# Alfonso, Cavite COVID-19 free for 42 days page 4



# Bacoor City unveils Stay Safe app

Stay Safe Bacoor aims to help in contact tracing, social distancing, and health condition reporting.

The local government here launched Friday, June 19, a contact tracing mobile application named 'Stay Safe Bacoor' as part of its effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus.Mayor Lani Mercado-Revilla led the



launch at the Bacoor Government Center of the MAN NG mobile app which aims to help in contact tracing, social distancing system and health condition reporting.

According to Revilla, users can download the application and just fill out the personal information required."Makikita na po dito kung ikaw ay mild, severe or suspected cases" Users can also register their family members on this application.

"Mas maganda po kapag alam mo ang health condition ng mga kasama mo sa inyong tahanan"Revilla said.(It would be better if you are aware of your health condition and those in your home."This launch coincided with the 8th cityhood anniversary here.

# Revenues down in H1 amid pandemic, but higher collections (P3 seen beginning June korean group bonates covid-19 test



Parañaque City Mayor Edwin L. Olivarez received from a group of Korean businessmen 2,000 test kits for Covid-19, bolstering the City's capability to fight and manage the spread of the deadly virus.

The donation consists of 1,000 units of Standard Q AG (antigen) rapid test kits and another 1,000 units of Standard Q IgM/IgG COMBO (antibody) rapid test kits. Both are manufactured by SD Biosensor headquartered in Suwon,



South Korea and have been approved for use and distribution by the Food and Drug Administration.

Shown in photo with Mayor Olivarez during the turnover of donations are (from left) Ms. Eva Nono, Parañaque City External Affairs Officer; Dr. Jeffrey Pagsisihan, Hospital Director of Ospital ng Parañaque; Mr. Kim, Chong Pal, Chairman, WorldwideLink Trading Corp., Mr. Shin, Ho Chul, President, South Korean Community Association, Mr. Kim, Young Soo, Director of WorldwideLink Trading Corporation based in Manila; and Dr. Olga Virtuzio, Parañaque City Health Officer.

### 

#### **VOL 18 NO. 13**

#### The longest year **EDITORYAL**:

Local executives elected in the May 2019 elections mark their first anniversary in office this week

We are certain that when they campaigned to be elected to their current positions, they had no way of knowing that a global pandemic would accompany the usual challenges and temptations of the job.

In those pre-COVID days, progress, inclusive growth, resilience and good governance were among the aspirations of local government units. Each LGU's chance at success varied greatly, depending on its own history, attributes, baggage left by previous leaders, the culture of its people, and the qualities of its new leader

It appeared that eschewing traditional practices and restrictive mindsets in the manner of governance could be good predictors of success. Younger executives, adept at technology, appreciative of science, and more inclined to make decisions based on hard data, seemed to be making good first impressions.

And then this pandemic brought the world to its knees. All of a sudden, all plans were put on hold and survival became the name of the game. Each leader grappled with the threat of the virus, and the corresponding economic consequenc-

es of the public health emergency, with whatever resources available. Some were lucky to have actual or vicarious experience running an LGU; others had a rude awakening

While Filipinos look to the national leadership for direction, all policies, directives and assistance is delivered through the local government.

What an ordeal the past months have been-and the crisis is far from over. With the pandemic far from over, our local leaders will continue to be the face of the government, and will be the cause of our confidence in, or abhorrence of it.

The leaders who marked their first year on the job this year will be the ones to see us through as we make a transition to the so-called new normal. May best practices be highlighted, retold and replicated. May blunders and incompetence be rebuked.

These leaders' competence or ineptitude will determine whether we simply pick up from where we left off-or whether we have to work hard to recover after losing the equivalent of many years of progress.



DENTAL SERVICES NOW OPEN AT SM SANTA ROSA: What's up Southies! Now that we are under MGCQ, SM City Santa Rosa's personal care services is now open to serve you. For that much needed trip to your favorite dentist, South Dental Centre and Tooth and Style is now accepting walk in clients. Since safety is SM's utmost concern, all dental clinics are required to practice improved sanitation processes and clinic protocols to ensure safe dental procedures to all patients. For daily updates on open stores, visit SM City Santa Rosa on Facebook.

### **HEALTH PROTOCOLS COMPLIANCE CHECK CONTINUES AT MALLS IN CAVITE**



Another successful DTI-PHO-Cavite Tourism-DOLE-LGU joint monitoring was conducted on July 03, 2020 in restaurants, barber shops, and salons in the province to ensure their compliance on the minimum health protocols.

All 14 establishments inspected at Robinsons Place Imus City were found to be compliant to the health and safety protocols. The monitoring team hopes that im-





learners

Gatchalian made this call over mounting student reports of sexual harassment at the hands of teachers, which have gained social media traction. The lawmaker underscored that CPCs should stay vigilant and proactive in monitoring and handling sexual harassment and other child abuse cases, especially since the postponement of physical classes does not remove the threat of abuse from teachers, other school personnel, and the peers of learners.

The Bureaus of Internal (DOF).

January-June period this year.

lected in 2020's first semester.

ofluzon

than the target of P933.49 billion

plementation of the guidelines set by IATF for the safety of mall goers remains consistent. — Rochelle D. Bawalan (Tourism Operations Officer II)

#### **3** July 06-12, 2020

Senator Win Gatchalian is urging public and private basic education institutions to mobilize their Child Protection Committees (CPCs) against violence and abuse on

It was recently reported that some high school students from Miriam College have complained of sexual harassment and emotional manipulation committed by some teachers, which is now the subject of investigation by the Department of Education (DepEd).

According to the National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children in the Philippines published

### **Revenues**...

Revenue (BIR) and of Customs (BOC) collected a combined total of P1.155 trillion for the first half of 2020 as an unprecedented coronavirus pandemic continued to pummel the economy and restrict business activity in most parts of the country, according to preliminary data submitted to the Department of Finance

Comparing this amount to the P1.375 trillion collected in the first half of 2019, it is P220.47 billion or 16 percent lower, but only P32.73 billion or 2.76 percent slightly below the target of 1.187 trillion for the

The BIR. which accounts for the bulk of the government's tax collections, reported a tentative total of P901.96 billion col-

This collection period includes the months when strict guarantine measures were imposed to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) that led to a virtual economic standstill in Metro Manila and the rest

As a result, the BIR's January-June 2020 collection is P170.5 billion or 15.9 percent lower than the P1.072 trillion it collected during the same period last year. The January-June collection is also P31.52 billion or 3.38 percent less

With the volume of imports posting a steady decline in the first five months of 2020 because of this global health emergency, the BOC collected P253.04 billion from January 1 to June 30, which is only slightly lower by P1.21 billion or 0.47 percent of the adjusted target of P254.25 billion for the January-June period this vear.

This amount is P49.97 billion or 16.49 percent lower than its collection of P303.01 billion during the same period in 2019 Collections be-

gan to pick up in June as the BIR and BOC reported collecting a combined total of P270.77 billion. exceeding last year's figure for the same month of P211.50 billion by P59.28 billion or 28.03 percent.

The BIR reported P228.23 billion for the month of June, topping by P68.04 billion or 42.47 percent the P160.2 billion it collected during the same period in 2019. It is P56 57 billion or 19 86 percent less than its target of P284.8 billion for June 2020.

The BOC surpassed its collection goal of P40.74 billion for June as import volumes began to improve, with the bureau collecting P42.54 billion, which is P1.8 billion or 4.42 percent over the target.

Covid-19 pandemic, the is just P22.52 billion or

country's large taxpayers delivered P145.81 billion in taxes to the BIR in June, which is P37.85 billion or 35.05 percent higher than the P107.97 billion they paid during the same month last

year. In terms of income taxes, the Large Taxpayers Service (LTS) of the BIR collected P83.73 billion in June, which is a vast improvement of P37.87 billion or P82.58 percent as compared to the P45.86 billion for the same month last year.

Improvements were also seen in the collection of the value-added tax (VAT) from large taxpayers, with the BIR collecting P24.25 billion in June, which is P2.54 billion or 11.7 percent in excess of the target of P21.71 billion for the month, and P1.57 billion or 6.94 percent better than the P22.68 billion collected in June 2019.

As a result from January 1 to June 30, the BIR collected a total of P112.35 billion in VAT from large taxpayers, beating its goal of P106.09 billion for this period by P6.27 billion or 5.91 percent. The BIR collected P126.6 billion for the same period in 2019.

From Januar 1 to June 30, the LTS Even with the collected P273.24 billion economic fallout from the in income taxes, which

# To schools: Mobilize Child Protection Committees to combat student abuse

n 2016, around 17.1 percent of children aged 13-18 experienced any form of sexual violence, the prevaence of which is in schools is at 5.3 percent.

DATELINE

The creation of CPCs was mandated in DepEd's Department Order No. 40 s. 2012, which outlines the department's child protection policy. CPCs are tasked to create schools' child protection policies, identify learners who may be experiencing abuse and exploitation, and to report cases involving child abuse.

CPCs are also expected to coordinate with the PNP-WCPD, the Local Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDO), other government agencies, and non-government organizations.

The school head or administrator chairs the CPC, while a guidance counselor or teacher serves as the vice-chairperson. Parents and students are also represented in the CPC. The Punong Barangay also appoints a representative of the community, usually a member of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children, to join the CPC.

"Hindi natin dapat pinapalagpas and ano mang uri ng pag-aabuso o karahasan sa ating mga kabataan sa tahanan man o sa paaralan. Dahil sa

panganib na maaaring umakyat pa ang bilang ng mg kaso ng karahsan at pang-aabuso ngayong nasa gitna tayo ng pandemya, lalo nating dapat paigtingin ang mga hakbang upang bigyan ng proteksyon ang mga kabataan." said Gatchalian.

The Chairman of the Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture also warned that aside from abusive school personnel, learners are also at an increased risk of violence at home, where most learning will take place when classes reopen.

Citing data from the Philippine National Police Women and Children Protection Desks (PNP-WCPD), the President's 6th report to Congress on the implementation of the Bavanihan to Heal As One Act (Republic Act 11469) reported 521 cases of crimes against children as of April 30. By June 11, the cases soared to 2,077.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) also reported last May 25 that cases of online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) surged by 264 percent. The DOJ Office of Cybercrime said 279,166 OSEC cases were recorded from March 1 to May 24. From the same period last year, there were only 76,561 cases recorded.

#### FROM PAGE 1

7.61 percent shy of the

target of P295.77 billion

for this period, and P50

billion or 15.47 percent

less than the P323.25

billion collected for the

Income

other taxes from large

taxpayers amounted to

P581 40 billion from Jan

uary 1 to June 30 of this

vear, which is P30.01 bil-

lion or 4.91 percent less

than the collection goa

of P611.41 billion for this

period. It is also P121.05

billion or 17.23 percent

lower than the P702.45

billion collected by the

tensions of the deadlines

set by the BIR for the fil-

ing and paying of various

taxes ended last month

Most of the ex-

LTS during the same pe-

riod in 2019.

(DOF PR)

and

first half of 2019.

**EXTRA JUDICIAL** 

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ES-TATE OF THE LATE ROSEMARIE S. CAL-DERON HAS BEEN EXTRA-JUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HER HEIRS THRU EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH PROPERTY NO. 1 CONDOMNIUM CERTF-CATE OF TTLE NO. 006-201200639, PROP-ERTY NO. 2 TCT NO. T-812647, PROPETY 3 MEMOEAL LOT AND 2 BANK ACCOUNT LANKBANK & PNB BANK AS PER DOC. NO. 064 ; PAGE NO. 013 ; BOOK NO. 231; SE-RIES OF 2020, BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. EVELYN R. DOMINGUEZ .

**Dateline Weeekly Newspapers:** July 6, 13 & 20, 2020



#### **EXTRA JUDICIAL**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CESAR CENTE-NO ABAD, consisting of a parcel of land with a house known as Lot No.10, Blk.9 of the cons.-subd., Plan Pcs-04-2115-008149 situated at Poblacion, Naic, Cavite, consisting of a total area of THIRTY EIGHT (38) square meters, more or less embraced and covered by TCT No.T-708601 of the Register of Deeds of the Province Cavite, have been the subject of an Extra-Judicial Settlement of Estate of the Deceased among the Legal Heirs With Absolute Sale as per Doc.No.474; Page No.96; Book No. XXI and Series of 2020 of Notary Public Jameswell M. Resus of Naic. Cavite.

**Dateline Weekly Newspapers:** June 22, 29 & July 6, 2020

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#### **4** July 6 -12, 2020

### NOTICES

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SUSPECT PROBABLE ACTIVE

### **5 July 6-12, 2020**











Congresswoman Dahlia Loyola and Mayor Roy Loyola distribute relief goods to PWDs: Fifth District of Cavite Representative Dr. Dahlia Loyola, along with Carmona Municipal Mayor Roy Loyola, distributed 500 relief packs to Persons with Disability from Silang BAYANI Cluster on June 30, 2020 at the Carmona Community Center.

# Alfonso...

Mayor Randy Salamat proudly revealed June 23, 2020 that the municipality of Alfonso is COVID-19 free for the past 42 days as he rallied his constitiuents to continue to be united and cooperate with both the national and local government' s efforts in this period of pandemic.

Mayor Salamat made the remarks during the interview in the country's longest running noontime show (Eat Bulaga) aired Saturday, June 27, 2020.

Six other local chief executives (LCFs) from the National Capital Region (NCR) Menchie Abalos of City of Mandaluyong, Ike Ponce of the City of Pateros, Marcy Teodoro of Marikina City while from the north, Mayors Donya Tesoro of San Manuel. Tarlac and Brvan Celeste of Alaminos, Pangasinan, and Mayor Keith Nieto of Cainta,

Rizal were also gurst at the noontime show.

He also mentioned that before COVID-19 pandemic, the first disaster his town endured was the eruption of Taal Volcano in January. The town hosted and provided assistance to 9,000 evacuees from the province of Batangas that were severely affected by the eruption

As for the town's COVID-19 response, the mayor cited the Botika on Wheels program which helped the senior citizens of the municipality to get access to their much needed medicines without having to go out of their houses. He also mentioned his otherwise way of leading the people

FROM PAGE 1 lechon baboy and lechon

manok he Mayor shared on his FB post they were give Talent Fees (TF) and bobble head doll characters of Eat Bulaga stars like Maine Mendoza. Alden Richards and Lola Nidora According to

Salamat, the TF he received for auestina will be donated to the affected vendors of the Luksuhin Public Market fire while the bobble head dolls will be given as prizes to the winners for the three best stories that will be shared by Alfonseños about the life changing experience they had during the pandemic

Veteran host Vic Sotto thanked the mayors entertaining but effective as the show recognized their extra ordinary perby giving them incentives formance of their duties for following the quaran- to serve the people and tine protocols such as wished them well with rewarding the most be- their governance and haved barangay with free leadership. (PIA)







MILACROSA LANTIC BANCAL Dapat Alerto! Handa Lagi! Iwas Aksidente!

() AttyRoyMLoyola 🌐 carmonalgu

Donors continue the spirit of #BayanihanMunaLagi this COVID-19

season: Donors from the public and private sectors continue to help

Carmona frontliners and residents through various donations.

UPDATES

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ECOVERED

BARANGAYS

BARANGAY 1

**BARANGAY 2** 

BARANGAY 3

BARANGAY 4

BARANGAY 5

BARANCAY 6

BARANGAY 7

BARANGAY 8

CABILANG BAYBAY

MADUYA

MABUHAY

As of 6:30PM, 30 June 2020

ACTIVE CASES

2

Carmona LGU releases COVID-19 updates as of June 30, 2020: The local government of Carmona released the current updates of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the municipality through a post on their official social media accounts on June 30. 2020, Currently, there are 19 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 wherein 16 have recovered and 3 are active cases. There are also 10 suspected and 4 probable cases.

#### **EXTRA JUDICIAL**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE MEYNARDO O. BIGTING HAS BEEN EXTRA-JUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIR THRU AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION WITH DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE AS PER DOC. NO. 311 ; PAGE NO. 64 ; BOOK NO. 60 ; SERIES OF 2020, BE-FORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. CESARIO G. GONZALES JR.

**Dateline Weekly Newspapers:** July 06, 13 & 20, 2020



# DATELINE **Shop & Ship with Surplus**

ce Shield

Make your own health

iuice or smoothies with

this portable Mix and

Go Rechargeable Juic

mixage

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#### Three Ply Surgical Face Mask available at Surplus

Embracing the

new normal means

investing in a few

washable masks

that are built to last

and protect you and

those around you.

-Keep the health of you and your loved ones in check with this smart thermometer

Always be protected from infection with this anti-fogging, anti-dust and anti-splash Face Shield from

Surplus.

er.



fresh and brings a pleasant aroma to your room. Available in green and pink swirl colors.

The Pack N' Go insulated lunch tote keeps your food and refreshments in good con-



These water- based essential oils in Eucalyptus & Mint, Fresh Linen and Rainforest scents will not only leave your room smelling pleasant but also offers many health benefits.

### **EXTRA JUDICIAL**

Notice is hereby given that EUFEMIA J REYES, the surviving wife and sole heir of the late ROMEO T. REYES, has adjudicated to herself the estate of the deceased ROMEO T. REYES, consisting of a parcel of land covered by Transfe Certificate of Title No. T-1087479 located at Brov Santiago, General Trias City, pursuant to the pro visions of Sec. 1, Rule 74 of the Revised Rules of Court as, per Affidavit of Self Adjudication execut ed on 24TH day of June, 2020 at General Trias City, Cavite before Notary Public Christopher F Columna, per Doc. No. 72; Page No. 16; Book No 12; Series of 2020.

Dateline Weekly Newspapers: June 29, July 6 & 13, 2020

An Air Humidifier adds moisture to the air. solves dryness of your skin and prevents the spread of airborne viruses. Get this beautiful addition to your home at Surplus.

#### **EXTRA JUDICIAL**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE SPS. CONSTANCIA SALIBA AND NICANOR PORTILLA HAVE BEEN EXTRA-JUDI-CIALLY SETTLED BY THEIR HEIRS THRU EX-TRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE AS PER DOC. NO. 47 ; PAGE NO. 11 ; BOOK NO. 55 ; SE-RIES OF 2020, BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. CESARIO G. GONZALES JR.

**Dateline Weekly Newspapers:** June 15, 22 & 29, 2020

### **EXTRA JUDICIAL**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE CLARA GUYURAN HAS BEEN EXTRA-JUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HER HEIRS THRU EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ES-TATE WITH DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE AS PER DOC. NO. 469; PAGE NO. 95; BOOK NO. 59; SE-RIES OF 2020, BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. CESARIO G. GONZALES JR.

Dateline Weeekly Newspapers: July 6, 13 & 20, 2020

As we embrace the new normal, keep your amily safe and protected at home or anyvhere you go with great finds you can Shop & Ship from Surplus.

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There are face masks and smart thernometers to keep you healthy and protected. Surplus is also a one-stop shop for a healthy ind happy home: air humidifiers and revitalizrs, as well as rechargeable handy mist fans to teep you cool this summer. You'll enjoy homenade juices and smoothies with rechargeable uicers; as well as listening to your favorite unes with portable Bluetooth speakers.

Join the Surplus' Viber community to hop, then call the available branch you prefer to be assisted and pay through cash, debit or credit card or online transfer. You may also shop for Surplus essential items at ShopSM. com. Surplus stores that are now open to safely serve you

Keep you and your family safe and stay updated as Surplus goes interactive. Like them on Facebook and Twitter at SurplusPH and Instagram at Surplus ph to know more about the serving branches and great deals.



Portable Bluetooth speakers for your playlist.



### **6** July 6-12, 2020

### DATELINE

#### **YOU ARE SAFE TO MEET AND EAT T SM CITY BACOOR-FOOD COUR1** SM City Bacoor - Food Court ensures your safety as we regularly check your favor-

SM CITY BACOOR, CAVITE We all know how your tummy feels after the long line as you observe social distancing, and waiting in cue for your turn to grab your essentials. Now, you can dine-in your favorite restaurant at the Food Court instead of ordering a take-out and eat on your way home! Go and enjoy your all-time favorites at the Food Court!

Get a no frills basic Korean meal served in a hot plate at Mr.Kimbob!

Grill all you want with Inihaw's Best recipe!

Try Turk's flavorful and juicy Beef Doner Steak, Doner on Rice, and Turks Doner Bowl and beat that hunger with the best Shawarma in town.

Deliaht with Sizzling Plate's ever-famous Sizzling Sisig served with buttered corn, carrot, and peas on the side and sunny side up egg for your lunch and you'd surely be full with its satisfyingly crunchy bits and and flavorful meat!

Enjoy the Teppanyummiest iron griddle- cooked Japanese Cuisine at Saku Teppanyummy.

Get the best meal at Salo's Famous Filipino Dishes served fresh and tasty!







ite food stalls and restaurants' sanitation efforts. Just follow the safety protocols on

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## SM CITY BACOOR, SM CITY DASMARIÑAS, AND SM CITY MOLINO **INSTALL BIKE REPAIR STATIONS AND AIR PUMP FOR FREE**



Three of the biggest malls in Cavite; SM CITY BACOOR, SM CITY DASMARIÑAS, and SM CITY MOLINO are now embracing the new normal as they install bike repair stations and air pumps that bikers can use for free

Recognizing that more people are now using bicycles both for work and to run their errands, SM Malls in Cavite installed Bike Repair stations and Air Pump, complete with essential Bike repair tools. Organized Bicycle Parking Slots are being implemented as well, to ensure that Bikers can park and can repair their bicycles in case of emeraency.

This aims to provide shoppers a convenient and a #SafeMalling experience.







ACROSS

- River hazard 5 It aids commerce in
- Cancun, Kalamazoo, and
- Calgary 10 Left 21 across or 8
- down 14 He's blue without
- 15 Offering from

- 16 He may be blue because he's in the red 17 Golden rule word 18 Princess in plum? 20 One might clean up
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DATELINE Weekly Newspaper has its principal business editorial office at Blk. 4 Lot 11, Ph. 6, Northeast Primarosa Subd., Mambog 3, Bacoor City with all the required BIR, DTI (CR#01576397), Barangay and City business permits and registered as a second class mail, with Permit #2005-10 from the Phil. Postal Corp. Tel Nos.(046)476-7611/(0955)1552764; heidelitalat@vahoo.com

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- his red or white Google or Yahoo
- at a Vegas hotel
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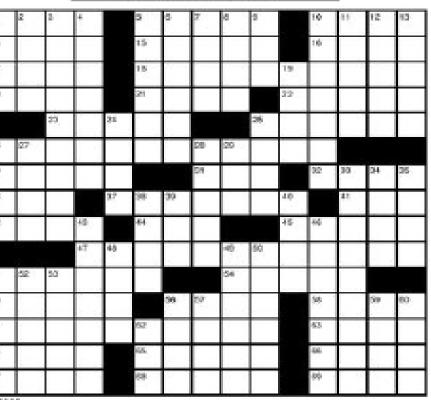
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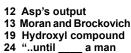
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- sailing trio 3 Like AZT
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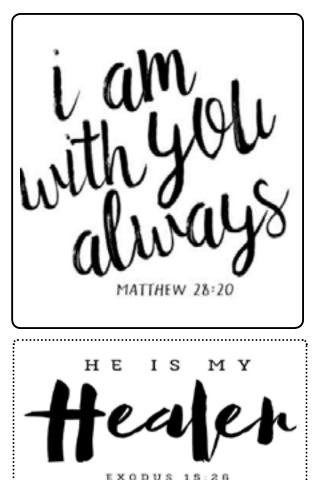
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SHAMPOO WAXING GOATEE **BLOWDRYER** MAKEUP TRIM RAZOR HAIRCUT COMB SPA



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56 Evening on the Champs-Elysees

# **Securing the Future of our**

# **Agri Heroes**

Not all heroes wear capes; many of them spend days under the heat of the sun ensuring that every family in the country can have enough food on the table. In this time of COVID-19 pandemic, every Filipino household face an equalizing basic need: enough and steady supply of food so that their families will not go hungry. More than ever, the important role of our farmers now is highlighted as they serve as one of the frontline heroes in this trying time.

However, not all agricultural workers and businesses have the capacity to run their livelihood during this crisis. From Day 1 of the community quarantine, farmers are deeply distressed by the health threat and hampered by the necessary measures laid out by the government in containing the virus. The agricultural sector, which is heavily reliant on transportation facilities, faces the challenge of transferring goods from farms to markets.

Additionally, peddlers and vendors cannot simply roam around to sell their products due

to restricted movement. They encounter financial losses even as their perishable products could not be sold, hence were either consumed, given away to the neighbors and sadly, left to rot. If not for institutions and organizations who protected our food security frontliners, the agricultural sector would have been on the brink of collapse.

Fortunately, the dovernment has timely put in place programs that support the sector. On the forefront is the Department of Agriculture who has been implementing initiatives in order to respond to the needs of agricultural and fisheries workers. DA has announced the provision of cash subsidies and other financial assistance to farmers which can used for farm inputs be or their families' basic needs. In partnership with TESDA, DA is offering online training on the "new normal" in terms of food production and food value chain. Another important initiative is Kadiwa, an online shop for agricultural produce. Through this, the general public has

#### Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip **CARD MRI Founder and Chairman Emeritus**

greater access to cheaper and healthy food supplies. This approach will directly connect the farmer-producers to the consumers which will lessen the cost of the agri-products.

the other On hand, a number of LGUs have started distributing seeds to encourage residents to plant in their backvards. In addition. they have been buying produce from local farmers to include in the package of relief goods that they are distributing to their communities. These initiatives to sup-

port farmers have greatly inspired us in CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI) to implement similar meaningful programs for our clients in the agricultural sector.

Rebuilding small agri-businesses

CARD MRI has long recognized the significant contributions of farmers from the time it initially provided its services to landless farmers during its establishment in 1986. The COVID-19 pandemic has called us to go back to our roots and come up with innovative solutions

to the challenges our farmers are facing now.

It all started with

CARD MRI client one who supplied agricultural products as part of relief packages to a local government unit in Panabo, Davao del Norte. It sparked the idea of consolidating all CARD MRI clients with on-going businesses through a Facebook buy and sell group. As CARD MRI strives to create impact on a bigger scale, CARD MRI partnered with DA to serve as a consolidator to the Kadiwa online shops through our network of microfinance and SME clients all over the Philippines. With the accreditation, our clients will be indirectly supplying commercial volumes of agri-products to local government units (LGUs). Through this. CARD MRI hopes to support many microfinance and SME clients.

As the health crisis greatly changes our buying habits, we also saw an opportunity to ease the delivery and distribution of food supply more locallv. We recently launched Likha ni Inay Palengke on

Oriental.

Agri Frontliners

normal" way of life.



Wheels to help our farm-

areas in Luzon remain on er-producers and vendors lockdown until May 15. earn during the pandemic CARD MRI will gradually while providing the genbring back its normal operal community greater erations on May 4 in some accessibility to basic farm areas in Luzon, Visayas, products while on guaranand Mindanao to help its tine. The food lane pass clients slowly restart their granted to CARD MRI albusiness after more than lows us to bridge several a month of confinement producers and vendors to and amidst financial difficonsumers. This virtual initiative is hoped to sigculties. The nificantly help in reducing institutions under CARD the spread of the virus. MRI will resume offering The Palengke on Wheels agricultural loans to its is now available in San clients to use as capital Pablo City in Laguna, Lipa as they start the planting City in Batangas, San Fernando City in Pampanga,

season. Looking at the Bais City in Negros Orienpicture holistically, this will tal and Mati City in Davao help the agricultural sector address food security Securing the Future of our of the country especially those in lockdown areas. As Department of Agri-As many of our culture Secretary Dar corfarmers, vendors and pedrectly points out, "While dlers are crippled by the improving our food adecrisis, they will need greater assistance to help their quacy level, we should family and the whole naaim for food security. If no action is done, the threat tion in taking small steps of hunger is as real as forward towards the "new the threat of the virus.'

financial

(CARDBANK PR) While 'high-risk'

#### PHL, Japan sign 50-B ven COV oan agreeme response

The Philippines and Japan signed Wednesday an agreement for a 50-billion yen loan that aims to assist the Philippine government's efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and provide economic relief to Filipinos most affected by this global health crisis

Given the Philippines' urgent need for budgetary support to address the COVID-19 emergency, the JPY50-billion loan was processed in less than a month, the quickest that was ever secured under Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) financing package and in keeping with the "fast and sure" approach adopted by the two countries since 2017.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, on behalf of the Philippines, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Chief Representative Eigo Azukizawa, representing the government of Japan, signed the agreement for the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan (CCRESL) this afternoon.

"Again, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the people and to the Government of Japan, represented here today by JICA Chief Representative Eigo Azukizawa and of course, His Excellency (Japanese) Ambassador (to the Philippines) Koji Haneda, for your support to the Filipino people during this very difficult situation," Secretary Dominguez said.

"I am sure we shall soon prevail over this emergency. We will return to our growth path and recover our economic momentum. What will be unchanged is the deep friendship and cooperation between our two countries," he added.

Ambassador Haneda said the emergency support loan is part of Japan's assistance package for developing economies hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are glad that we are the first donor-country to be able to offer such a loan to the Philippines. The strong ties between Japan and the Philippines, particularly on the economic front have been tried and true for many decades," Ambassador Haneda said.

The Ambassador said the government of Japan has "high hopes that this loan will be instrumental in helping jumpstart the Philippine economy and running (its) fast-paced recovery."

The CCRESL was approved by the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) last June 10 and was processed by the approving authorities of both countries in only 14 working days until today's signing of the loan accord at the DOF.

Secretary Dominguez thanked the teams from Japan and the Philippines that both worked hard through the period of the quarantines imposed in both countries to speed up the processing of the loan.

"For all those involved in the negotiations, this is a real heroic effort," he said.

Secretary Dominguez underscored the importance of the loan in helping the government cover its budget expenditures through additional borrowings to beat the pandemic and fund its economic recovery program.

The government faces a doubling of its deficitto-GDP ratio this year, as tax collections are down even as it accelerates state spending to strengthen the healthcare system and provide social protection to families and workers hit the hardest by the pandemic.

Equivalent to about P23.54 billion or US\$50.45 million, the yen loan package carries concessional lending terms of 0.01 percent (one hundredth of a percent) fixed interest rate per annum with a maturity period of 15 years inclusive of a 4-year grace period.

The CCRESL from Japan is designed as a co-financing operation complementing the Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program alongside prospective loans from other development partners, and will form part of the 2020 Gross Financing Program as revised in light of COVID-19 response measures, the DOF said.

To be implemented from 2020 to 2021 by the Department of Health (DOH) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the CCRESL will be utilized retroactively for the government's COVID-19 response efforts undertaken since April 2020.

The loan will also help cover the budget expenditures already made or about to be made by the government.

The loan proceeds will automatically be available for withdrawal once the loan is declared effective, which is expected in the last week of July. (DOF PR)