

DATELINE

weekly newspaper

The Only Newspaper with Educational Timeliness

VOL. XVIII > No. 22 > Septy. 7-13, 2020 > P10.00



Dominguez

DOF withholds grant of P319-M tax perks to COA-flagged textile firm for TCC irregularities'

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LGU Imus launches BIDA I-Konek Mo project for city's online learning

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resigned Cavite village execs may still face raps: DILG



Cavite gov nixes new tax plan on fledgling SMEs

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SM CITY MOLINO

PUBLIC ADVISORY

Pursuant to announcement of Modified General Community Quarantine and local government's new health protocol for Cavite, please be advised that starting September 2, 2020:

Mall Hours: 9AM-6PM

Wearing of face shield, aside from face mask, is required upon entering the establishment

Only bearer of official quarantine passes and/or proof of exemption are allowed to move during this period

Thank you for your understanding.

SM CAVITE COMMUNITY RIDERS

SM CAVITE COMMUNITY RIDERS		
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World Bank commits support for PHL economic recovery plan

PAGE 5

COVID-19 task force lauds Parañaque LGU for beefing up isolation facilities

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EDITORIAL:

There are worrying signs that governments—for a variety of reasons not always benign—are rushing COVID-19 vaccines toward mass use.

Russia, for example, has secured orders for 1 billion doses of the yet-unproven vaccine from 20 countries, including the Philippines, which will take part in Phase 3 clinical trials.

These countries should bear in mind that Russia registered its vaccine before large-scale, late-stage trials, without publishing research data.

China, too, has sped up some of its develop-

Dangerous haste

ment, with pharmaceutical companies saying that their senior executives have been given shots to "pre-test" their vaccine.

In the United States, there are signs that President Donald Trump, who has failed miserably to control the spread of COVID-19 in his country and facing elections in November, is pressuring federal agencies to take shortcuts in the approval of therapeutics and vaccines.

For example, the US Food and Drug Administration's Commissioner Dr. Steven Han said his agency could consider an emergency use authorization for a COVID-19 vaccine before late-stage clinical trials are complete if the data show strong enough evidence it would protect people.

The FDA had done the same thing with hydroxychloroquine, a drug much praised by Trump, but

the emergency use authorization was yanked when studies showed it was not effective and could cause serious heart problems.

Dr. Howard Markel, director of the Center for the History of Medicine at the University of Michigan, says people's distrust of vaccines makes the FDA's option to rush the process before late stage clinical trials are complete a "colossally stupid" move.

"This is one of the most ridiculous things I've heard this administration say," Markel told CNN. "All it takes is one bad side effect to basically botch a vaccine program that we desperately need against this virus. It's a prescription for disaster."

The Philippines, of course, has had its own unfortunate experience in rushing an untested vaccine to the mass market, thanks to the indecent haste shown by the previous administration.

Cavite gov ...

Imposing taxes on small, medium enterprises (SMEs), particularly online sellers, is counterproductive as this will give them an additional burden in earning out a living in time of Covid-19.

"SMEs such as the carinderias, small restaurants, stallholders, coffee shops and hostels experienced the hardest hit in this pandemic," Cavite Gov. Juanito Victor Remulla said in an online interview last Friday.

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman and Albay Rep. Joey Salceda recently called for the imposition of taxes on digital services—specifically, subscriptions to video and music streaming apps, ads on social-media sites, and making online sales platforms as withholding tax agents to address an estimated P120 billion in lost revenues once the government implements a 25 percent reduction in corporate income taxes to cushion the impact of the pandemic.

In Cavite, he observed that there was rise in the number of online sellers, particularly the so-called plantitos and plantitas, referring to people who become gardeners and sell their produce online. He added online food selling is

also growing as more people opt to eat at home rather in malls and other establishments.

"These sellers are earning an average of P1,000 a day. During these days, P1,000 go a long way since many families are living on a single income these days," he said.

"If you impose a 30 percent to 40 percent tax, they will only earn P600 a day. With a reduced income, they would rather work in the factory," Remulla pointed out.

Remulla said it is an important point right now to put in a fast forward motion to the digital economy because it is the wave of the future.

"I think we should let the SMEs grow through the process and let them experiment and innovate so they can thrive in the digital economy," Remulla said.

Remulla also said the provincial government of Cavite has introduced reforms through the ISO-9001-2008 certification.

"Cavite is

the first and only ISO-9001:2008 certified provincial government in the country, a pride and honor for the province and its people," Remulla said in his Facebook page.

ISO-9001:2008 is a set of standards and requirements for the development of a quality management system applied by private corporations and organizations to ensure that the needs and expectations of customers, or clients, are adequately and consistently met. The standards also enable organizations to develop mechanisms for continual improvement of performance, services and produce.

To give the province a stronger footing in the digital economy, Remulla said, Cavite is working out on a program for a broader, faster and less expensive Internet infrastructure.

"Access to the Internet is a great tool to empower creativity as well as overall connectivity of the people," Remulla said. (BM)

EXTRA JUDICIAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE RAY PHILIP C. JUICO HAS BEEN EXTRA-JUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIRS THRU EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH TCT NO. T-1000336, and TCT NO. T-1000337. AS PER DOC. NO. 123; PAGE NO. 26; BOOK NO. I; SERIES OF 2019; BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. NOEL C. DUCUSIN.

Dateline Weekly Newspapers: September 7, 14 & 21, 2020

FROM PAGE 2

LGU ...

The city government of Imus launched the "BIDA I-KonEK Mo: Bayanihang Imuseño, Damayang Areglado! Imus, Konekado sa Edukasyong Makabago" program in support of the online learning modality in the New Normal on Friday, August 28, 2020 at the Imus National High School-Main.

About 36 public schools in the city will benefit in this program which also included connectivity for households in the partner communities with a total of 683 students from Sitio Pulo, Barangay Anabu 2-C and 93 students of Sitio Sto. Niño, Barangay Anabu 1-G.

The program, considered to be the first in the country is a collaboration between Converge ICT for a fast and reliable internet connection, and the Imus City Schools Division Office (DepEd Imus) for the delivery of quality education to all.

It boasts of localization of the educational platforms of the Department of Education (DepEd) that facilitates the quick access to the educational sites and materials that are needed by the school children which does not use a higher bandwidth.

Moreover, the program also launched the EKonnect: Educational Gadget Loan Promo in coordination with the City of Imus Cooperative, Livelihood and Entrepreneurial, and Enterprise Development Office (CICLEDO), Imus Cooperative Federation, Guardian Cooperatives and Eskwela Kooperatiba for

the student members of EK, a city government's program that encourages children to save.

Under the EKonnect, members were given assistance in the procurement of their own gadgets which they will use for their online classes at affordable prices, and payable in 10 installment payments within five months.

The city government also distributed IT equipment to the public schools in the city and provided for the production of learning materials in support of the needs of the students and teachers for the coming school opening on October 5, 2020.

"This is the point-

Parañaque ...

National Action Plan (NAP) against COVID-19 Chief Implementer Carlito G. Galvez, Jr. lauded the local government of Parañaque for building more isolation facilities dedicated for patients stricken by the corona virus disease.

"This move is among the best practices LGUs across the country can replicate as they scale up their respective COVID-19 response efforts," Galvez said during a visit to the city on Friday.

The chief implementer, together with Parañaque Mayor Edwin Olivarez, Parañaque First District Representative Eric Olivarez, and City Health Officer Dr. Olga Virtusio, led the inauguration of a 56-bed quarantine facility located at the Parañaque City College.

"Nakita natin na madaling gagaling ang pasyente dito kasi maganda ang accomodation, may sariling CR (comfort room) at bidet pa," he said.

The group also inspected the ongoing construction of a 200-bed isolation facility for novel coronavirus-positive patients located within the compound of the old Air Force One nightclub.

Meanwhile, the Ospital ng Parañaque II, located in Barangay Don Bosco, is also upgrading its facilities, and will soon be having at least 100 COVID-dedicated beds, including a molecular laboratory and an expanded critical care facility.

"Ang commitment natin kay Secretary Galvez, ma-open ang molecular lab at 'yung expansion ng third floor by September," Olivarez said. (PIA-NCR)

FROM PAGE 1



Full digitization of government services targeted by 2022

Senator Win Gatchalian has filed a bill that aims to provide full, integrated E-Government (eGov) services to the public by the end of 2022.

Under Senate Bill No. 1793 or the 'Full Digital Transformation Act of 2020,' all government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), instrumentalities, and local government units (LGUs) are mandated to adopt a digitization strategy that aligns with the Philippine Digital Transformation Strategy 2022.

The proposed measure aims to streamline procedures by adopting automation and digitization of government

services to promote zero-contact policy and to facilitate its efficient delivery in accordance with Republic Act No. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018, Republic Act No. 11234 or the Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop Act, and other applicable laws.

The bill seeks to harmonize common data related to persons, transportation, business and land, among others. It also mandates the government to invest in developing organizational capability and staff competencies that will support national digital transformation.

The proposed measure also seeks to create a Digital Transformation Department (DTD) in every government office. If a government entity already has an existing Information & Communications Technology (ICT) Department, it will be transformed into a DTD. Though the newly-created DTD will continue to perform the functions of the ICT Department, it will expand its functions to support and roll out the office's digital transformation strategy.

The DTD will promote and support the onboarding and training of government personnel in using e-Gov services. It will also obtain and monitor networking tools to create communication channels and feedback mechanisms with the general public. To help the public monitor the status of their requests

at any given time, the DTD will provide a system that allows and promotes coordination among various departments to ensure that workflows, responsibilities, and accountabilities are properly tracked.

Gatchalian noted that as far back as 2012, the e-Gov Master Plan and related e-Gov and Integrated Government Philippines (iGovPhil) programs have been launched by the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST's) Information and Communications Technology Office. Despite the launch of these programs, Gatchalian lamented that the Philippines has been very slow in integrating the use of digital technology to boost modernization and improve the delivery of services.

The lawmaker also reiterated that the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the need for digital transformation in the government, pointing out that efforts such as contact tracing and the distribution of aid could have been smoother if data are harmonized and digital systems are in place.

"Hindi na natin dapat patagalin pa ang modermisasyon sa ating gobyerno upang maging mas mabisa at ligtas ang pagbibigay ng serbisyo sa publiko. Bahagi ng ating pagbangon mula sa pinsalang dulot ng COVID-19 ang isang modernong sistemang agarang tutugon sa mga pangangailangan ng ating mga kababayan," Gatchalian concluded.

FROM PAGE 1



The wearing of face shields is now required in commercial establishments in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces as further protection against the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19). The National Task Force Covid-19 (NTF) decided to make face shields mandatory not just in public transportation and the workplace but also in enclosed public spaces like shopping malls and markets as well, Palace spokesperson Harry Roque Jr. said on Friday.

NTF led by Presidential peace adviser Carlito Galvez Jr., is the implementing arm of government policies on the Covid-19 response. Citing studies, the Department of Health (DoH) has said wearing a face shield with a face mask offers 99-percent protection against the novel coronavirus.

The use of full-face shields in the workplace and in public transportation was required

Face shields required in malls, workplace and public transport

as Metro Manila eased into the less restrictive general community quarantine (GCQ) as mandated by DOTr. SM City San Pablo PR Manager Ms. Nina Wong confirmed that the strict policy of using a full-face shield and facemask is also being implemented across SM Malls in Laguna. Mall guards will also look for your quarantine pass and they will verify if you are an APOR (Authorized Person Outside Residence) before you can enter the mall. The DoH and the World Health Organization have recommended the use of face masks to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 through respiratory droplets.

To date, Philippines has yet to flatten the curve but the economy is gradually opening. SM San Pablo PR Manager Ms. Nina Wong said "It's going to take much longer to thaw the economy than it took to freeze it and we need all the cooperation and support we can get from the community, LGU and that's vice versa, to make sure the mall remain a safe place to shop during this trying times of pandemic". She urges everyone's cooperation to always wear your mask correctly and consistently as she pointed out that SM Supermalls is one with the community in beating Covid 19. SM Supermalls continue to implement stringent preventive measures to contain the spread of Corona virus. (PR)

DOF ...

The Department of Finance (DOF) has withheld the grant of a P57-million refund and another P262 million in tax credits claimed by a Bulacan-based textile firm covered by a special investigation of the Commission on Audit (COA) on "irregular" tax credit certificates (TCCs) issued during the past administrations.

Through its One-Stop Inter-agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center (OSS), the DOF informed the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) of its decision to put on hold the request of the Indo Phil Group of Companies (IPGC) pending the final results of the COA special audit on TCCs issued from 2008 to 2014.

"We highlight that Indo Phil Acrylic Manufacturing Corp. (IPAMC), Indo Phil Cotton Mills Inc. (IPCMI), and Indo Phil Textile Mills Inc. (IPTMI) are covered by the COA SAO (Special Audits Office) Report 2018-06, with findings of irregularities on the TCCs issued to each company for years 2008-2014," OSS Executive Director Emea Macabales said in a letter to Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III.

The Indo-Phil Group, a Filipino-Indian joint venture based in Marilao, Bulacan, include Indo Phil Textile Mills Inc. (IPTMI), Indo Phil Acrylic Manufactur-

ing Corp. (IPAMC) and Indo Phil Cotton Mills Inc. (IPCMI).

Macabales wrote Bello in response to the Labor chief's earlier referral of the request of Indo Phil Group president Shanti Sipani to have the firm's P57-million tax refund and TCCs amounting to P262 million processed by the OSS.

Copies of Macabales' letter were also sent to Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III and Undersecretary Antonette Tionko, who heads the DOF's Revenue Operations Group (ROG).

Sipani had claimed in his request to Bello that Indo Phil's tax refunds of P30.6 million for 2016 and P26.4 million for 2017 were already approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), but that the Bureau of Customs (BOC) had withheld payment because of the COA audit findings.

Indo Phil claimed that DOF has put on hold TCCs totaling P262 million--P69 million for IPTMI, another P91 million for IPCMI, and P102 million more for IPAMC-- because of the COA audit report.

Sipani said Indo Phil "just followed the Government direction" in applying for the TCCs.

Macabales pointed out in her letter that the COA has begun issuing Notices of Disallowance to the companies for TCCs that were found to be "tainted with irregularities" and against the involved

OSS officials and personnel for their participation in their issuance.

"Due to these developments and the enormity of the amount involved, the Department of Finance and OSS Center (are) taking precaution(s) before any request for TCCs, Tax Debit Memos (TDMs) or duty drawbacks are acted upon," Macabales said in her letter to Bello.

Macabales assured Bello that the OSS will update his office "on any developments in the circumstances of the OSS Center."

Created under Administrative Order (AO) No. 266 issued in 1992 to process TCCs and duty drawback applications, the OSS is a composite body managed by the DOF, BIR, BOC and the Board of Investments (BOI).

Earlier, the COA informed Dominguez that it has Notices of Disallowance on tax credits worth a combined P377.29 million granted by the OSS to four textile firms covering a four-year period from 2008 to 2012.

The COA-SAO disallowed TCCs issued to Capital-Roll Knit Corp. (CRC) amounting to P326.48 million; Uni-Glory's Knitting Corp. (UKC), which received P15.03 million-worth of tax credits; Primeknit Manufacturing Corp. (PMC), PP15.76 million; and Tai-Cheng International Resource Inc. (TICIRI), P20.01 million. (PR)

for SM City Dasmariñas Terminal Kalinga Drivers Rolls Out Again

Operation Tulong Express in SM Supermalls headed by SM Foundation has been rolling for a month already. However, first distribution was not enough to cater all beneficiaries, which is why second round is needed for some Malls like SM City Dasmariñas which recently had its second Operation Tulong Express.

Around 300 Kalinga Packs from SM City Dasmariñas and SM Foundation were distributed to 7 Group of Transport Operators in SM City Dasmariñas. Kalinga packs were consist of food, home essentials and rice. Pure happiness were embedded behind the drivers' mask as they receive the Kalinga Packs.

Operation Tulong Express is one of the many programs of SM Foundation through the help of SM Supermalls in supporting communities.



TODA Operators receiving Kalinga Packs with Ms. Cheryl Estavillo (Center), SM City Dasmariñas Building Administration Manager.



Ms. Cheryl Estavillo, Building Administration Manager handing the Kalinga Packs to Ms. Mindz Par Olayon, Kingsland Pala Pala Transport President.



Jeepney drivers holding the Kalinga Packs with a smile.



Driver from GMA SM BACOOR JODA INC, enthusiastically received his Kalinga packs.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 4-FC
CITY OF IMUS, CAVITE

F.C. NO. 14122-16

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF
REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER
ACT 3135 AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(otherwise known as PAG-IBIG FUND),
Mortgagee,

- versus -

MARINO D. BACTOL, JR., married to
GLORIA R. BACTOL
Mortgagors.

x-----x

AMENDED NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by act 4118 filed by PAG-IBIG FUND or HDMF, mortgagee, with principal place of business at 12th floor JELP Business Solutions Center, No. 409 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City against mortgagor MARINO D. BACTOL, JR., married to GLORIA R. BACTOL with residence and postal address at Lot 9, Block 28, Regal Homes Subdivision, Alapan 1-A, Imus, Cavite AND/OR Lot 7, Block 10, Dreamville IV Subdivision, Alapan 1-C, Imus, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of November 16, 2015 amounts to NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND FIFTY FIVE PESOS & 34/100 (Php980,055.34) Philippine Currency, including interest and penalties, but excluding attorney's fees, sheriff's fees and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff IV will sell at public auction on October 27, 2020 at 10:00 in the morning or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC Multiple Sala, Aguinaldo Highway, Imus, Cavite to the highest bidder, for CASH and in Philippine Currency the following property with all the improvements therein to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2012008345

"A parcel of land (Lot 7, Blk. 10, of the subd. plan. Psd-04-200927, being a portion of Lot 1556-C-1, Psd-042109-065639, L.R.C. Rec. No. 8843), situated in Brgy. of Alapan 1-C, Mun. of Imus Prov. of Cavite. Bounded on the SW., along Line 1-2 by Lot 5, Blk. 10; on the NW., along line 2-3 by Rd. Lot 11; on the NE., along line 3-4 by Lot 09; & on the SE., along line 4-1 by Lot 8 both of Blk. 10 all of the subd. Plan.. x x x containing an area of THIRTY SIX (36) SQUARE METERS x x x

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 November 03, 2020 at 10:00 morning without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said properties and encumbrance therein if any there be.

Imus, Cavite, Philippines July 03, 2020.

(SGD.) EMMANUELLE H. FRANCISCO
Sheriff IV

Approved: ARMIE A. FRANCISCO
Clerk of Court V
OIC-Office of the Clerk of Court

Copy Furnished:
HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
12/F, JELP Business Solution Center,
No. 409 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City

MARINO D. BACTOL, JR., married to
GLORIA R. BACTOL
Lot 9, Block 28, Regal Homes Subdivision,
Alapan 1-A, Imus, Cavite AND/OR
Lot 7, Block 10, Dreamville IV Subdivision,
Alapan 1-C, Imus, Cavite

Dateline Weekly Newspapers:
September 7, 14 & 21, 2020

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 4-FC
CITY OF IMUS, CAVITE

F.C. NO. 16948-20

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF
REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER
ACT 3135 AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

CHINA BANK SAVINGS, INC.,
Mortgagee,

- versus -

SPS. FLODELIZA N. VIRREY
AND ARMANDO C. VIRREY JR.,
represented by their Atty.-In-Fact
GERALDINE M. NOBLE
Mortgagors.

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by act 4118 filed by, mortgagee, CHINA BANK SAVINGS, INC., with principal place of business at 314 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City against SPS. FLODELIZA N. VIRREY AND ARMANDO C. VIRREY JR., represented by their Atty.-In-Fact GERALDINE M. NOBLE with residence and postal address at #175Tupas St., Leveriza Brgy. 31, Zone 5, Pasay City and/or Lot 6, Block 2, Phase 2, Camella Terrassa, Buhay na Tubig, Imus, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of January 31, 2020 amounts to FIVE MILLION SIX HUNDRED SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SIXTY NINE PESOS & 84/100 (Php5,606,969.84) Philippine Currency, including interest and penalties, but excluding attorney's fees, sheriff's fees and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff IV will sell at public auction on October 13, 2020 at 10:00 in the morning or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC Multiple Sala, Aguinaldo Highway, Imus, Cavite to the highest bidder, for CASH and in Philippine Currency the following property with all the improvements therein to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2014061415

"A parcel of land (Lot 6, Blk. 2, of the subd. plan. Psd-04-191774, being a portion of Lot 520, Imus Estate L.R.C. Rec. No. 8843), situated in Brgy. of Tanzang Luma, Mun. of Imus Prov. of Cavite. Bounded on the SW., along Line 1-2 by Lot 5; on the NW., along line 2-3 by Lot 1 Blk. 1 both of the subd. plan; on the NE/SE., along line 3-9-1 by Rd. Lot 01. x x x containing an area of ONE HUNDRED FORTY ONE (141) SQUARE METERS x x x

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 October 20, 2020 at 10:00 morning without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said properties and encumbrance therein if any there be.

Imus, Cavite, Philippines August 25, 2020.

(SGD.) EMMANUELLE H. FRANCISCO
Sheriff IV

Approved: ARMIE A. FRANCISCO
Clerk of Court V
OIC-Office of the Clerk of Court

Copy Furnished:
HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
12/F, JELP Business Solution Center,
No. 409 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City

SPS. FLODELIZA N. VIRREY AND ARMANDO C. VIRREY JR.,
represented by their Atty.-In-Fact GERALDINE M. NOBLE
#175Tupas St., Leveriza Brgy. 31,
Zone 5, Pasay City and/or
Lot 6, Block 2, Phase 2,
Camella Terrassa, Buhay na Tubig,
Imus, Cavite

Dateline Weekly Newspapers:
September 7, 14 & 21, 2020

The World Bank has redesigned around US\$1.9 billion-worth of projects in the Philippines that are expected to be approved this year to support the government's comprehensive plan to bounce back from the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

On top of this commitment, Mr. Ndiame Diop, the World Bank Country Director for Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, also assured Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III of the institution's continuing support for the Philippines' "Build, Build, Build" infrastructure program.

Mr. Diop also once again congratulated Secretary Dominguez on the government's "decisive and sound tax reforms," which, according to the World Bank official, "has comparatively positioned (the Philippines) well to face the current pandemic."

In a letter sent to Secretary Dominguez, Mr. Diop said he looks forward to continuously working closely with the Finance chief "to support and accompany the government's programs and reforms," especially as Secretary Dominguez "charts out a solid recovery from the pandemic."

The World Bank's pipeline of projects that it has redesigned to assist the Philippines' economic recovery along with efforts to address the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) emergency include programs on improving social protection initiatives for poor and vulnerable households, and supporting the government's capabilities to deliver basic education through distance or remote learning.

Mr. Diop said the pipeline also covers policy loans and projects that aim to sharpen the country's competitiveness; bridge gaps in the food supply chains; and provide jobs and livelihood opportunities to communities badly hit by the pandemic's economic fallout.

"Further, we are committed to support the Philippines' infrastructure expansion program, which is indeed critical for a solid recovery," Mr. Diop said in his letter.

In his letter, Mr. Diop also underscored the need to accelerate and streamline the processes required to get the pipeline of projects moving in their various approval stages, "given the emergency situation we are in."

The World Bank has disbursed as of April this year a total of US\$1.2 billion in concessional financing to the Philippines to support the government's efforts to contain COVID-19 spread and provide emergency relief to families most affected by this unprecedented crisis.

It has disbursed to the Philippines US\$200 million as additional financing for the Second Social Welfare and Development Project (SSWDP), another US\$500 million for the Third Disaster Risk Management Development Policy Loan (TDRMDP), and US\$500 million more for the Emergency COVID-19 Response Development Policy Loan (ECRDPL). (PR)

GET YOUR FREE REUSABLE STRAW AT SM CITY BACOR-FOOD COURT

Advertisement for SM City Bacoor Food Court offering a free reusable foldable straw for a minimum spend of P299. Includes details on dates (Aug 26 to Sept 25, 2020) and the #ICanInPH campaign.

SM CITY BACOR, CAVITE – Can you imagine how many straws you are using for a month sipping your favorite soda, frappes or milk tea? We bet it's more than just twenty. How about switching from these pollutants into a reusable one?

CONCEPCION ...

During this stage, 48 mentors were certified to offer valuable knowledge to aspiring and existing entrepreneurs.

Using the ten modules, an Adaptive Business Model was formed to help MSEs respond to the challenges presented by COVID-19.

"This is a platform that I believe has great potential not only in our respective countries but the 10 countries together sharing mentors and helping each mentee

in their respective countries with the power of digitalization. Whether through Zoom or teams or other platforms, it can be done. We have seen so many entrepreneurs in this pandemic revive their spirit of hope which is very important at a time like this," he explained.

Concepcion also called for ASEAN member countries to allow travel within countries once parameters and safety measures are in place as part of an effort to support MSMEs in the tourism and retail sectors.

"We then envisioned if we can replicate this in every ASEAN

country and strengthen the network of mentors among the 10 countries, we can now elevate every entrepreneur in the ten ASEAN countries to scale up much further," Concepcion said.

After encouraging results, the AMEN Legacy Project is moving to its second phase. JAIF has pledged to provide \$500,000 in additional funding to expand AMEN to the remaining seven ASEAN countries.

would come out with

CELEBRATE HEROES WITH SM CITY BACOR-ACE HARDWARE

Advertisement for ACE Hardware celebrating heroes with discounts. Offers include 20-50% off on specials, extra 10% off on all items, and x2 points on ACE items. Valid from Aug 25 to Sep 20, 2020.

SM CITY BACOR, CAVITE – Enjoy lots of markdowns and discounts while you earn twice on your points as Ace Hardware celebrate our heroes this August 25- September 20, 2020!

FROM PAGE 8

a program and an alliance on the parameters of how travel will be in each country."

"Many of our micro-entrepreneurs...are hit badly. The chances of survival depend not only on how we mentor them to be able to provide [in] the next coming months [and] developing positive cash flow but to be able to continue providing them with hope is very important when you're faced with a situation that was never planned for," he said.

"I would like to thank the respective ASEAN BAC chairs for partaking and supporting this legacy project that will create what I call an equal economy for all our citizens in ASEAN." (PR)

DOST II DISTRIBUTES 5,000 FACE SHIELDS TO PLGU-CAGAYAN

Tuguegarao City – In support of the Resolution released by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) encouraging the use of face shields in all places, the Department of Science and Technology Region 02 led by Director Sancho A. Maborang provided 5,000 pieces of face shields to Provincial Local Government Unit of Cagayan on August 24, 2020.

These face shields were fabricated by the DOST- Metals Industry Research and De-

velopment Center (DOST-MIRDC) to support medical and non-medical front liners nationwide. Aside from the protection for the eyes, nose, and mouth that it gives, the face shields are also believed by the local researchers as a convenient protection from the transmission of the virus.

These face shields were officially awarded through Engr. Sylvia T. Lacambra, PSTC-Cagayan Director, John Michael Taguam, SRS II, Jayferson Maborang, SRS II, and Ferdinand Michael, SRS I.

2 resigned ...

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MANILA – Two officials of a village in Dasmariñas City, Cavite who were caught having sex during a supposed online meeting may still face charges despite quitting their posts, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said on Friday.

"Even if they resign, they will still face charges depending on what they did during their tenure in office," Año told the Philippine News Agency in a phone interview.

DILG Undersecretary and spokesperson Jonathan Malaya said the DILG can still pursue administrative charges against Barangay Fatima Dos chairperson Jesus Estil.

Malaya stressed that "resignation does not extinguish his administrative liability since the act was done while he was in office".

"But he can no longer be suspended or relieved but instead fine or disqualification from public office may be imposed against him," Malaya said.

He noted the DILG has yet to receive Estil's resignation letter.

Malaya said the agency's investigation team was asked to submit at the soonest possible time the result of its investigation to determine the liability of Estil and his partner and recommend his prosecution to the Office of the Ombudsman and the Sangguniang Panlungsod (City Council) of Dasmariñas.

Cavite gov: No tolerance but compassion needed

In an interview with ABS-CBN News Channel, Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla said there is no need to probe the alleged Zoom sex scandal involving barangay officials in Dasmariñas City, Cavite as both officials have already quit from their respective posts.

In a separate Facebook post, Remulla asked for compassion towards the two officials but clarified he is not defending their actions.

"They are inexcusable and ignorant (referring to the actions). What I am asking for, is a little compassion. I am sure the families involved

are wounded and hurting deeply. Dala nila ang kahihyan na ito habang buhay. (They will bring this sense of shame for the rest of their lives). The humiliation alone is enough punishment for those involved," he said.

He also appealed to the public to move on from the issue.

"Let those who are perfect in every way judge another's act. Let those who have never sinned be the first to render opinion," he added.

The video of Estil and the village treasurer went viral on social media after they were caught doing the obscene act during a supposed Zoom meeting regarding their barangay's plans in beating the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19). (PNA)

Make Life Easier Join SM's Viber Community



On August 20, all of NCR was placed under general community quarantine, a little less strict than MECQ but nevertheless with set guidelines aimed at curbing the continuing rise of Covid-19 positive cases.

As more people are heeding the government's call to stay at home, SM City Santa Rosa introduces convenient purchasing options to its shoppers through SM's Viber Community.



Carmona Mayor Roy Loyola conducts Civil Wedding ceremonies: For couples in Carmona who have marriage licenses that are about to expire, Municipal Mayor Roy Loyola officiated a civil wedding on August 24, 2020 at the Municipal Penthouse. The ceremony followed minimum public health standards.



COVID-19 Updates: 5 NEW CONFIRMED CASES. As of August 24, 2020, the Municipal Health Office (MHO) reports the 398th to 402nd confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Carmona, Cavite.

Carmona LGU reports 5 new cases of COVID-19: The local government of Carmona, through the Municipal Health Office (MHO), confirmed on August 24, 2020 the 5 new positive cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the municipality. Currently, there are 402 cases in total with 292 recoveries, 98 active cases, and 12 deaths.

Happy Birthday Marivic Soberano September 07, 2020. From: ACE & HEIDE Dateline Weekly News. Includes a photo of Marivic Soberano and a birthday cake.

JOIN THE SM VIBER COMMUNITIES. TAKE-OUT & DELIVERY. TECH & GADGETS. Includes images of people using the service.

program. Santa Rosa residents and residents of nearby cities can now inquire and/or purchase food, gadgets and a lot more by simply joining SM's Viber Community.

Personal shoppers are also on hand for that added comfort and stress free shopping via SM Santa Rosa's center concierge, Quick as a Click Delivery service. Riding on the recent popularity of "pasabuy," SM's center concierge adopts the same concept where people at home can inquire and subsequently purchase items from any of SM Santa Rosa's tenant and affiliate stores. For a minimal fee, Quick

as a Click personal shoppers will inquire, purchase and deliver your item right at your doorstep.

SM Laguna Viber Community on the other hand allows shoppers to inquire about the availability of items they may be looking for at all Laguna branches of SM namely SM Santa Rosa, SM Calamba and SM San Pablo.

So whether you're in the mall or on-line, SM has definitely got it all for you! Join SM Laguna's Viber Community by visiting SM Santa Rosa's Facebook page and clicking the link provided. For personalized shopping visit Quick as a Click on Facebook. (PR)

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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. (0465)476-7611/(0955)1552764; heidelitalat@yahoo.com

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Table with 2 columns: ADVERTISING RATES, COMMERCIAL P200/col.cm, LEGAL/NOTICES P160/col.cm

DOF welcomes DOLE-commissioned study showing CREATE bill will generate jobs, lower poverty incidence

The reduction in the corporate income tax (CIT) rate complemented by an overhaul in the tax incentives system for companies will propel economic growth, create more jobs, and lower poverty incidence, according to a study commissioned by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

The study, supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Department of Finance (DOF), also shows that the proposed reforms in corporate taxation will level the playing field for businesses across the country, boost the flow of foreign direct investments (FDIs) into the country, and lead to a reduction in the prices of consumer goods.

A copy of the study titled "The Potential Economic Effects of Reducing Philippine Corporate Income Tax and Reforming Sectoral Incentives" was sent to Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III by Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III.

"With these positive findings, the DOLE is confident that CITIRA [now renamed CREATE] will facilitate the creation of more and better employment opportunities for our workers through a regionally competitive corporate tax rate and a level playing field for firms and industries across regions, especially for (MSMEs) and in lagging and underdeveloped regions," Bello said in a letter to Dominguez.

The study focused on six key simulations in which the CIT is reduced in all exercises, but with different assumptions on how the reduction of the tax rate is balanced out, whether through higher borrowings or lower spending by the government.

Conducted by Dr. Caesar Cororaton of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University or Virginia Tech and Dr. Marites Tiongco of the De La Salle University (DLSU) School of Economics, the study was based on the original

proposal called the Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Rationalization Act (CITIRA), which seeks to gradually lower the CIT from 30 percent to 1 percentage point each year until the rate reaches 20 percent in 2029. This was a slower tax rate reduction than the one more currently proposed under CREATE.

The research was conducted before the outbreak of the Covid-19.

In the simulation scenario, which considered the original CITIRA as envisioned by the government, with the deficit kept at 3.2 percent and the "Build, Build, Build" program in full swing, the services and agriculture sectors stand to benefit the most from the corporate tax reform in terms of employment, with the increase in jobs significantly larger in the skilled, than in the unskilled sector, the study showed.

In most of the simulations, including the one described above, in which the CIT reduction is offset by reforms in the grant of fiscal incentives, the employment rate increases in all sectors and poverty incidence drops by at least 4.9 percentage points.

But in the simulation in which the CIT reduction is not accompanied by a modernization of fiscal incentives, the deficit steadily increases to 4.3 percent in 2029 as the government suffers a shortfall in revenues. Prices generally rise and GDP growth decreases under this deficit-financing scenario.

Moreover, employment and real wages "also generally decline" and "poverty incidence increases and income inequality deteriorates" under this environment, the study shows.

The study said such results indicate "that any reduction in corporate income tax needs to be accompanied by a compensatory sector tax (referring to the reforms in fiscal incentives) for the reduction to be growth-enhancing, employment generating and poverty reducing."

"Corporate in-

come tax is a major source of government revenue. Reducing this source could put a lot of pressure on government finances. Increasing taxes on select sectors to reform the fiscal incentives reduces the pressure on government finances," the study said.

Under a scenario where the CIT reduction is fully reinvested in the country, the study shows around P58 billion will be infused into the economy in the first year of this proposal's implementation in 2020 (1 percent CIT reduction), which will increase to P1.08 trillion by 2029 (10 percent CIT reduction).

In terms of net FDI inflows, the study estimates increasing amounts flowing into the country, rising to P1.75 trillion by 2029.

"The reduction in prices is higher under this scenario as the inflows of FDI expand the aggregate supply in the economy," the study said.

It also noted higher GDP growth of

8.2 percent in 2029 with additional FDI inflows and more jobs created at 212,000 in 2020 to 2.3 million in 2029 if the CIT reduction is reinvested in the economy.

"During hearings in the 17th Congress, the Senate requested a job impact study by the DOLE on this reform. We welcome this study, which validates our own studies' conclusion that this reform will create jobs and reduce poverty," Finance Assistant Secretary Antonio Joselito Lambino II said.

"The case for the reform becomes more compelling when the labor department itself sees this package as a job-creating measure," Lambino added.

In response to the pandemic and its effects on the economy, the Executive proposed recalibrations to allow the outright CIT cut from 30 percent to 25 percent this year, along with a targeted, transparent, tailor-fit incentives system to at-

heidelitalat@yahoo.com ISSN NO. 2619-8185



VOL. XVIII > No. 22 Sept. 7-13, 2020 > P10.00

tract investments that will benefit the public.

On top of the outright 5-percent tax cut in 2020, the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act (CREATE) bill also provides for a 1-percentage point CIT reduction each year from 25 percent in 2023 to 20 percent by 2027. Both CITIRA and CREATE seek to make the Philippines' CIT, which is now the highest in the region, closer to the 23-percent regional average of the CIT rates of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member-economies.

This rebalancing is part of a set of priority actions the government seeks from Congress to help businesses overcome the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dominguez has described CREATE,

which was mentioned by President Duterte as one of his priorities in the recent State of the Nation Address (SONA), as the first-ever revenue-eroding proposal from the DOF. He added that it will provide "one of the largest economic stimulus measures in the country's history."

The Senate failed to pass CREATE, or the recalibrated version of CITIRA, before the sine die adjournment of the Congress last June 5, but Senate President Vicente Sotto III had earlier committed to prioritizing the bill upon the resumption of the congressional session. This bill was certified by President Duterte as urgent.

The House has likewise committed to adopt the Senate's "fiscally responsible" version of CREATE to speed up submission to President Duterte for his signature. (PR)

CONCEPCION PUSHES FOR STRONGER ASEAN BLOC TO SUPPORT MSMEs HARD-HIT BY COVID-19



Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship and ASEAN BAC Philippine chair Joey Concepcion shared the progress of the ASEAN Mentorship for Entrepreneurs Network (AMEN) legacy project and called for stronger regional support for MSMEs in a meeting with ASEAN Economic Ministers last August 24.

"The backbone of our economy are our micro small and medium enterprises. We cannot let them down especially this time when even our own businesses are affected. Yet it is imperative that we continue to help those who are in need, help those that aspire to be successful in life," Concepcion said.

Founded in 2017, the Philippine AMEN legacy project aims to serve the micro and small enterprises (MSMEs) which represents 90-95% of the country's business community. The first phase sought to establish a public-private partnership and provide entrepreneurs with mentorship, money, and market (3M) opportunities.

Phase I received \$300,000 in funding from the Japan-ASEAN Integrated Fund (JAIF) which led to the development of ten modules covering key areas for entrepreneurs in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

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