

DATELINE

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The Only Newspaper with Educational Timeliness

VOL. XVIII > No. 27 > Oct. 12-18, 2020 > P10.00

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ALS ratified; education for out-of-school children, adults to continue amid pandemic woes - Sen. Win

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EDITORIAL:

Lessons to be learned

When the malignancy is finally driven from the White House and the next administration struggles to scrub away the stain of four years of misrule, we will be able to take a few moments to consider what we have all learned from one of the most despicable administrations to take power in the United States. These are not lessons exclusive to Americans—they are applicable to all people who live in a nominal democracy.

Perhaps the most important lesson is that there are serious consequences to voting. The leaders we choose during elections will absolutely have a life-and-death impact on our lives. In the United States, an overly

political response to the COVID-19 pandemic has led to more than 210,000 deaths and counting, most of them unnecessary. The current occupant of the White House says he's done a terrific job on COVID-19 and that millions more would have died had he not done what he did. The evidence says otherwise. With only 4 percent of the world's population, the United States accounts for 20 percent of its COVID-19 deaths. India, which has four times the population of the United States, has fewer than half of its COVID-19 fatalities. Clearly, the current US administration has not done a "terrific" job; it has done a horrendous one.

Just as important a lesson is that there are consequences to not voting. One of the reasons that a racist demagogue is in the White House is that more than 4 million voters for his opponent grew complacent and did not make their voices heard on Election Day. Again, we see the dire consequences of that inaction.

Another lesson is that checks and balances are critical. On the chance that we elect an anti-democratic leader into office, the other institutions of government must be strong enough to oppose any dictatorial tendencies. In the United States, a rubber-stamp Senate became the enabler for the corrupt occupant of the White House. We need to do all we can to make sure checks and balances remain strong.

Finally, we need to encourage rational thought in our politics and value education over charisma. The rabid supporters of the current occupant of the White House demonstrate a lack of knowledge and a disdain for science that is simply breathtaking, representing the worst possible nexus of ignorance and arrogance. They recall the mobs during China's Cultural Revolution, and the disdain for education of the bloody Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. We must never fall into that trap.

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GFI (government financial institutions) for lending to MSMEs and other productive sectors of the economy," Lambino said.

He added that, "The survey results bolster the call made by President Duterte in his most recent SONA (State of the Nation Address) for the Congress to fast-track the passage of CREATE and FIST, which will respectively reduce taxes on most businesses and help banks stay healthy so that they can keep lending to Covid-affected businesses."

"We cannot emphasize enough how critical it is for these measures to be passed by the Congress, primarily for the benefit of MSMEs that comprise over 99 percent of local businesses and employ an overwhelming majority of Filipino workers," Lambino said.

As of 2017, about 3,150 favored companies registered with investment promotion agencies (IPAs) get to pay discounted taxes equivalent to 6 to 13 percent of net income under the current tax system while MSMEs and other firms pay the regular rate of 30 percent.

The DOF is working with the Congress on the immediate passage of CREATE that aims to accelerate economic recovery by immediately lowering the CIT to 25 percent from the current 30 percent—the highest in the region—and modernizing the Philippines' fiscal incentives system.

Such reforms in corporate taxation as proposed by the CREATE bill are expected to attract more and better foreign direct investments (FDIs) into the country, and

would thus create jobs, stimulate industries, and boost economic growth in the long term.

Earlier, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said the immediate reduction of the corporate income tax rate by five percentage points to 25 percent would mean savings from reduced tax payments. This will allow entrepreneurs, especially owners of MSMEs, expand their businesses and hire more workers.

"The hefty corporate income tax cut will free up around P37 billion pesos for businesses in the second half of 2020 alone," Dominguez said.

Lambino said the DOF is also pursuing the legislative approval of FIST, which aims to mitigate the threat of non-performing assets (NPAs) to the country's banking system.

Lambino said FIST aims to enable banks to offload souring loans and assets, clean up their balance sheets, and extend more funds to more sectors in need of credit.

The bill improves upon the law that created Special Purpose Vehicles in response to the Asian Financial Crisis in the early 2000s, he said.

"Without the FIST bill, the economy is going to be worse off. The worst hit are going to be the small and medium enterprises," said Lambino. "Helping banks clear their books allows them to lend more money to MSMEs and other businesses."

CREATE and FIST are currently under the periods of interpellation and sponsorship, respectively, in the Senate.

Both measures have already been passed by the House of Representatives. (PR)

CREATE, FIST to address top concerns of Covid-hit businesses - DOF

Pandemic-hit businesses identify cheap credit, cash transfers, deferral of rent and mortgage payments along with sizable tax cuts as their most needed forms of government support. This is according to a World Bank Philippines survey of 74,031 firms from all over the Philippines, more than 90 percent of them are micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The online survey was conducted from July 7 to 14.

Finance Assistant Secretary Antonio Joselito Lambino II said such survey findings should serve as a "strong impetus" for the Congress to immediately pass the

pending Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) and Financial Institutions' Strategic Transfer (FIST) bills, as "these measures aim to address the urgent concerns of businesses reeling from the global economic downturn brought about by the prolonged outbreak of COVID-19."

"The survey findings are directly aligned with the objectives of Republic Act (RA) 11469 or Bayanihan 1 and RA 11494 or Bayanihan 2 along with the pending CREATE and FIST bills. We hope that this recent report helps persuade our lawmakers to pass

both priority measures to provide immediate aid to Covid-battered businesses and spur the quick recovery of the domestic economy from the pandemic," Lambino said.

In partnership with the Department of Finance (DOF) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the World Bank Philippines conducted the business survey to measure the impact of the pandemic on companies, with a focus on MSMEs.

Topping the most desired forms of state intervention by MSMEs and other businesses reeling from the pandemic's economic fallout, he said, are

cash transfers (46 percent); loans at subsidized rates (36 percent); tax exemption or deduction (22 percent); deferral of rent, mortgage or utilities (22 percent); and deferral of loan payment (22 percent).

"The findings of the study confirm that the Philippine government's economic recovery programs are responsive to the needs of MSMEs. Bayanihan 1 launched the largest cash transfer program for small business workers in our country's history along with deferral of loan and utility payments. Bayanihan 2 includes similar programs and infuses capital into



KAPANALIG

NI Nelson Dimapilis

Senator Win Gatchalian urged the Department of Energy (DOE) to focus on meeting the necessary steps in the adoption of a national nuclear energy policy before working on the possible utilization of the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP).

Gatchalian said any discussion on jumpstarting a nuclear policy in the country has to be comprehensively studied and backed by rigorous research while taking into account the different infrastructure issues and how these will fit into the environmental, social, economic, and regulatory bodies to address pertinent issues including radiation protection and nuclear security and safety.

"Instead of wasting time in reviving the obsolete Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, the DOE should just focus on setting up the necessary legislation, regulations, and public acceptance through greater transparency," the Senate Energy Committee Chairman said.

"It is likewise important to note that the Philippines has yet to ratify the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Man-

DOE needs to build foundations for a sound nuclear power agenda

agement and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, and the Amendment to the Convention of Physical Protection of Nuclear Material," Gatchalian added.

On top of the President's directives to conduct a feasibility study on the existing legal framework on the viability of nuclear power in the country's energy mix through Executive Order No. 116, Gatchalian emphasized the need for the Philippines, as a member-state, to comply with the prescribed guidelines and infrastructure gaps identified by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The senator said before embarking on a nuclear energy program, the Philippines needs to address and satisfy at least 19 infrastructure issues of the IAEA through comprehensive pieces of legislation on regulator, radiation protection, safety of nuclear facilities and decommissioning, energy preparedness and response, processing and transport of radioactive material, radioactive waste and spent fuel, nuclear liability, coverage and safeguard measures, export and import controls, nuclear security, physical protection and illicit trafficking, among oth-

ers.

Gatchalian echoed the earlier assertions made by Russian Ambassador Igor Khovaev on the 43-year-old BNPP as "absolutely outdated" and already beyond revival. Add to this is the fact that the current international safety standards are also much higher than the standards on which the BNPP was built. The BNPP is located near Mt. Natib, a volcano and an active earthquake fault.

He added that refurbishing the BNPP to make it operational may entail some 1 billion dollars, based on estimates. It does not also guarantee a lower price of electricity.

"Hindi totoo na mababa ang presyo. Dahil sa dami ng safety procedures at technology na ilalagay mo, tumataas yung presyo, tulad ng naging karanasan ng Vietnam," he pointed out.

"Itong BNPP ay more than 40 years old na. Obsolete na. Kaya sa aking pag-aanalisa, mas maganda pang magpatayo ng bagong planta dahil obviously mas marami nang bagong teknolohiya at mga bagong safety procedures na naaangkop sa panahon ngayon," he concluded.

DOF takes lead in shielding GFIs, other state institutions vs cyber threats

Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has ordered government financial institutions (GFIs) and other agencies under the Department of Finance (DOF) to work together in coming up with a cost-effective defense strategy that will shield their respective systems from potential cybersecurity threats along with other possible risks and data breaches in the digital landscape.

Dominguez said that as an initial step, he has instructed GFIs, state-run pension fund and insurance agencies, and the revenue and treasury agencies to enter into their respective memoranda of agreement (MOAs) on a shared cyber defense strategy.

This involves institutions such as the Land Bank of the Philippines (LandBank), United Coconut Planters' Bank (UCPB), and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP); the Insurance Commission (IC), Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth), Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and Social Security System (SSS); and the Bureaus of the Treasury (BTr), of Internal Revenue (BIR), and of Customs (BOC).

Dominguez said he has also ordered the creation

of a working group composed of representatives from these agencies to work on identifying the potential cybersecurity threats and cases of cyber fraud that they may encounter, and on determining ways of eliminating or mitigating these risks.

"We are keen on institutionalizing this cybersecurity program. As the Duterte administration fast-tracks its digital transformation initiatives to meet the challenges of the emerging New Economy, we must also see to it that we have the capacity to defend our critical systems from cyber attacks from third parties and other possible hazards," Dominguez said.

Dominguez said the government may tap the expertise of the private sector in coming up with a shared cyber defense strategy covering state institutions and agencies under the DOF.

"Investing in cybersecurity is not only a crucial national security concern, but is also indispensable to protecting sensitive citizen information stored in the systems of our GFIs and other state-run institutions," he added.

Dominguez said the government is taking

a prudent approach to protecting the country's financial "infrastructure," especially at this time when the digital space has become vulnerable to a wide range of sophisticated cyber attacks and threats.

"We are serious in protecting our national interests and ensuring the safety of citizen information so we are taking steps to heighten our digital protection strategies," Dominguez said.

He said the MOAs among the institutions and agencies involved in this cybersecurity plan will be done in segments. The GFIs such as DBP, UCPB and LandBank will comprise one segment, while the insurance fund agencies and the revenue bureaus under the DOF will be under the two other segments.

Each segmented group will adopt a "shared defense strategy" to make the cybersecurity program cost-effective, Dominguez said.

"The issues and concerns of each sector are similar, so it makes sense that the cost burden of these investments will be equally borne by the group," Dominguez said. (PR)

DILG urges LGUs to enact ordinances prohibiting videoke, distracting noises during online class schedules

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) urged local government units (LGUs) to enact ordinances prohibiting videoke and other loud, distracting noises during online class schedules as millions of students adjust to the blended learning system as a measure against COVID-19.

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año said that loud sounds during online class hours and independent study periods can distract pupils and students alike from concentrating on their online classes, schoolwork, and other activities now that every home in the country has been turned into an extension of the school.

"Bilang mga disiplinado at responsableng mga magulang at mamamayan, tulungan natin ang ating mga estudyante na mabigyan ng tahimik at payapa na kapaligiran para sila ay makapag-aral ng mabuti sa kani-kanilang mga tahanan," Año said.

Año made this announcement in support to the directive by Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Police General Camilo Pancratius Cascolan to unit commanders and chiefs of police to "to coordinate with their respective LGUs to either enact or modify their existing local ordi-

nances against the use of videoke and other activities that create unnecessary noise that would disturb the students in their study at home."

Año emphasized that it is already hard enough for students to adjust from normal classroom sessions to distance and blended learning without being distracted by the noise coming from the neighborhood.

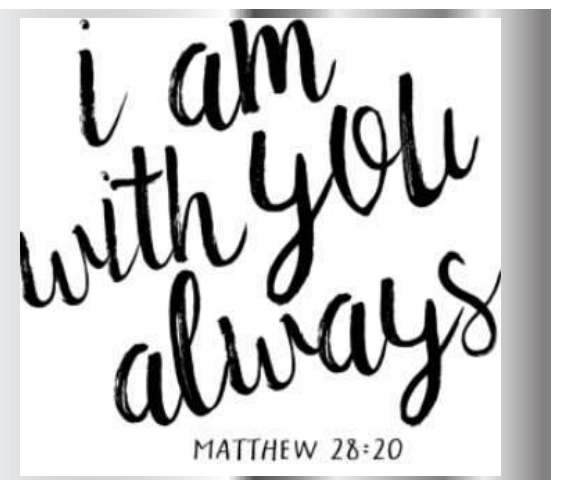
He likewise urged vehicle owners to avoid unnecessary blowing of their car horns during school hours as these will also distract the learners.

Aside from videoke parties, the DILG Chief also urged LGUs to ban noisy illegal gambling activities like tupada, bingo, betting stations, drinking sprees, and other forms of loud noises to avoid disturbing students and to prevent mass gatherings that maybe lead to community transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

The DILG chief added that "security, safety, and other measures that the PNP used to implement for the schools should be expanded to include the entire barangay as part of the expanded learning space

amid the continued threat of COVID-19."

In line with this, students are still prohibited from going to computer shops to avoid disturbance from users playing noisy computer games. (dilig.gov)



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
City of Bacoor, Cavite

Foreclose No. 2020-36

For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of
Real Estate Mortgage

BANGKO MABUHAY (A Rural Bank), INC.,
Mortgagee,

- Versus -

DANY I. TABLAC & FLODELIZA C. TABLAC,
Mortgagors.

X- - - - - X

SECOND NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135 as Amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee, **BANGKO MABUHAY (A Rural Bank), INC.**, of A. Soriano Highway, Daang Amaya III, Tanza, Cavite, and against the mortgagor, **DANY I. TABLAC & FLODELIZA C. TABLAC, Rep. by their Attorney in Fact Maribel M. Lat**, married, of Lot 8, Blk. 2, Phase 10, Citta Italia, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of **February 21, 2020** amounts to **THREE MILLION SIX HUNDRED NINETY EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY THREE PESOS AND 15/100 (P3,698,543.15)**, Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest, penalties and other charges, the undersigned or her duly authorized representative will sell at the public auction on **November 17, 2020** at 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 properties with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. (T-1203283) 2017002906

A parcel of Land (Lot 8, Blk. 2, of the subd. plan Psd-04-193834, being a portion of of Lot 5512-A, Psd-04-039188, L.R.C. Recd. No.) situated in the Bo. of Molino, Mun. of Bacoor, Prov. of Cavite, Is. of Luzon. Bounded on the NW., along line 1-2 by lot 11; on the NW., along line 2-3 by Lot 12; on the NE., along 3-4 by Lot 7, all of Blk. 2; on the SE., along line 4-5 by Rd. Lot 1; on the SW., along line 5-1 by Lot 9, Blk. 2, all of the subd. plan. xxx Containing an area of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY NINE (139) SQUARE METERS. More or less.

A Two Storey Building (House II-A), situated at Brescia Ph. 2, Molino Bacoor, Cavite. With Floor area of 33-36 sq. ms. With market value of Php494,040.00. Under tax declaration of Real Property No. 03-0015-76492.

Including all improvements existing or erected thereon, to satisfy the total amount of indebtedness with interest, penalties, Attorneys fee, all legal fees and incidental expenses on your Office may incur in connection with these judicial proceedings.

"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 **November 24, 2020**, without further notice."

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

Bacoor City, Cavite, September 10, 2020.

(SGD) ATTY. LIZA D. VICTA
Clerk of Court VI

Copy Furnished:

BANGKO MABUHAY (A Rural Bank), INC.,
A. Soriano Highway, Daang Amaya III, Tanza, Cavite

Mr. & Mrs. **DANY I. TABLAC & FLODELIZA C. TABLAC,**
Lot 8, Blk. 2, Phase 10, Citta Italia, Molino, Bacoor City, Cavite
Brescia Phase 2, Molino, Bacoor City

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:
Sept. 28, Oct. 05 & 12, 2020

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
City of Bacoor, Cavite

Foreclose No. 2020-30

For: **Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of**
Real Estate Mortgage

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
Mortgagee,

- Versus -

MA-VILLA M. RUFINO married to
MARIO N. RUFINO,
Mortgagors.

x- - - - - x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135 as Amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee, **HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND**, of 12th Floor JELP Business Solutions Center, No. 409 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, and against the mortgagor, **MA-VILLA M. RUFINO married to MARIO N. RUFINO** of 1392 C. Sisa St., Sampaloc, Manila, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of November 21, 2019 amounts to **EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN PESOS AND 97/100 (P854,437.97)**, Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest, penalties and other charges, the undersigned or her duly authorized representative will sell at the public auction on **November 04, 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 properties with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE
NO. 167-2017004029

"A PARCEL OF LAND LOT 8, BLOCK 7 of the Consolidation Subdivision plan Pcs-04-027168, being a portion of the Consolidation of Lot 5435-B Psd-04-171600 & Lot 5436-B psd-04-036176, LRC Rec. No. 8843) situated in the Brgy. of Mambog, Mun. of Bacoor, Prov. of Cavite, Is. of Luzon Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 10, Blk. 7; on the SE., along line 2-3 by Road Lot 10; on the SW., along 3-4 by Lot 6; and on the NW., along line 4-1 by Lot 9, both of Blk. 7, all of the cons.-subd. plan. Beginning at the pt. marked "1" on the plan x x x containing an area of **THIRTY SIX (36) 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 **November 10, 2020**, without further notice."

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

Bacoor City, Cavite, February 24, 2020.

(SGD) ATTY. LIZA D. VICTA
Clerk of Court VI

Copy Furnished:

Ms. **MERLYN P. MEDINA**
12th Floor JELP Business Solutions Center,
No. 409 Shaw Boulevard,,
Mandaluyong City

MA-VILLA M. RUFINO married to
MARIO N. RUFINO
-1392 C. Sisa St., Sampaloc, Manila
-L8, B7, Georgetown Villas 1-Extnsion,
Brgy. Mambog III, Bacoor City

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:
September 28-October 5 & 12,2020

ALS... FROM PAGE 3

Senator Win Gatchalian lauded the Senate's ratification of the bicameral conference committee report on the proposed measure institutionalizing the Alternative Learning System (ALS).

Gatchalian, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture, hailed the ratification of the reconciled versions of the Senate and the Lower House as a step closer for millions of 'out-of-school children in special cases' and adults to complete their basic education.

Compared to a formal education system where teachers teach in the classrooms at a strictly implemented time period, in an ALS setting, ALS Teachers, Community ALS Implementors, and Learning Facilitators deliver a range of ALS programs to all out-of-school children in special cases and adults, including those who reside in the unreached, underserved, conflict-affected communities, and communities in emergency situations. Under the proposed measure, every city and municipality will have their own ALS Community Learning Centers (CLCs).

Out-of-school children in special cases are children in the official school age who are not enrolled in the elementary or secondary schools due to special cases such as economic, geographic, political, and cultural factors, even social barriers. These include learners with disabilities or conditions, Indigenous Peoples, children in conflict with the law, and other marginalized sectors.

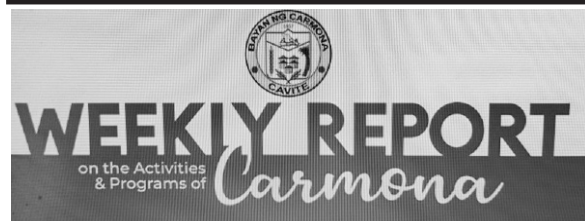
The lawmaker stressed that considering the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on access to education, institutionalizing and strengthening ALS is crucial in the education sector's efforts to 'build back better.'

The World Bank's May 2018 Philippines Education Note says that at least 24 million Filipinos aged 15 and above have not completed basic education. The report added that an additional 2.4 million children aged 5 to 14 were not in school.

The DepEd noted the national enrollment data as of September 28 showed there were only 393, 163 enrollees under the ALS program nationwide. The number is significantly lower compared to last year's enrollment rate reaching 738,929.

To help strengthen the ALS Teachers Program, the DepEd, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), shall create teaching positions and allocate corresponding salary grades. ALS Teachers will also be entitled to promotion to the next higher levels based on the qualification standards of the CSC.

"Kung tuluyang maisabatas ang panukalang ito, masisiguro natin na ang pangalawang pagkakataong ibibigay natin sa ating mga kababayan ay talagang makatutulong upang matupad nila ang kanilang mga pangarap na magkaroon ng magandang kinabukasan," Gatchalian said.



COVID-19
UPDATES



5 NEW CONFIRMED CASES

As of October 5, 2020, the Municipal Health Office (MHO) reports the 585th to 589th confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Carmona, Cavite.

AttyRoyMLoyola carmonalgu

Carmona LGU reports 5 new cases of COVID-19: The local government of Carmona, through the Municipal Health Office (MHO), confirmed on October 5, 2020, the five (5) new positive cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the municipality. To date, there are 589 cases recorded.



Carmona Mayor Roy Loyola visits public schools during the first day of classes: Municipal Mayor Roy Loyola, along with Vice Mayor Cesar Ines Jr., Sangguniang Bayan members, and Sangguniang Kabataan officials, visited public schools in Carmona on October 5, 2020, to ensure that the first day of classes through the implementation of the Distance Learning Program is in accordance with minimum public health standards.



Carmona LGU and SK officials distribute drop boxes to schools: On October 5, 2020, the Municipal Government of Carmona, together with Sangguniang Kabataan officials distributed drop boxes to schools at the Carmona Community Center which aims to provide additional assistance to a more organized distribution of self-learning materials to students under the Distance Learning Program.



Carmona LGU distributes school supplies to the center for ALS: The Municipal Government of Carmona distributed school supplies to the center for Alternative Learning System on October 5, 2020, at the Carmona Community Center in line with the local government's support for the opening of classes this School Year 2020-2021 under the Distance Learning Program.

DINE AND WIN PROMO

Collect all 10 stamps in the Dine-in VIP card and get a FREE P200 food voucher from our partner restaurants!

September 12 to October 11

Partner restaurants: Tasty Hong Kong, Gata, Macao, Greenwich, SM City Rosario.

Dining in is more fun at SM City Rosario!

Get the chance to win P200 food voucher from Macao Imperial Tea, Greenwich, Tasty Hong Kong or Gata Flavors when you dine-in at any SM City Rosario restaurant from September 12 to October 11!

1. Get your FREE Dine-in VIP card at our redemption booth located at the Event Center.
2. Each card has a total of 10 slots. There will be no minimum purchase requirement to earn a stamp.
3. One (1) receipt is equivalent to one (1) stamp and only one (1) stamp can be earned per day.
4. The first 100 customers who will present the complete card bearing 10 stamps will win P200 food voucher from partner restaurants.
5. Card is transferable.

For the full mechanics, visit <https://bit.ly/2Zzho4d> or SM City Rosario FB Page.

Per DTI Fair Trade Permit No. R4-A Cavite 163 series of 2020.



LOOK: "The Department of Tourism Region IV - A headed by Dir. Michael A. Palispis had a meeting with Tagaytay Tourism Council last October 2, 2020, with the presence of City Mayor Agnes D. Tolentino. The said meeting discussed the plans and programs of Tagaytay City as they open for tourists and visitors under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ). Further, an ocular inspection of various restaurants and accommodation establishments in Tagaytay City was conducted to ensure that the operations of these tourism enterprises are in accordance with minimum public health standards, strict compliance of physical distancing protocols and implementation of various safety guidelines on workplace."

#DiscoverCALABARZON #itsmorefuninthephilippines #TogetherInTravel #WakeUpInThePhilippines

New Suzuki PH dealership rises in Kawit, Cavite



SUZUKI Philippines (PH), the pioneer in compact car distribution in the country, has proven its steadfast commitment to reaching its customers across the country despite the challenges posed by the global pandemic. As it breaks ground for Suzuki Auto Kawit, the automobile brand continues to show optimism about its prospects for growth, bearing in mind that the expectations of the Filipinos are met in terms of quality service and products.

Located in Kawit, Cavite, the Suzuki auto dealership by NXT Mile Motors Inc. is poised to be a Suzuki 3S dealership, generating sales, ensuring availability of spare parts and, above all, providing services to customers and their vehicles. Being the first of NXT Mile Motors, the Suzuki Auto Kawit dealership has injected a sense of excitement for the management and the team, who are all equally thrilled to take on the responsibilities, challenges and successes of the new venture.

Situated at Antero Soriano Highway, Barangay Batong Dalig, Kawit, Cavite, Suzuki Auto Kawit stands on 1,656.54 square meters of land to house six display spaces for Suzuki vehicles where customers can visit to view a selection of their future cars, to take their dream car for a test drive and to take home eventually. The dealership also has allocated six service bays to handle repairs and to provide maintenance services simultaneously.

Suzuki Auto Kawit is set to open its doors in the first half of 2021. (manilatimes)



PHL proposes 6-point plan to boost ASEAN financial resilience amid pandemic

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has called on the member-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to adopt a six-point plan of action geared to strengthen the regional bloc's financial resilience against future economic shocks and expand growth and employment opportunities in the emerging digital economy.

This strategy, which calls for a recalibration of ASEAN's work plans, will enable the region to be more responsive to the new challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Secretary Dominguez said.

He also called on ASEAN members to enhance their cooperation on the research and development (R&D), production and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to ensure the accessibility of developing countries to these treatments.

During the 24th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Meeting (AFMM) held last week via teleconference, Secretary Dominguez said his proposed six-point plan of action involves mobilizing more support for infrastructure investments in the region; expanding ASEAN's capacity for disaster risk financing initiatives; and ensuring open trade within ASEAN during global emergencies.

"The free flow of goods within the region requires harmonizing our tariff and customs clearance policies. We also need to further harness technology to expand the access of our enterprises to regional and global supply chains," Secretary Dominguez said during the AFMM.

He said ensuring quick access to disaster risk financing, on the other hand, will help shield the region from fu-

ture economic shocks.

Infrastructure has been proven to have the largest multiplier effect on the economy, which is why the Philippines has made investments in this sector the center of its economic recovery program, Secretary Dominguez said.

He said his proposed plan of action also includes intensifying regional cooperation in preventing tax leakages in cross-border financial transactions, and developing appropriate financial instruments to help member-countries raise funds for health infrastructure and supplement fiscal requirements in times of emergencies.

Completing this six-point strategy is the need for ASEAN to step up its information exchange on innovative technologies and expand the digital economy to boost growth and create more employment opportunities for its peoples, he said.

"Our collective efforts on these proposed actions will enhance each country's fiscal position to withstand future crises and bolster our economic resilience," Secretary Dominguez said.

During the 6th ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM) also held last week, Secretary Dominguez urged ASEAN to closely cooperate on ensuring the access of developing economies to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.

"The wild card in all our planning and strategizing is the virus itself. We have no knock-out punch until a safe and effective vaccine is ready for mass distribution. I, therefore, encourage the ASEAN member-states to significantly enhance cooperation in the area of COVID-19 vaccine research, develop-

ment, production, and distribution," Secretary Dominguez said.

"The ASEAN should help ensure the accessibility of developing countries to these treatments," he added. Secretary Dominguez also reiterated his call for ASEAN to "recalibrate and strengthen financial cooperation" among member-countries, as the COVID-19 pandemic that has brought the global economy to its knees would not be the last.

"We must brace ourselves for future outbreaks. Our policies must be targeted towards enhancing each country's fiscal position to withstand future shocks and bolster our economic resilience," he said.

Secretary Dominguez expressed optimism over the ASEAN's capability to quickly recover from the pandemic.

"With greater solidarity and stronger collaboration, I am confident that we can quickly return to the path of inclusive growth and shared prosperity. Together, we will beat this pandemic," he said during the AFMGM.

Secretary Dominguez said that with no certainty as to when the pandemic will end, economies are now facing a test of fiscal stamina that would determine how quickly they can bounce back from this global crisis.

"The public health effort will be a marathon, not a sprint. If this turns out to be a very long battle, we should have all the fiscal tools to outlast the enemy," he said during the AFMGM.

Secretary Dominguez said that as a result of President Rodrigo Duterte's game-changing reforms passed by the Congress over the last four years, the

Philippines was financially ready when the pandemic struck this year.

"We have been consistent with our approach. We choose to take the path of fiscal prudence in handling this crisis," Secretary Dominguez said.

For the Philippines' economic stimulus package, he said the Congress adhered to President Duterte's policy by passing fiscally responsible measures that will allow the country "to meet the challenge of economic recovery without imposing a heavy burden on future generations."

"At this time, we are doing our utmost to balance our efforts of reviving consumer confidence and reopening the economy with health interventions," he said.

Vietnam, represented by Finance Minister Dinh Tien Dung, is the host of this year's annual meetings of ASEAN's finance ministers and central bank governors. The meetings were held online amid the mobility restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 24th AFMM tackled the finance track priorities of ASEAN, which focused on enhancing financial connectivity, integration, stability and inclusion in the region.

The Meeting also discussed regional economic developments, the progress of the ASEAN financial cooperation and other related initiatives.

For the 6th AFMGM, the finance ministers and central bank governors discussed the progress of ASEAN financial cooperation, the developments on the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, and ASEAN's Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration (RIA-Fin). (PR)

Private Sector ...

The Ingat Angat Tayong Lahat campaign is part of the private sector's support for Taskforce T3 (Test, Trace, Treat), the multi-sector initiative put together in April 2020 to work closely with the Department of Health (DOH), the National Task Force (NTF) against COVID-19, and the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) to manage the outbreak of the pandemic in the country. With the reopening of the economy, the group realized the importance of rebuilding consumer confidence with health and safety still a priority.

Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, Chairman and CEO of Ayala Corporation, a founding partner of TaskForce T3, underscored the importance of continued public-private sector cooperation. "The private sector has found a new front where we can

be supportive of the fight against COVID, and that is in restoring the confidence of our citizens that we can all resume our lives and livelihoods, so long as we strictly follow the minimum health standards recommended by health experts."

Margot Torres, Managing Director for McDonald's Philippines and Ingat Angat Tayong Lahat communications advocacy co-lead, expressed her faith in the Filipinos' resilience and optimism.

"Ingat Angat Tayong Lahat aims to transform the mindset of consumers. We are breaking through the helplessness many felt at the height of the pandemic and helping lead Filipinos to empowered vigilance and continued safety during this period," Torres said.

The campaign has already obtained the support of the biggest corporations and brands

in the country, including Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Alliance Global Group (Megaworld, Resorts World, Emperador), Jollibee Foods Corporation, McDonald's Philippines, Goldilocks, BDO, BPI, Metrobank, Paymaya, Alaska, Champion, Century Pacific Food Inc., Coca Cola Philippines, Oishi L1wayway Marketing Corp., PepsiCo, Procter & Gamble Philippines, RFM Corporation, Unilever, Petron/San Miguel Corporation, Shell, Ayala Malls, Filinvest Development Corporation, Robinsons Malls, SM Supermalls, Globe Telecom, Smart Communications, Angkas and Food Panda.

The Ingat Angat media partners include CNN Philippines, GMA, Kapamilya Channel, KBP (Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas), Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Philippine Star, Solar Entertainment Corporation,

TV5, Tiger 22, Facebook, Lazada, Shopee, Viber, Phar Partnerships; and LED OOH and Transit Outdoor partners Activations Advertising Inc. (AAI), Dooh.ph, Globaltronics, Krazy Media Ads Solution, Luneta Advertising, Nyxsys Philippines, Out of Home Advertising Association of the Philippines (OHAAP), Steel Art, Summit Outdoor Media and United Neon (UN).

Agency partners include Bookt, Cobena, EON, HIT Productions, Nuworks, Omnicom Media Group, Pabrika, PSRC, Slingshot, Synergy, TBWA/Santiago Mangada Puno, and Viva Entertainment, Inc., while the press launch event partners include Savoy Hotel Manila and Mercato Centrale.

Greater participation needed

Another lead proponent of Ingat Angat Tayong Lahat, Angkas'

Chief Transport Advocate George Royeca, calls on more companies, especially small and medium enterprises, to get on board with Ingat Angat.

"This campaign is for all businesses – not only the big brands, but more so for small and medium enterprises. We invite all businesses from all over the country to participate and embrace this advocacy. Let us all help each other get back on our feet safely and surely," Royeca says.

The creative idea behind the campaign and its memorable tagline of Ingat Angat Tayong Lahat were crafted by the geniuses of TBWA/Santiago Mangada Puno's Managing Partner and Chief Creative Officer Melvin Mangada.

"The tagline and the supporting visual brands and materials, which can be adapted by any brand, help promote

the message of Ingat Angat Tayong Lahat, creating a sense of solidarity with the whole business community and our consumers," Mangada explains. These visual aids include branding guidelines, logos and templates that business groups can download and adapt to their operations.

We can help the country get back on its feet by supporting and keeping one another safe.

For more information, visit the Ingat Angat campaign website, www.ingat-angat.com, and join the Viber Community <https://vb.me/ingatangat>, where you can download Ingat Angat stickers and get information on safety guidelines of your favorite establishments, COVID-19 updates, and articles from credible sources. Ingat Angat Tayong Lahat!

FROM PAGE 8

SMC expands job, livelihood training program in Quezon province

San Miguel Corporation (SMC), in cooperation with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), has expanded its livelihood skills and job training program in Sariaya, Quezon province to address unemployment and lack of opportunities due to the Covid-19 pandemic that has affected the country since March. The SMC-TESDA Sariaya project is the second such program that SMC has launched in a week, following the opening of a similar program last September 30 in Bulacan province, where the company is building the P734 billion Manila International Airport, seen to create more than a million direct and indirect jobs during its construction, and about 30 million tourism-related jobs once it's completed. SMC president and COO Ramon S. Ang said the partnership with TESDA, headed by its Director General Isidro Lapena, will equip residents in Sariaya and Bulacan with new skills that will allow them to take advantage of more job and livelihood opportunities and become more resilient in this time of pandemic. In Sariaya, SMC is set to build a modern, state-of-the-art integrated agro-industrial complex that will include a brewery, grains terminal and feedmill, a ready-to-eat food manufacturing plant, a fuel tank farm, and port facilities. "We are fast-tracking the training and skills devel-

opment of residents in areas where we are making big investments and building new facilities, because we want to them to come work for us. Apart from training those who want to get jobs, we're also equipping other members of the communities with skills to build their own small businesses that can directly or indirectly support our workers," SMC president and chief operating officer Ramon S. Ang said. "Our goal since this pandemic started has been to create as many jobs we can by pushing through with our major investments. This is how we can best support our economy, and help in a meaningful and sustainable way so many Filipinos who are struggling through this crisis," he added. At the same time, Ang said that investing in major facilities and infrastructure will pump much-needed funds into the economy, further accelerating the country's present and post-pandemic recovery. "It's important that we remember that we are not just building for the present. We are actually building for the future. For the short- to medium-term we're providing jobs for locals, those who lost their jobs, or for returning OFWs. But for the long term, we're actually helping build the foundations of our country's future economic growth," he said. For the Sariaya project, the initial batch of trainees

consist of 50 residents from San Miguel-Christian Gayeta Homes, a first-of-its kind, disaster-resilient, sustainable housing community built by SMC for former settlers in properties to be used for its development. They are set to start training in Organic/Urban Farming/Edible Landscaping and Fish/Meat Processing for 20 and 10 days, respectively. The program is being done in cooperation with the local government of Sariaya under Mayor Marcelo Gayeta. "These courses are for free. Once we have completed the training of all San Miguel-Christian Gayeta residents, we will be opening these TESDA courses to whole of Sariaya and Pagbilao for those who are willing to learn and want to have new livelihood opportunities," Ang said. And added: "Through the housing community we've built here in Sariaya, these training programs and future jobs opportunities, we want to show local communities that apart from investing in their province, we are invested and committed to the future of their people. We're doing the same exact thing in Bulacan, where we're building an airport. At San Miguel, our goal is to enable more Filipinos to contribute to, and benefit from economic growth--to leave no one behind," he added. Residents from the San Miguel-Christian Gayeta Village can

also avail of courses at the Quezon National Agricultural School (QNAS) under the scholarship program with TESDA. These courses include Welding, Electrical Installation and Maintenance, Baking and Pastry, and Housekeeping. Enrollees in organic agriculture will work on enhancing their skills at the 1,000 square-meter plot that was set aside by SMC at a 5.4-hectare area in the new residential community located in Barangay Castanas. This will provide them and their families a regular harvest of vegetables for personal consumption and also for selling in the area. Bishop Mel Rey Uy of Lucena and Vice Governor Sam Nantes attended the launch. A total of 125 qualified families have already availed of free house and lot packages in the housing project that has a total of 450 units, out of which 378 units have already been built. San Miguel-Christian Gayeta Homes residents who will complete their Fish Processing course will be provided with a commercial area in the subdivision where they can sell their products. Apart from the skills and training support, SMC has also provided educational assistance to a total of 30 students in high school, seniors, and college who are all residents of the sustainable housing project.

Remulla...

FROM PAGE 1

After previously being placed under modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ), Cavite is now on the path to flattening the curve of new infections to the new coronavirus, according to its governor.

Gov. Jonvic Remulla announced the good news on Thursday, owing to the province's calibrated implementation of quarantine restrictions. The province has been placed under the least restrictive modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) from October 1 to 31 to curb new COVID-19 cases.

"Based on recent data, Cavite is on the path of flattening the curve," he said in a statement posted on Facebook.

According to Remulla, Cavite previously recorded 600 to 700 new cases of COVID-19 a day, but for the past 10 days, the average number of new infections only range from 90 to 100.

Cavite was among the areas previously placed under MECQ from August 4 to 18 following a plea from the medical community for a timeout amid increasing coronavirus infection rate under relaxed quarantine protocols.

Records from the Department of Health showed that as of Wednesday, Cavite has already recorded a total of 17,119 COVID-19 cases. Of this total tally, 3,561 are active cases; 13,405 are recoveries, while 153 are deaths.

In a television interview in late August, Remulla remarked that new cases of infection to the virus being recorded daily in the province have significantly dropped following the enforcement of MECQ. (inquirer.net)

EXTRA JUDICIAL

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DTI's...

In its aim to assist micro, small and medium enterprises, local farmers, other plant growers and cooperatives in the country to survive amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) through the Trade Promotions Group (TPG) – Bureau of Domestic Trade Promotion (BDTP) in coordination with DTI Regional and Provincial offices, initiated the 18th Bagsakan Special Project held at Main Square Mall, City of Bacoor on October 2-4, 2020.

The three-day event was participated by 20 exhibitors from the provinces of Cavite, Laguna,

Rizal, Quezon and Samar. Bagsakan Project served as venue to sell and showcase their fresh produce and processed food products as well as handicrafts. It also helped them generate income to sustain their operation particularly during the pandemic.

Mr. Joselito Santos, Senior Vice-President of Filinvest Land, INC, in his welcome message, expressed his willingness to support DTI's program and projects that aim to help small businesses.

In his keynote speech, Undersecretary Abdulgani M. Ma-

catoman, DTI – TPG, reiterated that the main objective of the project was to help the farmers and other plant growers to start over their businesses that have been greatly affected by the pandemic.

ARD Marissa C. Argentine, DTI IV-A and Director Marievic M. Bonoan, Bureau of Domestic Trade Promotion accompanied Usec. Macatoman in touring the exhibit area.

Bagsakan Special Project of DTI – BDTP was made possible in partnership with various commercial establishments as well as e-commerce platforms. (Janice D. Patulot)

FROM PAGE 1

Dominguez calls for innovation in Gov't, private sector to ensure resilient recovery from coronavirus pandemic

Innovation in both the government and the private sector is needed to build resilience against, and guarantee a quick recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic and future adversities, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said Wednesday.

Dominguez made this point before a big gathering of business leaders as he stressed anew the need to "start reopening the economy by allowing people to return to work and providing them additional modes of public transportation."

"This is why our aim has been to pursue a safe new normal while we strive for a better normal. We cannot completely lock up ourselves to avoid COVID-19 at the expense of other vital dimensions of our lives. We should take less costly but effective measures," he added.

Speaking before the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) at its 46th Philippine Business Conference and Expo, Dominguez cited small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for their "inventiveness and willingness to adapt quickly" to the rapidly changing conditions triggered by the COVID-19 outbreak and for complying with minimum health standards, which have helped preserve jobs and keep the domestic economy afloat amid the global health and economic crises.

On the part of the government, Dominguez said it is accelerating its digital transformation to

drastically cut red tape, hasten the efficiency delivery of services to the people and curb official corruption.

The successful implementation by the Department of Finance (DOF), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Social Security System (SSS) of the two-month Small Business Wage Subsidy (SBWS) program, which had harnessed digital tools to avoid face-to-face transactions between state personnel and the intended worker-beneficiaries amid the pandemic, demonstrated a model for the rapid and efficient delivery of cash aid that other government agencies can duplicate, Dominguez said.

He said that to broaden financial inclusion, the government has fast-tracked the implementation of the National ID System; launched mobile apps such as the Digital PERA for the Personal Equity Retirement Account and the Bonds. PH for domestic bond issuances; and made significant progress in making cashless transactions affordable through electronic cash transfers that most major banks are now offering.

"These digital developments are historic steps not only into the New Normal, but also into the New Economy," Dominguez said during the event organized by the

PCCI online via Zoom.

To improve tax administration, Dominguez said at the PCCI event that the BIR has introduced additional electronic channels for filing and paying taxes, and is speeding up the implementation of its e-invoicing system; while the Bureau of Customs (BOC) is modernizing its infrastructure and simplifying customs processes, such as those covering conditionally tax- and duty-free importations to open more market opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Dominguez said the government is also studying how to tax the fast-growing digital economy better by ensuring that regulations expand opportunities for legitimate businesses while protecting the welfare of consumers.

He said one of the hardest pandemic-hit sectors—tourism—should likewise build its resilience and ensure its strong rebound from the crisis by turning this into an opportunity to rehabilitate and upgrade its weak infrastructure and poorly maintained facilities.

Another sector that needs to be revitalized in the post-pandemic era is manufacturing, Dominguez said.

"Our country leapfrogged from an agriculture-based to a service-oriented economy,



Dominguez

but we failed to build a strong manufacturing base. Now is the best time to accelerate the competitiveness of this sector to create more jobs and regain our economic momentum," he said.

While the country is preparing for a rapid digital transition, Dominguez said the government has been doing its best to balance efforts to revive consumer confidence and reopen the economy with health interventions.

Dominguez pointed out that although the earlier strict community quarantines were necessary to save lives and protect communities in the face of the highly infectious and lethal coronavirus, he said that further lockdowns "will bring more damage to the economy."

"Prolonged strict quarantine measures will threaten the gains we have made in employment and poverty reduction over the past four years. We need to start reopening the economy by allowing people to return to work and providing

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them additional modes of public transportation," Dominguez said.

Dominguez said beating COVID-19 involves not just keeping people safe from the virus, but also having a productive economy that sustains their basic needs and the costs of health-care, so that they can also be protected from other diseases.

He noted that in the first six months of 2019, over 358,000 Filipinos died from heart disease, tumors, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes, among other causes.

For the same period this year, the death toll from these diseases and other notable causes significantly declined by 39 percent to just a little over 218,000. Of the total, 5,154 deaths were traced to COVID-19.

While medically tried and tested courses of treatment are available for heart ailments, diabetes, and other serious illnesses, they still accounted for a far larger number of deaths from diseases, Dominguez said.

"While we continue to find ways to defeat the pandemic, we need to balance our health-care response. We have to ensure that those afflicted with life-threatening ailments other than COVID-19 also receive quality medical care and treatment."

Dominguez expressed confidence that the country could regain its growth momentum by

next year should the government and businesses work together to revive consumer confidence and domestic demand.

"On the part of the government, I can assure you that we will continue to maintain a pro-business environment for our enterprises to prosper. Together, we will overcome the challenges of this year and provide our people the inclusive economy they deserve," Dominguez said.

He said the government's fiscal and economic stamina resulting from the game-changing reforms implemented by President Duterte since 2016--and supported by the PCCI--ensures that the country has sufficient ammunition to outlast COVID-19.

To support businesses, Dominguez said that Republic Act (RA) 11494 or the Bayanihan 2 Law provides credit programs that wouldn't intervene excessively in the workings of private-sector financing.

These programs include, he said, the infusion of more capital to government financial institutions (GFIs) to expand their lending to MSMEs and enable them to serve as wholesale banks and rediscounting agents for small and medium-sized banks and microfinance institutions; and the extension of the carry-over period of net losses in 2020 and 2021 from three to five years for businesses. (PR)

Private Sector launches Ingat Angat Tayong Lahat campaign for consumer confidence and economic recovery



As the Philippines continues to battle the impact of COVID-19, brands and companies across various industries have banded together to help restart the economy while ensuring consumers' health and safety.

The group launches "Ingat Angat Tayong Lahat" campaign, which sends a message of resilience, hope and inspiration to boost businesses to continue to

increase operations while ensuring strict safety standards and to encourage Filipinos to once again enjoy activities outside the confines of their homes.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon M. Lopez praises this initiative and stresses the importance for businesses to unite in order to win back the confidence of consumers and get the economy back on its feet.

"At this point in managing the COVID-19 pandemic, balancing health and the economy is our main priority. This is why we are pushing for the gradual and safe reopening of the economy. In line with the spirit of the campaign, we can only move forward by supporting and keeping one another safe while protecting lives and livelihoods," Sec. Lopez said.

Cont. on Page 6