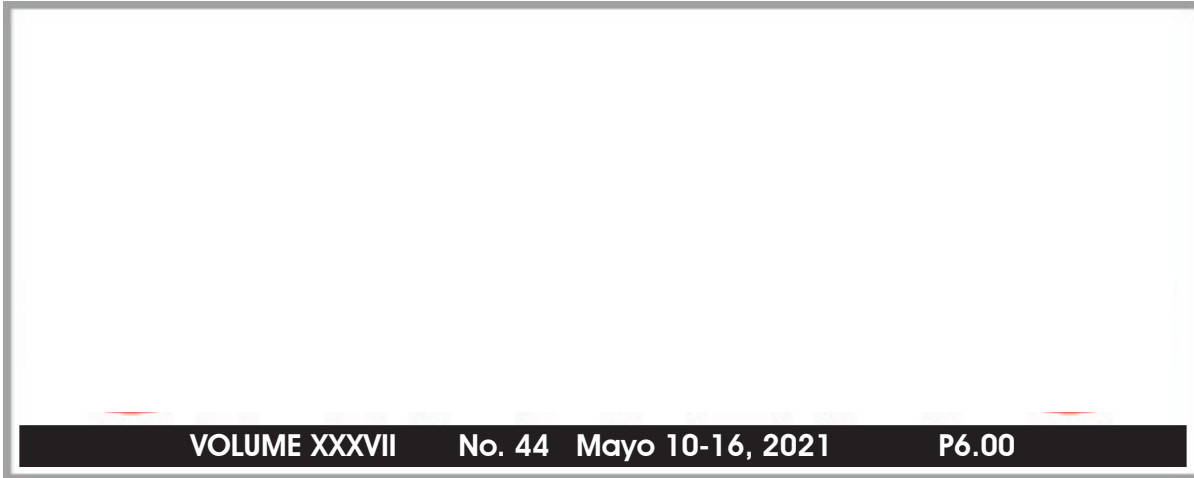


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# Alfonseños assured with affordable housing



Alfonseños will now realize their dream of owning decent houses as the local government unit entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Social Housing Finance Corporation for a housing project located in RS Ville, Barangay Taywanak Ibaba. (Photo: Mayor Randy Salamat FB Page)

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite -- The local government of Alfonso entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) on May 4 to help Alfonso realize their dream of owning decent houses.

Alfonso Mayor Randy Salamat said the housing project, located in RS Ville, Barangay Taywanak Ibaba is a rent-to-own scheme payable within 30 years thru the SHFC.

A government owned and controlled corporation, SHFC is the lead government agency that undertakes financing of

social housing programs catering to formal and informal sectors with low-income.

Salamat added that application for the housing project is open only to legitimate residents of Alfonso, thus applicants will undergo appropriate screening from concerned offices.

"Ang tanging makakaavail ng pabahay na ito ay ang mga lehitimong taga-Alfonso lamang. Hindi po ito magsisilbing relocation site ng mga taga ibang lugar dahil hindi po natin isasantabi ang pagpapanatili ng maayos na peace and order status ng ating bayan," explained *continue to page 3*

## Trust gov't info on vaccination drive, President Duterte tells Filipinos

MANILA -- President Rodrigo Roa Duterte asked Filipinos Wednesday to trust information coming from the government and shun misinformation targeting the current immunization drive against COVID-19.

Citing a presentation of vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr, the President said the Philippines ranks third in the ASEAN vaccination rollout based on Bloomberg and reports from Foreign Service posts as of May 2021.

At the top of the ranking are Indonesia and Singapore followed by the Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, and Brunei. "Nakita naman ninyo third tayo. Maniwala kayo kasi

nasa gobyerno kami. Hindi kami puwedeng maglagay diyan, mag-post ng ganito na sinungaling. May parusa 'yan. Malaking parusa 'yan if we impose a lie to the people in connection with our work," President Duterte said during his address.

Although the Philippines started late in its vaccine rollout, it was able to cope, posting a daily rate of 133,114.

"So ibig sabihin, makakaya po natin 'yong sinasabi nga ni Secretary Duque na pagka may volume na tayo, kayang-kaya na natin 'yong 500,000," Galvez explained.

"Hindi po 'yon magiging imposible dahil nakikita po natin sa ngayon, *continue to page 3*

## Poe urges new PNP chief to start police use of body cams

PASAY CITY -- Sen. Grace Poe urged newly appointed Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Guillermo Eleazar to include in his "first mission orders" the PNP's compliance with the Supreme Court order for police officers to wear body cameras

when serving arrest and search warrants.

Poe explained she is confident that the new PNP Chief will most likely take the initiative, stating that he has a track record of being steadfast in his drive to improve the professionalism of

the PNP.

"PNP Chief Eleazar has been known to conduct inspections and make sure that his officers are performing to the best of their ability. I'm hopeful that the new Chief will push for the use of body and dash cameras to help make our police force more professional in the field."

She further explained that these cameras are an *continue to page 3*

## Manila Water Foundation, Healthy and Pure Water extend support to medical frontliners

PASIG CITY -- The Manila Water Foundation (MWF) and Healthy and Pure Water continue to support medical frontliners amid the COVID-19 pandemic by providing safe, pure drinking water.

Recently, the Manila Water Foundation and Healthy and Pure Water distributed 500 gallons of drinking water and water dispensers to major hospitals in Quezon City.

A total of 100 five-gallon pieces were distributed to the Lung Center of the Philippines, Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, East Avenue Medical Center, and Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

According to the Manila Water Foundation, the activity aims to bring aid to healthcare

workers amid the modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) in Metro Manila.

It will also help hospital doctors, nurses and staff stay hydrated during this time of national health emergency.

Roch Pilones of the Department of Health Eye Center at the East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC) thanked their benefactors for their support.

In a message to MWF, he expressed his gratitude for the support extended by the organization. "In behalf of East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC), we would like to thank you for your generous donation to our frontliners. Your donations ensure that our frontliners are equipped to face the challenging days ahead." (PIA NCR)



Photo courtesy of EPD Facebook



PIA CALABARZON file

## Church offers use of school to augment shortage in isolation facilities

By Ruel B. Francisco

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite -- In the wake of the full use of the isolation facilities in Tanza town, the Catholic Church leaders here offered the St. Augustine High School as additional temporary treatment and monitoring facility for senior citizens and those who have comorbidities.

This initiative of the parish leaders is a welcome measure to help with the current CoViD-19 emergency situation in the municipality.

"It is okay to use the school building since classes are still online," the parish priest said.

It is also unfortunate that the isolation facilities that cater to mild and asymptomatic cases now had to treat patients with pneumonia.

Department of Health (DOH) 4-A Isolation Physician, Dr. Lani Patacsil reported, "Ang dami damping cases ng may pneumonia para nang hospital ang setting ngayon, wala na kaming choice. Dyan na nagaganap ang gamutan."

(There are numerous cases with pneumonia that it is like a hospital setting now, we don't have a choice. Treatment is being done there.)

Moreover, hospitals could not immediately accommodate admissions with patients' waiting list reaching up to a hundred because of the rate of infection of the disease.

According to Rural Health Officer Dr. Ruth Punzalan, a sad and unfortunate reality is that patients with moderate, severe or critical symptoms who needed to be admitted in the hospital succumb to the disease at home before they could even be hospitalized.

Punzalan calls on the public to help with the project thru donations of hospital beds, oxygen tanks, wheelchairs, and other useful medical equipment.

The project for the conversion of the school building into isolation facility is a partnership between LGU Tanza, the DOH, and other civic organizations which is targeted to be opened this month of May. (Ruel Francisco with reports from Balitang Tanzeño FB Live)

## DILG....

contact tracers are assigned to the Local Contact Tracing Task Forces under the supervision of the City/Municipal Health Officers of the LGUs.

To signal the start of deployment of the contact tracers, there was also a ceremonial simultaneous deployment of five contact tracers wearing TUPAD t-shirts and showing their contracts of service at the Quezon City, Manila, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, and Pateros Public Employment Service Offices during the virtual ceremony.

"This deployment is part of our continuous effort to intensify our contact tracing program to contain Covid-19. Simula na ng kanilang pagtatrabaho bilang contact tracers at simula na rin ng dagdag na alalay at pag-asa para sa ating mga kababayan na makakabangon tayong muli mula sa pandemiyang ito," said Año.

Under DOLE-DILG-MMDA JMC 2021-01, DOLE allocated P280.714-million for the three months' salary of 5,754 contract tracers at P537/day which is the minimum wage rate at the National Capital Region under its TUPAD program.

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The new Contact Tracers shall also be enrolled in GSIS Group Personal Accident Insurance (GPAI). They will undergo orientation on safety and health and provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as long sleeves TUPAD t-shirt, face mask, face shield, and ID.

The DILG, on the other hand, shall facilitate the creation of a selection committee in every local government unit in NCR which shall be responsible for the screening and assessment of the applicants based on the guidelines of DOLE's TUPAD program. The selection committee shall be composed of the Local Public Employment Service Office (PESO) Manager as chairperson, and the DILG Field Office Director and a representative from the City Health Department/Local Epidemiology Surveillance Unit (LESU) as members.

Moreover, the DILG through the DILG-NCR shall also conduct the training of all the new CTs using the module developed by the Local Government Academy, Department of Health-Metro Manila Center for Health Development (DOH-MMCHD), and Philippine Public Safety

College (PPSC).

On the other hand, the MMDA is tasked to assist in the dissemination of information on the hiring of TUPAD contact tracers, monitor the implementation of the project, and help in the proper dissemination of information of the project.

Strengthening early detection

During the activity, the DILG Chief stressed that strengthening early-detection capabilities will help the country overcome the new variants of the COVID-19 virus. He said new variants prompted the government to re-impose stricter quarantine measures and once again sacrifice our economy for the sake of public health.

He also lauded the battle-hardened local government units (LGUs) and their respective local chief executives who have been at the forefront of the fight against the pandemic.

Año likewise urged the stakeholders to continue their collaborative work in this season of difficulty stressing that "this pandemic calls for a whole-of-nation approach and initiatives such as the TUPAD Contact Tracing Project which gives us a fighting chance in defeating this unseen enemy." (PIA NCR)

## DepEd.....

times, we were not able to attain perfection. There will always loopholes and room for errors."

The official lamented that even before the pandemic, there were "errata in books that had to be corrected."

"While some self-learning modules may have imperfections, these are inadvertent and are corrected as soon as spotted," he said.

"We are free to criticize but the purpose of criticizing should be to help just like what we have been doing in waging Yes for Peace - Bayanihan ng Bayan through DepEd since 1995," he continued.

For Efren Alcera, Secretary-General of DepEd NEU, "We carefully observed developments in the comprehensive peace process and refined the consensus building questions of Yes for Peace and worked for the issuance of a DepEd Memorandum by practically all DepEd Secretaries from DECS Secretary Ricardo T. Gloria to Secretary Briones for its implementation."

from page 8

"As such, we have silently amassed the responses of 15 million Filipinos, the hard copies of which are officially in the custody of Mr. Antonio Oropesa, Chief of the Records Division of the Central Post Office," Alcera added.

"In lieu of the former system of teachers enjoining students to answer the Yes for Peace questionnaires inside the classrooms and the parents being asked by their children to answer the questionnaires, we can perhaps include the questionnaires in the Self-Learning Modules," Robert Macasil, Vice-President for Luzon of DepEd NEU and DepEd Representative to Regional Task Force to End the Local Communist Armed Conflict (RTF ELCAC) of Region 3 suggested, "Yes for Peace can thus reach practically all households within existing IATF protocols."

"We shall once again request Secretary Briones to lift the suspension of the implementation of Yes for Peace - Bayanihan ng Bayan (YFP-BB) forced upon her by Alliance of Concerned

Teachers (ACT) Representative France Castro during the hearing on the DepEd budget in 2018," DepEd NBOT Chairman Balawag declared, "We are certain that with the support of the National Task Force to End the Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF ELCAC), Secretary Briones will have no qualms lifting the suspension."

Brigadier General Gerardo M. Zamudio, host of the UP UP (Usapang Pangkapayapaan, Usapang Pangkaunlaran) Pilipinas radio and social-media program of the Philippine Air Force, for his part, said, "If Secretary Briones issues the DepEd Memorandum for the implementation of YFP BB as requested by the DepEd NEU, then the first step for the Bayanihan [proactive involvement and collective participation] ng Bayan of the people to complete and sustain the Whole-of-Nation approach to end the armed conflicts shall have been taken."

For his part Ernesto Angeles Alcanzare, President and CEO of Yes for Peace, Inc., expectantly said, "With the 50,000 members of DepEd NEU pitching-

## TESDA.....

from page 8

EBT in the country and in support of the second phase of the "EBT to the Max" Implementation Plan, particularly in equipping EBT implementers.

EBT Program covers the Dual Training System (DTS)/Dualized Training Program (DTP), Supervised Industry Learning (SIL), Apprenticeship, Learnership, Program on Accelerating Farm School Establishment (PAFSE), and In-Company or on-site training arrangements, including other industry-based training programs.

The former lawmaker also pointed out that the TVET sector is also affected by the pandemic which is evident to the downward trend in the number of participating establishments in EBT programs.

He encouraged everyone, especially those in charge of promoting the agency's programs, projects, and services, to reinvigorate their efforts in building a stronger TVET amid the challenges of the "new normal" environment.

in by monitoring the compliance of their respective Regional Directors, Provincial and City Schools Division Superintendents, Municipal Schools District Supervisors and Principals to the DepEd Memorandum that Secretary Briones would hopefully issue, then we would have, finally, succeeded in bringing in the Filipino people into the center-stage of the comprehensive peace process."

Meanwhile, National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) Commissioner and Secretary-General of YFP-BB Yusoph Mando is overjoyed, "More

"No one is spared from the effects of the pandemic, TVET, likewise, experienced the dent in the nation's socio-economic activities. A year after, we are all into rebuilding and reconstructing our individual and corporate lives gravely affected by the pandemic. We've seen the potential of EBT programs as catalysts to economic activities in the pre-pandemic times," he said.

"We can help each other get back to where we left prior to this health pandemic," he said, as he reminded industry coordinators and administrators of training institutes to set their targets this year.

As to the implementation of EBT programs, Bertiz pointed out that the set target for EBT enrollees is 56,738 while the target for EBT graduates is 51,064.

Bertiz also shared some updates on the implementation of other Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs to the local industries and sectors in the regional and provincial levels. (PIA NCR)

and more volunteers to be Regional, Provincial and City Coordinators are coming forward during this Holy Month of Ramadan."

"In about two months, we would have coordinators in all Regions, Provinces and Cities," Mando confidently projected.

It can be recalled that the adoption and refinement of YFP BB has been incorporated into the national action plan of the NTF ELCAC submitted by National Security Adviser Secretary Hermogenes C. Esperon, Jr. and approved by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. (PIA NCR)

## Bacoor LGU pushes for herd immunity, opens new vaccination hub

By Ruel B. Francisco

BACOR CITY, Cavite -- In a bid to inoculate more Bacooreños with the arrival of the next batch of CoViD-19 vaccine supply from the Department of Health (DOH), the city government here recently opened an additional vaccination hub at the Niog Elementary School.

A total of 328 residents under the A2 and A3 priority groups were vaccinated during the said launching activity.

Likewise, simultaneous vaccination activities conducted at the Bacoor Coliseum and at the Alima Elementary School vaccination hubs gave out 350 and 329 vaccine jabs respectively for a total of 1,007 senior citizens and those with comorbidity residents vaccinated on May 1, 2021.

The turnout of residents for the vaccination is due to the intensified information campaign

for the CoViD-19 vaccination program by the city government which changed the general perception of the residents particularly the senior citizens in the city from hesitation to trust.

“Nandito kami ngayon para magpabakuna laban sa CoViD-19. Taliwas sa mga unang napapabalita tungkol sa vaccine tungkol sa mga namamatay, mas minabuti nang maging protektado laban sa CoViD-19,” a female senior citizen resident proudly said.

(We are here today to get vaccinated against CoViD-19. Contrary to initial reports about the deaths from the vaccine, it is better to be protected against CoViD-19.)

As of May 1, 2021, records show a total of 8,074 Bacooreños inoculated with the 1st dose of the CoViD-19 vaccines. (Ruel Francisco with reports from the City Government of Bacoor FB page)



photo courtesy of PIA CALABARZON

## Gatchalian naalarma sa malawakang harassment sa paniningil sa online borrower

By Lucia F. Broño

LUNGSOD CALOOCAN -- Para kay Senator Win Gatchalian, nakababahala ang mga naglipanang kaso ng harassment at mapanlinlang na paraan na paniningil ng ilang kumpanyang nag-aalok ng pautang sa online platform.

Ito ay matapos dumulog sa senador ang grupo ng may dalawang libong mga nagreklamo laban sa iba't-ibang online lending companies at lending apps na umano'y nanghihiya, nananakot, nagbabanta, at kung anu-ano pang mapang-abusong pamamaraan ng pagsingil sa kanilang mga inutang.

Napag-alaman ng senador na karamihan sa mga nagreklamang ito ay aminadong natuksong mangutang sa mga online lending apps na inalok ng ilang kumpanya dahil na rin sa matinding pangangailangan sa gitna ng pandemyang dulot ng COVID-19.

“Nakakabahalang

marinig sa mga nagreklamo ang mga naging karanasan nila, hindi lang ang panghihiya dahil may mga iba na nakatanggap pa ng pagbabanta sa kanilang buhay. Sa tingin ko, talagang mapanlinlang itong mga kumpanyang ito at target nila ang mga taong alam nilang kakagat sa alok nilang pautang. Dapat matigil na ang mga ganitong gawain,” sabi ni Gatchalian.

Bukod sa mga umiiral na polisiya ng mga ahensya ng gobyerno na nangangasiwa sa industriyang kinabibilangan ng mga ganitong kumpanya, sinabi ni Gatchalian na ang panukalang Fair Debt Collection Practices Act na kanyang inihain noong nakaraang taon ay isang paraan para maprotektahan ang mga konsyomers sa ganitong maruming taktika ng mga debt collectors at mapaglinlang na online lending companies.

“Alam nating lahat na obligasyon ng nangutang ang magbayad ng kanyang utang. Kung pumalya sa pagbabayad ang nangutang, dapat idaan sa

tama at ligal na proseso at hindi sa paraan na kailangang gamitan ng dahas, pananakot at pamamahiya sa taong nangutang,” giit ng Vice Chairperson ng Senate Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies.

Sa ilalim ng Fair Debt Collection Practices Act o Senate Bill No. 1366, ipinagbabawal sa mga debt collections ang pangha-harass o pagbabanta sa taong nangutang at sa kanyang pamilya. Bawal din ang anumang paraan ng panghihiya o paninira ng reputasyon o pagkatao ng nangutang o pagbibigay ng mapanlinlang na impormasyon sa taong sinisingil tulad ng pag-aresto, pagkakakulong o pagkumpiska ng ari-arian. Ipinagbabawal din ang pag-access sa mga personal na impormasyon ng taong nangutang kung wala siyang pahintulot.

Sinabi ni Gatchalian na may mga sapat na probisyon ang panukalang batas na masisiguro na magiging patas ang pagtrato sa interes at kapakanan ng nagpapautang at nangungutang. (PIA NCR)

## Alfonseños....

Salamat.

(Only legitimate Alfonso residents can avail of the housing project. It will not serve as a relocation site for non-residents because we will not put aside the preservation of peace and order in

from page 1

our town)

Interested applicants can visit their respective barangay halls for details of the housing project and fill up the required application form. (Ruel Francisco with reports from Randy Salamat FB page)

## Trust....

kulang na kulang po tayo sa volume pero ngayon po mabubuhos po 'yong volume natin na mga 6 million ngayong May.”

The country has breached the two million mark on vaccines administered as of Tuesday with 1.7 million Filipinos receiving the initial dose of COVID-19 jab.

Meanwhile, Interior

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and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Ano reported that a total of 17,687,755 beneficiaries already received the aid intended for low-income families and individuals.

So far, the government has distributed a total of P17.6 billion out of the P22.9 billion given to the local government units (LGUs), Ano said, vowing to finish the subsidy distribution by May 15. (PND)

## Poe....

affordable technology embraced by police forces all over the world.

Four years after the funds for their purchase were included in the national budget, the first batch of body cameras-numbering 2,600-was delivered early this year following procurement hurdles that hounded three previous PNP chiefs.

“We are optimistic that the new PNP Chief will not be the fourth General to let this opportunity pass,” Poe said.

As the head of an agency with a strong social media presence and who livestreams their activities, Eleazar can direct the quick resolution of “privacy and operational” questions, which have blocked the use of body cams in police operations.

In March, the Supreme Court made back-to-back announcements requiring police body cameras to record the serving of court warrants.

“Bago ang PNP Chief. Bago rin ang Chief Justice. So let the issue of body cams be the start of a good relationship between these two pillar institutions,” Poe said, referring to the assumption to office of Alexander Gesmundo

from page 1

as Chief Justice on April 5.

But even without the High Court statement that it would soon promulgate rules on the mandatory use of body cameras by agents of the law serving court-issued orders, the PNP “on its own should have long adopted and embraced the benefits of body cameras,” the senator added.

“Kung ‘yung mga private cars ng mga kaibigan natin na pulis may mga dash cams, bakit ‘yung official patrol cars na ginagamit nila ay wala?’” Poe asked.

Poe has high hopes for the new chief saying if the PNP was able to easily buy police choppers from the 2017 national budget allocation for new equipment, “I’m sure the new chief is more than capable of providing these cameras for our police force in an effort to promote justice and transparency in the PNP.”

Poe emphasized that body cameras aid in police operations as they store footage of crimes being committed, which could then lead to the easier prosecution and conviction of offenders. (OSGP)

## CHED approves PLM’s plan to resume limited face-to-face classes for medical courses

By Nonette N. Castillo

CALOOCAN CITY -- The Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila on Tuesday secured the approval of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to reopen limited face-to-face education at the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Physical Therapy.

PLM initiated the process in February, starting with online consultations with students, parents, faculty, and practicing doctors at the Ospital ng Maynila to gauge the reception of stakeholders to the idea of returning to hands-on learning.

CHED officials visited the PLM campus in Manila in April to assess the school’s preparedness and the observance of minimum health standards in classrooms. The authority to conduct limited face-to-face classes will last until the first semester of academic year 2021-2022.

With the CHED’s clearance, students may now proceed with their hands-on medical clerkship, a requirement for graduation from the College of Medicine. Meanwhile, the College of Nursing and the College of Physical Therapy are finalizing their plans on which laboratory courses will be offered on a limited face-to-face classes after more than a year since the COVID-19 lockdowns started.

In January, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases gave the authority to local government officials to approve any requests for the resumption of face-to-face classes for medicine and health-related courses in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso earlier approved the resumption of limited physical classes for the medical schools of other universities and colleges within the city.

“We thank CHED for allowing our medical students to return to hands-on learning. This will allow PLM to do its part in reinforcing the health care frontlines and ensures that our future doctors and nurses will be equipped with the proper training as they join our brave health workers in healing fellow Filipinos,” President Leyco said.

Doctors, nurses, and medical staff have been bravely manning the front lines of the country’s battle against the coronavirus. The country saw a resurgence in infections as new COVID-19 variants emerge while vaccines remain limited.

University faculty members have assured that utmost care and protection will be given to students who will return to face-to-face learning, adding that those who will fulfill rotation duty at the Ospital ng Maynila will be provided with RT-PCR tests and prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination. (PIA NCR)

*Ang*  
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**PAPI**

## EDITORIAL

### Slow but sure?

With daily vaccinations running at an average of 30,000 to 45,000 people, the country is far — impossibly far — from achieving this target.

Facing flak for slowness amid reported daily cases by the thousands, the Inter-Agency Task Force against Covid-19 had plodded on, tweaking regulations here and there as we go along and keeping its eye on the goal: herd immunity by yearend.

As of 3 May 2021, however, a measly .03 percent of Filipinos have been fully vaccinated. Full vaccination means two doses have been administered.

Meanwhile, some 1,689,829 have received their first dose — or 1.6 percent of the total Philippine population.

Vaccine rollout officially began on 1 March, with government then setting a target of “70 percent of the population” inoculated by yearend. December 2021 is seven months away.

With daily vaccinations running at an average of 30,000 to 45,000 people, the country is far — impossibly far — from achieving this target.

The Philippines, according to a health expert recently, “should be inoculating over 350,000 persons daily to reach its Covid-19 vaccination target,” as reported in another broadsheet this week.

We do not have enough vaccine vials on hand to hit this target.

A new strategy is clearly called for, and that is what “vaccine czar” Secretary Carlito Galvez proposed recently.

A focused approach, he believes, will go a long way in stemming transmissions around the country.

When rollout began two months ago, Secretary Galvez revealed government's targets: “secure at least 148 million vaccine doses and inoculate 50 million to 70 million Filipinos within 2021.”

These numbers would be enough to reach the “recommended 60 percent of the population that scientists estimated was needed to reach herd immunity.”

From the start, however, vaccination targets had fallen short, although not for lack of any effort on government's part. Deliveries of the vaccines that government had ordered had been delayed or, when some arrived, were just fractions of total amount. Donated vaccines seem to have made up the bulk of inoculations done in the last few months.

With India going through a massive surge of cases these past weeks, our supply further hangs in the balance as India is a top producer of the doses that go to COVAX which, in turn, is one of our sources of the vaccines.

Government has not let up on its efforts to secure enough coronavirus shots for Filipinos. Along with this, it also aims to increase vaccination capacity to “three to five million by June and July” as more vaccines are expected to arrive.

When they do, Galvez proposes concentrating the vaccination drive in areas hardest hit by the pandemic.

Hotspots include the national capital and the six provinces around it, plus areas in the Visayas and Mindanao.

With this plan, herd immunity in said places may be reached before yearend.

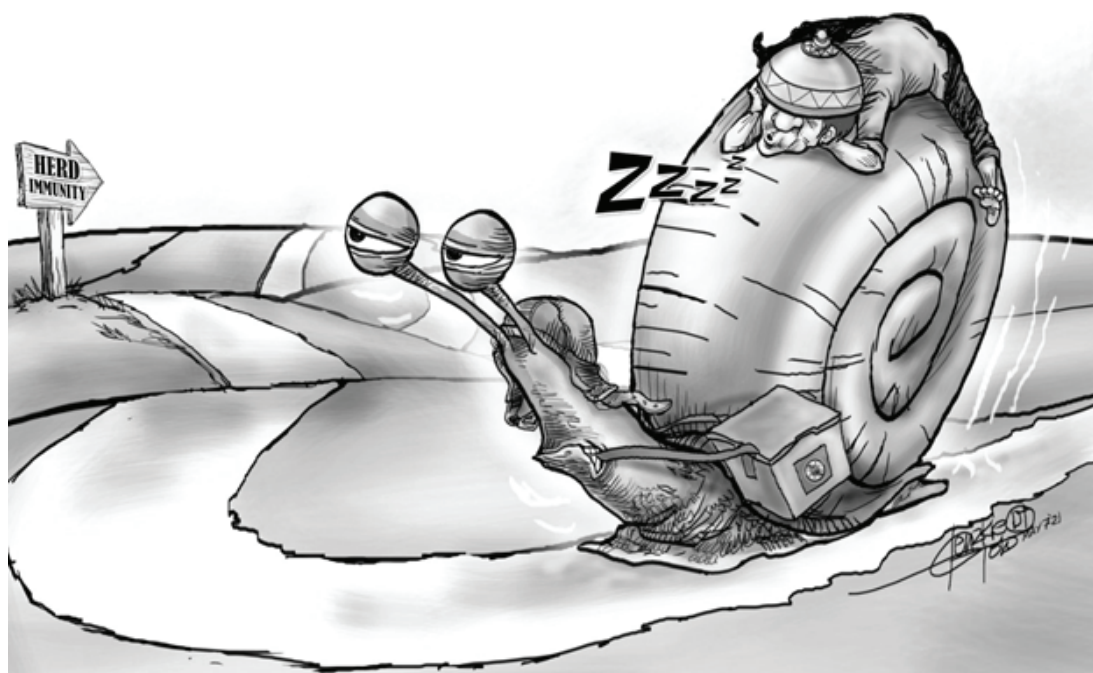
The vaccine czar recommends a targeted and more realistic approach, considering factors like logistics delay and rollout hiccups.

President Rodrigo Duterte has yet to give this proposal a nod, but he seems to recognize the need for alternative plans of action to reach the country's vaccination goals.

Government had signed tripartite agreements with vaccine makers and private groups to get more doses coming in, as the business sector acts on its own efforts to inoculate their employees as soon as possible.

Duterte had given permission to these imports by companies which, of course, must still pass through the government. He also ordered the Food and Drug Administration to get the studies done on Ivermectin as another possible solution for mild to moderate cases of Covid-19.

At this point, perhaps a slow but sure evaluation of our Covid-19 action plan should be in order.



# KAPIRASONG Kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

## Tungkol kay Brother Eli, Basa!

Ibang klase si Bro. Eli Soriano noong bata ako.

Sila siguro ni Bro. Mike Velarde ang talagang larawan ng televangelist sa Pilipinas. Ang isa, masayahin, kalmado; ang isa, parang laging galit, tensyonado. Ang isa, kaunting sipi lang sa Bibliya; ang isa, tutok sa banal na kasulatan.

Sa panahong nagsusulputan ang iba't ibang relihiyon, ipinangako ni Bro. Eli ang hanap ng marami: ang totoong laman ng Bibliya. At kahanga-hanga talaga ang kaalaman at pagsaulo niya.

Pero hindi lang siya salita ng Diyos, may pang-alihw rin: makulay magsalita, “kumbinsing,” sabi nga ng isang patalastas, madalas nakakatawa, minsan kumukurot sa puso at laging, laging may mapupulot na bago. Hindi kataka-takang gayahin siya ni Brad Pete para magpatawa.

Maraming nagrebelde sa Simbahang Katoliko sa bansa, mula kina Hermano Pule at Gregorio Aglipay hanggang kina Felix Manalo at Valentin delos Santos — na may iba't ibang tunguhing pampulitika.

Pero si Bro. Eli ang larawan ng rebeldeng panrelihiyon sa panahon ng telebisyon: puno ng galit sa mga naghaharing relihiyon na dinuduro niyang buktot at bulaan, may apoy ng pananalig sa katotohanan, walang sinasanto, walang takot.

Mahahatak talaga ang mga kabataang mapagrebelde, mapanuri at interesado sa

relihiyon, sa isang bansang walang malaganap na komunidad na nagdadala ng mga sekular na paniniwala — maliban sa Kaliwa — at laging may masiglang debate tungkol sa Bibliya sa Luneta.

Hindi ko alam kung siya iyun o ako, na naging aktibista paglaon, pero may mga napulot ako noon sa panood ng “Ang Dating Daan.” Sabi niya, mabuting tao ang mga Huk at NPA — na alam niya, bilang laking Pampanga. Sabi niya, narito na sa mundo ang 666 ng Antikristo at iyan ay ang salapi, ang pera.

Sabi niya, kapag nalaman niya na ang isang miyembro niya ay kinatok ng pulubi sa bahay at hindi nagbigay — pinuntahan na sa bahay at hindi pa nagbigay! — ititiwalag niya agad. Iyan, ganyan ang moral na pamantayan!

Tulad ng maraming lider-relihiyon, nasira siya sa mga akusasyon kaugnay ng tinawag niyang “pita ng laman” — pera at pagnanasa. Tulad din ng maraming lider-relihiyon, sinira niya ang sarili sa pagtindig sa pulitika — sa pagkampi sa masamang rehimen ni Rodrigo Duterte nitong huli. Kahit ang pahayag na “stupid God,” ipinagtanggol niya.

Ilang araw bago mamatay, ipinagtanggol niya sa kanyang programa ang pagpasok ng militar sa mga pamantasan at kinondena ang mga Komunista. Galit na galit; kung namatay siya sa atake sa puso, pwedeng isiping

nagsimula sa puntong iyun.

Sa pagkampi niya kay Duterte, lalong nalantad: hindi nyutral ang pagbasa niya sa Bibliya.

K a k a t w a n g nagkanlong siya sa Brazil, bansang ang presidente ay si Jair Bolsonaro, katulad ni Duterte na tinatawag na “populista” at “awtoritaryan” na may dalawang haligi ng suporta — ang militar at mga Pentecostal. Katulad din ni Duterte na suportado ni Soriano at, kakatwa, ng kalaban niyang Iglesia ni Cristo o INC.

Organisado kaya ng pamunuan ng INC ang pagsuplay sa rehimen ng mga miyembro nitong tulad ng berdugong militar na si Eduardo Año, pabrika ng gawa-gawang kaso na si Cecilyn Burgos-Villavert, payasong si Ferdinand Topacio at tagapagtanggol sa midya na si Anthony Taberna?

Nakikita ba nila ang mukha ni Hesukristo sa mga maralitang pinapatay, dinadahas, pinaghihirap at iniinsulto ng rehimen? O sa relihiyon, tulad sa “war on drugs,” patay ang mga biktima habang ligtas ang mismong naglalako ng opyo sa masa?

Tiyak, malakas ang hatak ng pita ng laman at bulok na pulitika sa naging katayuan ni Bro. Eli. Pero hindi ba dapat mas malakas ang kalooban ng mga mangangaral ng Diyos?

RIP, Bro. Eli. Sayang, wala kang katulad noon.

13 Pebrero 2021

# TOWN in FOCUS

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## Regenerative agriculture in 44th episode of ‘Stories for a Better Normal’ series

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan

**CALOOCAN CITY** -- Sustainable farming advocates will gather virtually to share knowledge on the socio-economic, environmental, and climate benefits of regenerative agriculture on the 44th episode of “Stories for a Better Normal: Pandemic and Climate Change Pathways,” with the topic, “Farms of the Future.”

The episode, hosted by three-term former senator, now

Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda, will air on Thursday, 6 May 2021, 10 a.m. via Facebook Live at [www.facebook.com/CCCPhl](http://www.facebook.com/CCCPhl) and [www.facebook.com/iamlorenlegarda](http://www.facebook.com/iamlorenlegarda).

Joining the online conversation are resource persons including Moises Butic, Ifugao muyong system practitioner; Renée Perrine, Co-Founder of Hineleban Farms; and Nicolo and Paula Aberasturi, Founders of Earth Flora Inc.

In previous episodes,

the online series tackled various topics on sustainability including food gardening and saving seeds, permaculture, planting native trees, and millennial farming to encourage audiences to adopt a healthier and more environment and climate-friendly lifestyle—as needed now in this COVID-19 pandemic and climate emergency.

This episode will feature groups that practice sustainable and regenerative agriculture, a farming method

that improves the resources it uses, rather than destroying or depleting them, through technologies that revitalize the soil and the environment.

Regenerative agriculture leads to healthy soil, capable of producing high quality, nutrient-dense food while simultaneously improving land which leads to productive farms and healthy communities and economies. It is dynamic and holistic, incorporating permaculture and organic farming practices, including conservation tillage, cover crops, crop rotation, composting, to increase food production, farmers’ income and especially, topsoil.

A global shift to regenerative agriculture can feed the world, decrease greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to climate change mitigation,

improve yields, revitalize local economies, preserve traditional knowledge, nurture biodiversity, and improve nutrition.

As an online discussion to promote health, environmental consciousness, and climate-adaptive practices, “Stories for a Better Normal” aims to change the mindset of individuals, families, and communities by demonstrating ways in which a ‘better normal’ can be realized within our communities.

This online discussion is organized in partnership between the Office of Deputy Speaker Legarda and the Climate Change Commission, with support from the Department of Education, Philippine Information Agency, Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, The Climate Reality Project-Philippines and Mother Earth Foundation. (PIA NCR)

# CAVITEVIEW

## DOST tackles research-based ways of ‘finding happiness’ during the pandemic

MORE than 1,200 local and international participants attended the webinar mainly composed of employees from DOST and other National Government Agencies (NGAs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Higher Education Institutes (HEIs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and private individuals. The webinar was made open to the public via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Recognizing that the sweeping societal change and the looming uncertainties in the country due to the COVID-19 can pose a serious threat to the well-being of the Filipinos, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Mimaropa in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD) tapped Professor Raj Raghunathan, a world-renowned ‘happiness expert’, to share the most practical, relatable, and proven ways to achieve happiness in our current situation in a webinar entitled “Finding Happiness in the Midst of the Pandemic” last April 29.

More than 1,200 local and international participants attended the webinar mainly composed of employees from DOST and other National Government Agencies (NGAs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Higher Education Institutes (HEIs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and private individuals. The webinar was made open to the public via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Raghunathan, who has spent years researching and understanding happiness, shared that his recent research showed that 70% of the people are more stressed or anxious due to the pandemic. Common

reasons include unproductivity, overwhelming feelings, loneliness, health problems, and job-related insecurities which topped the list. Consequently, this affected people’s creativity and productivity to which he reiterated the importance of the happiness of employees in an organization.

“Studies have shown that people showed up more for work when they are happy. Happier people are better teammates and are more creative, objective, and productive. Happier people even earn more money,” stressed Prof. Raghunathan. “According to the studies of Professor Ed Diener, dubbed as the Father of Happiness, happier people, on average, have higher salary by 32 %.”

He noted that the sources of happiness would apply whether in the state of a pandemic or normal time. He called these five major sources of happiness, the BAMB model. It stands for Basic needs, Autonomy, Mastery, Belonging, and Abundance culture which needs to be met for happiness and fulfillment.

“Happiness is not just a feel-good emotion, but it is useful to be happy. Happier people are healthier, have better functioning immune systems, and live longer,” said Raghunathan mentioning more positive findings from happier people.

Dr. Diana Ignacio, the DOST Assistant Secretary for Human Resources Management, Management Services, and Special Concerns emphasized how the BAMB model could help people live a happier life. She said, “There are very valuable lessons from Prof. Raj. Let us not dwell on things that might give us stress and anxiety. We can choose happiness. We can choose positivity.”

Compassion and Kindness

Raghunathan said that another key to truly feel happy at this time is to be compassionate and kind to other people. “In this time of the pandemic, the more people we can help with our resources, the happier we become. In helping other people, you also help yourself,” he said.

In his speech, the Secretary of Science and Technology of the Philippines, Secretary Fortunato de la Peña shared that he considered the achievement of DOST such as the breakthrough of technologies, research outputs, and among others, as his peak moments relating to Raghunathan’s lesson.

“There is nothing better than the feeling of happiness when you help somebody and be connected with the people. I learn that I can lose all my cash helping other people but still feel happy,” shared de la Peña.

From Texas to the Philippines

On how this big event came about, Dr. Ma. Josefina P. Abilay, the Regional Director of DOST-MIMAROPA and the lead organizer of the public webinar, said that she was a student of Professor Raghunathan in the Coursera course entitled “A Life of Happiness and Fulfillment.”

Dr. Abilay also served as the moderator during the program.

“When I was his student at Coursera, I thought, wow, I never saw happiness and fulfillment in this light. I better share this with my colleagues in DOST and our partner institutions,” she quipped.

She shared that the webinar aimed at sharing research-based ways to be happy as we try to navigate unfamiliar paths brought by the pandemic.

“As a leader, I would love to be happier too and I am sure most of you would. So, I thought it would be a great help to share the research outputs for us to remain healthy amidst the pandemic,” she said.

Dr. Abilay moderated the Open Forum session which received an overwhelming expression of appreciation from the audience. Participants were interested in the application of the BAMB Model, ways to overcome stress, and finding the motivation when struggling emotionally, among others.

The forum was well-received by the participants, many of them expressing gratitude to DOST for organizing a very timely and relatable e-learning forum. As happiness is a topic that interests everyone and one of the overlooked aspects of dealing with the pandemic, participants conveyed the need for more similar activities.

The happiness expert, Professor Raj Raghunathan, also known as Dr. Happy-smarts, is a Zale Centennial Professor of Business at the McCombs School of Business at The University of

Texas and a visiting Professor of Marketing at the Indian School of Business at Hyderabad. He devoted years of his life learning the impact of people’s judgments and decisions on their happiness and fulfillment.

He also teaches a very successful online course named “A life of Happiness and Fulfillment.” The online course was recognized as the Top Massive Open Online Course or MOOC of 2015- 2018, and one of the Top 50 MOOCs of all time with close to 400,000 students from 196 countries. His recent happiness course titled “Employee Happiness” was rated as the Top MOOC of 2019 with more than 5,000 students. He has also delivered several keynote lectures and a TED Talk on his remarkably important lesson on living a happy life, which aired on STAR TV India and viewed live by over 17 million people worldwide.

Besides being a speaker and educator, he also authored the book titled, “If you’re so smart, why aren’t you happy.” The book was released in the US, UK, and India in 2016 and was translated to about 13 other languages aside from English. He also shares his insights through his Psychology Today blog, Sapien Nature, which has over 2 million page views to date. His works have also appeared in top journals and have been cited in several mass media outlets, including The Atlantic, The New York Times, Fortune, Forbes, and Harvard Business Review.



# Sewthing Sweet PH: A Mother's Sustainable Love

By Julie A. Nieva

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY -- She is more than just a mother nurturing her children. She understands her role as an entrepreneur in fostering natural resources with sustainable products.

Her name is Cye Antonette Del Puerto Apalla and she is on a mission to save Mother Earth with every cloth diaper created with her delicate hands.

The Cagayan de Oro City-based entrepreneur started to exclusively use cloth diapers for her second child after learning of its advantages from support group of mothers using the product.

Her purchase reached to 80 cloth diaper stash which inspired her to eventually make her own cloth diapers.

"What if maghimo nalang kaha kog akoang own cloth diapers? Mahimoan pa nako akong gusto na print (What if I make my own cloth diapers. I can make the prints that I like)," she recalled on the start of her business.

Cye was no expert in sewing. But she still bought herself a small sewing machine and watched online tutorial videos to teach herself how to make cloth diapers. After many trials and errors, she finally perfected the process and created her first cloth diaper.

She began to sew for her own child's use. Then she started to produce for her friends. Her market eventually expanded nationwide through word-of-mouth which prompted her to launch Sewthing Sweet PH in social media.

Cye deviates from the ordinary colors and creates instead eye-catching cloth diapers made with captivating patterns such as animal prints, cartoon characters, florals, and even shiny, scaled materials to mimic a mermaid's tail.

Each cloth diaper is made to order and is priced from P200 to P600, depending on the raw materials if locally sourced or imported. Some are sold with matching shirts or dresses for the babies.

Aside from being innovative, cloth diapers are

eco-friendly and economical.

"Unlike magdisposables ka, paghuman nimo gamit, ilabay siya. It will be thrown into the landfill. Disposables have plastics and madunot na siya hundreds of years pa (Unlike using disposables, you throw it after using. It will be thrown into the landfill. Disposable have plastics and will decompose after hundreds of years)." Cye shared on the benefits of cloth diapers. "Makasave jud ka. If you use cloth diapers, you just need around 20 or 30 kabuok sa imong stash then kinahanglan lang ka og good laundry routine (You can save. If you use cloth diapers, you just need around 20 or 30 pieces in your stash and just have a good laundry routine)."

Cloth diapers also do not contain chemicals but still allow more breathability which can result in less skin irritation and rashes.

Being one of the mentees of DTI's Kapatid Mentor Me (KMME) program, Cye used her learnings to navigate her business in the time of pandemic.

In the first few weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic's start, she used her scrap cloth and made cloth face masks to persist from having no sales in her cloth diapers because no raw materials were delivered.

"Daghan kaayo nagpalit ato (A lot of people

bought it)." she said. "Then later on, nagbalik na ang supply sa disposables and other masks, so naghungong ko make. Para lang to makalahutay sa season nga walay baligya na cloth diaper (Then later on, when the supply of disposables and other masks was back, I stopped making it. It was only to get through the season of not being able to sell cloth diaper)."

Cye is looking forward to explore more product variants in her business to continue her contribution to the gradually recovering economy while still pushing for sustainable products.

"Isa na siya sa pinaka-importante nga iconsider nga the products that you sell should be eco-friendly or dapat unta maayo iyahang mahatag sa kinaiyahan (It is one of the most important things to consider that products that you sell should be eco-friendly or is good to the environment)." Cye said on the business's importance in producing sustainable products.

"We just don't sell para lang makaprofit or maka-earn. Mas maayo siguro iconsider nato nga dili siya makaharm sa atong environment (We just don't sell to make profit or to earn. It's better if we consider that it can't harm our environment)." (DTI10)



Cye Apalla displays her cloth diapers during DTI Misamis Oriental's Kahimunan Christmas Bazaar. (From Facebook.com/SewthingSweetPH)

## EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF REAL ESTATE WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late TOMAS CRUZAT MENDOZA, who died on September 2, 1880 and CATALINA ENDOZO MENDOZA who died on October 4, 1890 at Maitim II, Tagaytay City Cavite, respectively, VICTORINO ENDOZO MENDOZA, who died on February 22, 1947 and YSADORA ENDOZO MENDOZA who died on March 2, 1951 at Maitim II, Tagaytay City Cavite and Brgy. Banga Talisay Batangas, EDUARDO ENDOZO MENDOZA, who died on April 19, 1977 and ANA AMBULO MENDOZA who died on October 22, 1974 at Silang Cavite, respectively, TERESITA MENDOZA COSTA, who died on May 10, 2019 and ERNESTO CONSTANTINO COSTA at Maitim II, East Tagaytay City Cavite, respectively, BUENAVENTURA AMBULO MENDOZA, who died on June 28, 2011 and GLORIA ISLA MENDOZA who died on July 7, 2008 at Alfonso, Cavite, respectively; MARCELO ENDOZO MENDOZA, who died on November 24, 2001 and CRISANTA MIRANDA MENDOZA who died on August 8, 1974 at Sungay West Cavite Respectively; REYMUNDA MENDOZA VITO, November 14, 1977 and PASCUAL VITO who died on June 5, 1975 at Tagaytay City and East Tagaytay City respectively and GREGORIA MENDOZA VITO who died on March 8, 1995 at Sungay West Tagaytay City leaving a parcel of land covered by Tax Declaration of Real Property With ARP No. 28-0004-00796 has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 356; Page No. 72; Book No. 384, Series of 2021, Notary Public Atty. Mariano Villanueva.

Ang Cavitenos  
May 10, 17 & 24, 2021

## 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.

Ang Cavitenos Newsweekly  
May 03, 10 & 17, 2021

## More than 2 Million U.S.-sponsored vaccines arrive in the Philippines

MANILA -- The United States welcomes the May 8 arrival of two million additional doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to the Philippines. This is the third shipment of vaccines made available through the COVAX Advance Market Commitment, a global initiative to support equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. The United States

EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF SPS. HENRY MUNAR CHAN BY AND AMONG HIS SURVIVING SPOUSES AND SEVEN (7) CHILDREN WITH IRREVOCABLE DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE OF THE PROPERTIES BY THE HEIRS TO VENDEE SENEN ISRAELARABACA

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late HENRY MUNAR CHAN who died on November 9, 2006 at Pasig City leaving a Nineteen parcel of land (19) covered by TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 809213; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 809603; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 809214; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 803572; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 809518; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 809517; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 809520; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 809217; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 809216; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 809521; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 1000474; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 809215, 809213; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-301400) T-1436; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 809516; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 809604; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 803573; TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 809519 LOCATED AT Barangay Lantic, Carmona Cavite has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 301; Page No. 30; Book No. 3; Series of 2021, Notary Public Atty. Francis B. Contreras.

Ang Cavitenos  
May 10, 17 & 24, 2021

already has donated P97.2 billion (\$2 billion) to COVAX, by far the largest contribution, to ensure the Philippines, and other countries, receive COVID-19 vaccines.

U.S. Embassy representatives joined Philippine Secretary of Health Francisco Duque III, National Task Force Against COVID-19 Chief Secretary Carlito Galvez, Jr., and other stakeholders at the arrival of the vaccines on Saturday.

With this delivery, the Philippines has now received more than 2.5 million vaccines through COVAX. In total, COVAX will provide 44 million doses to Filipinos.

The first deliveries of 525,600 AstraZeneca vaccines took place in early March and were used to inoculate frontline health care workers, senior citizens, and individuals with comorbidities. In the coming weeks, an additional COVAX allocation of 4.5 million doses of AstraZeneca is expected. COVAX also will provide over 2.3 million doses of the U.S. company Pfizer vaccine, with the first delivery imminent.

In February, the U.S. government announced a total planned contribution of Php194.4 billion (\$4 billion) to the COVAX Advance Market Commitment. The United States already has provided an initial Php97.2 billion (\$2 billion), and the Philippines is among the first countries in the region to have received COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility. The U.S. is by far the largest contributor to the COVAX effort, funding one in five vaccinations in the Philippines provided by the facility.

The United States has worked closely with Philippine partners throughout the pandemic to protect public health and strengthen local response to COVID-19. To date, total U.S. government COVID-19 assistance to the Philippines amounts to nearly Php1.3 billion (\$27 million). (U.S. Embassy in the Philippines)

# Word Search Puzzle

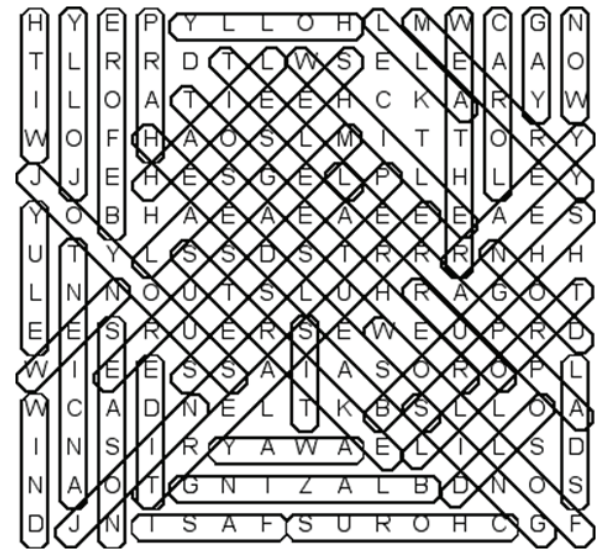
## Mystery Christmas Carol #2

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 will spell the name of the Christmas Carol.

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

- ALL
- AND
- ASK
- ASLEEP
- AWAY
- BABY
- BED
- BLESS
- BRIGHT
- BUT
- CARE
- CATTLE
- CHILDREN
- CLOSE
- CRIB
- CRYING
- DEAR
- DOWN
- FOREVER
- FROM
- HAY
- HEAD
- HEAVEN
- HIS
- JESUS
- LAI
- LAY
- LITTLE
- LIVE
- LOOK
- LOOKED
- LORD
- LOVE
- LOWING
- MAKES
- MANGER
- MORNING
- NEAR
- NIGH
- POOR
- PRAY
- SIDE
- SKY
- STARS
- STAY
- SWEET
- TAKE
- TENDER
- THEE
- THERE
- THY
- WAKES
- WHERE
- WITH

## Sagot sa nakaraan



# Sudoku

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

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

## Sudoku hint

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

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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# DepEd NEU defends Briones against detractors; pushes for Yes for Peace to end armed conflicts

By Jerome Carlo R. Paunan

CALOOCAN CITY -- The Department of Education National Employees' Union (DepEd-NEU), the largest public sector union in the country with 50,000 members, came to the defense of Education Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones, who is being badgered by some critics into resigning.

"Secretary Briones should not be criticized because she and her management team are doing the best that they can to deliver education to learners in public elementary and high schools nationwide given the prevailing circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Johnny Balawag, chairperson of the National Board of Trustees (NBOT) of the DepEd-NEU.

For his part, lawyer Domingo B. Alidon, President of the DepEd-NEU said there is no

leader or government that was prepared for this pandemic, which "caught all of us by surprise, even the education sector was caught flat footed."

"Be that as it may, DepEd prepared as fast as it could what is called modular or virtual/online learning. Self-learning modules are carefully being studied by DepEd to be able to deliver learning to schoolchildren. The department has not stopped delivering basic education," Alidon added.

"The public should not expect that the delivery of education could be perfect and smooth during this period. If that is what they are expecting, then, they are asking for the impossible," he further said.

"We are amidst a crisis. Every one of us must contribute. We can not expect 100 percent performance from anyone," Alidon stressed, "Even during normal

*continue to page 2*



Education Secretary Leonor Briones. (PIA NCR file photo)

## DILG, DOLE, MMDA ink pact on deployment of 5,754 new contact tracers in NCR

By Susan G. De Leon

CALOOCAN CITY -- In a bid to intensify the government's contact tracing efforts, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) over the weekend, the joint memorandum circular on the implementing guidelines for the hiring, training, and deployment of some 5,754 contact tracers (CTs) in the National Capital Region (NCR) for three months starting this May.

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año said that the number of contact tracers is 1,000 more than the 4,754 CTs that was originally committed by the DOLE to be hired under its Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers or TUPAD Program (TUPAD) program.

"We thank DOLE for allocating more funds for the hiring of contact tracers. Sa tulong ng inisyatibong ito, mapipigilan natin ang patuloy na pagkalat ng coronavirus habang binibigyan ng hanapbuhay ang ating mga kababayang lubhang naapektuhan ng pandemiya," Año said during the virtual signing on Saturday morning with DOLE

Secretary Silvestre Bello III and MMDA Chairman Benjamin Abalos Jr.

So far, 13,304 have applied for the available positions and 2,696 have already been assessed/qualified.

Of the 5,754 new CTs, the DILG Secretary said that 1,347 will be deployed in Quezon City; 713 in Caloocan City; 707 in Manila; 349 in Pasig; 333 in Taguig; and 302 in Parañaque. Another 278 will be assigned in Valenzuela; 259 in Makati; 234 in Muntinlupa; 268 in Las Piñas; and 209 in Marikina. The remaining 192 will be in Pasay; 171 in Mandaluyong; 161 in Navotas; 152 in Malabon; 47 in San Juan; and 32 in Pateros.

This January, the DILG already deployed 2,381 contact tracers to the NCR for a six-month contract until June. The DILG utilized the unreleased balance from the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act and the P500M Contact Tracing budget in the 2021 General Appropriations Act for the hiring of the additional contact tracers. All over the country, the DILG deployed 15,000 contact tracers last January.

In March, the DILG deployed an additional 802 contact tracers composed of police officers and BFP personnel from other parts of the country under low-risk category. All the

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## TESDA seeks private sector partners under EBT programs

By Jimmyley E. Guzman

PASIG CITY -- The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is pushing for a more proactive promotion of its Enterprise-Based Training (EBT) program among industry partners to better prepare workers and learners in their respective regions.

TESDA Deputy Director General Aniceto "John" Bertiz III called on the agency's industry coordinators and administrators

of TESDA Technical Institutes (TTI) to ensure active participation of private sector in the EBT Program.

"In the implementation of EBT programs, promotion and advocacy play a vital role in achieving the targeted increase in the number of implementers. We encourage you to intensify the promotion and marketing of EBT and focus on nurturing the existing partnerships," he said.

"The Industry has been our partners in implementing our TVET programs. Now, we want to utilize this platform to set a

strategic direction and enable you, as our frontliners in TVET, to be the advocates in making EBT the more preferred training modality in TVET," he added.

Bertiz, who oversees the partnerships and linkages at TESDA, made the call during his opening remarks at the first-ever Capacity-Building Program for EBT Industry Coordinators and TTI Administration held recently.

This capacity-building program is in line with the agency's goal to strengthen and expand the implementation of

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TESDA Deputy Director General Aniceto "John" Bertiz III (Contributed photo)