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'Malasakit' amid the COVID-19 pandemic

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VOLUME XXXVII No. 02 Hulyo 20-26, 2020 P6.00

LGU Dasmariñas provides financial assistance, relief goods to fire victims



Barzaga in the distribution of food packs to Bautista fire victims. (Photo: Dennis Abrina)

By Ruel B. Francisco

Dasmariñas City, Cavite --The city government provided financial assistance and relief goods to the 114 households affected by the fire that razed several houses in a residential area at Zone 5, Bautista Barangay Sampaloc IV July 3, 2020.

Mayor Jenny Austria-Barzaga led the distribution activity July 10, 2020 at the Barangay Luzviminda II covered court.

The financial assistance

was the subject of the resolution passed by the Sangguniang Panlungsod as requested by Mayor Barzaga to help the families left homeless and suffered because of the fire.

The amount granted for the households affected depends on the degree of damage sustained. A total of P3.75M were distributed to the households broken down as follows: P1,880,000 for the 44 households in Block 44 that were totally damaged; P1,845,000 to 44 households that were totally

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DA interventions help Silang ornamental plant growers, farmers

By Ruel B. Francisco

SILANG, Cavite -- The Department of Agriculture IV-A (CALABARZON) continue to help farmers affected by the Taal Volcano eruption in early January of this year in the region including the Silang ornamental plant growers.

Under its Taal Recovery and Rehabilitation Program, the DA distributed black nets and UV plastic to 401 members of the Federation of Silang Ornamental Growers July 14, 2020.

Silang Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) head Adela V. Poblete led the distribution of interventions as part of the ongoing utilization of

the Quick Response Fund of the DA to help revive the livelihood of the farmer beneficiaries.

“This is a great help for the booming ornamental industry in the municipality of Silang,” Ms. Poblete said.

Mr. Anselmo Noveno, an ornamental plant grower in the town was so grateful for the interventions by the DA.

“Noon pa man ay tumutulong na ang DA sa mga ornamental plant growers, lalo na noong naapektuhan kami ng pagputok ng bulkan. Nagagalak po kami na yang mga natanggap naming plastic, seedlings, at organic fertilizers ay nadagdagan pa. Malaking tulong po ito sa aming pamilya

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LGU Bacoor amends EO 24 for expansion of Zapote 1-P Critical Zone

By Ruel B. Francisco

Bacoor City, Cavite -- The local government here led by Mayor Lani Revilla ordered the amendment and expansion of the localized lockdown of Barangay Zapote 1-Proper Critical Zone and containment of the households of COVID-19 positive patients effective 12 noon of July 11, 2020 up to 5am of July 24, 2020.

This developed after the RT-PCR (Real Time-Polymerase

Chain Reaction) testing in said area resulted to a clustering of a total of 19 confirmed cases by July 9, 2020, out of which 3 had died, and 16 are active cases plus several symptomatic suspects and probable cases who were reactive in their rapid anti-body tests.

With the said order, the total of the Zapote 1-P CrZ now consists of more than 1,500 households with boundaries moved to Rosal St., on the northwest (NW), Aster Extension

on the northeast (NE), Campuput St., on the southwest (SW), and Camia St. on the southeast (SE) including the old Zapote market area and the Sampalukan area which consists of 400 families.

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LRT-2 implements ‘No Talking’ policy inside trains to prevent spread of virus

By Jimmy E. Guzman

PASIG CITY– LRT2 advises its passengers that it will strictly implement the “No Talking” policy as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“As an added safety measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in LRT 2, we will strictly implement the “No Talking” policy,” LRT2

announced on its Twitter page.

According to LRT2, talking with other passengers and answering calls from mobile devices are prohibited throughout the train journey to avoid possible droplet transmission.

The LRT2 administration also reminded all train riders to wear their face mask properly.

“Face masks must always be worn properly while inside the trains for your safety.” (LRT2/PIA-NCR)



File photos courtesy of LRT-2 Facebook Page.



Groundbreaking project

OFW...

mag avail ng mga online services. Ani Martin, bagaman walang physical branch ang OFBank, ay maaari naman magtungo sa alinmang branch ng LandBank na may mahigit 400 na sangay sa buong bansa.

“Considering digital only ang OFBank ay wala kaming physical na sangay. Pero ang kagandahan nito ay kami po ay fully owned subsidiary ng Land Bank of the Philippines. Ang LandBank po ay ang tinatawag namin na parent bank at mayroong 400 na mahigit na sangay sa Pilipinas,” aniya.

“At kung kayo ay kliyente ng OFBank ay pwede po kayong magpunta sa kahit na anong sangay ng LandBank para makuha ang inyong ATM card. At kung ang inyong transaction ay hindi maaari sa mga ATM machine ay maaari po kayong mag

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over the counter sa mga sangay ng Landbank na pinakamalapit sa inyo,” dagdag pa nito.

Sakali naman mawala ang card, may payo rin ang opisyal sa mga OFBank card holders.

“Sa ating mga kliyente na kapag nawala ang card ay ipagbigay alam agad ito sa aming Customer Care Center at tumawag sa 8405-7000 at kung international toll free naman ay 1800-10405-7000,” payo niya.

“Puede din pong makapag-ugnayan sa aming mga Facebook Pages at sa aming website na www.ofbank.com.ph. At puede din mag email sa customer.care@mail.ofbank.com.ph,” dagdag pa niya.

“Sa pagla lock po ay may Mobilock po ang app natin na puede niyang i-on para in case mawala ay di magagamit

ang kanyang account. Kapag pag unlock ng inyong account ay puede din po sa parent bank (LandBank) namin na site na www.lbpaccess.com dito po ay may makikita kayong field ng report nang lost or stolen card, sundin lamang po ang proseso dito para magamit muli ang online banking. “ paglilinaw ni Martin.

“Ini-encourage namin ang ating mga kababayan na OFW na mag open na po tayo ng OFBank Deposit Account. Hindi po ito nangangailangan ng opening deposit o kahit ng maintaining deposit. Ang fund transfer po nito mula sa OFBank account sa isa pang OFBank account o kahit sa LandBank ay wala pong additional charges. Pero kung sa ibang bank maglilipat ng pondo ay mayroong charges depende po sa existing standard rate,” pag-enganyo ng opisyal. (PIA NCR)

Ayuda.....

paaralan.

Mahigit tatlong daang libong (323,524) mag-aaral din mula sa mga pribadong paaralan, state at local universities and colleges (SUCs at LUCs) ang lumipat sa mga pampublikong paaralan. Nilinaw naman ng DepEd na patuloy pa rin ang enrollment sa iba pang mga pribadong paaralan dahil iba ang kanilang sinusunod na kalendaryo.

Ayon kay Gatchalian, dapat ipagpatuloy ang pagpapamahagi ng ayuda sa ilalim ng mga programang tulad ng Senior High School Voucher Program o SHS VP at ng Education Service Contracting (ESC). Ito ay upang hindi maantala ang pag-aaral ng mga kabataan habang binibigyang tulong ng gobyerno ang mga pribadong paaralang apektado ng lockdown.

Ang mga benepisyaryo ng SHS VP ay mga kwalipikadong senior high school learners mula sa mga private o non-DepEd school na nakakatanggap ng mga vouchers bilang ayuda. Sa pamamagitan naman ng ESC, ang mga mag-aaral na dapat sana ay papasok sa mga pampublikong junior high school ay binibigyan ng ayuda upang makapasok sa

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mga kwalipikado at pribadong junior high schools.

Ani Gatchalian, dapat may sapat na pondo ang mga programang ito sa 2021 national budget upang hindi mabawasan ang mga benepisyaryo at maiwasan ang pagdami ng dropouts. Upang manatili namang bukas ang mga pribadong paaralan, nanindigan din si Gatchalian na kailangang bigyan ang mga guro at kawani ng agarang tulong pinansyal.

Kaya naman ayon sa senador, prayoridad ang pagpasa sa Bayanihan to Recover As One

LTFRB, hinikayat ang publiko na gamitin ang kanilang online transactions

By Susan G. De Leon

LUNGSOD CALOOCAN—Sa pagbabalik operasyon ng tanggapan ng Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Central Office simula sa Lunes, ika-20 ng Hulyo 2020, hinikayat nito ang publiko na gamitin ang kanilang online transactions.

Ayon sa ahensiya, bagamat humarap sa ilang pagsubok, dahilan upang maging

Act (Senate Bill No. 1564) o Bayanihan 2. Sa ilalim kasi ng panukalang batas, makakatanggap ng ayuda ang mga guro at kawani ng mga pribadong paaralan, pati na rin ang mga mag-aaral na nangangailangan ngunit hindi bahagi sa mga kasalukuyang programa ng pamahalaan.

Ayon pa kay Gatchalian, dapat makipagtulungan ang mga pribadong paaralan sa pamahalaan at iba pang mga sektor upang mahikayat magpa-enroll ang mga mag-aaral na nanganganib tumigil sa pag-aaral at masigurong walang estudyante ang maiiwan. (PIA NCR)

limitado ang kapasidad ng LTFRB sa darating na linggo, patuloy pa rin ang pagbibigay serbisyo nito sa publiko.

“Upang mabawasan ang paglabas sa mga tahanan hanggang maaari, inaanyayahan ang stakeholders na gumamit ng online transactions,” hiling ng publiko sa news release sa kanilang Facebook page.

Ayon sa LTFRB, ang mga sumusunod na transaksyon ay maaring gawin online: para sa mga sumusunod: 1.Request

Groundbreaking, project signing for new CAVITEX C5 Link segments

By Ruel B. Francisco

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite -- Cavite Infrastructure Corporation (CIC), the concessionaire of the Manila Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), and the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) held a groundbreaking ceremony for the two (2) new segments of the Cavite C5 Link Expressway July 10, 2020

During the event, the joint venture partners have also signed a contract with the consortium of A.M. Oreta & Company, Inc. and China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd. for the construction of Segment 2 and Segment 3A-2.

The construction agreement was signed by Mr. Roberto V. Bontia (CIC President and General Manager), Mr. Christopher C. Lzo (Chief Operating Officer of CIC and Chief Finance Officer of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation), Mr. Xiarun Chu (Country Manager, China Harbour), Mr. Artemio Santos (Authorized Managing Officer, AM Oreta), and Mr. Raul V. Manlapig (Managing Director, Ove Arup).

AM Oreta and China Harbour welcome the partnership with CIC and the PRA.

“We are happy to work with CIC and the PRA in helping the Philippine economy by means of faster and convenient land travel,” said Mr. Chu.

Likewise, Mr. Santos of AM Oreta shared the same insight saying, “This collaboration will alleviate the plight of the motoring public by easing vehicular movement in several key economic areas.”

Public Works & Highways Sec. Mark Villar; Parañaque City Mayor Edwin D. Olivarez; Parañaque City First and Second District Representatives Eric D. Olivarez and Joy Tambunting; Atty. Janilo Rubiato, PRA General Manager, and Mr. Rodrigo E. Franco, President of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation

for Special Permit; 2. Correction of Typographical Error; 3. Request for Confirmation of Unit/s; 4. Request for Franchise Verification; 5. Request for Issuance or Extension Provisional Authority; 6. Legal Concerns/Query on Hearing Schedule, Status.

Mangyari lamang na sundin ang mga instructions na makikita sa link na ito: <https://www.facebook.com/.../p.26284342107.../2628434210731824/...>

Para naman sa mga stakeholders na nasa LTFRB NCR ang records, maaari din mag-transact sa pamamagitan ng kanilang Public Transport Online Processing System (PTOPS) na matatagpuan sa link na ito: <https://ncr-ltfrb.pisopay.com.ph/enHini>

Matatandaang nagsara

(MPTC) were among the VIPs in attendance in the event.

The Cavite C5 Link Expressway is a 7.70 kilometer dual three-lane expressway that runs from R-1 Parañaque Toll Plaza to C-5 Road in Taguig with Segment 2, a 1.9 kilometer expressway that will run from R-1 Expressway to Sucat Interchange while Segment 3A-2 is the 1.6 kilometer expressway that will run from Merville to RSG Subdivision in Parañaque.

These segments are expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2022 and anticipated to reduce travel time to Makati and Taguig cities from the cities of Parañaque, Las Piñas, and Cavite province by 30 minutes, and play a huge role in economic development.

DPWH Sec. Mark Villar said, “These projects will decongest EDSA and Sales Road in Pasay City by about 50,000 vehicles per day, and connect major business districts in Taguig and Makati to Parañaque, Las Piñas, and Cavite.”

“Continuing with BBB (Build, Build, Build) activities will help spur economic growth to get us back on track from the effects of the pandemic,” Villar added.

MPTC officials Mr. Franco and Mr. Bontia highlighted the significant benefit the completion of these projects will bring to the economy and to the country as well.

Mr. Franco said, “These new segments will play a huge role in our national recovery, as we continue to seek ways to help the Filipino people cushion the impact of COVID-19.”

Similarly, Mr. Bontia shared, “Once operational, Segments 2 and 3A-2 of CAVITEX C5 Link Expressway will help provide fast, safe, and efficient movement of people and goods, and create at least 1,000 new jobs in construction, operations and maintenance.” (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with reports from MPTC)

ang ahensya nitong nakaraang linggo upang magsagawa ng masusing disinfection sa mga pasilidad matapos makumpirma ang mga positibong kaso ng Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) sa ilang empleyado na sumailalim sa RT-PCR swab testing ng Philippine Red Cross, katuwang ang Philippine Coast Guard.

Para sa kapakanan ng mga empleyado at stakeholders, sinisigurado naman ng ahensya na patuloy nitong paghihigpitan ang pagpapatupad ng public health and safety protocols tulad ng social distancing, pagsusuot ng face mask, paghuhugas ng kamay, paggamit ng alcohol at sanitizer, at regular na pag-disinfect ng opisina. (LTFRB/PIA-NCR)

Police arrests parents of minors caught violating quarantine protocols in Manila

By Susan G. De Leon

CALOOCAN CITY – Some 34 parents of minors who have been caught violating quarantine protocols in Manila were arrested by the police last night.

Earlier, Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso warned parents and guardians that their neglect of children is a violation of the Anti-Child Endangerment Act.

Domagoso said that the city government is serious in implementing its policies particularly in this time of pandemic.

“Kailangan matuto ang mga magulang na disiplinahan ang kanilang mga anak,” Domagoso said.

“I have to bite the bullet, I have to implement the law to keep the order in Manila,” he added.

Domagoso said that the

city government has no choice but to intervene if parents allow their children to leave their homes without face mask during curfew hours.

“We’re not happy about it. I am not happy. I don’t want to separate children and parents. But I will do that if you’re irresponsible parents,” the mayor said.

“I will intervene as government to take care of our children or minors. That is also the job of the government, to intervene,” he added.

The Manila Police District and Manila Department of Social Welfare said the arrests were made in the following the barangays: 50, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56, 61, 221, 228.

The arrested parents will face charges in violation of City Ordinance No. 8243 or the Anti-Child Endangerment Act. (PIO Manila/PIA-NCR)



Parents of minors who were caught violating quarantine protocols in Manila were arrested and will face charges in violation of City Ordinance No. 8243 or the Anti-Child Endangerment Act. (Photo credit: PIO Manila)

LGU Bacoor... *from page 1*

The order also states that the Zapote 1 Barangay Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT), in coordination with the City Health Office (CHO) and the City Contact Tracing Team (CTT) shall continue to carry out inventory and surveillance of the concerned households in this critical zone, conduct case finding and investigation in search of more household members having symptoms.

A Strict Stay at Home Order for all residents which means that no one, not even Authorized Persons Outside Residence (APOR) will not be allowed to leave their homes with all Quarantine ID Passes of households within the containment area are suspended.

The local government will provide food packs that will be distributed and rationed for all houses within the containment

zone within the lockdown period including maintenance medicines that will be bought for and/or delivered by Barangay Health Workers who shall give out a contact number for the said purpose. Other essential supplies may be arranged for delivery.

Meanwhile, transportation vehicles shall not be allowed within the lockdown area even when used for personal purposes but vehicles of the Barangay can be used by designated persons who shall go to the market or stores to buy food and other essentials for and in behalf of the contained residents. Disinfection of all areas visited by the confirmed cases shall be conducted within 24 - 48 hours by the City-ENRO.

Likewise, home quarantining/home isolation of all suspected, probable and confirmed cases are strictly not

allowed and will be admitted to the Community Isolation Unit (CIU) or hospital depending on the physical assessment of the City Health Officer, based on DOH protocols.

The City Social Welfare and Development Officers (CSWDO), and the Emergency Operations Center are directed to implement programs and inventory logistics for the provision of assistance to the Barangay LGU and to the residents of the Zapote 1-P CrZ who are most affected by the lockdown and confinement of the barangay.

The enforcement of this order will be carried out by all the Barangay Officials, the Bacoor PNP and other duly delegated local enforcers to ensure that compliance of all confinement regulations by the residents are done. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with reports from PIO Bacoor)

DA....

lalo na nga nasa quarantine period pa rin po tayo,” he shared.

(The DA has always been helping us ornamental plant growers, especially when we were affected by the volcanic eruption. We are pleased that the plastic, seedlings, and organic fertilizers we received have increased. This is a big help to our family especially now that we are still in the quarantine period.)

A similar activity was held June 3, 2020 thru the initiative of Representative Dahlia Loyola. Farmers received 4,200 bags of agricultural lime, 800nbags of plant growth enhancer, 25,000 pieces of Liberica-Coffee, 6,000 pieces of Banana Tissue Culture, Assorted Cut Flower and vegetable seeds, 1,200 seeding trays, black net, and UV plastics.

Rep. Loyola highlighted the importance of local food production stating, “that people need to be self-sufficient as the current pandemic caused disruption to the supply chain.”

On the other hand, the DA’s distribution of free vegetable seeds in support of its

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Plant, Plant, Plant Program that promotes urban gardening had helped not only farmers in the town but also private citizens like housewives, displaced employees from the community quarantine and other residents.

Lilibeth Pudadera, a housewife who received free vegetable seedlings said, “Thank you so much DA Calabarzon for the vegetable seeds you are continuously distributing. Kahit papaano ay nakakawala ng stress ang mag urban gardening lalo na ngayong pandemya at may aasahan pa kaming makakain, makalipas pa ang ilang araw. We will support Plant,Plant,Plant program all the way. May God bless us all.” (Urban gardening somehow relieves our stress especially now that there’s a pandemic and we will have something to eat after a few days.)

Aside from mentioned interventions, farmers can also avail of crop loans under the SURE-AID credit loan by the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (CIC), free cocoa seedlings with training for cocoa farming, and other planting materials. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with reports from the official FB page of the Municipal Agriculture Office - Silang)

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The DILG chief said coronavirus patients will be brought to Ligas Centers as a precautionary measure to curtail transmission and most importantly, to ensure that they are well taken care of as these isolation centers are equipped to handle their medical needs as opposed to practicing home quarantine.

He said COVID-19 patients should not fear being placed under a COVID-19 Ligas facility as all their needs, including their food will be

LGU...

from page 1

damaged on Block 43; P25,000 to 5 households that were partially damaged; and P210,000 for the 21 households renting.

The families also received assistance from the office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) who gave 144 packs of Family Food packs; 144 pcs. of sleeping kits; 144 cartons of family kits; and 288 pcs. of bottled water and ready-to-eat

provided for.

“Ito ang siguradong paraan para mabantayan natin at matalo natin ang virus na ito,” he said.

Home quarantine, on the other hand, he said, was seen to have been a contributory factor in the spread of the coronavirus in the community as some residences do not have dedicated areas to isolate their infected relatives, hence, leading to more cases.

“Ito po ay tungkulin ng inyong pamahalaan sa ating mga mamamayan na naayon sa batas lalo na ngayong panahon ng krisis at kayo ay lumalaban sa isang pandemia. Makipagtulungan po tayo sa gobyerno dahil ang kapakanan at kalusugan ng buong komunidad na ang nakasalalay,” Año said.

food.

Meanwhile, the neighboring city of Imus thru the office of Congressman Alex ‘AA’ Advincula and represented by Councilors AJ Advincula and Tito Monzon lend a hand in the distribution and also gave food packs and relief goods for the affected families.

In a separate occasion, representatives from the office of Senator Bong Go came to visit the fire victims and gave financial

aid amounting to P5,000 and food packs for each family.

The Bautista fire victims are still sheltered in the five barangay covered courts in the city were they were immediately evacuated and given collapsible tents to allow social distancing.

Mayor Barzaga assured the local government will continue to help especially in the processing of documents they lost during the fire. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with report from Dennis Abrina)

House.....

not only to closely monitor and treat them, but also for good of the community.

“This move is plainly to ensure that COVID-19 patients will be attended to and that they will not spread the virus to their families and the community,” he said.

“Kapag nasa Ligas Centers sila, mas mababantayan at maaalagaan sila doon at higit sa lahat, maliit na ang chance na maikalat nila ang virus sa kanilang pamilya,” he added.

11332. He said that patients who tested positive and are medically proven to be carriers and still refuse to be taken to Ligas Centers are “actually committing a crime”.

“Under the warrantless arrest rule, puwede ho kayong arestuhin, pero hindi kayo dadalhin sa kulungan kasi maiinfect yung mga nandoon. Dadalhin kayo sa quarantine facilities,” Cayoso pointed out.

To recall, a person is allowed to do home quarantine if he has a separate room where the patient can be confined; if the patient has his own comfort room; and if he is not living with people who are more vulnerable to COVID-19 such as senior citizens and immune-compromised individuals, among others. (PIA NCR)

He explained that Republic Act No 11332 provides legal authority for quarantine and isolation purposes and penalizes non-cooperation of persons who have a notifiable disease or are affected by a health event of public concern.

According to Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) president Domingo Egon Cayoso, “enforcing the law is part of the state’s power,” explaining that conducting house-to-house visits to find COVID-19 patients is in accordance with the law granting public health authorities the power to ensure quarantine and isolation.

Cayoso further explained that non-cooperation can be sanctioned by a fine of P20,000 to P50,000 and/or imprisonment of one to six months under RA

Ang
CAVITENO

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EDITORIAL

Keeping in step with the 'pandemic dance'

INDEED, opening up the entire country only to see a big surge in infections would put everybody in great peril.

Four months after placing the country in various modes of quarantines, President Duterte continues to do a great balancing act between health and the economy.

While his economic managers believe the economy is showing signs of recovery, the effects of the ongoing pandemic continue unabated, with cases still rising in several hotspots in the country.

This has thrown the President and his team into a perpetual dilemma of when to fully open up the economy and tread the path to recovery. It's been a roller-coaster ride so to speak.

The past few days saw the country's total infections rising to over 58,850 cases with 20,979 recoveries and 1,614 deaths.

Yet, despite these scary figures, presidential spokesman Harry Roque said there is nothing to worry as testing capacity has gone up to 11 million. He added that local laboratories have a maximum capacity of 74,304 tests per day, although this has not been maximized.

The country, he pointed out, has an additional 10 million RT-PCR tests and about 250,000 more rapid test kits available. With over 800,000 individuals tested so far, Roque expressed confidence that the government is winning the fight against the new coronavirus.

After the 0.2 percent economic contraction during the first three months of the year — which included the first two weeks of a Luzon-wide lockdown — the economy seems to be en route to a gradual recovery, the economic team, meantime, says.

"The monthly data coming out on trade, on production are actually starting to show improvements. From the deepest contraction in April, we are seeing still a contraction in May, but improving," Acting Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua explained during a pre-State of the Nation Address forum.

A significant part of the economy has been loosened up since Luzon was first put on lockdown middle of March. These, the team says, are important elements to suggest that the economy is starting to recover. How soon or how fast the country reaches positive territory, according to Chua, will depend on how we will proactively respond with the recovery program and how the public will react by cooperating, maintaining minimum health standards and ensuring that they care for each other.

In his public address aired on state television, the President said the country must be "circumspect" in gradually opening the economy to curb the spread of the coronavirus. As the country remains on the first wave of transmission, Duterte admitted it would be difficult to deal with a sharp surge in infections due to the government's limited funds. "We have to be very circumspect in the opening of the economy. Dahan-dahan lang (It must be gradual). If ever there is going to be a spike again, kung marami ang infected, or reinfected, at least calibrated numbers of people allowed to go out will still be at manageable numbers," the President said.

Indeed, opening up the entire country only to see a big surge in infections would put everybody in great peril. We will be hard pressed unlike other first world countries that can afford to loosen their lockdowns and fully reopen their economies despite the raging pandemic.

Another wave of infections could be very costly. Besides, unlike Japan, South Korea, China and the United States, we don't have the money. But we should share the government optimism. The cases can keep on rising, but as long as we are protecting the vulnerable, as long as all of us are observing minimum health standards, and as we expand our testing, tracing and treatment, we can live with COVID-19. Some will say we need to "dance" with COVID-19 because it's part of Filipino culture.

As Roque himself said: When you have to live with something, just dance. That's what we'll do — we'll dance"

Okay, dance if we must. After all, we are all in this together.



KAPIRASONG Kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

Wang-wang Aswang

LAST PART

>> Ang dominante ay relihiyon ng ritwal (pagsisimba, pagdarasal, penitensya) at pananampalataya, hindi ng mga pangaral — kahit simpleng malasakit sa kapwa — at kalagayan ng buhay at lipunan. Sa isang sipi na laging ginagamit sa pag-aaral ng ideolohiya, sabi ng teologong si Blaise Pascal, "Lumuhod ka, magdasal, at maniniwala ka" — at napako na diyan ang lahat, na parang nariyan na ang kaligtasan.

>> May mga alagad ng simbahan na nagsisikap iugnay ang mga aral ng Kristiyanismo sa mga nagaganap sa buhay ng mga maralita at ng bansa — habang nananatiling malapit sa mahihirap, saksi sa mga pagdurusa nila at katuwang sa paglaban nila. Ang mga pagsisikap niya, ni Fr. Ciriaco Santiago III, mas nakikita pang umaabot sa mga taong-simbahan mismo (sa mga talakayan), sa mga progresibong organisasyon (sa mga protesta), at sa mga kaanak ng mga pinaslang — hindi pa sa malawak na hanay ng mananampalataya.

>> Ang sakal at sulasok ng espasyo ng mahihirap ay ibang-iba sa mobilidad sa sasakyan at relatibong maluwag na espasyo ng mga nasa panggitnang uri (sa kasong ito, ni Fr. Santiago), at sa malalaking tanaw sa buong lungsod ng kamera. Sa huli, hindi nakikita ang una, at sa huli nakakahinga ang mga nakakakita sa una.

>> Ang masisikip na espasyong pinaglalaman ng mahihirap ay pauna sa malapit nang kitid ng kabaong at nitso. Sa pamamagitan ng dahas at takot, ipinatanggap sa kanila ang kanilang lugar sa lipunan. Sa ganitong kalakaran, hindi aberya ang pagkidnap at iligal na pagpiit na ginawa ng kapulisan sa mahihirap sa bandang dulo ng dokumentaryo. Nasa iisang lohika ito ng pagkitil sa puwang, at sa hininga, ng mahihirap: lugar-iskwater, kulungang totoo at peke, kabaong at nitso.

>> Ang tanging saya para sa isang batang mahirap ay ang hindi pinatay ng kapulisan ang kanyang nanay, ang nakulong lang ito kumpara sa napatay, at ang nakalaya ito sa kulungan — para makasama sa araw-araw, pati sa paghahanap ng mapagkakakitaan sa basura. Sa malaking tanaw, walang pagkakaiba; pero sa tanaw niyang nasa espasyong iyun, ga-mundo ang laki ng pagkakaiba.

>> Nagbibigay ng pag-asa ang paglaban. Sa mga protesta, ang maluwag na espasyo ng lansangan ay nagiging siksik sa mga karaniwang tao, katulad ng mga espasyo ng mga maralita. Sa mga talakayan, nag-iisang diwa at katawan ang mga kalahok. Sa mga ito, nailalabas ang galit na iginugupo ng takot at dahas sa tahimik na pag-iyak, pagbulong, pagluluksa. Dito, tinutukoy at sinisingil ang pwersang nasa likod ng mga

aswang.

Maaalala sa titulo ang alamat ni Edward Lansdale, opisyal ng Central Intelligence Agency o CIA ng US, sangkot sa kampanyang kontra-insurhensya sa mga Huk, o Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan, pagkatapos ng gera. "Sa mga lugar kung saan aktibo ang mga 'Huk,' isang iskwad ng militar para sa psychological warfare ang magpapalaganap ng kwento na may aswang (bampira) na nasa kabundukan."

"Pagkatapos, magkakasa ang iskwad para sa psywar ng tambang, tahimik na susunggaban at papatayin ang huling tao sa patrulya, bubutasan nang dalawa ang leeg, at tutuyuin ang dugo ng bangkay bago ito ibalik sa daanan. Pagkatapos nito, aalis sa lugar ang mga mapamahiing Huk." Katulad ngayon, ginamit ang aswang para pigilan ang pinakamalaking kasalanan para sa mga naghahari: ang manlaban.

Ipinalabas ang "Aswang" nang online streaming sa panahong lumalawak ang kamulatan at galit sa rehimeng Duterte dahil sa kriminal na pananagutan sa pagharap sa pandemya at lantarang panunupil. Matagal nang naririnig ng marami ang mga kwento sa "gera kontra droga," pero mas bukas na ang mata, isip at puso nila ngayon. Salamat sa "Aswang" sa pagdadala sa atin sa lugar na ito.

15 Hulyo 2020

TOWN in FOCUS

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‘Malasakit’ amid the COVID-19 pandemic

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan

In spite of the COVID-19 health emergency crisis gripping the Philippines at present, there is one other reason that signifies the “malasakit” exhibited to Filipinos by the Duterte administration.

To recall, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in 2017 signed into law the Anti-Hospital Deposit Act providing that in an emergency or serious cases, it shall be unlawful for any hospital or medical clinic to request or solicit any form

of advance payment as a prerequisite for administering basic emergency care to any patient.

Republic Act 10932 amended Batas Pambansa Bilang 702 to uphold social welfare for the disadvantaged or indigent communities by prohibiting the demand or acceptance of deposits or advance payments as prerequisite for administering basic emergency patient care and medical treatment, including confinement; and the refusal to administer emergency medical treatment or support to a patient in a hospital or medical clinic.

If the hospital or clinic

lacks medical capabilities, however, the attending physician may transfer the patient to a facility where proper care may be given, provided:

1. Both the patient or his/her next of kin and the receiving hospital or clinic agree to the transfer; however, if the patient is incapable of giving consent and/or unaccompanied, consent is not required;
2. Basic emergency care and procedures have been administered to stabilize the patient; and,
3. The patient’s transfer entails lesser risks than his/her continued confinement.

Violators of the Act

Whether a medical practitioner, an employee, or official of the hospital or medical clinic, the law provides that violators of the measure will be punished by imprisonment of at least six months and one day to two years and four months, and/or a fine of at least P100,000 to P300,000. Further, directors or officers of hospitals or clinics responsible for formulating and implementing any policy contrary to this Act will be penalized by imprisonment of four to six years, and/or a fine of at least P500,000 to P1,000,000.

Three repeated violations arising from an established policy of the hospital or clinic or upon the instruction of its management will result in the revocation of the health facility’s license to operate by the Department

of Health, and will make the president, chairman, board of directors, or trustees, and other officers solitarily liable for damages the Court may award to the patient-complainant.

To support the implementation of this Act, however, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) has been designated to provide medical help for basic emergency care, while the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) will reimburse the cost of basic emergency care, including transportation services, given to poor and indigent patients.

Meanwhile, as a tax incentive to hospitals and medical clinics, other related expenses which are not reimbursed by PhilHealth will be treated as a deduction from gross income for income tax purposes. (PIA NCR)

CAVITEVIEW

UPLB ensures safety of communities surrounding testing facility

By Rachel Joy Gabrido

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) ensures that the opening of a testing facility for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in their premise is safe for the surrounding communities.

UPLB Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension Dr. Rex Demafelis, who is also the Chair of Task Force Laban ng Bayan Kontra COVID-19, affirmed that the biosafety of the newly inaugurated UPLB COVID-19 Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory (CMDL) was designed in a heightened level to make sure the communities around the facility are safe from contamination.

“This laboratory is not only a biosafety level 2 as required by the Department of Health (DOH), this is biosafety laboratory (level) 2 enhanced,” the Task Force Chair explained in an interview after the inaugural program of the testing facility.

The facility employs three levels of protection for the safety of their staff such as their personal protective equipment (PPEs), a biosafety cabinet, and a negative pressure room designed

especially for the inspection room.

Meanwhile, for the community, he said they set-up two levels of protection including the biosafety cabinet and a negative pressure with stop gas chamber that has a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, which is a high efficiency filter that strains microorganisms before releasing the air outside the facility.

“So, that’s its second level of protection to the community,” he stated.

Biosafety cabinets are a variety of containment devices equipped with HEPA filter which are designed to provide protection to personnel or both the personnel and the product from any kind of biohazardous materials (A Guide to Biosafety & Biological Safety Cabinets).

As defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), “a negative pressure system is a system that ventilates air out of the laboratory. This air passes through a HEPA filter that prevents microorganisms that are spread outside the laboratory.”

He also added, “As you can see there are some buildings here, these are research buildings, so you

have to protect not only the people inside but also the people outside or the community as far as Bae (the town next to Los Baños).”

Dr. Demafelis said the system and levels of protection they have established in their laboratories especially the UPLB CMDL ensures that their personnel and the communities outside will be safe once they start receiving specimens for testing.

UPLB’s mission

Dr. Fernando Sanchez, UPLB Chancellor,

emphasized that testing suspected COVID-19 cases and isolating and providing the best available care to the infected remain to be important practices in mitigating the spread of the virus as the possibility of coming up with a vaccine is still several months away.

“However, despite the challenges that COVID-19 brings as in any crisis, Filipinos have always proven to rise to the occasion. We pull our resources together to respond and extend our help to where it is needed the most.”

This is what UPLB has committed to do. They have pulled their resources to put-up a highly proficient testing center.

Being known for its expertise in the sciences and to further contribute to the country’s battle to control and eradicate

COVID-19, the Chancellor has formally presented the UPLB CMDL.

The UPLB CMDL is a core project of the UPLB Task Force Laban ng Bayan COVID-19 which upholds the mission to provide expert assistance to the country’s effort to fight COVID-19.

UPLB has ensured that the facility is not only up to the required standard for analyzing COVID-19 test materials but also has the necessary staff to complement, and to be proficiently and highly capable of carrying out analysis and tasks expected from them as a subnational COVID-19 testing center, Sanchez affirmed.

The facility will officially start accepting testing clinical specimens of COVID-19 on July 13, 2020. (Joy Gabrido/PIA4A)



The proficient and highly capable personnel of the UPLB CMDL. (Photo by PIA4A)

PIDS recommends a more inclusive agricultural insurance

By Melva C. Gayta

THE agricultural sector suffers most due to severe weather disturbances because many agricultural regions in the country lie, specifically, along the path of typhoons, this causes agricultural losses and productivity.

According to Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS), agricultural insurance is used as a mechanism for managing risk, providing a safety net for agricultural producers and crucial is the concerted efforts of stakeholders.

PIDS President Dr. Celia M. Reyes, together with her colleagues (Aubrey D. Tabuga, Nicoli Arthur B. Borromeo, Arkin A. Arboneda, and Carlos C. Cabaero) conducted a study titled, "Towards a More Inclusive Agricultural Insurance Program."

This study examined the implementation of agricultural insurance services under the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), particularly the issues and opportunities affecting the impact and inclusiveness of these programs.

The PCIC is the government entity mandated to provide agricultural insurance services particularly to small farmers and fisherfolk. Unfortunately, not all farmers and fisherfolk, particularly the smallholders, are able to benefit from this mechanism, said the study.

With PCIC, insurance is based on the cost of production inputs (if the farmer is self-financed) or amount of loan (if a farmer is borrowing).

For the Regular Insurance Program, for instance, rice and corn insurance, the premium rate is variable per region, season, and risk classification.

Premium rates are shared by the farmer, lending institution (if borrowing), and the government. For other insurance lines, the premium is borne solely by the farmer. In addition to the regular insurance programs, PCIC also offers Special Programs wherein insurance premium is fully subsidized.

Agri Insurance has grown in the years using the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) program. Farmers are prioritized based on their location and size of farm landholding. The amount of cover or insurance benefits for a borrowing farmer is the amount of loan which is subject to cover ceiling per hectare, and the self-financed farmer or those not borrowing gets a maximum of P20,000 per hectare; with this, we can see that the maximum cover is way beyond the production cost.

For 2019, the bulk (2.2M out of the 3.1M) of insured farmers and fisherfolk are enrolled in the special program; which means the national government or PCIC

and other NGA is paying for the premium. Only 854,000 are enrolled in regular programs.

The number of insured farmers is significantly increasing but Dr. Reyes would say these are 3.1M number of policies and not 3.1M number of farmers. Farmers may have more than one policy.

The RSBSA is used as the main targeting tool for the provision of free agricultural insurance coverage.

Although the RSBSA is the largest known registry of agriculture producers nationwide, there is a need to validate the database.

Earlier studies found that there are leakages (non-Agri producers listed in the registry) and exclusion (legitimate Agri producers not listed in the registry).

As the main tool used for the provision of free agricultural insurance, the RSBSA must be updated to reflect changes in the composition of the Agri sector. The PCIC-Planning and Management Information Office (PMIO) analyzed the RSBSA list of farmers and fisherfolks, and adjusted for name duplication, reducing the list from 13.5M to 10.9M but further validation still

has to be done.

With all these findings, PIDS has the following recommendations for a more inclusive Agri insurance program:

- As the main tool used for the provision of free agricultural insurance,
 - o The RSBSA must be updated to reflect changes in the composition of Agri sector;
 - o The newly institutionalized COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM (CBMS) may be utilized to identify and geotag agricultural households in the country.
 - Improve penetration rates and targeting of beneficiaries for free insurance
 - o PCIC can establish more partnerships with other institutions in providing information dissemination and assistance
 - Increase insurance cover by partnering with LGUs, and encouraging farmers to pay for insurance.
- For the full text of this study, click here to download: <https://www.pids.gov.ph/publications/6938> (MCG/PIA-IDPD/PIDS)



(PIA NCR)

Free internet access aids public in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan

Did you know? That President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has signed the revised Republic Act 10929 in August 2017, also known as the "Free Internet Access in Public Places Act" in his administration's bid accelerate the Philippine

government's efforts in enhancing internet accessibility for Filipinos, according to a Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) post on Wednesday, July 15.

The Act mandates the government, including local government units (LGUs), to provide free internet access in government offices and public places.

The measure, that now mandates both national and local governments has been seen to bolster further economic, social, and educational opportunities, and bridge the digital divide, especially amid the current COVID-19 pandemic. With more public areas slated to have enhanced internet connectivity, the move is expected to aid in the exchange of timely and important information during this crucial time.

While the country prepares for a shift from the conventional face-to-face classes to a "blended" learning modality in light of the coronavirus health emergency the government will provide free internet access in schools in support of the online distance learning.

To ensure the productivity by internet users riding on the free wifi access, however, the Act also sets the minimum internet speed per user in accordance with the National Broadband Plan, which should be at least two megabits per second (2 Mbps).

Under the law, the following areas will get free internet access:

- National and local government offices
- Public basic education institutions
- State universities and colleges
- Technology institutions
- Public hospitals, health centers, and rural health units
- Public parks, plazas, libraries, and barangay reading centers
- Public airports and seaports
- Public transport terminals

The measure, however, prohibits access to pornographic or lewd websites.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) will be the lead agency to oversee the effective and efficient implementation of the law. (PIA NCR)

Word Search Puzzle

Nursing Home 1

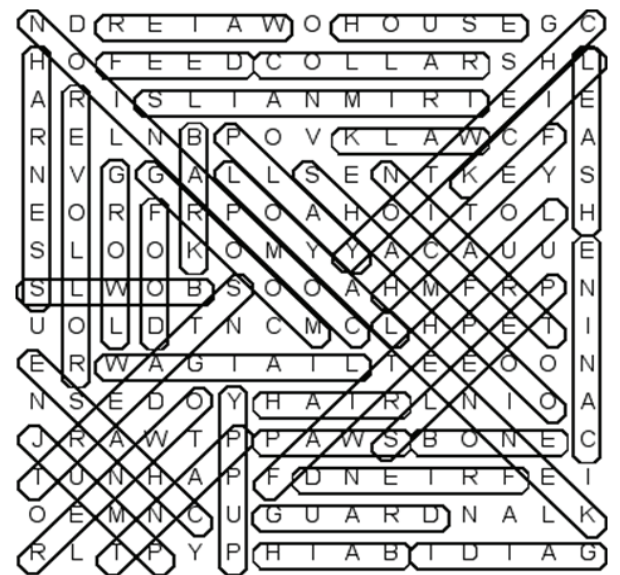
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 47 letters spell a Mother Theresa quotation.

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

- ACTIVITIES
- AIDES
- ASPIRIN
- BATHROOM
- BEDRAIL
- BEDS
- BOARD GAMES
- BULLETIN
- BOARD
- CANE
- CARE
- CASE MEETING
- CHARTS
- COMFORT
- DENTURES
- DINING ROOM
- DOCTOR
- DRUGS
- EXERCISE
- FALLS
- FLU SHOT
- FRAIL
- GLUCOSE
- METER
- HAIRDRESSER
- HALLWAYS
- HELP
- INCONTINENCE
- LAUNDRY
- LINERS
- MAGAZINES

- MEDICAL GLOVES
- MEMORY LOSS
- MOISTURIZER
- MUSIC
- NAIL CLIPPERS
- NEEDLE
- NURSES
- OUTINGS
- PET THERAPY
- PHYSIOTHERAPIST
- PUZZLES
- READING
- RESIDENTS
- ROUNDS
- SCRUBBLE
- SCRUBS
- SENIORS
- SHAVE
- SHOWER
- SING ALONG
- SLEEPING PILL
- STAFF MEETINGS
- SUPPER
- TABLES
- TELEVISION
- TRANSFER BELT
- URINAL
- VOLUNTEERS
- WANDERING
- WHEELCHAIR

Sagot sa nakaraan



Sudoku

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

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

HINT

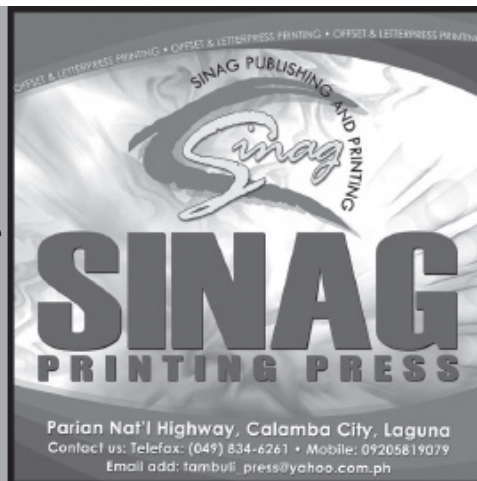
32		14	22		23	33	7	8
24		15		25	16			2
34			35	47	36	37	3	
57	38			48	29		40	41
49	50	5	42	51	43	6	52	53
54	55		44	56			45	46
	26	17	27	28	18			29
19			30	9		1		20
31	21	12	10		4	11		13

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.

VOLUME XXXVII No. 02 Hulyo 20-26, 2020 P6.00

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Ayuda sa private schools dahil sa mababang enrollment, isinulong

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan

LUNGSOD CALOOCAN -- Dahil sa umano'y mababang bilang ng mga nag-enroll sa pribadong paaralan bunsod ng COVID-19 pandemic, isinusulong ngayon ng isang senador ang pagsuporta ng pamahalaan sa mga naturang private schools.

Ayon kay Senador Win Gatchalian, mahalagang mabigyang suporta ng pamahalaan ang mga pribadong paaralan, lalo na at wala pang dalawampu't limang (24.3) porsyento sa mahigit apat na milyong nag-enroll noong nakaraang taon ang nagpatala para sa pagbubukas ng klase sa darating na Agosto.

"Ang mga pribadong paaralan

ay ating mga katuwang sa pagbibigay ng dekalidad na edukasyon sa ating mga kabataan. Upang hindi matigil ang kanilang pagbibigay ng edukasyon, kailangang ipagpatuloy natin ang pagbibigay ng tulong sa kanila habang nasa gitna tayo ng krisis na dulot ng COVID-19," ani Gatchalian, na Chairperson ng Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture, sa kalatas na ipinadala sa PIA-NCR, Huwebes.

Batay sa tala, umabot sa mahigit dalawampung milyon (20,220,507) ang bilang ng mga nagpa-enroll noong Hulyo 15, ngunit mahigit isang milyon (1,050,437) lamang sa mga ito ang papasok sa mga pribadong

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Si Senator Sherwin "Win" Gatchalian habang nasa isang press conference sa labas ng Metro Manila kamakailan. (Kuha ng Tanggapan ni Senator Win Gatchalian)

OFWs, benepisyaryo maaari nang magbukas ng account sa OFBank gamit ang cellphone

By Nonette N. Castilio

LUNGSOD CALOOCAN -- Dahil sa bagong digital system ng Overseas Filipino Bank (OFBank), maaaring magbukas ng bagong account ang mga overseas Filipinos, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), at ang kanilang beneficiaries sa pamamagitan ng kanilang mobile banking app sa Android o Apple mobile phone.

Ito ang ibinalita kahapon, Biyernes, ni OFBank president and CEO Leila Martin, sa kanyang interbyu sa Laging Handa Public Briefing, na ang lahat umano ng mga requirements para sa pagbubukas ng account ay kailangan lamang ipasa sa pamamagitan ng app.

Gayundin, nagpahayag si Martin ng ilang bagong programa ng naturang bangko hinggil sa online banking.

Sinabi ng opisyal na itong bagong virtual account opening platform ay suportado ng Artificial Intelligence at "lahat ng Filipino, saan mang sulok ng mundo, ganun ang kanilang mga benepisyaryo ay maaari nang makagamit nito sa pamamagitan lamang ng kanilang mga cellphone gamit ang app na ito."

"Ang OFB ay ang dating Philippine Postal Savings Bank na

kumakailangan lang ay inilunsad ang OFBank bilang isang digital only bank sa pamamagitan ng Executive Order #44 noong September 2017," ani Martin.

"At simula nung ito ay nailunsad at nag bukas kami sa digital banking ay nakakatanggap na kami ng 300 new accounts opening dito sa bagong platform natin," pahayag niya.

Aniya, ang mga bagong virtual account ay ang OFBank Visa Debit Card para sa mga overseas Filipinos at OFWs, ang OFBank Visa Debit Card para sa kanilang mga benepisyaryo, at ang OFBank Debit Card na para naman sa kanilang mga beneficiaries na 18 years old and below.

"Lahat ng Pinoy (OFW) ngayon ay kailangan ng ganitong produkto na naka link sa kanilang mga benepisyaryo na kung saan kapag nakapag padala sila ay maaarin na itong ma withdraw ng kanilang mga benepisyaryo on the same day na ito ay naipadala." dagdag ni Martin.

Ang app na ito ay madaling ma download (sa Google at Apple Store) at kaaabikat dito ang E-banking services na mayroon ng mahigit 500 merchants na kung saan maaari silang magbayad ng bills o

continue to page 2

'House-to-house' COVID search by police, military part of disinformation drive--DILG chief

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan

CALOOCAN CITY -- Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo M. Año on Thursday dismissed as fake news and part of a disinformation campaign by unscrupulous individuals some reports insisting government will do "house-to-house" search for coronavirus positive patients to be led by the police or the military in police-type operations.

Año, however, did not

name names but emphasized that local health workers, who have been tasked to lead COVID-19 surveillance teams, will not do "house-to-house" probing, as not all households would need to be visited.

The team headed by the local government unit's (LGUs) Local Epidemiological Surveillance Units (LESU), he said, would only visit those listed as COVID positive in the community.

"Hindi po natin uubusin ang oras ng ating LESU sa pag-

isa-isa ng mga bahay ng mga tao. Ito po ay fake news. Tanging yung mga na-test po na positive na kasama sa kanilang listahan lamang at hindi makakapag-comply sa minimum requirement para payagang makapag-home quarantine ang ating dadalhin sa mga Ligtas Center," he said.

At the same time, Año said the transfer of patients to COVID Ligtas Centers or isolation centers under the government's "Oplan Kalinga" program is urgent and necessary

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Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo M. Año