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DA eyes higher palay harvest in 2020

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DAP's new training building to rise in Tagaytay City



(L-R) NEDA Usec. Jose Miguel De La Rosa, DAP President and CEO Engelbert Caronan, Jr., and DCTC President and General Manager Placido Dumduma are shown during the signing ceremony last December 27 at the DAP Building in Pasig City. (Photo by Ped Garcia)

PASIG CITY--The Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) signed an agreement with Dumduma Construction and Trading Corporation (DCTC) for the construction of a new training building (NTB) in its Tagaytay City facility. The contract signing ceremony between DAP President and CEO Engelbert Caronan, Jr. and DCTC President and General Manager Placido Dumduma on December 27, 2019 at the DAP Building in Pasig City was witnessed by National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Undersecretary Jose Miguel De La Rosa, Department

of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Assistant Secretary for Local Government Units Concerns Jesus Enrico Moises Salazar, DAP Senior Vice President for Services Bernardo Dizon, DAP Conference Center Vice President and Managing Director Ermarie Mondejar, DCTC Area Project Manager William Diaz, and DCTC Operations Manager Rafael Julius Balan.

The DAP Board of Trustees, through Board Resolution No. 2017-21, approved the multi-year implementation of

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16 hospitals in Metro Manila on Code White Alert for Traslacion

MANILA-- The Department of Health (DOH) today placed all 16 DOH hospitals in Metro Manila on Code White Alert in preparation for the Traslacion or the annual Feast of the Black Nazarene set to begin this Thursday, Jan. 9.

Fourteen health emergency response teams will also be deployed in strategic areas along the route of the Traslacion to provide emergency medical services to the thousands of devotees expected to attend.

"I call on all devotees who will be joining the procession to wear comfortable clothes and protective footwear, and to wear hats and bring fans

to combat the heat. Also bring raincoats/ponchos in case it rains, and enough clean drinking water to avoid dehydration. Make sure to bring bite-size non-perishable food such as candies or chocolates for quick hunger relief, and avoid wearing jewelries and bringing expensive gadgets and other valuables," Health Secretary Francisco Duque III advised.

"Devotees with chronic illnesses should also bring their maintenance medicines, or better yet, stay and pray at home. Children and pregnant women are also advised not to join the procession," Duque added.

The Code White Alert is declared among hospitals during

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MMDRRMC calls on LGUs to take in IDPs affected by Taal eruption

By Angelie Villapando and Jerome Carlo Paunan

MAKATI CITY-- Metro Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MMDRRMC) Senior Vice Chair Romulo Cabantac on Monday directed the 17 local government DRRM offices in the metropolis to allocate resources and aid evacuees affected by the Taal volcano eruption.

During Monday's emergency meeting of the MMDRRMC held at the Manila Room of the MMDA, Cabantac also emphasized the need to have proper accounting of every internally displaced person (IDPs) coming to Metro Manila.

Cabantac, who is also the concurrent Office of Civil Defense National Capital Region regional director, advised the LGUs to "not only provide humanitarian assistance and support to the IDPs, but to also account their current status and condition in order to avoid any confusion and allow for faster reunification with their families later."

For his part, MMDRRMC Focal for Disaster Michael Salalima said some of their resources at the MMDA, together with the LGUs, will be used for augmentation relief efforts.

"Manila DRRMO Director Arnel Angeles is

currently providing assistance to Tagaytay City following the Taal Volcano event," Salalima said, adding he will join the MMDA response contingent later that day and meet up with them there to also extend assistance to other affected areas.

The City of Manila has deployed at least 2 firetrucks, 3

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FREE MEDICAL SERVICES FOR SILANG RESIDENTS

MORE than 300 Silang residents availed free medical services from the provincial government of Cavite's health outreach program conducted at Barangay Lalaan II on January 7, 2020. Health professionals from the Provincial Health Office rendered their services which include medical consultation, dental check-up and tooth extraction

with the assistance of barangay health workers and nutrition scholars. Prescribed medicines and vitamins were also provided for free. Barangay Captain Eric L. Sulit together with other barangay officials warmly welcomed and thanked the mission team headed by the OPG-Extension for conducting the health activity in their barangay.





Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto proudly shows the Gold Award given by the Department of the Interior & Local Government (DILG) for its outstanding performance in the fight against illegal drugs. Also in photo are DILG Regional Director Maria Lourdes Agustin (4th from left), DILG Pasig City Director Visitacion Martinez (4th from right) and other government officials. (Photo courtesy of Pasig LGU)

Pasig City bags Gold Award on Anti-Drug Campaign

Pasig City Director Visitacion Martinez.

By Jimmyley E. Guzman

PASIG CITY— Pasig City again received the Gold Award during the 2nd National Anti-Drug Abuse Council (ADAC) Performance Award.

Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto, together with city officials, received the plaque of recognition from the Department of Interior and Local Government-National Capital Region (DILG-NCR), headed by Regional Director Maria Lourdes Agustin and DILG

The award is based on the 2019 ADAC Performance Audit which aims to assess the functionality of ADACs and recognize their efforts and innovations in the fight against illegal drugs.

Mayor Sotto congratulated and thanked the Anti-Drug Abuse Council of Pasig (ADCOP) for their dedication in service.

Navotas City also received the Gold Award in NCR. (Pasig City/DILG-NCR)

DOTr...

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emitting as much greenhouse gases and pollutants that puts negative effects to the atmosphere. The forum strategically addresses initiatives and key policies in enabling an environment for the commercialization of low carbon urban transport systems in the country. The event underlies a holistic view towards a sustainable low carbon transport with its main goal of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from transport.

“Emissions have to go down and we can only achieve that if our transport system shift from a fossil fuel based petroleum towards solar and renewable electricity.” Climate Change Commission Undersecretary Rachel Herrera said.

In promoting low carbon emission vehicles, four approaches were identified in creating commercialize low carbon transport system.

These approaches include effective enforcement of policies for environment-friendly modes of transport, adopting and implementing low carbon transport programs, increasing

private sector participation as well as investment in the commercialization of environment-friendly transport system.

Herrera said that we really need to consider improve our transport transport systems, because it has a huge effect on how we can transform into climate adaptive society.

“We are still in the stage where we promote low carbon urban transport especially electric vehicle and hybrid and the use fuel standards like Euro 4. We are now using innovative and alternatives ways to minimize the emissions but we will continuously strive to completely replace old and highly emitting vehicles in the future.” DOTr-UNDP Project Manager Mario Tercero, for his part said.

Initiatives pushed by the Low Carbon Urban Transport System (LCUTS) include the Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program (PUVMP), the Motor Vehicle Inspection System (MVIS), and the promotion of non-motorized transport through the Metro Manila Greenways project, among others. (PIA-NCR)

achieved by the agency in terms of actual disbursements, according to the report of DOTr Secretary Art Tugade,” the statement added. The DOTr expects to disburse an additional P30.85 billion in the last month of the year to fulfill 94 percent of its commitment of P82.39 billion for 2019.

At the last Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) meeting held for 2019, the economic managers announced that disbursements are targeted to hit P3.76 trillion in 2019, which is equivalent to 20 percent of GDP.

From an initial 75 flagship projects, the government has expanded its list of “Build, Build, Build” projects to include additional strategic projects with national impact and those undertaken through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

The 100 flagship projects cover five categories, with Transport and Mobility projects as top priorities. The other four are Power, Water, Information and Communications Technology, and Urban Development and Renewal.

Included in the list are the Metro Manila Subway

Project, North South Commuter Railway, Clark International Airport Expansion Project, Cebu Monorail System, Panay-Guimaras Negros Bridge, Samal Island-Davao City Connector Bridge, and the Mindanao Rail Project.

Dominguez said that PPP projects under “Build, Build, Build” are welcome, provided that these are able to avoid unwarranted delays and spare taxpayers the heavy burden of contingent liabilities supposed to be shouldered by the government, as had happened in past PPP ventures.

With the two conditions in place, Dominguez said the government is able to ensure that these PPP ventures turn out to be “Public-Private Partnerships for the People (PPPP).”

“We have taken the attitude that PPP is insufficient, it should not only be Public-Private Partnership. It should be PPPP—Public Private Partnership for the People—that infrastructure projects must be delivered quickly for the benefit of all law abiding Filipino citizens. We cannot take too much time negotiating with the private sector on this,” he said. (DOF)

President ...

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since ADB’s establishment in 1966, the government’s support of ADB over the years has been essential to the success of our operations throughout Asia and the Pacific. ADB has been a strong development partner of the Philippines since the country became a founding member, with our support considerably expanding in the last three years.” Mr. Nakao also mentioned the highly successful 2018 ADB Annual Meeting hosted by the Government of the Philippines. “For the event, I worked closely with Secretary Dominguez, who served as Chairman of ADB’s Board of Governors. I benefited from the valuable advice from the Secretary about how to make the Annual Meeting more focused and efficient,” he said.

Mr. Nakao assumed office as ADB President on 28 April 2013. Under his leadership, ADB operations in the Philippines have grown significantly. ADB has been supporting the Duterte administration’s “Build, Build, Build” (BBB) program and the

10-Point Socioeconomic Agenda including rural development and investment in human capital. ADB’s sovereign lending to the Philippines reached a record high of \$2.5 billion in 2019, building on \$1.4 billion in 2018, compared with an annual average lending commitment of about \$800 million in previous years. ADB has also provided knowledge support to the government on its tax reform initiative and K-to-12 extension of school years up to senior high school (from 10 years).

In 2019, about half of ADB’s assistance financed the first phase of the Malolos-Clark Railway Project, one of the government’s major infrastructure investments under BBB. ADB’s support for the project, which is expected to be partially operational in 2022, will total \$2.75 billion, making it ADB’s largest project financing in Asia to date. Construction work is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2020.

The new Philippines Country Partnership Strategy for

2018–2022, designed under Mr. Nakao’s leadership, paves the way for providing considerably larger assistance to the country. ADB’s planned assistance through 2022 includes a significant number of major infrastructure projects, such as railways, bridges, flood risk management, and irrigation. In addition, ADB will support the government’s Bangsamoro peace process through lending and technical assistance. ADB will also support policy reforms to improve the country’s investment climate, public financial management, and local economic development.

Mr. Nakao will step down as ADB President on 16 January. He will be succeeded on 17 January by Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa, Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs of Japan until July 2019.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region. (ADB)

Catch...

it held off in those months the implementation of all new and some ongoing projects under President Duterte’s accelerated spending agenda.

Under the catch-up spending plan, the government’s goal is to spend P2.996 trillion starting the second quarter of 2019, of which P1 trillion is for infrastructure, to reach its programmed spending of P3.774 trillion for the entire year or about 19.6 percent of GDP.

When the EDC met on Nov. 28 for updates on the catch-up spending plan, it reported that as of end-October 2019, almost a hundred percent of the Fiscal Year 2019 budget allotment program of P3.66 trillion was already released to all implementing agencies of the national government, including infrastructure, education, health and defense, among others. The EDC expected then for

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such disbursements to further accelerate in the remaining two months of 2019 to support a higher GDP growth rate for the full year.

Total actual disbursements from January to October this year amounted to P2.938 trillion, which represents 78 percent of the 2019 full-year disbursement program of P3.77 trillion. This is 5.1 percent higher than the actual disbursements for the same period in 2018, Dominguez said during the Nov. 28 meeting.

In the first 10 months of the year, for infrastructure and other capital outlays, the total actual disbursements reached P628.5 billion. This is 73 percent of the 2019 full-year disbursement program of P859.5 billion but 5.5 percent lower than the actual disbursements for the same period in 2018.

Dominguez said that

based on the updates from the main infrastructure agencies—the Departments of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and of Transportation (DOTr)—the EDC is confident that the government can hit its spending target for this year.

“The DPWH is optimistic that it can deliver on its P725 billion disbursement target for the full year 2019. For the first 10 months of 2019, it has so far disbursed 69 percent of its total commitment this year, totalling P503.4 billion. Secretary Mark Villar assured us that the remaining P221.6 billion target disbursements for the last two months of this year is attainable,” the EDC’s Nov. 28 statement said.

“Meanwhile, for the period January to Nov. 28 of this year, the DOTr’s actual disbursements reached P46.82 billion. This represents 57 percent of its disbursement commitment for 2019—the highest rate ever

PDEA seals pact with NCWC to prevent entry of illegal drugs through coastlines

By Susan G. De Leon

QUEZON CITY-- the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the National Coast Watch Center (NCWC) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in an effort to stop drug smuggling, transportation and transshipment using the country's vast expanse of coastlines.

The MOA signing was held at the PDEA National Headquarters, Quezon City today Tuesday, January 7, 2020, in a simple rites with PDEA Director General Aaron N. Aquino and Admiral Joel S. Garcia, Director, NCWC, as main signatories. The activity was witnessed by key officials and personnel from both government agencies.

Under the agreement, PDEA and the NCWC have agreed to closely coordinate and render mutual assistance in the interdiction of illegal drugs and controlled precursors and essential chemicals (CPECs) entering into the Philippine shores.

In addition, PDEA shall establish a comprehensive information collection plan to obtain information on illegal drug activities from sources at all levels, and shall take the lead role in narcotics investigation and the conduct of anti-drug operations, while NCWC shall assist the former in collecting,

processing, analyzing and gathering information to prevent the entry of illegal drugs through the coastlines.

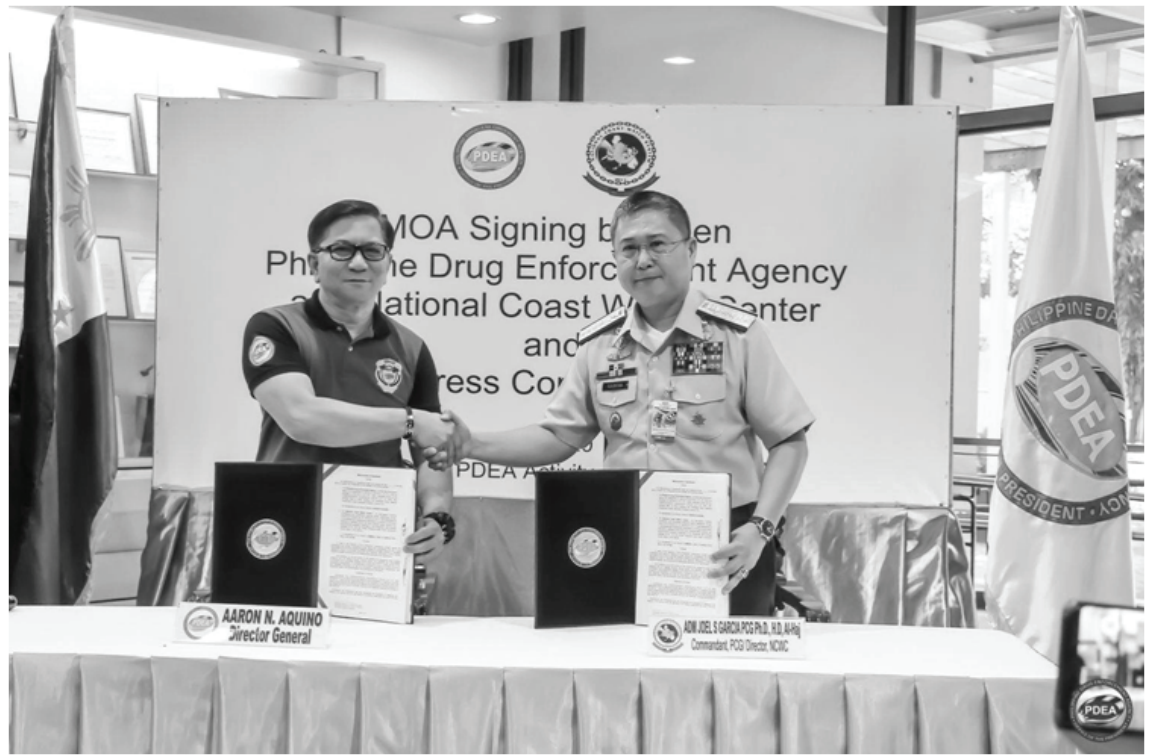
According to Aquino, the MOA also paved the way for the assignment of one PDEA personnel (on rotation basis) at the NCWC to monitor the movement of all vessels traversing the country's archipelago.

The agreement between PDEA and NCWC is the first between the two agencies.

The NCWC is an inter-agency maritime surveillance and coordinated response facility established through Executive Order No. 57 Series of 2011.

"PDEA had sealed pacts with government agencies known to address the country's maritime security challenges, thus creating a culture that facilitates a whole-of-government approach to prevent our waters from becoming transit and dropping points for large volumes of illegal drugs," the PDEA chief said.

To curb the shipment, delivery and transportation of illegal drugs and CPECs using the ports and high seas, PDEA also established seaport interdiction units assigned in 13 key seaports nationwide, and entered into agreements with the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA). (PIA-NCR/PDEA)



PDEA Director General Aaron N. Aquino and Admiral Joel S. Garcia, Director, NCWC seals the pact with a hand shake after the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement. (Photo courtesy of PDEA)

MMDRRMC.... from page 1

ambulances, 1 mobile hospital and 23 personnel, and portable water purifiers, among others as part of its response team.

The Council will utilize the National Capital Region Police Office area in Taguig City as staging area to preposition food, non-food items and personnel for deployment.

For her part, Department of Social Welfare and Development officer Airah Calaca said their agency have prepared on standby at least 4,158 family food packs, and non-food items

such as 2, 759 hygiene and 1,564 sleeping kits, among others.

"We have also activated our quick response team composed of social workers and support staff readily available for deployment," Calaca said.

Currently, she said for CALABARZON Region, the DSWD NCR has provided an augmentation assistance of at least 525 food packs and 1,000 non-food items.

Meanwhile, Metro Manila Center for Health Development Regional Director Corazon Flores said they have

allotted an initial 5,000 N95 masks and 10,000 surgical masks for the public and be made available to LGUs and Department of Health (DOH) hospitals.

Cabantac also asked the Metro Manila LGUs to monitor the price of N95 masks, a protection from breathing in hazardous particles, as some retailers reportedly took advantage of its high demand due to ashfall occurrence since Sunday.

The local governments of Manila and Paranaque has said that they will not hesitate to file charges against overpricing vendors. (PIA-NCR)

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national events, holidays, or celebrations that may cause mass casualties or emergencies. During Code White Alert, emergency medicines and supplies, especially for trauma needs, are made readily-available. Moreover, medical specialists are placed on standby for the immediate treatment of incoming patients, while

Metro Manila Disaster Council works to secure price, supply of N95 masks following ash fall occurrence

MAKATI CITY -- The senior vice chair of the Metro Manila Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MMDRRMC) on Monday said the Council is working to prevent and also address some issues of reported overpricing and hoarding of N95 masks due to its high demand in the market following the ash fall event in Metro Manila since Sunday evening.

During an emergency council meeting held at the Manila Room of the MMDA to address the effects of the recent Taal Volcano eruption

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emergency service personnel, nursing and administrative personnel are placed on on-call status for immediate mobilization.

"Know where the Emergency Medical Stations are located for easy access in case of any medical emergency. Let us pray for a peaceful and safe Traslacion," the Health Chief said.

to the region, Romulo Cabantac, who is also the concurrent Office of Civil Defense National Capital Region regional director, tapped local DRRM officers to assist the Council in monitoring the retail prices of the N95 mask within their respective areas of jurisdiction.

"By this way, we can help the Department of Trade and Industry NCR (DTI NCR) in preventing any overpricing of the personal protective equipment and at the same time protect consumer rights, health, and welfare,"

DAP's...

the physical expansion plan of the DAP Conference Center in Tagaytay City with a 14-storey NTB that offers accommodations for live-in training participants.

The NTB is an infrastructure component of the National Government's mandate to strengthen the capacity of the DAP to provide both general and highly specialized training courses for government officials. President Caronan expressed elation as the construction of the NTB coincides with the plan to transform the DAP. "We have a grand plan to digitize the DAP and to prepare the institution for the future," he said as he

Cabantac said.

"No one should be taking advantage of the surge in demand of these products due to the recent eruption," he added.

Under the occupational safety and health classification system, a respirator with an "N" rating is effective in preventing particulate matter, such as ash from a volcano, from entering the body.

As of writing this article, Taal Volcano is still under Alert Level 4, which means a hazardous eruption

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mentioned the plans to create data analytics and future centers in the Academy. He also stressed that the NTB represents the trust of the government on the DAP.

Meanwhile, Usec. De La Rosa congratulated the hardworking DAP family and said that the construction of the NTB is a dream come true for the Academy. "I'm sure you have this goal to elevate the DAP as the center for learning for government functionaries," he added.

DENR Asec. Salazar, on the other hand, expressed his gratitude to be part of the team that facilitated the approval of the

may occur within days.

For her part, Metro Manila Center for Health Development Regional Director Corazon Flores reported that their agency has allotted an initial 5,000 pieces of N95 and 10,000 pieces of surgical masks which will be made available to local government units and DOH hospitals.

In an advisory issued the same day, the DTI said it "will not hesitate to file administrative and criminal charges against unscrupulous business entities and individuals who

project. "We are going to see the building that the DAP deserves to have," he said emphasizing that the NTB can be dedicated to the commitment of the men and women of the Academy and its clientele.

The project is divided into two phases, with a total estimated amount of PhP1.5 billion. The signing ceremony awarded the first phase of construction to DCTC and the second phase will include the Design Fit-outs Furniture and Fixtures once the construction of the building is finished. The whole project is to be completed in 2022, in time for the 50th Anniversary of the Academy in 2023. (JMCB | DAP)

capitalize on the consumers' urgent need for their own profit."

It said that it had issued notice to all retailers, and have dispatched teams to monitor and observe movement of retail prices of respirators in the market.

"Those found to have unreasonably increased their prices for gas masks, face masks and other similar items, which act is tantamount to profiteering, shall be dealt with to the fullest extent of the law," the DTI added. (PIA NCR)

Ang
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papi

EDITORIAL

A real failure

“War against drugs, embedded into society for decades, cannot be rushed — yes, even if the President had typically made that lofty promise of ridding the country of the menace in a matter of time!

AARON Aquino must be feeling hurt.

He is officially “saddened” by a failing grade in performance, yes, but any human being with a beating heart would feel a gash from being summarily judged and practically kicked to the side, with a snide brow raise, to boot.

Three years of work, ignored and dismissed — that is how the chief of the Philippines Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) described Vice President Leni Robredo’s scathing “1 over 100” grade for the Duterte drug war, in which PDEA plays a major role.

The drug war in the Philippines, launched since President Rodrigo Duterte took office as Chief Executive, has become increasingly a war between government and its critics — or, if we are to be more specific, Duterte versus Robredo.

Recently, Robredo’s drug war report sparked another one of these verbal jousts. Aquino called it “mere political attack,” while Malacañang marked it “a dud.” Robredo on Monday had come out with her conclusion in that brief stint as drug czarina or co-chair of the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs (ICAD) — and that was to give the government’s campaign against illegal drugs the said deplorable score.

Duterte, for his part, called her “a colossal blunder,” dismissing her findings on the basis that she only held the position for 18 days.

Robredo’s contention is that the war on drugs has many aspects, but that the Duterte administration chose to tackle only one — “street-level enforcement.” Tackling small-time pushers and users was no way to achieve success in this battle, she said, but also going after the big fish or through “supply constriction.” She made her judgment based on empirical data that includes information that PDEA was able to seize what was obviously construed by her as measly amounts of illegal substances, with figures in reports at “1,344 kilos of shabu from January to October 2019; 785 kilos of shabu in 2018; and 1,053 kilos in 2017.”

Her 40-page ICAD report compared this take with data from the Philippine National Police (PNP) Drug Enforcement Group on the consumption of drug addicts — at “3,000 kilos of shabu every week across the country, or equal to about 156,000 kilos every year.”

The comparison is a little telling, but then again Palace defenders have been quick to say this is not enough to judge a war that is still going on after three years.

The time element, it is implied, cannot be discounted. The war against drugs, embedded into society for decades, cannot be rushed — yes, even if the President had typically made that lofty promise of ridding the country of the menace in a matter of time!

PDEA, meanwhile, presented its own “metrics for success.”

These include, according to an online news site: “Drug clearing percentage — around 40 percent of barangays cleared of drugs; Crime drop — nationwide crime incidents declined from 11,860 in July 2016 to 5,000 in July 2019; Trust rating — 82 percent of Filipinos are satisfied with the campaign as of September 2019, according to the Social Weather Stations; and operational accomplishments — P45 billion worth of illegal drugs seized from 2016 to 2019, from 162,987 operations with 225,284 arrests.”

Sen. Bong Go, for his part, said Robredo’s grading system cannot compare with the 79 percent of citizens who expressed satisfaction in the war against drugs, many claiming they “feel safer now.”

Other solons weighed in, saying “failure” is the wrong word to use; it should be “constant battle.”

Senate President Vicente Sotto III, who used to be the former head of the Dangerous Drugs Board, said Robredo should have further added recommendations on prevention. The drug problem, after all, includes a whole universe of characters and situations — from users to pushers, even their families and communities, to corrupt officials and law enforcers.

Listening to the barrage of comments flying in from all sides and spewing various colors, one can only add: maybe the whole dastardly cast should also include naysayers and soothsayers, or basically all those with words to say and nothing to show for it!

The Filipino people deserve results, not talk. Talk, as we always say, is cheap.



KAPIRASONG Kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

Lakad Lakbay Bayan

Part 2

At hindi biro ang dinanas ng mga Lakbayani. Malayo ang nilakbay nila. Sa kalakhan, maimit ang panahon. Pero may araw, noong nasa Visayas sila, na umulan, naging maputik ang daan, at nagkasira-sira ang mga sasakyan. Dahil dito, hindi na sila nahintay ng hanay na dapat sumalubong sa kanila. Malaking bagay pa naman sa mga naglalakbayan ang makakita ng mga sumasalubong na sumusuporta. Mayroon din kasing sumasalubong na hindi sumusuporta — tulad ng militar na ilang beses ding humarang sa lakbayan, naghahanap ng permit, naghahanap ng lider, nagbabantag aarestuhin ang mga drayber. Pero mas madali na siguro itong harapin para sa kanila, kumpara sa araw-araw na kahirapan, pagpapahirap at pandarahas na dinadanas nila.

Palaki nang palaki ang hanay. Pagdating sa Welcome Rotonda, namalayan na lang ng mga tao na inookupa na nila ang buong kalsada. May 30 minutong pahinga raw para sa pagkain. Lampas nang tanghaling tapat, pero malamalam ang araw, nakikisama yata sa mga raliyista. Hindi ako kumain, dahil hindi ako komportableng magmartsa nang busog o nakakain. Ang hanay na nasamahan ko, ang ulam ay tuyoy at kamatis, nakabalot na sa supot. Pinitirong isda naman ang ulam sa kabilang hanay. Nag-alukan, nagbahaginan ang mga kalahok. Pero nakakailang subo pa lang ang iba, may nagsabing nagmamartsa na sa unahan. Walang reklamang itinabi ng mga kumakain ang tanghalian at nagsimulang lumakad uli. “Bakit ang bilis?” tanong lang ng isa.

Sa España, hindi na maikaila ang trapik. Disrupsyon itong dulot ng malaking hanay, kaiba halimbawa sa mulat na pagtatangka ng mga anarkista sa ibang bansa na gumawa ng gulo. Laging mapagpaliwanag ang mga aktibista sa trapik: “Sa

mga kababayan nating motorista at komyuter...” Naalala ko tuloy ang kwento ni P. J. O’Rourke, konserbatibong manunulat na Amerikano. Sabi niya, mabait daw ang mga Pinoy. Halimbawa raw, noong dekada ’80, sabi ng isang aktibista sa isang Amerikanong mamamahayag: “Sana po ay makapaghintay kayo nang limang minuto, susunugin namin ang isang bandila ng US.” Susunugin nila ang bandila ng bansa mo, pero mabait sila sa iyo. Mas wastong aktitud siguro ito, na natatanggap bilang pagiging mabait.

Naging mas buhay at sabik ang hanay pagdating sa Morayta. Bagamat nabalita isang araw bago nito na papayagan ang mga nagpoprotesta na magmartsa hanggang sa Mendiola, noong umaga, may balitang libu-libong pulis ang idedeploy. Panakot siguro. Pero bigo sila. Mahigit 10,000 tao ang nagmartsa, at sumisigaw na ng “Mendiola! Mendiola!” Hindi pagod ang makikitang ekspresyon ng mga tao, kundi saya — na nakarating na rin sa wakas, na malaki ang hanay, na nakita uli ang mga kakilala, na nasalubong ang bagong taon sa pamamagitan ng isang malaking pagkilos. At kung anu-ano pa siguro. Hindi na gaanong maayos ang hanay noong nasa Recto na. Minsan, halu-halo na ang mga sektor. Pagod na siguro. O baka gusto nang makipagkwentuhan.

Pagdating sa Mendiola, makikita ang isa pang palatandaan ng matagumpay na pagkilos — ang maraming midya. Bago nito, lumabas ang Lakbayan sa mga lokal na midya sa iba’t ibang rehiyon at probinsya, pero hindi pa gaano sa midyang pambansa, lalo na sa telebisyon. Pero hindi nila magagawang hindi pansinin ang libu-libong nagmartsa sa araw na iyun. Sinunog ang effigy para sa protesta, ang “Backhoe Gloria,” hango syempre sa bagay na tumampok sa Ampatuan Massacre, na ginamit panghukay

ng paglilibingan ng mga pinlanong imasaker. Simbolo raw ito ng “warlordismo” ni Gloria. Angkop nga naman. Inilalarawan ang paggamit ng rehimeng ito ng dahas laban sa mga magsasaka, para panatilihin ang pagsasamantalang ipinapalaspas sa kanila.

Pagkatapos, nagsalita na si Rafael “Ka Paeng” Mariano, kinatawan ng Anakpawis sa Kongreso at tagapangulo ng Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas. Binati niya ang mga Lakbayani, at ang mga nagprotesta. Idineklara niyang tagumpay ang Pambansang Lakbayan. Sinundan siya ng maraming pangkulturang pagtatanghal at tagapagsalita — karamihan, mula sa mga rehiyon. Hindi ko narinig magsalita si Danilo “Ka Daning” Ramos, pangkalahatang kalihim ng KMP at paborito kong lider-masa. Hindi ko narinig ang klasikong retorika niya: “Ilang dekada naming sinasaka ang lupa, pero ang tanging lupang pag-aari namin ay iyung nasa aming mga kuko sa kamay at paa pagkatapos ng maghapon pagpasaka.” Luma na pero wasto pa rin, kaya nananatiling mabisa.

Para sa mga kalahok, maraming dapat ikatuwa sa araw na iyun. Sa isang banda, pahayag ito tungkol sa rehimeng Arroyo at pakikipagtuos dito ng makabayan at progresibong kilusan ng sambayanan. Taong 2010 na, taong target ng rehimeng gawing ibayong mahina, kundi man pawiin, ang kilusang Kaliwa gamit ang dahas. Pero heto ang mga magsasaka mula sa iba’t ibang panig ng bansa, at ang iba’t ibang sektor mula sa mga karatig-rehiyon ng Kamaynilaan — binubuksan ang taon sa isang malakas na protesta at panawagan ng pagbabago. “Buhay kami! At lumalakas pa!” Parang ito ang mensahe at ipinagdiriwang ng pagkilos. “Malapit nang matanggal si Arroyo, pero heto pa rin kami, dumadaluyong sa lansangan at nananawagan ng tunay na pagbabago.”

24 Enero 2010

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Fourth Judicial Region
Regional Trial Court
Branch 20
Imus, Cavite

Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of Real
Estate Mortgage Under Act No.
3135, as Amended, Republic Act
No. 4118

FC NO. 15839-17

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND,
Mortgagee,

-Versus -

RONEL M. GILLESANIA married to
LEONORA S. GILLESANIA
Mortgagors.

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118 filed by HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND with office address at 2/F JELP business Solutions Bldg., 409 Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City against RONEL M. GILLESANIA married to LEONORA S. GILLESANIA, with residence at 381 P. Santos St., Malibay, Pasay City, Metro Manila and/or Lot 17, Block 43, Hacienda La Joya, Tanzang Luma, Imus, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of June 30, 2017 amount to TWO MILLION SIX HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY SEVEN PESOS & 30/100 (P 2,624,687.30) Philippine Currency, excluding interest and penalty charges, attorney's fee, sheriff's fees and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure sale, the undersigned Sheriff IV will sell at Public Auction on February 06, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC Multiple Sala, 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 TITLE NO. 057-2013034430

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 17 OF THE CONS. SUBD. PLAN. PCS-04-023473, BEING A PORTION OF THE CONS. OF LOTS 1 TO 26, BLK. 43, PCS-04-017172, L.R.C. REC. NO. 8843) SITUATED IN THE BRGY. OF TANZANG LUMA, MUN. OF IMUS, PROV. OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. BONDED ON THE SW., ALONG LINE 1-2-3 BY RD. LOT 42 (8.00 M. WIDE), PCS-04-017172, ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 15; ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 4-5-6 BY LOT 14, ALONG LINE 6-7 BY LOT 16, AND ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 7-1 BY LOT 19, ALL OF THE CONS. SUBD. PLAN. BEGINNING AT A POINT MARKED "1" x x x x CONTAINING AN ARE OF NINETY THREE (93) SQ. METERS x x x

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on February 18, 2020 at 10:a.m. without prior notice.

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

Imus, Cavite, Philippines, November 07, 2019.

ANSELMO P. PAGUNSAN, JR.
Sheriff IV

APPROVED:
REGALADO E. EUSEBIO
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

COPY FURNISHED:
HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
2/F JELP business Solutions Bldg., 409 Shaw Blvd.
Mandaluyong City

SPS. RONEL M. GILLESANIA married to LEONORA S. GILLESANIA
#81 P. santos St., Malibay, Pasay City, Metro Manila and/or
Lot 17, Block 43, Hacienda La Joya, Tanzan Luma, Imus, Cavite

Ang Caviteño Newsweekly
January 13, 20 & 27, 2020

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 23
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK, INC.,
Mortgagee,

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-273-19

-versus-

RETCHEL MAGAY ROLE a.k.a. RETCHEL
M. ROLE and LARZIBAL MALILONG
BAGALAWIS a.k.a. LARZIBAL M. BALAGWIS.,
Mortgagors
x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act. 3135, as amended by Act. 4118 filed by Mortgagee, BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK, INC., with principal office address at Paseo de Roxas cor. Dela Rosa Sts., Makati City against the Mortgagors, RETCHEL MAGAY ROLE a.k.a. RETCHEL M. ROLE and LARZIBAL MALILONG BAGALAWIS a.k.a. LARZIBAL M. BALAGWIS. with residence and postal address at Blk. 74, Lot 14, Ph-9, Governors Hills Subd., Brgy. Manggahan Gen. Trias Cavite and/or Blk. 74, Lot 12, Governors Hills Subd., Ph-9, Brgy. Biclatan, Gen. Trias, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of August 13, 2019 amounts to TWO MILLION NINETY SEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR & 5/100 (P2,097,824.05) Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest, penalties as of said date but exclusive of other charges incidental to this foreclosure sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on March 26, 2020 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the main entrance of the Government Center Building, located at the provincial Capitol Compound Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2011024732

A parcel of land (Lot 12 Blk. 74 of the consolidation and subdivision plan, Pcs-04-019323, leaving a portion of the consolidation of Block 1, Road Lot 12, Road Lot 14-A, Road Lot 14-B all of Pcs-04-011976. Lot 1, Block 4, Block 8, Road Lot 9, all of Pcs-04-015930, Lot 2, Pcs-04-018060, Lot 1, Pcs-04-018912, Lot 2859, San Francisco de Malabon Estate, L.R.C. Rec. No. ___), situated in the Barangay of Manggahan, Municipality of Gen. Trias, Province of Cavite. Bounded on the SE., along line 1-2 by Lot 11; on the SW., along line 2-3 by Lot 10, both of Blk. 74; on the NW., along line 3-4 by Rd. Lot 69 (6.50 m. wide R.O.W.); on the NE., along line 4-5 by Lot 14; on the SE., along line 5-1 by Lot 13, both of Blk. 74, all of the cons./subd. Plan. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan x x x containing an area of EIGHTY THREE (83) SQ. M. x x x

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2011024733

A parcel of land (Lot 14 Blk. 74 of the consolidation and subdivision plan, Pcs-04-019323, leaving a portion of the consolidation of Block 1, Road Lot 12, Road Lot 14-A, Road Lot 14-B all of Pcs-04-011976. Lot 1, Block 4, Block 8, Road Lot 9, all of Pcs-04-015930, Lot 2, Pcs-04-018060, Lot 1, Pcs-04-018912, Lot 2859, San Francisco de Malabon Estate, L.R.C. Rec. No. ___), situated in the Barangay of Manggahan, Municipality of Gen. Trias, Province of Cavite. Bounded on the SE., along line 1-2 by Lot 15; along line 2-3 by Lot 13; on the SW., along line 3-4 by Lot 11, all of Blk. 74; on the NW., along line 4-5 by Rd. Lot 69 (6.50 m. wide R.O.W.); on the NE., along line 5-1 by Lot 16 Blk. 74, all of the cons./subd. Plan. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan x x x containing an area of EIGHTY THREE (83) SQ. M. x x x

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on April 02, 2020 without further notice.

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

Trece Martires City, January 09, 2020.

LUCIO C. ALEJO III
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:

BPI LEGAL AFFAIRS AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION DIVISION
Counsel for BPI Family Savings Bank
27th Floor BPI Buendia Center Bldg.,
372 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Brgy. Bel-air, Makati 1209

RETCHEL & LARZIBAL BAGALAWIS
Blk. 74, Lot 14, Ph-9, Governors Hills Subd.,
Brgy. Manggahan Gen. Trias Cavite and/or
Blk. 74, Lot 12, Ph-9, Governors Hills Subd.,
Brgy. Manggahan, Gen. Trias, Cavite and/or
Blk. 74, Lot 12, Governors Hills Subd.,
Ph-9, Brgy. Biclatan, Gen. Trias, 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
October 28, November 04 & 11, 2019

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
MULTIPLE SALA
IMUS, CAVITE

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

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

-versus-

PRIMITIVO M. MEJIA, JR.
Mortgagors.

FC. NO. 16931-19

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118 filed by National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation, mortgagee/assignee with principal office at 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City against PRIMITIVO M. MEJIA, JR., with residence and postal address at 44-A, 21 St., West Rembo, Fort Bonifacio, Makati, Metro Manila and/or Bahayang Sto. Nino, Lot 17 PCS-04-005785, Pasong buaya, Imus, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of July 31, 2019 amounts to FIVE HUNDRED NINE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY EIGHT PESOS & 29/100 (P 559,858.29) 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 February 18, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC Multiple Sala, 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 TITLE NO. T-327197

A parcel of land (Lot 17 of the c ons.-subd, plan Pcs-04-005785, being a portion of the cons. Of Lots 1-24, Blk. 13; Psd-04-023298, LRC Rec. No.), situated in the Bo. Of Pasong Buaya, Mun. of Imus, Prov. Of Cavite. Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 18 of the cons.-subd. Plan; on the SE., along line 2-3 by Road Lot 2, Psd-023298 (10.00 m. wide); on the SW., along line 3-4 by Lot 16 of the cons. subd. Plan, on the NW., along line 4-1 by Lot 5594, Imus Estate; x x x containing an area of EIGHTY FOUR (84) SQUARE METERS. x x x

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on February 25, 2020 at 10:a.m. without prior notice.

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

Imus, Cavite, Philippines, November 12, 2019.

ISRAEL S. MEDINA
Sheriff IV

APPROVED:
REGALADO E. EUSEBIO
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

COPY FURNISHED:
National Home Mortgage Finance Corp.
104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village Makati City

PRIMITIVO M. MEJIA JR.
44-A, 21 West Rembo, Fort Bonifacio,
Makati Metro Manila and/or Bahayang Sto. Nino,
Lot 17 PCS-04-005785, Pasong Buaya, Imus, Cavite

Ang Caviteño Newsweekly
January 13, 20 & 27, 2020

Word Search Puzzle

60's Songs

Find and circle all of the 1960's song titles that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the title of an additional 1960's song.

M S E D U J Y E H R R E X O B E H T Y
 S S W I L D T H I N G W I P E O U T K
 T I M Z B C E C Y L E G N A N E E T O
 H K Y Z R C R N E E Y A W A N U R O O
 E T G Y D V A Y O P S B U S S T O P P
 S S I W O A L R I T S T E L P A S O S
 E A R N W L O Y A N S E E O M Y G U Y
 E L L S N L V U V M G E R R K E R G H
 Y W H I T E R A B B I T V R D F O P S
 E B B H O R T F P N A A A L C A U N I
 S L A P W I E E I T G P Y I A P Y I R
 L U B M N O O V S N O Y T A P G S V E
 E E Y E V P O I A O G Y R Y D O E O H
 L V L M L O W G C W Z E L R U I S L C
 E E O E R T N Y E A T O R L E D L D L
 N L V G E I H Y R R V A M T R H D O A
 O V E H A C U C G E I A E O I I S O H
 R E T H T W I N D Y N F W H H P A G T
 E T C I E B L U E M O O N Y A T S H R

- BABY LOVE
- BLUE MOON
- BLUE VELVET
- BUS STOP
- CARA MIA
- CHAIN GANG
- CHERISH
- CRAZY
- CRYING
- DIZZY
- DOWNTOWN
- EL PASO
- ELENORE
- FINGERTIPS
- FIRE
- GALVESTON
- GOOD LOVIN'
- GROOVIN'
- HAIR
- HEATWAVE
- HEY JUDE
- HOLIDAY
- ITCHYCOO PARK
- LAST KISS
- MEMPHIS
- MY GIRL
- MY GUY
- PEOPLE
- PUPPY LOVE
- RESPECT
- RUNAWAY
- SHERRY
- SOUL MAN
- SPOOKY
- STAY
- SURF CITY
- TEEN ANGEL
- THE BOXER
- THE TWIST
- THESE EYES
- VALLERI
- VOLARE
- WHITE RABBIT
- WILD THING
- WINDY
- WIPEOUT
- WORDS
- YESTERDAY

Sagot sa nakaraan

THESEADFORBIDDENPLANET
 VESRESEFLASHGORDONNTUR
 SICETEISNWESTWORLDDEF
 PLAPINBLEIUTEPLCKAGOT
 IENOERDBOCEVHOOOABUC
 DNNNOENUEOPITGEACYNRI
 ETERRRCCECPLOASBAOOEZLP
 RRURSTGAOIYENRONVBNBIM
 MRUSPTOAEELSNDCENYTOBIP
 MANCINOHRRAYDIEUKESSRIP
 NNSHETTUOSSTERMRNRSITE
 CIIISLDNANTSRNEMSEANUE
 ONRRYSAAALAHDEICNTARM
 NGAAOMTRTRAENCIEMHSTFS
 TELTSKANLEAMLNRDHEYS
 AIOSHGADBCTCTATAAALBA
 CHSETFHDMOIAATTVRFYRW
 TIRDUNEMRALTSLERETNA
 ESACATTAGFKNYRLHISOZ
 KRAPCIS SARUJSITONXRIL
 ETAGRATSEMEMORDOEDTIVL

Sudoku

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

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

Hint

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

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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President Duterte bestows national honor on ADB President Nakao

MANILA -- President of the Philippines Mr. Rodrigo Duterte awarded outgoing Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Mr. Takehiko Nakao the Order of Sikatuna, the Philippines' highest civilian recognition, with the rank of Grand Cross, or Datu, Gold distinction, at Malacañan Palace today.

"At the helm of the ADB, Mr. Nakao has proven to be a true partner of the government in its pursuit of sweeping reforms and ambitious development programs to bring about President Duterte's goal of liberating Filipinos from poverty and transforming the Philippines into an upper-middle-income economy on his watch," said Philippine Finance Secretary and ADB Governor Mr. Carlos G. Dominguez. "Under Mr. Nakao's leadership, the ADB has demonstrated its full confidence in the Duterte presidency's capability to carry

out a comprehensive development strategy for rapid and inclusive growth by raising its lending commitment to the Philippines for programs geared toward closing the country's infrastructure gap, enhancing the local business climate, promoting countryside development, and achieving lasting peace in Mindanao."

The Order of Sikatuna was established in 1953 by former President of the Philippines Mr. Elpidio Quirino as the country's national order of diplomatic merit. It is given to individuals who have rendered exceptional services to the Philippines in developing and strengthening relations with the country.

"I receive this award with my deepest gratitude to President Duterte, Secretary Dominguez, the Government of the Philippines, and its people," said Mr. Nakao. "As our host country

continue to page 3



President of the Philippines Mr. Rodrigo Duterte awarded outgoing Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Mr. Takehiko Nakao the Order of Sikatuna, the Philippines' highest civilian recognition

Catch-up spending plan brings growth back on track

MANILA -- The Duterte administration overcame one of its biggest challenges in 2019—an economy hobbled by a combination of the delayed congressional approval of the year's national budget and global trade tensions—through a bold, but carefully crafted catch-up expenditure plan anchored on accelerating state spending on infrastructure and human capital development projects.

This catch-up spending plan, crafted by the interagency Economic Development Cluster (EDC) of the Cabinet, enabled the economy to recover in the third quarter, with a 6.2 percent growth rate, after an anemic performance in the first semester.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, who chairs the EDC, said the economy is "ready to soar" after this strong third-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) growth, and is expected to fare even better in the fourth quarter as the government's main infrastructure agencies deliver on their spending commitments for the remaining October-December 2019 period under this catch-up spending strategy.

Dominguez said the massive rollout of the President's signature "Build, Build, Build" infrastructure modernization

program plus the bold policy and administrative reforms being implemented on Mr. Duterte's watch, supports this rosy outlook for the economy, which expanded by an average of 6.4 percent in the first 13 quarters of the Duterte administration.

The EDC unveiled this catch-up plan in May, after first quarter GDP growth settled at 5.6 percent, below the government's 6 to 7 percent target for 2019.

This below-target economic expansion was the result of the government not being able to invest about P1 billion a day owing to the delayed approval of the P3.7 trillion 2019 national budget, which was exacerbated by the 2019 election ban. The effects of the budget delay lingered until the second quarter, when growth was recorded at a slightly lower 5.5 percent.

Congressional action on the 2019 General Appropriations Bill (GAB) stretched to March 2019 with the President being able to sign the budget law only in April.

The delay in the passage of the 2019 GAB forced the government to operate on a reenacted budget for four-and-a-half months, which meant

continue to page 2

DOTr, UNDP promote environment-friendly transport system

By Joedie Mae Boliver

QUEZON CITY -- The Department of Transportation (DOTr) in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Philippines engaged stakeholders from both the public and private sector to promote environmentally sustainable transport vehicles during the Low Carbon Transport forum at Novotel Manila in Araneta Cubao, January 7.

DOTr Assistant Secretary for Planning and

Project Development Sheilah Napalang, on behalf of Secretary Arthur Tugade, presented the advocacy of the transportation chief to the campaign for a clean environment.

"Change has indeed begun, and through this forum, we can further push for the deployment of modern vehicles that are environmentally sustainable. Let us come together and empower our country to use low carbon transport systems," said Asec. Napalang in her speech.

"Pollution from our public transport as major contributor is a clear obstacle towards the goal of making Filipino lives comfortable. Pollution is a silent killer and people are not fully aware that toxic chemicals affect their lungs during their daily commute," Napalang said.

She said the transport sector accounts for 38 percent of greenhouse gas emissions." Napalang added.

Shifting to low carbon will mean transporting people from one place to another without

continue to page 3



DOTr Assistant Secretary Dr. Maria Napalang keynotes the Low Carbon Transport forum at Novotel Manila in Cubao on January 7. (Photo by Gelaine Louise Gutierrez/PIA-NCR)