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From SPES beneficiary to DOLE trainee

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16th Brigada Eskwela commences in Cavite

CAVITE CITY -- The Department of Education (DepEd) officially kicked off the

16th Brigada Eskwela, with the theme “Matatag na Bayan para sa Maunlad na Paaralan,” on May 16 at Alfonso Central School in Alfonso, Cavite.

More than 1,000 DepEd key officials from the Central, Regional, and Division offices and stakeholders from national government agencies and local government units of Cavite, private sector partners, and various members of the community gathered in the national kickoff and caravan to express their commitment to the annual activity.

Represented by Undersecretary for Finance Service and Education Programs Delivery Unit Annalyn Sevilla, DepEd Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones stated that there has never been a lack of support for the education sector.

“After all, education is not the business of DepEd alone. It is the responsibility of our communities; it is a national responsibility,” the Education chief underscored.

In the same message, the Secretary noted that the *continue to page 3*



Cavite Province Brigada Eskwela National Kick-off and Caravan 2019

Over \$1 trillion needed annually to achieve SDGs in Asia-Pacific region—UNESCAP

QUEZON CITY -- To achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Asia-Pacific region needs an annual investment of about USD 1.5 trillion (equivalent to PHP78.9 trillion), according to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

“This is on top of what [the region] is already spending [for SDGs],” said Vatcharin Sirimaneetham, UNESCAP’s economic affairs officer, during a policy dialogue coorganized with the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS).

Presenting the results

of UNESCAP’s “Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2019”, Sirimaneetham said it is important for the region to “look beyond economic growth and integrate the social dimensions of development”.

He added that there needs to be a “shift in mindset” by prioritizing the “well-being of the people and the planet first”.

Based on the Survey 2019, the region should annually invest an additional USD 669 billion (or PHP35.2 trillion) on people to ensure the implementation of targeted cash transfers, efficient social protection services, nutrition-

specific interventions, universal access to quality education and health coverage, as well as to promote agricultural productivity.

An additional USD 196 billion (or P10.3 trillion) should also be invested for the improvement of the region’s

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LGU Cavite holds technical meeting on provincial nutrition programs, projects

By Ruel Francisco

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, CAVITE -- The Provincial Nutrition Committee under the Provincial Health Office recently conducted the Joint Nutrition Action Officers (NAOs) and Provincial Nutrition Committee-Technical Working Group (PNC-TWG) Meeting at the Cavite Collaboration Center for Public Health here in its desire to address the perennial malnutrition issues and concerns in the province

Representatives of the various cities and

municipalities in the province and nutrition action officers convened to discuss the updates on Barangay Nutrition Services (BNS) Project and submission of reports, Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) and accomplishment reports to be submitted to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) among others.

Provincial Nutrition Action Officer Angeles Peñalba gave a detailed overview of the PPAN 2017 – 2022 to enlighten

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PGC CONDUCTS OPERATION TULI IN IMUS CITY

AS soon as the 2019 local elections concluded, the Provincial Government of Cavite immediately carried out Operation Tuli in the province which started off on May 16, 2019 in Barangay Alapan II-A, Imus City. Barangay Chairman Marc Albert Barzaga was thankful to be part of the continuing endeavors of promoting the hygienic importance of circumcision. The free circumcision

program is one of the basic public healthcare services being conducted during the summer break spearheaded by trained volunteers from the Provincial Health Office and the OPG-Extension. Members of the Order of Demolay-Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Chapter and barangay health workers also contributed to the success of the outreach event that made a total of 48 young boys proud and happy.





MMDA personnel removes campaign materials after the election. (Photos courtesy of MMDA Spokesperson Celine Pialago's Facebook page)

MMDA hauls over 168 tons of campaign trash

By Jimmyley E. Guzman

MAKATI CITY – Over 168 tons of campaign trash were hauled by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), a day after the May 13 midterm elections.

“We target to rid the major roads in the metro of campaign materials and spruce up public schools until this week in preparation for the opening of classes next month early,” said MMDA Chairman Danilo Lim.

According to MMDA’s Metro Parkway Clearing Group (MPCG) report, the collected campaign materials of varying sizes is equivalent to 23.42 tons and filled up seven dump trucks. MMDA’s cleaning operation teams also removed selection materials pasted on concrete walls and fences in major thoroughfares with the use of scraper and sprayer.

MPCG chief Francis Martinez, said they confiscated 134,700 pieces, equivalent to 145 tons, of election-related materials in various areas in Metro Manila

under the “Oplan Baklas” operation before the elections.

“All in all, we have collected so far 168.84 tons of campaign trash this midterm elections,” said Martinez.

MMDA’s ‘Oplan Baklas’ campaign started last March 1 until the Election Day, May 13, wherein campaign materials placed outside the designated areas of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) were removed.

The MMDA said, the collected campaign materials will be sorted and recycled.

“Those who need tarpaulins to have them recycled into bags, place mats, school supplies and other useful items can coordinate with us,” said Martinez.

He added though that this year’s collection is lower compared to 2016 national elections where they collected 206 tons of campaign materials.

The MMDA said that Manila, Quezon City, Parañaque and Makati produced the most number of campaign materials.

DTI...

to the rise in price of the said commodity.

The price of tamban, in particular, increased by 33 percent in December due to the close of fishing season which began last November 2018 up to February 2019.

Aside from canned sardines, prices of processed meat and canned beef also increased due to escalating cost of raw materials (meat) and packaging materials (label, tin, and carton).

Prices of evaporated

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and condensed milk products also noted an increase ranging from P0.50 to P1.10 and P0.50 to P1.20, respectively, due to significant increases in the cost of Skimmed Milk Powder and Anhydrous Milk Fat, and weakening of Philippine peso.

Condiments such as vinegar, fish sauce (patis), and soy sauce also increased in prices due to rising cost of their raw materials (fish extract and soy bean meal) labor rate, and packaging materials (PET bottle and carton). The SRPs of vinegar

range from P6.40 (200ml) to P14.70 (350ml), patis 350 ml from P20.50 to P25.65, while soy sauce 340ml ranges from P16.25 to P17.35.

“The DTI assures the consuming public that all increases in the SRPs are kept at the absolute minimum level. Amid the SRP adjustments, the DTI remains vigilant and steadfast in its commitment to ensure reasonableness of prices of basic and prime goods and maintain the adequacy its supply, and to stop trade malpractices in the market,” Lopez said. (PIA InfoComm/DTI)

Duterte orders DAR: Divide parcels of land to individual titles

QUEZON CITY -- President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has ordered the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to facilitate the survey and re-documentation of collective land titles to individual certificates of landownership awards (CLOA).

According to a study made in 2017, some 2.251 million hectares collective CLOAs of agricultural lands have been issued by the DAR. Of these landholdings, 76% were awarded to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARB) who were not actually engaged in collective farming.

“This has affected farmer’s individual property rights and has discouraged farmers from making long term improvements on the land. And I don’t blame them,” said Agrarian Reform Secretary John R. Castricones.

“If you own part of a collective CLOA, it’s hard to make decisions on what crops to plant and how to plan your farm. Why? Because you

have to consult other farmers and what the majority wants will prevail,” he added.

“This is also the reason why the President wants all collective land titles issued by the Department transformed to individual titles. Separate CLOAs for each farmer-beneficiary are better because it enables them to have a clear and defined ownership of parcels of land,” Castricones continued.

In another study made by the Land Bank of the Philippines, one of the major reasons for the low collection rate of land amortization is that many titles distributed to ARBs were collective CLOAs, thus individual amortizations could not be properly computed and collected.

The directive to divide collective parcels of lots was given by the President during the 36th Cabinet Meeting held on April 1, 2019 at the Malacañan Palace.

In the course of the discussion, the President instructed the DAR to convene

a task force and come up with a program to ensure the distribution of individual CLOAs from the collective titles and remaining workable balance of agricultural lands.

“To accomplish the President’s directive, we have created a separate office that will facilitate the ‘parcelization’ of collective CLOAs into individual CLOAs,” Castricones said.

The office called Agrarian Reform Title Stabilization (ARTS), headed by Undersecretary David Erro, will form teams and provide a timeline and guidelines in the implementation of the said order.

During the Cabinet meeting, the President also acknowledged that the conduct of survey would require financing. As such the President said that he will exert all efforts to respond to the required funding for the hiring of surveyors and survey equipment. In relation, Duterte instructed the Finance Secretary to raise funds to support the DAR’s program. (DAR)

Government...

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available to ensure the safety and security for each deployment.

Meanwhile, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Danilo Lim said, some 400 members of the agency’s Metro Parkways Clearing Group (MPCG) were deployed to 20 public schools in Metro Manila to actively participate in the 2019 Brigada Eskwela.

“The spirit of bayanihan is very much alive in this activity. Our personnel are more than ready to extend assistance to

public schools that requested our assistance for a safe, clean and conducive learning environment for the incoming students,” said Lim.

The 2019 Brigada Eskwela with the theme “Matatag na Bayan Para sa Maunlad na Paaralan,” aims to gather communities and education stakeholders including teachers, parents and students to participate and help prepare public school facilities for the opening of the school classes on June. (PIA Info Comm/PDEA)

Environmental... from page 8

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic tarpaulins were converted into different bags such as ball bag, bean bag, body bag, carry bag, clutch bag, delivery bag, shoe bag, shopping bag, and string bag. It’s even possible to make pencil or mobile phone cases out of tarps.

The group noted that tarpaulins can also be reused as upholstery material, as a protection against rain or sunlight for vehicles, and as awnings for homes and stores.

The group further reminded that plastic PVC tarpaulins should only be reused for non-food and non-child applications.

As these tarps may contain toxic additives such as cadmium and lead, which may leach and contaminate the food or expose children to chemical hazards, the EcoWaste Coalition suggested that tarps should only be reused for non-food and non-child uses.

To prevent and reduce trash in future elections, the

EcoWaste Coalition urged the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to upgrade existing rules to ensure the judicious use of resources and eliminate the use of materials that are toxic and are difficult to reuse or recycle.

“There is also a need to responsabilize candidates and parties in the mandatory removal and environmentally sound management of campaign materials right after election,” Lucero said.

“COMELEC and deputized agencies have to strictly enforce the ban on the distribution of sample ballots on polling day, which only contributes to the trashing of polling stations,” she said

“Like the reported incidents of vote buying, littering has again tainted the democratic exercise of choosing our political leaders. Next time, our citizens should come prepared with their own voting kodigo to render sample ballots irrelevant and avoid turning polling places into dumpsites,” she said. (Ecowaste Coalition)

DOLE launches online marketing platform

MANILA—The Department of Labor & Employment (DOLE) recently launched an online marketing platform to help informal sector workers and small business owners to sell their products using the internet.

The DOLE Livelihood Beneficiaries Products Showcase (DLBPS) is a free online market platform developed and managed by the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC), aims to enhance the selling and marketing capabilities of the beneficiaries of the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP).

In a statement, Labor & Employment Secretary Silvestre Bello III said “We recognize the unique contribution of workers in the informal sector in the country. We want to improve their status of living, strengthen their enterprises and livelihood, as

well as to protect their rights as workers”.

According to DOLE Assistant Secretary Benjo Santos Benavidez, the ultimate agenda of the labor department is to transition the informal workers into the formal economy.

He added this is the reason why the department has envisioned the online marketing platform to help the livelihood beneficiaries in selling their products.

“We want them to have a sustainable livelihood. This is one of the tools we have developed to help them sell their products,” Benavidez said.

“In order to help improve their products and services, a product review is also featured in the online platform where buyers or customers can provide feedback or rate the marketed products,” Benavidez explained.



DOLE Assistant Secretary Benjo Santos M. Benavidez (FILE PHOTO)

16th...

number of volunteers ballooned from 11 million in 2017 to 22 million in 2018, which proves that Brigada Eskwela brings out the best in Filipinos, and that the spirit of bayanihan is still very much alive as communities ensure that Filipino learners will have a clean, safe, and conducive learning environment during the first day of classes.

“Brigada Eskwela now is more than just cleaning. It has more targets like bringing back our out-of-school students to classroom,” Undersecretary for Legislative Affairs, External Partnerships, and Project Management Service Tonisito Umali, Esq. mentioned, emphasizing how the Department, in cooperation with various stakeholders, has escalated the implementation of Brigada Eskwela over the years. DepEd officials including Assistant Secretary G.H. Ambat, community members, and other stakeholders took part in the Brigada Eskwela activities to spruce up the campus and prepare it for the opening of classes.

Umali also added that the Brigada effort must not be a one-shot, week-long activity, but shall run for a “lifetime” so as to sustain the levelling up of the program’s implementation.

The national kickoff also featured advocacy campaign and orientations, and skills training. The event also emphasized

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the spirit of camaraderie and showcased the festivity of Filipino traditions through a Pista sa Bayan. The event also intensified the no single-use plastic advocacy by distributing reusable water tumblers and setting up water stations instead of handing out bottled water for guests.

Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs and Alternative Learning System Program and Task Force G.H. Ambat and the regional directors joined the actual bayanihan in two schools in Alfonso: Pansin Elementary School and Kaysuyo National High School.

Briones ended her message by acknowledging the efforts of every Filipino to building the nation: “Today is one of those few occasions when Filipinos across the country set aside differences and become integral members of a united community with a common goal: to nurture lifelong learners whose values and competencies enable them to contribute meaningfully to nation-building.”

Following this, all schools nationwide are expected to further the bayanihan spirit through their internal and external stakeholders’ active mobilization and participation in the upcoming simultaneous Brigada Eskwela on May 20 to 25, 2019, to be followed by Oplan Balik Eskwela from May 27 to June 7, 2019. (DepEd)

PNP chief thanked troops, community for a peaceful elections

QUEZON CITY – Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Police General Oscar Albayalde commended members of the police who maintained peace and order during the conduct of ational and local elections on Monday, May 13, 2019.

In a media briefing Tuesday, Albayalde thanked the police force, together with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) for the conduct of a peaceful, safe and secured midterm polls.

LGU...

the new NAOs of their mission/vision.

“It is sad to note that the data on stunting or short for age cases continue to rise despite continued efforts of the provincial government to reach out to the poorest members of the community,” Peñaralba pointed out as she requested for their cooperation.

Meanwhile, Nutrition Officer II Ms. Liberty Mojica-Guzman tackled the updated nutrition Monitoring and Evaluation of Local Level

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Implementation Protocol (MELLPI) for local government and nutrition workers then answered queries on the new MELLPI Pro guidelines and elaborated some issues concerning the present practices in their locality including clarification on the different phases of the MELLPI.

During the meeting, key features of MELLPI Pro and its tools to qualify for the 2019 awards like the Certificate of Quality Nutrition Program, Consistent Regional

Outstanding Winner in Nutrition (CROWN), CROWN Maintenance Award, and the Presidential Award for Nutrition were discussed by Nutritionist - Dietitian II Ms. Dessa May Alibangbang to prepare the different local provincial/city/municipal government units.

MELLPI Pro scores and top performing local government units with ratings not lower than 3 will be the basis in granting the Certificate of Quality Nutrition Program in lieu of the Green Banner. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite/with reports from PICAD)

Over...

infrastructure and to ensure access to water and sanitation, information and communications technology, and transportation. Meanwhile, another USD 590 billion (or PHP31 trillion) should be spent on the protection of environment to ensure access to clean energy, among others. When combined, the three estimated costs would total to about USD 1.5 trillion (or P78.9 trillion) per year, Sirimaneetham said.

“They [Asian countries] will not be able to finance these SDGs by themselves; it is possible only with strong development partnership,” Sirimaneetham explained, adding that governments in the Asia-Pacific region need to tap the private sector to afford these. The Philippines is one of the 193 UN-member states that committed to achieving the 17

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SDGs by 2030. But how is the country doing so far?

Speaking in the same event, PIDS Senior Research Fellow Jose Ramon Albert said that the Philippine Development Plan as well as the country’s long-term development plans included in the Ambisyon Natin 2040 are in line with the 17 SDGs.

In terms of SDG on quality education, Albert said the Philippines “has seen marked improvements”, with basic education performance indicators, such as completion and cohort survival rates, having significantly improved. However, he noted gaps in the secondary education, especially in terms of absorptive capacity. The teacher-student ratio at the primary level is 1:32 and 1:27 at the secondary level. Four out of 5 schools have computers, but only 1 out of 4 schools have access to Internet,

as of 2016.

In terms of SDG on decent work and economic growth, Albert mentioned the country is seeing a positive trend for the past seven years. However, while labor indicators show positive growth, disparities can still be seen in terms of gender and region. He added that the quality of jobs needs to be improved to help address the 16.1-percent underemployment rate in the country.

Lastly, for SDG on reducing inequality, Albert said that while there are improvements in economic growth in the country, these improvements “vary drastically across regions”.

“Regional income disparities are stark, with the National Capital Region’s average per capita income thrice that of Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao’s,” he explained. (PIDS)

The PNP chief also expressed his gratitude to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for his utmost support to the police. He also acknowledged the local government units, members of the community, media, and other stakeholders for their vigilance and support and cooperation extended to the PNP.

In an election-related updates, Albayalde noted 60 percent decrease in the

number of election related cases, with 43 incidents and with 73 victims compared to the 106 incidents with 192 victims recorded during the 2016 polls.

On vote buying, the PNP chief said they have recorded a total of 225 incidents which led to the arrest of 441 violators and rescue of eight (8) minors. On the Election Day, the PNP has recorded some 41 incidents ranging

from commotion, mauling, attempted murder, and shooting incidents. However, he said that investigations are still ongoing to verify if said incidents are election-related.

Albayalde also commended some 517 police personnel who served as members of election board in the absence of teachers in some areas. (PIA InfoComm/PNP)

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EDITORIAL

What the Otso Diretso defeat means

IF the partial, unofficial results of Monday's midterm elections are an indication of the final tally, none of the eight anti-administration Otso Diretso senatorial candidates are going to make it to the winning circle of 12.

According to the tallies, Otso Diretso candidate Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino is at 13th place, while another Otso Diretso candidate, Manuel "Mar" Roxas II of the Liberal Party (LP), is at 16th place. The other six are trailing far behind, almost assured of defeat.

If the current trend continues, the Otso Diretso will end up as Otso Olat. So much for the LP's self-serving claim that the people are quietly supporting the anti-administration ticket.

Actually, the Otso Diretso was doomed from the start.

The failure of the LP to field a full slate of 12 was already an indication of its unpopularity, due mainly to the abusive way LP politicians comported themselves when they were in power. In politics, large scale unpopularity translates to inevitable defeat in the polls.

Another factor is that the Otso Diretso has no moral high ground. Its visible leaders are seen as political opportunists. One of the ticket's rabid supporters who advocated righteousness had to abandon his sanctimonious facade when a sex video implicating him went viral in the social media.

Still another factor is the exposé that Vice President Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo was behind a discredited video that attempted to link President Rodrigo Duterte and his family to the illegal drug trade in the Philippines. The video was designed to discredit candidates closely identified with the President, and underscored that the Otso Diretso and the LP will resort to anything, even underhanded measures, just to win votes.

Otso Diretso was a partnership of political convenience. The only common bond the candidates had was their opposition to the Duterte administration. There was nothing else beyond that. Roxas was an obvious oligarch; Aquino was political opportunism personified; Erin Tañada symbolized hollow leadership; Gary Alejano was linked to military mutinies; Jose Manuel Diokno identified with the left; Romulo Macalintal is money politics; Florin Hilbay is too close to ex-President Benigno Aquino III; and Samira Gutoc has no serious political platform.

The lack of a clear cause among the Otso Diretso bets led to the group's disintegration months before election day. Roxas was the first to unofficially bolt from the coalition, as seen in his separate campaign sorties as early as March. Aquino and Macalintal followed. In the end, the Otso Diretso became the Kwatro Desperado, who eventually learned that being pitiful is not enough to get elected.

Likewise, the impending defeat of the Otso Diretso means the Filipino people are still very pleased with the way President Duterte is running the government, and with his relentless war against illegal drugs. It also means that the occasional odd remarks made by the President in public are non-issues as far as the people are concerned.

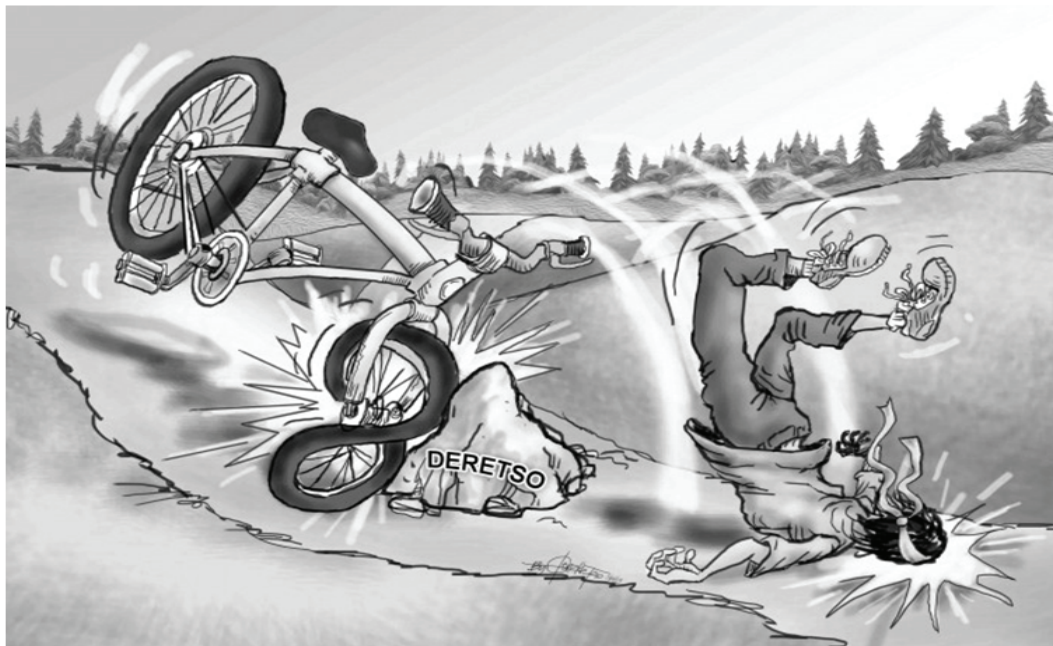
The impending defeat of the Otso Diretso ticket likewise means that the voters disagree with the views of anti-Duterte elements like ex-President Noynoy Aquino, Vice President Robredo and Sen. Francis Pangilinan.

It is also a slap on the face of outgoing Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV who in just six weeks will morph from a noisy, opinionated troublemaker in the Senate to an irrelevant has-been who will probably be in hiding for fear of his own shadow.

Otso Diretso's downfall at the ballot box should also be enough reason for the pharisees in the Catholic Church, like the double-talking Luis Cardinal Tagle and his highly politicized bishops Socrates Villegas and Pablo Virgilio David, to shut up and stop their unfounded criticism of the President.

It should also be enough to discourage Sister Patricia Fox, that meddling nun from Australia who claims to love the Philippines for the past 40 years, but refuses to get naturalized as a Filipino, from entertaining plans to return to the Philippines any time soon.

Knowing the kind of shady individuals behind the Otso Diretso, it is certain that they will not take defeat that easily, and they will continue to be critical of the government, despite their repudiation by the people.



KAPIRASONG Kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

Para kay Etta Rosales

HINDI mo ako kilala. Hindi ka na bahagi ng pambansa-demokratikong Kaliwa noong namulat ako. Pero natatandaan kita kahit noon dahil naging lider-masa ka ng Bagong Alyansang Makabayan o Bayan. Pero mas nakilala na kitang lider ng Akbayan.

Sumusulat ako sa iyo ngayon, syempre pa, kaugnay ng ibinalita mong paghirang sa iyo ni Presidente Noynoy Aquino bilang lider ng Commission on Human Rights. Medyo nakakaasiwa nga dahil ikaw pa ang nag-anunsyo. Bakit ba, para tiyakin ang pangako ni Noynoy sa iyo at sa Akbayan? Nabansagan ka tuloy na "Etta-t" – atat! – ng mga tao.

Hindi naman siguro lingid sa kaalaman mo na tumutol na ang iba't ibang grupo – oo, mula sa pambansa-demokratikong Kaliwa – sa paghirang sa iyo. Maraming nagsalita: ang Karapatan, grupong tampok sa paglaban sa mga paglabag sa karapatang tao sa ilalim ng rehimen ni Gloria Arroyo, ang Kilusang Mayo Uno, Anakbayan at iba pa.

Nitong huli, nagulat ako dahil may nagpadala sa akin ng isang larawan mula sa Facebook: ikaw, nakataas ang kamao, aktibistang-aktibista, at may tekstong "We want Etta Rosales as chief of the Commission on Human Rights." Kampanya na pala ang pagiging hepe mo ng CHR. May permiso mo ba ang kampanyang ito? Sang-ayon ka ba rito?

Simple lang ang punto ko kaugnay nito at sa paghirang sa iyong pinuno ng CHR: delicadeza o, dahil minsang naging islogan ng Akbayan ang "Marangal," dangal. Hinihimok o hinahamon kita: Tanggihan mo na lang ang paghirang sa iyo sa nasabing posisyon, kung may delicadeza o dangal ka bilang tao o nagpapakilalang aktibista.

"Bakit naman?" maitatanong mo. Kasi ayaw ka ng maraming organisasyon. Tama ka sa isasagot mo, puro pambansa-demokratiko naman ang tutol sa paghirang sa iyo. Pero kahit saang anggulo mo tingnan, dapat silang ituring na mahalagang boses sa pagpili ng mamumuno sa CHR: karamihan ng paglabag sa karapatang tao, sa kanilang hanay.

Tumaas din kasi ang ekspektasyon ng mga aktibista sa posisyon ng hepe ng CHR dahil kay Leila de Lima na huling humawak dito. Ipinakita niya na posibleng kahit hindi aktibista ang maupo rito, basta bukas ang isip, walang galit sa Kaliwa, at malinaw ang konsepto ng karapatang tao, may maiaambag sa pagtatanggol sa karapatang tao.

Walang tiwala sa iyo ang mga aktibista, na siyang puntirya ng malulubhang paglabag sa karapatang tao. Marami nang nasabi: ang paghati mo sa paglaban para sa katarungan para sa mga biktima diktadurang Marcos, kawalang-aksyon mo noong pinuno ka ng House Committee on Human Rights, pagiging red-baiter mo at iba pa.

Sigurado, marami kang sasabihin para ipagtanggol ang rekord mo. Iyun lang, tiwala akong hindi mo masasagot nang sapat ang mga tuligsa sa iyo. Datos kasi ang batayan ng mga akusasyon at galing, muli, sa hanay ng mga nilalabag ang karapatang pantao – na dapat ituring, sa wika ng civil society na nauunawaan mo, na "stakeholders" sa CHR.

Pero kahit huwag na nating pasukin iyan. Isang tanong lang: Gusto mo bang matulungan ng CHR, sa kabila ng mga limitasyon nito, ang mga biktima ng paglabag sa karapatang tao? Kung oo, dapat maunawaan mong hindi magiging epektibo ang pinuno nito kung hindi siya pinagkakatiwalaan ng mga

biktima at mga grupo nila.

Ang tantya ko, may pahabol kang sagot sa tanong na ito: "Pero kailangan din ng katarungan ang mga biktima ng paglabag ng New People's Army sa karapatang tao." Oo nga pala, bagamat wala ka sigurong nasabing magandang nagawa ng NPA mula nang mamuno ka sa Akbayan, pinuri mo na minsan ang militar at pulisya.

Mismo. Bagamat institusyon ng reaksyunaryong Estado ang CHR, wala pa yata akong alam na termino diyan na todong nag-imbetiga sa mga "paglabag sa karapatang tao" ng NPA. Kapag nagkataon, unang beses na magaganap ito sa ilalim mo, ng isang nagpapakilalang progresibo. Hindi ko alam kung ituturing mong karangalan ito.

Higit pa riyon, pumapatungkol ang paglabag sa mga karapatang pantao sa Estado, hindi sa ibang pwersang pampolitika katulad ng NPA o National Democratic Front. Dapat alam mo na iyan, pero binabaluktot ng mga kapanalig mo ang konsepto ng karapatang pantao para saklawin ang huli. Para diyan mo ba papamunuan ang CHR?

Tanggihan mo na lang ang posisyon, Etta. Batay sa isang panayam kina Frank Pascual, Sonny Melencio at Ricardo Reyes, masama ang loob ninyo dahil hindi sinuportahan ni Noynoy ang pagiging senador ng ika-13 si Risa Hontiveros. Pero marami namang ibang posisyon. Huwag din sigurong Repormang Agraryo, Paggawa, Edukasyon o iba pa.

Tagapagsalita ni Noynoy, ayaw mo? Sakto kayo diyan. Kaunting dangal naman.

13 Hulyo 2010

TOWN in FOCUS

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From SPES beneficiary to DOLE trainee

FIVE summers ago, then 17-year-old Edison Lata applied for a short-term job under the Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES), a government program that enables student-beneficiaries to gain skills and workplace experience being implemented by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

Edison just completed his high school education that time and was dreaming of going to college but his family is struggling to make the both ends

meet.

He sought ways to either apply for college scholarship or earn money to finance his study at same time help his family.

And then, he learned from his friends about SPES being implemented by DOLE in cooperation with the local government units and some business establishments.

He applied, was accepted and his experience that summer paved the way for him at having various jobs that helped him sustain his college

education.

“Ayokong maging pabigat dahil alam ko na pagtungtong ko ng kolehiyo, mas marami na akong magiging gastusin. Nagamit ko ang naging sweldo ko mula sa programa ng SPES para bumili ng mga gamit sa iskwela at nakatulong din ito para sa iba ko pang pangangailangan sa pag-aaral,” Edison shared.

The SPES is DOLE’s youth employment-bridging program which aims to provide temporary employment to poor

but deserving students, out-of-school youth, and dependents of displaced or would-be displaced workers during summer and/or Christmas vacation or any time of the year to augment the family’s income to help ensure that beneficiaries are able to pursue their education.

While in college, Edison demonstrated a significant role and was in fact granted a leadership award by the University of Caloocan City (UCC) after serving a three-year term as class representative and one-year term as president of the Human Resource Development Management Students Organization, one of the student organizations in the university.

He now holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration

major in Human Resource Development and Management and works at the DOLE CAMANAVA Field Office under the Government Internship Program (GIP).

“Isa po sa mga natutunan ko bilang SPES beneficiary na nakatulong sa akin sa pagiging student leader ay yung pakikihalubilo sa iba’t-ibang uri ng tao at ang pagtatrabaho ng may sistema,” Edison said.

Asked about his future plans, Edison said he wants to pursue government service in order to give back the support given to him by the government.

“Taos puso po akong nagpapasalamat sa oportunidad na mapabilang sa mga programa ng DOLE dahil ang aking mga naging karanasan at kaalaman dito ay magagamit ko sa aking pagtatrabaho,” Edison ended. (PIA InfoComm)

CAVITEVIEW

‘Brigada Eskwela’ ushers school season

CLEAN classrooms, well-maintained learning tools, and attractive landscaping inspire students to go to school, study hard and persevere to reach their dreams.

In connection with this, the Department of Education (DepEd), tries its best to turn these ideals into reality through Brigada Eskwela, an annual campaign which prepares schools nationwide a few weeks before the school year starts.

Tonisito Umali, Undersecretary for Legislative Affairs, External Partnerships, and Project Management Service, told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) that the campaign was established in 2003 to address the resources gaps faced by the agency through strengthened partnerships with the communities.

“In 2017 we have expanded the concept of Brigada Eskwela, besides to clean or beautify our schools, we also make sure they are safe and prepared in time of disasters. We also have activities during the national maintenance week and we expect to sustain it for the whole year round,” Umali said.

Umali added the campaign also focuses on encouraging out of school children and youth (OSCY) to go back to school and finish their studies.

“Not less than 78,000 OSYs, through the ALS and regular schooling, already went back to school. We wanted to decrease our drop out rates and make sure that all these partnerships will have positive impact on the learning outcomes of our children,” he said.

Citing this year’s theme “Matatag na Bayan para sa Maunlad na Paaralan”, Umali said the campaign reiterates the importance of everybody’s

contribution in providing the Filipino youth quality education.

“Hindi natin dapat iasa lamang ito sa Kagawaran ng Edukasyon kung hindi dapat lahat tayo ay may pakialam sa pagsisiguro na may dekalidad na pasilidad para sa edukasyon ay kolektibong responsibilidad nating lahat (Ensuring quality facilities for education is a collective responsibility of us all and we shouldn’t rely on the Department of Education for all these), he added.

The initiative mobilizes thousands of parents, alumni, civic groups, local businesses, non-government organizations, teachers, students, and individuals who volunteer their time and skills to do repairs on the school buildings and facilities in time for school opening.

In its year of implementation, a total of 12,533 schools participated as against the 4,000 expected school participants.

In 2008, it has become a permanent activity in the school calendar where all schools nationwide are now mandated to implement the program every second week of May. Making better lives

Apart from instilling school pride in the community, the Brigada Eskwela campaign provides an opportunity for everyone to contribute in the future of the Filipino youth and in nation-building.

“We’re grateful to DepEd for allowing us to give our time, ourselves to make better the lives of others and making a positive difference through this event,” Pilmico chief operating officer Tristan Aboitiz told PNA.

Pilmico is the food business unit of the Aboitiz Group of Companies.

Aboitiz said he joined the campaign in 2008, doing “practically everything”.

“I’ve done painting classrooms, painting tables,

and chairs, I’ve painted murals, planted trees the only thing I haven’t done is cover books. This is the first time I brought my oldest son, who is four years old, here as it’s an opportunity to start them young because painting is something that even a child can enjoy and over time he’d really appreciate what it truly means,” he said.

On Saturday, Aboitiz employees, including those from its corporate offices, helped the teachers, students, and parents with the different Brigada Eskwela tasks at the Pateros Elementary School.

They engaged in armchair painting, book covering, gardening and mural painting.

Citing that 400 of their employees have signed up for the event, Aboitiz said that they need not encourage them to take part in a meaningful campaign.

“That’s the beautiful thing about it, once we put it

up in the calendar for the year, people sign up automatically,” he added.

Aboitiz said they have helped improve a total of 411 schools across the Philippines, making them more conducive to learning for 218,661 students.

“Last year, the Pateros Elementary School was awarded as the second place Brigada Eskwela Implementer. This was made possible by our volunteers who shared their time and efforts last year,” he said.

With the aim to raise his children as compassionate and productive members of the society, Aboitiz said he wanted his eldest to see the true meaning of Brigada Eskwela.

“It’s a bit difficult to explain to a four-year-old child, but you kind of instill the value of responsibility and teamwork, doing something as a group which is promising for these children who are our future,” he added.

Meanwhile, Evangeline Rosario said parents must take part in Brigada Eskwela activities.

“Para makatulong sa school, para maging maaliwalas sa school para hindi mababalisa ang mga bata at mas mama-

inspire sila mag-aral. Hindi naman mahirap maglinis, kung sama-sama kaming gumagawa, mas magaan at mapapadali ang trabaho (To help the school, to make the school fresh so the students wouldn’t be stressed and they’ll be inspired to learn. It’s not hard to clean up, if we do it together, works becomes easier and quicker),” she said.

Rosario’s daughter, Romelyn, is a grade 6 pupil at the Pateros Elementary School. She has been supporting the school’s Brigada for six years now.

“Ang anak ko tumutulong din, silang magkklase pumupunta sa classroom nila, tapos naglilinis sila doon (My child also helps out, she and her classmates go to their classroom, they clean it),” she added.

While working on their chosen tasks, Aboitiz encouraged all the volunteers to keep in mind the lasting impact of their deeds on the learners’ lives.

“As we plant trees, we contribute to a greener environment. As we paint chairs and cover books, we help future nation builders achieve their best, and as we paint murals, we inspire them to imagine what is possible and motivate them to work their hardest,” he said.



Teachers, parents and volunteers from the conglomerate Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. paint armchairs during the first wave of “Brigada Eskwela” at the Pateros Elementary School on Saturday, 18 May 2019. Launched in 2003, “Brigada Eskwela” mobilizes parents, alumni, civic groups, local businesses, non-government organizations, teachers, students, and volunteers to help prepare and refurbish schools ahead of class opening in June. (PNA photo by Oliver Marquez)

UN report calls for global efforts to save species from extinction; ASEAN in forefront of conservation

ONE million plant and animal species are facing extinction due to human activities, with agriculture as one of the biggest threats to Earth's biodiversity and ecosystems. This summarises the findings of the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Backed by the UN, IPBES is the intergovernmental body which assesses the state of biodiversity and of the ecosystem services it provides to society, in response to requests from decision makers. The Report, which was released on 6 May 2019 during the IPBES meeting in Paris, is the most comprehensive ever completed, the first intergovernmental report of its kind, and builds on the landmark Millennium Ecosystem Assessment of 2005.

The Report said about 75 per cent of land and

NOTICE OF CLOSURE AND LIQUIDATION OF CHIN-CHING METALWORKS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION

Please take notice that Chin-Ching Metalworks Manufacturing Corporation (CCMMC) has ceased operations last June 2018. It is currently obtaining clearances from PEZA and the BIR to effect its eventual Cancellation of Registration and dissolution with the SEC through shortening of its corporate term from fifty (50) to ten (10) years.

All persons having claims against the corporation are requested to contact the undersigned at 4165109 or email jgpagdanganan@pagdangananlaw.com for immediate settlement.

Very truly yours,
PAGDANGANAN ENGO & ASSOCIATES

By:

Atty. JOEFFREYG. PAGDANGANAN
FOR THE FIRM

Ang Caviten Newsweekly
May 6, 13 & 20, 2019

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH TRANSFER AND WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JOSE FROILA AUSTRIA who died on February 5, 2013 in Silang, Cavite leaving a parcel of land together with improvement (house and lot) situated in Block 42 Lot 6, Brgy. Narra 3, Bulihan, Silang, Cavite, has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 458; Page No. 92; Book No. XXI; Series of 2019 Notary Public Antonio F. Butial, Jr.

Ang Caviten Newsweekly
May 6, 13 & 20, 2019

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FELICIDAD B. CABANELA a.k.a. FELICIDAD B. CABANCLA, who died on May 1, 2018 at GENERAL TRIAS CITY, CAVITE leaving two (2) parcel of Real Estate situated at General Trias City, Cavite with Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-1004039, Condominium Certificate of title No. 7240 with Transfer Certificate of Title No. 3296-97 situated at Taguig City, Metro Manila and One (1) Unit Memorial Lot situated at Manila Memorial Park, Dasma Cavite with Deed of Sale and Certificate of Memorial Park Carte Contract No. 025117 with Transfer Certificate No. 536866 has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs, as per Doc. No. 59; Page No. 13; Book No. XVI, Series of 2019, Notary Public Atty. Antonio V. Tiong.

Ang Caviten Newsweekly
May 6, 13 & 20, 2019

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH DEED OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late FRANCISCO T. REYES JR. AND NENITA GALVEZ PRINCIPIO who died on May 14, 1996 in Manila and September 17, 1998 in Quezon City respectively leaving a parcel of land together with improvement (house and lot) situated in Block 53, Lot 23 Phase V-B, Brgy. Narra 3, Silang, Cavite, has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 395; Page No. 79; Book No. XXI; Series of 2019 Notary Public Antonio F. Butial, Jr.

Ang Caviten Newsweekly
May 6, 13 & 20, 2019

66 per cent of oceans have been "significantly altered" by people, driven in large part by the production of food. Crop and livestock operations currently co-opt more than 33 per cent of Earth's land surface and 75 per cent of its freshwater resources. The Report identified agricultural activities as some of the largest contributors to human emissions of greenhouse gases. They account for roughly 25 per cent of total emissions due to the use of fertilisers and the conversion of areas such as tropical forests to grow crops or raise livestock such as cattle. Agricultural threats to ecosystems will only increase as the world's population continues to grow, according to the Report. Other notable findings of the Report include:

- Land degradation has reduced the productivity of 23 per cent of the global land surface; up to USD 577 billion in annual global crops are at risk from pollinator loss; and 100 to 300 million people are at increased risk of floods and hurricanes because of loss of coastal habitats and protection.

- In 2015, 33 per cent of marine fish stocks were being harvested at unsustainable levels; 60 per cent were maximally sustainably fished, with just seven per cent harvested at levels lower than what can be sustainably fished.

- Plastic pollution has increased tenfold since 1980; 300 to 400 million tons of heavy metals, solvents, toxic sludge and other wastes from industrial facilities are dumped annually into the world's waters; and fertilisers entering coastal ecosystems have produced more than 400 ocean 'dead zones'.

- Negative trends in nature will continue to 2050 and beyond in all of the policy scenarios explored in the Report, except those that include transformative change – due to the projected impacts of increasing land-use change, exploitation of organisms and climate change, although with significant differences between regions.

- The next biggest threats to nature are the exploitation of plants and animals through harvesting, logging, hunting and fishing; climate change; pollution and the spread of invasive species. The average abundance of native plants, animals and insects has fallen in most major ecosystems by at least 20 per cent since 1900 because of invasive species.

- An estimated five per cent of all species would be threatened with extinction by 2 °C of warming above pre-industrial levels — a threshold that the world could breach in the next few decades, unless greenhouse-gas emissions are drastically reduced. Earth could lose 16 per cent of its species if the average global temperature rise exceeds 4.3 °C. Such damage to ecosystems would undermine global efforts to reduce poverty and hunger and promote more-sustainable development.

During a press conference launching the summary of the Report, Ms. Anne Larigauderie, IPBES executive secretary, said biodiversity should be at the top of the global agenda alongside climate change as the two are the biggest threats to human and species survival.

Mr. Robert Watson, IPBES chair, said, "Without transformative changes to the world's economic, social, and political systems to address this crisis, the IPBES panel predicts that major biodiversity losses will continue to 2050 and beyond. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide."

In an interview by Science Magazine with Dr. Theresa Mundita S. Lim, executive director of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), about the impact of the new IPBES Report, Dr. Lim said, "The global assessment provides useful figures and case illustrations that will allow policy makers all over the world, including in the ASEAN Member States, to better visualise the state of the world's and ASEAN's biodiversity and natural resources, and their impacts to human survival. The Report also provides good rationale, as well as suggestions for developing national, regional, and global policies and actions that can address gaps and guide future work that may possibly improve or reverse current situations.

As the final version of the Report will be released at the end of the year, Dr. Lim suggested some areas for improvement: "Though capacity building measures and policy support continue to be vital for various national agencies and implementing entities involved in biodiversity conservation, there remains a need to generate and present the science and scientific assessments necessary for policy development and corresponding actions. Law makers and leaders will respond to data and information that can directly link biodiversity loss to human well-being and survival."

Dr. Lim added that to enable any country to continue to progress, but at the same time protect its rich and unique biological resources, consolidated information serving as sound basis for making decisions on trade-offs, and striking the balance between conservation and development, would be a most useful contribution that a body like IPBES can provide.

"The Report needs to be broad enough to encompass various national and regional situations. More details will still have to be generated and provided later on, which should be able to support specific on-the-ground actions. Thus, assessment may have to eventually be

scaled down at the regional and at the country level", Dr. Lim suggested.

Dr. Lim said the Report will guide the ASEAN Member States (AMS), supported by the ACB, in developing recommendations for the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. "The IPBES Report is very timely as the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are currently in the process of developing a global biodiversity framework that will succeed the Aichi Biodiversity Targets after 2020."

She reported that the AMS, supported by ACB, have already conducted two consultative sessions, the first in Manila last April, and the second in Lao PDR, this month, where representatives of the AMS called for a more quantified goal on maintaining ecosystem integrity, with a clear set of spatial indicators and a clear agreement on the level of commitment among the AMS.

The Report emphasised that the world needs transformative change if life on Earth is to be safeguarded and people are to continue to receive the services and benefits that nature provides. On this issue, Dr. Lim said the ASEAN consultation participants agreed on: (1) transboundary cooperation which considers internal boundaries, not just regional; (2) linkages among pillars such that cross-sectors should be part of the action plans with flexible mechanisms to allow different sectors to be engaged in each other's activities; and (3) transformation of mindset such that ASEAN may be aware of what it can provide to the region, given its myriad of challenges post-2020.

"The ASEAN Member States have already identified an over-arching vision for biodiversity in the ASEAN region that we hope to achieve by 2050. Our vision is more descriptive, suggesting that there needs to be quantifiable targets that will preserve and enhance ecosystem integrity in the ASEAN region. We also discussed possible tools and measures which may be used to achieve the vision for 2050. These include: (1) mainstreaming biodiversity; (2) resource mobilisation; (3) communication, education and public awareness; and (4) integrating diverse perspectives," Dr. Lim reported.

She agreed with the Report's recommended actions for sustainability and pathways for achieving them across and between sectors such as agriculture, marine systems, and freshwater systems, among many others.

In agriculture, the Report emphasised the promotion of good agricultural and agroecological practices; multifunctional landscape planning, which simultaneously provides food security, livelihood opportunities, maintenance of species and ecological functions; and cross-sectoral integrated management.

In marine systems, the Report highlighted the ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management, spatial planning, effective quotas, marine protected areas, protecting and managing key marine biodiversity areas, reducing run-off pollution into oceans, and working closely with producers and consumers.

In freshwater systems, policy options and actions include more inclusive water governance for collaborative water management and greater equity; better integration of water resource management and landscape planning across scales; promoting practices to reduce soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution run-off; increasing water storage; promoting investment in water projects with clear sustainability criteria; as well as addressing the fragmentation of many freshwater policies.

Dr. Lim said the AMS are already implementing some of the Report's recommendations, specifically on protected areas and the campaign against overutilisation of resources. For example, the ASEAN Heritage Parks Programme manages a regional network of representative protected areas to generate greater collaboration among ASEAN Member States in preserving their shared natural heritage. As part of ASEAN's campaign against overutilisation of resources, some AMS, supported by ACB and Germany, are implementing a project promoting biodiversity-based products as an Economic source for the improvement of livelihoods and biodiversity protection.

She added that the ACB and the AMS are currently preparing the third edition of the ASEAN Biodiversity Outlook, which will complement the IPBES Report, by focusing on the status of biodiversity and ecosystems in the ASEAN region and the conservation achievements, actions and next steps for the AMS in ensuring the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Dr. Lim said the Report's recommendations will further guide the AMS in enhancing its current conservation programmes and crafting new policies and programmes that will further strengthen ASEAN actions on protected areas, ecosystem services, species conservation, invasive alien species, mainstreaming biodiversity in different sectors, ecosystem restoration, access and benefit sharing, communication, and knowledge management for biodiversity conservation. These and future programmes will ensure the conservation of the region's biodiversity and ecosystems, as the ASEAN region is in the forefront of global conservation and sustainability, serving as home to 20 per cent of the world's know plant and animal species. (Rolando A. Inciong/ACB)

Word Search Puzzle

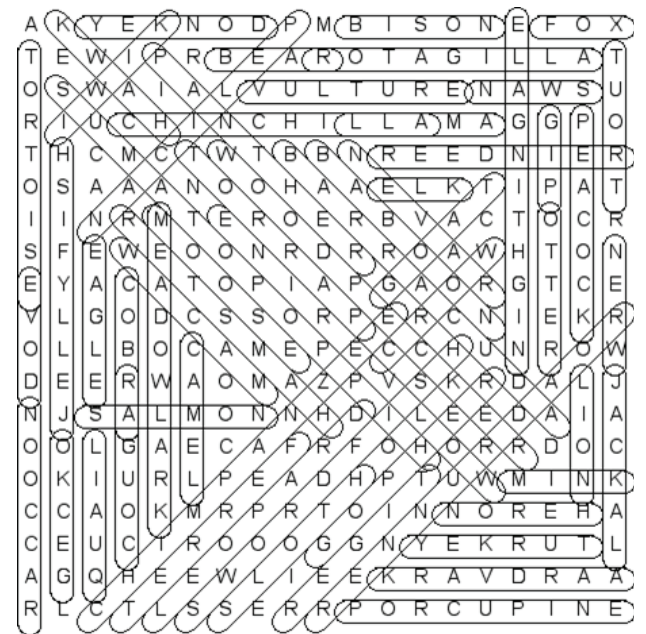
Animals 2

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

O R C A N T E E K A R A P B E A V E R
 G G R H M A D L L E M M I N G O O S E
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- BEAVER
- BOBCAT
- BUFFALO
- CHEETAH
- CHICKEN
- COYOTE
- CRANE
- DEER
- DOLPHIN
- DUCK
- ELEPHANT
- EMU
- FLAMINGO
- FROG
- GAZELLE
- GIRAFFE
- GOOSE
- GORILLA
- HEDGEHOG
- HORSE
- HUMMINGBIRD
- IMPALA
- JAGUAR
- KANGAROO
- KOALA
- LAMPREY
- LEMMING
- LYNX
- MARLIN
- MOCKINGBIRD
- MONKEY
- MOUSE
- OCTOPUS
- ORANGUTAN
- ORCA
- PANTHER
- PARAKEET
- PARTRIDGE
- PENGUIN
- PORPOISE
- PUMA
- RABBIT
- RATTLESNAKE
- RHINOCEROS
- ROBIN
- SHEEP
- SHREW
- STORK
- TURTLE
- WALLABY
- WALRUS
- WEASEL
- WHALE
- YAK
- ZEBRA

Sagot sa nakaraan



Sudoku

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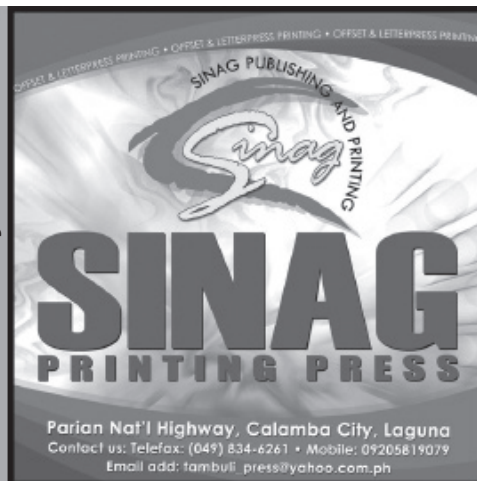
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8	3	4	7	2	9	6	1	5
9	5	2	6	4	1	7	8	3
6	1	7	5	8	3	9	4	2
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Fill in the blank squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 block contain all of the digits 1 thru 9. If you use logic you can solve 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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Government offices volunteer for 2019 Brigada Eskwela

QUEZON CITY – Several government offices join hands with the Department of Education (DepEd) for this year’s Brigada Eskwela.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) personnel and agents volunteer in the undertaking for the first time this year.

“In keeping with the Filipino spirit of bayanihan, PDEA volunteers its effort, time and resources to participate in the country’s quest to foster safe, healthy learning environment for today’s students and become tomorrow’s productive citizens,” said PDEA Director General Aaron N. Aquino.

In a memorandum, Aquino directed all PDEA Regional Offices to actively participate in the week long initiative, and help ensure its effective implementation in selected public elementary and secondary schools in their respective areas.

“PDEA agents and

personnel are more than ready to extend assistance in cleaning up classrooms and school grounds, and the repair and repainting of walls, ceilings, chairs, tables and other fixtures, in preparation for a safe, clean, and conducive learning environment for incoming students,” Aquino added.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) also lends a helping hand to DepEd with military personnel providing manpower requirements in different public and secondary schools in the country.

Personnel from the General Headquarters, Joint Task Force National Capital Region, Philippine Army, Philippine Air Force and Philippine Navy were deployed to assist in areas within Metro Manila. Meanwhile, the Unified Commands will encourage units under their control to participate in the week-long activity by prioritizing public schools in geographically-isolated and depressed areas.

The AFP also said that security personnel will be made

continue to page 2



PDEA agents and personnel turnover some paints while doing some volunteer work during the conduct of 2019 Brigada Eskwela. (Phot courtesy of PDEA)

DTI urges consumers to report retailers selling goods above SRP

By Susan G. De Leon

QUEZON CITY--The Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) urged the public to report retailers selling goods above the suggested retail price (SRP) as they continue to intensify prices and supply monitoring activities to ensure that prices of basic needs and prime commodities (BNPCs) in the markets are within the SRPs.

The public can report retailers selling goods above the SRPs at the DTI Consumer Hotline at 1-DTI (1-384) or text 09178343330.

The DTI recently released the latest SRP list of BNPCs for the guidance and information of consumers and retailers.

The SRP list can be accessed through the DTI website (www.dti.gov.ph) or downloaded from the ePresyo mobile application via Play Store for Android device, and App Store for Apple devices. Out of 242 shelf keeping units (SKUs) in the SRP list, 186 or 77 percent retained their SRPs while the remaining 56 SKUs or 23 percent increased their prices due to high cost of raw materials and depreciation of peso.

“Due to the three-month price hold-off that was implemented in the last quarter of 2018, no price increase was effected despite peak in inflation, oil price hike, peso devaluation, and increase in the prices of raw materials in the world market,” Trade & Industry Secretary Ramon M. Lopez said.

“It is only this time when the DTI implemented SRP adjustments after thorough evaluation and consultation with the manufacturers of basic and prime goods,” Lopez added. He further added, “Business principles dictate that companies do not necessarily increase their prices easily as they are also afraid of losing patronage to competition. As much as possible, manufacturers absorb rising production costs to keep their loyal customers.”

Prices of several canned sardines 155g have increased by Php 0.40 to Php 1.30. The continuous spike in the prices of tamban, tin can, tomato paste, fuel, and other miscellaneous fees contributed

continue to page 2

Environmental group urges clean-up, upcycling of election campaign materials

QUEZON CITY -- Now that the ballots have been cast, a waste and pollution watch urged those who ran for elective posts as well as the general public to conduct post-election cleanup and upcycling activities.

“Regardless of the outcome of your election bid, we appeal to all candidates and parties to take down your campaign materials without delay. Kabit, sabit o dikit mo, tanggal mo,” said Aileen Lucero, National Coordination.

“Sort the dismantled campaign materials and upcycle them as much as possible,” she suggested.

“Upcycling, or the creative reuse of discards, is a practical way of saving resources from being burned or sent to the dumps and landfills for disposal,” she added.

Decreased garbage volume, lower disposal cost, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, conservation of resources, cleaner surroundings and enhanced environmental awareness are some of the benefits of upcycling election

campaign materials, according to the EcoWaste Coalition.

In an attempt to discourage indiscriminate disposal and encourage upcycling, the EcoWaste Coalition today showed the many functional uses of spent election propaganda articles such as leaflets, posters and sample ballots.

At an event held at the MMDA temporary holding area for dismantled campaign materials under the Santolan-EDSA flyover, bagmaker Lolita Calusayan, “Junk Not” advocate Wilhemina Garcia, informal recyclers from Capulong, Manila and the EcoWaste staff displayed some of the easy to make upcycled items.

Paper-based campaign materials were repurposed as bookmarks, envelopes, folders, mirror or photo frames, drawing pads, memo pads, name plates, scrap books and teaching aids such as flash cards and “tell the time” clock.

Polyethylene plastic posters were reused as covering for books and notebooks.

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Trade & Industry Secretary Ramon M. Lopez (FILE PHOTO)