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TACLOBAN
RIZAL AVENUE

As health workers getting COVID-19 infection

Alfred calls DOH to fix protocols

JOEY A. GABIETA

TACLOBAN CITY- Mayor Alfred Romualdez has called on the Department of Health (DOH) to improve its system to ensure that no health workers would further be infected of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Romualdez said that based on the report he has received from the contact tracers of the city, many health workers have become sources of the virus, infecting their loved ones and those that they are interacting.

As of the latest count, there are about 27 health workers from the city who have been infected of the dreaded virus.

"I am calling on all medical practitioners if they can have a meeting with the DOH and discuss because in the con-

tract tracing, we have seen most of the transmissions are coming from health workers which led to transmission to their houses and close contacts. So we have to address this immediately once and for all," Romualdez said in a press conference Monday (August 31).

"My concern is it's not (for a) blame game but there is something wrong in the system and we, the local government, are here to help. We have to be transparent and coordinate with medical practitioners what

see Alfred /page 6 ...



MAYOR ALFRED S. ROMUALDEZ

Amid Tacloban's rising COVID-19 cases

Alfred admits to take rapid test weekly; asks Taclobanons to observe health protocols

TACLOBAN CITY- As he leads on the fight against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in the city, Mayor Alfred Romualdez said that he is taking his health under guard.

He disclosed that every week, he and some officials of the city government he is frequently in contact with undergo rapid test every week.

This way, the city mayor said, they would be assured that they remain healthy and not infected of the dreaded virus.

"I and other officials always take a rapid test every week," Romualdez said during a press conference he called last Monday.

As setting an example, the city mayor did not remove his face mask and face shield during

the entire press conference that lasted for over two hours held at the stage of the Rizal Park.

During the press conference, he exhorted Taclobanons to always observe all the health protocols as this would help contain further spread of COVID-19 in the city.

As of Monday, the COVID-19 cases in the city stand at 422 cases with two deaths.

The Department of Health has earlier said that there is now a local transmission of COVID-19 in the city. At least 22 barangays in the city have

COVID-19 cases with three barangay chairmen infected of the virus.

Romualdez urged the city residents to help the city government and health authorities on this fight against the pandemic by being vigilant and report those who are violating the protocols.

According to the city mayor, the fight against COVID-19 starts in the villages.

"Please help us. I am giving you the authority to report those who are not following the health protocols like those not

see Amid /page 3 ...

Samar student uses local fern to create portraits

TACLOBAN CITY- Who would want to have his or her portraits to be made out of leaves from a fern?

This was exactly what Ryan Managaysay, a 21-year old second-year student taking up education major in Social Sciences at the Samar State University (SSU), based in Catbalogan City, Samar province has done.

His art works, a form of leaf art, was posted by his instructor, Jhonil Bajado on his Facebook account last

August 22 which immediately caught the interest of the netizens which they also shared.

"I was overwhelmed by the reaction. I just thought it's crazy," Managaysay, when reached on his mobile phone, said.

According to him, aside from the fact

that his work of art was part of their requirement under Bajado's Readings in Philippine History, he just like to inspire youths in their town which is facing the pandemic caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

"I just like to give them a good vibes. That they can do something productive

during this time of pandemic," he said.

While the village where the young artist wanna-be lives, Barangay Binalayan, remain to be COVID-19 free, the town of Tarangnan is considered to be one of the hot spot areas in Samar province of the dreaded virus.

Managaysay said that he uses a small blade and a local fern, known as salikupkop (Algoamorpha quercifolia), in doing his leaf art.



LEAF ART. Ryan Managaysay, a 21-year old education student native of Tarangnan, Samar, is making waves after his works got noticed by netizens. The budding artist is into leaf art using a local fern as he creates portraits of big name personalities like Pres. Rodrigo Duterte

(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

He said that salikupkop thrives in their village though it is quite hard to get them as some could be found in coconut trees, that means, he has to climb, or even in areas where there are honey bees.

According to him, while he has been doing

see Samar /page 7 ...

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WE DELIVER!

COVID-19 cases in the region breach the 3,000 mark with 51 new cases

TACLOBAN CITY- The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Eastern Visayas has now reached the 3,000 mark as it posted 51 new cases as reported by the Department of Health (DOH).

As of Tuesday, the region's COVID-19 cases are now at 3,003, the DOH said.

The DOH also said that about 1,378 COVID-19 patients in the region have recovered from the ailment with 1,241 as active cases.

Of the new COVID-19 cases, 38 were from the province of Samar with Catbalogan City posting majority of the cases at 26.

Mayor Dexter Uy said that these new cases of the COVID-19 in the city were close contacts and frontliners who were infected by COVID-19 patients.

In all, the city has now 428 COVID-19 cases. The DOH has earlier said that there is now a community transmission of the dreaded virus in the city.

Aside from Samar province, also posting new cases were Leyte province with 12 and Eastern Samar

with one.

Meantime, Tacloban City Mayor Alfred Romualdez said that despite of the rising COVID-19 cases of the city, he would not impose any lockdown.

He, however, said that only areas where there are COVID-19 cases are to be closed for contact tracing purposes. At present, out of the city's 138 barangays, 22 of them have two or more COVID-19 patients reason why these are placed under lockdown.

The city mayor said that Tacloban City being the regional capital is not only open for the city residents but for the rest of the region.

For one, the city mayor said that closing the city from the rest of the region would deny the 400 kidney patients from other areas who come to Tacloban daily for their dialysis.

He also added that considering that Tacloban is the economic hub of the region, business transactions of other areas are sure to be affected.

The city has 422 COVID-19 cases with two deaths.

(LIZBETH ANN A. ABELLA)

Man arrested for carnapping in Biliran town

TACLOBAN CITY- Police arrested on Monday (August 31) a 54-year-old driver for allegedly violating the Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016 in Caibiran, Biliran.

Accused, Jesus Corpin, married, was arrested at 8:20 am at Barangay Victory in Caibiran town by virtue of a warrant dated August 11, 2020.

Judge Constantino Esber of Regional Trial Court-Branch 37 in Naval, Biliran issued the warrant with a recommend bail bond of

P300,000.

The arrest was made by joint operatives of Caibiran Municipal Police Station led by Lieutenant Ruel Sitoy, officer-in-charge; Cabucgayan Municipal Police Station led by Lieutenant Teofilo Gervacio III, officer in charge; and PIT Biliran, Regional Intelligence Unit-8 headed by Senior Master Sergeant Marcel Cantuba.

Corpin was brought to Caibiran Municipal Police Station for documentation prior to turn-over to the court of origin.

(RONALD O. REYES)

Leyte SP to enforce stricter protocols as a way to protect against COVID-19 spread



Leyte Vice Governor Carlo Loreto disclosed that stricter protocols are to be imposed at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan building to ensure that no employees, to include himself and board members, would not be infected of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

TACLOBAN CITY- More stringent measures will be implemented at the Leyte Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) building to ensure the facility will be free from coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

This was disclosed by Vice Governor Carlo Loreto who added that aside from the present health protocols being implemented at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan area, additional measures will also be imposed.

At present, health pro-

ocols imposed includes washing of hands at the hands free hand washing equipment located outside the main door.

After hand washing, the visitors will have their body temperatures checked.

Adding to these health protocols, those who will visit the Leyte SP will be given a separate face masks and will have to wear a laboratory gown while inside the building.

This protocol is not only impose to those who will

visit the office but also to the employees and members of the provincial board, Loreto said.

Inside the session hall, fiber glass barriers were installed to all the tables of provincial board members and the staff of the provincial board secretary.

"This are administrative measures that we implement to protect our staff and the provincial boards from getting infected with COVID-19 virus while they are inside our facility," Lore-

to said.

Loreto added that every week, staff of the provincial legislative office also undergoes testing to check their health status.

The provincial board also uses E-session since April, wherein board members will no longer need to be physically present during their weekly session but can participate through online discussions using the Zoom application. (ROEL T. AMAZONA)

In Catbalogan City

Online market activated again amid spike of COVID-19 cases

TACLOBAN CITY – As the number of corona virus disease (COVID-19) cases in Catbalogan City continue to increase, its city government has reactivated its E-Market to minimize residents from going out of their houses.

The E-market is the local government innovation using online transactions to cater to the needs of their residents while it continues its battle against COVID-19 virus.

Residents of the city can send their message at mobile phone number 09518343046 and 09355966518 and have their orders purchased and deliv-

ered to them.

The goods will be delivered to them free of charge and prices will still be in accordance with the suggested retail price.

The people in charge at the E-Market received orders until 3:00 pm, and delivers the goods at the doorstep of the costumers.

To protect them while doing their job, personnel of the E-Market are wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) when they deliver the goods.

As of Sept. 1, Catbalogan has a total of 402 COVID-19 cases.

Among those infected were Mayor Dexter Uy and

his sister, Councilor Stephany Uy-Tan.

Majority of the confirmed cases or 242 are local cases.

The provincial government had placed the city under Enhanced Community Quarantine from Au-

gust 26 to September 4, restricting movements of the residents, suspending public transport operation, allowing only essential businesses to operate and government offices to work under skeleton force. (ROEL T. AMAZONA)

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2021 PROPOSED BUDGET --- House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano (3rd right) and House Majority Leader and Leyte Rep Martin Romualdez (left) receives the copy of proposed P4.506 trillion budget for 2021 from Department of Budget and Management Secretary Wendel Avisado (3rd left) during the aubmission ceremony at the plenary of the House of Representatives, with them are Deputy Speakers, Deputy Majority Leader and Minority Leaders. photo by Ver Noveno

DBM-8 reminds LGUs on the submission and posting of required reports on the utilization of Bayanihan grants

TACLOBAN CITY- The Department of Budget and Management in Eastern Visayas reminds the local government units on the required submission and posting of reports on the utilization of Bayanihan Grants that were released to them to help them cushion the impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in their respective communities.

Regional Director Imelda Laceras through her representative during the Joint RIATF and RTF vs COVID-19, said that funds equivalent to one-month of the internal revenue allotment (IRA) share for 2020 of cities and municipalities and one-half of the 2020 IRA for provinces were released by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to LGUs.

These one-time fund releases, which should be exclusively used for programs and activities to respond to the COVID-19 emergency, are known as the Bayanihan Grants as such subsidies were given on the strength of Republic Act (RA) No. 11469, or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act.

DBM Local Budget Circulars Nos. 125 and 126 specified that the Bayanihan grants “shall be exclusively used for the COVID-19 response-related purposes and subject to existing procurement, budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.”

DBM-8 disclosed that a total of P2,183,671,000 was released to Eastern Vi-

sayas LGUs, broken down to P378,752,000 for the six provinces; P548,770,000 for the seven cities and P1,256,149,000 for the 136 municipalities.

The DBM in the region observed that as of August 20, the reported obligations totaled to P1,024,971 and the total disbursed amount is P906,542. For the provinces, only 33 percent was obligated; for the cities, only 65 percent is obligated, while only 43 percent has been obligated by the 136 municipalities in the region.

The Philippine Information Agency learned that DBM-8 through Director Laceras has been conducting a series of virtual meetings with the local chief executives on August 24, 25 and 28 in order to remind them about this.

Only three out of six provinces, five of seven cities and 82 out of 136 municipalities have submitted the required reports, it was learned. This means that out of 149 LGUs in Eastern Visayas, only 55 percent are with submissions and 45 percent are without submissions on the utilization of the Bayanihan Grant.

Director Laceras said that the grant which is meant to boost LGUs’ war chest against COVID-19 pandemic, can only be used during the six-month period of state of calamity that started on March 16 and will lapse on September 15, 2020 if the state of calamity across the country is not extended.

see DBM /page 6 ...

Army, NPA clash in Southern Leyte town; no casualties reported

TACLOBAN CITY-Army troopers from 14th Infantry Battalion clashed with suspected New People’s Army (NPA) rebels in Silago, Southern Leyte Sunday (August 30) but no casualties were reported among the government forces.

Reports reaching from the Police Regional Of-

fice (PRO)-Eastern Visayas headquarters said the 20-minute firefight happened at 5:45 a.m. Sunday at Sitio Anahawan, Barangay Poblacion District 2 of the said town.

Second Lieutenant Gerry Provida, who led the 14th Infantry Battalion’s Second Platoon, Bravo Company, said they encountered

around five NPA rebels from SRC Levox in the area while conducting their military operation.

In a report, he identified the rebel leader as Fermin Gozon, alias Jaguar.

After the firefight, the rebels withdrew towards northeast direction to Brgy. Kikilo, Abuyog, Leyte.

The army troopers have

yet to determine the number of casualties on the enemy side.

Recovered in the area were three civilian bags with personal belongings, food supplies, hammocks, toiletries, clothes, one piece 5.56 ammunition, and subversive documents, among others.

Responding elements from Silago Municipal Police Station led by Lieutenant Ronnie Abendan, officer-in-charge, also proceeded to the said area after receiving an information from a concerned citizen. (RONALD O.REYES)

Marina accredits three new courses for seafarers

TACLOBAN CITY – The Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) here in the region has accredited three additional training courses of the National Maritime Polytechnic (NMP), based in Barangay Cabalawan, this city.

NMP Executive Director Joel Maglunsod, told reporters that as per formal letter received from Marina on August 10 of this year, full course approval was granted to NMP’s three Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) courses, namely: Ratings Forming Part of a watch in a Manned Engine-room or Designated to Perform Duties in a Periodically Unmanned Engine-room (RFPEW), Basic Training (BT), and Refresher Course on Basic Training (RBT), valid for three years along with the accreditation of instructors, assessors and supervisors who will be handling

the said courses, effective upon payment of course approval fees.

Maglunsod added that the said approval was a result of NMP’s submission of course packages of said courses to the Marina Central Office.

He disclosed that during the three-year period, announced and unannounced visits will be made by Marina or its duly authorized representatives to ascertain NMP’s compliance with the Marina’s rules and regulations.

Moreover, the records of implementation of corrective actions for audit results both internal and external, records of review and validation of the courses including the assessment and statistical record of trainees enrolled / certificated must be made available during the conduct of monitoring, he added.

“Despite this unprecedented emergency brought by COVID-19, NMP will

strive to continue the conduct of its training operations and provide services to the Filipino seafarers who are globally recognized as essential workers. We are targeting that these courses be offered on the first week of September 2020”, Maglunsod said. (RESTITUTO A. CAYUBIT)

Amid...

...from Page 1

wearing face mask,” Romualdez said.

He said that during his rounds in the city, he has observed that there are still individuals who are not wearing face masks and he himself had to order these individuals to wear face masks.

“And if you are just came from outside, take a bath. This way, you will not spread and infect the members of your household,” the city mayor said. (JOEY A. GABIETA/ROEL T.AMAZONA)

Cops in the region nets over 1,000 wanted persons in five months period

CAMP RUPERTO KANGLEON, PALO, Leyte – The Police Regional Office (PRO-8) has arrested more than 1,000 wanted persons in a five-month period.

Police Brigadier General Bernabe Balba told reporters that in his five-month stint as the regional police director, his office has arrested a total of 1, 202 wanted person across the region.

Balba reported that out of the 1, 202 arrested persons, 145 are most wanted and 1, 057 are other wanted persons.

He said that the Leyte Police Provincial Office (LPPO) has the most number of arrests with a total number of 380 arrested wanted persons,



Police Brigadier General Bernabe Balba

followed by the Eastern Samar Police Provincial Office (ESPPPO) with 204 arrests, 158 for Northern Samar Police Provincial Office (NSPPO), 137 for Samar Police Provincial Office (SPPO), 119 for Southern Leyte Police Provincial Office (SLPPO), 113 for Biliran Police Provincial Office (BPPO), 53 for Tacloban City Police Office (TCPO) and 38 for

Ormoc City Police Office (OCPO).

Balba added that among the most rampant crimes committed by these arrested persons were murder, rape, frustrated murder, attempted murder, statutory rape and violation of R.A 9165.

“This has indeed been a noteworthy accomplishment for all of us in this PRO. The police personnel nationwide have exerted their best effort in chasing these offenders, despite the challenges posed by the CoViD-19 pandemic,” Balba said.

He urged those with arrest warrants to voluntarily surrender as police authorities would ‘relentlessly’ run after them. (RESTITUTO A. CAYUBIT)

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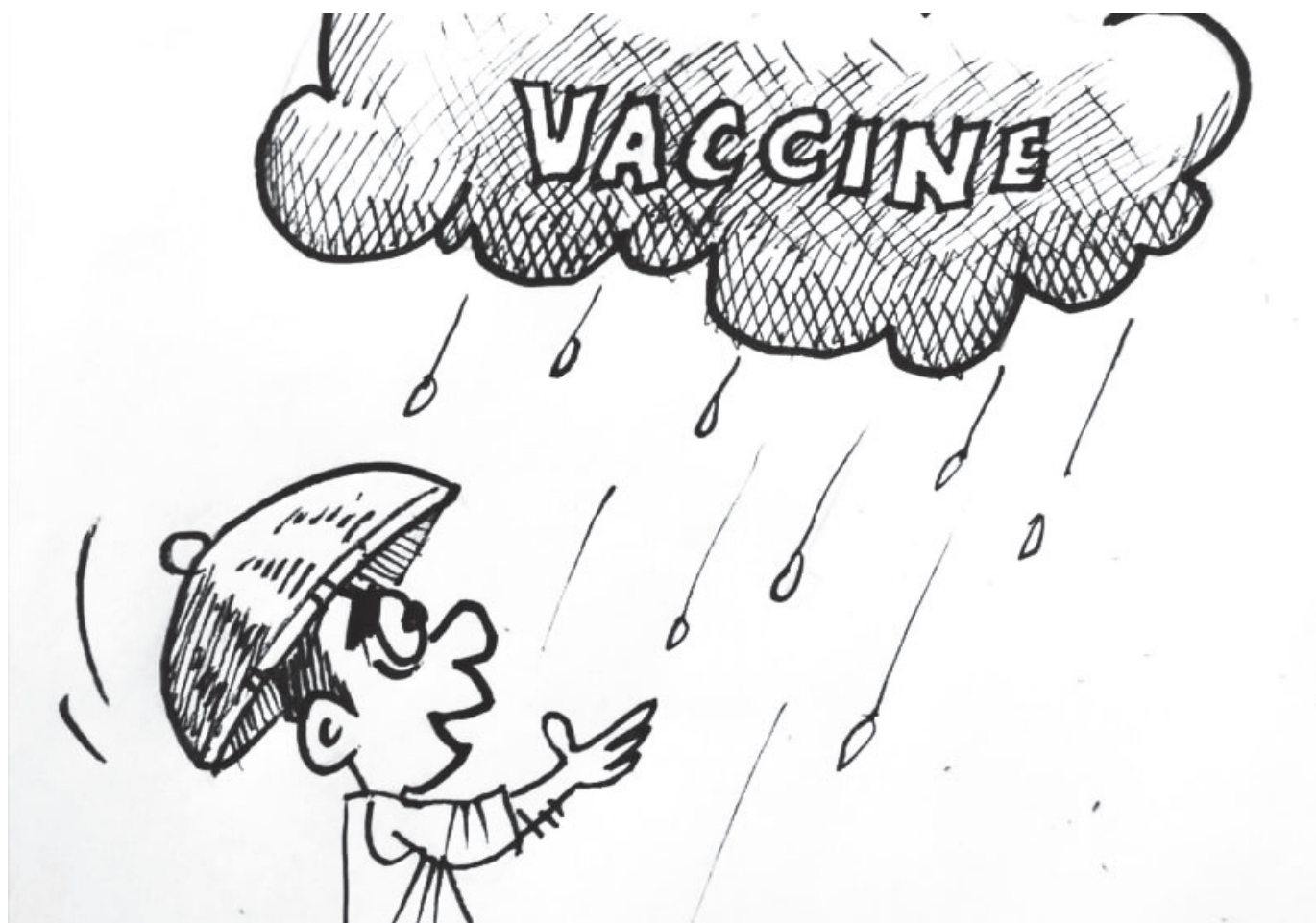
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Clarifying the vaccine myth

The race to come up with an effective vaccine for COVID-19 continues, and this must be a welcome development, not only in our country, but throughout

the world. But the greater majority ought to perceive it better to avoid misconceptions.

From a typical layman's viewpoint, vaccine is a cure for a disease—that's how the masses perceive it to be. But we know that this is not the case. A vaccine is one thing, a cure such as medicine is another thing. The supposed recipients of both differ as well. Vaccine is for someone without the disease yet, while a cure is for an infected person already.

To put it simply, one receives a vaccine for protection, to make sure one is not infected by the disease should it come his way. A vac-

cine shot then makes someone immune to the disease. And though he gets exposed to the virus in whatever shape or form, he will not contract the disease, making vaccine more of a prevention, not a cure.

This gives us the idea that, yes, what we need most is a vaccine to prepare us, save us from the onslaught of the diseases. We don't need a cure that much, this early. Cure is only needed when it's too late, when the disease has already inflicted us. We need not wait till we get infected. Before it happens, we should be shielded from that disease. That's where the vaccine is needed.

Let's hope and pray that God will spare us from this plague through the instrumentality of a vaccine. A real, effective vaccine, not just one that is half-baked, or administered with evil intentions, such as the previous dengue vaccine that did harm than good.



Things To Mind

DOMS PAGLIAWAN

Under criticism

Despite being highly contagious, the present pandemic is not without doubts attached to it. From experts to the most simple-minded

by-standers, skepticism abounds, reason why some people tend to be rather stubborn in their approach to this recent plague.

This is not to encourage people to defy and disobey authorities, of course; rather, this is to present the other side of the issue, to be fair in

presenting facts. Because while the frontliners and other agencies concerned are busily doing their jobs, some folks who are not necessarily critics but are keen observers of events keep on noticing some things that, upon closer scrutiny, rather make sense than what the majority of us are made to believe in.

Blame it partly on the inconsistent pronouncements of the World Health Organization (WHO), the supposed authority on the pandemic, and you will indeed have some reasons to doubt. For instance, WHO said before that the virus is not airborne but comes from droplets of infected

persons; it later changed this caution. Then it also declared facemasks are not for one's protection, but to prevent one from spreading the virus; this was also changed.

WHO is quick to justify its inconsistencies, citing ongoing studies as its reason, hence the additional criticism that it should not keep on making definitive conclusions. Even if it does, it should not pretend to be certain about things; it should allow other people's ideas and the possibilities that they are right. This means that WHO, as it disseminates health-related orders to different countries, must

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Foulshot

AL ELLEMA

In sickness and in health

Salute to our frontliners is a good gesture of appreciation for the supreme sacrifice they offer to protect our people from the dreadful covid19 virus. Theirs is a thankless job that requires separation from their families in order to be on duty in front-line areas such as checkpoints and especially in hospitals and medical facilities. These people have the right to health and be with at home with their families but the call of duty pushes them to report for work and attend to the needs of others. The risk of exposure to the virus is great as they encounter people from all walks of life every moment of their life. They meet people who have no tags of identity whether infected or healthy.

The situation makes every person at risk and vulnerable to getting infected. But those at home and in public places are not as much at risk than frontliners who are in close contact with patients under treatment in hospitals and medical facilities. The roster of frontliners include drivers conducting patients from airports, seaports, bus terminals and other transport hubs to hospitals, testing centers, quarantine facilities and homes. There too are medical attendants, janitors, utility worker and security guards who are in close contact with doctors, nurses, patients and other persons attending to the needs of the sick and those who are subjected to swab testing and other procedures.

Other public servants attending to the needs of locally stranded individuals who are placed

in quarantine facilities are also exposed to the same risks of getting infected. There are the traffic enforcers, policemen, coastguards, military and jail personnel who render service to keep the public safe from getting infected but are themselves exposed to the greater danger of infection. At the grassroots are the barangay officials, health workers, tanods and other volunteers serving the needs of the people in the barangays. It is in the localities that the burden of guarding the territories from entry of people who do not carry quarantine passes and health certificates issued by the local health authorities.

All these frontline personnel are exposed to great risks and dangers of getting infected. Their families need all the support for survival while

Under...

...from Page 4

not be too prescriptive and judgmental, but welcoming of critical suggestions and recommendations.

As the plague rages on, observers cannot help but notice some things, notable of which are the excessive media hype glued to it, the over-acting attitude of some authorities, the sensationalized reporting, not to mention the rumors that many deaths are accordingly attributed to coronavirus even if the causes are something else. Moreover, as some observers argue, a disease with plenty of recoveries despite having no cure yet is not one to scare them to death.

Add to this the typical statistics of 91% mild, 6% asymptomatic, 1 point something percent criti-

they are on duty serving the needs of others. It is the duty of government to provide support so that the frontline service may not be diminished or depleted as the fight against the covid19 virus get extended for over five months now. They deserve allowances and hazard pays for the services they render. But the law dubbed as bayanihan to heal as one act placed restrictions that deprive the frontliners from commensurate compensation for their food, transportation, board and lodging and the living expenses of their families.

It is unfortunate that Section 4(d) of Republic Act 11469 entitled "Bayanihan to Heal as One Act" provides for an unclear covid19 special risk allowance of unknown amount while Section 4(3) mandates Philhealth which is now in deep trouble, to provide funds for medical expenses of frontliners who get sick and Section 4(f) of the same law grants incentives to frontliners who get sick or die in line of duty. The only way for frontliners to avail of the monetary incentive of Php 100,000.00 is to be certified as being in sickness and later to recover and be declared in good health.

comments to allema@yahoo.com

cal, zero point something percent severe, etc. To people such as Filipino masses who are exposed to more dangerous situations, such statistics are not scary at all. In fact, some ailments could have far more alarming figures than this. "So what if more and more people turn positive?" they would say, "they will merely join the 91%, or the 6%, with seemingly nothing to worry at all".

It follows, according to some, that what makes the virus so scary is not necessarily its physical effects, but the legal and social consequences following the violations one commits. The pandemic accordingly is more of a tool to prepare and program people for something else, the national and local authorities being merely instrumental for a bigger showdown in the future.



High-Powered Objective

(S & T Enhanced Nations Have Edge)

DR. PACIENTE CORDERO, JR.

Fisheries production 'defys' C-19 odds!

There is a bright note noticeable during this period of pandemism, at least!

The positive information emanated from the increased production from the

Fisheries sector as reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) recently (PhilStar August 16, 2010).

Though relatively in a single digit, but this is one news which is worth crowing for not only because Fisheries, a sector allied with Marine Biology, my field of research, but because the increase in the country's fisheries production happened at a time when other sectors of economy-enhancing capability are reeling during the corona virus period! The first semester of 2020 showed a 3% improvement compared to 2019 data. "Latest data from the PSA shows that total volume of fisheries production reached 1.18 million metric tons (MTT), a 3.1 % higher than the previous year."

Both the aquaculture and commercial fisheries production increased, thus:

1. **Aquaculture production** rose 3.4 % to 566, 940 MT equivalent

to 48.2 percent of the total national output;

2. **Commercial fisheries** registered a 13.5% increase in production to 321, 720 MT representing 27.3 % of the total output.

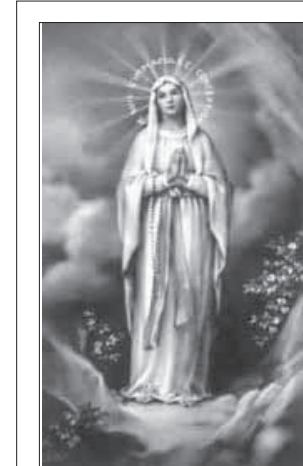
Specifically, the milkfish production was higher by 2.2 % to 106, 916 %, attributed to an Increase in the availability of stocking materials as well as higher rate of survival of fingerlings and lesser incidents of fish kill. Even dried seaweeds (*Kappaphycus and Eucheuma* species), had a 1.1 % increase for a total of 312, 480 MT amid better choice of planting materials suggested by BFAR as well as lesser weather disturbance, proper application of fertilizers, improve farming technology, lesser occurrence of "ice-ice" disease, and the sustained assistance extended by the LGU.

UNYIELDING (C - 19: Faceless Enemy)

1
Against unseen foe in a battle pitted

Underdog 'Homo sapiens' so admitted; In an unfamiliar terrain intensely fighting Boldly engaged and starkly unyielding.

Letters should be as brief as possible, and sent with the writer's name, signature address and phone numbers (if any) to: "Letter to the Editor", Leyte Samar Daily Express. They may be edited for length and clarity



Pray the Holy Rosary daily for world peace and conversion of sinners (The family that prays together stays together)

Prayer for the Nation and for Those who Serve in Public Office

God, our Father, you guide everything in wisdom and love. Accept the prayers we offer for our nation, by the wisdom of our leaders and integrity of our citizens, may harmony and justice be secured and may there be lasting prosperity and peace.

Almighty and eternal God, You know the longings of our hearts and You protect our rights in your goodness, watch over those in authority, so that people everywhere may enjoy freedom, security and peace.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, Amen. (Courtesy of Daughters of St. Paul)

2
Foes' face stripped, Medics call C - 19 Ferocious enemy, a menace unseen; Flapping wings in Globe's four corners Fiercely rebuffing antidote man offers.

3
Is virus presence a test to humanity's guts? Face head-on, hear unyielding foes shouts; Enemies yield against supreme intervention

Conquers viruses with its steel-headed minion. (GCQ-QC June 19, 2020)

Among the popular commercial fish species, the Skipjack production jumped 20% to 74, 049 MT. During the first half of 2020 there were improved number of canneries unloading and attributed to the establishment of FAD or fish aggregating devices, serving as fish shelter. Meanwhile, the common "galunggong" or round scad increased by 18.6 % to 74, 719 MT. mainly due to seasonality and good weather condition during the fishing season.

I must say that C - 19 has no place in the marine ecosystem - **YOU ARE NOT WELCOME**, does it mean that virus cannot tolerate high salinity level, let alone cold water temperature and constant water movement! We'll drown you in the Philippine Sea side of the Pacific Ocean!

ooo000ooo
NEXT TOPIC: "How should FDA Handle C - 19 Vaccines Reach the Philippines" SHARE S & T THOUGHTS through E-Mail: drpacjr@yahoo.com.

German doctors bring in medical, livelihood assistance to Oras

BORONGAN CITY- A German group of physicians organized into the Sentro ha Pagpapauswag ha Panginabuhi Inc. (SPPI) is bringing good tidings to Oras town in Eastern Samar.

In a message to PIA, Oras town Mayor Viviane Alvarez sad that she entered into a memorandum of agreement with the German doctors to facilitate an initial five years of partnership in the delivery of basic services to 16 identified barangays.

"The services range from medical to livelihood assistance to our people as part of the social determinants of health," Alvarez added.

The SPPI (German Doctors) envisions an economically and politically empowered men and women who are unified by their spirituality in the rural communities of Samar Island.

The organization also aims to advance the rural communities of Samar Island through a sustainable local economy development, a better gender

relations and participatory governance.

In addition, the organization also aims to provide health programs to selected GIDA (Geographically Isolated and Disadvantage Areas) in the municipality through their Rolling Clinic.

The SPPI-German Doctors will be offering, free consultation and laboratory examination, free medicines, TB-DOTS program, supplemental feeding program to underweight children below 7 years, Reproductive Health Program and capability building for community health volunteers at the 16 GIDA Barangays of Oras.

Beneficiary-barangays were identified as Bato, Binalayan, Aksam, Naga, Iwayan, Alang-Alang, Minap-os, Cadi-an, Cagdine, Batang, Buntay, Rizal, Cagtoog, Cagpile, Gamot, and Balingasag.

"In their other areas, they also provide livelihood assistance as deemed necessary, the services will start this year for five years and open for renewal of

agreement based on the efficiency of service and partnership status of the beneficiary," said Alvarez.

Presently, the SPPI is now on its social preparation stage and data gathering to ensure a responsive and real-time plan of interventions on the ground.

Mayor Alvarez is hopeful that her people will benefit from the needed health interventions. **(nbq/PIA E. Samar)**

Alfred...

...from Page 1

are the problems so we can help," he added.

Mayor Romualdez said that as far as he is concerned, the city is doing well in addressing the problem.

He said that none of the more than 200 contact tracers and members of TACRU (Tacloban Action Rescue Unit), which is responsible in bringing the positive patients to quarantine or isolation facilities have been tested positive.

As of the latest count, there are about 27 health workers from the city who have been infected of the dreaded virus.

The city mayor said that he would like to see Tacloban be free from COVID-19 and this would not be accomplished if the health workers, especially those who works and lives in the city, are themselves infected of the virus.

He also chided an in-

DPWH turns over new disaster-resilient school building to Maasin City DepEd

MAASIN CITY- The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has completed and turned over recently a three-classroom building to the Department of Education (DepEd) - Maasin City Division.

The completed multi-grade school located in Barangay Agustin, this city was realized under the Basic Educational Facilities Fund of the education department, Engineer

Ma. Margarita of the DPWH-Southern Leyte District Engineering Office said.

The P8.79 million new school building is disaster-resilient based on the upgraded design agreed between DPWH and DepEd, Engr. Junia said.

The turnover ceremony was participated in by Mayor Nacional V. Mercado; Engr. Vincent Sy, DPWH planning and design sec-

tion chief; Dr. Genis Murallos, DepEd Maasin City Division Superintendent, education department heads, local/barangay officials and some barangay residents.

With the completion of the said school building, teachers can now use the classrooms instead of holding their classes with their pupils in make-shift classrooms. **(Idl/rgc/PIA8-Southern Leyte)**

DBM...

...from Page 3

Among the items where the Bayanihan grant may be used are personal protective equipment; test kits; medical supplies, tools and equipment; food, transportation and accommodation expenses for health workers and other personnel of public hospitals; construction, repair or rental of additional establishments to accommodate

It was learned that out of the city's 138 barangays, 22 of them have COVID-19 patients. Three barangay chairmen have also been tested with the virus.

COVID-19 patients or those for monitoring; training of personnel and other COVID-19-related expenses of the local government and the hospitals it operates.

The DBM said the funds cannot be used for cash assistance programs; personnel services expenditures such as salaries; administrative and traveling expenses; registration fees for training, seminars and conferences; furniture, fixtures, equipment or appliances for administrative offices, and motor vehicles, including ambulances.

The deadline for the utilization of the Bayanihan Grant is September 16. Unutilized funds will be remitted back to the national treasury, the DBM said. **(PIA8)**

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF GIL G. CANEJA

and CAROLINA MACARIOLA WITH DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late GIL G. CANEJA and CAROLINA MACARIOLA extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of agricultural land situated at Brgy. Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran denominated as Survey No. 4168-P under TD No. 00235 with an area of 0.648800 hectares. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of SPS. ZOSIMO AND GEMMA ADOBO as vendees of the above-described land. Per Doc. No. 294, Page No. 59, Book No. 59, Series of 2019. Notary Public Atty. Redentor C. Villordon. *LSDE: Aug 25, Sept. 1 & 8, 2020*

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF ADJUDICATION BY SOLE HEIR

NOTICE is hereby given that BENJAMIN T. AMBA heir of the late MARY GRACE SOLANO AMBA executed an Affidavit of Self Adjudication over an insurance benefit/claim with a total amount of Php84,000.00 in Philam Life Insurance Company with business address at Justice Romualdez St. Tacloban City. Per Doc No. 35, Page No. 8, Book No. VII, Series of 2020. Notary Public Atty. Jerry S. Uy. *LSDE: Aug 18, 25 & Sept. 1, 2020*

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late FRANCISCO LEPASANA extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of residential land situated at Brgy. Bunga, Cabucgayan, Biliran under ARP No. 006182R-R with an area of 100 sq.m., more or less. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of HARLINE BALTAR LACABA as vendee of the above-described parcel of land. Per Doc No. 353, Page No. 72, Book No. II, Series of 2020. Notary Public Atty. Abbey Miralles. *LSDE: Aug 18, 25 & Sept. 1, 2020*

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT AMONG HEIRS WITH WAIVER

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late SEBASTIAN L. YU extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a conjugal partnership parcel of land designated as Lot 6, Block 1 with TCT No. T-50661 with an area of 217 sq.m., more or less and heirs hereby WAIVED all shares and rights unto their mother, LORNA FLOR Y. YU. Per Doc No. 4, Page No. 2, Book No. 116, Series of 2019. Notary Public Atty. Dexter L. Aguilar. *LSDE: Aug 18, 25 & Sept. 1, 2020*

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late TRANQUILINA ALBESA extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of land situated at Brgy. Doos del Sur, Hindang, Leyte, designated as Cad Lot No. 1810 under TD No. 08-15010-000214, OCT No. P-29037 with an area of 4,695 square meters. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of EMMA A. NAVARROZA as vendee of the above-described property. Per Doc. No. 48, Book No. LXX, Series of 2020. Notary Public Atty. Rosarie A. Peteros-Phua. *LSDE: Aug 25, Sept. 1 & 8, 2020*

SELF-ADJUDICATION OF ESTATE WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that JOSELITO VALERA surviving heir of the late VICTORIO MACARIOLA AND ALEJO MACARIOLA an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication over a parcel of land designated as Lot 1424, Pls-415-D containing an area of 40,494 square meters situated at Barrio Poblacion, Sta. Rita Samar covered by OCT No. 27, Cad 434-D. A Deed of Absolute Sale was executed in favor of MARITES T. ESQUIERDO as vendee of a portion containing an area of 1,064 square meters from the above-described property. Per Doc. No. 198, Page No. 41, Book No. XXV, Series of 2019. Notary Public Atty. Aldrin Jude Quebec. *LSDE: Aug 25, Sept. 1 & 8, 2020*

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late JACINTA C. TABINAS extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a portion of land designated with an area of 2,783 square meters, more or less, designated as Lot No. 16634, Case No. 27, Cad 434-D. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of JAIME J. VOCES married to MA. LUISA A. VOCES as vendees for the above-described properties including the improvements thereon; per Doc. No. 250, Page No. 51, Book No. XXVIII, Series of 2020 of Notary Public Atty Charles C. Culo, CPA. *LSDE: Aug 18, 25 & Sept 1, 2020*

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF ADOLPH H. FRIGILLANA WITH SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late ADOLPH H. FRIGILLANA, SR. extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a portion of land designated with an area of 375 square meters on Lot 12, Block 18 of the subdivision Psd-08-021950-D being a portion of Lot 3-U, Psd 08-015396-D situated at Brgy. Dalakit, Catarman, Northern Samar under TCT No. T-12726. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of FERDINAND JOHN SORIANO BRIONES as vendee of the above-described property. Per Doc No. 351, Page No. 51, Book No. III, Series of 2020. Notary Public Atty. Arturo Cebujano. *LSDE: Aug 25, Sept 1 & 8, 2020*

Barter for a cause: A Sto. Niño Senior High School innovation project

BY: RIKKA REISCHELLE S. ESPEDILLA

Having been recently established in the year 2016, the Sto. Niño Senior High School (formerly known as the Tacloban City Stand-Alone 1 Senior High School) continues to face major challenges in its physical structure. Specifically, its swampy and unpaved school grounds which affects the mobility of students, faculty, and staff.

As the Coordinator of the School's Brigada Eskwela for the year 2020, Mrs. Rikka Reischelle S. Espedilla, proposed ONLINE BARTER TRADE through the Tacloban Barter Community (TBC) to address this challenge.

It uses social media and technology to serve as a platform where people can make barter transactions. If two parties mutually agree on the deal, then an actual exchange of goods will follow through meet-up, pick-up, or delivery modes.

Several teachers and some students have participated in the project.

So far, second-hand books, clothes, printer, assorted school supplies, shoes have been donated and bartered in TBC for sacks of cement. Currently, the school has already acquired 11 sacks of cement through this unique resource generation strategy.

Thirty-nine (39) more sacks of cement are needed to construct a concrete pathway. Donations of items to



be bartered are still on-going and other various means of resource generation are also being explored.

True to our vision and mission, the SNSHS will continue to find ways to accomplish its obligations to its clientele, the students. A paved school grounds will not just ease mobility among students, faculty, and staff but also it will aesthetically improve the school's total package making it ready for 21st-century learners.

Obstacles will always be there but with strong will and resourcefulness paired with collaborative efforts of all concerned, the goal of this project will surely soon become a reality.

And as SNSHS continues to play in the barter trade for this specific project, its commitment and service go beyond what the eyes can see materially. Join us in our cause. Donate any item for barter or donate a cement. Through this, we don't only build, but we also serve.

(Note: The author is a Teacher III of Sto. Niño Senior High School)



Leyte Governor Leopoldo Dominico 'Mic' L. Petilla harvests lettuce produce by the 11 farmers association in Sitio Limite, Barangay Daja Daku, San Isidro town. The governor was joined by association's members. (GINA P. GEREZ)

DPWH-SLDEO finishes P8 million Maasin City school building

MAASIN CITY- The Department of Public Works and Highways-Southern Leyte Engineering District Office (DPWH-SLDEO) has completed the construction of the three-classroom building in this city. DPWH-SLDEO District Engineer Ma. Margarita Junia told reporters that the teachers and pupils in San Agustin Multi-Grade School will no longer hold classes in classrooms made of wood

and bamboo following the completion of the P8.79 million school building project funded under the Basic Educational Facilities Fund of the Department of Education (DepEd). "I am happy that we are able to address the lack of classrooms for our students here. When we previously visited this school, the teachers and pupils were enduring the heat as they used makeshift classrooms. So now, we are elated to see that teachers can now hold

classes in their new school building, properly ventilated and is conducive to our students' learning," Junia said. Junia said that the school is located in San Agustin village, a remote community, 23 kilometers upland from the city center of Maasin. The new learning facility is disaster-resilient based on the upgraded design agreed on by DPWH and DepEd, she said. (RESTITUTO A. CAYUBIT)

NMP launches free online courses on HIV-AIDS, gender sensitivity

TACLOBAN CITY - The National Maritime Polytechnic (NMP), the only government-owned maritime training and research in the country, based in this city, has launched its online courses on STD/HIV/AIDS Prevention in the Maritime Sector (SHAPIMS) and Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Abuse in the Maritime Sector (PADAMS) last August 19-20, respectively. NMP Executive Director Joel Maglunsod said that the aforementioned courses were developed as part of the corporate social responsibility of NMP, in cooperation with the International Labor Organization (ILO) and United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) to address psychosocial issues in the maritime industry which are now implemented in maritime schools and private training centers in the country. He pointed out that

the current COVID-19 situation accelerated the adoption of an alternative learning or flexible learning systems, including online learning by all educational and training institutions. Maglunsod explained that the NMP's offering of the free online courses using Google Classroom and Google Meet applications is aimed at providing a safer alternative and cost-effective solution to ensure that trainees have the access of the same quality training offered during face-to-face sessions within the safety and comforts of their homes or workplaces. He said that the positive response of participants encouraged NMP to continue offering the said online courses scheduled this month up to December. Likewise, NMP will also offer a free online course on gender sensitivity training for seafarers (GSTS) and is set to be conducted

on September 1, 15, 29, October 13, 27, November 10, 24 and December 8. (RESTITUTO A. CAYUBIT)

Samar...
...from Page 1

portraits using charcoal as a medium, doing the leaf art is rather new to him. Managaysay said that during the Arts Month celebration, their teacher asked his students to come a project that is something unique. This give him an idea to try the leaf art using the salikupkop leaves as his medium as he finds the fern's leaves appropriate for his new medium. The leaves of the salikupkop he said is big enough for his art and does not withered easily unlike other leaves. He said that he had to practice for days and wasted several salikupkop leaves before he 'perfected' it. "Actually, I just try this form of art just last week

COVID-19 facility at the Samar Provincial Hospital now open, says Gov. Tan

TACLOBAN CITY-The 100-bed COVID-19 isolation facility in the Samar Provincial Hospital is now ready to be used. This was disclosed by Samar Governor Michael Reynolds Tan who said that the construction of the facility is a big boost to the provincial government's effort in containing coronavirus disease (COVID-19). "With our improving testing capacity, we are also increasing our bed capacity for isolation" the governor said. The 100-bed isolation and quarantine facility equipped with air conditioning units with toilet and shower rooms for patients is now ready for operations.



Gov Michael Reynolds Tan

The province of Samar has more than 1,007 confirmed COVID-19 cases as of August 29. The province have initiated several efforts in containing the virus. The Samar provincial capitol in Catbalogan City was closed starting Monday

(Aug. 24, 2020) after several employees have tested positive for coronavirus disease. Earlier, the provincial government also has issued an executive order requiring all residents to wear face shields outdoor on top of a face mask to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus disease. Gov. Tan has also issued an order for a temporary ban on the return of the locally stranded individuals for 14 days. Governor Tan again requested its residents to adhere to health protocols so as not to add to the numbers of positive cases in the province. (LIZBETH ANN A. ABELLA)

Man yields gun at Northern Samar town checkpoint

TACLOBAN CITY- A man was arrested for allegedly carrying a gun at a checkpoint in Allen, Northern Samar Sunday (August 30). Joint Operatives of Allen Municipal Police Station led by Lieutenant Manuel Tadeo, officer-in-charge, together with personnel from 1st Northern Samar Provincial Mobile Force Company, 2nd Platoon arrested 26-year-old Norudin Bandong at 8:40 am at Barangay Jubasan of the said

town. The suspect, who is a resident of Malagapas, Cotabato City, was on board a Toyota Innova with plate number ZPC 989 when he was flagged down by the duty police officers at the checkpoint area. Police officer who checked the vehicle noticed a protruding handle of a firearm covered with a towel and placed under the driver's seat, according to the report. Confiscated from the

suspect's possession was Caliber. 45 pistol with serial number 413857 mark Remington Rand Inc. Syracuse N.Y U.S. together with one magazine and three live ammunition. Bandong was not able to present pertinent documents of the said firearm, according to the police. The suspect and the confiscated items were brought to Allen Municipal Police for proper disposition. (RONALD O. REYES)

with Sir Bajado and Jessica Soho as my first subjects. I was even hesitant to send it to him and I asked my classmates first if I was able to capture his likeness," he said. Soho is one of the country's most prominent and respected television journalists. But to his surprise, his teacher liked it, saying as far as he knew, his talented student is the first to use the said local fern as a medium. "I was overwhelmed for being the subject of his art and I was impressed with his creativity in using a local leaf as his medium. I found it not so common, so I asked him to create more, which he willingly obliged," Bajado, who is also the head of SSU's museum and archives, said. He describes Managaysay as shy but one of his top students.

Among his subjects were Pope Francis, President Rodrigo Duterte, Senator and boxing legend, Manny Pacquiao, television stars Willy Revillame, Boy Abunda, and Raffy Tulfo, and Samar Rep. Sharee Ann Tan. Managaysay said that it takes him three to four hours to finish a single subject with the eyes as the most difficult part to do as it small and detailed. "I uses an actual photo of my subject which I uses as my layout," the second in the brood of four siblings said. The budding artist, who has discovered of his knack on drawing when he was on his elementary grade, was not shy in saying that he hopes that his new found medium would reward him financially. As it is, several of his friends, teachers, and even neighbors commissions

him for their portraits using charcoal as a medium. He receives P400 to P800, depending on the number of the subjects of the commissioned piece. Managaysay said that the money that he receives out of his art works help him on his studies. His father, Tomas, was shot and killed in 2009 by still unknown assailant while his mother, Norma,49, works as a day care worker. He intends to gift his mother on her 50th birthday on November 2 of her portrait using the leaf art. (JOEY A. GABIETA)



PSA in the region conducts census of housing and population starting Sept.1

TACLOBAN CITY – The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) here in the region will conduct the 2020 census of housing and population beginning Tuesday (Sept.1).

PSA Regional Director Wilma Perante said that this year marks the 15th year of census of population and 7th year of census of housing since 1903.

She explained that the conduct of this year's census on population and housing was postponed for four months following operational adjustment due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

She disclosed that that the Interagency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Disease (IATF-EID) Resolution No. 22 issued on April 8, allowed PSA to operate conduct data gathering and survey activities related to COVID-19, including those related to the generation and implementation of the National Identification (I.D.) System".

PSA was also mandated to observe strict social distancing measures in all its operations and data-gathering activities and adheres on directives issued by the local government units on procedures to ensure health protocols are observed.

The director said that the census entails complete listing and recording of the characteristics of each individual and each living quarter as of 1 May 2020.

This inventory of the total population and housing units in the country will include demographic, social, economic, and cultural characteristics of the population and the structural characteristics and facilities of the housing units.

"During enumeration period, majority of the areas in the country will still adopt the traditional Paper and Pencil Interview (PAPI). However, respondents can also opt for telephone interview (Tel-in) if they do not want to have a face-to-face interview. In this case, the respondent will provide a telephone/contact number to the enumerator who will be assigned in their area," Perante said.

Perante disclosed that in Eastern Visayas, nearly 4,000 enumerators and census area supervisors will be deployed. All households, housing units, and institutional living quarters (ILQ) throughout the region will be listed and enumerated. Homeless population and Filipinos residing in Philippine embassies, missions, and consulates abroad will also be enumerated. (RESTITUTO A. CAYUBIT)

DPWH in Leyte's second district allocates fund for repair and improvement of facilities

TACLOBAN CITY- The Department of Public Works and Highways - Leyte Second District Engineering Office set aside P2.4 million fund under FY-2020 Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) to improve its office building.

Repair and maintenance include works on plumbing, electrical, painting, reinforced concrete structures roofing and ceiling with metal frames.

"It is necessary to maintain the office premises to meet the requirements designated under International Organization for Standardization (ISO) which requires organizations to define and follow a quality management system," said OIC-Assistant district engineer Francisco E. Robin, Jr.



Among the buildings that underwent repair were the office of the construction, administrative, planning and design, gymnasium, motor pool and stockroom.

The DPWH Leyte 2nd DEO was granted as an ISO Certified last April 2015.

ISO Certification is an accreditation conducted by external certification bodies to ensure that an organization performs their inter-related processes with international standards, and to continually utilize the ISO certified benefits such as better internal management, and increase in efficiency, productivity and profit.

The 2nd LED caters to 14 municipalities covered by the second legislative district in Leyte.

(LIZBETH ANN A. ABELLA)

Gov. Ongchuan expresses gratitude for the assistance from various sectors on its battle against COVID-19 pandemic

CATARMAN, Northern Samar-As the province continues its battle against COVID-19, the provincial government extends its gratitude and appreciation to those who, in one way or another, have extended support to respond to this lingering crisis.

Adopting the whole of society approach, the province works with LGUs, national government agencies, non-government organizations and the private sector in a concerted effort to manage the crisis and contain the spread of COVID-19.

As a matter of policy and in compliance to national directives, the provincial government leaves it up to the municipal task forces, in making decisions related to COVID man-

agement in their respective LGUs.

The provincial government mandate is to augment the services of LGUs whenever necessary, such as the provision of provincial holding areas where arrivals of LSIs are recorded and coordinated for transfer to LGUs where they are subjected to each LGU's quarantine protocols.

Provincial quarantine facilities are established to accommodate the spillover from LGUs which has certainly limited capacity.

As months stretch since community quarantine started in Northern Samar and in the entire country, it is unfortunate that this pervasive virus has eventually crept through our province, afflicting not only our locally stranded individuals



Gov. Ongchuan

but some of our local residents, as well as partners and source of support in our COVID response and control efforts.

As head of the Provincial Inter-Agency Task Force, Governor Edwin Ongchuan notes with sorrow the recent spike of confirmed cases in the province.

He pointed out, however, that this is not the time to be disheartened, rather heighten community cooperation so that we can stop the transmission of this disease.

At this point, Governor Ongchuan thanks the Diocese of Catarman through the Local Ordinary, Most

Reverend Emmanuel C. Trance, for lending the Balay Padi for COVID Response use as it serves as the quarantine facility for our frontliners and other essential government workers. Truly, a testament of the Church's care for its flock in this time of pandemic.

Likewise, to the family of Engr. Lope Dorado for volunteering the use of their properties especially in the height of need – the Casa Le'Ann Building which has served as holding area for LSIs and ROFs, and their privately-owned bus for the transport of health workers and frontliners. Such valuable support to the province cannot go unnoticed. Thank you very much!

Starting tomorrow, September 1, 2020, the provincial government announces that the Provincial Holding Area will be transferred to the UEP White beach, also a suitable area for the immediate care for our returning residents.

As we continue the fight against COVID, the provincial government calls on everyone for understanding and mutual help in this difficult time.

With every one's help, we can beat COVID-19. (NORTHERN SAMAR PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICE)

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