

LRT-1 Cavite Extension now 58% complete

GIRDER INSTALLATION. The installation of a girder for the Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) Cavite Extension project along the Manila-Cavite Expressway. Once completed, the project is seen to reduce travel time between Baclaran



and Bacoor, Cavite from 1 hour and 10 minutes to just 25 minutes and increase passenger capacity from 500,000 to 800,000 daily. (Photo courtesy of Dmitri Valencia)

ISSN NO. 2619-8185 heidelitalat@yahoo.com

DATETIMELINE

weekly newspaper

The Only Newspaper with Educational Timeliness

VOL. XVIII > No. 19 > Aug. 16-22, 2021 > P10.00

Vacc to Normal campaign, inilunsad sa Imus



City Government of Imus

Inilunsad ang Vacc to Normal campaign ng Grab Philippines sa bayang ito noong Agosto 6 sa pangunguna ng Imus City Local Economic Investment and Promotions Office (LEIPO).

Ang kampanya ay naglalayong mabakunahan ang mga riders ng Grab Philippines sa lungsod.

"Bilang bahagi ng Priority Group A4 o economic frontliners, nararapat na sila'y mabigyan rin ng proteksyon mula sa sakit habang sila'y araw-araw na humaharap sa banta ng COVID-19," ani Mayor Maliksi sa kanyang Facebook post.

Binigyang diin ni Mayor Emmanuel Maliksi ang kahalagahan ng inisyatibong ito upang bigyang proteksyon ang mga essential workers kasabay ng pagbabalik-sigla ng lokal na ekonomiya ng Imus.

Kasabay naman ito ng pagbabakuna sa mga senior citizens sa patuloy na pag-arangkada ng Tutok Seniors. (City Government of Imus FB Page/PIA-Cavite)

Dominguez sees REITs propelling property sector's growth beyond pandemic



PA Joey Concepcion, NTF COVID-19 Chief Implementer Sec Carlito Galvez, Jr., and AstraZeneca Country President Lotis Ramin welcomed today the arrival of the second batch of AstraZeneca vaccines procured by the private sector under the 'A Dose of Hope' program.

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Cayetano renews call for 'hunger hotline'



2 Cavite towns shut down municipal halls amid COVID-19 outbreak

EDITORIAL:

Bumpy road ahead

"Treading a tightrope is never easy."

The Philippine economy finally broke five successive quarters of recession. It cranked up in the second quarter of 2021 and looked ready to steamroll for the rest of the year.

But "speed bumps" along the way will likely slow down the economic rebound. The enhanced community quarantine in Metro Manila and other parts of the country is restricting mobility, has shut down major malls and thousands of retail outlets, and taken away millions of jobs. The ECQ as a result is dampening household consumption.

The economy did creditably well in the second quarter of the year, although part of the sharp recovery is attributed to the low base from last year's comparative period when it shrank 17 percent. Nonetheless, almost all the engines of the economy, save for agriculture, are humming.

The output of the manufacturing sector increased 22.3 percent from April to June, while construction, which quickly generates jobs, jumped 25.7 percent. Public construction expanded 49.7 percent, a followup to the previous quarter's growth of 25.3 percent, while that of the private sector rose 19.1 percent, a reversal from the last quarter's contraction of 37.2 percent. The industry and services sectors posted growth of 20.8 percent and 9.6 percent, respectively.

The second-quarter figures have provided the foundation on which the economy can build upon. Unfortunately, the economy will take a hit in the third quarter if authorities keep the ECQ for an extended period. Tight restrictions that include a ban on restaurant dining and an eight-hour curfew are expected to cost the economy about P150 billion a week in lost output.

The country's economic managers favor a shorter ECQ period to lessen the damage to the economy. For them, the risks from COVID-19 can be managed better through selective lockdowns in lieu of closing large segments of the economy. The Philippines lifted certain quarantine restrictions in the second quarter of the year that enabled the economy to breathe and the health sector to address COVID-19 concerns at the same time.

Treading a tightrope is never easy. But both the economic and health rewards are worth the challenge.

DATELINE Weekly Newspaper has its principal business editorial office at Blk. 4 Lot 11, Ph. 6, Northeast Primarosa Subd., Mambog 3, Bacoor City with all the required BIR, DTI (CR#01576397), Barangay and City business permits and registered as a second class mail, with Permit #2005-10 from the Phil. Postal Corp. Tel Nos.(046)476-7611/(0955)1552764; weeklynewsdatelat.2015@gmail.com / heidelitalat@yahoo.com

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ADVERTISING RATES

COMMERCIAL ----- P200/col.cm

LEGAL/NOTICES ----- P160/col.cm

LEGAL NOTICES : P160/col.cm (less:20% discount)

MECHANICAL SPECS:

Paper Size : 36.5cm: x 56cm

Printing Size : 33.0cm: x 24cm

No. of Columns : (6) Six

Column Depth : 41.00cm

Font Size:

Heading : 10

Body Text : 8

Space : Single space

Hijos...

its financial institutions' affordable and reliable savings products and services that can be availed by the students to start their savings journey.

Further, the students were also taught about budgeting and allocating their funds during the virtual field trip. CARD Bank Tagum Account Manager Lali Quinal was invited to talk about savings, while CARD Hong Kong Liaison Officer Jireh Dihuna shared his expertise on budgeting.

On revisiting the past

"Learning history is not just merely about learning dates, people, and heroes, although it may comprise that as well. I really can't forget what CARD MRI Founder and Chair Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle Alip once said. To better understand yourself, your family, and the society you're in, you have to understand your past," Manila adds.

The Hijos School Fair and the discussions on financial

management can guide the students on how to revisit the past to have a better understanding of how they can improve their present.

According to Manila, "Hijos Tours aims to develop a generation with a love for history and who treats their past with high regard. This, in turn, can be a weapon they may wield for their current situation. We hope that more youth start saving and investing with the help of the Hijos School Fair."

The Hijos School Fair will be a regular offering of Hijos Tours every month starting July. It is also open for schools, colleges, and universities who want to introduce their students to topics on financial management, budgeting, and savings while revisiting history. Interested schools may book and schedule a session at their convenient date with Hijos Tours via their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/HijosToursOfficial. (PR)

FROM PAGE 8

Cayetano...

FROM PAGE 1

Former House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday said government must learn to trust the people as he renewed his call for the creation of a "hunger hotline" that would provide the public, especially the "poorest of the poor," with instant relief during the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila.

"Finite number naman 'tong nangangailangan ng gamot at pagkain. Hindi ba dapat may hotline?" Cayetano said during a press conference in Taguig City on August 11.

(The number of people who need food and medicine assistance is finite. Shouldn't there be a hotline for them?)

"Kasi sa ngayon, hindi pa rin talaga malaman ng tao kung saan pupunta," he added.

(At the present, the people don't know where to go.) Cayetano said while he understands that some officials may be hesitant to create a hotline because it is an easy target for scammers, the government must start "trusting its own people."

He said government can also come up with a verification system that would confirm the identities of the beneficiaries.

Cayetano said the proposal would provide instant relief to the public as phones and gadgets are more accessible now.

"I think that kind of malasakit (concern), we owe our people," he said.

Cayetano said he talked to a number of beneficiaries of the Sampung Libong Pag-asa program and learned that most of them are not able to eat three times a day because of lack of government assistance.

"Ganun na ba ka-harsh ang ating gobyerno na kailangan hanapin mo y'ung kapitan, konsehal, congressman, mayor, at 'pag sagad na ang tulong sa'yo ng mga y'un, gutom ka na lang?" he said.

(Is the government so harsh that whenever our local government officials can no longer afford to provide assistance, the people go hungry?)

He said while he is certain the local government officials are providing as much help as possible, the national government must become more proactive as it has more resources to provide the people with the relief they need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The national government has the resources. May DSWD naman sa lahat (Every region has their respective social welfare and development department)," he said. (PR)

DREAM...

FROM PAGE 8

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Dateline Weekly Newspapers:
Aug. 16, 23 & 30, 2021

EXTRA JUDICIAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE EMMA ALVIAR DE JESUS HAS BEEN EXTRA-JUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HER HEIRS THRU EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH UNILATERAL DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE AS PER DOC. NO. 151 ; PAGE NO. 32 ; BOOK NO. 108 ; SERIES OF 2021, BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. CESARIO G. GONZALES JR.

Dateline WQeekly Newspapers
August 02, 09 & 16, 2021

EXTRA JUDICIAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ANGELITA LICTAWA QUITORIANO HAS BEEN EXTRA-JUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HER HEIRS THRU EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE AS PER DOC. NO. 439 ; PAGE NO. 89 ; BOOK NO. 109 ; SERIES OF 2021, BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. CESARIO G. GONZALES JR.

Dateline Weekly Newspapers:
Aug. 16, 23 & 30, 2021



KAPANALIG

Ni Nelson Dimapilis

To ERC: Direct other DUs to impose no disconnection policy under ECQ

Senator Win Gatchalian urged the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to direct other distribution utilities (DUs) to replicate the move taken by Meralco which decided to suspend all disconnection activities within its franchise area that are placed under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and Modified Community Quarantine.

The Senate Energy Committee Chairperson likewise renewed his call on the concerned authorities, particularly the local government units (LGU), to allow the continued conduct of onsite meter readings to ensure the accuracy of consumers' electric bills. Meralco has said it will continue meter reading and bill delivery activities.

"We don't want a repeat of last year's 'bill shock.' We've had enough of this in the past and both the consumers and the DUs should have learned from what happened. If consumers will be billed appropriately, then they would not have any reason why they should not settle their obligation on a later date," Gatchalian said.

Citing humanitarian considerations to consumers, Meralco has announced it will suspend all disconnection activities in Metro Manila and Laguna which are both placed under ECQ. The coverage of Meralco's "no service disconnection" policy has been extended to at least three provinces that are under MECQ – Cavite, Rizal, and Lucena in Quezon province.

"Marami sa ating mga kababayan ang hirap sa buhay. Anumang dagdag palugit sa kanilang mga naipong bayarin ay malaking kaginhawaan lalo na't inaasahang maraming manggagawa ang mawawalan ng trabaho sa ilalim ng ECQ," Gatchalian said.

The national government's pandemic task force has just included Iloilo City and Cagayan de Oro City in the list of areas under ECQ from August 6 to 15 while a number of key provinces are also subject to heightened restrictions until the end of the month due to the rising number of the Delta variant cases of COVID-19.

"Nagawa nang ipatupad ang 'no disconnection policy' noong isang taon at napalawig pa ito hanggang nitong mga unang buwan ng taong kasalukuyan. Napakalaking pakinabang nito sa mga kunsumer na gipit sa pang-araw-araw na gastusin. Sana sa ikalawang pagkakataon ay pairaling muli ng iba pang distribution utilities ang konsiderasyon sa ating mga kababayan," Gatchalian said.

EXTRA JUDICIAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ZENaida LEGASPI CALDEJON HAS BEEN EXTRA-JUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HER HEIRS THRU EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF SHARE AS PER DOC. NO. 196; PAGE NO. 41 ; BOOK NO. 106; SERIES OF 2021, BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. CESARIO G. GONZALES JR.

Dateline Weekly Newspapers:
Aug. 02, 09 & 16, 2021

Dominguez...

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said Thursday the growing roster of Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) offerings will propel the growth of the Philippines' property sector beyond the pandemic--and serve as one catalyst for the country's quick and strong economic recovery.

Dominguez said the REIT has proven to be the ideal tool for raising the billions of pesos required to power property development in the country while at the same time opening attractive and dependable investment opportunities for the average Filipino.

As with the previous REIT offerings, Dominguez said the latest to be listed by Filinvest Land Incorporated in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) amid the COVID-19 pandemic underscores the confidence of investors in the economy's solid recovery from the impact of the global contagion.

"I wish Filinvest the best and thank its board, officers, and staff for their confidence in the strength of our economy. This REIT offering will be among the catalysts for our quick and strong economic recovery," said Dominguez during the listing ceremony for the Filinvest REIT Corporation (FILREIT) at the PSE.

Dominguez noted that FILREIT's portfolio of "Grade A" office and commercial properties located in strategic areas and catering primarily to the business process outsourcing (BPO) and information technology (IT) sectors will "surely provide attractive dividend yields for investors."

Filinvest has also acquired a well-earned reputation for sustainable and green buildings, which should inspire other developers and set the standard for eco-friendly designs that will help achieve the country's climate ambition of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, said Dominguez, who is chairperson-designate of the Climate Change Commission (CCC).

"With this REIT offering, I encourage Filinvest to further expand its portfolio of sustainable property developments, especially outside the Metro Manila area," Dominguez said.

Dominguez said he is "fairly certain" that the country has gone through the worst part of the COVID-19 induced crisis and is well on its way to recovery, as evidenced by the economy's second-quarter growth of 11.8 percent, which is the best quarterly performance in more than 30 years.

"Despite the recent lockdown to contain the Delta variant, prospects for a strong economic rebound in 2021 remain promising. Our vaccination program, which is the most potent weapon we have against this unseen enemy, is proceeding at pace. This is a step closer to achieving herd immunity in the country," he said.

FILREIT is the third REIT offering in the country after Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) and DoubleDragon Properties Corp. (DDPC) earlier listed their respective REITs in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) amid the pandemic.

Dominguez had strongly pushed the implementation of Republic Act (RA) No. 9856 or the REIT Law since he assumed the finance portfolio in 2016.

When the REIT Law was passed in 2009, no company found its terms attractive, owing to what property players have listed as obstacles for the REIT to flourish in this country--friction costs, minimum public ownership requirements, and taxes.

It was the Duterte administration that set the stage for REITs to flourish in the country after 11 years of deadlock, when it successfully issued an amended set of implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for RA 9856 last year.

Under the amended IRR, the Duterte administration ensured that all shareholder proceeds from REIT offerings will be retained within the do-

mestic economy and used to drive the country's growth.

The REIT law, with its amended IRR, now allows both small and large investors to

own real estate assets, presenting an alternative and secure investment instrument for middle-income families and overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). (PR)

FROM PAGE 1

2 Cavite ...

FROM PAGE 1

A vaccination program in another Cavite town is suspended after 18 medical staff tested positive for COVID-19.

At least two municipal halls in Cavite were temporarily closed down this week amid the surge in COVID-19 cases in the province.

The municipal hall in Naic will be closed from Tuesday, August 10, until Friday, August 13, to give way for disinfection after four staff members of the General Services Office tested positive for COVID-19.

Naic Mayor Junio Dualan also suspended vaccinations scheduled at the Amisa Medical Mission Hospital in Barangay Cabuco from Tuesday to Friday after one doctor and three nurses tested positive.

"We are very concerned that in just past five days, our number of active cases has doubled. As of now, we have 166 active cases," Dualan said. As of Tuesday, Naic reported 1,238 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 45 deaths and 1,027 recoveries.

The GSO as well as other local offices such as the Rural Health Unit, the Municipal Disaster and Risk Reduction and Management Office, and the Office of the Mayor are operating on a skeletal workforce.

Maragondon Mayor Rey Rillo also ordered the temporary closure of the municipal hall in Barangay Poblacion from August 11 to 15 for disinfection. Office work will resume on Monday, August 16.

In the municipality of Tanza, the local government suspended its vaccination program after 18 medical staff tested positive for COVID-19.

The 18 staff members are all vaccinated and asymptomatic, according to Tanza Municipal Administrator Tutuy Sanariz. Contact tracing is now ongoing in the municipality.

"The vaccination here in Tanza is temporarily suspended, but we will resume on Thursday, August 12, [at] all our sites," Sanariz said.

He said Tanza's 120-bed capacity isolation facilities are almost full, while the Tanza Specialists Medical Center in Barangay Daang Amaya has already reached full capacity.

Meanwhile, Noveleta Mayor Dino Chua has ordered municipal hall workers to work from home from August 6 to 15 while Cavite is under modified enhanced community quarantine.

As of Monday, August 9, Cavite has 64,718 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 6,654 active cases, 1,690 deaths, and 56,374 recoveries. -- Rappler.com

LRT-1 ...

FROM PAGE 1

MANILA – The Cavite Extension project of the Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) is 58.03 percent complete after the girder has been installed along the Manila – Cavite Expressway (Cavitex).

Once completed, the project is seen to reduce travel time between Baclaran and Bacoor, Cavite from 1 hour and 10 minutes to just 25 minutes and increase passenger capacity from 500,000 to 800,000 daily.

Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Arthur Tugade said the girders, or horizontal support structures, were installed using the full span girder launching method using special equipment and were completed faster compared to traditional pre-casting.

"Further, these girders will no longer have to be transported via road transport, so as not to cause traffic congestion along the affected areas," Tugade said in a Facebook post Wednesday.

Initially approved by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Investment Coordination Committee in August 2000, the DOTr said zero percent of the right of way (ROW) was certified as "free and clear" by the project's independent consultant back in 2016.

In May 2019, the DOTr expedited the acquisition of ROW for the project's first phase and worked with the Light Rail Transit Authority and the Light Rail Manila Corporation to begin its construction. (PNA)

Hijos Tours launches Hijos School Fair; revisits San Pablo City's history for financial literacy

CARD MRI Hijos Tours has launched yet again another virtual offering that aims to educate students on history and financial literacy. The Hijos School Fair kicked off on May 1, 2021 with 30 participants from CARD-MRI Development Institute, Inc. (CMDI).

Organized to invite Senior High School and College students for a virtual field trip of San Pablo City, Laguna, the Hijos School Fair is a gateway for fun, creative, and educational sneak peeks of the town's history, combined with topics on financial literacy, financial management, budgeting, and savings. Among the activities held during the School Fair include an impromptu speaking contest and coin bank making which added to the excitement of the students.

The Hijos School Fair looks through the lens

of the past and studies how history can help the students evaluate their current condition in terms of their financial situation.

A peek on San Pablo City's history "When we searched through the narrative of San Pablo City, there were parts of history from which we can draw inspiration on financial literacy," reflects Hijos Tours President and Chairperson Marilyn Manila on revisiting history.

Manila continues, "During the pre-hispanic times, our forefathers were already knowledgeable in locating their settlements as well as supervising and cultivating the resources that were readily available from their surroundings."

The President and Chairperson pur-

sues the subject even further by giving an example of how the people of Laguna chose their settlements usually near bodies of water where they can source food like fish, shellfish, and other marine products. "It is also possible that they used boats to source their food and sell their goods to their community," says Manila.

From here, Hijos Tours links the history of San Pablo City to how the students can set up their own small businesses using the products that they can source from their environment.

Manila also introduced some of the challenges of financial management that the students can reflect upon. "When the Spaniards arrived in the Philippines and introduced fiesta to the Filipinos to evangelize and draw more believers, it devel-

oped a great desire for Filipinos to dress and host the feasts extravagantly even to the point of borrowing money from their neighbors."

The Filipinos were also introduced to the concept of bigay-kaya during baptisms, courtships, and marriages where they give what they can and more to flaunt their status. This often resulted in debt.

Further, the Hispanic times also shed a light to that time in history when towns in Laguna were attacked by jobless and poverty-stricken raiders. The challenge to the Lagunenses can be interpreted as any unanticipated event like natural calamities and even the pandemic that can cause great devastation to communities. This confronts the preparedness of the stu-

dents when unexpected events threaten their security.

Lastly, Manila also highlighted the importance of adapting to the changing times to help improve one's way of living.

"The American times ushered in the manufacturing of copra, coconut oil, and wine in Laguna. Laguna became at the forefront during this time. From here, we saw how vital it is to adapt to new technologies and systems that will give us a better chance at life," Manila shares.

The "History of San Pablo" which was published by CARD MRI Publishing House, Inc. became the main reference to the Hijos School Fair. The book tells the story of San Pablo City and the role of CARD MRI in changing the

society for the better. It is available through the Publishing House's Facebook Shop for only PhP500.

Savings and Budgeting According to a 2019 survey conducted by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), 71% of adult Filipinos or a total of 51.2 million remain unbanked. This means only 29% of Filipinos are saving their money through bank deposits. Eight percent of the 51.2 million Filipino adults declare that their distance to a financial institution remains to be the reason for not having an account.

CARD sees the Hijos School Fair as an opportunity to impart the importance of saving especially during the pandemic. It is also a great way to introduce

Cont. on Page 2

DREAM DESKS FROM OUR HOME



Glass, wood, and metal blend in beautifully in this modern contemporary designed white Havana Computer Desk.

Compact drop-leaf Jacob Desk is easy to fold and easy to keep after a day's work. Perfect for smaller rooms or condos.



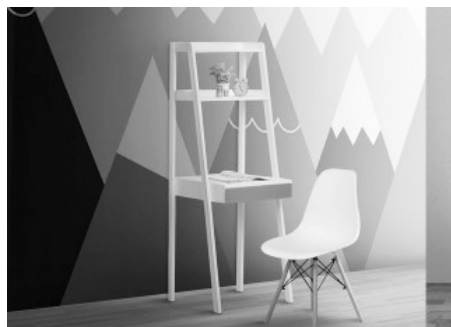
Classic Hambu Writing Desk in elegant dark wood finish has both open and pull-out drawers for a more organized work space.



Our Home's Farkins Office / Study Desk has one side for writing and paper work, and another side for storage and décor.

After more than a year of working from home, it's time to indulge yourself by creating a working space that's both decorative and functional. And most likely, the desk will be the centerpiece of one's home office in terms of design and activity.

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Create a streamlined workspace with this sleek and polished Gavin Office Desk.

And it offers some tips when choosing your dream desk.

- Choose a desk that's right for your needs and that suits your space and style. Consider your workflow and activities to make sure that you can use your desk comfortably and productively.

- Also, consider your overall house design in choosing your desk. If

your place is more traditional, the classic Hambu Writing Desk would be a perfect fit; while the white Havana Computer Desk will compliment contemporary spaces.

- **Size (and Shape) Does Matter.** Making the mistake of buying a desk that's either too big for your space or too small for the way you work will not be good for your productivity and comfort.

You'll also discover that apart from size, your desk shape does matter in helping you getting organized. Rectangular desks, like Our Home's

Gavin's Office Desk, are the most popular choice, and these are available in a variety of width and depth sizes. Corner desks for awkward spaces, and wave desks that provide you with the benefits of a rectangular desk while also giving you a larger desk top, are also great alternatives.

- **Consider Storage.** Without any storage, your home desk can become cluttered and disorganized. Opting for a chest with drawers is an ideal way to keep your workspace organized and to make

Cont. on Page 2