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DATELINE

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Cavite Provincial Government

releases financial assistance to ASF-affected hog raisers

P.2

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LAUNCHING OF INNOVATIVE COMPUTER LAB FOR CAVITE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Armed with a progressive perspective on information technology, Governor Jonvic Remulla once again ventured to uplift the quality of education in the province as he led the launching of computer laboratories in the municipalities of Maragondon and Tanza on February 6, 2020. Full sets of equipment which include twenty desktop computers, computer tables and chairs, a 55-inch Smart TV, routes,

switch and network cables, and whiteboard were granted to Maragondon National High School, Tanza National Comprehensive High School, Amaya School of Home Industries, Tanza National Trade School and Bagtas Elementary School. The equipment will provide ease in doing research, for typing and printing of paper works, help improve basic computer skills, explore spreadsheet assignments and discover

internet applications. All computer laboratories were provided with air-con and fire extinguishers for the students' comfort and security. Present during the turn over of computer laboratories were Maragondon Mayor Reynaldo Rillo and Vice Mayor Alfredo Bersabe, Tanza Mayor Yuri Pacumio and Vice Mayor Munding Del Rosario with 7th District Board Member Lito Langit, 8th District Board Member Virgilio Varias and members of the municipal council. (Gina Perlado Pereña)



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EDITORIAL:

An illogical move

The government's sudden decision to include Taiwan in its China travel ban to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus has caused unnecessary disruption for thousands of people, Filipinos and Taiwanese alike.

expanded to cover not just China, Hong Kong, and Macau but Taiwan as well—even while his colleague at a Palace briefing said nothing had yet been decided. At least one official said Taiwan was included because of the country's "One China" policy—a political concession to Beijing as Taiwan functions as a sovereign and independent state from the People's Republic of China, issuing its own passports and visas.

lumps Taiwan's statistics with mainland Chinese cities, even though it operates for all intents and purposes as an independent state. Even then, the WHO statistics are telling. The UN agency's situation report as of Feb. 2 showed Taipei had 10 confirmed cases of nCoV. This compares with 20 for Japan, 19 for Thailand, 18 for Singapore, 15 for South Korea—yet none of these countries with a higher number of confirmed cases are part of our travel ban.

The decision by the Department of Health to include Taiwan in the travel ban—announced almost as an afterthought—left hundreds of Filipino travelers to Taiwan stranded at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport after major airlines began canceling flights to and from Taipei in compliance with the expansion of the travel ban.

In fact, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office asserts that "Taiwan is not, nor has it ever been, part of the PRC."

No other countries in Asia, except the Philippines, have issued travel ban on Taiwan.

A number of passengers from the United States who made a stopover in Taiwan were also barred from entering the country and were told by Bureau of Immigration agents to go back to the airport from which they came.

TECO, which serves as the de facto Taiwan embassy, notes that it has taken measures as well to contain the spread of nCoV. On Monday, Taiwan temporarily closed its borders to most residents of Hong Kong and Macau. A week earlier, it had temporarily banned the entry of all mainland Chinese citizens, as well as foreign nationals who may have been in China, Hong Kong or Macau in the 14 days leading up to their travel to Taiwan.

A group of licensed recruitment agencies deploying Filipino workers to Taiwan, Pilipino Manpower-Agencies Accredited to Taiwan, opposed the travel ban, saying it would hurt diplomatic and trade relations and affect 180,000 Filipinos working the numerous factories and electronic assembly plants in many parts of Taiwan. This includes about 30,000 caregivers who are taking care of the elderly there. These Filipinos will suffer for no logical medical reason, if the ill-considered Taiwan travel ban stays.

Adding to the confusion was an announcement by one Health undersecretary that the travel ban had indeed been

For political reasons, the World Health Organization (WHO)

Cavite . . .

Following the African Swine Fever (ASF) epidemic that hit the province of Cavite late last year, the provincial government has distributed more than eleven million pesos worth of financial assistance to the 530 hog raisers affected. The first batch was released on February 11, 2020 for the 106 beneficiaries in the City of Bacoor in the distribution witnessed by City Mayor Lani Mercado-Revilla, Mr. Richard Quion, City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer and Dr. Ella Mae Gandia of the City Veterinary Services Office.

and authorizing the release of quick response fund to address the ASF and mitigate its impact.

Cavite was hit by the African Swine Fever (ASF) late last year affecting its small hog industries. The PDRMO and the Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) conducted Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment and confirmed cases of ASF in the cities of Bacoor, Dasmariñas, Imus and Gen. Trias. To prevent the further spread of the virus, additional Quarantine Checkpoints were stationed in entry and exit points in the province along with other epidemic interventions in the affected swine farms.

Hogs affected by the virus and those within the one-kilometer radius were culled and buried as a standard protocol enforced by the Department of Agriculture. The financial assistance from the provincial government was intended help small hog raisers recover from the losses brought by the ASF and is separate from the assistance from the national and local government. The amount of financial assistance which will be given to hog raisers is computed based on the number of pigs affected, each equivalent to Php 2,000.00. The PVO issued a certification which determines how much each beneficiary is entitled to receive.

Governor Jonvic Remulla sought the aid of the legislative body for the passage of Sangguniang Pinalawigan Resolution No. 1352-2019 declaring the province under State of Calamity on November 13, 2019

Leading the distribution of financial assistance were the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office and Provincial Treasurer's Office in coordination with the local veterinary offices, DRRMs and city social welfare offices.

The second wave of financial assistance distribution was done on February 12, 2020 in the Cities of Imus with 32 beneficiaries, Dasmariñas with 273 affected hog raisers and Gen. Trias with 114 recipients. (Eve Reyes)

GET YOUR MAN THE CLASSIEST VALENTINE GIFT AT ARROW – SM CITY BACCOOR!

SM CITY BACCOOR, CAVITE – It's the perfect time to suit up your man with the classiest fashion he can get with not just one, but two stylish items from Arrow's Buy 2 Get 25% off Promo! Make your man the most handsome date in town with the coolest fashion trend they can offer. Hurry and enjoy their Valentines treat this February 2020 on their selected items! Get the best suit, ties, belts and more with Arrow at SM City Bacoor, Upper Ground Floor!



FROM PAGE 1

Republic of the Philippines Fourth Judicial Region REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT City of Bacoor

Foreclosure No. 219-240

For: Extra Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgage

BDO UNIBANK, INC., Mortgagee

-versus-

SPS. ERIC C. BACULINA and ALOHA DE LEON BACULINA Mortgagees

X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE

Upon Extrajudicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135 as Amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee, BDO UNIBANK, INC., pf BDO Corporate Center, 7899 Makati Ave. Makati City, and against the mortgagors, SPOUSES ERIC C. BACULINA AND ALOHA DE LEON BACULINA, of 5-R Pine Road, Pila Village, Las Pinas City, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of October 2, 2019, amounts to NINE HUNDRED THIRTY NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY FOUR and 73/100 (939,294.73), Philippines Currency, inclusive of interest, penalties and other charges, the undersigned or her duly authorized representative will sell at the public auction on March 4, 2020 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, at the main entrance of the hall of justice of Bacoor City, Cavite, to the highest bidder for CASH and In Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. (057-202037850) 167-1216012414

"A PARCEL OF Land (Lot 7 Block 2 of the cons-subdivision plan PCS04-02573, being a portion of PS207956 & Lot A, PSD-042103-05973 L.R.C. Rec. No.), situated in the Brgy. of Salinas. Mun. of Bacoor. Prov. of Cavite, Island of Luzon X x x, containing an area of FIFTY TWO (52) SQUARE METERS"

"All sealed bid must be submitted to the undersigned on the above stated time and date."

"In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on March 11, 2020, without further notice."

Prospective buyers or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property and encumbrances, if any there be.

City of Bacoor, February 3, 2020

LIZA D, VICTA Clerk pf Court IV

Copy Furnished :

BDO UNIBANK, INC., 11th Floor, South Tower, BDO Corporate Center, 7899 Makati Ave. Makati City

MR. & MRS. ERIC & ALOHA BACULINA -5-r Pine Road Pila Village, Las Pinas City -Block3, Lot 7, Phase 3, Sta. Cruz St., Camella Lessandra, Salinas 2, Bacoor, Cavite

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this notice of Extra-judicial Sale on or before the date of sale.

Dateline Weekly Newspapers: February 10, 17 & 24, 2020



To DFA: Be ready to evacuate Filipinos in Wuhan

The rapid spread of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) should prompt the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to have systems in place for the evacuation of Filipinos in Wuhan, Senator Win Gatchalian said.

It is important, he noted, that these Filipinos should be located ahead of a possible evacuation, adding that the DFA should constantly monitor the situation in Wuhan of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) so that the government can address their needs.

The DFA has reported that there are around 150 Filipinos in Wuhan City in China, the source of coronavirus that has already killed 56 people around the globe.

The lawmaker cited the example of the United States, which initiated an evacuation of American citizens from the epidemic-stricken city.

"We have to prepare for any eventuality", said the lawmaker, who expressed alarm that Filipinos are not spared from being infected if the virus is not contained.

"Nakakabahala ang mabilis na pagkalat ng coronavirus sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo at mahalagang may regular din dapat na ibinibigay na balita ang DFA tungkol sa kaligtasan ng ating mga OFW", said Gatchalian.

Gatchalian added that the DFA should coordinate more closely with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to ensure that overseas Filipino workers (OFW) are protected from the threat of the 2019-nCoV.

According to the January 26 situation report of the World Health Organization (WHO), a total of 2,014 cases of 2019-nCoV have been reported globally, 1,985 of which were from China. Twenty-nine cases were confirmed in ten other countries such as Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, Nepal, the United States, and France.

The 2019-nCoV was first reported in Wuhan, China on December 31, 2019. Symptoms of this new strain include fever, cough, and difficulty in breathing. As a type of coronavirus, the 2019-nCoV belongs to a large family of viruses that include the common cold, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-related Coronavirus (MERS-CoV), and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-related Coronavirus (SARS-CoV).

Authorities warn that the virus is mutating and can be transmitted through human contact.

The Department of Health recently revealed that 11 persons are under investigation for suspected 2019-nCoV. Two are in hospitals in Metro Manila, one in Mimaropa, one in Northern Mindanao, three in Western Visayas, one in Eastern Visayas, and three in Central Visayas.

Extra Judicial

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE CAROLINA B. MINTU HAS BEEN EXTRA-JUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HER HEIRS THRU EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE AS PER DOC. NO. 252 ; PAGE NO. 52 ; BOOK NO. 46 ; SERIES OF 2020 , BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. CESARIO G. GONZALES, JR.

Dateline Weekly Newspapers: Feb. 10, 17 & 24, 2020

CARD MRI Hijos Tours supports locals in sustaining Iloilo's Hablon weaving heritage



Leah Tihing, a CARD Bank client from Miag-ao, hopes to keep alive the tradition of weaving hablon through heritage tours in Iloilo

CARD MRI Hijos Tours, a community-based tourism company, helps in preserving Iloilo's hablon weaving heritage by bringing its local travelers from all over the country to Miag-ao to discover and learn from its community weavers.

Miag-ao and we are very much eager to be part of preserving and promoting their tradition."

Said Hijos Tours President Marilyn M. Manila, "Knowing that the hablon industry declined in the story of Iloilo, we are happy that the industry is now getting recognition in the international stage. It was in 2019, when we discovered the community of hablon weavers in

Through its study and heritage tour program dubbed as Hijos delos Rios, the community of weavers were given the opportunity to promote their culture and end-products to the public.

The hablon weaving industry

Iloilo was once known for its hablon weaving industry before the international textile trade dominated the province.

Hablon comes from the word "habol", a hiligaynon word which means "to weave". Hablon refers to both the process of making the fabric and the fabric itself.

Miag-ao is known as one of the top producers of hablon in the province. They use locally made fibers such as cotton, piña, and abaca to ensure high quality of their textile products.

One of the locals who weaves hablon cloth and sells export-quality products such as traditional patadyong skirts, Barong Tagalog, saya, and bandana is Leah Tihing.

Leah is among the community members who chose to preserve the hablon weaving heritage and keep the tradition alive for the future generation. "I've been doing this for three decades now, and it will be difficult for me and for my fellow weavers to abandon this tradition," said Leah Tihing.

Their group collaborates with state universities in the province to teach the new generation about the process of weaving and help them appreciate our very own heritage.

With the said

partnership, Leah and her fellow weavers are able to share their knowledge about the importance of weaving. "We want them to know and be part of this tradition because they are the next group who will continue the rich hablon weaving industry."

Leah added that weaving industry is one of the longest-running and strongest industries in the province. "This industry is really worth sharing to everyone. Many may find it antiquated but with Hijos Tours, it allows us to stage our culture to their travelers and show what Miag-ao weavers can offer."

She explained that Hijos Tours opens new opportunity for the locals of Miag-ao to be known to other parts of the country. "It widens our customer reach because we are regularly visited by their travelers coming from the different provinces."

"I hope that hablon will continue to be known locally and abroad. We assure you that in the future, new threads and concepts will be showcased in our work through the help of Hijos Tours that significantly contributes to making our industry known," she concluded.

Veterinary Mission for Animals Affected by Taal Volcano Eruption



Persistent on its goal to safeguard the welfare of the animals who have been affected by the eruption of Taal Volcano, the Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) led by Dr. May Magno has initiated efforts to visit and conduct veterinary missions at Tagaytay City for the treatment of rescued animals on January 29, 2020.

The Provincial Veterinary Office, together with some veterinarians from the City Veterinarian Office of Tagaytay and the whole staff from Born to be Wild, a Philippine television travelogue show broadcast under GMA Network which was hosted by Dr. Nielsen Donato roamed around the vicinity of Picnic Grove in Barangay

Sungay East and gave immediate health assessments and treatments to the animals. Ten goats were given vitamin supplements while four others were dewormed. Out of sixty-four horses which were used in horseback riding in Picnic Grove, 58 were provided vitamins and were dewormed while six were given dextrose through IV line (D5 LRS) and six have undergone

eye flushing using the normal saline solution.

A farm in barangay Zambal , also in Tagaytay City was also visited as veterinarians checked the medical conditions of 22 horses. They have provided vitamin supplements to 16 horses, dextrose through IV line (D5 LRS) to six horses and wound treatment and vitamin supplements to five horses. (PICAD)

VALENTINE IS FOR EVERYONE AT THE SM STORE

Share the love with Valentine gifts for everyone at The SM Store.

There are classic forever pieces for her - jewelry, fragrances and beauty essentials to gifts of style - accessories, shoes and bags. He, on the other hand, will love the laid back luxe of elegant timepieces, weekend warrior backpacks and shoes.

Check out The SM Store Real Beauty catalogue filled with great gift ideas in-store this Valentine. Don't forget the voucher next time you're in the store to get the special discount.

Visit The SM Store today and share the love this Valentine. Follow The SM Store on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.



The blush brigade: SM Accessories bag, Dickies girl sunglasses, F&C jewelry heart pendant with chain, Bobbi Brown Intensive Skin Serum Foundation, and Dear Dahlia Lip Paradise Intense Satin Lipstick from The SM Store.



Be date night-ready with these chic dangling earrings. Your Valentine's Day must-haves are at The SM Store now.



For the girl who loves her basics, stick to something classic - SM Accessories bag and headband, and MAC Matte Lipstick in Chili.



Casual and cool presents for guys - Calvin Klein CK One Eau de Toilette, SM Accessories Bucket Hat, Sunnies Studio Sunglasses, Kenneth Cole Classic Watch, SM Accessories Belt Bag, and Givenchy Gentleman Only Eau de Toilette.



Athleisure glam. Vans Retro Sport Style Sneakers, Bvlgari Omnia Amethyste Eau de Toilette, and MAC Extra Dimension Skin Finish in Double Glean. Check them out at The SM Store today.



Laid-back luxe: Travel Basic Quill Backpack, Ralph Lauren Polo Eau de Parfum, Kenneth Cole Transparency Silver Watch, SM Accessories Blue Tracker Watch, and Sprint Quavo Basketball Shoes. Catch the hottest men's fashion essentials at The SM Store today.



Gifts of timeless style from The SM Store - Parisian Blair Bag, Kenneth Cole Watch, Clarins Joli Rogue Lipstick, F&C Jewelry Love Necklace, and MyBurberry Eau de Parfum.



Saying it with flowers: Marc Jacobs Daisy Eau de Toilette, SM Accessories blossom earrings, and Parisian Avery shoes.

Extra Judicial

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Dateline Weekly Newspapers:
Feb. 03, 10 & 17, 2020



Carmona LGU distributes financial assistance to dialysis and Chemotherapy Patient: On January 27, 2020, the Municipal Government of Carmona handed financial assistance to 61 dialysis and Chemotherapy patients at the Carmona Municipal Penthouse for their treatments.



Simula ng Pag-asa opens its 1st Batch for 2020: Through PNP Carmona, Simula ng Pag-asa (SIPAG) Program started its first batch on January 26 at the Carmona Municipal Penthouse as an activity of reflection and new beginning for drug surrenderers this 2020.



Carmona MPDC organizes Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS) Training on Data Collection: The Carmona Office of the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (MPDC) held the Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS) Training on Data Collection on January 27, 2020 at the Carmona Municipal Penthouse. The 5-day training was conducted by Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Accredited trainers which discussed about how data collection should be done for CBMS and how the community would benefit from its efficiency. Enumerators, field editors, and MPDC participated on the said training which is currently on its 5th Round.



Carmona LGU distributes Gamit-Eskwela to Student Evacuee: The Municipal Government of Carmona gave out various school supplies and materials for student evacuees on January 27, 2020 at the Carmona Municipal Penthouse. The students were from the affected areas of Batangas, Tagaytay, and Silang. 61 of them were elementary students, 27 were high school students, 1 of them is a daycare student.

Kapehan sa SM this Love Month is All About Connection



Photo Caption as: Laguna and San Pablo Local media pose for a souvenir photo with guest speakers City Councilor Karla Adajar, Cocostar 2020 title holder Samantha Gesmundo, Event Photographer Marvin Guerra.

In 2016, most professionals are still claiming social media is "on the rise." The word traditional might convey different meanings depending on a person's age, education and historical background, while the word modern brings on the sudden technological advances that affect relationships.

Ms. Niña Wong, PR Manager of SM City San Pablo for this month's kapehan said that the topic focused on the "The Impact of Globalization on Communication Skills focusing on the traditional vs modern interaction. She said the mall has always been the "go to" place of people who wanted to hang out and it is interesting to learn more about this behavior.

The speakers who participated in the event was the reigning Coco Star Ms. Samantha Gesmundo as she represent the youth, Event Photographer Mr. Marvin Guerra as he witnessed numerous true to life love stories thru wedding vows and debuts and City Councilor Ms. Karla Adajar, as she is the a known youth advocate that promotes well balance youth programs.

The forum emphasized on social media as a two-way conversation and traditional as one-way. Modern use of technology allows us to run an online search of any person and learn almost everything about them before you even go on an actual date. Meeting people is ever changing. Regardless of all this, love is present in today's society and some of us still believe in the tradition. After the discussion, it was agreed upon that as Filipino we could all find a good balance of both the modern and traditional way of interaction.

SM Publicity has recently been having Kapihan sa SM- a press conference in partnership with various private and public organization that openly talks about relevant issues and bringing people together in cities where SM has mall. This kapihan entice everyone to be more active, be more engage in things that matter. Kapihan sa SM will also have its run on SM City Calamba this February 28th 2020.

SM FOUNDATION INC.'S GAMOT PARA SA KAPWA MEDICAL MISSION GOES TO SM CITY MOLINO



SM CITY MOLINO, CAVITE – Another successful Medical and Dental Mission was held by SM Foundation Inc. last February 5, 2020 at SM City Molino, serving a total of 870 beneficiaries. Residents of nearby communities, SM City Molino affiliates, tenants, employees and relatives were also served along with other shoppers who are in need of medical and dental consultation. Dental services were also given to patients who are in need of tooth extraction. Other Laboratory services offered were X-Ray, ECG, Sugar Test, Cholesterol Test, Uric Acid Test and distribution of free medicines as prescribed by the volunteer doctors.

The event was made possible through the unwavering support of SMFI partners including the Department of Health, The Philippine Red Cross, Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko, Gamot Para Sa Kapwa, Watsons, Inc.-Perpetual Help Medical Center Las Piñas, and the tireless efforts of the volunteers from National University and employees of SM City Molino.

SM Foundation is the heart of SM group of companies focused on social inclusion by nurturing and caring for underserved communities where SM is present. SMFI is committed to serve by supporting and empowering SM host communities through education, healthcare, shelter, disaster response, farmers' training, environmental programs and care for persons with special needs.



Beneficiaries were grateful of the free medicines given as prescribed by their respective doctor after the medical consultation



Volunteer doctor checking a baby who has been suffering from Asthma. The beneficiary has been given proper medical attention and medication after.



Volunteer nurses taking the vital signs of every patient before the medical consultation.



Beneficiaries were grateful of the free medicines given as prescribed by their respective doctor after the medical consultation

SM SUPERMALLS' "ARCTIC IN THE SOUTH" GOES TO SM SANTA ROSA



Laguna shoppers are up for a chilling treat as SM Supermalls' brings to the south a glimpse of the coldest part of the Earth – the Arctic – through its "Arctic in the South" inter-active display.

This giant arctic display has a life-size interactive set-up which features eight (8) life-size replicas of Arctic animals - Polar Bear, Arctic Fox, Beluga Whale, Seal, Pacific Walrus, Orca, Caribou (Reindeer) and Humpback tail. These featured animals belong to UN Habitat's 10 endangered Arctic animals.

The larger than life display aims to promote learning among school-aged kids through facts and trivia related to the Arctic, its animals and their natural habitat.

SM has been a catalyst of innovation, creative activations and massive displays. In 2017, SM Supermalls made a mark by bringing to life pre-historic creatures through "Dinos in the Mall." In 2018, shoppers experienced the wonders of an African savannah with "Jungle Safari." These two series of life-size displays travelled through SM South Luzon's 15 malls - from Cavite all the way to the Bicol region.

The Arctic in the South is in partnership with World Wildlife Fund (WWF). SM is one with WWF in its mission to conserve nature and reduce the pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth. It makes a platform for shoppers to be informed of the impact of global warming in the Arctic region.

Catch "Arctic in the South" display at SM Santa Rosa from February 1 to 22, 2020. For FREE school tours contact Ron Caranza or Tricia Lafrades of the marketing department at tel nos. (049) 5349811 or (02) 9012027.

Hundreds of kids received 'Bears of Joy'

Not everyone is lucky enough to buy new toys this Christmas, some other families have other priorities like meal on the table or medicines or saving up for unpaid bills. But with SM Cares' campaign "the SM Bears of Joy" with just a simple gesture of purchasing an SM Toy bear worth Php 200.00, at any SM Branch, you

are already sure that you are making one kid smile this Christmas. Gifting this adorable stuffed toy can make someone's day

SM City San Pablo just recently made delivery of 500 SM Bears of Joy to daycare kids under DSWD, and the kids in the pediatric ward of Laguna and San Pablo Public hospitals.



Photo caption : SM City San Pablo Mall Admin with Laguna Provincial hospital Director Dr. Ed Palacol during the SM Bear of joy turnover in the Felicidad Sy Pediatric Ward.

For the turnover, a team of SM led by SM San Pablo Marketing Officer Kit Reyes, SM San Pablo IT Officer Daisy Fornaliza and SM San Pablo PR Manager Niña Wong facilitated the teddy bear distribution.



Photo caption as: Brgy San Rafael Daycare Centre kids received their bears of Joy.

"These are wonderful gifts that can be given to anyone to make them feel happy and excited. We are humbled to be giving this teddy bears in behalf of their donors. It's a pure act of kindness and brings happiness. I would say its the best way to start a new year!" said PR Manager Niña Wong.

Extra Judicial

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Higher spending on infra, social services to fuel PHL growth this year

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has said that higher state spending on infrastructure and social services, supported by a low inflation rate and an expansionary monetary policy, will allow the government to "dramatically increase" the pace of economic growth this year, despite the trio of challenges arising at the onset of 2020 from the Taal Volcano eruption, the African Swine Fever (ASF) and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Dominguez said these unexpected challenges may dampen growth, but would not be significant enough to alter economic targets for this year, more so now that the 2020 national budget has been passed on time and a special law has been enacted allowing the government to continue using the unexpended project funds under the 2019 budget.

These resources will provide the government the tools it needs to accelerate public spending to offset the effects of the fresh challenges to the domestic economy, Dominguez said.

Positive developments in the Philippine economy, such as the government's much-improved tax effort and the implementation of game-changing reforms, will be amplified by the hoped-for passage into law this year of the remaining packages of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP), which, in turn, will help modernize taxation and produce a more business-friendly environment for investors, the Finance chief said.

"The key reforms already in place, and the

ones forthcoming, have produced a pro-people economy and tangibly improved the quality of life at the grassroots. We will pursue the socioeconomic reform program of the President with a decisiveness that this administration proved it can deliver," Dominguez said at the Wallace Business Forum held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City over the weekend.

Dominguez said that had the passage of the 2019 budget not been delayed last year, the economy would have expanded at a faster clip at 6.8 percent, rather than 5.9 percent in 2019.

He noted that while 2020 began with the "unexpected challenges" of the ASF, the Taal volcano eruption and COVID-19, the government has been on top of the situation and has acted decisively on them.

The ASF has been contained through the strict enforcement of biosecurity measures, an intensified anti-smuggling campaign and heightened meat inspection efforts.

Meanwhile, concerned government agencies and local government units are fast-tracking the release of production support, livelihood and financial assistance to affected farmers and fishers, and the implementation of recovery and rehabilitation plans for areas affected by the Taal volcano eruption last month.

As for COVID-19, Dominguez said the government responded to this public concern decisively and continues to implement proactive measures to keep our people safe.

COVID-19 would most like have a signifi-

cant impact on the tourism sector, given the various levels of travel bans imposed by national governments and of voluntary decisions of airlines to cut flights to and from China.

The country's exports to, and imports from, China might likewise be briefly affected owing to the temporary closures of factories in Chinese cities, which has been under lockdown in a bid by Chinese authorities to contain the virus, Dominguez added.

"While these developments may dampen our growth somewhat, these threats are not enough to force a dramatic reduction in our growth estimates. The 2020 budget has been passed on time. A special law allows us to use the unexpended project funds from 2019. Greater public spending in infrastructure and social services, supported by an expansionary monetary policy and a benign inflation rate, should allow us to dramatically increase our pace of growth this year," Dominguez said.

Dominguez reiterated that he hopes Package 2 of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP)—the Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Rationalization Act or CITIRA—would be finally passed into law by March.

CITIRA aims to bring down the corporate income tax (CIT) rate to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) average and replace the badly tangled incentives regime with a targeted, transparent, performance-based and time-bound system. The old tax incentives scheme en-

trenched old businesses while discouraging new enterprises from competing in the market.

Dominguez said he also expects the rest of the CTRP packages to be passed this year.

These are the proposed Passive Income and Financial Intermediary Taxation Act (PIFITA), which is seen to make the country more attractive for long-term investments through reforms in the financial sector; and the real property valuation reform bill, which aims to adopt globally benchmarked standards and inculcate a higher degree of professionalism in property valuation.

"While we await the passage into law of these remaining tax reform packages, we continue to implement measures that will reinvigorate our capital markets, boost investor confidence, and enhance financial inclusion," Dominguez said.

These include the following:

The release of the amended set of regulations that will allow the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) to finally take off. "This will democratize wealth by opening access to thousands of small investors wanting to be shareholders in secure and profitable real estate projects. In turn, this will allow big players in real estate to raise up more capital to further invest in our country, a win-win situation for all," Dominguez said;

The issuance of the Philippines' lowest and first ever zero-coupon Euro Global Bond in the international capital markets. The overwhelming response from the market for the 3- and 9-year global bond issuance worth 1.2 billion Euros underscores the international investor community's deepening confidence in the Philippine economy,

he said; The first-time sale of the Premyo Bonds last year, enabling the Treasury to raise P4.96 billion or over 65 percent more than the initial issue size of P3 billion. Access to the bonds were made easy and convenient through the use of online purchasing platforms. These bonds opened yet another channel for ordinary Filipinos to be included in the financial mainstream; and

The continuing review of government contracts to protect taxpayers and ordinary citizens from onerous provisions. "This review sends a clear message that the government is determined to create a pro-business environment in the country. But while the government is interested in inviting businesses to our economy, the interests of the whole nation should be a primary consideration," Dominguez said. (DOF)

TURNOVER OF COMPUTERS TO PUP – ALFONSO



Committed to raise the quality of education in Cavite, the provincial government granted 60 units of computers to Polytechnic University of the Philippines-Alfonso

Campus on February 5, 2020. On behalf of Governor Jonvic Remulla, Vice Governor Jolo Revilla greeted the students and faculty reiterating his willingness to further enhance the programs being provided to the learners and boost their capacity to succeed. Eight District Board Members Reinier Ambion and Virgilio Varias, together with Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs Alvin Mojica shared inspirational messages to the students. The computer grant will broaden their knowledge and skills in information technology, research and development, internet and other computer applications. (Gina Perlado Pereña)



PRESIDENT DUTERTE SUPPORTS MICRO AND SMALL ENTREPRENEURS

"Since 2016, President Rodrigo Duterte has been tirelessly supporting Go Negosyo, the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship, the Dept. of Trade and Industry, and the Dept. of Agriculture in our mission to develop our micro, small, and medium enterprises. His vision has always been to foster prosperity for all through programs that help Filipinos realize their fullest potential. Moving forward, we will continue to come up with programs that will inspire, educate, and strengthen the capacity of Filipinos towards building an emerging nation that leaves no one behind!" — JOYEE CONCEPCION, President Adviser for Entrepreneurship and Go Negosyo Youth










































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