

DATETIMELINE

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The Only Newspaper with Educational Timeliness

VOL. XVIII > No. 40 > Jan. 11-17, 2021 > P10.00

CONCEPCION'S POOLED PCR TESTING-NOW APPROVED BY DOH, SALIVA TESTING NEXT IN LINE

Page 2

LGU GenTri to provide free vaccines to transport groups P.3



BOTIKA ON WHEELS CONTINUES IN TRECE MARTIRES CITY AND AMADEO: In the season of giving, the Botika on Wheels program of the provincial government continue to serve the people of Cavite through delivering free medicines and other medical needs for the elderlies and children of Trece Martires City and the municipality of Amadeo on December 18 – 29, 2020. In Trece Martires City, 1,948 senior citizens and 7,680 children benefitted from the program. On the other hand, a total of 1,024 senior citizens and 4,160 children were the recipients of medicine from the municipality of Amadeo. To date, a total of 71, 670 target beneficiaries from 395 barangays were supported through the Botika on Wheels program. (Janice D. Patulot)



INCENTIVES FOR BHW AND BNS: In appreciation of the valuable contribution of Barangay Health Workers (BHW) and Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) in strengthening the health care program in Cavite, the Provincial Government distributed their incentives for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020 amounting to a total of P17,700,000.00. The series of distribution was held in the different municipalities and cities of the province from December 7-17, 2020. The 2,400 BHWs and 858 BNS from Districts 1-8 received P6,000 and P3,000 respectively. (Rebecca A. Patricio)

LANDBANK further improves agriculture support with P231.7-B loans to 2.59-M farmers, fisherfolk

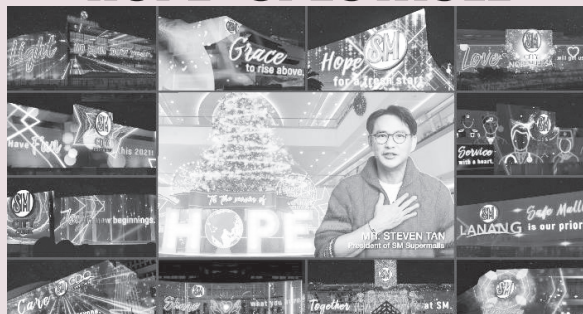


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SM USHERS IN THE NEW YEAR WITH "BEACON OF HOPE" SPECTACLE



As the year draws to a close, SM Supermalls lights up the sky with a heart-warming visual spectacle themed as "Beacon of Hope" to welcome 2021 in high spirits.

Released on SM Supermalls Facebook page on New Year's Eve, the Beacon of Hope video shows select SM malls across the country illuminating the night with bright and colorful virtual projection mapping on mall's facade. Each mall highlights a virtue through a dazzling light show and stunning exhibition of glowing shapes and images to create a memorable and moving visual display.

SM Aura Premier embodies 'grace' while SM City Clark radiates 'joy.' SM Megamall brings sparkle as it embodies 'light' while SM City Puerto Princesa displays 'peace' with a gleaming image of dove as a symbol. SM CDO Downtown Premier shows 'care' while SM Southmall emphasizes the need to 'share.'

SM City Dasmariñas celebrates 'service' to honor the frontliners as SM Lanang Premier

underlines the importance of having a 'safe' space. SM City Fairview spreads 'fun' while SM North Edsa sparks 'love' with a hearty light show. SM Seaside City Cebu stresses the value of 'togetherness' while SM Mall of Asia brings 'hope' that we will all rise and heal as one. The remaining SM malls nationwide also join the festivity as they lit up their respective facades with their own bright holiday decorations.

"SM aims to spur optimism as we bid goodbye to a challenging 2020 and prepare for a fresh start in 2021. We continue to stand with our community even during tough times and now as we face the New Year together with a renewed hope and joy," said SM Supermalls President Steven Tan.

Visit SM Supermalls Facebook page or www.smsupermalls.com to watch the video of SM's Beacon of Hope and to check out SM Supermalls opening hours on January 1!

For more information, follow @smsupermalls on all social media platforms.

EDITORIAL:

Uncertain economic outlook

The World Bank, true to its conservative approach, is not overly optimistic about the global economic recovery this year, despite the vaccine rollout.

The risks to global growth are many. COVID-19 infections worldwide are still increasing instead of plateauing, while the vaccine rollout even in advanced economies is slow.

The World Bank has warned that the increasing debt load of developing countries could create a new financial crisis unless a global effort is launched to remedy the situation.

The institution says with millions driven into

poverty by the coronavirus recession, governments must find a way to move beyond direct aid and reignite investment to stimulate growth.

The global economic recovery hinges on "widespread" vaccine rollout and sustained economic reopening. The latter is hard to implement if COVID-19 infections continue to climb.

COVID-19 has caused enormous job losses as social distancing rules restricted the mobility of people and prevented workers from going to their work-

places. To restore and create jobs, the World Bank urged the government to focus on policies to boost investment in order to counter "the pandemic's lasting scars."

The lending institution sees the world economy expanding 4 percent this year, or two-tenths lower than it previously forecast, after shrinking 4.3 percent in 2020. But at the same time, the World Bank warns the outlook remains "highly uncertain" and that global economic growth could be as low as 1.6 percent this year if the downside risks materialize.

Pending the rollout of vaccines, countries like the Philippines will have to be watchful of virus spikes. The reopening of the economy will have to be gradual to avoid another lockdown situation that brought miseries to the population.

CONCEPCION'S...

After pioneering successive COVID-19 testing innovations in the country such as the research on Pooled Swab Testing and the ongoing research on Saliva-Based Testing and Pooled Saliva-Based Testing, Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship and Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion, thanked the Department of Health led by Secretary Francisco Duque for signing the Interim Guidelines on the Conduct of COVID-19 Pooled Testing in the country - under Department Memorandum No. 2020-0539.

"Now, the most important thing is that testing will be faster, and the capacity will increase. Pool testing is efficient as it would bring the cost to around 750 pesos in the pool of 5, versus 750 for only one individual," Concepcion noted.

On the ground, various LGUs have already been benefiting

from pooled testing since September. From the City of Makati, Southern Iloilo, City of Passi, Pasig City, Pasay City, and Quezon City, all these LGUs have been a testament to the cost-effectiveness of pooled testing - running total of 15,012 total tested individuals as of December 2020.

In a statement by Mayor Abby Binay of Makati, "Companies and businesses with large workforces can continue securing the health and safety of their employees by signing up for pooled swab tests. This can be done regularly, especially now that the majority of companies have asked their staff to resume working on-site."

In another statement by Mayor Joy Belmonte of Quezon City, "We appreciate the continuous support of Project Ark in our battle against COVID-19. This initiative complements our testing

efforts as we slowly gear towards revitalizing our economy."

Pooled Swab testing was studied carefully by the Philippine Society of Pathologist Incorporated (PSPI), Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM), and the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC). Private sector partners, through Go Negosyo, supported and funded the research.

Together with its partners, Go Negosyo believe that pooled testing is a game-changer as it optimizes the availability of test kits, reduces the workload of laboratory staff, eliminates large groups of negative cases, makes PCR testing more affordable and available, provides LGUs and businesses with a better and clearer direction, and restores confidence in returning to work while sustaining the gains of the initial lockdown.

Per the DOH Memo, pooled testing can reduce the cost of screening a large number of individuals for infectious diseases. "Using this procedure, samples from multiple individuals are combined or "pooled" then are tested collectively. Select targeted samples are then tested individually if there is a positive result in the group.

Strategic testing along with aggressive contact tracing and isolation is recognized as crucial to an effective COVID-19 response. Incorporating specimen pooling strategies is an opportunity for greater efficiency by accelerating COVID-19 testing. Furthermore, it allows the opportunity for testing and targeting even asymptomatic individuals, as well as checking and monitoring areas in the country with low or decreasing COVID-19 prevalence." Not stopping on the recent successes of the Pooled Swab Testing, research on the Saliva-Based Testing and Pooled Saliva-Based Testing is still in the works and awaiting approval. Leading the research, Dr. Raymundo Lo, Head of PCMC COVID-19 Testing Laboratory, noted that saliva-based testing is already used in the United States and is a good method to get samples for testing. This method is also more convenient and ideal as it is painless and no swabbers would be needed to extract samples. This method saves more time, effort, and money, as Dr. Lo highlighted. The method is cost-effective as it needs fewer PPEs, eliminate the need for swab kits and extraction machines, reduces the chances of infection as it reduces the need for interaction, and saves a lot in terms of materials and manpower. "With all these announcements, our Filipino people can be assured that we will not be left behind. With the efforts of Sec. Galvez in bringing the vaccine to this country, we will soon see this pandemic disappear," said Concepcion. (PR)

FROM PAGE 1

EXTRA JUDICIAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE SPOUSES BERNABE R. SARTE and FLORA S. SARTE HAVE BEEN EXTRA-JUDICIALLY SETTLED BY THEIR HEIRS THRU EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE AS PER DOC. NO. 08 ; PAGE NO. 03 ; BOOK NO. 80 ; SERIES OF 2021, BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. CESARIO G. GONZALES JR.

Dateline Weekly Newspapers: Jan. 11, 18 & 25, 2021

EXTRA JUDICIAL

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ESTEBAN C. ANGON married to FELICISIMA V. ANGON, consisting of a parcel of land known as Lot No.2, Plan Psu-70784 situated in the Barrio of Mabakaw, Municipality of Maragondon, Province of Cavite consisting an area of THIRTY ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE (31,771) SQUARE METERS, embraced and covered by TCT No. (T-2971) RT-11259, of the Registry of Deeds of Cavite, have been the subject of an Extra-Judicial Settlement of Estate of the Deceased Among the legal heirs With Waiver of Rights and Special Power of Attorney as per Doc.No.137; Page No.29; Book No. XXII and series of 2021 of Notary Public Jameswell M. Resus of Naic, Cavite

Dateline Weekly Newspapers: Jan. 11, 18 & 25, 2021

EXTRA JUDICIAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE JOFREY ELION ANAS HAS BEEN EXTRA-JUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIRS THRU EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE AS PER DOC. NO. 153 ; PAGE NO. 32 ; BOOK NO. 79 ; SERIES OF 2021, BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. CESARIO G. GONZALES JR.

Dateline Weekly Newspapers: Jan. 04, 11, & 18, 2021

EXTRA JUDICIAL

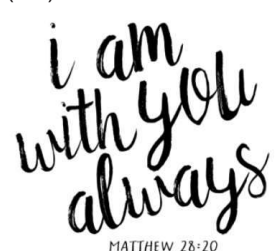
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE SPOUSES DAMASO NARVAEZ AND BELEN DECELANIO NARVAEZ HAVE BEEN EXTRA-JUDICIALLY SETTLED BY THEIR HEIRS THRU EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE DECEASED SPOUSES DAMASO NARVAEZ AND BELEN DECELANIO NARVAEZ WITH SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY AS PER DOC. NO. 267 ; PAGE NO. 55 ; BOOK NO. 70 ; SERIES OF 2020, BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. CESARIO G. GONZALES JR.

Dateline Weekly Newspapers: January 11, 18 & 25, 2021

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KAPANALIG

NI Nelson Dimapilis

Senator Win Gatchalian has set in motion the Senate deliberations on a measure that will further develop the natural gas industry, providing for a replacement of the Malampaya deep water gas-to-power project even before its supply runs out and avert possible rotational brownouts beginning 2022.

He said that Senate Bill No. 1819 was introduced in anticipation of the nearing depletion of gas output from Malampaya-Camago wells and that natural gas is a good transition fuel. The Senate Energy Committee chaired by Gatchalian will conduct its first Senate hearing on the proposed measure tomorrow, January 5, 2021.

LNG terminals needed before Malampaya supply runs dry

"The output of the gas will start going down by 2024. The direction of the Department of Energy (DOE) is to encourage the private sector to build receiving terminals for imported liquefied natural gas (LNG)," he said.

"And because we haven't discovered new sources of gas in our country, we have to resort to importing LNG just to make sure that those 3,200-megawatt gas-fired power plants keep on running," Gatchalian.

The Malampaya project fuels five power plants which comprise 20.0% of the installed capacity of the Luzon grid, according to the 2019 Department of Energy (DOE) Power Statistics, and serves 53.75% of Meralco's electricity demand.

In addition to the declining reserves is the expiration of Malampaya's service contract in 2024.

The DOE issued a circular in November 2017 outlining the regulations to be followed by all stakeholders in the downstream natural gas industry.

The senator, however, said the DOE's issuance needs a complementary law to cover all aspects of the midstream natural gas industry which includes transportation, transmission, storage, and marketing of natural gas in its original or liquefied form.

"Owing to the intricacy of the midstream natural gas industry, a comprehensive legislation is needed to fill in the gaps and strengthen existing bridge policies in order to unlock the potential of natural gas as a vital source of energy for the country," said Gatchalian.

LGU...

The City Government here assured the members of the Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association (JODA) and Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association (TODA) that they will be included in the Free inoculation of the COVID-19 once vaccines are available.

This was the promise of Mayor Antonio 'Ony' Ferrer to the 30 leaders of the transport organizations that attended the meeting held Monday, December 28, 2020.

"The City Government plans to buy the vaccine kung hindi kayo i-consider as frontliners. We the LGU will provide to about 4,000 members of jeepney and tricycle drivers for them to continue transporting passengers safely," the local chief executive said.

"Para makalabas agad, para makapasada agad, hindi po kayo kayang sustentuhan ng pamahalaang lokal. Ang priority po natin ay kumita ang bawat isa para mabuhay at para umusad ang ekonomiya."

(To be able to get

out immediately, to get back to work immediately, the local government cannot support you. Our priority is for everyone to earn to live and for the economy to move forward.)

During the meeting, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Cavite Provincial Director Lionel Dalope elaborated about the COVID-19 situation in the country with news of a new variant of the virus discovered in the United Kingdom.

"Based on the study, there is a new variant of COVID. Huaag po tayo pakampante or relax sa panahon ngayon. Ugaliin po natin sumunod sa guidelines, hindi po solusyon ang puro reklamo," Dalope said.

(We need not let our guards down or relax during this time. We should make it a habit to follow the guidelines, and complaining is not a solution.)

"Let us not abuse the loosening of the

quarantine protocols, as President Rodrigo Duterte announced that Cavite will remain under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) until January 31, 2021," PD Dalope added.

The DILG recently recognized the LGU as Best LGU in the Conduct of Contact Tracing in the Province for the diligent work and commendable performance in protecting its citizenry with the control of the transmission of the virus, and prevent the spread of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Congressman Luis 'Jonjon' Ferrer IV of the Lone District of General Trias continues to support the LGU through infrastructure projects particularly with the opening of new access roads or streets to help ease traffic flow in the area and the establishment of a decent jeepney and tricycle terminals in the city. (PIA)

FROM PAGE 1

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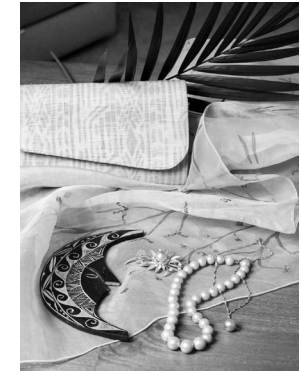
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Gov't issues IRR on grant of regulatory relief to private projects under Bayanihan 2 Law

A committee chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF) has been tasked to identify the private sector projects that will qualify for the grant of regulatory relief under certain conditions as provided for in the Bayanihan To Recover As One Act (Bayanihan 2)a.

With the Secretaries of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) as members, the DOF-led committee was created in compliance with Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Section 4 (nnn) of Republic Act (RA) No. 11494 or the Bayanihan 2 Law.

The committee has also been tasked to identify the specific permits, licenses, certificates, clearances, consents, authorizations, or resolutions that shall be waived in accordance with the IRR of this Bayanihan 2 provision.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez, and Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Roy Cimatu signed the IRR.

"The Committee will work towards achieving the goal of the Bayanihan 2 to spur investments by speeding up the approval and implementation of private

investments, stimulate economic activity and create jobs, so that our economy can recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic," Dominguez said.

He added, though, that while the panel has the power to grant regulatory relief and promote investments, "it will not be granting blanket relief as the committee will still carefully consider the over-all contribution of the projects and their impact on the general health and welfare of the public."

Lopez said the regulatory relief measures provided under the Bayanihan 2 will "fast-track high impact investments and help our country to build back better and lead to our post-pandemic recovery. It will also allow private projects to provide more employment opportunities for our fellow Filipinos that is critical at this time of the pandemic."

"While permits, licenses, and other similar authorizations will be waived for private projects that meet the directives of the Act, we will ensure that their proponents comply with all the other laws pertinent to the implementation of these projects," Cimatu said.

Under Bayanihan 2, private projects determined to be "nationally significant", "with high economic returns" or "with

high employment potential" may have certain permits, licenses or other requirements waived, to avoid delays in their implementation, and immediately stimulate economic activity and create jobs during the state of national emergency declared by the President as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

These regulatory relief measures exclude those relating to taxes, duties, border control and environmental laws and regulations, as stated in Bayanihan 2 and in Section 6 of the IRR.

Section 4 (nnn) of Bayanihan 2 states that the authority of the committee "shall be valid during the state of national emergency as declared by the President and the economic rehabilitation period or until the last day of June 2022, whichever is later."

Under its IRR, the DOF shall serve as the committee secretariat, where the private sector proponent of the project is required to submit the application for regulatory relief.

In identifying which covered projects shall be granted regulatory relief and the specific requirement or requirements that shall be waived, the committee is mandated under the IRR to evaluate them on

a per-requirement basis; and determine the economic and social impact of the project (economic returns, job generation potential, effect on the delivery of critical services) on both the national and local economies.

The committee shall also consider the impact of the lack of the requirement to be waived on the operations and quality of the output of the covered project, and the health and safety of the personnel working on the project, among other factors as stated under Section 5d of the IRR.

Taking into account the new normal, the IRR states that covered projects under the following sectors may also be considered by the Committee as projects of national significance:

(a) housing and resettlement in support of the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program (BP2P);

(b) water supply and sanitation to accelerate achievement of full coverage;

(c) watershed rehabilitation and protection;

(d) power generation, transmission and electrification to support the digital economy; and

(e) provision of other critical services that contribute to providing security and promoting

peace.

Moreover, in determining the national significance of a project, the committee shall consider "the significant sectors that would accelerate the recovery and bolster the resilience of the Philippine economy" and may also take into account "the project's direct and indirect contribution to economic growth and development, implementation readiness, and such other facets that would stimulate the local economy."

"As such, the total project cost of the Covered project is not necessarily the sole basis in determining national significance," the IRR states.

Section 10 of the IRR prohibits any court, except the Supreme Court (SC), from issuing any temporary restraining order (TRO), preliminary injunction or preliminary mandatory injunction against the Committee and the operation of the Covered project granted regulatory relief.

A technical working group (TWG) composed of representatives from the DOF, DTI, DENR and other government agencies identified by the Committee may be created to serve as its technical arm in evaluating applications, the IRR states.

The TWG is responsible for conducting the necessary inter-agen-

cy coordination and consultation in evaluating the applications for regulatory relief; and in submitting a comprehensive report to the Committee with its recommendations supported by factual, technical and legal reasons.

The procedures and requirements in applying for regulatory relief and the limitations and coverage of such relief measures are outlined in the IRR.

It also states that "(t)he Committee shall not be held liable if there will be a subsequent finding by the appropriate agency that the application should be disapproved."

Under the IRR, any approval of regulatory relief by the Committee may be revoked at any time in case the project "is determined to have violated any condition given in the grant of such relief."

The IRR took effect following its publication in a newspaper general circulation on January 7, 2021.

The Office of the National Administrative Registrar of the University of the Philippines (UP) Law Center, the official repository of all IRRs issued by the different agencies of the government, were provided three (3) certified copies of the new IRR. (PR)

LANDBANK further improves agriculture support with P231.7-B loans to 2.59-M farmers, fisherfolk

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) further surpassed its accomplishment targets for the agriculture sector in November 2020, with an additional P1.44 billion in loans released during the period, which brings the total credit extended to farmers, agribusiness enterprises and other beneficiaries as of that month to P231.67 billion.

LANDBANK president-CEO Cecilia Borromeo said the additional loans in November propped up the accomplishment of the institution to 94.5 percent of its target of P245 billion in agricultural lending for 2020.

The loans extended in October reached P230.23 billion or 94 percent of the goal for this year.

A report to Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III also showed that from 2,502,640 farmers and fishers assisted by the LANDBANK as of October, another 85,987 (representing a 3 percent increase) were able to benefit from the assistance package provided by the state lender in the form of soft loans, subsidies and training programs as of end-November.

The total of 2,588,627 assisted farmers and fisherfolk as of November translates into a 129-percent accomplishment rate over the 2-million target for 2020 set by the Bank, said Borromeo in her report to Dominguez, who chairs the LANDBANK Board.

Of the loan re-

leases of P231.67 billion, about two-thirds or P144.13 billion went to small, medium and large agribusinesses enterprises, while the remaining third (P87.54 billion) went to small farmers and fisherfolk (P37.38 billion) and the agri-aqua related projects of local government units (LGUs) and government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) (P50.16 billion), according to Borromeo.

Small farmers and fishers borrowed a total of P1.34 billion through direct lending, while conduits such as cooperatives and farmers' associations, rural financial institutions and other lending mechanisms received loans amounting to another P36.04 billion, she said.

As of November this year, she said the LANDBANK also provided P8.31 billion in loans through programs it has been administering for the Department of Agriculture (DA), such as the those under the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF), the Socialized Credit Program under the Sugarcane Industry Development Act (SIDA), the Expanded Rice Credit Assistance (ERCA) under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) and the Survival and Recovery Assistance (SURE-Aid) for rice farmers.

For programs it has been administering for the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), the LANDBANK has pro-

vided P65 million as of November, she said.

Of the 2,588,627 farmers and fisherfolk assisted as of November, 717,241 small farmers were assisted through the Rice Farmers Financial Assistance (RFFA) and Financial Subsidy to Rice Farmers (FSRF) programs of the DA.

Through the LANDBANK Countryside Development Foundation, the institution was also able to train 98,639 farmers in unbanked municipalities to help improve their financial literacy, Borromeo said.

In terms of economic activity, the support to the agriculture sector through loans for the construction of irrigation systems and post-harvest facilities accounted for

P104.19 billion or 45 percent of the P231.67 billion in lending support to this sector.

The P71.53 billion assistance extended to finance agri-processing and trading activities; P36.69 billion provided to the livestock subsector, and the P17.59 billion and P1.67 billion that went to the crops and fisheries subsectors, respectively, complete the breakdown of the P231.67 billion in total agricultural loans as of November 2020. (PR)

FOR WITH
GOD
ALL THINGS
ARE
POSSIBLE

MARK 16:17