid and livelihood assistance, and cash or zero-interest loan assistance programs to the affected farmers and fisherfolk, as well as the implementation of the recovery and rehabilitation plans for the affected areas. (DOF/PIA-NCR)

Word Search Puzzle

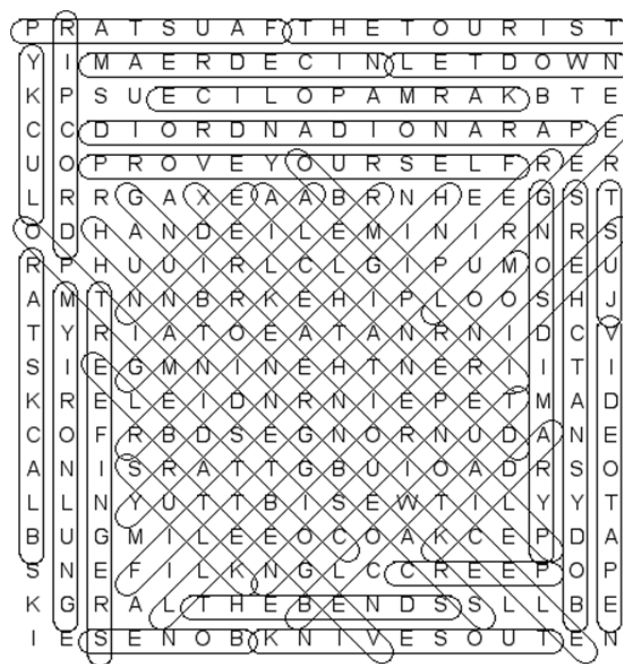
Adverbs

Find and circle all of the adverbs that are hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell a secret message.

S O O N O W H E R E A D V D H G I H A E
 R B W I S E L Y S Y L T N E G N O L L D
 T H E R E M N I A G A I E A S I L Y M R
 O E Y Y L K C I U Q H Y L W O L S D O A
 I R L F Y Y O N C E D F Y V G F E R S W
 F O L D O A B N B A H E A D R A R B T E
 O F A R E R D R E S Y L T N E S E R P M
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 W B R W R J L V E E F S R E T O E E S H
 A C A P L A T I E T N O I V L D N L S V
 R Y M U Y K C A B R S M F E Y A A O E R
 D Y T O M O R R O W B E E W S Y M R L A
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 N R L K F I K L A H L R M Y L D U O L R
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| ACROSS | FOREVER | QUIETLY |
| AGAIN | FORWARD | QUITE |
| AHEAD | GENTLY | RARELY |
| ALMOST | GREATLY | RATHER |
| ALREADY | HENCE | REALLY |
| ALSO | HIGH | SHORT |
| ALWAYS | HOMeward | SLOWLY |
| ANYWHERE | HOWEVER | SOFTLY |
| APART | LITTLE | SOMETIMES |
| AWAY | LONG | SOMEWHERE |
| BACK | LOUDLY | SOON |
| BEFORE | MONTHLY | THEN |
| BEHIND | NEARBY | THERE |
| BELOW | NEVER | TODAY |
| BRISKLY | NOWHERE | TOMORROW |
| DOWN | OFTEN | UPWARD |
| EARLY | ONCE | WEEKLY |
| EASILY | PRESENTLY | WISELY |
| FAST | QUICKLY | YESTERDAY |
| FIRST | | |

Sagot sa nakaraan



Sudoku

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

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

Hint

	36	52	37	38	30	34	31	9
	25	32			26		10	27
39	40	41		35	33			28
53	42	54	55	43		44		
45	46		47	56	5		48	6
		57		49	1	50	51	8
13			20	12		14	15	7
21	22		23			2	16	
17	4	11	29	24	18	19	3	

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.

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PRRD directs LCEs to enforce DA's nat'l ASF zoning plan, movement guidelines

PASAY CITY-- President Rodrigo Roa Duterte directed all local government units (LGUs) and concerned national government agencies (NGAs) to strictly enforce the national zoning and movement plan crafted by the Department of Agriculture (DA) to effectively manage, control and contain the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF).

The President met with more than 1,500 local chief executives (LCEs), February 10, 2020, at SMX Convention Center, Pasay City, where they were briefed by Health Secretary Francisco Duque on the current status and preventive measures on the 2019 new Coronavirus (nCoV); and by Agriculture Secretary William Dar on ASF zoning plan, biosecurity, and quarantine measures.

President Duterte recently signed Administrative

Order No. 22 directing all LGUs and NGAs to harmonize efforts with the DA to effectively control the spread of ASF in the country.

"The national ASF zoning plan and guidelines classify the country into various zones with respective movement protocols," said Secretary Dar during the Presidential Meeting with LCEs, initiated by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), led by Secretary Eduardo Ano.

"We call on the cooperation of provincial, city and municipal LCEs to strictly adhere and align their local issuances with the DA ASF zoning plan and guidelines so that we can effectively control the spread of the disease," Secretary Dar said.

Sharing the latest updates on the ASF, Dar said the

continue to page 3



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte Photo courtesy of PIA

Localized peace talks will help uplift lives of CPP-NPA members – OPPAP

QUEZON CITY--The conduct of localized peace engagements (LPEs) across the country aims to put an end to the decades-long communist insurgency in the country by directly addressing the needs of the rebels themselves.

Assistant Secretary Wilben M. Mayor, chief of staff and spokesperson of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) said, there is a growing disconnect between the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front of the Philippines (CPP-NPA-NDFP) and their people in the frontlines who are actually suffering the most from the armed conflict.

"Hindi tugma yung buhay nung mga nasa taas at sa baba. 'Yung mga nasa baba nararanasan nila yung hirap, samantalang 'yung mga nasa taas, alam naman nating nasa ibang bansa sila, nabubuhay sila ng marangya," Mayor said during an interview over the radio Wednesday (Feb. 12) morning.

(There is a disconnect between those in the CPP leadership and those on the ground. The ones on the ground face hardship, while the people up the ladder, they are abroad, and they live comfortably.)

Mayor stressed that in case the peace talks between the Philippine government and the CPP-NPA-NDFP resumes, the Red should not impose preconditions which go against the Constitution.

"Localized peace engagements prove that peaceful dialogue and consultation with the rebel group can be conducted without violating the Constitution," he said.

LPE means convergence. Localized peace engagements is one of the 12 clusters of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict, the multi-agency body created by virtue of Executive Order No. 70 or the "Whole-of-Nation Approach."

Since its implementation in 2019, LPEs have made a significant impact on the peace and security situation of communities in Central Luzon, Davao and Zamboanga Peninsula regions where hundreds of CPP-NPA members have returned to the folds of the law.

OPAPP, which is the co-lead agency along with the Department of Interior and Local Government for the LPE cluster, is carrying out various interventions across the country, with the help of partner

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Sen. Go salutes newly-licensed criminologists; reaffirms full support in advancing welfare of law enforcers

PASAY CITY -- Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go on Saturday, February 15, expressed his respect and admiration for the country's law enforcers as he attended the oath-taking of newly-licensed criminologists and the induction of the new members of the Professional Criminologists Association of the Philippines (PCAP) Inc.

The ceremony, held at the PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City on Saturday, February 15, was attended by the successful examinees of the November

2019 Criminologists Licensure Examination.

In his message, the Senator expressed his appreciation for law enforcement officers in the country, commending how they were able to rebuild and improve their reputation in the public eye due to their discipline and integrity.

"Makikita niyo ngayon, ang mga pulis, ginagalang at nirerespeto na. Dati takot na takot ako sa mga pulis noong nag-aaral ako sa Maynila. Pero ngayon, disiplinado na ang mga pulis at talagang ginagalang," Go said,

adding that this prompted President Rodrigo Duterte to increase the salary of the police and military.

"Nang umupo ang ating Pangulo sa Malacañang, inatupag niya kaagad na madoble ang sahod ng mga miyembro ng Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) at iba pang kaugnay na ahensiya," he said, further reiterating his support to the law enforcers.

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