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TACLOBAN  
RIZAL AVENUE

## Region's number of death now at 46

# DOH reports 4 deaths due to COVID-19

JOEY A. GABIETA/LIZBETH ANN A. ABELLA

**TACLOBAN CITY-** The number of deaths due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19) here in the region has rose to 46 as the Department of Health (DOH) has announced on Friday (Oct.2) four new deaths relative to the infection.

The four deaths of the region due to COVID-19 involved a 36-year old man from Mapanas town in Northern Samar; a 75-year old man from La Paz town, Leyte; a 78-year old woman from Palo, Leyte; and a 67-year old woman from Tacloban City.

All three died on Sept.30 and have lingering illnesses, the DOH said.

The three were buried hours after their death in consonance to

the protocols on burying a COVID-19 patient.

While the towns of Palo, Mapanas, which have four COVID-19 cases, and La Paz, which have 25 cases, posted their first COVID-19 deaths, Tacloban City has logged its 12th deaths.

Tacloban, in all, has 768 COVID-19 of which 100 are said to be of active cases.

As of Friday, the DOH see DOH /page 9 ...



Local government units in Eastern Visayas will be closing their respective cemeteries during All Saints and All Souls Days as another measure to prevent spread of the coronavirus disease. Photo shows the Tacloban Catholic public cemetery which will be closed starting on October 29 until November 4. (story on page 3). (RYE AYON)

## For the entire month of October Alfred issues executive order placing Tacloban under General Community Quarantine status

**TACLOBAN CITY** – Mayor Alfred Romualdez has issued an executive order placing the entire city under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) for the entire month of October.

The issuance of Executive Order 2020-09-040 issued by Romualdez on Thursday (Oct.1) was in consonance with the recommendation of the National Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging and Infectious Diseases (NIATF) placing Tacloban under GCQ.

“Being in a GCQ status will give us some elbow room to move, if we have to adjust now with some of our protocols and policies,” the city mayor said.



**Mayor Alfred Romualdez**

Under EO 2020-09-040, the minimum health protocol standards such as wearing of face masks, face shields while riding public transportation and inside any establishments, and observed physical distancing are required to prevent the spread of the coronavirus

disease (COVID-19).

The mandatory use of QR codes shall continue to take effect for those who are entering establishments in the city and entering the border control points.

Movements of all persons are also limited to accessing essential goods and services, and for work in offices and industries permitted to operate, while leisure are still prohibited.

Curfew from 9 pm until 4 am will still remain in effect except for those who are workers going home from offices and industries permitted to operate. Those

see Alfred/page 9 ...

## Amid the COVID-19 pandemic This year's Leyte Gulf Landings will be simple, no crowd gathering, says Gov. Petilla

**TACLOBAN CITY** – For the first time of its storied annual celebrations, this year's 76th Leyte Gulf Landings anniversary program will be devoid of any high-profile activities.

And in fact, the entire MacArthur Landing Memorial National Park located in Barangay Candahug, Palo town, where the annual

Oct. 20 event is being held, might be placed under lockdown, Leyte Governor Leopoldo Dominico Petilla said.

The drastic move is to ensure that big crowd would be avoided during the annual commemorative program as mass gathering of people is still prohibited as the province is still un-

der a General Community Quarantine (GCQ) amid the pandemic caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

“We may even lockdown the area on that day so make sure that there will be no crowd gathering,” Petilla said.

see Amid/page 10 ...



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**WE DELIVER!**



This year's 76th anniversary of the Leyte Gulf Landings on Oct.20 will be far different from previous years as there will be no crowd, no World War II veterans, and with simple rites, says Gov. Leopoldo Dominico Petilla.



Women at the resettlement site located at the Kawayan Ville are assured of their food needs as they join a farming workshop initiated by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

## 'Green Revolution' continues at the Tacloban City North

TACLOBAN CITY-Mothers and grandmothers from Kawayan Ville who are now on their 2nd week of the 16-week farming workshop conducted by Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR-8) learned the steps in seedling preparation.

Despite the rains, these women, with the help of some youth from the community, worked in the field and prepared cucumber, patola, squash, watermel-

on, upo, and sweet pepper seedlings to be spread in 27 plots next week.

According to Romy Delmo, focal person, DAR-8, the participants are lucky to be a part of a season-long training wherein they are being thoroughly introduced to the whole duration of the vegetable production, from the land preparation until the harvest time. It is the same training being taught at the Farmer Field School, says Delmo.

Amidst the pandemic, these women leave their homes to work in the field every day to learn, nurture, and grow vegetables together to achieve food security and become assets in the community.

They are happy learning and working together in the field because it builds their bond stronger as a community, says Emelita Olvez, leader of the women gardeners. **(TACLOBAN CITY INFORMATION OFFICE)**

## Leyte vice mayor faces alleged environmental violations complaint over operation of a dressing plant

PALOMPON, Leyte-The vice mayor of this town who owns a dressing plant is in hot water after a complaint was filed against him for his alleged environment violations.

Vice Mayor Ramon Oñate, who is reportedly the owner of the DBSN Farms Agriventures Corporation (DBSN) located in Barangay Tinagan in Albuera town, is being charged by some concerned individuals as they sought for a writ of environmental protection order, clean-up, restoration, rehabilitation of the affected environment with prayer for a temporary environmental protection order.

The complaint also al-



The operation of a dressing plant located in Albuera, Leyte, reportedly owned by Palompon Vice Mayor Ramon Oñate, is being questioned due to alleged violations on environmental protection. Photo: DBSN Farms

leged violations of Oñate on Section 27 and 28 of the Republic Act 9275 (Clean Water Act 2004) for exceedance of the Department of Environment

and Natural Resources (DENR) standards for wastewater parameter (oil and grease; operating without a valid wastewater discharge permit and

## Family, friends appeal for help over murdered teen, uncle in Calbayog City

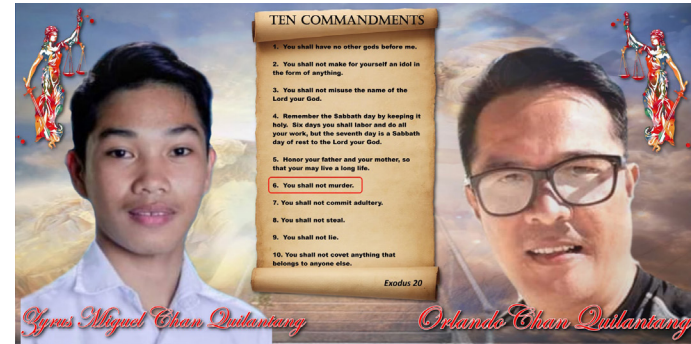
TACLOBAN CITY-Family and friends have appealed for help to solve the killing of 17-year-old student Zyrus Miguel Quilantang and his uncle in Calbayog City.

The young Quilantang was on board the vehicle driven by his 51-year-old uncle, Orlando Quilantang, when an unidentified motor-riding gunman attacked them along Barangay Hamorawon in the said city on the evening of September 23, 2020.

His uncle died on the spot while the teenager was rushed to the hospital after sustaining gunshot wounds, police said.

On September 26, the young Quilantang died due to the bullets that were lodged in his head.

"There is no sense in promoting the beauty of Calbayog City if young, in-



The families and relatives of Zyrus Miguel Quilantang and his uncle, Orlando, are seeking justice for their murder. The two were shot dead by still unidentified assailants while on board vehicle in Calbayog City last Sept. 23. (Photo Courtesy)

nocent lives are caught in senseless acts of violence," read a statement from Calbayog Tourism Facebook page which condemned the incident.

"He doesn't deserve to have his life and dreams to be taken away. We call upon the authorities to put an end to these acts which undermine the natural beauty and wonder of Calbayog. The acts of a few lawless el-

ements affect not just tourism, but the reputation of the city and its people as a whole," it added.

Friends of the young Quilantang also set up a crowdfunding drive for the "settlement of his medical expenses as well as funeral expenses."

Calbayog police are investigating the incident. **(RONALD O. REYES)**

## Ex-NPA member shot dead by alleged rebel members in Samar town

TACLOBAN CITY-A former member of the New People's Army (NP) who has surrendered to the folds of the law was killed reportedly by the rebels in Matu-

guinao, Samar on Monday (Sept.28) morning.

The victim, Carlos Diaz, 50, was shot multiple times by about eight rebels hitting him on the different parts of his body by the rebels while he was tending his farm in Barangay Nagpapacao in the said town at about 7:30 in the morning.

He was the fifth former rebel from the region said to have been killed by the NPA.

Lt. Col. Jasper Justito Pecson, the commanding officer of the 19th Infantry Battalion, said that Diaz surrendered to the government last August, 2018 and has since lived with his family in the said village.

"The New People's Army is doing atrocities in order to instill fear among their former members and supporters and even kill people in the communities who

contradict their propaganda," he said in a statement.

Major Gen. Pio Diñoso III, the commanding officer of the 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan City, Samar, condemned the NPA for killing one of their former comrades who returned to the folds of law.

"We will make the communist NPA terrorists (CNTs) and their supporters accountable for the actions of their members who deprived their former NPA members to live peacefully with their loved ones," he said in a statement.

He also appealed to the Commission on Human Rights and human rights advocates to 'condemn and take action for the lives of the victims who were mercilessly murdered.'

**(RONALD O. REYES)**

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# Cemeteries across the region to be closed from Oct. 29 to Nov. 4

TACLOBAN CITY- All public and private cemeteries here in the city and in other parts of the region will be closed starting on October 29 to November 4 for those who will visit with their departed loved ones during the All Saints and All Souls Days on November 1 and 2.

This was disclosed by City Mayor Alfred Romualdez as contained under an executive order he issued on Thursday (Oct.1).

However, despite of the closure of the cemeteries and memorial parks, burial will still be allowed within this period as stated under EO 2020-09-040,

Also, starting October 24, the number of visitors who would be allowed to enter the cemeteries would be at 50 percent of their capacity to ensure social distancing would be

observed.

Personnel from the Tacloban City Police Office and the Traffic Operations Management Enforcement and Control Office (Tomeco) are tasked to regulate the number of persons entering the cemeteries and their compliance to health protocols including the enforcement of QR code for proper identification.

The prohibition to close the cemeteries is part of the measures of the government which bars any mass gathering to ensure that the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) would be contain.

In Ormoc City, Mayor Richard Gomez said that starting October 30 until November 3, the cemeteries will be closed to avoid any possible spread of COVID-19.

Those who want to visit their departed loves ones can do so before October

30 and after Nov.3, Gomez said.

But those who will have to bury their loved ones during the days that the cemeteries are closed, however, can do so but should follow all the health protocols.

In Abuyog town, Leyte province, the cemeteries there would be closed also from Oct.30 to Nov.3, town Mayor Lemuel Gin Traya ordered.

The locals are allowed to visit their departed loved ones from October 1 until 29 while non-residents of the town are to be allowed to visit from Nov.4 onwards,

Eastern Samar Governor Ben Evardone also said that the province will also follow the directive of the national inter-agency task force closing temporarily the cemeteries to avoid possible spread of COVID-19. **(ROEL T. AMAZONA)**

## Mayor Romualdez lifted liquor ban in Tacloban City

TACLOBAN CITY- Starting on Thursday (Oct.1), the liquor ban imposed by the city government here will be lifted.

However, City Mayor Alfred Romualdez clarified that drinking in public will still be prohibited.

The city mayor said that those who want to buy liquor can consume it right inside the confinement of their homes.

"You can now buy (liquor) but you have to drink it inside your homes," Romualdez said in a press conference.

He stressed that those who will be found to be drinking the liquor in public or outside their homes could be arrested by the village watchmen (barangay tanods) and by the city police force.

Romualdez also said that restaurants and bars are still prohibited to sell liquor as this could result to gathering of people and in turn, more infection of the coronavirus disease

(COVID-19).

And if this happen, 'we'll be back to square one,' the city mayor said.

Romualdez has imposed liquor ban across the city since August 22 until Sept.30 as a way to avoid further spread of the coronavirus.

Tacloban has been placed by the National Inter-Agency Task Force under General Community Quarantine for the entire month of October.

Romualdez said that the city government is doing its best to address the COVID-19 pandemic in the city as he gave credit to all frontliners who are risking their own safety.

"We are doing all these things just to protect you," he said, referring to the health measures the city government has put into effect to control further spread of the virus in the city.

He reiterated his appeal to the public to continue to practice and observe all the health protocols that could

result for the reduction, if not eradicated, COVID-19 cases of Tacloban.

At present, the city has 751 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 11 deaths, all with lingering illnesses. The city has currently 128 active cases.

**(JOEY A. GABIETA)**

## Military mulling of filing cases against NPA, Anakpawis for recruiting minors

TACLOBAN CITY - The military is building a case against the New People's Army (NPA) and those who recruited a 14-year old teenage girl who was rescued in the aftermath of an encounter in Kananga town, Leyte last Sept.13.

This was disclosed by Col. Perfecto Peñaredondo, chief of staff of the 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan City.

"We are building cases and witnesses para ito ay ma file at maprosecute,"



Lt. Emille L. Garcia, officer-in-charge trainor team of the Philippine military examinations based in Baguio City visited Leyte Governor Leopoldo Dominico 'Mic' Petilla at his office at Government Center, Candahug, Palo last Sept.17. Also present during the courtesy call was Master Sgt. Isidro Sanchez. (GINA P. GEREZ)

## Prohibition until Oct.14 LSIs ban to return to Samar and in 2 Leyte towns

TACLOBAN CITY- For 15 days, locally stranded individuals (LSIs) will be barred from returning to Samar province and in the municipalities of Barugo in Leyte province and Bontoc in Southern Leyte.

This after the Regional Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging and Infectious Diseases (RIATF) and the Regional Task Force on COVID-19(RTF) approved a joint resolution on September 30 approving the request of these local government units.

The moratorium will take effect from September 30 until October 14.

These local government units have made a request to bar the return of the LSIs to address the 'surge' of COVID-19 cas-

es.

LSIs were said to have contributed to the spike of COVID-19 in these areas.

The regional task forces, in agreeing to the request of these local government units, this would allow health workers and frontliners 'to recuperate for the incessant COVID-19 operations.'

In the case of Samar, it was said that more than half of its COVID-19 cases involves LSIs. Currently, the province has 1,655 COVID-19 cases.

Meantime, Bontoc Mayor Jane Ruales, who chairs the municipal anti-agency task force, said that they have to made the request as the 'untimely arrival and overwhelming influx of LSIs have caused both physical and mental fatigue to our frontliners

which in some instances, compromise their safety.'

"This 15 days suspension is intended to ensure the safety of our LSIs and frontliners and to give time as well to our working personnel to conduct necessary assessment to all our quarantine facilities," she said.

At present, there are 68 LSIs in the town who are at the quarantine facilities. Bontoc has, at present, 17 confirmed COVID-19 cases with one death.

Meantime, the town of Barugo has also sought for the moratorium citing similar reason as their quarantine facilities are fully occupied with LSIs.

The town has 48 LSIs who were infected with COVID-19.

**(ROEL T. AMAZONA)**

they can that the rebel group could not recruit minors to their folds.

"We are doing our best effort to prevent the youth from recruitment by engaging the community and preventing this kind of activity" he said.

The 14-year old was rescued by the military forces after they engaged in armed fight with the members of the NPA in Barangay Rizal, Kananga town.

Two rebel members were also captured by

the government troops belonging to the 93rd Infantry Battalion based in Kananga town.

The girl claimed that she was recruited by Anakpawis, a cause oriented group that has been described by the government as a front of the communist group.

This alleged 'red tagging' has been repeatedly denied by Anakpawis.

Another 15-year old girl was also rescued by the military after the

see Military /page 10 ...

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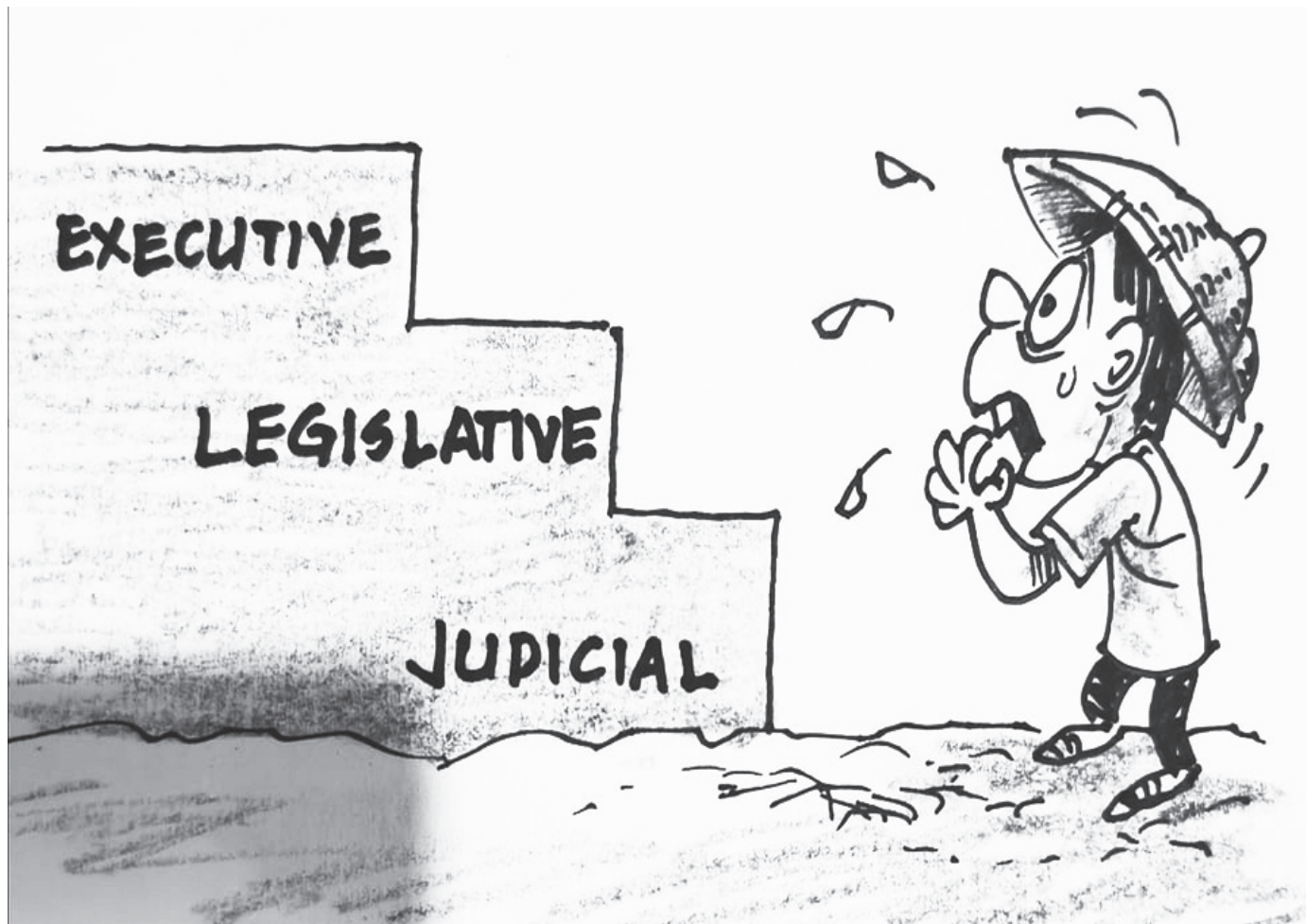
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Letters should be as brief as possible, and sent with the writer's name, signature address and phone numbers (if any) to: "Letter to the Editor", Leyte Samar Daily Express. They may be edited for length and clarity

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## Is there still separation of powers?

**In** a functioning democracy of a country there are three branches of government: the Executive, the Legislative and the Judiciary. The President heads the Executive Department; the Legislative, Senate President and Speaker of the House and the Supreme Court heads the Judiciary. The three have specific functions – the Executive executes the laws passed by the Legislative and the Judiciary interprets the law.

We are wondering why the House of Representatives appears to be a stamping pad of the Executive. The House of Representatives is led now by Speaker Allan Peter Cayetano, a choice

of members of the House of Representative, but because of a "gentleman's agreement" he signed with Congressman Lord Allan Velasco, Cayetano will step down on a scheduled date in October.

Majority of the members of the House of Representative – some 202 of them have signed a manifesto for Speaker Cayetano to hold on to the position up to 2022 - election year.

President Rodrigo Duterte ruled that Speaker Cayetano and Congressman Velasco should honor the "gentlemen's agreement" between the two.

Is it correct for the head of the Executive Department to rule on who should occupy the Speakership?



**Observer**  
ALVIN GZ. ARPON

### Revamp - Abolish PHILHEALTH says President Duterte

President Duterte has finally expressed his desire to go back to private life with still 2 years remaining to serve the presidency. It is the aftermath of his frustration and failure to stop graft and corruption in government. He wanted that PhilHealth Insurance

Corporation to be abolished.

Well PHILHEALTH does not have the monopoly of such an ugly description – of being a corrupt -laden agency. Graft and corruption is all over the land. The national leadership appears; it lacks the ability and con-

viction to stop it.

The official family appears also to have weak convictions to stop this graft and corruption in their agency – or are they part of the conspiracy?

-oOo-

**Flashback:** In the inaugural address of President Duterte four years ago he strongly emphasized the eradication of graft and corruption in government to include the complete eradication of the illegal drug menace of the land. Four years after, these two still exist. And China is one of the big sources of illegal drugs that come to our land.

-oOo-

The Speaker of the House issue is bothersome. The House of Representatives is now deliberating on

our 2021 national budget – the lifeblood of the nation. Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano is to serve the Speakership for 15 months to end in October and Congressman Lord Allan Velasco of Marinduque to take over – using the Magellan discovery date of the Philippines; 1521, as their guide.

President Duterte urged both to follow their gentleman's agreement. So Speaker Cayetano tendered his resignation as Speaker this week – but Congressmen did not approve of it and they want Speaker Cayetano to serve the Speakership up to 2022, election time. Openly the Congressmen defied the presidential wish. So, *anu na ba*, Mr. President?



## What's New Mr. Q?

TENTE U. QUINTERO

### Welcome Taclobanons & Visitors!

*But please lang, pag-register anay*

I believe this is a acceptable interpretation of City Hall's invitation to all Taclobanons as well as visitors -- for them to come to Tacloban, the regional center in the Eastern Visayas Region.

Yep, this is the City where people from Leyte, Samar and Biliran can shop for their needs, go to their favorite malls like Robinsons, Gaisano & Primark, visit regional offices of national departments, transact business in the many banks and financial institutions, visit hospitals and consult topnotch doctors, eat at Jollibee, McDonalds or Chow King and so so many other things in Tacloban City, which is the business & trade center in the region.

But again, as the subtitle above demands, City hall has a reminder to all Taclobanons returning home for a visit, or "pag-uli" na for good, as well as visitors too -- To please lang, Pag-Register anay please.

And so, these logical questions naturally follow -- Cay'ano nga nag-iba? Amo na ba liwat ini yana? Di ba stricto an pagca-canhi ha Tacloban dida han naglabay nga mga bulan? Cay'ano nga "WELCOME TACLOBANONS & VISITORS, BUT PLEASE LANG, PAG-REGISTER ANAY PLEASE." Why?

Well, let me give you a little background that I know of...

Remember the time weeks and months back, and the so-called 'frontliners' manning the checkpoints were quite strict with new arrivals?

Well, unknown to many, because a lot of these arrivals were denied entry into the City, there were many so-

called "palusot arrivals" -- visitors to Tacloban, who walked from Barangay Pawing in Palo (through beaches and wading in knee-deep sea water) and eventually arrived in San Jose, Tacloban.

Others walked from Barangay Bagahupi in Babatngon and arrived in Barangay Tagpuro (Tacloban na!), walking through rice fields, coconut trees and no-so-thick forests, just to avoid checkpoints and eventually arrive in Tacloban, and of course, blend with the crowds.

Well, these were the days when Coronavirus cases somehow "erupted" and health authorities claim that most of the Covid-19 infections came from this unregistered or "palusot arrivals."

The main reason pa la, as this Columnist eventually found out was this -- upon arrival of these "palusots" in their respective localities, with many LSIs -- Local Stranded Individuals from Manila, who still had some left-over money given by DSWD and Local Government Units in Metro Manila, naturally they came up with some celebration drinks (mainly tuba with somsoman) with neighbors, relatives, friends and hangers-on.

And as expected, with social or preventive distancing thrown out the window, and several drinking sessions using one glass (panmarayaw ngan hinamog na) where everyone drank from, most of those in these "celebrations" got infected, isolated and some even ended in hospitals.

And, as Mayor Alfred Romualdez declared in a news conference, many of those infected had similar family names; meaning, they got infected with coronavirus during these family or neighborhood

"celebrations."

#### Enter Tacloban City Hall Directives

And so, what happened? Tacloban City Mayor Alfred, alarmed by the sudden surge in the number of Covid-19 cases and asymptomatics, banned the sale (and even buying) liquor in the city, until the end of September, as an immediate counter-measure.

So, within days, mainly due to City Hall's order, the number of Coronavirus infections somehow dwindled down.

And now, with Mayor Romualdez's issuance of an Executive Order extending GCQ or General Community Quarantine in the city, effect October 1st, which allows drinking liquor, but only inside homes & residences, with the corresponding ban on drinking liquor in bars, restaurants, beerhouses and 'videokehan'...

*Ano daw la it mahahanabo? Ano daw la it masunod? Ada, abangan ang susunod na kabanta!*



## Foulshot

AL ELLEMA

### Sidings

This basketball republic is again in a frenzy as the National Basketball Association (NBA) bubble is filled with air of expectations from expectant spectators all over the globe. Since the start of the NBA Finals playoffs, basketball fanatics are looking to a tight series that could go the distance. The teams are in top form both going into the finals and sans injuries, basketball fans are going to enjoy good games amid the covid19 pandemic. The odds appear in great heat as Filipino fans take sides with what they claim as their fellow citizen in Fil-Am Eric, the bench tactician that is respected even by opposing teams. But the fanatic followers of the purple in gold team of the demised great Black Mamba are consistently rooting for their own

team led by Lebron James. As many countries are caught in strict restrictions due to the covid19 pandemic, basketball fans had resorted to cable television and social media to watch the games. The coverage done by local television stations are missed by spectators as existing television channels are not reachable in remote places where there are no signal. There may be radio stations in the various regions but seldom are covering sports events even as large prestigious and competitive as the NBA. Local media outlets do not usually cover sports events in their regular programming and even if there are eager spectators that follow the NBA, there are not much commercial sponsors to support the coverage.



## Things To Mind

DOMS PAGLIAWAN

### Never again

In many Facebook accounts, you could have read just recently the above phrase serving as the title of this article—never again. This was supposed to mark, or commemorate, those despicable dark years in our country's history when former President Ferdinand Marcos declared Martial Law.

Never again. An expression of resolve, of resistance, of condemnation. Beyond social media, demonstrations with similar outcry were held in some parts of the country, mostly participated

in by organizations identified with the left combined with the so-called yellows. "Never again!" they shouted. Never again to abuses, tyranny, and many other things that they associate with that imposition of Martial Law.

Martial Law years, according to history and media accounts, were indeed bloody. Narratives about inhuman torture, beastly rape-slays, warrantless arrests, and many such like abuses abound. Reading those accounts could make anyone's blood boil, and the

The best option where people can enjoy watching the NBA games is on the social media platform facebook. It is accessible to many who are connected to the internet. Inasmuch as many people are equipped with gadgets that are portable and may be carried to places where internet connection is strong, the games could easily be accessed even using prepaid data. This is why people are having good entertainment amid quarantine restrictions due to covid19. There are those who pick teams for friendly bets to raise the excitement while watching the games even from different locations online.

Seldom are people who watch the game with neutral objectivity akin to judges in court battles. Indeed,

*see Siding /page 11 ...*

next thing one might do is to join those street protesters in condemning that bloody history. And shouting to the top of one's voice: "Never again!"

Well, that we cannot control. Whether or not Martial Law is declared also depends on our cooperation as citizens. The law has provisions for it, depending on the peace and order situation in society. No matter how united people are in shouting it out—never again—if the situations call for it, it could be declared once again.

That Marcos declared Martial Law in his time is something justifiable, given the situations nationwide prior to its imposition. In fact, it was something that its haters deserved. They asked for it, they got it. Surely, it was not imposed unnecessarily, as many critics tried to make it appear. No president in his sane state would declare it unless of course he has evil intentions in mind. But that declaration was provoked, almost solicited. Despite its enemies' defiance and provocations, it was not imposed right away until all alternative solutions were exhausted. That declaration, then, was some sort of a last recourse.

Think of how chaotic society was prior to its declaration, and how the government's enemies had tried and exhausted the president's patience. Four years (1968-1972) of terrorist activities nationwide had passed before Martial Law was declared. Bombings here and there were carried out by activists and insurgents. Vandalism, raids, ambushes, assassinations, massacres, arson, and bombings of vital government and private

*see Never again / page 9 ...*



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)









**DOH...**

...from Page 1

reported that the region has now 4,085 cases of COVID-19 with the additional of 80 new cases.

These new cases were from Leyte with 55; Samar, 24; and one from Biliran.

In Hilongos town in Leyte, its municipal government has announced that the 17 persons who were tested positive of the virus are asymptomatic and are now at their isolation facility.

The town has now 40 confirmed COVID-19 cases as of Friday.

Meantime, Dr. Minerva Molon, DOH region-

al director, said that with the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Eastern Visayas, all the barangays should step up their barangays health emergency response teams (BHERTs).

“The role of BHERTs is crucial in defeating COVID-19 pandemic. They serve as the first line of support to our close contacts, suspects or probable and confirmed COVID-19 patients in our communities. They are the ones who ensure that the minimum health standards are being followed and as advocates of correct information about COVID-19,” she said.

She then urged the residents of the villages always

coordinate and have contact with the BHERTs.

Molon said that COVID-19 cases in the region are increasing as she noted that from September 16 to Sept. 22 period, the region had only 378 COVID-19 cases.

But from Sep. 23 up to Sep. 29, the regional cases rose to 421.

She, however, stressed that further increase of COVID-19 cases of the region could be addressed if the public would continue to cooperate and strictly follow all the health protocols like the wearing of facemasks and face shields, observing social distancing, and by staying home.

**DPWH completes road leading to tourist spots in Ormoc**



ORMOC CITY – Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) – Leyte 4th District Engineering Office (DEO) completed the road improvement project in Lake Danao Gaas-Sitio Maglahog-Quezon Jr. Road leading to Lake Danao and Lake Kasudsuran, Quezon Jr., this city.

The better and improved road provide residents and tourists a more

convenient road leading to the most visited tourism sites in Ormoc City – Lake Danao and Lake Kasudsuran, that both offers a peaceful and tranquil ambience that able tourists to have a close to nature experience.

The P 45.7 million road project started on February this year, funded under the Convergence and Special Support Program of the General Appropri-

ations Act (GAA) for CY 2020, in line with DPWH – DOT Convergence Program, which contributes to inclusive growth by incorporating communities to the tourism value chain and building local institutions through improved road connectivity, thus, these will promote balanced development and create more jobs and income opportunities to more Filipinos. (PR)

**Alfred...**

...from Page 1

below 21 years of age and 60 years old and above are still prohibited to go out from their homes.

Also prohibited to venture outside are those who have immunodeficiency, comorbidity and other health risk, and pregnant women.

Mass gathering such as movie screening, concerts, sporting events, and other entertainment activities, community assemblies, and non-essential works

continues to be prohibited while gathering that are for the provision of critical government services and authorized humanitarian activities will be allowed as long as they will adhere to the prescribe minimum health standard.

Religious gathering is also allowed provided that it is only up to 10 percent of its seating capacity and shall be limited to the conduct of religious worship and services. They must also strictly observe minimum public health standards.

With the extension of

GCQ status of the city, Mayor Romualdez asked for all to cooperate to lessen the number of cases in the city and for the local economy to start improving after suffering a meltdown due to the effect of this pandemic.

Romualdez also appeals to those who are traveling to the city to cooperate and adhere to the protocols and policies that the city has put into effect.

(ROEL T. AMAZONA)

**Police Regional Director De Jesus sacked entire San Isidro policemen in the wake of the killing of two cops**

TACLOBAN CITY- The entire police force of San Isidro in Northern Samar were relieved amid the death of two police officers assigned at the Regional Mobile Force Battalion (RMFB) who responded to a call of an alleged illegal logging activity last September 26.

This was disclosed by Police Regional Director B/Gen. Ronaldo De Jesus who also instructed for a thorough investigation on the incident.

“I assure the public of an extensive and credible

investigation on the matter. Rest assured that we will do our best to get to the truth,” the police regional director said in a statement.

De Jesus said they already created a regional fact-finding committee, together with the investigating team from Northern Samar Police Provincial Office (NSPPO), to conduct an in-depth and thorough investigation on the incident.

“The whole PRO-Eastern Visayas is extending its deepest condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families. This PRO (Police

Regional Office) is now facilitating the financial assistance for the burial services of the slain police officers,” he added.

To recall, personnel from the Second Maneuver Platoon of the 803rd RMBF went to Barangay Buenavista of the said town to response to a call of an alleged

illegal logging activity in the area.

However, upon reaching the area, they were allegedly fired upon by a group of armed men which resulted to the death of Patrolmen Jessie Golondrina and Fernando S Velarde Jr. (RONALD O. REYES)

**Never again...**

...from Page 5

facilities were frequent and rampant such that, eventually, Congress had recommended for the declaration of Martial Law, and the Supreme Court readily approved it. Take note, Congress and the Supreme Court.

Finally, as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines,

and heeding the people’s Congress with the approval of the Supreme Court, President Ferdinand Marcos declared Martial Law in September 21, 1972.

Before saying “never again” to Martial Law, it would be best first if we dare say, “never again to the terroristic acts and violence that provoke Martial Law.” Why, without the latter, the former won’t come our way.

Publication Notice  
R.A. 10172

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

Date: October 1, 2020

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act. No. 9048, and in compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to OCRG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 Guidelines in the Implementatio of the Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2012 (IRR on R.A. 10172), Notice is hereby served to the public that **ANGELI B. BACLEA-AN** has filed with this office, a Petition for correction of child’s date of birth from **“MARCH 14, 1999”** to **“MARCH 13, 1999”** in the certificate of live birth of **ANGELI B. BACLEA-AN** of **Palo, Leyte, Philippines** and whose parents are **Arturo Boleche Baclea-an** and **Rosalia Malquez Ballon**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office.

(Sgd.) **EDGAR Y. TAÑALA, J.D.**  
Municipal Civil Registrar  
Palo, Leyte

LSDE: October 3 & 10, 2020

RA Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)  
CFN-0002-2020

Republic of the Philippines  
Local Civil Registry Office  
Province of Leyte  
Municipality of Palo

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION**

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **LIEZEL E. BORJAL** has filed with this office a (complete name of the petitioner)

Petition for change of first name from **FRANCIS MATTHEWJ** to **FRANCIS MATTHEW** in the (first name to be changed) (new first name to be adopted) birth certificate of **FRANCIS MATTHEW ENCINA BORJAL** (Complete Name of Document Owner)

who was born on **November 15, 2014** at **Palo, Leyte** and (complete date of birth) (Place of Birth)

whose parents are **ELMER CRUZALDO ISANAN BORJAL** and **LIEZEL FABI ENCINA** (Name of Father) (Name of Mother)

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office.

(Sgd.) **EDGAR Y. TAÑALA, J.D.**  
Municipal Civil Registrar

LSDE: October 3 & 10, 2020

**High-value suspect nabbed in a drug sting in Ormoc City**

TACLOBAN CITY-Police arrested an alleged high-value drug personality during a buy-bust operation in Ormoc City.

The suspect, as Junry Seledio, 39, and tagged rank number 12 of top 20 drug personality in the city, was arrested by the members of the Ormoc City Drug Enforcement Unit led by Major

Alex Echon, together with the Ormoc City Police Station 1 and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) on September 25 at Purok 1, Barangay Can-untog.

Purchased from the suspect was one piece heat-sealed transparent plastic sachet of suspected shabu, as the subject

see High-value / page 10 ...



House Majority Leader and Leyte Rep Martin Romualdez (left) talks with Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero (right) during a short meeting at the Majority Office in the House of Representatives before the start of the Budget Deliberation of the 2021 Budget of the Bureau of Customs under the Department of Finance. Romualdez support the proposed Budget of Customs. photo by Ver Noveno

## This year's... ...from Page 1

He, however, stressed that the historic event will still be held although in a very simple way as this will only consist of flag raising of the Allied countries, wreath-laying and a 21-gun salute ceremonies.

Representatives of foreign countries like the United States, Australia, and Japan will deliver their speeches through a taped message.

"There is no point for a guest to deliver a message here because there are no crowd who will be listening to them," Petilla said.

He added that aside from the absence of dignitaries, the living World War II veterans are also prohibited to attend the event as mandated by the Inter-Agency Task Force which prohibits senior citizens to go outside their respective houses.

The region has a total of 86 remaining living World War II veterans.

Other local government units in Leyte will also hold activities related to the Leyte Gulf landings.

In Tolosa town, Mayor Maria Ofelia Alcantara said that they already prepared a simple ceremony on October 18 for the Signal Day commemoration.

The activity will start with a Thanksgiving Mass, flag raising and wreath-laying and will be followed by a short program with messages to be delivered by the relatives of Scouts Valeriano Abello, Antero Junia Sr. and Vicente Tiston.

Abello, Junia and Tiston warned the incoming Allied Forces on October 18, 1944 using the semaphore signal or scout signs

to spare the bombing the shorelines because thousands of local residents are living in the area and provided information.

And in Palo, the "Barrio Fiesta" celebration will be cancelled although they have lined up some activities related to the Leyte landings commemoration, Mayor Frances Ann Petilla said. **(ROEL T. AMAZONA)**

## High-value... ...from Page 9

of sale.

Confiscated from his possession and control were three pieces heat-sealed transparent plastic sachets of suspected shabu, one piece P1, 000 used as bust money, and P70 cash money.

The search and in-

## Leyte...

...from Page 2

parameter (total suspended solids and for failure to secure wastewater discharge permit for the ice plant facility).

The complaint against Oñate was filed last Sept. 22 before the sala of Judge Mario Quinit, presiding judge of the Regional Trial Court-Branch 17, based this town.

Also named as respondent on the case is the regional office of the Environment and Management Bureau (EMB) for its alleged failure to enforce its decision find-

ventory was witnessed by barangay and media representatives, police said.

The suspect was charged for violation of Sections 5 and 11, Article II of Republic Act 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

**(RONALD O. REYES)**

## DPWH gears P24.5 million farm-to-market road projects



Latitude: 11.257453  
Longitude: 124.677376  
Elevation: 66.04 m  
Accuracy: 4.7 m  
Azimuth: 218° (SW)  
Pitch: -10.5° (-4.1°)  
Time: 27-08-2020 13:04

Powered by AngleCam

CARIGARA, Leyte – The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) – Leyte Second District Engineering Office based this town is all set for the construction of a P24.5 million farm-to-market (FMR) road project in Leyte villages.

"Construction of FMR project in Carigara starts in Sitio Diyo to Sitio Kapitugan in Barangay Libo amounting to P11.76 million covering the construction

of .572 kilometer of concrete road with box culvert," said OIC-District Engineer Leo Edward Oppura.

Barangay Libo is surrounded by wide rice fields reaching out towards its mountain side.

"Another FMR project will be the 1.03 kilometer road in Barangay District 9 traversing Barangay Gamay in Burauen amounting to P12.74 million," Oppura said.

"Once completed,

farmers will have a better access road and less cost in transporting their farm products to the nearby public market," he stressed.

Construction of these projects started on August 14 and will be completed by November 7 of this year.

Last year, the district office implemented a total of 8-FMR project amounting to P45 million under FY 2019

Department of Agrarian Fund. **(LIZBETH ANN A. ABELLA)**

ing various environmental violations committed by Oñate since 2017.

Oñate did not respond to mobile calls and text messages for his reactions on this issue.

The complainants were residents of Tinag-an where industrial wastes from the dressing plant are reportedly being dumped and that of Brgy. San Joaquin of this town where the carcasses and blood of the chickens are allegedly buried.

According to the complainants, Oñate's dressing plant has resulted to the death of fishes at a nearby river while their rice fields were affected due to wastes coming from the dressing plant.

Nida (not her real name), said they have long been suffering from the obnoxious odor coming from the dressing plant claiming that some of them got sick, especially those who have allergies and respiratory illnesses.

"We want them to dispose of their wastes properly. It has been our problem from the moment we wake up to the time we sleep until now," she lamented.

Nida claimed that they have already sought help from their barangay council and filed a petition for the dressing plant to comply with proper waste disposal since 2016

## Military...

...from Page 3

14-year old girl informed about her plight.

Both girls have claimed that they were sexually abused by the rebels and were asked to take oral contraceptives.

The two are now at the custody of the Kananga Municipal Social Welfare Office.

The rescue of the two girls were condemned by the Commission on Human Rights through its spokesperson Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia as it vowed to launch its own investigation on this matter.

"Sexual slavery and recruitment of child soldiers, among others, are form of human trafficking. These horrendous acts towards vulnerable individuals alledegely

but to no avail.

"We do not want them to close the dressing plant because they are giving employment to a lot of people not just in Albuera but we hope that they look for solutions to address our concerns," she added.

Rosa, who declined to give her name and a resident of Brgy. San Joaquin whose home is just 30 meters from the dumping site, claimed that many of the villagers have suffered from vomiting and diarrhea due to the flies and foul odor emanating from the dumping site.

She said that wastes such as chicken dung, carcasses, and blood placed in drums, plastics bags, or sacks are transported to their village where the DBSN Farms owns a lot.

It was learned that San Joaquin is said to sit within the buffer zone of the declared watershed in Ormoc Bay, which has been declared part of the National Integrated Protected Areas System or the NIPAS Act of 2018 (RA 11038).

"We have filed this case to put an end to our suffering for years. We can no longer tolerate the smell and the flies causing our children to get sick," Rosa said.

**(LIZBETH ANN A. ABELLA with ROEL T. AMAZONA)**

being practiced by rebel forces are not just employed to spread fear and gain victims, but to use them as incentives to recruit new fighters," de Guia said.

"We call the government to provide redress for the victims including multi-sectoral assistance for health, psycho-social support, and reintegration in their communities. They require rehabilitation and special attention after their demobilization from the camp," she added.

The CHR also urged authorities to conduct swift investigation on the case to fund out the truth behind the allegation and to ensure that the offender is made accountable to the offense. **(ROEL T. AMAZONA)**



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM**  
 Tunay na Pagbabago sa Repormang Agraryo

Please be informed that the landholdings described below had been placed under coverage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) per Notice of Coverage as indicated below:

LANDOWNER	DATE NOC PUBLISHED	TITLE NO	LOT NO	AREA PER TITLE	MUNICIPALITY / PROVINCE	BARANGAY	DATE OF FIELD INVESTIGATION
1. VICENTE MAGISTRADO	JUNE 17, 2014 / MANILA BULLETIN	OCT-16185	11269	3.8106	BAYBAY, LEYTE	MAKINHAS	OCTOBER 26, 2020
2. GONZALO ALONZO	JUNE 16, 2014 / THE PHIL. STAR	TCT-T-18944	5366	8.5454	JARO, LEYTE	SARI-SARI	OCTOBER 27, 2020

In this connection, may we invite you or your authorized representative to participate in the Conduct of Joint Field Investigation as scheduled on the above date at 8:00 in the morning.

Your failure to participate in the Field Investigation shall be a waiver on your part to question the findings thereof.

We anticipate your full cooperation and support. Thank you.

(Sgd.) **RENATO G. BADILLA, MPMRD**  
 PARPO II

## Dry run on the delivery of modules

BY: BABY WILDA B. SALAS



Calbasag Elementary School of Julita District, Julita, Leyte conducted a dry run on the delivery and retrieval of modules to the learners from kindergarten to Grade 6 for the opening of classes come October 5, 2020.

This activity was based on one of the programs of the School's Continuity Plan the "Educycle".

It was proposed by Mrs. Daisymae M. Rivas, Mrs. Soledad R. Bindoy both from the said school. This is to test how the teachers will go through the actual delivery and retrieval of the modules as classes are started.

The school principal Mrs. Jane A. Firmo, co-ordinated with the Barangay Council headed by Hon. Rodrigo J. Macaso and barangay tanods, tricycle owners for the said activity, who will serve as the partners for this program throughout the

school year.

During the dry run, the principal, teachers, barangay officials and tanods assembled themselves in the barangay plaza with the modules placed in a plastic storage boxes ready for delivery to the eight zones with the assigned teacher. The modules were then delivered on a house to house basis to all the learners in every zone.

After which the modules were retrieved by the teachers with the help of the barangay officials, tanods and the educycles and then brought them back to the school for the checking and safe keeping by the teachers for its future use.

The school principal and teachers are thankful to all who contributed much for the success of the said activity.

(Note: The author is a teacher III of Calbasag Elementary School of Julita District, Julita, Leyte)

## Siding...

...from Page 5

it is a tough task watching the games by analyzing the plays, following the strategies of coaches and the way players execute their game plan. We hear people praise the genius of the bench tacticians as they make a difference in the outcome of every game. As basketball is a game of adjustments carried out quickly as the game is in progress, it is hard to notice how a coach is ably handling his team amid the noise of a roaring crowd and the frenzy of the players inside the court. From the viewpoint of a basketball referee, this writer enjoy the games observing the officiating and keeping neutral without siding.

comments to [allema@yahoo.com](mailto:allema@yahoo.com)

### DECLARATION OF HEIRSHIP OF ESTATE OF ANDREA MABINI

NOTICE is hereby given that the Surviving Heirs of Andrea Mabulac Mabini that said spouses died intestate leaving no will or testamentary disposition at the time of their deaths, executed a Declaration of Heirship over a parcel of Agricultural land situated in Barrio Ontolan, Municipality of Wright Samar, covered by Original Certificate of Title No. 9285 containing an area of One hundred Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Seven (113,667) square meters, Per Doc. No. 1314, Page No. 89, Book No. XIII, Series of 2020 before Notary Public Atty. Ronelito O. Ticoy.  
 LSDE: October 3, 10 & 17, 2020

### DECLARATION OF HEIRSHIP OF ESTATE OF THE SPOUSES FORTUNATO ABADIANO GABON AND MIGUELA ABAN

NOTICE is hereby given that the surviving heirs of spouses Fortunato Gabon and Miguela Gabon that said spouses died intestate leaving no will or testamentary disposition at the time of their deaths, executed a declaration of Heirship over a parcel of agricultural land situated in sitio Mugdo, Barrio Pabanog, Municipality of Wright Samar, covered by Original Certificate of Title No. 9376 particularly described as follows: An Agricultural land Lot No. 2381, Pls-658-D; situated at sitio, Mugdo, Barrio Pabanog Municipality of Wright, Province of Samar, containing an area of Thirty Seven Thousand One Hundred and Thirteen (37,113) square meters, per Doc. No. 1315, Page No. 89, Book No. XIII, Series of 2020 before Notary Public Atty. Ronelito O. Ticoy.  
 LSDE: October 3, 10 & 17, 2020

Republic of the Philippines  
 REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
 8th Judicial Region  
 Branches 6, 7, 8, 9, 34, 43 & 44  
 Bulwagan ng Katarungan  
 Tacloban City  
**OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT & EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF OF LEYTE**  
 HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG) (HDMF), Mortgagee/s, -versus- PAUL JAMES P. ANCAO, Mortgagee/s.  
 EJF No. 4177

For: EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE/ PERSONAL PROPERTY MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

### NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended, executed by PAUL JAMES P. ANCAO, of legal age, Filipino, with postal address at Lot 5, Block 1, Kassel City Subd., Brgy. Abucay, Tacloban City, Leyte, in favor of HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND), with principal office at Room 3520, 35th Floor, Petron Mega Plaza,

358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of July 8, 2020 amounted to ONE HUNDRED ELEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY FIVE PESOS AND 24/100 ONLY (P111,665.24) in Philippine Currency, including interest and penalty charges, but excluding additional interest and penalty charges until fully paid, expenses of collection, 10% of the total indebtedness as Attorney's Fees, plus expense of the Foreclosure, Sheriff's lawful fees, and Expenses for conducting the PUBLIC AUCTION on October 30, 2020 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM at entrance lobby of Regional Trial Court, Bulwagan ng Katarungan, Magsaysay Blvd., Tacloban City, to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippine Currency, the following properties with all its improvements, if any to wit:

**TCT No. No. 122-2017002108**  
 A PARCEL OF LAND DESIGNATED AS LOT 5, BLOCK 1 OF THE CONSOLIDATION-SUBDIVISION OF PLAN PCS-08-000665-D, BEING A PORTION OF BLOCK 13, LOTS 1-10, BLOCK 15, LOTS 1-10; BLOCK 17, LOTS 1-17; BLOCK 18, LOTS 25-47, BLK. 24, LOTS 1-14; BLOCK 25, LOTS 1-8; BLOCK 26, LOTS 1-6 AND BLOCK 31, LOTS 31, LOTS 1-6, PCS-08-000527-D, SITUATED IN THE BARANGAY ABUCAY, CITY OF TACLOBAN, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, ISLAND OF LEYTE. BOUNDED ON THE:  
 SW., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 4, BLOCK 1 OF THIS SUBDIVISION; ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 2-3

BY LOT 2357, CAD. 22; ON THE

NE., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 6, BLOCK 1 OF THIS SUBDIVISION; AND ON THE

SE., ALONG LINE 4-1 BY ROAD LOT 11, PCS-08-00527-D.

BEGINNING AT A POINT MARKED "1" ON PLAN BEING S. 70 DEG. 35'E., 490.63 M. FROM BBM# 19, CAD. 220.

CONTAINING AN AREA OF THIRTY FIVE (35) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS.

"Including the house, building(s) and other improvements now erected or hereafter maybe erected upon."

PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS AND BUYERS MAY INVESTIGATE FOR THEMSELVES THE TITLE AND ENCUMBRANCES, HEREIN ABOVE-DESCRIBED REAL PROPERTIES IF ANY THERE BE.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on November 06, 2020.

Magsaysay Blvd., Tacloban City, Leyte, Philippines. September 24, 2020.

FOR THE CLERK OF COURT & EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

(Sgd.) **MICHAEL L. YEE**  
 Sheriff IV  
 RTC-OCC,  
 Tacloban City  
 LSDE: Oct. 3, 10 & 17, 2020



## PNP pushes buy-bust operations against illegal drugs amid COVID-19

MAASIN CITY-Even as the Philippine National Police (PNP) continues to implement health protocols in the fight against the unseen enemy, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19), the fight against the "seen enemy" on illegal drugs goes on.

Police Colonel Dante Novicio, the new provincial PNP director, emphasized this point in a media briefing/Kapihan interview last week.

"Seventy (70) percent of the crimes committed are drugs-related," PCol. Novicio said.

He reported that in his two months stay as the new PNP chief in the province, there were already 10 buy-bust operations conducted, two of which were

bloody that resulted in the killing of the two high-value individuals (HVIs).

Novicio, who came from the Police Regional Office 8, assumed as provincial PNP director on July 22, taking the place of PCol. Nelson Eucogco, who was likewise transferred to PRO-8.

He said he was aware the Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency (PDEA) had declared the whole province drug-cleared, but new players come in, so the police went on conducting surveillance of suspected drug dealers and users.

Meanwhile, Novicio expressed support to a bill introduced by Senator Bato De La Rosa, the equal footing bill, which reduced the minimum height requirements for those wanting to

join the ranks of the PNP.

"Bigyan chance yung mga hindi pinagpala sa height," the Tagalog-speaking Novicio said of the proposed legislation, saying performance on the job cannot be measured by height but by the right work attitude.

Once approved, the new height requirement will only be at least 5 feet and 2 inches for men from the previous 5 feet and 4 inches, and 5 feet for women, down from 5 feet and 2 inches.

The PNP is continually hiring every year to offset those who are retiring, so any interested individuals may just visit the PRO-8 website for details, Novicio advised.

(Idl/mmp/PIA-Southern Leyte)

## Gov. Ongchuan visits livestock farm in Pambujan town



Northern Samar Governor Edwin Ongchuan inspects the Libas Estate in Pambujan to check on the viability of a multiplier farm livestock agricultural communities which aim to make the town and the rest of the province as self-sufficient in terms of breed stocks. (NORTHERN SAMAR PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICE)

CATARMAN, Northern Samar- Governor Edwin Ongchuan inspects Libas Estate in Pambujan, checks on the viability of a Multiplier Farm Livestock agricultural communities may soon become self-sufficient in terms of breed stocks since the Provincial Agriculture Office and the Provincial Veterinary Office propose to manage their own farm animal stations, from which livestock farmers can readily get their supply.

The multiplier farm concept brings animal reproduction to the communities where the beneficiary farmers are. The multiplier farm will then propagate these breeders and their offspring will be distributed to the farmer-beneficiaries.

Along with farm animals, vegetable seedlings are also hoped to be produced in the multiplier farm for distribution to local farmers.

Dubbed as the 'Libas Estate Multiplier Farm'

project, if approved, will have pure bred stocks which will also be used in upgrading the quality of breed through their offspring. The multiplier farm will assure steady livestock supply to various markets.

The provincial government also sees the project as a potential for farm tourism.

(NORTHERN SAMAR PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICE)

## Man who walked from Manila to Eastern Samar to receive assistance from LGU

TACLOBAN CITY - The municipal government of General Macarthur in Eastern Samar province are still to decide what possible assistance they would provide to a man who walked his way from Manila just to return to his hometown.

But upon his return, the municipal government provided Roel Navidad, 27, food packs and personal hygiene, Maria Josefa Corre, the town's disaster risk reduction management officer.

To recall, Navidad arrived at Gen. MacArthur last September 29 after walking almost a month.

According to him, he left Manila on the last week of August. He worked as a construction worker but lost his job after Luzon was placed under quarantine last March.

With no money, Navidad decided to return to Gen. MacArthur where he has relatives with whom he thought could help him.

As a locally stranded individual, Navidad has been placed in a quarantine facility by the municipal government.

Being quarantined is nothing new to Navidad as he was earlier quarantined in Sorso-gon on his way back home as part of the health protocols being enforced during this time of pandemic caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

In Matnog, Sorso-gon he boarded a ferry that brought him to Allen, Northern Samar.

From Allen, Navidad hitched-hike with a trucking service vehicle until he reached Jiabong town in Samar province, where



Roel Navidad, 27, walked for almost a month from Manila to General MacArthur, Eastern Samar. He said he decided to return to his hometown after he lost his work as a construction worker after a quarantine was imposed in Luzon last March due to COVID-19. (Credit Vince Yadao)

he again continued his journey walking from the municipality until he reached a checkpoint at the Eastern Samar provincial border located in the town of Taft where he appeared to be extremely exhausted and famished after walking for almost a month.

Corre said that this is not the first time that a resident of their town appeared at the border checkpoint without coordination from the local government unit.

"This is the 5th or 6th time. As much as possible we require them to coordinate with us because there are times that our quarantine facilities are full. It was a blessing that at this time our village quarantine facilities is currently empty," she added.

After his quarantine, Navidad will stay with his aunt, a sister of his father who is a resident of the Brgy 3. It was learned that he lost his father at young age and no idea the whereabouts of his

mother.

"His relatives has promised to help him. They pledged to given him a tricycle for his livelihood and build a house in a vacant lot near his aunt house," Corre said.

Navidad is the second resident of Eastern Samar province who take the risk of going home by their own.

Last week, Peter Roncales, 19, pedaled his way to return to Oras town from San Pedro City, Laguna.

Roncales is now staying at the municipal quarantine facility and received several assistance.

For one, the municipal government of Oras promised to build a house and even a livelihood for Roncales.

Sen. Christopher Bong Go also extended assistance to Roncales and promised to help his family in San Pedro City to also return to Oras.

(ROEL T. AMAZONA)









## PSA to hold 31st National Statistics Month celebration online

TACLOBAN CITY - The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) here in the region will launch the 31st National Statistics Month (NSM) Celebration in a virtual presentation.

This was revealed by PSA Regional Director Wilma Perante who said that the old tradition comes with a two-fold objectives which is to promote, enhance, and instill nationwide awareness and appreciation of the importance and value of statistics to the different sectors of society; and, to elicit the cooperation and support of the general public in upgrading the quality and standards of statistics in the country.

Perante explained that the 31st NSM virtual celebration is in consonance

with the ongoing health and safety measures undertaken by everyone across the globe.

With the theme, "Bridging Digital Gaps: Making Information Available to All", PSA sees the lag that needs to be filled to make access to government information equitable for everyone. "This year, we give interconnectivity a more human meaning and tries to bridge this digital divide," she said.

Perante further reported that the 31st NSM opening ceremony in the region will be held via Zoom and will be streamed live over PSA-RSSO 8 Facebook on October 9 at around 1 pm.

She added that the activities lined up for this month-long celebration aimed to reach out to

students and faculty, government and non-government sectors and workers from all walks of life, are the following: Awarding of the 2019 Bida Best NSM Agency; Awarding of the 2020 PSA Stakeholders Award; Spoken Poetry Contest; FB Stats Go; In-house Online Statistics Bingo; NSM Tiktok challenge; and Information dissemination of PSA survey results.

She said that PSA enjoins the public to support the 31st NSM activities. This annual observance is pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 647, "Declaring the Month of October of Every Year as the National Statistics Month," issued on 20 September 1990 by then Pres. Corazon C. Aquino.

**(RESTITUTO A.CAYUBIT)**

## NHA asked to set rules on awarding of 'Yolanda' houses

TACLOBAN CITY - The Regional Development Council (RDC) in Eastern Visayas has urged the National Housing Authority (NHA) to come up with uniformed guidelines in the selection of beneficiaries of housing projects for victims of Super Typhoon "Yolanda."

The RDC recently passed a resolution asking the NHA to come up with guidelines for the consideration of the local inter-agency committee (LIAC) in awarding completed houses, said National Economic Development Authority regional director Meylene Rosales in a phone interview on Thursday.

LIAC, chaired by mayors, has set different guidelines in the awarding of completed houses, she said.

"RDC members observed that the selection of beneficiaries has been highly politicized, resulting in the exclusion of deserving beneficiaries and contributing to the low number of housing units awarded," Rosales said.

As of mid-2020, of the 52,985 houses targeted for construction in Eastern Visayas, 36,116 have been completed and 25,293 have been awarded to beneficiaries.

The unfair selection of recipients, absence of elec-



**EMPTY HOUSES.** Some of the completed but still unoccupied houses in Tanauan, Leyte for victims of Super Typhoon Yolanda. The Regional Development Council (RDC) in Eastern Visayas urged the National Housing Authority (NHA) to come up with uniformed guidelines in the selection of beneficiaries of post-Yolanda housing projects.

(PNA file photo)

tricity, poor water supply, and lack of access to livelihood are among the reasons cited why many completed houses remain unoccupied.

On Sept. 16, President Rodrigo Duterte signed Administrative Order 33 extending the term of Inter-Agency Task Force Yolanda until June 30, 2022, unless earlier terminated by the President.

The task force's term expired last Aug. 12.

The order recognizes the need to facilitate the completion of the Yolanda Permanent Housing Program (YPHP), an integral component of the Yolanda Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Plan.

The YPHP aims to build houses and create livable, thriving, and disaster-resilient communities under a township approach where resettlement sites shall be provided, not only with the basic necessities of water and electricity but also with social infrastructures such as daycare centers, health centers, and school buildings within or near the housing project sites.

Yolanda (Haiyan), which struck the Philippines on Nov. 8, 2013, is considered one of the strongest typhoons ever recorded, with Tacloban City as its ground zero. **(SARWELL Q. MENIANO/PNA)**

## Farmer arrested for illegal possession of firearms in Leyte town

ORMOC CITY- A farmer was arrested on Thursday (Oct.1) for illegally possessing firearms at his house in Albuera, town, Leyte.

Arrested by the combined elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), Leyte Police Office tracker team 2, 1st Leyte Mobile Force Company and the town police of Albuera was Tomas Curz,47, a resident of sitio Cambinak, Barangay Sherwood.

Found on his possession were one unit caliber .45 pistol with three pieces magazine assembly and 52 rounds of live bullet of same caliber;

one unit KG 9 sub machine gun with silencer with two pieces magazine assembly and 45 rounds of live bullet; and another live gun shells for caliber .40 and magnum .22.

Town police said they have no information of the suspect's attachment to any group.

The operating units led by Lt. Col. Marvin Pedere of CIDG based in Ormoc City was armed with two search warrants dated September 28, 2020 that were issued by Judge Carlos Arguelles, presiding officer of Regional Trial Court-Branch 14 based in Baybay City.

Cruz was temporarily detained at the CIDG

lock-up before he was presented to the issuing court.

Charges are now prepared for violation of Republic Act 10591 against the suspect.

**(ELVIE ROMAN ROA)**

## E. Samar's first dialysis center to open this year

TACLOBAN CITY - The Eastern Samar Provincial Hospital (ESPH) in Borongan City will open the first dialysis center in the province this year that would provide free services for indigent patients.

In a statement on Wednesday, ESPH chief Jessica Sabalberino said the provincial government has entered into an agreement with a private service provider that would bring 20 dialysis machines to the public hospital.

Based on the contract of service, the private partner will also provide a nephrologist and other equipment and accessories for the center, while the provincial government will provide the space and manpower for its operation and maintenance.

"This will be estab-

lished as soon as possible. This is now on the part of the service provider since the province has already provided what they are asking for," Sabalberino said.

She added the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation will shoulder the dialysis treatment of each patient in the province up to P4,000.

If the cost exceeds the amount, he said the Malasakit Center will pay the remaining balance to the service provider.

"It is specified in the contract that patients won't have to shell out any amount for their dialysis. This is purely service to all patients here," she added.

The ESPH disclosed that some 156 dialysis patients in the province travel for hours two to three times per week to undergo treatment in Ta-



**DIALYSIS CENTER.** The Eastern Samar Provincial Hospital in Borongan City. The government hospital on Wednesday (Sept. 30, 2020) said it will open the first dialysis center in the province this year that would provide free services for indigent patients. (Photo courtesy of Alren Beronio)

cloban City, the regional capital.

"This is timely since patients here still need to go to Tacloban where there are dialysis centers. There are reported cases as well of coronavirus transmission in some dialysis clinics," Sabalberino

no said.

Dialysis is a treatment that filters and purifies the blood using a machine. This helps keep one's fluids and electrolytes in balance when the kidneys cannot function properly. **(GERICO SABALZA/PNA)**

## Historic Homonhon Island rattled by a 3.7 quake

TACLOBAN CITY- A 3.7 magnitude earthquake struck the historic town of Homonhon off Guiuan town in Eastern Samar on Thursday morning.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said that based on its monitoring, the tremor occurred at around 9:40 am and has a depth of focus of 020 kms.

The jolt which was of tectonic in origin did not result to any damages or aftershocks, the Phivolcs said.

Homonhon is where Ferdinand Magellan first landed in the Philippines on March 16, 1521. **(JAG)**

# Leyte maintains MGCQ status for the month of October



Governor Leopoldo Dominico Petilla

PALO, Leyte – Governor Leopoldo Dominico Petilla has signed Executive Order (EO) 10-01-2020 maintaining the modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) status of Leyte that will take effect for the entire month of October.

Petilla, however, clarified that the MGCQ status may be shortened or extended depending on the recommendation of the Provincial IATF COVID-19 without prejudice to declaration of localized Enhanced Community Quarantine in some parts of the province.

The province was under the MGCQ implementation for the month of September.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III in his announcement during a televised re-meeting with President Rodrigo Duterte last September 28 did not mention Leyte as one of the areas that will be un-

der GCQ for the month of October.

The announcement of Sec. Duque said that those areas that were not mentioned to be under the general community quarantine will be classified under the most lenient quarantine status which is the MGCQ.

Petilla explained that maintaining the MGCQ status implementation will help his province in the faster economic recovery during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The governor added that the mechanisms

that had been in place by the local government before will ensure that the economic activities will not be hampered while

our authorities continue to fight the spread of COVID-19.

He added that the less stringent quarantine measures will allow the unrestricted delivery of goods and services to the public like the unhindered movement of farm products to the market or consumers.

Petilla said that as in previous MGCQ implementations, the activities that will remain prohibited include mass gathering of people.

Business establishments may continue

with their operations on conditions that they will comply with the requirements as stipulated in the health protocols. In the transportation business like the public utility vehicles (PUVs), the owner or operator should comply with the safety measures and standards required by the Department of Transportation, Petilla said.

Petilla clarified that business establishments have the right to reject any customer who exhibiting influenza-like symptoms or not wearing a face mask.

The drivers of PUVs may reject a passenger if not wearing a face mask and face shield.

The prohibition still remains on the entry of all persons to the province from other places either by sea, land or air except for the locally stranded individuals and returning overseas Filipino workers, wherein they are required to undergo the mandatory 14-day quarantine period upon arrival to their respective local government units, Petilla said. (RESTITUTO A. CAYUBIT/ ROEL T. AMAZONA)

## Northern Samar celebrates peace gains

CATARMAN Northern Samar – “There is a reason for Northern Samar to celebrate and observe Peace Consciousness Month,” said Emy Bonifacio, area coordinator of the Office of Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) in a PIA radio interview.

Northern Samar has been a recipient of government programs and projects particularly on roads and bridges in response to the clamor as one of the ways to end the local insurgency.

OPAPP through the PAYapa at MASaganang Pamayan (Pamana) funded the province’s more than P2 billion budget for roads and bridges in various areas covered under the program since it started in 2011. There were 18 projects, nine of which are already completed, seven on-going with two projects to start yet.

Successful implementation is credited to the provincial government’s sup-

port through the Provincial Pamana Management Team and the efforts of the civil society organization through a Third Party Monitor ensuring transparency and that, projects will really serve its purpose.

“Gains were already felt with the construction of farm-to-market roads where product transport became easier and shorter in time. Before, it took seven to eight hours to travel by foot to Silvino Lubos and now it only takes an hour for all types of vehicles in reaching the capital town,” said Bonifacio.

Basic social services can now be availed of by those residing in the far-flung areas and access to government interventions mostly in conflict-affected areas can now be addressed easily.

“Concreted road networks will not only boost economic development but more importantly inspire

and encourage rebels to abandon the armed struggle and return to the folds of the law with the government’s assurance of liveli-

hood assistance and safe, secure, and peaceful living,” Bonifacio said. (ADiaz/PIA N. Samar)

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✓ With increased creatinine  
✓ Asthma  
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