



Leyte-Samar

# DAILY EXPRESS

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TACLOBAN  
RIZAL AVENUE

VOL. XXXII NO. 085

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020

P15.00 IN TACLOBAN

## 7 inmates at Northern Samar sub-jail tested positive of COVID-19

JOEY A. GABIETA

**TACLOBAN CITY-At least seven prisoners in Northern Samar jail were tested positive of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).**

The inmates at the sub-provincial jail located in Laoang town were among the 65 new cases of the region, the Department of Health (DOH) said.

And based on the post of Laoang Mayor Harris Ongchuan, the said facility, located in Barangay Dona Luisa, was immediately placed under lockdown hours after the result was announced by the DOH last Friday night.

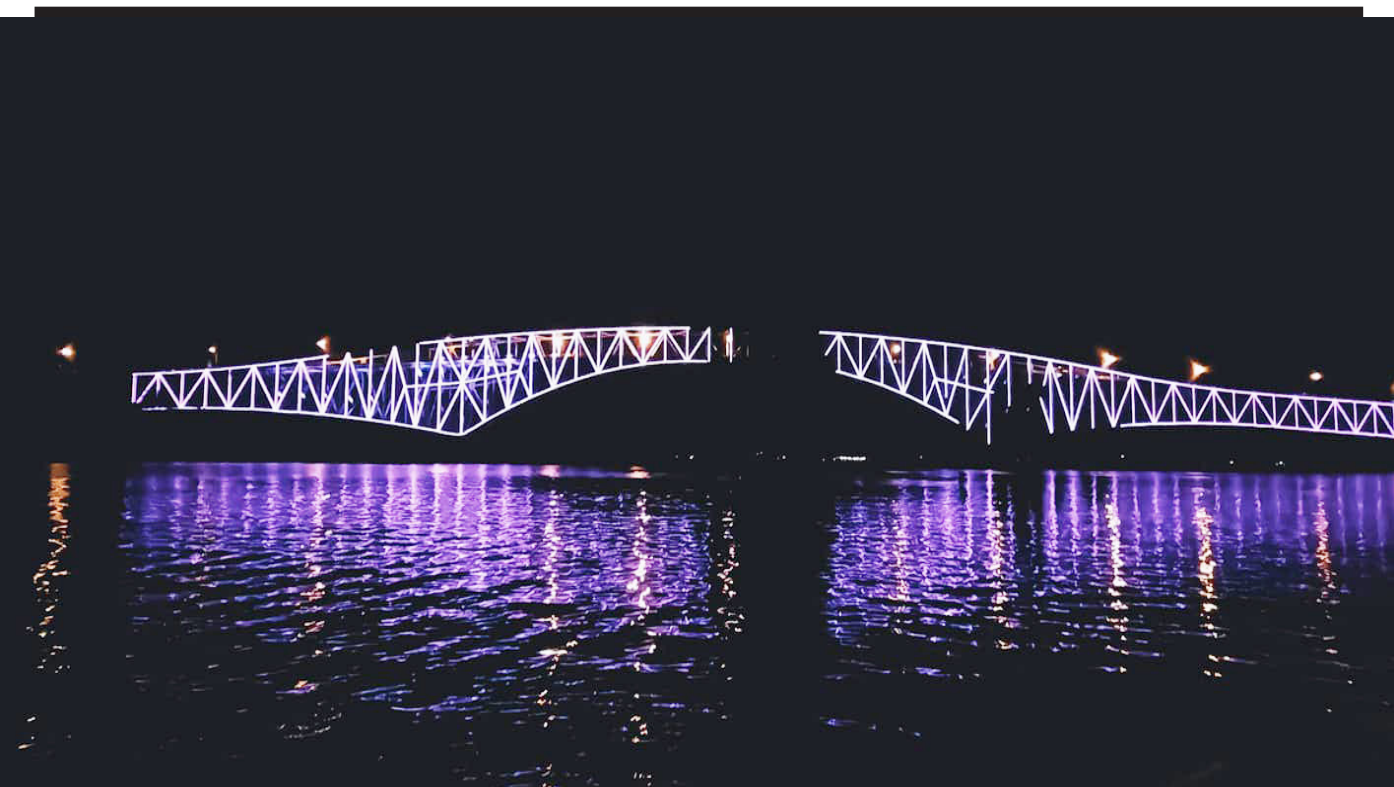
Rei Josiah Echano, head of the Northern Samar Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, said that it is not yet clear how the inmates got the infection though some

of them have shown manifestations like fever reason the management made a random swab test among them.

"The local task force is still investigating the possible source of the infection inside the subprovincial jail," he said.

Echano said that those who were tested positive were immediately isolated as the provincial government under Gov. Edwin Ongchuan provided vitamins to all the inmates and jail guards of the said facility.

*see 7 inmates /page 7 ...*



**ILLUMINATION.** The iconic San Juanico Bridge, which connects the islands of Leyte and Samar, will soon dazzle with computer-programmed colorful lights by December of this year. Last Saturday(Oct.10), a test run of its lighting was conducted by the contractors. The lighting project at San Juanico Bridge is expected to lure more tourists to the site. (ROEL T. AMAZONA)

### Work now 75% completed

## Lighting project of San Juanico Bridge to open in December

**TACLOBAN CITY-**The much-anticipated aesthetic lighting project of the region's most iconic bridge, the San Juanico Bridge, is expected to be open to the public by December of this year.

This was disclosed by Tourism Regional Director Karina Rosa Tiope who said that by that time, the lighting project would bring cheers among

the people of the region, in particular, during this time of pandemic caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

"Of course, we are happy that the project is almost finished as this is the first bridge in the country with this kind of lighting," Tiope said.

(The provincial government of Samar) is looking that by December it will be open to the public so that we will have a merry Christmas as for the past months, we are only confined in our homes (due to the pandemic) and lonely. This will add glitters to our Christmas," she added.

On Saturday night, the computerized-generated lighting was tested by the Amigo Entertainment Technologies, Inc. (AETI) which handles the project.

According to Engr. Cris

De la Rea of the AETI, the lighting project is about 75 percent completed particularly on the Samar side and expected to be finished within this month.

It was learned from him that more than 11,000 LED-colored lights will adorn the 2.16 kms San Juanico Bridge that connects Leyte and Samar Islands.

The multiple colored lights can form into various shapes and designs, depending on occasions like Christmas and Valentines, for example.

Once open, the light show will become a nightly thing at the San Juanico Bridge and will 'entertain' the public every 15 minutes.

The project is funded by the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), an at-  
*see Lightning /page 7 ...*

## DTI distributes livelihood starter kits to 78 small entrepreneurs in Tacloban City

**TACLOBAN CITY-**In mitigating the effects of this economic crisis, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has distributed livelihood starter kits

to some 78 qualified micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) beneficiaries here to help restore and improve their businesses to cushion the impact of the

COVID-19 pandemic.

Of the said number, at least 38 city residents were beneficiaries of Pangkabuhayan sa Pagbangon at

*see DTI /page 7 ...*



At least 38 residents of Tacloban City received livelihood starter kits from the Department of Trade and Industry(DTI) under the Pangkabuhayan sa Pagbangon at Ginhawa Program (PPG).(TACLOBAN CITY INFORMATION OFFICE)



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COURTESY CALL — Department of Agriculture Secretary William Dar visited Majority Leader and Leyte Rep Martin Romualdez (left) for a short talk before the deliberation of 2021 budget of the Department of Agriculture at the plenary of the House Representatives.photo by Ver Noveno

## More than 700 Leyte, Samar farmers now adhere to modern corn growing

PALO, Leyte - More than 700 corn farmers who have graduated in a radio corn production course last year are now practicing the scientific method of farming. This was bared by Leyte Governor Leopoldo Dominico Petilla who said that the 789 farmers from 17 municipalities and one town from Samar who have

finished the course of the school-on-the-air on good practices for corn are now practicing modern farming on corn production.

Petilla said that the corn production course aired over the local radio last April 2019 was the partnership program of his office with the Agricultural Training Institute/

Regional Training Center 8, based in Visayas State University in Baybay City.

The governor explained that the main objective of the program was to upgrade the knowledge and practices of the farmers on modern corn production for them to improve their harvests and

see More than/page 3 ...

## Maasin city gov't adopts alternative working scheme amid surge of COVID-19 cases

TACLOBAN CITY- The city government of Maasin is adopting an alternative working arrangement starting Monday (Oct.12).

This after the capital of Southern Leyte province experienced an increase of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases last week with 19 confirmed patients just for a single day.

Mayor Naccional Mercado said that under the alternative working arrangement, workforce in the city government is reduced to 50 percent.

"The city government shall adopt the skeleton workforce arrangement to all city offices. Deter-

mination of the personnel who will report in a weekly basis shall be the head of the office taking into consideration the need for the office's operation in providing public service," the city mayor said.

Employees and personnel who are not required to report to the office for the week shall adopt the work-from-home arrangement scheme.

Priority to avail the work-from-home scheme are those who belong to the risky group such as 60 years old and above, pregnant women, and those with immunodeficiency, co-morbidities, and other health risks.

Last October 9, the city

government had placed some areas in the city including the Maasin City Police Station under hard lockdown until midnight of October 12, after the Department of Health here in the region announced that the city recorded 19 cases of COVID-19.

Among those who were tested positive were six policemen assigned at the Maasin City Police Station.

The police station was

placed on lockdown while the policemen were isolated at the city isolation facility.

Plt. Col Mark Nalda, police chief of Maasin, recalled all of his personnel, including the police trainees of the ongoing Field Training Program and its Field Training Officers and order them to undergo strict quarantine and be subjected to swabbing.

(ROEL T. AMAZONA)

## P15 million FMR project seen to improve agricultural productivity in Leyte town

TACLOBAN CITY - The farm-to market road (FMR) constructed in Pastrana, Leyte now serves the residents and is seen to improve the agricultural activity of the town.

Governor Leopoldo Dominico Petilla told reporters in an interview that the FMR covers and connects the barangays of Sapsap to Manaybanay; Socsocon to Lima; and Cancaraja to Arabunog of the said town.

Petilla said that the FMR will benefit the res-

idents of these barangays since farmers can now transport their products easily to any point of Pastrana and is expected to enhance the agricultural productivity of the municipality.

The governor added that this FMR project is also advantageous to the people commuting in the area as this would provide them smooth and convenient travels.

It was learned that this FMR project was constructed under the convergence program

## Region's total cases now at 5,278 EV logs eight new cases; An Tingog party-list donates isolation facility in Northern Samar

TACLOBAN CITY- The Department of Health (DOH) reported that the region has eight new cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), raising its total cases to 5,278 as of Monday(Oct.12).

The new cases of the region were from Leyte with six new cases and two from Northern Samar.

As this developed, Dr. Minerva Molon, the regional director of the DOH, said that it is early to say that the region's COVID-19 cases is flattening saying that while it appears that the regional cases of infection is decreasing, there are areas that are experiencing surge of COVID-19 cases.

Molon said that the region posted its highest monthly COVID-19 cases on August with 2,212 but the following month, September, it decreased to just 1,607 and for the first

weeks of this month, the region has just more than 200 COVID-19 cases.

"While COVID-19 cases of the region appears to be declining, there are areas where their cases are increasing," she said.

The regional director particularly cited the case of Calbayog City in Samar which is showing a surge of COVID-19 cases for the past weeks now.

At present, the city has 336 cases with two deaths.

Its mayor, Ronald Aquino, placed 16 barangays under hard lock where there are high COVID-19 cases.

Meantime, an isolation facility located within the compound of the Northern Samar Provincial Hospital (NSPH) in Catarman town was inaugurated last Oct.9.

The construction of the P15 million worth facility was donated by Tingog

party-list Rep. Yedda Marie Romualdez and her husband, Majority Floor Leader, Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez and could accommodate 40 patients.

Dr. Joseph Estanislao, NSPH chief of hospital, said that the isolation facility would be a big help in addressing lack of space for COVID-19 patients in the province.

"Aside from funding, one of the restrictions is the lack of space. This will greatly enhance our capacity," he said in an interview.

Currently, the NSPH has 11 COVID-19 confined patients of which five of them are health workers.

At present, Northern Samar has 182 COVID-19 cases in all with one death. (JOEY A. GABIETA with report LIZBETH ANN A. ABELLA)

## DE Oppura held meeting with contractors undertaking projects of the district

CARIGARA, Leyte - Newly-assumed district engineer of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) -Leyte Second District Engineering Office, Leo Edward Oppura, has called for a meeting with various contractors.

"The DPWH and contractors are key partners in the implementation of projects. With your prompt cooperation and coordination we will be able to attain our work accomplishment targets," Oppura said.

"DPWH project engineers are always on the

ground to assist and guide you. Do not hesitate to approach them if you have any concern regarding the project," he added.

"Let us do away with time suspension. However, we cannot avoid that because of this pandemic, so best solution is to prepare the necessary documentation at the earliest possible time," he stressed.

Oppura told the contractors that he ordered the project engineers to settle concerns, evaluate, supervise inventory and expedite project implementation and have close coordination with them.

"At the same time, I will also conduct close monitoring on all projects of the district to ensure that plans and program of works adheres to the project implementation," Oppura expressed.

The meeting was held on October 01 at the maintenance section of the district engineering office.

Around 25 contractors attended the coordination meeting of which 13 of them participated in the morning scheduled meeting while 12 participants were present in the afternoon session.

Prior to the meeting, participants undergo body temperature check, hand sanitation, wearing of face mask and maintaining the 1-meter social distancing to avoid the potential risk from covid-19. (PR)

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# Pre-registration for national ID system starts on Monday; Leyte among the identified areas

TACLOBAN CITY – The pre-registration for national ID here in Leyte has started on Monday (Oct.12).

This was disclosed by Wilma Perante, the regional director of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) who said that Leyte is among the 32 priority areas in the country for this undertaking.

She added that there are identified household heads of 313,147 from low-income households in Leyte provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Additional of 313,147 adult members from the same households will also be interviewed during the pre-registration.

“A total of 626,294 individuals including household heads of low income are targeted to be pre-registered in Leyte before end of the year,” Perante said.

The director explained that the first step in the registration process is a pre-registration that involves going from house-to-house of pre-identified household heads to get their demographic information and to schedule a date for them to visit the registration center.

“The demographic information that will be gathered by PSA interviewers using tablet includes full name, sex, date of birth, place of birth, address whether Filipino or resident alien, marital status, mobile number and email address,” she said.

On the other hand, Perante further explained, the second step in the registration process is the biometric capturing of the pre-registered individuals in the registration center, which will start on 25 November 2020.

The director informed that PSA takes the lead in the conduct of the PhilSys registration, with the assistance and support of various government agencies and all local government units (LGUs).

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed the Philippine Identification System Act or Republic Act No. 11055 into law on 6 August 2018, which establishes a single national identification system.

Perante appeals to the public for their full support and cooperation to the PhilSys registration.

“The office assures the public that personnel who will be conducting the interviews are healthy and will observe the Department of Health (DOH) and local government units (LGUs) protocols against COVID-19, such as wearing of face mask and face shield, physical distancing, proper hygiene and sanitation, and wearing of PSA ID,” she said.

Perante said that PSA reassures the public that all information furnished by the registrants will be held strictly confidential and shall not be used as evidence in court for purposes of taxation, regulation or investigation as provided for in Republic Act No. 10625 or the Philippine Statistical Act of 2013. Further, PSA strictly complies with legal safeguards provided for by Republic Act No. 11073 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012, she concluded.

**(RESTITUTO A. CAYUBIT)**

# Leyte village offers free internet, computer access for learners

TANAUAN, Leyte – As schools have moved to online platforms and adopted distance learning amid the global health crisis, a village here has opened its computer library to help students without gadgets and poor internet access at home.

The project of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) of Barangay Canramos was set up in June in time for the opening of classes, which was delayed months later due to the rising cases of coronavirus disease 2019.

SK chairman Nikko Cesar said the library set up inside the village hall has three computer sets, a printer, and a Wi-Fi router, solely for educational use.

“It was planned and funded even before the pandemic since our community is home to four big schools in town. It is very timely that this was realized in the time that we are adapting to the new normal,” he said in an interview on Friday.

To get free access, students are encouraged to donate plastic bottles that are recycled or sold to purchase additional printer ink and bond papers.

Christopher Laurence Roa, 20, is one of its regular clients since classes started this week.

“I have printed my self-learning modules and been attending my virtual classes in the computer library. I’m sincerely thankful to the youth leaders here for coming up with this project to help students with limited resources to adopt in the new normal,” he said.

The freshman student, taking up Bachelor of Science in Hospitality and Management at the Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU) Tanauan campus located in Canramos, said that instead of spending on printing and internet, he is able to save money for more important things.

He said this is a big help for her mother, a single parent, who earns a meager income from selling barbeque and doing laundry services to support six children.

“In fact, my mother is thankful and supportive of this project. She and my siblings also collect empty plastic bottles which I donate every time I visit the computer library,” Roa said.

Driven by determination, he said he is willing to pursue education despite the health crisis in order to have a stable job in the future.

“For me, it’s okay to continue education amid the pandemic as long as students are given considerations for delayed submission of school requirements,” he added.

EVSU Tanauan science instructor Mary Ann Balagasay lauded the initiative of the SK council that supports education and at the same time promotes environmental protection.

She said the use of the internet and gadgets are only considered as wants before, but given the current situation, these can be considered as needs especially in education.

“Most of the unprivileged students of our society are greatly challenged with online learning. With this project, we are able to



**DISTANCE LEARNING.** The computer library project of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) of Barangay Canramos in Tanauan, Leyte. SK chairman Nikko Cesar on Friday (Oct. 9, 2020) said the project offers students free internet and computer access to help them cope with the challenge of distance learning due to the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic. (Photo courtesy of Nikko Cesar)

preserve mother nature and help the youth work on their dreams by pursuing education,” Balagasay said.

The computer library is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Canramos SK council strictly implements health protocols such as the mandatory wearing of face masks, handwashing before entry, and observance of physical distancing.

They are also planning to add more computer sets next year to help more students cope with the challenge of online learning.

**(GERICO SABALZA/PNA)**

# In Naval, LGU, groups conduct ‘pintakasi’ painting the tombs at the public cemetery

TACLOBAN CITY – Naval town Mayor Gerard Espina was grateful to groups who help in their annual “pintakasi” in painting the tombs at their public cemetery over the weekend.

“Thank you for those who assisted us (as) giving our cemetery a better look is our way of showing respect to the dead,” he said.

Among those who joined the pintakasi were the Naval Youth Club, Naval street sweepers, and LGU watchmen.

The local government unit of Naval started to paint graves at the public cemetery last year.

Last year, the LGU aside from painting the graves also provided gravestone for each tomb that has no grave marker.

Residents of Naval were thankful to the municipal government for the initiative in helping them clean the tombs of their departed family member whom they cannot visit this

All Saints and Souls Days due to restriction imposed by the government to avoid overcrowding and prevent the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases under IATF Resolution no. 70 has ordered the closure of all private and public cemeteries, memorial parks and columbariums across the country from October 29 to

November 4, 2020.

Visitors, however, may be allowed inside cemeteries, memorial parks and columbariums until November 15 but only up to 30 percent of the venue capacity.

**(ROEL T. AMAZONA)**



# DOLE-E. Samar grants P520K aid to Oras farmers’ group

BORONGAN CITY– The Department of Labor and Employment – Eastern Samar Field Office (DOLE-ESFO) granted P520,624 livelihood assistance to Dao Rice Farmers Development Association (DARIFA-DA) on October 6, 2020 in Barangay Dao, Oras, Eastern Samar.

Engr. Aleksei Ceasar D. Abellar, OIC Chief/DOLE-ESFO said that the proponent which is the local government of Oras has a counterpart in the amount of P130,611.

The actual assistance granted to this association was P651,235 including the LGU counterpart.

The livelihood program aims to improve the living conditions of the low-income families through income-generating projects, strengthen the role of member participation, and to promote collective effort among members towards the development of the community.

Abellar said that DARIFA-DA submitted a project proposal, “Tindahan han mga Parag-uma ha Brgy. Dao (Agrivet Store). The Agrivet Store will sell animal feeds, tools, and farm equipment.”

The DOLE-ESFO has

facilitated the release of this livelihood program through the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP).

The livelihood assistance will benefit 55 individual marginalized farmers consisting of self-employed with low income who can hardly provide for their family needs.

The livelihood assistance of the DOLE has proved to be an essential program to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19, especially to the vulnerable and marginalized workers.

**(Nbq/SDC/PIA-E. Samar)**

# More than... ...from Page 2

eventually increase their incomes.

He pointed out that the radio program transformed the farmers from traditional to scientific growers.

Petilla admitted that Leyte is not yet corn sufficient. He added that to fill in the needed supply, the corn dealers in his province buy corn products from other ar-

eas of the country, mostly in Cebu and Mindanao.

The governor, however, said that he is optimistic with the farmers’ practicing the scientific corn farming, there will be sufficient supply of corn in his province in the near future.

The governor said that the farmers who are now productive in this trying time of pandemic supply the province with corn produced from their farms.

**(RESTITUTO A.CAYUBIT)**



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## On flawed modules

**T**he left-and-right facebook posts highlighting, or inviting attention to many errors in the modules that have been distributed to households, which the students are working on, are generating lots of reactions from netizens: some getting angry, the rest getting amused, and the majority getting critical. Only very few seem to take the situations into account.

To recall, the onslaught of the coronavirus in our country had been unpredictable. There were times in the last few months when the trend was somehow promising, casting rays of hope that soon, the curve could be flattening. And so, with this, the agencies tasked to manage the situations came up with predictions that, come certain dates, quarantines could be eased up, and normalcy could be allowed back in place.

The education sector, drawing guidance from their suggestions, was also maneuvering as to how the schools would be made operational. In fact, dates were set for classes to start, face-to-face or otherwise. We can just imagine the unpredictability of situations to consider inside the education de-

partment, among its managers, decision-makers, and mentors. So when the resolve to go modular was finally fixed, module makers were quickly mobilized.

Sad to say, amid their hasty work, under much time pressure, and with voluminous materials to prepare, these creators had a hard time delivering the expected outputs. The results, of course, yielded numerous errors, flaws, and weaknesses. Much to the people's disgust, given their high expectations. What else can we expect from that rush? Had there been enough time to prepare, perhaps the outputs could have been better off. But the unpredictability of the pandemic situation and the eventual indecision from top officials had eaten up their time to prepare those said modules.

Too late as it is, the printed modules that had been distributed cannot surely correct themselves. But the people who see the errors can do so. Instead of posting them on social media, why not report these mistakes to the proper authorities for correction? The fact that they see errors means that these critics can correct the same before their kids. If it takes a community to raise a child, then teaching them must be everybody's concern.



**Things To Mind**

**DOMS PAGLIAWAN**

## No support for vengeance

We are just two years away before the next elections come. Political aspirants aiming for various posts are already flexing their muscles, in fact secretly maneuvering in preparation for that big event in their careers. They are fielding people, raising the nec-

essary funds, and gathering support from potential electorates.

Time and again it has been observed by our people that some politicians aspiring for key positions in the land, from the president down to the lowest barangay official, are not for the welfare of the people but are just after vengeance against their perceived enemies. This kind of mentality, for sure, affects not just their intention but also their preparations. They resort, for instance, to an adversarial position in their campaign sorties.

This means that, with that mission, they try to equip themselves with

power and money and influence just so they could avenge their wounded egos. Once they achieve all this, they launch their attack against the political foes who they think had wronged them, to get even. This is termed politics of vengeance, headlined in one national daily just a couple of days ago.

Next to corruption, this is what many politicians are after. No wonder they resort to establishing private armies, transforming political battles into armed and violent ones. This is to maintain their grip of power—both for protection and offensive opera-

see No Support /page 8 ..





What's New  
Mr. Q?

TENTE U. QUINTERO

The congressional Speakership squabble with the latest problems in Congress, could President Duterte's solution be in this column?

The camp of Marin-duque Congressman Lord Allan Velasco intends to insist on the term-sharing agreement and declare the Speaker's seat vacant, if incumbent Alan Peter Cayetano will not step down on October 14, Wednesday -- the date agreed upon during the meeting with President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in Malacanang last Tuesday, September 29th.

They will insist on the 15-21 or the 'Magellan' Agreement and declare the position vacant. So, on October 14th, people would be watching closely the events in the Batasang Pambansa.

Under the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Speakership post may be declared vacant through nominal voting by a majority vote of all the members - This Columnist's Big Questions -

Question # 1 - What happens to our 1st District Congressman of Leyte, Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, who is the current Majority Floor Leader. Will he still be retained as Majority Floor Leader?

Question # 2 - What happens to the following Eight (8) Deputy Speakers who were appointed by Speaker Cayetano -

1. Cong. Paolo Z. Duterte of Hungpong ng Pagbabago
2. Cong. Ferdinand L. Hernandez of the Nationalist Peoples Coalition
3. Cong. Evelina G. Escudero of the Nationalist Peoples Coalition
4. Cong. Loren Legarda of the Nationalist People's Coalition
5. Cong. Conrado Estrella III of the Abono Partylist
6. Cong. Prospero Pichay, Jr. of the Lakas-NUCD
7. Cong. Roberto Puno of the National Unity Party
8. Cong. Eddie Villanueva of the CIBAC Partylist

Will they be replaced by the new Speaker?

Question # 3 - What happens to the Sixty-three (63) Chairmen & their respective members in the different Standing Committees of the Philippine Congress appointed by Speaker Cayetano, will they be replaced?

Question # 4 - What happens to the Sixteen (16) Chairman & their respective members in the different Special Committees of

the Philippine Congress appointed by Speaker Cayetano, will they be replaced?

Now, it is common knowledge in Congress that Congressmen whose appointments are made & administered by the Speaker owes some kind of loyalty to the said Speaker. That is why it is not a surprise why the deputy Speakers, Committee Chairmen and even their committee members develop a certain degree of loyalty to their appointing officer -- the Speaker.

That's why, it is widely believed in Congress that these people are also responsible in pressuring Speaker Cayetano to "hold on" to the Speakership, because of the probability and they would be replaced by the Speaker-in-Waiting Velasco once Cayetano is replaced; and they also lose of the perks and privileges as Deputy Speakers, Committee Chairmen & members!

THE PRESIDENT'S NOT-SO-FRIENDLY WARNING  
Then, last Thursday, October 8, 2020, the Associated Press came out with the following startling news --

"MANILA, Philippines -- Seemingly aghast at the on-going squabble between Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano and Speaker-in-Waiting Lord Alan Velasco, President Rodrigo Duterte appeared on television and openly declared that "he will intercede and resolve the leadership row in the House of Representatives, if the impasse threatens to stall the passage of the 2021 P 4.5 Trillion National Budget during this coronavirus crisis."

"President Rodrigo Duterte did not elaborate on what he would do if the House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano and Cong. Lord Allan Velasco would fail to end their rivalry over the leadership of the 300-member legislative chamber.

"You should resolve the issue on your impasse there and pass the budget legally and constitutionally' but if you don't do it, then I will do it for you," Duterte said.

"Think of the Filipinos who are in hospitals and in need medicines and those who may die at this time without medicines; without anything." Duterte said, and added that he should not be dragged into the leadership

squabble.

"Velasco said he should assume the speakership by October 14, Wednesday, under the power-sharing deal brokered by President Duterte.

"But Cayetano demanded that Velasco should prove that he has the backing of most of the legislators; then he suddenly allowed the suspension of congressional sessions until November 16, a Monday, thus in doing so, he pre-empted any attempt to wrest control of Congress from him..

"Cayetano's camp steered the initial approval of the proposed 2021 National Budget amounting to 4.5 Trillion Pesos (\$90 Billion), then announced the congressional break.

"Several congressmen protested that they were deprived of their right to scrutinize the budget and called for an immediate resumption of congressional sessions, but to no avail.

x-----x  
With the above impasse or situation, this Columnist started recalling relatively similar scenarios in the past and somehow remembered an ABS-CBN news/article dated July 6, 2019, which we copied below....

see The Congressional / page 7 ...



Foulshot

AL ELLEMA

Modules

Ramming lessons into the heads of the learners who are at home with parents in these uncertain times of the covid19 pandemic is a disaster visibly coming. While teachers spent their time preparing for the modules that would be taught their students in the classroom but could not be done due to the pandemic. The preparation is tedious on the part of the teachers who had to prepare the subject matters for discussion and the practice tests that were usually done as seat-work in normal times.

The voluminous teaching materials are distributed to the pupils and students on a regular schedule, often on a weekly scheme in order not to overload the students. But the materials are aplenty and the same had to be



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Trivia on the Science-based regulations on cigarette alternatives

The regulations are referred to smokers who wants to quit smoking. Thus, advocates THR or tobacco harmful reduction have called for "science-based, innovation-driven regulation of alternative nicotine delivery such as HTP or heated tobacco products to ensure access on effective technologies".to address the known cigarette smokers.

According to Chris Allen, chief scientific officer at Broughton Nicotine Services "regulations must be

based on sound science and not be driven by politics, which is unfortunately not always the case."

THR advocates, gathered during the 2020 Global Tobacco and Nicotine Forum (GTNF), reported that their more than seven million people die due to tobacco-related diseases. Records show that 1.3 billion people use tobacco products most of these are in the form of toxic combustible form. This alarmed the President of the Foundation for a Smoke-free

help was countered with an advisory from the education department which bared its having downloaded enough funds for the learning materials.

The admonition brought more questions than answers as people started asking where the funds are. The situation at the classroom level is the real measure on the truth about funds having been provided by the central office. It is hard to fathom why the funds are not seemingly reaching the end-users at the classroom level. The solicitation for help are being discouraged as there are purportedly funds for their needs. But despair is too strong an emotion that the teachers are with-  
see Modules /page 8 ...

World, Derek Yock who said that "The goal of a regulator should primarily be to reduce that harm in the fastest possible time." On one hand, Elaine Round, senior director of scientific and regulatory affairs at RAI Services, has noted that "There's an evolving set of state and local tobacco regulations in the US that are based on emption than on science. These are evolving towards a 50-country approach rather than a unified federal approach."

"THR advocates note that alternative smoking strategies and new devices that have emerged to help smokers end their smoking or nicotine addiction should not be removed from the reach for those who want technologies or option launched in Rio de Janeiro in 2018 during the annual GTNF.

I have yet to come across a similar advocacy on THR in the Philippines. The country's leading agricultural institutions as well as government and non-government research agencies need to include THR-related researches to address the spiraling level of Filipino youth hooked to smoking, including those in the distant barangays who prepare self-made cigarettes and cigars using backyard grown tobacco plants. This is prevalent among out-of-school youths!

Likewise, is the want of legislations to prevent, control, and stop smoking among school-age Filipino children.

ooo000ooo  
NEXT TOPIC: "Relevance of LSAs (Learning Support Aides) For Effective Teaching Strategy Amid C-19 Pandemic'

SHARE S & T THOUGHTS through E-mail: drpacjr@yahoo.com.

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



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

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)



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
CITY OF TACLOBAN

TANGGAPAN NG SANGGUNANG PANLUNGSOD

43rd REGULAR SESSION OF THE 14TH SANGGUNANG PANLUNGSOD, HELD AT THE SESSION HALL, LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, CITY HALL, TACLOBAN CITY ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

PRESENT:

Jerry T. Yaokasin	City Vice-Mayor & Presiding Officer
Hon. Eden C. Pineda,	ABC President/Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Hon. Maria Elvira G. Casal,	Floor Leader
Hon. Evangeline L. Esperas,	Asst. Floor Leader
Hon. Edmund Edward I. Chua,	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Nikki C. Chua,	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Leo O. Bahin,	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Aurora Aimee D. Grafil	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Dalisay T. Erpe,	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Brian Steve G. Granados,	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Rachelle Erica C. Pineda,	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
Hon. Thomas John M. Diaz,	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member

ABSENT:

Hon. Jose Mario S. Bagulaya	Sangguniang Panlungsod Member
-----------------------------	-------------------------------

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-14-18

AN ORDINANCE CONDONING THE SURCHARGES, PENALTIES AND INTERESTS INCURRED ON UNPAID LOCAL TAXES, FEES, CHARGES, RENTALS AND FRANCHISE TAX FOR 2020 AND PRIOR YEARS IN THE CITY OF TACLOBAN

Sponsor: Hon. Brian Steve G. Granados

Be it enacted by the Sangguniang Panlungsod, City of Tacloban, Philippines, that:

**Section 1. SHORT TITLE** - This Ordinance shall be known as “**THE TACLOBAN CITY CONDONATION OF ALL SURCHARGES, PENALTIES, AND INTERESTS ON UNPAID LOCAL TAXES, FEES, CHARGES, RENTALS AND FRANCHISE TAX ORDINANCE OF 2020**”.

**Section 2. CONDONATION** - This Ordinance provides that all surcharges, penalties, and interests incurred on unpaid local taxes, fees, charges, rentals and franchise tax for 2020 and prior years in the City of Tacloban are hereby condoned due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Section 3. COVERAGE** - This Ordinance shall cover only the condonation of surcharges, penalties and interests on delinquent local taxes, fees, charges, rentals and franchise taxes for the year 2020 and all prior years. The condonation shall apply to the following:

- a. All unpaid local taxes, fees and charges under existing City Ordinances.
- b. All unpaid rentals and other impositions under a contract involving the Economic Enterprises of the City;
- c. All delinquent franchise taxes.

**Section 4. EXCLUSION** - The condonation of surcharges, penalties and interests shall not apply to entities whose taxes, fees and charges are the subject of a pending case in any court or tribunal.


**Section 5. PERIOD COVERED** - The condonation may be availed only until December 31, 2020.

**Section 6. OTHER PROVISIONS** - The City Treasurer’s Office is mandated to conduct a massive information campaign for the implementation of this Ordinance. For the purpose of complying with the provisions of Section 511 of R.A. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, a copy of this Ordinance shall be posted at prominent places in the City for a minimum period of three (3) consecutive weeks and published once in a newspaper of general circulation in Tacloban City.

**Section 7. REPEALING CLAUSE** - All Ordinances, Resolutions, Orders, Issuances, Rules and Regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

**Section 8. EFFECTIVITY** - This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.


ENACTED, September 30, 2020.

  
MARIA N. ANDRADE  
Secretary

ATTESTED:

  
JERRY T. YAOKASIN  
City Vice-Mayor & Presiding Officer

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

  
ALFRED S. ROMUALDEZ  
City Mayor

  
HON. MARIA ELVIRA G. CASAL  
Floor Leader

  
HON. EDEN C. PINEDA  
Presiding Officer Pro Tempore

  
HON. EVANGELINE L. ESPERAS  
Asst. Floor Leader

  
HON. EDMUND EDWARD I. CHUA  
Member

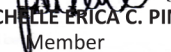
  
HON. NIKKI C. CHUA  
Member

  
HON. LEO O. BAHIN  
Member

  
HON. AURORA AIMEE D. GRAFIL  
Member

  
HON. DALISAY T. ERPE  
Member

  
HON. BRIAN STEVE G. GRANADOS  
Member

  
HON. RACHELLE ERICA C. PINEDA  
Member

(Excused)  
HON. JOSE MARIO S. BAGULAYA  
Member

  
HON. THOMAS JOHN M. DIAZ  
Member



LIVELIHOOD KITS. Some recipients of livelihood kits during the turnover at the San Isidro, Leyte town hall on Oct. 7, 2020. At least 45 former members of the New People’s Army (NPA) in Leyte province have been identified as beneficiaries of livelihood assistance by the Department of Trade Industry. (Photo courtesy of Philippine Army)

# 45 ex-rebels in Leyte get livelihood kits

TACLOBAN CITY – At least 45 former members of the New People’s Army (NPA) in Leyte province have been identified as recipients of livelihood assistance by the Department of Trade Industry (DTI).

The 45 rebels from the towns of San Isidro, Calubian, and Tabango, Leyte are entitled to receive P5,000 worth of items for them to start their community store business.

“The livelihood assistance is part of the government’s effort to institutionalize the whole of nation approach and to end the local communist armed conflict,” said DTI Leyte provincial director Araceli Laraga in a phone interview on Friday.

The first batch received their kit at the San Isidro town hall on Wednesday. The trade department has

scheduled the turnover in Calubian and Tabango towns within the month.

Each kit includes noodles, canned sardines, corned beef, coffee, detergent, and other basic items.

The initiative is to support small enterprises to resume their business after armed conflicts. Some remote villages in the three towns have been identified as former NPA strongholds.

Before the awarding of kits, the DTI has conducted enterprise development training and business counseling and mentoring to help ensure the sustainability of their business.

“With the assistance of the Philippine Army, we will monitor them regularly to help ensure the sustainability of their livelihood,” Laraga told the Philippine News Agency.

The 45 recipients identified

by the provincial government, are among the more than 1,000 NPA fighters and Militia ng Bayan (MB) members in western Leyte who surrendered to the Philippine Army’s 802nd Infantry Brigade on April 13, 2019.

MB refers to individuals who have been indoctrinated and may or may not be directly involved in violent armed struggle, but when organized, can provide mass support to the revolutionary movement of the communist terrorist group.

The NPA, which has been waging a five-decade armed struggle against the government, is listed as a terrorist organization by the United States, European Union, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the Philippines.(SARWELL Q. MENIANO/PNA)

## EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF REAL PROPERTY

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late JOAQUIN CONDRAIDA extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of agricultural/residential land located at Parik, Brgy. 01, Pob., Llorente, Eastern Samar covered by ARP No. 11-13001-00490/ PIN:037-13-001-06-026 designated as Lot No. 1352 containing an area of 7,197.00 square meters, more or less. Per Doc No. 322, Page No. 66, Book No. XXVII, Series of 2020. Notary Public Atty. Charles B. Culo, CPA. *LSDE: October 13, 20 & 27, 2020*

## EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late CRESCENCIA O. GADIN extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over 2 bank deposits particularly described as: 1) Savings Dollar account under Account Number 313 261 204 336 with the ending balance \$2,067.93 ; 2) Time Deposit in Dollar in the amount of P5,000.00. Per Doc No. 12444, Page No. 68, Book No. XXIV, Series of 2020. Notary Public Atty. Pedro M. Labid. *LSDE: October 13, 20 & 27, 2020*

## EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE AND DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late ALBERTO B. PASAGUI extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of land situated at San Jose Street, Brgy. Lusad, Dagami, Leyte designated as Lot 439, Case-1, Cad 503-D with an area of 419 square meters covered by TCT No. 115-P-100296. A Deed of Absolute Sale was executed in favor of REV. FR. ANRECO ESTRELLA as vendee of the above-described property. Per Doc No. 342, Page No. 70, Book No. VIII, Series of 2020. Notary Public Atty. Marierose P. Alvero. *LSDE: October 6, 13 & 20, 2020*

## DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE INTESTATE OF THE DECEASED PERSON, PARTITION WITH WAIVER OF SHARES

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late CANDIDA IRINCO extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over an agricultural land known as Lot No. 544, Pls. 481 D situated at Brgy. Cangahipos, Laoang, Northern Samar under OCT No. 8655 under TD No. 12-09-0025-00051 and heirs hereby WAIVED and RENOUNCED all rights, privileges and interest of the above-described property unto ISIDRO DANDO ESPINA. Per Doc No. 420, Page No. XVIII, Series of 2017. *LSDE: Oct 13, 20 & 27, 2020*

## EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late HONORIO G. DALUCAPAS extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over 5 parcels of land particularly described as: 1)A parcel of land denominated as Lot No. 1383, Pls-1056-D situated at Brgy. Linongsoran, Sawang, Capul, Northern Samar containing an area of 2,128sq.m., covered by OCT No. P-21013; 2) A parcel of land denominated as Lot No. 1450, Pls-1056-D situated at Brgy.Salucaan, Sawang, Capul, Northern Samar containing an area of 7,865sq.m., covered by OCT No. P-21014; 3) A parcel of land denominated as Lot No. 1392, Pls-1056-D situated at Brgy. Linongsoran, Sawang, Capul, Northern Samar containing an area of 2,259sq.m., covered by OCT No. P-21015; 4) A parcel of land denominated as Lot No. 1452, Pls-1056-D situated at Brgy. Sawang, Capul, Northern Samar containing an area of 9,944sq.m., covered by OCT No. P-21016; 5) A parcel of land denominated as Lot No. 1247, Pls-1056-D situated at Brgy. Payapay, Sawang, Capul, Northern Samar containing an area of 9,687sq.m., covered by OCT No. P-21017 and heirs hereby acknowledged the kindness and generosity of our niece hereby agreed, as an act of gratitude and liberty that 2 parcels of land mentioned in Parcel 2 and 4 be waived and adjudicated unto JENNIFER D. CAJANDAB. Per Doc No. 198, Page No. 4, Book No. 27, Series of 2020. Notary Public Atty. Fernando M. Abella, CPA. *LSDE: Oct 13, 20 & 27, 2020*



## DILG hires 39 contact tracers for Southern Leyte

MAASIN CITY- The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) - Southern Leyte Provincial Office hired some 39 contact tracers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 39 contact tracers will be assigned throughout the province to be distributed as follows: one each for the municipalities of Hinundayan, Libagon, Pintuyan, St. Bernard, San Francisco, Anahawan, Bontoc, Limasawa, Padre Burgos, Tomas Oppus, San Juan, San Ricardo and Silago.

The City of Maasin will have 10 contact tracers, three for Hinunangan; three for Liloan, 6 for Sogod, and two each for the towns of Malitbog and Macrohon, said DILG LGOO II Blossom Escuyos.

Said contact tracers will conduct interviews, profiling, and perform an initial public health risk assessment of COVID-19 cases and their identified close contacts and refer the close contacts to isolation facilities.

Among other tasks for the tracers include the conduct of enhanced contact tracing in collaboration with

7 inmates...  
...from Page 1

The Laoang subprovincial jail has, at present, 180 prisoners and over 80 jail guards. All of them are scheduled to be swab.

This is the first time in the region that inmates were tested positive due to COVID-19.

Also in Laoang, the Dr. Gregorio B. Tan Memorial Hospital was also closed to public since Friday after one of its patients turned out to be positive and could have exposed its health workers and other patients, the hospital advisory said.

The public hospital will be disinfected and will resume its operation on October 13, it added.

Northern Samar has now 182 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with the additional of two new cases on Monday. It has one confirmed death.

Lighting...  
...from Page 1

tached agency of the DOT, in the amount of P80 million.

However, the project was initiated by the Samar provincial government through former governor and now congresswoman, Sharee Ann Tan.

The provincial government will be responsible in the maintenance and payment of power consumption.

The tourism department and the provincial government of Samar expects that once the lighting project at the San Juanico Bridge is completed, it will boost not only the tourism sector of Samar but even lead to proliferation of micro-enterprises to cater to the needs of tourists.

In separate statements, Samar Rep. Tan and her brother, Governor Reynolds Michael Tan, both expressed highly on the project saying this will not only lure tourists but even help the local economy.

“I look forward to the completion of the project and to that day we can once again witness and experience our people’s warmth and hospitality, our culture and our food and our sites,” Rep. Tan said.

For his part, Gov. Tan said that the project reflects ‘our aspirations as we desire to make a niche in the tourism industry.’

“As the light significantly

DTI...  
...from Page 1

Ginhawa (PPG) Program, wherein four are from the first batch of the Balik Probinsya Program, 29 fire victims in Brgy. 37 Reclamation Area and five typhoon Ursula affected individuals

reflects the aesthetic experience, it will also create the mood that will stimulate the mind and motivate our people to strive,” he said.

The San Juanico Bridge was constructed during the time of the administration of Ferdinand Marcos as his ‘gift of love’ to his wife, Imelda, who is a native of Tacloban City. After almost four years of work, it was formally inaugurated on July 2, 1973, in time of Imelda’s birthday.

Tiopes said that they hope that the former first lady will be available in time for its formal opening this December.

The project was first started July of last year and was expected to be finished in time for the fifth anniversary of the onslaught of Super Typhoon ‘Yolanda’ on November of that year.

However, the completion was pushed back due to some technical problems and to a typhoon that hit the region.

The work was again stopped when the country was placed under quarantine and resumed only just last August.

(ROEL T. AMAZONA, JOEY A. GABIETA with RONALD O. REYES)

in Brgy. 66 Paseo de Legazpi have qualified and each received a sari-sari store package worth 5,000 pesos, while 40 have been identified as DTI’s Livelihood Seeding Program–Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay (LSP-NSB) beneficiaries.

Held last October 9 at the City Engineer’s Office (CEO) Gym, the distribution of livelihood kits was led by Engr. Celerina T. Bato, Regional Director, Araceli D. Larraga, OIC Provincial Director, Division Chief Faustino Gayas, City COOP Head Ruena Mate, and Executive Assistant Romeo Magdalaga Jr., who represented Mayor Al-

The Congressional...  
...from Page 5

Please read on and think ....  
WHAT IF /  
NOT THE RIGHT TIME, CONGRESSMAN PAOLO DUTERTE BACKS OUT OF SPEAKERSHIP RACE  
“MANILA. Davao City Congressman Paolo Z. Duterte said Saturday he has decided to withdraw from the race for the Speakership of the House of Representatives.  
“In a statement, the young Duterte said he reached the decision after speaking to his fa-

fred S. Romualdez.

NSB program aims to encourage businesses in the community while the PBG was conceptualized to help disaster victims like the pandemic recover economically, Bato clarified during her talk.

Aside from the provision of negosyo kits, the MSMEs can avail of different services such as facilitation of business name registration, business advisory, and business information and advocacy through the Negosyo Center, which promotes ease of doing business and providing access to development services. (TACLOBAN CITY INFORMATION OFFICE)

ther, President Rodrigo Duterte in their hometown Davao City, Thursday evening, July 4, 2019.

“We both agreed that this will not be the right time for me to be Speaker and I can still help his administration from the House in a different capacity, Congressman Duterte said in a statement.

The above was Cong. Paolo Duterte’s withdrawal statement on Thursday, July 4, 2019.

But 2 days earlier, in another publication, on July 2, 2019, Cong. Paolo was quoted when he said “The House is divided

## Intervention mechanism on modular distance learning

BY: MARILYN A. CANONCE



To address pupils’ literacy and numeracy needs, all elementary schools in the municipality of Barugo will provide an intervention mechanism for all kindergarten, grade one, and highly vulnerable pupils for this school year 2020-2021.

At the top of printed and digital modular distancing learning for the kindergarten, grade one, and highly vulnerable pupils, these set of pupils will likewise be provided with audio-visual support materials to cater their reading and numeracy needs.

Each of these pupils will be provided with teacher made audio-visual materials saved in a flash drive and placed in each learning package together with other printed materials.

Therefore, these pupils will adapt the blended learning modality. Thus, these set of pupils need to have platforms like television and other gadgets.

Pupils with no available gadgets will be clustered

with nearby learners with available one. New normal protocol will be observed in the conduct of clustered class sessions.

Wearing of face mask, face shield, and social distancing will be strictly implemented.

A maximum of three learners for every clustered class session will be allowed. Flash drive expenses will be shouldered by school MOOE.

This intervention mechanism was collaboratively crafted by the different school heads in Barugo 1 and 2 Districts. Focal group discussions were also done with master teachers.

This mechanism was also presented and earned approval from the local MAITF through the leadership of Hon. Mayor Ma. Rosario C. Avestruz.

(Note: The author is a Teacher III of Sta. Rosa Elementary School, Barugo, Leyte)

## Javier II Odiong ES; parent fails to follow distribution and retrieval schedule

BY: BRONILDA O. SOLIS

Printed Modular Distance Learning (PMDL) is the learning modality implemented in Odiong Elementary School, Javier II District, Javier, Leyte but Mrs. Menchie M. Montaña, Grade VI-A parent failed to submit the Quarter 1 Week 1 modules and was not able to come to get the modules for Quarter 1 Week 2 as scheduled on October 9-Friday modules’ retrieval and October 9-12 for modules’ distribution.

The school was alarmed for not returning the modules on the deadline date and so a home visitation to the non-compliance Grade VI pupil Limnuel M. Sartillo was conducted by the Grade VI-A Class Adviser, Mrs. Cherelyn B. Almedora.

According to Mrs. Almedora during the inter-

view, on her visit to his pupil’s residence, she found out that the whole family is grieving for Mr. Sonny T. Sartillo’s death (Mrs. Menchie M. Sartillo’s husband and Limnuel’s father) after being electrocuted caused by short circuits in their own house on October 9 at 5:00 p.m.

Those were the reasons why Mrs. Montaña was not able to facilitate in the learning process of his son.

Despite of the unexpected tragedy happened, Mrs. Montaña still promise to comply, submit the modules and follow the distribution and retrieval schedules, Mrs. Almedora added.

“As a capacitated learning facilitator in the learning process of his son amidst this Covid times, the parents have the roles

to supervise, guide and support the learning process of the child at home as well as provide guidance in accomplishing given home learning tasks,” Mrs. Almedora said.

The modules for Quarter 1 Week 2 were specially delivered to Limnuel by Mrs. Almedora for the learning process.

(Note: the author is a Teacher III of San Sotero Elementary School, Javier, Leyte)





# SSS to release pensions via PESONet and checkless disbursement channels; announces revised monthly schedule of pension releases

The Social Security System (SSS) partnered with the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) to expedite the crediting of monthly pensions to pensioners' accounts and eliminate disbursements through checks.

Starting October 2020, regular pensions will be released through the DBP's disbursement facility via the Philippine Electronic Fund Transfer System and Operations Network (PESONet) and DBP-accredited Remittance Transfer Companies (RTCs)/Cash Payout Outlets (CPOs).

Through the said disbursement method, pensioners may opt to receive their monthly pensions through their accounts in any PESONet participating bank and e-wallet such as PayMaya or cash pick-up arrangement via DBP Cash Padala thru M Lhuillier.

Those who are already receiving their

monthly pensions through PESONet participating banks will no longer need to enroll their bank accounts to the SSS.

However, pensioners receiving their monthly pensions through checks or non-PESONet participating banks are required to change their disbursement accounts accordingly on or before 31 October 2020.

They will be notified of the need to change their disbursement accounts through their registered e-mail or mailing addresses per SSS records.

Pensioners are also advised to check if their bank account is a PESONet participating bank or not. They can view the complete list of PESONet participants on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas website at <https://bit.ly/33ZLWO2>.

To receive pensions through PESONet participating banks, pensioners must enroll their respective single savings accounts to the SSS. For

e-wallets, they must enroll their mobile number linked to their account, while for RTC/CPO, they must also register their mobile number where they prefer to receive the reference number.

The pensioner shall shoulder service fees for the disbursement of monthly pensions through RTCs/CPOs.

Retirement, partial disability, and total disability pensioners who need to change their disbursement accounts may do so through the SSS' Disbursement Account Enrollment Module (DAEM), which they may access under the E-Services tab of their My.SSS account on the SSS website ([www.sss.gov.ph](http://www.sss.gov.ph)).

Survivor pensioners who need to change their disbursement accounts may submit a scanned copy of a duly accomplished Pensioner Data Change Request (PDCR) form along with supporting documents to the corporate e-mail of the SSS branch nearest to them.

They can access the e-mail addresses and contact details of SSS branches and foreign offices through the SSS Branch Directory at <https://bit.ly/2Gp9nbC> or the "SSS Branches" tab on the SSS Mobile App.

They may also submit the PDCR form and supporting documents personally, if possible, or through an authorized representative to the SSS through drop boxes lo-



Leyte Governor Leopoldo Dominico 'Mic' L. Petilla was the distinguished guest during the blessing of the camp of the 14th Infantry Battalion based in Barangay Uguis, Mahaplag town last Oct.9. He was joined by Vice Gov. Carlo Loreto, Major Gen. Pio Diñoso III, the commanding general of the 8th Infantry Division, board members Raissa Villasin, Florante Cayunda and Emmanuel Gacis, Mahaplag Mayor Daisy Lleve, PIA Regional Director Olive Tiu and village chairman Arante Siscon. The 14th IB is under the command of Col. Robert Obaob. (GINA P. GERREZ)

## No Support... ...from Page 4

tions. They have become so dependent upon goons and guns such that without these, they could not seem to survive.

It is in clashes like these among major figures in politics that the country and its people suffer most. Basic services are not being attended to. The people's welfare is neglected as these leaders get preoccupied with their own political interests. Good if the clashes are limited to verbal disagreements, but no, they include violence that ends up in mass murders sometimes, as what happened in Maguindanao.

If everyone who ascends into office is driven only by motives such

as these, we wonder what would happen to our country's future. These are ends that should be checked and discarded by way of votes that should be denied to these people. Give them no chance to spread their hatred. Stop their folly by not writing their names on the ballots.

Make no mistake about it. There is a big difference between aspiring for positions with service to the people in mind, and running for said position to get some revenge against political rivals. The first intentions is noble, and deserves support, but the second one should be done away with. Problem is, how can we tell what's in the motives of politicians? Well, gauge them against their words and deeds.

cated in its branches.

Documents submitted through drop boxes must be in a sealed envelope with the pensioner's name, contact information, and transaction details written outside. The SSS branch will schedule his/her appointment, if needed, to process the transaction.

The PDCR form may be downloaded at the SSS downloadable forms at <https://bit.ly/3i2V8WI>, wherein the list of documentary requirements is also found.

Republic of the Philippines Social Security System Pensioners who are confined in a penitentiary or correctional institution and those receiving pensions through the Special Pension System and Special Voucher are exempted from the payment of pension through PESONet and other checkless disbursement channels. (PR)

## Modules... ...from Page 5

out choice but to seek help where there is.

It appears at the onset of classes that parents had to bear the expenses of the modules that had to be reproduced and taken from the teacher who are in campus on staggered schedules. There are those who find the arrangement too tough to comply. The inclination to study at home is one major source of the many obstacles the pupil or student. The cost of daily transportation in going to school and back home every day is truly

expensive than the present setup.

But the modules being claimed from the teachers are purportedly paid for by the students. This situation, if true, would serve as a contradictory statement from the education department that disclosed the availability of funds which it allegedly distributed to the regions, divisions and districts. It is of hoped that this experiment will not put in peril the future of the learners who are struggling to learn the modules.

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

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