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'Hospitainers' boost Bacoor City's COVID-19 center capacity

By Ruel Francisco

BACoor CITY, Cavite (PIA) – The Southern Tagalog Regional Hospital (STRH), a 75-bed capacity Ligtas CoVid-19 Center here, was given an additional 24-bed capacity with the opening of the 'Hospitainers' on Friday, January 21, 2022.

This Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) initiative was held in coordination with

the office of the Deputy Speaker Strike B. Revilla, the City Government of Bacoor, and the Department of Health (DOH) – CALABARZON in response to the continuing surge of COVID-19 cases in the city.

The hospitainers serve as off-site modular facilities which can accommodate up to 24 mild to severe COVID-19 patients equipped with a Close Monitoring/Intensive Care Unit, a Command Center Office, a TeleMedicine Office, a Triage

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Photo courtesy of PIA Cavite

Tanza COVID-19 vaccination resumes with recovery of HCWs

TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite – The CoVid-19 Vaccination program rollout of the municipality of Tanza recently resumed operations after the gradual recovery from the disease of the healthcare workers (HCWs) who are members of the vaccination team of the Rural Health Unit (RHU).

Among those who were infected was Municipal Health Officer Dr. Ruth Punzalan, who manifested mild symptoms of the disease and has quickly recovered along with other HCWs.

According to Dr. Punzalan, around eighty healthcare workers have been infected, from RHU staff to

Barangay HCWs who were exposed during the conduct of COVID-19 vaccination.

The number of quarantined HCWs slowed the vaccination team prompting the RHU to declared a break for the vaccination activity on Thursday and Friday, January 13 & 14, and over the weekend.

Meanwhile, the target number for herd immunity had been revised by the Department of Health for the year 2022, from 70% of target population which for the municipality of Tanza is about 185K to the new target of 70% of the projected population which now totaled to 212K residents including children aged 5 – 11 years.

With the resumption of *continue to page 3*

Animal Shelter facility to care for stray animals

By Ruel Francisco

TRECE MARTIRES, CAVITE – The Alfonso Municipal Government is set to establish an animal shelter facility to address

the perennial problem on stray animals particularly dogs and cats spreading rabies in the locality.

Mayor Randy Salamat signified the importance of caring for the animals thru the facility

instead of an impounding area to lock up stray dogs.

“Dogs have lives and whether they are street dogs or not, we need to take care of them so instead of building an impounding area as facility (for them), we are preparing for an animal shelter facility during the first quarter of 2022,” said Mayor Salamat.

More than a dozen steel *continue to page 3*

GenTri City PUPCs, detainees inoculated against COVID-19

TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite– The General Trias City Health Office and PNP conducted vaccination rollouts for detainees in the General Trias Police Office in Barangay Bagumbayan and in the General Trias City Jail facility.

A total of 364 Persons Under Police Custody (PUPC) received their respective COVID-19 vaccine 1st dose, and booster shots during the activity initiated by the CHO led by City Health Officer Dr. Jonathan Luseco which was held at the General Trias CPS Custodial Facility in Barangay Bagumbayan on Wednesday, January 19, 2022. Personnel of the General Trias City Police Station led by Police Major Valero Bueno and Local Police Chief PLtCol. Norman Rañon assisted during the vaccination for the orderly conduct of said activity.

The single dose Johnson

& Johnson (J&J) Janssen vaccine, and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines were administered to the PUPCs. Meanwhile, a recent vax drive held at the General Trias City Jail in Barangay Navarro on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 partially inoculated around 65% or almost 800 of the 1,200 male and female detainees of the facility with the 1st dose of the COVID vaccine while a total of 200 fully vaccinated detainees had received their booster shots for additional protection.

“Unti-unti po natin sila nabakunahan hanggang ma-Booster shot sila para na rin sa kanilang mga protection kontra Covid,” Dr. Jonathan Luseco said.

(We vaccinated them one at a time until they could be given their booster shot for the protection against CoVid-19). (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with reports from Dennis Abrina)



Photo courtesy of PIA Cavite



Photo courtesy of PIA Cavite

Dasmariñas City public hospital restricts entry to unvaxxed

TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite – The management of the Pagamutan ng Dasmariñas, recently implemented the requirement for the presentation of COVID-19 vaccination card of individuals who need to access medical services and allow entry to the facility.

According to the Public Advisory of the said hospital, regulations allow patients for confinement whether vaccinated or not to be admitted in the hospital as well as children 11 years below who are not yet vaccinated against COVID-19 may enter the facility but their aide, companions, and parents need to be fully vaccinated.

Patients undergoing dialysis in the hospital need to be fully vaccinated though those with partial vaccination shall also be accepted.

M e a n w h i l e ,

unvaccinated dialysis patients need to show negative RT-PCR test taken every two weeks.

All other individuals who wish to enter the facility or need to access medical services from the Out-Patient Department (OPD), Physical Therapy (PT), ECG, Laboratory and X-Ray will be required to answer the Health Declaration Form at the Triage area and should present their vaccination card.

Persons who remain unvaccinated may present a doctor's certificate to prove their health condition that restrict them from getting the vaccine.

On the other hand, individuals in emergency situations whether vaccinated or not shall be accepted and given medical services in the Emergency Room. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with reports from Pagamutan ng Dasmariñas)

Dedicated.....

own pilot implementation of the vaccine rollout.

“Ang gusto natin talaga ay magkaroon ito ng phasing at sequence dahil alam natin na ang sektor na ito ay napaka-importante at very sensitive talaga. At considering na first time nating makatanggap ng children formulation, ay talagang titingnan nating safe at effective talaga ‘yung pagbabakuna,” Galvez said.

“Yung Region 3 and 4, umaapela na gusto nang sumabay [sa NCR] dahil malaki na ang experience natin sa children vaccination, sa 12-17,” he added. Galvez explained the Pfizer vaccines to be used for children aged five to 11 are reformulated, which means that they have a lower dosage compared to the vaccines used for the 12 and above age groups.

He said such

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precautionary measures will ensure that the vaccines to be used for children are all safe and effective.

“Nananawagan po kami sa ating mga magulang, na siguradong sigurado po kami na talagang maganda po ang formulation na ito dahil mas mababa at 91% ang efficacy,” Galvez said.

“At the same time, maraming reports ang US na talagang very minimal ang mga side effects,” he added.

Aside from the primary series, Galvez said the government has also programmed the administration of booster shots to children, pending the release of the amended emergency use authorizations for the vaccines and the greenlight coming from the vaccine expert panel for their administration.

“Nakaprograma po tayo na ‘yung 12 to 17 at 5 to 11 ay

may booster po ito. Bumibili po tayo ng dagdag na 15 million doses, para matugunan ‘yung pag-booster sa 15.56 million na batang [5-11],” Galvez said.

The vaccine czar also emphasized the urgent need to vaccinate the children to protect them from COVID-19 and to prevent further mutations of the virus.

“Sa US, 400% na tumaas ang admission ng mga children. Ganoon din ang nakita natin sa PGH, na talagang ang mga tinatamaan ng variants ay ‘yung mga unvaccinated,” Galvez said. “Hangga’t hindi po tayo natatapos [magbakuna] at mayroon pang mga unvaccinated, mayroon pong tutuluyan ‘yung mutations ng variants dito sa mga unvaccinated,” he added.

As of January 26, the Philippines has already administered a total of 125,089,118 COVID-19 vaccine doses.

Of this number, 58,149,158 are already fully vaccinated, including 7,391,735 individuals from the pediatric population. (National Task Force Against COVID-19)

Balancing.....

that the country's strong growth performance was possible due to more businesses reopening. The industry and service sectors grew by 8.2% and 5.3%, respectively. Private consumption also went up by 4.2%.

While welcoming these developments, the senator warned that the continuous spread of COVID-19 and its highly transmissible variants may still likely disrupt economic activities in the foreseeable future. He underscored the need to sustain an aggressive vaccination drive to fast-track return to normalcy.

“Maganda na sana ang direksyon ng ating recovery efforts kung hindi dumating itong Omicron at dumami muli ang bilang ng nagkakasakit. Pero marami pa rin tayong dapat ipagpasalamat. Patuloy tayong maging disiplinado at magingat. Huwag natin sayangin ang pinahirapan natin noong nakaraang taon,” Go remarked.

Getting inoculated, Go added, is still the best investment any person can make to protect one's health. By being vaccinated, people can reduce their risk of developing severe symptoms of the disease and needing hospitalization, thus lowering

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their healthcare expenses. They may then continue working and contributing to the economy, said Go.

“Kung mas maraming Pilipino ang mabibigyan ng proteksyon gamit ang bakuna, mas kokonti ang bilang ng mga tinatamaan ng malubhang sakit. Posibleng mas luluwag pa ang mga patakaran para sumigla pa ang ating ekonomiya,” he said.

“Kung kaya naman umaapela akong muli sa mga qualified na magbabakuna na. Libre naman ito. Ang bakuna ang susi para makabalik na tayo sa normal na pamumuhay,” he appealed.

As of January 26, the government has obtained a total of 216.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines and administered 125.1 million doses. Of this figure, 60.1 million Filipinos have received their first dose while 58.1 million are fully vaccinated. Another 6.9 million have obtained their booster shots.

The senator also thanked the economic frontliners, saying, “Maliban sa mga medical frontliners natin, maraming salamat din sa ating mga economic frontliners na nagsasakripisyo upang makaraos ang kanilang pamilya at gumulong ang ating

Nogralles....

from page 8

programs and advocacies.

“One of our targets was the sector of pregnant women and 0 to 23-month old children, as well as those in day care centers and elementary schools. Our feedings programs were successful in improving the nutritional needs of our young Filipinos who are at a crucial development stage.”

The online celebration of the TFZH 2nd Anniversary was attended by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, together with several Cabinet members including Agriculture Secretary William Dar, Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rolando Bautista, Science and Technology Secretary Fortunato Dela Peña, Labor and Employment Secretary Silvestre Bello III, Agrarian Reform Acting Secretary Bernie Cruz, and other officials such as DA Usec. Ariel Cayanan, DSWD Asec. Rhea Peñaflor, DSWD

Asec. Jocelyn Niwane, DAR Asec. Milagros Isabel Cristobal, DENR Usec Jim Sampulna, NEDA Asec. Greg Pineda, NEDA Director Nerissa Esguerra, NNC ED Asec. Azucena Dayanghirang, PCOO Asec. Florentino Loyola, PCOO Asec. Vincci Beltran, DepEd Asec. Salvador Malana III, DOST-FNRI Director Imelda Angeles-Agdeppa, DOH Director Beverly Ho, DBM Asst. Director Jane Abella, DILG Director Analiza Bonagua, CHED – Director Sylvette Gunigundo, Ms. Talitha Dacono ng DBM, Mr. Edwin Pasahol and Ms. Marielle Villegas of the DTL.

In his message, the President praised Nogralles' leadership in the Task Force, pointing out that they have made a big contribution in addressing the food needs of the people through effective government policy and intensive public-private partnerships. (OCS)

BSP: Robust measures in place vs counterfeit banknotes

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) assures the public that robust measures are in place against counterfeit banknotes, including those dispensed by automated teller machines (ATMs) of banks.

ATM services are part of core banking functions, and banks are bound by law to exercise the highest degree of diligence in protecting their clients' interest. The BSP will hold the banks accountable

ekonomiya. Mula sa mga market vendors, drivers hanggang sa mga simpleng manggagawa, maraming salamat.”

“Siguraduhin lang natin na mas ramdam sa ibaba ang paglago ng ating ekonomiya. At sa muling pagbangon natin, kailangang walang Pilipinong maiiwan,” he stressed. (OSBG)

should they fail to observe measures to protect their clients.

The banks have a responsibility to guarantee that banknotes coming from their ATMs are genuine, consistent with the BSP's Financial Consumer Protection Framework, which requires financial service providers, such as banks, to conduct ethical business practices and not to engage in any practice that may cause harm to the consumer.

The country's ATM system performs soundly under recognized risk management guidelines, and the BSP's comprehensive approach to safeguarding the Philippine currency includes well-defined mechanisms for reporting doubtful currencies, for examination by the BSP. Thus, the public is encouraged

to report any untoward incident to their respective banks or the BSP, for appropriate action.

To better protect the banking public, the BSP submitted to Congress the Financial Products and Services Protection Act, or the Financial Consumer Protection Act. The said legislative measure, if enacted, will address the gaps in our existing laws and better equip financial regulators, such as the BSP, with adequate legal authority to respond to complaints and enforce prudent, responsible, and customer-centric standards of business conduct. Said bill is currently pending in Congress.

The BSP will continue to strictly enforce existing rules and regulations to maintain a sound and stable financial system for consumers.

Imus' home-quarantined symptomatics given COVID care kits

IMUS CITY, Cavite – Imus City aims to diminish the rapid transmission of the COVID-19 omicron variant through its Home Mitigation Program initiative which includes the provision of care kits to symptomatic patients undergoing home quarantine.

Imus City Public Information Office chief Jay Saquilayan says, "Once a symptomatic patient tested positive with the antigen test, he/she undergoes Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction Test (RT PCR) for confirmation."

Positive patients with no symptoms are advised to isolate for a required period of time while positive symptomatic patients undergo home quarantine and are provided COVID-19 Care Kits from the city government with priority to members of the vulnerable sector such as the Senior Citizens, Persons with comorbidities and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

The care kits were

distributed to the 97 Barangays in the city which are given to the identified positive symptomatic patients in each barangay.

Members of the Expanded Home Mitigation Team led by the employees of the City of Imus Traffic Management Office (CITMO) and the Imus City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) conduct the house-to-house distribution of the COVID-19 care kits to prevent the patients and the members of the household from leaving their houses to buy the needed medication.

The kits include medicines and supplements such as the Molnupiravir, Sodium Ascorbate+Zinc, oral rehydration solutions, and other medicines (Levofloxacin 750mg tablets; Dexamethasone 500mg capsules) to treat the symptoms caused by COVID-19. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with reports from Imus City PIO)



Source: PIA CAVITE

Tanza...

RHU operations, the new target number of vaccinees for 2022 could now be achieved with more than 3K CoVid-19 vaccine doses administered daily.

Based on the RHU data as of January 19, 2022, a total of 157,217 eligible members of the priority groups are now fully vaccinated while 167,409 had received the first dose of

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the CoVid-19 vaccines which is about 74% of the new target.

Dr. Punzalan noted an increase in the registered vaccinees which may be due to restrictions in the movement of unvaccinated individuals as mandated by the national government.

"As of now, we are prioritizing recipients of the

1st and 2nd dose for those who now wish to get protected with the CoVid-19 vaccines while the distribution of booster shots will be announced in the coming days," stated Dr. Punzalan.

The vaccination site at the Felipe Calderon Elementary School still serves as the Mega vaccination site in the locality. (RBF/PIA-Cavite with reports from RHU-Tanza)

Hospitaniers....

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area, and a guardhouse.

"The van-type isolation facility for COVID-19 patients is part of our continuous commitment to providing quality and accessible health services to Caviteños in general, especially during this time of the pandemic," stated Second District of Cavite Representative Strike B. Revilla. According to DOH Secretary Francisco T. Duque III, the system was developed to respond properly and effectively to COVID patients.

During the event, 600 pieces of COVID-19 Kalinga Kits were turned over to the city government for distribution to confirmed positive patients.

The kit consists of paracetamol tablets, Vitamin

C tablets, two (2) pieces of Alcolgel, two (2) pieces of soap, a COVID-19 information sheet, one (1) roll of tissue, one (1) bottle of disinfectant, and face masks.

"Nagkaisa kami para makabuo ng Kalinga kits para patibayin at pahusayin ang ating home isolation at quarantine facilities," Secretary Duque said.

(We have teamed up to develop Kalinga kits to strengthen and improve our home isolation and quarantine facilities.)

The provision of Kalinga Kits was made possible through partnerships with the World Health Organization (WHO), Unilab, and Procter and Gamble Philippines. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite)

Animal....

from page 1

cages were recently completed on May 17, 2021 which according to mayor Salamat will now be distributed to every barangay in the municipality for the temporary holding of stray dogs.

"Sa totoo lang ay 'sinosolusyunan' na naman po. May mga hakbang na tayong nagawa. May ordinansa, Animal Control Officers' training, may kulungan na para sa bawat barangay at may budget na para ngayong taon," said Mayor Salamat.

(Actually, it's "being solved". We have taken steps. There is an ordinance, Animal Control Officers' training, there is an animal cage for each barangay and there is a budget for this year.)

The local government for years had been taking steps in preparation for the program with the training of personnel of the Municipal Agriculture

Office on Rabies Awareness, Animal Impounding and Management of Dog Pound for the Animal Control Officers of LGU on August 2019.

Subsequently, on March 27, 2021 the Municipal Ordinance no. 02-2021 or the Anti-Rabies Ordinance was passed and approved by the LGU which provided for the pertinent guidelines to protect human and animal inhabitants of the municipality from rabies infection pursuant to the Anti-Rabies Act of 2007.

Additional steps for the full implementation of this program are the skills enhancement of Animal Control Officers for the proper and safe handling of animals and the procurement of an Animal Control Vehicle. (Ruel Francisco with reports from Alfonso LGU)

Cimatu encourages Filipinos to practice sustainable lifestyle to help reduce waste

DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy A. Cimatu said that waste facilities alone will not solve the problem of solid waste management in the Philippines as he urged the public to minimize their waste by practicing a sustainable lifestyle.

In light of the 21st year of Republic Act 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001, Cimatu cited the continuing assistance to local government units (LGUs) for the establishment of solid waste management facilities that include materials recovery facilities, sanitary landfills, and recycling equipment.

"While we strive to put up various solid waste management facilities throughout cities and municipalities, these are not the only means to solve the country's garbage problem. There will come a time that these facilities may not function, or even reach their maximum capacity," Cimatu said.

"Year by year, our population grows, thereby resource consumption and waste generation increases. If an unsustainable lifestyle continues, disposal facilities will not be able to contain it, the environmental impact of wastes inevitably returns to us. It's high time for all Filipinos to realize that practicing a sustainable lifestyle is as important as solid waste management," he pointed out.

In a webinar on January 17, which is a part of the month-long activities for the anniversary of the signing of RA 9003, DENR-EMB Assistant Director Vizminda A. Osorio bared that

each Filipino produces an average of 0.4 kilograms of solid waste per day.

She said that with the country's population of 110 million in 2021, it is estimated that 44 million kilograms of solid waste are piling up every day.

Osorio urged participants to adopt a sustainable living to reduce personal and societal environmental impact by implementing positive behavioral adjustments that mitigate climate change and address other environmental concerns.

"Making lifestyle changes allow you also to save money, become more organic, become more involved in your community and, of course, it will contribute to a healthier way of life. Sustainability enhances our quality of life while also safeguarding our ecosystem and natural resources for future generations," Osorio said.

"We can do better by embracing a sustainable lifestyle—by raising our consciousness on our carbon footprint, reducing energy consumption, becoming eco-friendly, and altering our life," she added.

"Before you buy, stop and think. Consider how much you need it before charging it to your wallet or your credit card. Likewise, before you throw, stop and think. We can repair, we can reuse, we can repurpose or we can recycle before it ends its life," Osorio said.

Osorio also pointed out that the government sets the example of sustainability through the issuance of the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) Resolution No. 1363, Series of 2020, "Directing the DENR to prepare and implement the banning of the use of unnecessary single-use plastics by national government agencies, local government units' offices, and all other government-controlled offices."

Meanwhile, Osorio said the DENR-EMB embraces sustainability through its Integrated Information System or IIS—a paperless system that generates real-time reporting of data and statistics, and eventually inspection reports of solid waste management facilities from EMB regional offices. (DENR)

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

Ang
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EDITORIAL

Phishers of men

THE NBI did arrest three Filipinos and two Nigerians who were allegedly involved in said bank hacking, and BDO did restate the affected accounts, but are the authorities going to keep running after criminals instead of being ahead of the game?

Beware the malware.

Teachers, who knew better than to fall for phishing tactics, still fell victim to cybercrime recently.

It can only mean that cybercriminals are getting so much more sophisticated in their ways that they are able to circumvent safety measures established by banks for online accounts.

Phishing, as defined on phishing.org, "is a cybercrime in which a target or targets are contacted by email, telephone or text message by someone posing as a legitimate institution to lure individuals into providing sensitive data such as personally identifiable information, banking, and credit card details and passwords.

"The information is then used to access important accounts and can result in identity theft and financial loss."

In the case of teachers who allegedly lost their savings from their Land Bank of the Philippines (LandBank) online accounts, "phishers" sent one-time password (OTP) text messages to access the accounts. They managed to almost wipe out the teachers' savings — hard-earned money they had set aside for emergencies and medication.

Phishing is not new — the first lawsuit against this crime was filed in 2004. A teenager — yes, a teenager — from California created a fake website imitating America Online and was able to obtain information from its users like credit card details.

According to the phishing website, "Other than email and website phishing, there's also 'vishing' (voice phishing), 'smishing' (SMS phishing) and several other techniques cybercriminals are constantly coming up with."

Like a virus mutating, human malice has long moved to the cyber world and will keep on transforming with the times. As with many issues in life, information is among the arsenals people must use to fight against it.

Online banking being relatively new for a majority in the Philippines, the recent rash of cybercrimes should lead the authorities to ramp up their actions on the matter.

It's not enough to announce that the Justice Department urged the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to investigate the teachers' cases specifically.

The fact is, nothing seems to have resulted yet from the investigations being done on cybercrimes in general.

Last December, social media was afire with the case of "more than 700 clients of BDO Unibank (who) lost hundreds of thousands of pesos through unauthorized online fund transfers."

The NBI did arrest three Filipinos and two Nigerians who were allegedly involved in said bank hacking, and BDO did restate the affected accounts, but are the authorities going to keep running after criminals instead of being ahead of the game?

Fortify your systems, suggested a solon, referring to all banks, as people are indeed turning to online banking more and more, especially since the pandemic restrictions on mobility made it necessary.

Senator Grace Poe, who chairs the Senate banks committee, was on point in also urging cooperation — "intensified" cooperation, it was called in an article recently — among concerned institutions so that consumers can be better protected from cybercrime.

A more proactive approach is essential nowadays so people can ably avoid being hooked by fraudsters and cyber gangsters.



KAPIRASONG Kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

Kaarawan ng Isang Abogado ng Bayan

KAARAWAN pala ngayon ni Atty. Remigio "Meng" Saladero, Jr., ang legal counsel ng Kilusang Mayo Uno at, isang malaking karangalan para sa akin, kapwa-kolumnista sa Pinoy Weekly. Naging laman siya ng balita noong 2009 dahil ikinulong siya ng gobyernong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo batay sa mga gawa-gawang kaso — bahagi ng malupit na atake ng rehimen sa kilusang paggawa at mga manggagawang Pilipino.

Kakaibang abogado — hindi, kakaibang nilalang — itong si Atty. Meng. Hindi katulad ng mga istiryutipikal na abogadong laging magara ang bihis at magarbo ang pananalita, simple lang gumayak at mangusap itong abogado ng mga manggagawa. Hindi katulad ng inaasahan sa isang abogadong tulad niya, tahimik siya sa mga usapan, nakikinig sa sasabihin ng iba, pasensyosong naghihintay ng kanyang pagkakataong magsalita.

Noong nakulong siya, lumabas ang isa niyang secret weapon: ang kanyang misis na si Maricel. Katulad nina Ka Osang Beltran at Edith Burgos, tumampok siya sa panahong sinisikil ang kanyang asawa. Ipinakita niyang kapag pinaparangalan ang mga lalakeng aktibista, kailangan ding parangalan ang kanilang misis — na hindi lang nagsisilbing "inspirasyon" kundi aktibong katuwang sa pakikibaka, kasing-husay ng mister nila.

Isa sa mga tampok na kasong huling hinawakan ni Atty. Meng ang sa 20 manggagawa ng Karnation Industries and Export Inc. na gumagawa ng handicraft. Matapos ang mahigit dalawang taon ng pagkakakulong, dahil sa kasong isinampa ng kanilang employer kaugnay ng inilunsad nilang welga, nakalabas sila sa kulungan sa tulong ni Atty. Meng — pero ito ay matapos dalawa sa kanila ang mamatay sa loob ng piitan.

Nagkaroon ako ng pagkakataong makita in action itong si Atty. Meng. Pinuntahan niya ang isang pagpupulong ng mga manggagawang lumalahok sa isang certification election. Wala siyang kotse, at lalo na ako, kaya nagdyip at naglakad lang kami. Maputik at maamoy ang mahabang daan papunta, habang mabanas at mausok sa loob ng bahay. Wala siyang reklamo, nakikinig at pangitngiti sa pagpapalano ng mga manggagawa.

Noong siya na ang magsasalita, tinanong siya ng manggagawa: Ano ang pwedeng aksyong ligal laban sa kapitalistang naga-outsourcing sa sarili niyang kumpanya na pinagmumukha niyang pag-aari ng iba? Kiling ang batas sa kapitalista, pero hindi ito tahas na sinabi ni Atty. Meng. Inisa-isa lang niya ang mga probisyon ng batas. Paulit-ulit ang manggagawa sa pagtatanong: Ibig ninyong

sabihin, mahirap talagang kasuhan?

Hanggang sa halos sumisigaw na ang manggagawa sa pagtatanong, nanggagalaiti hindi kay Atty. Meng kundi sa batas. At ang pobreng atorni, mahinahon pa ring nagsasalita, nangingiting nailing sa limitasyon ng batas na sa pagpipilit niyang ipaliwanag ay lalong nalalantad na maka-kapitalista. "Show, don't tell" ang isang panuntunan ng mga manunulat ng katha, at napakahusay rito ng abogadong ito.

Kongkretong ipinakita niya sa manggagawa ang nasasabi niya sa kanyang kolum: na walang mapapala ang mga manggagawa kung todong sasandig sa batas. Pwede at dapat pumasok sa mga aksyong ligal, pero hindi ito ang mapagpasya sa pagsulong ng karapatan at interes ng mga manggagawa. Ang mapagpasya pa rin ay ang sama-samang pagmumulat, pag-oorganisa at pagkilos para isulong ang interes ng uri.

Abogadong maka-manggagawa muna bago abogado, unyonista at hindi ligalista, alam ang lugar ng batas sa pakikibaka para sa maka-manggagawang bukas, minamahal ng napakaraming obrero sa hindi pagtahak sa landas na pinili ng marami niyang pañero, at yumayakap sa kaakibat na hirap at sakripisyo. Maligayang kaarawan, Atty. Saladero.

27 Enero 2011

Zinnias on my mind

Garden Meditations

By Raia Jennifer Dela Pena Landicho



WE HAVE BEEN living on a farm for the past five years and I must say that for the most part, we focused mainly on maintaining the field and planting vegetables and fruit trees.

Landscaping was not a priority because we lacked manpower and funds. It literally took us this long to have the means to start focusing on making our farm look “pretty”.

When I started planning for borders around our manicured field, I thought that cosmos plants would be fitting and I have this notion that they are easy

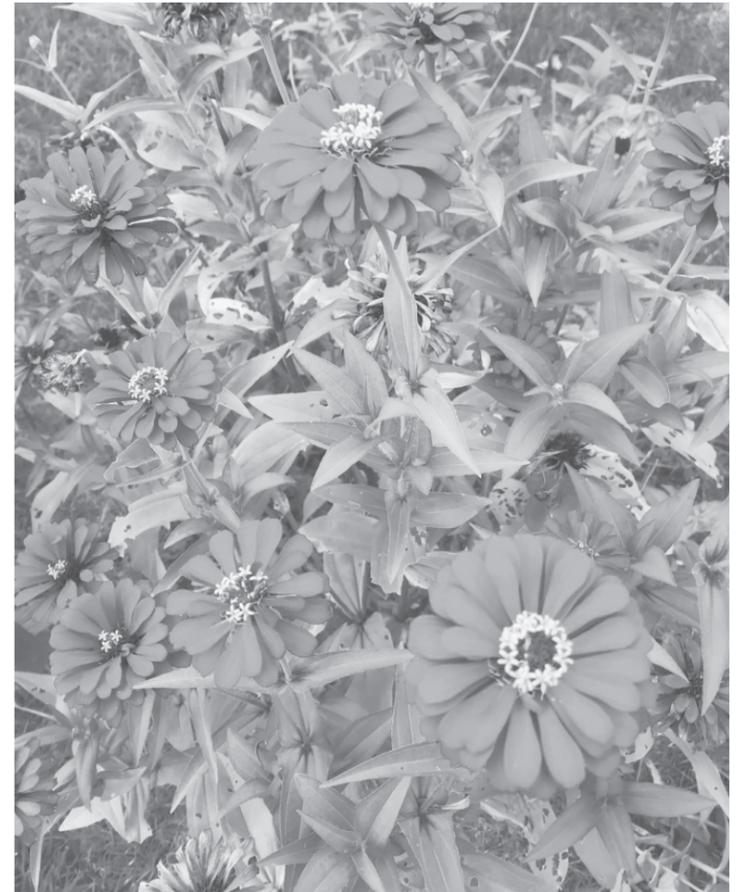
to plant and care for. So we started with that. But while waiting for our cosmos seeds to sprout, my husband’s friend brought along flower seeds from a nearby bee farm. I asked him what it was and typical of part-time farm hands, he told me he didn’t know the name but assured me they are pretty flowers.

Later on, I found out that these gifted seeds were zinnias. And they grew at the same time as our cosmos.

Needless to say I fell in love with zinnias after these initial plantings.

Zinnias are a genus of plants of the sunflower tribe, within the daisy family. They are annuals which means they need to be planted/replanted regularly or yearly. But that should not be an impediment since they are dead easy to propagate. You can literally just throw them out on your field and chances are the seeds will grow on their own. They are that hardy. I have been able to propagate 3 batches of zinnias so far. And it is easy enough to harvest the seeds from older or dying plants. You just have to be proactive about gathering the seeds from the dried out flowers and then re-sowing them.

In the beginning I would plant the seeds in small pots for transplanting to different areas around the garden. But I have since learned that it would be easier to just sow them direct onto the prepared soil. All it needs is a bit of vermicompost and lots of sunshine. During the rainy season there is no need for daily watering but if you want them happy then a bit of



regular watering should be done at the minimum during the dry season.

Zinnias are very good for bee farms but for myself I have realized that they are wonderful for one’s garden since they attract a lot of beautiful butterflies. On some mornings we look like a butterfly farm and it is a lovely sight indeed. And on mornings when I walk outside with my

coffee and look at the flowers and butterflies, I feel certain that I am happy.

Sparkling joy sounds overused nowadays but I can say with no irony that a field of colourful flowers and butterflies on a sunny morning is a literal joy. If you are just planning your garden, please start with zinnias. You will not regret it one bit.



Word Search Puzzle

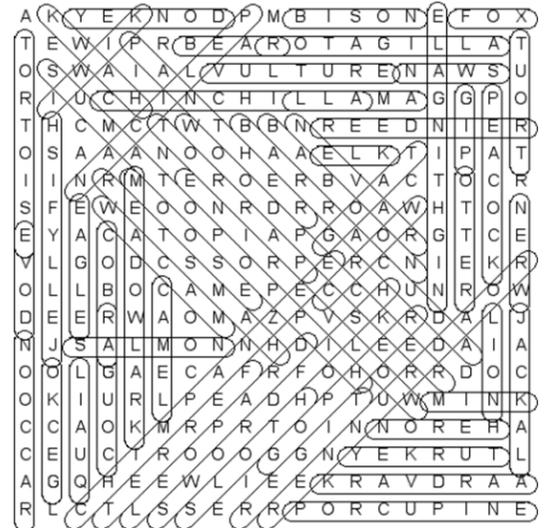
Animals 2

Find and circle all of the animals that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of an additional animal.

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

- ANTELOPE
- BAT
- BEAVER
- BOBCAT
- BUFFALO
- CHEETAH
- CHICKEN
- COYOTE
- CRANE
- DEER
- DOLPHIN
- DUCK
- ELEPHANT
- EMU
- FLAMINGO
- FROG
- GAZELLE
- GIRAFFE
- GOOSE
- GORILLA
- HEDGEHOG
- HORSE
- HUMMINGBIRD
- IMPALA
- JAGUAR
- KANGAROO
- KOALA
- LAMPREY
- LEMMING
- LYNX
- MARLIN
- MOCKINGBIRD
- MONKEY
- MOUSE
- OCTOPUS
- ORANGUTAN
- ORCA
- PANTHER
- PARAKEET
- PARTRIDGE
- PENGUIN
- PORPOISE
- PUMA
- RABBIT
- RATTLESNAKE
- RHINOCEROS
- ROBIN
- SHEEP
- SHREW
- STORK
- TURTLE
- WALLABY
- WALRUS
- WEASEL
- WHALE
- YAK
- ZEBRA

Sagot sa nakaraan



Sudoku

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

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.

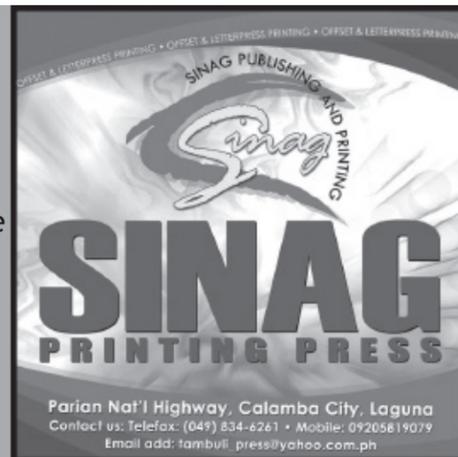
8	1	2	6	3	5	4	9	7
7	6	5	4	8	9	3	2	1
3	9	4	2	1	7	5	6	8
2	8	7	1	5	3	6	4	9
1	5	6	9	4	2	8	7	3
4	3	9	8	7	6	1	5	2
6	2	8	5	9	1	7	3	4
5	7	1	3	2	4	9	8	6
9	4	3	7	6	8	2	1	5

Sudoku hint

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

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Dedicated ‘vaccination days’ for 5-11 y/o eyed on Feb 4-5 in 24 pilot sites in NCR

PASAY CITY -- The Philippine government is eyeing to conduct a ‘vaccination days’ rollout specifically for children aged five to 11 from February 4 to 5 in Metro Manila.

In an online interview on Thursday, National Task Force Against COVID-19 Chief Implementer and vaccine czar Secretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr. said the designated vaccination sites will include 24 hospital and non-hospital based facilities.

According to Galvez, the official announcement and draft policy for the vaccination of the said age group will be released within the week.

“Tuloy na tuloy na po ang ating pagbabakuna ng 5 to 11 dahil parating na ang ating mga vaccine na may special formulation sa February 2. Ang gagawin po

natin, magde-designate tayo ng hospital at non-hospital based sa each city sa Metro Manila kaya magkakaroon tayo ng more or less 24 vaccination sites,” he said. “Gusto nga po ng PMA (Philippine Medical Association) na mailagay itong parang vaccination days during weekend kasi nakikita nilang ‘yung mga nanay at tatay ay nagta-trabaho [tuwing weekdays]. More or less February 4 or 5 ang ating vaccination [days] para sa 5-11 years old,” Galvez added.

The vaccine czar said the initial rollout for the children’s vaccination will be conducted in the National Capital Region.

He, however, noted that the NTF is open to accepting requests from other regions to simultaneously conduct their

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Photo courtesy of PIA NCR

Nograles lauds resounding success of Zero Hunger Task Force

MANILA -- On the second year anniversary of the creation of the government’s Inter-agency Task Force on Zero Hunger, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles cited the successes of the body in concretely addressing hunger and malnutrition in the country, noting that “systems are now in place that ensure both the government and the private sector are able to meet the needs of food security.” “President Duterte gave us the mandate to improve the national nutrition situation and eliminate hunger. In one year and despite the Covid-19 pandemic, we were able to formulate a comprehensive National Food Policy (NFP) and saw its implementation all the way to year two,” Nograles said. The Cabinet Secretary noted that the NFP provided a guide and roadmap to State food policy and identified priorities on the use of limited resources.

“We’ve faced typhoons, natural disasters and other calamities on top of the continuing scourge of Covid-19. Despite these, we were able to tackle the nutrition and food concerns of our countrymen particularly in affected areas,” added the Cab Sec, who also serves as acting Presidential Spokesperson. The Malacañang official enumerated various initiatives of

the IATF-ZH — the creation of the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP), implementation of the Kasapatan at Ugnayan ng Mamamayan sa Akmang Pagkain at Nutrisyon (KUMAIN) Webinar Series, pilot feeding programs under the First 1000 Days of Life, launching of Pilipinas Kontra Gutom (PKG), formulation of the Philippine Multi-sectoral Nutrition Project Proposal for the World Bank, Gulayan sa Barangay at sa Pamayanan programs and various livelihood projects aimed at uplifting the lives of farmers and fisherfolk.

According to Nograles, the most recent national Social Weather Survey (SWS) results showed that 10% of families nationwide, or around 2.5 million Filipinos, experienced involuntary hunger or hunger caused by lack of access to food at least once in July to September 2021.

He further emphasized, “for September 2021, the hunger rate was 3.6 percentage points lower than the 13.6% logged for June 2021 and 11.1 points lower than the 2020 annual average of 21.1 percent. The latest figures, however, are 0.7 points above the 2019 yearly average of 9.3%.”

The SWS figures were a good indication, Nograles stressed, of the impact of the Task Force’s

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‘Balancing Health and Economy’ — Bong Go hails economic recovery efforts as PH GDP grows 5.6% in 2021

PASAY CITY -- Senator Christopher “Bong” Go commended the recovery efforts of the Duterte Administration to the economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic after the country reported a Gross Domestic Product growth rate of 5.6% in 2021, beating the earlier targets.

“Ang 5.6% GDP growth ng Pilipinas sa buong taon ang isa sa pinakamataas sa buong Southeast Asia, ayon sa datos. Inaasahan ng mga eksperto na

1-4% lang ang GDP growth ng mga bansa sa rehiyon dahil nga sa kasalukuyang pandemya,” Go noted.

For the fourth quarter alone, the country recorded a 7.7% growth, propelling it ahead of most of its neighbors. As a result, the government is keeping its ambitious target of 7% to 9% growth in 2022.

“Since day one ng pandemya, maingat na binabalanse ng gobyerno ang kalusugan at kabuhayan ng

mga mamamayan natin. Kahit may krisis, sinisikap nating maging malakas at maunlad ang ekonomiya upang magkaroon muli ng trabaho ang mga nawalan at maiwasan ang gutom at hirap,” remarked Go.

“Hangad ng administrasyon na mabigyan ng mas maginhawang buhay ang maraming Pilipino sa kabila ng mga hamon sa katatagan ng ating bansa,” he continued.

The lawmaker noted

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By OSBG