

TOWN in FOCUS

157K CALABARZON vaccinees receive COVID jabs
p.5

What's Inside?

- DILG sets guidelines for community pantries.... p 2
- PCG personnel, nag-donate ng convalescent plasma..p 3
- Kapisang kritika p 4

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Bayanihan inspired community pantries sprout in Cavite

the province especially in the upland towns of Magallanes, Amadeo, and Ternate thru the efforts of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) youth councils and other volunteers.

By Ruel B. Francisco

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite -- The Bayanihan spirit inspired by the community pantry in Maginhawa Street in Quezon City had spread like wildfire across the province with private individuals and organizations donating food to help those who are heavily affected by the quarantine.

Community pantries sprouted like mushroom in

Fruit stand owners in the city of Tagaytay give out fruits and vegetables while a group called 'Tropang Pugon' continue to receive donations of vegetables, rice, and other food items for the weekly visit of their mobile community pantry in the different barangays in Tagaytay.

In Alfonso town, the The Sharing Table (TST) initiated by

continue to page 3



Photo courtesy of PIA CALABARZON

70K Imuseño families receive cash aid, 35K still in process

By Ruel B. Francisco

IMUS CITY, Cavite -- More or less 70,000 families in the city had received the Cash Ayuda from the national government or the Lingap Imuseño cash aid based on the updated master list of beneficiaries verified and encoded by the Lingap Center established by the city government.

City Councilor Emoy Francisco reported the status of the cash aid distribution in the

weekly FB Live of Imus Mayor Emmanuel Maliksi on April 24, 2021. He explained the tedious task of validation of the families in the master list from the DSWD based on the CBMS data.

"Napakahalaga po nang ginagawang pagproseso ng checking at rechecking ng mga nakalap na datos mula sa mga nagrehistrong pamilyang benepisyaryo para po makuha natin ang tamang bilang ng miyembro nang bawat pamilya na

siya namang i-encode sa Lingap Center para po makapasok sa portal," Francisco elaborated.

Francisco said the processing of data from each barangays of almost 35,000 families in the city will continue which started Monday, April 26, 2021 to expedite the distribution of the financial aid to the remaining beneficiaries.

The updated and correct data will then be used as the basis for the ONE Cash Card system

continue to page 3

LGU Imus City inoculates senior citizens thru house to house

By Ruel B. Francisco

IMUS CITY, Cavite -- The city government here commenced the house-to-house inoculation of senior citizens who are not capable of being physically present in the city's vaccination site.

Mayor Emmanuel L. Maliksi together with Vice Mayor Ony Cantimbuhan, City Health Officer Dr. Randy Calingasan and the CHO staff personally visited the houses of identified senior citizens in Barangays Pasong Buaya 2 and Buhay na Tubig on April 22.

Dr. Calingasan administered the CoViD-19 vaccine jab to Danny Felomino and to his 65 year old wife who had been bedridden for four

years now after suffering a stroke.

"Katulad kong may pasyente pang inaalagaan, mahirap na sa akin para lumabas kaya mas mabuti ngang magbahay-bahay na lang," Felomino said during his interview by ABS-CBN reporter Dennis Datu.

(Like me, I still have a patient being cared for, it's hard for me to get out so it's better to just go from house-to-house.)

Vice Mayor Ony Cantimbuhan explained, "As long as they are sick and it is difficult for them to go out and of course, it is safer that they do not go out. So, we will just go to their house and administer the vaccine."

The house-to-house

continue to page 3

EPD namahagi ng food packs, health kits sa mga barangay

By Jimmy E. Guzman

QUEZON CITY – Namahagi ng mga food packs at health kits ang mga kawani ng Eastern Police District (EPD) bilang ayuda sa 1,300 pamilya.

Ayon sa EPD, ang mga food packs at health kits ay ibinahagi sa mga piling barangay sa nasasakupan nito, lalo sa mga lugar na mas marami ang nangangailangan ng tulong.

Layunin ng gawaing ito na pag-ibayuhin ang Bayanihan spirit lalo na ngayong panahon ng pandemya, at upang mahikayat pa ang ibang mamamayan na tumulong sa

mga nangangailangan nating mga kababayan.

"Maliban sa pinaigting na Anti-Criminality Operations, Peace and Order at iba pang regular na trabaho ng kapulisan, ang EPD ay patuloy na makikiisa lalo na sa pagbibigay ng ayuda sa ating mga kababayan upang makatulong kahit sa kaunting paraan," pahayag ni EPD District Director Police Brigadier General Matthew P. Baccay.

Ang mga ipapamahagi na ayuda ay naglalaman ng limang kilong bigas per pack, groceries, facemask at faceshield. (PIA NCR)



Photo courtesy of EPD Facebook



PIA NCR file

Bong....

via ambulance to the Allegiant Regional Care Hospital and Mactan-Benito Ebuena Airbase Hospital in the said city.

"Napakabilis lang ng aming interaksyon dahil ayokong makasagabal sa kanila at para madala na sila agad sa ospital," said Go.

"Fake news ang kumakalat na pinaghintay sila. Kahit tanungin niyo po ang Air Force personnel na nandoodon. Huwag ninyong baluktutin ang pangyayari dahil sa pagnanais naming makatulong sa ating kasundaluhan na nagbubuwis ng buhay para sa bayan," he appealed.

Go's description of the events was corroborated in a separate statement by Colonel Antonio Francisco, chief of command staff of the PAF's Air

from page 8

Mobility Command, who was with the Senator at the time.

"Sabi niya 'pwede ba akong lumapit, pwede ko bang tingnan 'yung mga pasyente?' Sabi ko, 'sir, wala namang problema'. At that very instant, very instantaneous, tumakbo na siya doon sa ambulance. So, ako naman nagulat ako, hinabol ko siya. During these very challenging times sa ating bansa, siguro maganda nalang 'yung magtutulong tayo. Kung may maganda tayong ginagawa, 'wag na natin hanapan ng masama pa,'" said Col. Francisco.

Based on official reports, the PAF helicopter crashed after running into turbulence during a routine maintenance flight. The pilot, identified as Captain Aurelios Olano, died while the remaining three personnel were hurt. The rescued PAF personnel

were first taken to the President Carlos P. Garcia Memorial Hospital in Talibon, Bohol before being transferred to Cebu.

All injured personnel are out of danger now and recuperating, as per the latest government update.

Following the incident, the Senator's office provided financial assistance to the survivors and wife of the lone victim who died. Meanwhile, the Office of the President also extended separate aid. Go committed to provide further assistance if necessary to ensure the survivors' full recovery and well-being.

"K a s a l u k u y a n g binabantayan namin ang kanilang kalagayan para masigurong gumaling sila agad. Anumang kailangan pa nila ay handa kaming tumulong," he reassured. (OSBG)

DILG sets guidelines for community pantries

By Lucia F. Broño

CALOOCAN CITY -- Community pantry organizers will now have to follow the guidelines set by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to ensure orderly distribution of goods, as well as, maintaining public health and safety amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

DILG Secretary Eduardo Año presented the guidelines to President Rodrigo Duterte during yesterday's (April 28) PRRD's Talk To The People program.

Secretary Año said, "There should be a standard that must be followed in setting up community pantries. The foremost of which is the safety of everybody, be it the organizers or, the beneficiaries."

"No permit is required, but close coordination with the concerned local government unit is a must. This is to ensure compliance to existing laws and ordinances particularly in the prevention of the transmission of the COVID-19 virus," the Secretary stressed.

Among the guidelines are the following:

- No harmful or illegal goods should be distributed and this includes cigarette and alcoholic drinks;
- No fee should be asked even by the LGU, and
- Close coordination with the concerned LGU must be

done.

Año explained the importance of close coordination with the LGU to prevent any untoward incident from happening and to ensure that COVID-19 infections will be kept in check.

He said the LGU will locate the place where to hold the pantry within the community.

They can also give links where to get goods for distribution within the community so that this will also help the economy of the LGU concerned, he added.

The LGU, he said, will also give the needed order and security and a system to be able to reach beneficiaries who cannot get out of their homes.

The community pantry should be localized or announcements of the activity should be within the community itself. This is to avoid flocking in of people from other places causing long lines under the heat of the sun where it can be a possible virus spreader, he further said.

He said among other things, "walang epal" or putting up of signages, names, posters of people especially politicians in the vicinity of the community pantries.

The guideline was crafted in adherence to the President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's order to ensure orderly distribution stringent adherence to the minimum health standards set by IATF to prevent transmission of COVID-19. (PIA NCR)

Hirap.....

Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) na mas mataas na porsyento ng populasyon ng Mindanao ang nasa ilalim ng poverty line (36%) kung ihahambing sa Luzon (13.1%) at sa Visayas (28%).

Bagama't mahalaga ang mga hakbang tulad ng pagtiyak sa kalidad ng mga learning materials, ang ligtas na pagbubukas ng mga paaralan at pagpapalawig sa abot ng internet, dapat ding bahagi ng pagbangon ng sektor ng edukasyon ang pagkakaroon ng mahuhusay na guro upang suportahan ang mga nangangailangang mag-aaral, paliwanag ni Gatchalian.

from page 8

Lumabas din sa resulta ng pag-aaral ng 2018 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) ang kahalagahan ng pagkakaroon ng mga mahuhusay na guro sa mga paaralan kung saan maraming mga "low-performing" at mga nangangailangang mag-aaral.

"Kung susuriin natin ang datos, marami sa ating mga kababayan sa Mindanao ang napag-iiwanan sa pagpapatupad ng distance learning at hindi natin ito dapat hayaang magpatuloy. Sa ating pagpapatupad ng distance learning at sa pagbangon ng ating sektor ng edukasyon mula sa pinsala ng pandemya,

kailangang siguruhin natin na abot ng bawat mag-aaral ang dekalidad na edukasyon saan man sila nagmula," pahayag ng Chairperson ng Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture.

Matatandaang inihain ni Gatchalian ang Senate Bill No. 1887 o ang Teacher Education Council Act upang maiangat ang kalidad ng edukasyon at pagsasanay ng mga guro sa bansa. Sa ilalim ng panukalang batas, paiigtingin ang ugnayan ng Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), at Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) upang i-angat ang kalidad ng edukasyon at training ng mga guro. (PIA NCR)

on Higher Education (CHED) was led by Dr. Armin S. Coronado of the PUP ISTR.

Coronado then said that they have innovated on the formulation and recently added virgin coconut oil because of its anti-viral properties.

Aside from hospitals in Manila, the project will also benefit barangays in Manila, police stations aside from the PUP community. (PIA NCR)

PUP distributes VCO-infused ethyl alcohol to Manila hospitals

By Jimmyley E. Guzman

QUEZON CITY -- The Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) distributed locally produced ethyl alcohol with virgin coconut oil (VCO) to several hospitals in Manila.

According to PUP, among the beneficiary hospitals are Philippine General Hospital, Santa Ana Hospital, Jose Reyes Hospital,

San Lazaro Hospital and Ospital ng Maynila.

Last March, the PUP, through its Institute for Science and Technology Research (ISTR), started its initial production of ethyl alcohol with VCO. The initiative is part of the university's continued response against COVID-19.

The said project with a total funding of Php4.9 million from the Commission

kababayan, kundi ang kanila nang pang-araw-araw. Sinasalamang po nito ang kalagayan ng ating mga manggagawang nawalan ng trabaho, mga no-work-no-pay, lalo na po ang mga nasa informal sector," Villanueva lamented.

"Naniniwala po tayo na may kakayahan ang gobyernong magbigay ayon sa kanyang mandato, pananagutan at kapangyarihan. Ang kailangan po natin ngayon ay pantry ng mga trabaho, pantry ng mga ayuda, at pantry ng mga bakuna," the chair of the Senate labor committee added.

"Kailangan pa rin po ng ayuda. Bagamat marami na po ang nabigyan, marami pa rin po ang naghihintay lalo na ang mga nasa informal sector, mga small and medium enterprises, gayundin ang mga kababayan nating magsasaka, mangingisda, at isama na rin natin ang mga magbababoy."

Villanueva batted for support to the Tulong Trabaho Scholarship Program, which he said will greatly aid today's Filipino workers in upskilling and coping with the new normal. Villanueva is the principal author and sponsor of Republic Act No. 11230, the Tulong Trabaho law.

He also took note of Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello's efforts to create more

jobs, obtaining some 27,000 job vacancies in the labor department's programs like virtual Trabaho, Negosyo, Kabuhayan Job and Business Fair this Labor day.

"Higit sa lahat at sa lalong madaling panahon, kailangang makarating sa braso ng ating mga manggagawa ang bakuna. Bakuna po ang pinakaimportanteng armas natin laban sa pandemya, upang agarang makapagsimula sa muling pagbangon at pagsulong," Villanueva stated.

"Sa lahat ng manggagawang Pilipino lalo't higit sa ating mga frontliners at essential workers, maraming salamat po. Sa gitna ng panganib, hindi kayo tumitigil sa pagkayod. Nakatala na po sa ating kasaysayan kung paanong sa giyera ng ating lipunan laban sa pandemya ay kayo ang nanguna sa pagtatanggol sa bayan," he added.

"Sa pinagsamang lakas, talino, kasanayan, puso, at determinasyon ng mga manggagawa, walang dahilan upang hindi magiging matagumpay ang Sambayanang Pilipino." (OSJV)

PCG personnel, nag-donate ng convalescent plasma

By Jimmy E. Guzman

LUNGSOD PASIG -- Ilang frontline personnel ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ang nag-donate ng convalescent plasma matapos gumaling sa sakit na COVID-19.

Ayon sa PCG, layunin ng inisyatibong ito na hikayatin ang iba pang mga fully recovered PCG frontline personnel na tumulong sa pagpaparami ng suplay ng convalescent plasma sa bansa dahil na rin sa taglay nitong 'antibodies' na kayang i-neutralize ang nakakahawang virus.

Napatunayan na kapag gumaling sa COVID-19, ang pagdo-donate ng blood plasma ay posibleng makatulong sa hanggang apat na iba pang taong nakakaranas ng karamdamang ito.

Ang mga antibody ng mga pasyenteng ganap nang gumaling mula sa COVID-19 ay maaaring makatulong sa paglaban sa impeksyon sa mga taong nagdurusa pa rin sa ganitong sakit. Ang tanging mapagkukunan ng mga antibody na ito ay ang blood plasma ng

mga survivor ng coronavirus.

Ang pagbibigay ng blood plasma sa isang pasyenteng may COVID-19 mula sa isang taong gumaling na mula rito ay maaaring makatulong sa mas mabilis na paggaling ng taong may sakit.

Kaugnay nito, ang mga puwedeng mag-donate ng COVID-19 plasma ay ang mga sumusunod:

- Isang taong nagkaroon ng pagsusuri na nagpakita ng coronavirus na impeksyon;
- Mabuti na ang pakiramdam sa loob ng hindi bababa sa 14 na araw; at
- Papasa sa mga karaniwang panuntunan para sa pagdo-donate ng dugo.

May ilang blood center naman na mangangailangan ng negatibong swab test, at posibleng may iba pang ipinatutupad na panuntunan.

Samantala, patuloy din ang coast guard sa kanilang blood donation drive upang makatulong sa mga pasyenteng nangangailangan ng blood transfusion sa gitna ng pandemya. (PIA NCR)



Philippine Coast Guard photo

70K....

that will be implemented by the city government in partnership with the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) for future distribution of financial aid from the government.

Notably, Imus city is the only LGU in the province that opted for the use of multi-channelled disbursement system with three options for pay-out namely: thru Debit/Cash cards; e-wallet either GCash or PayMaya; and cash pick-up with the MLhuillier.

Meanwhile, Councilor Jem V. Yulo explained that the delay in the distribution of the

from page 1

cash aid is due to errors and inconsistencies in the application forms filled-up by the families, and at times, with instances of technical glitch of double disbursement experienced by several families.

Francisco shared a noteworthy case wherein an indigent head of the family came forward to their barangay official to return the extra cash.

Mayor Maliksi granted a medical assistance to the family upon hearing that a family member is a patient suffering from leukemia and is currently confined at the Las Piñas General Hospital, in reward to such act of

honesty.

On the other hand, Maliksi appealed for patience and understanding to the Imuseños who have not yet received their cash aid.

"Hindi pa tapos ang pamimigay ng ayuda o ng lingap. Patuloy pa rin ang pag-proseso ng mga datos nang mga nagrehistro para sa nasabing tulong pinansyal. Lahat po ay makakatanggap ng ayuda," Maliksi assured his constituents.

(The distribution of the Ayuda/Lingap is not yet over. The processing of data of those who registered is ongoing. Everyone will receive the help.) (Ruel Francisco with report from the Emmanuel Maliksi FB Live)

Bayanihan....

from page 1

the Sahagun-Nuestro family in Barangay Sulsugin during the height of the pandemic last year was reopened. A TST will be set up in each barangay to give easy access to the residents while properly observing the minimum health protocols.

The LGU Alfonso, Liga ng mga Barangay, SK Federation, Alfonso Municipal Police Station, Samahan ng mga Barangay Kagawad, and other non-government organizations, farmers cooperative, and market vendors association in the municipality fully supported the TST.

To give back to the people for their free education as scholars, a group of students and new graduates from the Cavite State University and PUP Maragondon asked for support for contributions and donations for food items to be shared in the community pantry they set up in Barangays Halayhay and Julugan catering to fisherfolks.

"Pinag-aral kami gamit ang buwis ng taong bayan kaya oras na para magbalik ng tulong sa mamamayan," saad nila.

(We have been educated using the tax paid by the people so it's time to return the favor to them.)

Likewise, a community pantry in the City of General Trias was set up by a group of volunteers to help the local farmers of the city. A FB post by group member Xian Lozares that says "Bayanihan mula sa anihan hanggang sa hapagkainan," implied the intention of the group to help the local farmers with the purchase of their farm harvests which in turn will be shared in their community pantry.

"This way we are able to help the farmers with their

livelihood and help others as well thru sharing of the farm produce," Lozares said.

Meanwhile, the stock box community pantry in the municipality of Silang put up by Marvin Garcia caught the attention of netizens with the comic tag lines that remind people to take as they need.

"We don't mean to offend anyone. So we thought of a fun way to tell them," Garcia explained.

Government agencies also joined the bandwagon of goodhearted citizens such as the BARANGAYanihan Community Pantry of the Trece Martires Component Police Station (CPS) headed by PLtCol. Jose Junar Alamo together with the Sangguniang Barangay Conchu as they gave out noodles, rice, coffee, and sardines to the residents in need.

Aside from food sharing, LTO Carmona employees distributed road safety flyers and leaflets in their Hapag Damayan Community Pantry as part of its continuing efforts to keep the road safe for all.

A notable version is the Community PlanTree of Carlo Gonzales, owner of C&K's Garden in Cavite City. His pantry offered free ornamental plants, Humic Plus Fertilizer, osmocote, hanging baskets, and even succulents to give the residents a productive and healthy hobby and keep their minds off the anxiety and depression brought by the pandemic.

The pantry was a success that he targets to have 'fruit-bearing trees' in his next Pan Tree offering. (Ruel Francisco with reports from LGU FB pages)

LGU....

from page 1

vaccination is part of the four established measures of the city government under the #BidaAngMayBakuna campaign for its vaccination program aside from the onsite vaccination site at the Ospital ng Imus, the vaccine drive-thru site at Robinson's Place Imus, and the mobile vaccine bus that

rooms the remote places in the city.

Meanwhile, Mayor Maliksi said the shortage in the supply of the CoViD-19 vaccine from the national government is the main challenge for the continuous conduct of the vaccination program.

"We constantly follow-up with the Department of

Health (DOH) for the allocation of CoViD-19 vaccines for our resident priority groups," Maliksi said.

Consequently, the vaccination activities are temporarily suspended due to the full usage of the last batch of the supply of the CoViD-19 vaccines to the city. (Ruel Francisco, with reports from Emmanuel Maliksi's FB page)

Metro Manila Council to defer to Pres. Duterte's decision on next quarantine status in NCR

By Jimmy E. Guzman

PASIG CITY -- The Metro Manila Council (MMC) will defer to the decision of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on the next quarantine status for the National Capital Region (NCR) starting May 1.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Benhur Abalos, who is also the concurrent MMC chairperson, said the council will just wait for the President's announcement on the next quarantine status to be implemented in NCR.

"The MMC just recommends to the IATF. Hence, it is within the purview of President Rodrigo Duterte to decide on the next NCR status," Abalos stressed.

According to Abalos, the Metro Manila mayors voted on three proposed quarantine classifications: enhanced community quarantine, modified enhanced community quarantine and what they called "hybrid" or "flex" modified enhanced

community quarantine with additional economic and business activities to be classified and approved by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Their recommendation was already submitted to the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases.

According to the MMDA chief, the third option, hybrid or flex MECQ, was proposed by Department of Health Usec. Ma. Rosario Vergeire.

"Hybrid MECQ is intended to allay the fear of health workers for a possible surge again. That's why we want to do it gradually. By opening some businesses, we are also addressing the dilemma and hunger of those who lost their jobs," Abalos explained.

"The recommendation was based on data presented by health experts and also from NEDA as presented by Sec. Karl Chua. Through hybrid MECQ, we are hitting the middle ground. There will still be strict border controls to avoid transmission,

but at the same time there will also be additional economic activities."

While all the Metro Manila mayors have agreed not to disclose their recommendation, Abalos also assured that they are ready for whatever quarantine status to be imposed, advising the public to strictly adhere to minimum health standards to further prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"All the 17 local chief executives in Metro Manila are ready to implement any community quarantine status, whether it is to ease the quarantine restrictions or extend the modified enhanced community quarantine," he added.

"The mayors don't want the gains of ECQ and MECQ to be put into waste especially since we've seen the downward trend on the growth rate. We are hoping that we can sustain it by our continued unified efforts," Abalos said.

NCR Plus bubble, composed of Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal, has been placed on MECQ until April 30. (PIA NCR)

Ang
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PAPI

EDITORIAL

Senators should look at themselves before getting angry

Instead of getting vindictive for having been called 'stupid' in public, the senators should first take a look at themselves in the mirror.

When the now famous "community pantries" mushroomed in Metro Manila weeks ago, the spokespersons of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) publicly expressed the suspicion of their agency that some of those pantries may have been infiltrated by the leftists.

That view expressed by two NTF-ELCAC spokespersons, namely, Presidential Communications Undersecretary Lorraine Badoy and Philippine Army Lt. Gen. Antonio Parlade Jr., was apparently instigated after known leftist groups began appearing on the television news to heckle the government. The leftists' theory was that people resorted to community pantries because the government is incapable of providing for those adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

TV news footage indicated that the leftists gathered at several community pantry sites, and they were waving the usual flags and placards typical of left-leaning, anti-government propaganda.

Several senators led by Franklin Drilon saw an opportunity for free publicity in the brewing conflict between the NTF-ELCAC and the leftists. The senators threatened to reduce the 2022 budget of the NTF-ELCAC to a ridiculous "zero." Reacting to Drilon's remark, General Parlade called the senators behind the move to reduce the 2022 budget of the NTF-ELCAC "stupid."

Furious at Parlade's statement, the senators demanded that the general be censured for his disrespect to the "representatives of the people." They also demanded Parlade's ouster.

The general, however, stood his ground. He said the Senate has no disciplinary jurisdiction over him.

Parlade's supporters added that many senators do not deserve to attach the title "honorable" to their names.

To avoid aggravating the already tense situation, National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. issued a gag order to both Esperon and Badoy.

So far, the leftists are taking advantage of the situation by repeatedly calling public attention to what they claim is the military's infiltration of the community pantries. What gives?

General Parlade is right. The Senate has no disciplinary jurisdiction over him. Only the military establishment has that authority.

On the other hand, the general's description of the senators who want to reduce the 2022 budget of the NTF-ELCAC as "stupid" must be viewed in the proper context. Senators should be reminded that they are public officials and as such, they should be tolerant of public criticism, including criticism bordering on the unfair. Nobody forced them to become "representatives of the people." Since they willingly sought a part of public power, they should face public scrutiny and criticism.

It may be argued that the adjective "stupid" is too strong a word to describe the senators, but wasn't the senators' threat to reduce the 2022 NTF-ELCAC budget to a ridiculous "zero" an irresponsible statement?

To all intents and purposes, that threat was a knee-jerk reaction, because the senators concerned did not even bother to conduct a thorough investigation before making the threat. Have they forgotten that communism remains a threat to the nation's security and economy?

That threat was a brazen attempt to tell everyone, the military establishment in particular, that senators wield immense power. It is also outright bullying.

The Senate may be powerful, but under the Constitution, the President of the Philippines is the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and its derivative agencies.

Instead of getting vindictive for having been called "stupid" in public, the senators should first take a look at themselves in the mirror. They will discover that from the way they have comported themselves through the decades, they actually deserve intense public contempt.

Their huge discretionary funds, bottomless expense accounts, and extraordinary privileges are enough to entice public outrage. In 2019 alone, Senator Ralph Recto spent P113.48 million in public funds — the biggest spender among his colleagues. The biggest justification for the public contempt for senators is their shameless refusal to enact legislation defining and prohibiting political dynasties. It's been 34 years since the Constitution mandated Congress to enact a law banning political dynasties, and Congress, which includes the Senate, has conveniently ignored that mandate.

Before the senators move against General Parlade, they should look at the mirror first and, hopefully, see the hypocrisy of their protestations against being described as "stupid."



KAPIRASONG Kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

40% Hanap-seks

LITTLE brown fucking machines – powered with rice

– Kamiseta sa paligid ng mga dating

base-militar ng US sa bansa

Sumikat, lalo na sa Internet, ang "It's more fun in the Philippines," ang bagong islogang panturismo ng gobyernong Aquino.

Tama si Katrina Stuart-Santiago: pinagkatuwaan ang islogan pero hindi gaanong nakwestyon ang pinagmumulan nito – ang patakaran ng gobyerno na ibayong palakasin ang turismo sa bansa. Kung titingnan nga ang Philippine Labor and Employment Plan ng gobyernong Aquino para sa 2011-2016, nangunguna ang turismo sa itinuturing nitong dapat palakasin para makapagparami ng may-trabaho.

Noong nakaraang taon, may isang insidenteng hindi gaanong tumampok sa balita pero mahalagang iugnay sa nasabing islogan at sa kampanyang panturismo ng gobyerno. Tinutukoy ko ang pagsasabi ni Harry Thomas, Jr., ambassador ng US sa Pilipinas, na

sa pagtaya niya, 40% ng mga lalakeng turista ang pumupunta sa bansa para sa seks. Kung tama ang alala ko, kumbaga'y pinagsisigawan siya para bawiin ang kanyang pahayag. Hindi ang nilalaman ng sinabi niya ang naging usapin, kundi ang pagsasabi niya nito.

Binawi ni Thomas ang pahayag, sa batayang wala siyang datos para suportahan ito. Pero alam natin ang karanasan ng bansa sa WikiLeaks. Maaaring may pinagkukuhanan ng datos ang ambassador ng US na hindi nito sinasabi sa publiko. Maaari ring walang datos pero mahalaga ngang siya ang nagsabi, dahil mangangahulugan ng patakaran na magpapatibay sa kanyang sinabi. Anu't anuman, ipinapakita nito ang persepsyon ng isang nasa kapangyarihan sa kalakaran ng turismo, at sa lugar rito ng seks, sa bansa.

Kaya mahalaga ang mga tanong ni Santiago: Ano ang panlahi, pangkasarian at pang-uring dimensyon ng islogan at kampanyang panturismo ng gobyerno? Ano'ng

bahagi nito ang pagbebenta sa maralitang Pinay sa mga lalakeng dayuhan? Paanong ang pagpapalakas ng gobyerno sa turismo ay aktwal na pagtalikod nito sa pagpapalakas ng mga batayang industriya sa bansa – na tunay na lilikha ng trabaho sa sariling bayan? Sino ang nagbabayad para sa saya (fun) sa Pilipinas? At sino naman ang nakikinabang?

Sa kanyang librong Bananas, Beaches and Bases [1989], pinalutang ni Cynthia Enloe, sosyalistang feminista, ang papel ng kababaihan sa industriya ng turismo sa Pilipinas at ibang bansa. Aniya, mula flight attendants sa eroplano hanggang sa mga manggagawa sa otel hanggang sa mga ikinakama sa mga kwarto nito, mga maralitang kababaihan ang siyang nakataya. Sa kanila nagmumula ang malaking kinikita ng gobyerno sa turismo – na napupunta, syempre pa, sa pambayad-utang sa dayuhan at kurakot sa pamahalaan.

21 Enero 2012

TOWN in FOCUS

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157K CALABARZON vaccinees receive COVID jabs

By Patricia Bermudez

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna --The Department of Health Region IV-A (DOH-CALABARZON) recently reported that around 157,256 eligible residents have already received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Regional health office reports show that from the total number of vaccines administered, around 84,347 were made by Sinovac, while 72,909 were made by British-Swedish pharmaceutical company, AstraZeneca.

Along with the fixed vaccination sites, Director Eduardo Janairo said

vaccination teams are doing house-to-house inoculations for bedridden residents who wish to get inoculated.

“Mayroon tayong mga senior citizen na hindi makapunta sa mga vaccination sites dahil bawal silang lumabas at mayroon ding mga bed-ridden at yung mga me co-morbidity na kailangang mabakunahan para magkaroon dila ng dagdag proteksiyon laban sa Covid,” Janairo explains.

BIDABAKUNATION. Department of Health Region IV-A Assistant Director Paula Paz Sydiongco received her COVID-19 jab during the

immunization roll-out for regional office staff last April 21.

Among the vaccinated population, the Department of Health said that 9,218 individuals have already completed their two-dose immunization.

For the priority group A1 (frontline health workers), 103,303 individuals have received their first shot and 8,885 were given their second shot.

For priority group A2 (senior citizens), 26,854 received their first jab and 62 got their second shot.

For priority group A3 (persons with co-morbidity) 27,099 got their first vaccine

and 271 have their second dose.

CALABARZON received a total of 305,660 vaccines, including 228,860 doses from Sinovac and 76,800 AstraZeneca shots.

There are a total of 298 vaccination sites registered in the DOH - COVID-19 Bakuna Center Registry (CBCR), 47 of these are in Cavite, 74 from Laguna, 79 in Batangas, 43 in Rizal, 46 in Quezon and 9 from Lucena City.

To date, DOH-CALABARZON has already delivered 303,369 doses to vaccination sites in various provinces. Around 226,569 doses of Sinovac and 76,800 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines have already been dispatched in the provinces, leaving around 2,291 Sinovac doses for distribution.

Despite the ongoing vaccination program, Janairo warns the public to remain vigilant and to continue

following public health and safety protocols to prevent the coronavirus from further spreading.

“Huwag tayong magpabaya sa ating kalusugan at huwag tayong magpakampante dahil lahat tayo ay pwedeng dapuan ng Covid virus anumang oras. Kaya mas mabuting mamalagi sa bahay at lumabas lamang kung talagang kinakailangan,” Janairo said.

As of April 28, DOH has reported 1,478 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total cases to 178,363 with 13,082 active cases.

With 163,073 recoveries, around 2,208 were reported to have died from the disease.

The province with the highest number of Covid cases is Cavite with 54,720, followed by Rizal with 44,659; Laguna with 40,843; Batangas – 25,973 and Quezon with 9,121 cases. (PB/DOH 4-A)

CAVITEVIEW

500 Years of 1st Baptism in PH: A call to Filipinos to continuously share the light of Christ

By Roi Lomotan

The commemoration of the 500th year anniversary of the first Catholic baptism in the Philippines, which was held in the island of Cebu, highlighted the call for Filipinos to recommit to their baptismal calling and continuously share the “Light of Christ” to the world.

“Five hundred years ago today, the Philippines was enlightened by Christ. Let us continue to walk always as children of the light, keeping the flame of faith alive in our hearts. Let us recommit ourselves to our own baptismal calling so that we will be witnesses to the light of Christ not only here in the Philippines, but indeed throughout the entire world,” Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines Archbishop Charles Brown said.

Archbishop Brown led the celebration of the Holy Eucharist to commemorate the 500 years of the first Catholic Baptism which was held in Plaza Sugbu on April 14. Joining him in celebrating the mass were His Eminence Orlando “Cardinal” Quevedo and Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma.

In his homily, Archbishop Brown lauded Filipinos for their expression of the Catholic Faith and underscored their role in sharing the faith in these modern times.

“What is beautiful about Philippine Catholicism and what we celebrate today is the fact that in these five centuries, the Catholic faith has entered deeply into Filipino culture and produced a distinctively Filipino expression

of the unchanging and universal truth of the Catholic faith. We see the results of that process in countless elements of Filipino Catholicism; for example, in Simbang Gabi Masses. Today, in a special way, we see that process in our devotion to the Santo Niño,” the prelate remarked.

“Today, 500 years after Queen Juana embraced the Child Jesus and was baptized and danced with beautiful joy, the same Catholic faith is being carried throughout the world by Filipino Catholics, not as colonizers, but in many cases as Overseas Filipino Workers, bringing with them their Catholic faith and their devotion to the Santo Niño to every corner of the world,” he added.

Queen Juana was the wife of Rajah Humabon, the chieftain of Cebu in 1521. Both were baptized under the Catholic Faith by Padre Pedro Valderrama, the chaplain of the Magellan Expedition. Magellan’s chronicler Antonio Pigafetta presented the Sto. Niño to Queen Juana as a gift for her conversion.

Some highlights of the event include the re-enactment of the first baptism which was performed by San Diego Dance Troop and the baptism of seven children officiated by the Archbishop himself.

“The beautiful light of Christ will soon shine in the children. As I say to the newly-baptized: You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts. When the Lord comes, may you go out to meet him with all the saints in the

heavenly kingdom,” Archbishop Brown told the children, their parents and godparents.

On the other hand, the Apostolic Nuncio also recognized Cebu’s role in spreading the Christianity in the Philippines. He emphasized that the first baptism in the country can be marked as the beginning of the evangelization in the country. Cardinal Quevedo also called Cebu as “point zero” of the start of faith in the whole of the Philippines.

He recounted that the first baptism brought the Catholic faith to the early Filipinos who are indigenous people of Cebu, and even though there is not much known during the gap years since the day early Cebuans

were converted and the arrival of the first Spanish missionaries, the new faith remained in them and was instilled in their hearts.

“The meaning of the 500 years of Christianity and the Christian faith that began in Cebu is that this faith - this lamp who is Christ must be shared. We respond to the great blessing that the Lord has given us through gratitude. We are thankful for those many blessings. Not only material blessings in the past 500 years but most importantly the spiritual blessings we are gifted by the Almighty God,” Cardinal Quevedo highlighted in his speech.

“The second response is rejoice. We rejoice that thousands of OFWs are sharing their faith with others in every corner of the world. We rejoice that the faith that they were gifted with is shared by them (and) being given to others not so much by words but by the joy of their Eucharistic celebrations that I witness personally in different parts of Europe. Rejoice in the gift and share that gift,” he added.

Around 700 people gathered

at Plaza Sugbu to witness the event. Ten bishops, Catholic priests, government officials, and representatives of various sectors attended the mass. Health protocols such as social distancing and wearing of face masks were observed.

Meanwhile, Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma encouraged the faithful to continue to lift to the Lord their gratitude for the 500 years of Christianity and continue to pray towards the end of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“May all of us experience the power of God’s grace, renewal, and witnessing that would make a change for the Cebu that we love, the Philippines that we love, and of course, to the whole world where we are called to be missionaries,” Palma told the attendees of the mass.

The event ended with a veneration of the Magellan’s Cross. After this, Archbishop Brown went inside the Basilica Minore Del Sto. Niño to attend the declaration of the Basilica as a national cultural treasure. (ral/PIA7-Negros Oriental)



Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines Charles Brown (in yellow) waves to the Cebuans as the crowd sings “Batubalani sa Gugma” at the concluding rites of the mass in commemoration of the 500th year anniversary of the first baptism in the Philippines held April 14, 2021 at Plaza Sugbu, Cebu City. He was joined by (standing, 2nd row, 2nd from left) Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma and His Eminence Orlando “Cardinal” Quevedo and the newly-baptized children of Cebu carrying images of Sr. Sto. Niño. (ral/PIA7-NegOr)

ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Korean Embassy in PH explore partnership in tackling marine debris

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan

CALOOCAN CITY-- The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the Philippines are exploring possible areas for collaboration, including raising awareness on the issue of coastal and marine conservation in the Philippines where marine plastic pollution is causing environmental damage and posing health risks.

At present, the Korean government's development cooperation agency Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has launched a marine litter management programme in the Philippines in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Philippines Coast Guard (PCG). The multi-year assistance from 2021 to 2025 is focused on establishing a marine litter monitoring system, stationing a clean-up vessel near Manila Bay, and enhancing marine litter management capacity in the Philippines.

"Korea is glad to be contributing to the marine environmental protection in the Philippines, a country widely known for its beautiful coral reefs and aquatic biodiversity. Korea hopes that the marine litter management assistance will help mitigate risks posed by the increasing marine debris problem that many experts claim is undermining the marine landscape of the Philippine archipelago", said Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Philippines Inchul Kim.

A clean-up vessel, which will be donated by the Korean government under the KOICA project, is projected to arrive in the Philippines late next year tentatively upon completion of necessary procurement procedures. The clean-up vessel will be the first marine vessel dedicated to collect marine litter in the Philippines.

DENR notes that there is evident presence of marine litters or plastics floating at the Manila Bay, exacerbated during the Habagat Season (Wet Season) or strong typhoons, that are washed ashore. Meanwhile, as the World Bank Group recently published in March 2021, more than 75 per cent of the material value of the plastics, equivalent to USD 6 billion per year, is lost across three countries of Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand due to absence of recycling. Under a partnership between the Korean government and the World Bank Group, the World Bank's study on the Philippines was funded by the Korea Green Growth Trust Fund (KGGTF) in efforts to support the mainstreaming of green growth through the World Bank's lending operations.

"Korea will continue to take part in the global efforts to address environmental issues through various multilateral and bilateral cooperation, ranging from hosting the upcoming 2021 P4G Summit and collaborating with various UN agencies and international organizations to bilateral development cooperation with the Philippines on the protection of marine environment and biodiversity", said Ambassador Kim.

Korea will be hosting the "Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals (P4G) 2030" Summit on 30-31 May 2021 in Korea, uniting heads of states, CEOs, investors, and civil society leaders. The Korean government has also been in close cooperation with various other international organisations to contribute to the preservation of marine environment in the region.

ACB Executive Director Theresa Mundita Lim said these possible partnerships with Korea on marine litter management would be aligned with the priorities of the ASEAN, under the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment.

"The ASEAN Member States have pledged to reduce and prevent marine debris as part of their commitments under the Bangkok Declaration Combatting Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region. The region recognises that marine pollution is a trans-boundary issue that requires integrated regional cooperation", Lim said.

She emphasized that pollution is one of the threats to marine biodiversity as thousands of animals are killed after ingesting or getting entangled in plastic products. The deterioration of ecosystems because of these wastes pose tangible and negative impacts on the people's health and livelihoods.

Tackling the issue of marine debris is highly relevant today because of the growing concerns over the volumes of medical wastes generated by the COVID-19 pandemic response and the fear that some of these may end up in waterways and oceans.

In a study published by ScienceDirect in September 2020, the average number of face masks used in 49 Asian countries in a day as of 31 July 2020 was estimated at 2.2 billion.

"Innovative actions in properly disposing and managing wastes, including those generated by the pandemic response, will help reduce marine litter that

affects the health of our marine ecosystems and the capacity of our oceans to provide fisheries and food security, as well as to effectively serve as one of our natural solutions to climate change impacts", Lim added.

The ACB is set to conduct a study aimed at identifying entry points for regional action, such as support to cooperation for research and assessments, which may help in protecting and recovering marine biodiversity threatened by marine litter.

Lim likewise noted that Korea's continued efforts and leadership in green growth may be synchronised with ACB's efforts to mainstream biodiversity into various sectors, including infrastructure and energy.

Over more than a decade, Korea has been promoting policies focused on green growth, a development paradigm that creates a growth engine and job creation based on "green technology and clean energy". Korea's Green New Deal, announced last year, further elaborates on the areas of focus as the promotion of green transition of infrastructures, low-carbon and decentralized energy and innovation in the green industry.

"We hope more businesses through the help of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea will be our partners in our endeavor of integrating biodiversity considerations into plans and business models", she said. (PIA NCR)



A clean-up vessel, which will be donated by the Korean government under the KOICA project, is projected to arrive in the Philippines late next year. Photo courtesy of Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (ACB photo)

Abalos lauds int'l award-winning high school docu; invites young filmmakers to join MMFF Student Short Film Caravan

By Ma. Alaine P. Allanigue

PASIG CITY -- The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) lauds the young filmmakers behind the short film "Sa Layag ng Bangkang Paurong" after bagging the Best International Documentary Film award in the recently concluded Fresh International Film Festival in Ireland.

"I want to congratulate the students from Alaminos City National High School in Pangasinan who created this award-winning film. They are proof that Filipino-made films are world-class," MMDA and concurrent Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) chairman Benhur Abalos said.

Abalos also said he is even prouder because the students who created the said documentary were participants in the MMFF's student short film caravan, which provided students an opportunity to learn from distinguished filmmakers on the basics of filmmaking, cinematography, scriptwriting, acting, directing techniques, viability considerations in producing films, and other filmmaking aspects.

"The future of our local film industry looks very promising in the hands of our young filmmakers. And the MMFF is committed to help in honing their skills on movie making," he added.

Abalos encourages student filmmakers to join the MMFF Student Caravan which will be made available online this year and participate in the short film competition to showcase

their masterpieces.

"Through the student short film competition, we give chance to our young filmmakers to have their works be seen by bigger audiences by pairing it together with full-length films," Abalos explained.

He also said that the MMFF is preparing a Student Shortfilm Handbook to provide students with general insights into both the aesthetic and technical demands in filmmaking and to complement MMFF Film Making Caravan and Workshop.

"We wish to see a new generation of filmmakers, exploring fresh ideas and stories worth-telling that will capture the hearts not just of Filipinos here and abroad, but also of the international film industry," he said.

"Sa Layag ng Bangkang Paurong", which depicts the challenges of students working as boatmen in Hundred Islands, a popular tourist spot in Pangasinan, have been recognized in the Children's International Film Festival in Bangladesh and 3rd Meihodo International Youth Visual Media Festival in Japan. It also earned the Best Advocacy Statement and Best Documentary Film in the Streets to Schools National Film Competition of the Association of the Rights of Children in Southeast Asia last March.

The film has also been part of international film festivals such as the Newark International Film Festival in the United States; International Children's Rights Film Festival in Istanbul, Turkey; Festival Film Bahari in West Java, Indonesia; Golden Tree International Documentary Festival in Hessen, Germany; and DYTATKO International Children's Media Festival in Kharkiv, Ukraine. (PIA NCR)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned majority members of the Board of Directors and the corporate Secretary of ICONX PHILS., INC., do hereby certify and notify the dissolution of the ICONX PHILS., INC., by majority of vote of the directors and the vote of stockholders representing at least two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding capital stock at a meeting held on March 1, 2021 at the principal office of the corporation.

ICONX PHILS., INC., a corporation duly registered and existing under SEC Registration Number CS201703654 and was incorporated on February 1, 2017 with principal address at 2nd Floor, Deloso Building, A. Soriano Highway, Timalan Concepcion, Naic Cavite.

Doc. No. 99; Page No. 20; Book No. LVII; Series of 2021, Notary Public Atty. Celia N. Closa.

Word Search Puzzle

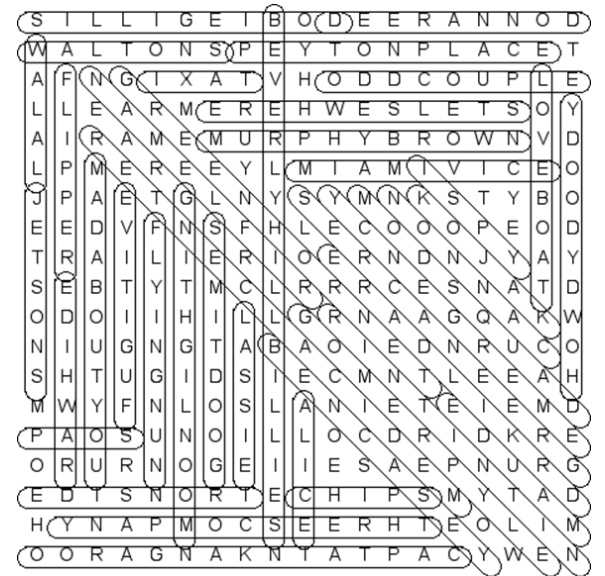
Mystery Christmas Carol

The words listed below are from a familiar Christmas Carol. What is it?
Find and circle all of the words hidden in the grid.
The remaining letters spell the name of the Christmas Carol.

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

- ALL
- ANCIENT
- APPAREL
- AWAY
- BEFORE
- BLAZING
- BOUGHS
- CAROL
- CHORUS
- DON
- FAST
- FOLLOW
- GAY
- HAIL
- HARP
- HEEDLESS
- HOLLY
- JOIN
- JOLLY
- JOYOUS
- LADS
- LASSES
- MEASURE
- MERRY
- NEW
- NOW
- OLD
- OUR
- PASSES
- SEASON
- SING
- STRIKE
- TELL
- TIDE
- TIS
- TOGETHER
- TREASURE
- TROLL
- WEATHER
- WHILE
- WIND
- WITH
- YEAR
- YULE

Sagot sa nakaraan



Sudoku

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

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

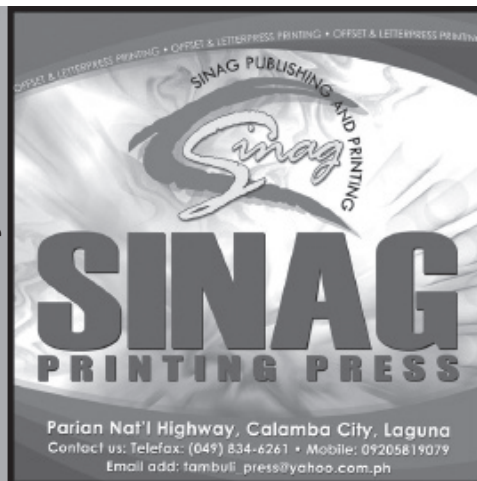
Sudoku hint

31	36		39		37	55	56	47
24	32	19	33	25				12
34	2	26	27		3	28		
4		17	35	29		57		40
14	20		49	5	40		11	41
21		18		22	42	9		43
		15	50	8	44	58	51	52
6				7	16	53	54	45
30	1	23	46		38		10	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.

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Hirap sa pagsagot ng modules sa ilalim ng distance learning dapat tugunan -Gatchalian

By Lucia F. Broño

LUNGSOD CALOOCAN -- Sa pagresolba sa mga hamon ng distance learning at sa pagbangon ng sistema ng edukasyon mula sa pinsalang dulot ng pandemya, binigyang diin ni Senator Win Gatchalian na dapat tugunan ang mga itinuturing na “learning inequalities” at siguruhing bawat mag-aaral ay nakakatanggap ng dekalidad na edukasyon.

Sa isang Pulse Asia Survey na isinagawa noong Pebrero 22 hanggang Marso 3, mahigit kalahati (53%) ng mga magulang o guardian na lumahok sa survey ang nagsabing ang hirap sa pagsagot sa modules ang pinaka karaniwang suliraning kanilang kinakaharap sa distance learning.

Ngunit ang hirap sa

pagsagot sa mga modules ay mas laganap sa mga kalahok mula sa Mindanao (74%) kung ihahambing sa mga nasa National Capital Region (32%), ibang bahagi ng Luzon (43%), at Visayas (62%).

Habang dalawampu’t tatlong (23) porsyento ng mga magulang o guardian ang nagsasabing hirap sila at ang kanilang mga anak o inaalaan na unawain ang itinuturo ng mga guro, mas marami sa mga kalahok mula Mindanao (33%) ang nagulat din ng ganitong suliranin kung ihahambing sa NCR (17%), ibang bahagi ng Luzon (24%), at Visayas (10%).

Noong 2017 binigyang diin ng isang ulat ng World Bank, Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA), at ng

continue to page 2



Senator Win Gatchalian

Bong Go tells fake news purveyors: watch out for bad karma and do good to others instead

PASAY CITY -- Senator Christopher “Bong” Go strongly condemned fake news reports alleging he made the personnel of the Philippine Air Force wait for him before they could be transferred to a hospital after their helicopter crashed off the coast of Getafe in Bohol on Tuesday, April 27.

“Huwag nating hayaan manaig ang may maitim na budhi at mayroong masamang saloobin. Sa mga nagpapakalat ng fake news, anong mapapala niyo? Masaya kayo? ‘Di ka na nga nakakatulong sa kapwa mo, dagdag problema ka pa sa kapwa mo. May araw ka din. Hintayin mong darating din ang karma sa buhay mo,” Go warned.

He then appealed to the public to remain vigilant of fake news and focus instead on helping their fellow Filipinos, before reassuring them of his and the President’s continuing efforts to serve the nation during the COVID-19 crisis.

“Kami ni Pangulong Duterte, araw-araw kaming magseserbisyo sa aming kapwa Pilipino. Ako, 24/7 akong magmamalasakit at tutulong sa kapwa ko Pilipino. Walang mangyayari sa ating bayan kung puro fake news na lang. Sana ‘yung magagandang balita naman ang lumabas sa mga taong nagmamalasakit at nagmamahal

sa kaniyang kapwa Pilipino,” he said.

Go earlier clarified that he and his staff, who were in Cebu for the 500th anniversary of the Victory of Mactan, were preparing for their return flight to Metro Manila when they chanced upon the survivors at the Mactan Airbase in Lapu-Lapu City.

“Noong Martes, matapos ang aming meeting kasama ang Anti-COVID Task Force ng Cebu at bago lumipad pabalik ng Maynila, sinabihan ako na mayroong military helicopter na bumagsak sa Bohol. Nagkataon na kakarating lang ng ambulansya sakay ang mga biktimang (taga) Air Force malapit sa kung saan ako nasa airport,” Go said in a statement issued on Friday, April 30.

“Tumakbo agad ako papunta kung nasaan ang mga ambulansya para lang i-assure ang mga biktima na hindi sila pababayaan ni Pangulong [Rodrigo] Duterte. Sinabi ko na sasagutin ang kanilang pampapagamot at inatasan ko ang aking staff na siguraduhing makapagbigay ng tulong pinansyal sa tatlong injured at sa asawa ng namatay na piloto,” he continued.

The Senator added the interaction happened quickly and the victims were soon brought

continue to page 2

Villanueva: ‘Worst-hit’ Filipino workers should be ‘biggest winner’ in gov’t recovery programs

PASAY CITY -- Senator Joel Villanueva today declared that the survival of the country’s economy greatly hinges on Filipino workers bouncing back from the ill effects of the pandemic with more government aid, more vaccines and more skills to cope with the “new normal.”

“Dahil manggagawa po ang higit sa lahat na pinadapa at naging pinaka-apektado, marapat lamang na manggagawa rin ang higit na makinabang sa recovery programs ng gobyerno

at makaranas ng alalay sa pagbangon,” Villanueva said in his Labor Day message.

“Ang muling pagbangon ng mga manggagawa ang tanging pag-asa at paraan upang ang ating ekonomiya ay muling umangat at sumulong,” he added.

The senator took note of the fact that the pandemic has brought upon the country several “record highs,” but all not in a good way: the worst plunge in the economy since World War II and the highest unemployment rate

at 10.3% or around 4.5 million jobless Filipinos, to name a few.

He said that if the long lines at community pantries - initiated through the kindness of private citizens - were any indication, then Filipino workers are receiving too little aid at a time of great need.

“Araw-araw pong humahaba ang pila sa mga community pantries dahil hindi na lang isang araw ang kailangang maitawid ng ating mga

continue to page 2



Sen. Joel Villanueva (Contributed photo)