

JOEY A. GABIETA

TACLOBAN CITY- With the surge of cases of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at the National Capital Region (NCR) and four of its neighboring provinces, Mayor Alfred Romualdez of this city said that they would be more strict for those coming from these areas.

By doing this, Tacloban added. would avoid having a spike of COVID-19 cases, the city mayor said in a press conference on Monday (April 5).

"Because of the increase of cases at NCR and other high- risk areas, there will be changes of the protocols in entering Tacloban City," Romualdez said.

"We are going to closely monitor those coming from NCR and high-risk areas. We will require now swabbing or antigen test before they return. We don't want to be an additional burden to the national government," he

To recall, the surge of COVID-19 cases on these areas, collectively known as NCR Plus, has resulted for the leaders from these localities to declare lockdowns and placed them under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) for the next two weeks.

Mayor Romualdez said that a negative real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) result will be an additional requirement from the already required letter of acceptance before anyone coming the NCR Plus areas see Alfred /page 7 ...



NEGATIVE SWAB TEST. As the National Capital Region (NCR) and four of its neighboring provinces experiencing spike of COVID-19 cases, Tacloban City Mayor Alfred Romualdez now requires a negative swab results for those coming to the city as a requirement. Romualdez (center) made this announcement during a press conference Monday also attended by city administrator, Atty. Aldrin Quebec (left) and city health officer, Dr. Gloria Fabrigas. (CIO)

Quincentennial committee unveils historical marker in Maasin City



for posterity during the unveiling of a marker in the city. The marker part o the national quincentennial commemorations in the Philippines for the first circumnavigation of the world by the Magellan-Eleano expedition.

TACLOBAN CITY -The National Quincentennial Committee, through the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas (OPAV) Undersecretary Anthony Gerard Gonzales, unveiled the sixth quincentennial historical marker in Eastern Visayas located at Brgy. Combado, Maasin City.

The marker is part of the national quincentennial commemorations in the Philippines for the first circumnavigation of the world gressional district of the by the Magellan-Elcano ex- province, Maasin City pedition.

The unveiling of the sixth historical marker was held Sunday (April 4), the exact date when Rajah Kulambu of Limasawa fulfilled his promise 500 years ago to guide the expedition to Cebu.

Also present during the low-key event were Southern Leyte Governor Damian Mercado, Rep. Roger Mercado of the lone con-

B twitter

Mayor Naccional Mercado and Department of Tourism Regional Director Karina Rosa Tiopes.

The installation of the historical marker in Maasin City is a symbolic representation to the landmass that was recorded by the Magellan-Elcano expedition located in the northern part of Limasawa see Quincentennial

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/page 3 ...

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Soldiers exhume skeletal remains of a slain NPA leader who died six years ago in Leyte town

ORMOC CITY- The remains of an alleged high-ranking member of the New People's Army (NPA) said to have been buried by his comrades six years ago were exhumed by government forces in a remote village in Carigara town, Leyte last Saturday (April 3).

The skeletal remains of the NPA member, identified as Eleazar Sabidalas, were retrieved by the members of the 93rd Infantry Battalion upon information by a former rebel who earlier returned to the folds of the law.

Based on the information provided by the former rebel, Sabidalas was buried by them in sitio Kapitungan of Barangay Libo, Carigara last July 18,2015.

Sabidalas, who was known as alias 'Sangay,' reportedly died after his group engaged government forces in an encounter incident on that year in Brgy. Caghalo in the same town.

He was said to be a commander of the front committee Leyte of the Eastern Visayas Revolutionary Party Committee.

Captain Kaharudin Cadil, information officer of the 802nd Infantry Brigade based in Ormoc City, said that they are still in the process of contacting the family members of the former NPA leader before he would be buried in a public cemetery in Carigara town.

At present, the skeletal remains of Sabidalas were placed in a funeral homes in the said town.

In a statement, B/Gen. Zosimo Oliveros, the commanding officer of the 802nd IB, said that the recovery of the skeletal remains of the former NPA leader is an indication that

the rebel group does not give value to human life.

"It is clear to us how the terror group, the NPA, does not value the life of their own comrade. They do not care how their loved ones feel," he said.

"We are calling the loved ones of Eleazar Sabidalas to help us so we can give him a decent and proper burial," Oliveros said.

Problem on insurgency continue to rock some parts of Leyte and the provinces on Samar Island which is often cited as reason why development on these areas remain to be slow.

During his March 18 visit in the region, President Rodrigo Duterte reiterated his desire to completely quell the insurgency problem of the country, branding the NPA members as bandits and lacking of any ideology.

(ELVIE ROMAN ROA)

Amid ASF outbreak, Northern Samar gov't intensifies monitoring, border control to prevent spread

TACLOBAN CITY The provincial government of Northern Samar has intensified its monitoring on the African Swine Fever (ASF) after the Department of Agriculture confirmed that it has now ASF cases.

NEWS

Provincial veterinarian Dr. Jose Luis Acompanado, who sits as the vice chair of Provincial Task Force on ASF, said that part of their campaign is the continued conduct of surveillance which includes blood sample collection within the surveillance zone or the area within seven kilometers from the confirmed positive cases in Barangay Bonifacio in Lope De Vega town.

"Active surveillance is crucial in determining the extent of ASF outbreak in Lope De Vega to prevent further spread of the virus," he said.

Acompanado said that their office will also conduct a 30-day cleaning and disinfection in hog farms for this whole month.

Hog raisers are also advised to implement biosecurity programs in order to protect their farms against ASF.

The ASF task force also encourages the municipal agriculture officers to enroll their farmers and hog-raisers at the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation for any possible indemnification.

Border control animal quarantine checkpoints are also established in strategic areas in the province.

"Protecting the ASFfree zones in our province is a whole-of-society approach. Everyone is encouraged to do their part such as timely reporting of unusual hog mortalities, not practicing swill-feeding, and avoiding pork products and by-products not registered with the Food and Drug Administration," Acompanado said.

Acompanado said that they have identified a total of 77 affected farmers with 120 pigs which were culled.

The ASF task force will also assist in the processing and submission of documentary requirements on availing of the indemnification fund coming from the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 8 (DA-RFO8) where each hog raiser can claim P5,000 per culled pig.

(ROEL T. AMAZONA)

Rep. Noel supports lockdown extension at NCR Plus saying conditions on these areas affect the country

CITY-TACLOBAN The extension of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) at the National Capital Region and four of its nearby provinces gets the support of An Waray party-list group Rep. Florencio Noel.

According to him, he is giving his support to the decision of the mayors of the affected mayors to extend to another week of the ECQ amid surge of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

This is because any conditions at the nation's capital impacts the rest of the country like Eastern Visayas, the solon added.

"There is really a surge of COVID-19 cases on these areas and its scary considering that cases now reaches to more than 10,000 cases," Noel said.

"And I support to the extension of the ECQ as agreed by the mayors. After all, what happens in Metro Manila, which is the center of trade in

the Philippines, will affect other provinces and it's the center of our government," he added.

To recall, the leaders of the NCR and the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan and Rizal have agreed to extend the lockdowns for another week in an effort to halt further spread of COVID-19 cases.

Noel also said that while the extension of the lockdowns would affect the people, especially on their livelihoods, "it's a choice between the hardships of the ECQ and the safety of the people."

Noel said that the people of Eastern Visayas should be thankful that for the past months now, the region's COVID-19 cases are not as high compare to NCR or other areas in the country.

Still, he said, the region should strengthen its food supply, among others, and at the same time, provide appropriate assistance to all health workers like giving them needed inocula-

Rep. Florencio Noel

tion.

Mass testing should also be provided by the address possible surge of COVID-19 cases in the On Monday (April 5),

government as a way to

(DOH) announces of 17 new cases, pushing the region's total cases since the pandemic started over a

Currently, the region has only 326 active cases but with 252 deaths, the DOH said. (LIZBETH ANN A. ABELLA

with JOEY A. GABIETA)



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Progressive rehabilitation now underway, says MIPC

TACLOBAN CITY- A mining company in MacArthur, Leyte has started its rehabilitation program amid anti-mining sentiments in the town.

Januar Ong, community relations officer of MacArthur Iron Sand Project Corp. (MIPC), said they were already done with the first phase of the rehabilitation which involved the backfilling of the topsoil and pure sand with no iron ore content in the one-hectare mining field in Barangay Maya.

"We are true to our

commitment. We are going for progressive mining and rehabilitation. We are going to show that progressive rehabilitation is doable. This is part of our commitment to the landowner, to ensure that the land is productive at the minimum when we started the mining operation," Ong said.

According to Ong, they have already plowed the land and put organic fertilizer while waiting for the right weather condition for the planting of see Progressive /page 7 ...

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region. the Department of Health

year ago to 16,753.

NEWS

Leyte Governor Leopoldo Dominico "Mic" L. Petilla received a check in the amount

of P 1,735,500 for Tulong Pangkabuhayan para sa Displaced and Disadvantage

workers from Dir. Henry John Jalbuela, regional director of the Department of La-

bor and Employment(DOLE- 8) funded by Senator Joel Villanueva held last March

29,2021. The project involves community gardening in public facilities and street

cleaning project under emergency employment program/TUPAD bayanihan 2. The beneficiaries are underemployed workers in the informal sector of Tolosa with 178

beneficiaries and 178 for Alangalang. Present during the ceremony were Alangalang Mayor Lovely Yu and town Councilor Erwin Ocaña, representing Tolosa Mayor

Ofelia Alcantara. The said activity was held at the Governor's New Office at the

25 people were rescued in Leyte waters after their motorized banca hit by strong waves

ORMOC CITY- At least 25 people, 11 of them were minors, were rescued after their boat capsized off the waters in Capoocan, Leyte last week.

A statement from the Police Regional Office 8 said that the passengers, who were on board on two motorized bancas, were on their way home to Capoocan last March 29 after attending a birthday celebration in Cabucgayan town, Biliran when heavy waves hit one the motorized ban-

Passenger banca owner Renato Makirang, 30, was at the time manning the boat carrying 14 persons that was being tugged by another boat after its engine malfunctioned while navigating.

The passengers included 11 minors with a 4-year old girl.

Although the place of the incident is still part of the jurisdiction of Capoocan town, the area is already nearer to the victims' home town, said Police Senior Master Sergeant Charlie

Nartea of the Capoocan town police.

The Bureau of Fire Protection, town rescue unit, town police and Kabalikat personnel from Cabucgayan came after they received a call reporting the incident.

The Capoocan police also came to assist.

There was no report of casualty and all rescued passengers were brought to the town Rural Health Unit for immediate physical assessment.

(ELVIE ROMAN-ROA)

159 men nabbed over 'tupada' on Good Friday across the region

total of 150 persons were arrested for alleged illegal cockfighting activities or "tupada" across the region on Good Friday, April 2, 2021.

In Leyte province alone, some 54 individuals were rounded up in Inopacan, Mac Arthur, Abuyog, Leyte, Babatngon, Mahaplag, Barugo, Albuera, Kananga, Pastrana, Dulag, Jaro, Baybay City, Julita, Burauen, and Dagami.

"We have been aggressive in our anti-illegal gambling operations not only as part of our anti-criminality campaign but also to prevent the upsurge of Covid-19 cases in the province of Leyte since the activity usually gathers large crowd," said Colonel Rodelio Samson, police province director.

Leyte operatives also confiscated 50 fighting cocks, 12 gaffs, and other

Quincentennial... ... from Page 1

which they called Ceylon or Seilani.

"You might be wondering why in all places the NQC and NHCP chose Maasin. Indeed, what we are marking is the island but Maasin was chosen for the symbolic reason that it is the immediate capital city of the closet historical space being described in the records of the Magellan-Elcano expedition, "Usec. Gonzales said in his message.

TACLOBAN CITY-A cockfighting paraphernalia with an estimated value of P61,930.

> Northern Samar Police Provincial Office (NSPPO) Director Colonel Arnel Apud said they also caught 22 individuals who were engaging in tupada while other violators eluded arrest.

> "The continuous support and information provided to us by the community has been significant in our decisive anti-illegal activities campaign," he said.

The arrested persons were from Victoria, Rosario, Allen, and Mondragon.

"Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the observance of Holy Week, we are appealing to the public not to engage in illegal activities," said Lieutenant Wilmer Basarte, officer in charge of Victoria Municipal Police Station.

Criminal charges for violation of Presidential Decree 1602 or the Anti-Illegal

"Therefore, this marker here in Maasin is being shared by the people of Leyte be it the province of Southern Leyte or the province of Levte, more so by the towns the Magellan-Elcano expedition literally passed by: from Padre Burgos to Hindang," he said.

"I enjoin the Department of Tourism and the Department of Education that whenever you promote the quincentennial historical marker for Leyte at Maasin, ensure that tourists and students imagine the historical space rather than just MaasGambling Law will be filed against the arrested individuals. (RONALD O. REYES)

In Borongan City Mayor Agda signs order establishing new protocols amid COVID-19 surge at NCR Plus

Government Center, Candahug, Palo, Leyte. (GINA P. GEREZ)

TACLOBAN CITY -The city government of Borongan has imposed new protocol amid spike of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at the National Capital Regional and its neighboring provinces, known as NCR Plus.

Based on Executive Order No. 004-0321 signed by Mayor Jose Ivan Dayan Agda, travelers from outside the region who are going to Borongan are required to present a negative RT-PCR test upon their arrival.

The negative RT-PCR result must be obtained two days prior to their arrival.

Aside from negative RT-PCR test, they are also required to present valid identification card, QR Code, and must report

in only," Gonzales added.

Prior to Maasin City, historical markers were unveiled in the island of Suluan, Homonhon, and Calicoan, in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, and in the town of Hinunangan, and Island

to their arrival to their respective barangay officials. Those who will fail to submit a RT-PCR test will be subjected to strict home

isolation, the order said. Travelers from the region will just have to present a valid ID, a barangay certification of residency and a QR code.

Minimum health protocols such as proper wearing of face mask, face shield, and physical distancing should also be followed.

While mass gathering is allowed, participants must be limited to 50 percent of the total capacity of the venue and organizers must send a formal letter of request to the Public Health and Safety Task Force for permit.

Depending to the assessment of the City Ep-Surveillance idemiology

town of Limasawa in Southern Leyte.

Three markers were also unveiled on Monday in the island of Canigao; Matalom town; Himukilan Island of Hindang, and in Baybay City. (ROEL T. AMAZONA)



Mayor Jose Ivan Dayan Agda

Unit (CESU), additional tourist destinations and protocols such as the con- sites are only open for duct of antigen test will those from Eastern Samar. be required for each participants of the gathering and will be shouldered by the person in charge of the event.

Tourism activities in the city is also allowed but

Those who will violate the order faces a penalty ranging from P3,000 up to P5,000 and an imprisonment of not less than 30 days.

(ROEL T. AMAZONA)





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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

> Sister Publications Samar Weekly Express Eastern Samar Bulletin





OPINION



Obvious irregularities



uch as the president is obviously serious in trying to address and contain the on-going pandemic in the country, suspicions cannot be avoided that somewhere along the government's agencies tasked to handle this crisis, some

groups and individuals are amassing much money instead of helping resolve this pandemic.

Obviously, the president doesn't know the details about these scams and schemes done by his trusted people there, for had he known these, he would have exploded in rage as he, for several months now, had been taking this pandemic seriously to the point that according to him, it is costing his sleep and even his tears had already dried up.

How do these high-ranking officials manage to amass great wealth as a result of this pandemic? Well obviously, they do it through their mandatory orders and prohibitions. For example, there are medicines that many doctors had already testified

to be effective enough in treating COVID-19 patients, and they are cheap and affordable to poor patients, but the DOH and the FDA do not tolerate them in the market.

But when it comes to certain medicines (that are actually affordable when bought in their country of origins but are sold multiple times higher in the Philippines), they readily allow these though they prove too unaffordable to the average citizens. The reasons for these are simple: they will gain nothing from effective but cheap drugs, and profit much from the costly ones albeit bought for much lower costs.

The pandemic no doubt is for real, but certain officials and people handling it are not being honest with results, reports, activities, and many more, causing this crisis to linger and bloat all the more while they are fattening their pockets. May it reach the attention of the president for proper action. Corruption is just around the corner, aggravating our situation.

lent atrocities of the latter.

and the like had for centuries been the problem on American soil. The white racists just cannot be fully educated with the fact that the lands their forefathers had claimed ownership, and which they think they own, are not originally theirsthese were vast properties of the tribal American Indians who had already inhabited the continent long before the puritans from England settled there.

This Asian hate that spreads now in the states stems from this mentality,

from this greedy notion Discrimination, racism, that America belongs to them and strangers like the Asians should by no means share their lands but instead go home to where they came from.

> Such avaricious an coupled with mindset the present pandemic that they generally think Asians had produced, to their much losses and grief, had aggravated their hatred for the Asian races such that, when they see the latter somewhere, they turn wild and violent. The least that Asians get for

see American /page 7 ...



American racism

The Asian hate that is prevalent this time in the United States of America has now become the nightmare of Asian nationals

who went to this part of the world with their American dreams, only to end up hiding from lawless racists or, at times, enduring the vio-

()PINI()N Lepte Samar Daily Express 5



Demanding on ourselves, tolerant on others

THAT'S how we should be with respect to ourselves and to the others. We need to be strict with ourselves but always accommodating with the others. First, because the person we would know best would simply be ourselves, while with the others we ought to be more restrained in our judgments.

In fact, we need to be always nice to others, even if they are not nice to us. We should always give them the benefit of the doubt. Besides, we really would not know them very well. Most of the time, we can only base our impressions of the others mainly on appearances which can never give us a good over-all picture of how they really are.

It's very likely that we hardly would have the inside story of their life. And whatever traces of other people's inside story we may have are most likely unreliable, based only on hearsay and gossip.

But, yes, with ourselves, we should be very demanding. We should be strict to adhere to the difference between good and evil, pursuing the former no matter how little it is, and avoiding the latter no matter how slight it may be. But such strict adherence should not make us judgmental of the others.

If ever we have some observations that point to a certain weakness, failure, mistake or sin of the others, let's remember that those are observations only which can be at best tentative. And rather than be quick to judge, let us focus more on how we can help them.

That attitude would indicate that we are still clear about the difference between right and wrong. Of course, this difference should be based on our identification with Christ who is the ultimate judge to know what is right and wrong.

Let us remember that we see and judge things the way we are. If we are simply by ourselves, relying only on our estimation of what is right and wrong, then definitely we cannot go far. But if we try our best to be identified with Christ, then we can see and judge things the way Christ would see and judge them.

And so, if we are truly like Christ, our strictness

What's New (Q)

In this Corner, Pacquiao for President! Did'ja Know -

THAT as early as November last year, this Columnist started to notice Senator Manny Pacquiao's increasing exposure on television, with his advertising contracts with Alaxan, MacDonalds, Hennessey, Chooksto-Go, Motolite and even Sukang Datu Puti?

THAT in his visits to many places during the Christmas holidays, even with many health restrictions & protocols, Pacquiao reportedly managed to distribute crisp P100 or P500 & even P1,000 bills as his "Pacman's Pasalubong" after his Pa-Sopas ni Pacman; or Lugawan ni Pacman -- Tu-

in knowing the difference between right and wrong would not lead us to be judgmental, but rather to be charitable, finding ways of how to help the others. That's because that is how Christ treats others.

On this point, we can cite the reaction of Christ who was presented with a woman who was caught in adultery. The woman clearly committed some grave wrong. But instead of condemning her, he simply dismissed her with the admonition to sin no more. (cfr. Jn 8,1-11)

We have to be most wary of our tendency to be quick to judge and condemn others when we feel we know a lot about what is right and wrong, good and evil. This can only mean we are not with Christ yet.

Of course, we should also be wary of our tendency to lose sight of the distinction between right and wrong, good and evil, often appealing to God's mercy,

see Demanding /page 7 ...



To be afraid "Don't be afraid of being scared. To be afraid is a sign of common sense. Only complete idiots are not afraid of anything."

-Carlos Ruiz Zafón

zation. In 1948 in Paris, The Filipino has been at the forefront of histo-France, at the third UN ry ever since. Our ath-General Assembly, he letes had been a constant strongly disagreed with source of pride for us. a proposal made by the Soviet delegation head-There was a time when Carlos P. Romulo coned by Andrei Vishinski, fronted a bully in one Russian diplomat. In his career in the United Nations, Romulo as its Secretary General, Carlos P. Romulo was strong advocate of human rights, freedom, and decoloni-

who challenged his credentials by insulting him with this quote: "You are just a little man from a little country." In return, Romulo replied, "It is the duty of the little David's of this world to fling the

Vice-President in 2022, after he stops down from Malacanang?

THAT upon learning of the Joint Resolution in the Cebu PDP-La-Conference, ban the new PDP-Laban President, Senator Pacquiao appeared on television and declared that "the PDP-Laban Conference in Cebu was not officially authorized and not offi-

cially recognized ... " THAT as the new PD-Laban President, Pacquiao instead "admonished" the PDP-Laban leaders who attended the Cebu gathering, and advised them that "it is not see In this /page 7 ...

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

pebbles of truth in the eyes of the blustering Goliaths and force them to behave!" Mr. Vishinski cannot do anything but sit down.

At 40, taunted and insulted Manny Pacquiao silenced Keith 'One Time "Thurman by a victory. Thurman calls Manny as a T-Rex or simply old, and promised he will send the good Senator into retirement. History was made, Thurman was apologetic, and he was silenced.

Staff Nurse in the United Kingdom Charito Romano was included in Queen Elizabeth's New Year's Honors list. Romano's service in the time of surges and lockdowns were exemplary.

Three of the many heroes who are simply, unafraid.

In this time of Lent, Jesus was also unafraid to drink his cup. Our Lord did not deviate from the hard and painful path. He faced His fate, squarely and never for one moment scamper out of fear.

Perhaps, from our Filipino heroes and our Lord we shall derive our inspiration, in these uncertain times, we shall feel fear but never shall we break. We shall overcome.

Commentaries from readers whose *identities they prefer* to remain anonymous can be accommodated as "blind items". It

will be our editorial prerogative, however, to verify the veracity of such commentaries *before publication.*

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)



long sa mga taong bayan? THAT on the side, boxing champ Manny Pacquiao eagerly wanted & waited for their camp's arrangement for another block-buster boxing bout with either Errol Spence Jr., Ryan Garcia, Conor McGregor, Mikey Garcia or even Terence Craw-

ford? THAT what caught this Columnist's curiosity was Pacman's insistence that the proposed boxing bout be held BEFORE OCTOBER of this year.

THAT because of Pacquiao's insistence on this proposed boxing date, this "suspisyusong eventually Columnista"

found out that this was the first week of October -- the week when Certificates of Candidacies would be filed by candidates in the 2022

Elections? PACMAN AS PDP-LA-BAN PRESIDENT

THAT on December 2020, Senator Man-2, ny Pacquiao was sworn in as PDP-Laban Acting President by outgoing Executive Vice-Chairman, Senator Aquilino Koko Pimentel?

THAT Speaker Lord Allan Velasco was also sworn in as the new Executive Vice-President of the Party?

THAT surprisingly, President Rodrigo Duterte, who is the Chairman of PDP-Laban Chairman, was not present during the oath-taking of Senator Pacquiao and Speaker Velasco?

START OF POLITICAL FIREWORKS

THAT Twenty-five (25) PDP-Laban top leaders in Cebu met in a conference last 10 March 2021, and approved a Joint Resolution, asking & pledging their all-out support for President Rodrigo Duterte to run for

Republic of the Philippines ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR CONFIRMATION AND APPROVAL OF OVER OR UNDER RECOVERIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AUTOMATIC COST ADJUSTMENT AND TRUE UP MECHANISMS DURING THE PERIOD 2018 – 2020 PURSUANT TO ERC RESOLUTION No. 16, SERIES OF 2009 AS AMENDED BY RESOLUTION No. 21AND 23, SERIES OF 2010

6

ERC CASE No.

EASTERN SAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (ESAMELCO), represented by its Gen. Manager, ATTY. JOSE MICHAEL EDWIN S. AMANCIO, CPA Applicant,

APPLICATION

COMES NOW, applicant EASTERN SAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (ESAMELCO), represented herein by its General Manager, Atty. Jose Michael Edwin S. Amancio, CPA., and through the undersigned counsel, under authority given by ESAMELCO Board of Directors per Resolution Nos. 23 s. 2021 and 23A s. 2021, and corresponding Secretary Certificate, copies of which are hereto attached and marked as **"ANNEX A". "ANNEX B"** and **"ANNEX C"**, respectively; unto this Honorable Commission, most respectfully files this Application in compliance to ERC Resolution No. 16, Series of 2009 as amended by Resolution No. 21 & 23 Series of 2010.

This Application is seeking approval from the Honorable Commission to collect the under-recoveries incurred in the items of: Generation (GR), Transmission (TR), Systems Loss Rate (SLR), Lifeline Subsidy and Senior Citizen Subsidy during ESAMELCO's implementation of various automatic cost adjustment and true up mechanisms covering the period from 2018 to 2020 and in support thereof states as follows:

I. THE APPLICANT

1. The applicant, ESAMELCO is a non-stock, non-profit Electric Cooperative duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the Presidential Decree 269, as amended, with capacity to sue and be sued, with principal office address Brgy. Cabong, Borongan City, Eastern Samar, Philippines where it may be served with summons and other legal processes, represented in this instance by its General Manager, ATTY. JOSE MICHAEL EDWIN S. AMANCIO, CPA, who was authorized to file, execute verification and certification relative to this Application per Board Resolution No. 24, Series of 2018 (Annex A) with corresponding Secretary Certificate (Annex C).

2. Herein applicant is the exclusive franchise holder issued by the National Electrification Administration (NEA) to operate an electric light and power services in the Eastern part of Samar Island covering nine (22) municipalities and one (1) City namely: Lawaan, Balangja, Giporlos, Quinapondan, Guiuan, Mercedes, Salcedo, MacArthur, Hernani, Llorente, Balangkayan, Maydolong, San Julian, Sulat, Taft, Can-avid, Dolores, Oras, San Policarpio, Arteche, Jipapad, Maslog, and Borongan City. A copy of Applicant ESAMELCO's **Certificate of Franchise** is hereto attached as **"ANNEX D"**.

II. THE ANTECEDENT FACTS

3. Prior to this filing, herein Applicant had undergone computation and reportorial submission to Energy Regulatory Commission on its over or under recoveries incurred in the implementation of automatic cost adjustments and true-up mechanisms on pass through costs of ESAMEL-CO for the period 2004 to 2011. The said submitted application of Over/ Under Recoveries for 2004-2011 was approved and confirmed by Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) through its Decision dated December 17, 2014; which implementation is still on-going up to the present.

4. However, Applicant ESAMELCO is still awaiting for the ERC decision of its pending previous two (2) applications: (a) Over/Under recoveries 2012-2014 docketed as ERC Case no. 2019-027 CF, and (b) Over/Under recoveries 2015-2017 docketed as ERC Case no. 2018-037 CF

III. LEGAL BASES FOR THE APPLICATION

5. Under Section 43 (t) of the Republic Act No. 9136, the Energy regulatory Commission (ERC) is mandated to promulgate rules and regulations and perform such other regulatory functions as are appropriate and necessary in order to ensure the successful restructuring and modernizing of the electric power industry.

6. On July 13, 2009, pursuant to Section 43 (f) and (t) of the Republic Act No. 9136 or the Act, Rule 7 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) and Section 10 of the Republic Act No. 7832, the ERC had resolved to approve and adopt the so called **"Rules Governing the Automatic Cost Adjustment and True –up Mechanisms and Corresponding Con**firmation Process for Distribution Utilities", by virtue of ERC Resolution No. 16, Series of 2009.

7. However, the aforementioned rules promulgated under Resolution no. 16, series of 2009, failed to address the mismatch between meter reading periods at the wholesale and retail levels due to unequal number of billing days, which results to misalignment of kWh sales and purchase power. Recognizing the need to address and resolve the said misalignment of kWh sales and purchase power which causes spikes and dips in the computed monthly system loss and adversely affects the actual system loss of the DUs during certain billing months. The ERC had passed a Resolution No. 21, series of 2010, dated On October 18, 2010, which amended Section 4 of Article 4 and Section 1 of the Article 5 of the "Rules Governing the Automatic Cost Adjustment and True –up Mechanisms and Corresponding Confirmation Process for Distribution Utilities". Further, the computation is consistent with ERC Decision in ERC case no. 2007-520 MC which reclassified the 69kV subtransmission line of Wright-Taft-Borongan-Buenavista from connecting asset to transmission network asset.

8. On the other hand, ERC Resolution 23, Series of 2010 adopts the rules implementing the discounts to qualified senior citizen end-users

and subsidy from subsidizing end-users on electricity consumption.

9. Hence, this Application is pursuant to ERC Resolution No. 16, Series of 2009, as amended by ERC Resolution No. 21 and 23, Series of 2010.

IV. THE RESULTING COMPUTED OVER AND UNDER RECOVERIES INCURRED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT AND TRUE UP MECHANISMS FOR PERIOD 2015 TO 2017

10. In the application of formulas prescribed under ERC Resolution 16, Series of 2009, as amended by ERC Resolution 21 & 23, Series of 2010, Applicant's pass through cost vis-a-vis the actual collections, resulted to <u>under-recoveries</u> in the items of: Generation, Transmission, System Loss, Lifeline Subsidy and Senior Citizen Subsidy, with the total resulting over-recoveries of **Thirty Four Million One Hundred Ninety Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty One and 83/100 Pesos (Php34,192,181.83)**, The following table reflects the summary of over/under recoveries for years 2018 to 2020:

PARTICULARS	YEAR	PASS THROUGH COST ACTUAL REVENUE		DIFFERENCE (OVER)/ UNDER	
	2018	523,504,003.34	553,825,446.81	(30,321,443.47)	
GENERATION (GR)	2019	391,750,638.45	405,257,379.75	(13,506,741.30)	
	2020	353,467,616.52	360,796,205.73	(7,328,589.21)	
	TOTAL	1,268,722,258.31	1,319,879,032.29	(51,156,773.98)	
	2018	71,539,283.83	66,681,368.52	4,857,915.31	
	2019	70,178,524.23	68,584,198.97	1,594,325.26	
TRANSMISSION (TR)	2020	80,628,229.48	77,220,618.70	3,407,610.78	
	TOTAL	222,346,037.54	212,486,186.19	9,859,851.35	
	2018	94,499,761.55	90,013,659.93	4,486,101.62	
SYSTEM LOSS RATE	2019	84,899,421.00	78,986,190.25	5,913,230.75	
(SLR)	2020	79,741,426.84	84,713,789.96	(4,972,363.12)	
	TOTAL	259,140,609.39	253,713,640.14	5,426,969.25	
	2018	(6,966,682.63)	7,578,124.63	(611,442.00)	
	2019	(5,271,161.88)	3,558,082.29	1,713,079.59	
	2020	(4,740,262.18)	4,167,432.71	572,829.47	
	TOTAL	(16,978,106.69)	15,303,639.63	1,674,467.06	
	2018	(88,794.08)	104,319.99	(15,525.91)	
SENIOR CITIZEN	2019	(92,583.66)	79,376.43	13,207.23	
SUBSIDY	2020	(78,335.22)	72,712.05	5,623.17	
	TOTAL	(259,712.96)	256,408.47	3,304.49	
GRAND TOTAL/DIF	(34,192,181.83)				

Formulas used in computing the aforementioned over and under recoveries, as well as, the reasons for incurring the same are explained in the Executive Summary, hereto attached as **"ANNEX E"**.

V. THE PROPOSED RECOVERY SCHEME

11. Applicant ESAMELCO is proposing a recovery scheme for the resulting over/under-recoveries in: Generation, Transmission, System Loss, Lifeline Subsidy and Senior Citizen Subsidy, with the total resulting over-recovery of **Thirty Four Million One Hundred Ninety Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty One and 83/100 Pesos (Php34,192,181.83)**, with the proposed rate and corresponding period as shown below, to wit:

PROPOSED REFUND/COLLECTION SCHEMES:

NO.	PARTICULAR	(OVER)/ UNDER RECOVERY	Using February 2021 kWh Sales	Proposed no. Of Months	Rate Php/kWh
1	Generation Cost	(51,156,773.98)	7,704,561.00	180	(0.03689)
2	Transmission Cost	9,859,851.35	7,704,561.00	48	0.02666
3	System Loss Cost	5,426,969.25	7,704,561.00	48	0.01467
4	Lifeline	1,674,467.06	7,704,561.00	12	0.01811
5	Senior Citizen	3,304.49	7,704,561.00	1	0.00043
TOTAL		(34,192,181.83)			

VI. SUPPORTING DATA AND DOCUMENTS

12. In support to this Application, ESAMELCO is submitting herewith the following data and documents, which are being made integral parts hereof, to wit:

NATURE OF DOCUMENT
Summary of Over / Under Recoveries
Proposed Recovery/Refund Scheme
Fully Accomplished Supplier & Data Sheet for the Years 2018-2020
Power Bills from Suppliers
Fully Accomplished Statistical Data Sheet for the Year 2018- 2020
Manifestation of no Pilferage Cost Recoveries
Monthly Financial & Statistical Report (MFSR)
Fully Accomplished Actual Implemented Rates Sheet
Fully Accomplished Lifeline Discount Sheet
Fully Accomplished Senior Citizen Discount Sheet
Fully Accomplished Additional Statistical Data Sheet
Two (2) Consumer Bills per Customer Class (Non-Lifeliner)
One (1) Consumer Bill per Lifeline Bracket (Lifeliner)
One (1) Senior Citizen Consumer Bill
Uniform Reportorial Requirements (URR) for the years 2018- 2020
Computation of Implemented Rates (GR, SLR, TR, LRS, & SCS)
Monthly URR Addendum
Single Line Diagram
Monthly Reports as per ERC Resolution 10, Series of 2018
Implemented Order Decision- ERC Case No. 2013-039 CF

13. Further, in support of this Application, the "Judicial Affidavit" of ESAMELCO's Utility Economics & Financial Planning Head, AYESA GRACE D. ABING, is hereto attached and made integral part of this application and marked as **"Annex Z".**

VII. COMPLIANCE WITH PRE-FILING REQUIREMENTS

14. In compliance with the ERC prescribed Pre-filing requirements for O/U applications filing, ESAMELCO had provided copies of the Application and its annexes to Sangguniang Panglungsod of Borongan City, where the principal office of ESAMELCO is located, proof of which is the duly received Transmittal Letter and Certification hereto attached as **"ANNEX AA"** and **"ANNEX BB"**, respectively. Same copy of Application with annexes was given to Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Province of Eastern Samar, proof of which are hereto attached as **"ANNEX CC"** and **"ANNEX DD"**, respectively.

15. Moreover, applicant ESAMELCO had initiated the publication of this Application in a newspaper of general circulation within the franchise area of ESAMELCO in Eastern Samar Province, proof of which are hereto attached as **"ANNEX EE"** and **"ANNEX FF"**.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, premises considered it is respectfully prayed of this Honorable Commission that ESAMELCO's determination of over and under recoveries in the implementation of automatic cost adjustment and true-up mechanisms be confirmed and approved, and that the applicant be allowed to collect/refund the incurred computed under/over-recoveries under the proposed collection/refund schemes.

Other reliefs, just and equitable under the premises are likewise most respectfully prayed for.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

Tacloban City for Pasig City, this 24th day of March 2021.

ATTY. ROGELIO P. GULA

Legal Qounse) of ESAMELCO Email Address: <u>mnoygula@yahoo.com</u> Cellphone no.: 09177121967 Office Address: Gula Law & Notarial Office, Door 7, Cabigon Bldg., Del Pilar Street, (across Sacred Heart Church) Brgy. 8, 6500 Tacloban City, Leyte Roll No. 48025; Lifetime IBP No. 07688; PTR No. 8085615 dtd. 1/5/21 MCLE Compliance No. VI-0010051 valid until 4/14/2022

VERIFICATION and CERTIFICATION OF NON-FORUM SHOPPING

I, ATTY. JOSE MICHAEL EDWIN S. AMANCIO, CPA, of legal age, Filipino, and with principal office address at the Main Office of Eastern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ESAMELCO), Brgy. Cabong, Borongan City, Eastern Samar, Philippines, after being sworn to in accordance with law, hereby depose and say:

1. That I am the General Manager of Eastern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ESAMELCO);

2. That I have caused the preparation and filing of the foregoing Application for Over or Under Recoveries in the Implementation of Automatic Adjustment and True-up Mechanisms during the period 2018-2021;

3. That I have read the foregoing **Application** and I attest that all allegations therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and the same is based on authentic records;

4. That I have not commenced any other action or proceeding involving the same issue and nor is any pending before the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals or any other tribunal or agency and should I learn thereafter that a similar action or proceeding has been filed or is pending other court or tribunal, I undertake to promptly inform this Honorable Commission within five (5) days there from.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my name and signature this _____ day of March 2021, Tacloban City, Leyte.

ATTY. JOSE MICHAEL EDWIN S. AMANCIO, CPA

General Manager, ESAMELCO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me, a Notary Public for the Province of Leyte, this 31^{st} day of March 2021, Maydolong, Eastern Samar, Philippines. Affiant Gen. Manager of ESAMELCO has shown his proof of identity:

ATTY. OLY HPTO B. AMBAL, JR. Notary Public - Unkil December 31, 2021 Roll No. 53025; IBP Life Member Roll No. 015473 PTR No. 6445178 - 01/04/2021, Maydolong, E. Samar Notarial Commission No. 012-17C-2019-RTC-BR-2 MCLE Com. No. VI-0021612, 03/28/2019, Manila, Phils.

AMBAL LAW OFFICE, Maydolong, E. Samar

Doc, no. <u>301;</u> Page no. <u>61</u> Book no. <u>LVII</u>; Series of 2021

Progressive...

... from Page 2

vegetables.

"The planting won't coincide with the rice planting season. We opted for ampalaya, mongo (mung bean), and watermelon," said Ong.

"We hope to harvest in three to four months. We will try if we can get an optimum production or we need soil improvement. We will also infuse agricultural technology," he added.

The management also constructed drainage and irrigation canals in the rehabilitated area.

In MacArthur town alone, the MIPC has mining claims of about 300 hectares for three years.

At present, the mining company has leased the seven-hectare rice land owned by Maya village chief Pepito Guimalan for their black sand extraction.

The management leased the private land in the amount of P270,000 per hectare for two years.

Amid criticisms from anti-mining groups, the MIPC management

In this...

... from Page 5

yet the time for talking politics for now, and instead help people who are in need ...? **"SO NO POLITICKING**

FOR NOW," BUT DID'JA KNOW -THAT a jaded, Manila-based "Media Usisero" somehow acquired and forwarded the fol-"unoflowing ficial & confidential" copy

of a new campaign jingle to several friends in media? THAT the name of the singer-songwrit-

er, though well-known among Radio-TV stations in Metro Manila, was not revealed, but the sender declared that the following lyrics could be sang along the "BAYAN KO" Tune --

ANG BAYAN KONG **PILIPINAS** LALAYA KA SA PAGHIHIRAP NANG BUHAT NANG MASILAYAN KA HANGGANG NGAYON, NAGDURUSA NGAYONG AKO NA

maintained they complied with the national government's necessary permits and tax payments.

According to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, the MIPC has mining claims of 2,300 hectares in Leyte, covering the towns of MacArthur, Javier, and Abuyog.

The mining company hired around 300 workers in MacArthur.

The minerals are being shipped to China, according to the MIPC management.

Black sand is a valuable component in the making of steel, concrete, jewelry, cosmetics, and other industrial products.

(RONALD O. REYES)

Demanding... ... from Page 5

because that would only

show that we are neither with Christ truly.

When we are with Christ, we would be strict and demanding on ourselves with respect to what is right and wrong, but at the same time, tolerant, understanding, quick to forgive and help others when we see their defects and misdeeds.

AY NARIRITO HANGARIN KO AT **SUMAKLOLO** BAYAN KO, ASAHAN MO, KASAMA MO

SI MANNY PACQUIAO AT NARIRITO HANDANG TULONGAN SA MGA TAO DAHIL SIYA AY NANGGALING SA HIRAP RAMDAM NIYANG **BUHAY NG**

SI MANNY PACQUIAO ANG HINIHINTAY HANDANG TUMULONG SA MGA TAO SI MANY PACQUIAO AY NARIRITO HANDANG TUMULONG TUMULONG SA MGA

your own comments or conclusions.

gan ang Susunod na Kabanata !

DOLE provides cash aid to 2,800 Biliranons under its TUPAD program

TACLOBAN CITY-A total of 2,800 informal sector workers in Biliran are set to benefit from P9.8 million assistance under the Tulong Panghanapbuhay Para sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (Tupad) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

This was disclosed by DOLE Regional Director Henry John Jalbuena who

TACLOBAN

With more than 6.9 million

registered and unregistered

small businesses in the

Philippines, and roughly

around 50,000 in Eastern

Visayas alone, Peddlr Phil-

ippines, Inc., an internet

company startup, develops

an app to helps micro and

small businesses earn more

and manage their opera-

Laygo, a native of Catbalo-

gan City, said, "One of the

challenges of businesses is

recording their sales, in-

ventory, and even compil-

ing reports. We developed

Peddlr, a mobile app to do

nesses have lower technolo-

American...

CEO and founder Nel

tions better.

CITY-

said that the financial aid will be of help to the identified beneficiaries, especially during this time of pandemic.

"May these Tupad grants bring new ray of hope and optimism to our informal sector workers here in Biliran especially during this time of pandemic," he said.

The labor official also lauded the active partner-

Eastern Visayas home-grown startup

develops an awesome app to help

micro and small businesses

ship of the local government unit (LGU) officials during the recently-held awarding of checks to the provincial government and its seven municipalities.

The Tupad funds include P1.7 million each for the provincial government and for the towns of Naval and Biliran; P874,250 for Almeria; P1.3 million each for Kawayan and Caibiran; P438,750 for Maripipi; and

Public Employment Office (Peso) Service managers representing their local chief executives were also present during financial assistance turnover. (RONALD **O. REYES/RESTITUTO A. CAYUBIT)**

7

... from Page 1

would be allowed to return to the city.

these 'bubble areas,' he said, should not ventured outside unless for essential purpose.

'They should not go out but instead isolate themselves," the city mayor said.

He also said that he would be requiring the barangays to coordinate and inform the city government of any returning individuals coming from NCR Plus.

Romualdez assured the city residents that no new variants of COVID-19 have been detected by the City Health Office.

"(And) this is what we are trying to avoid," he said, adding that the transmissibility of these new variants are higher.

health officer, said that the transmissibility rate on COVID-19 in Tacloban is just around two percent which is considerably lower than the new variants.

As of Monday, Tacloban has 2,169 total COVID-19 cases since the pandemic started over a year ago. Of this number, 2049 are considered as recovered and 65 active cases.

Mayor Romualdez also asked those who need medical assistance to seek hospital help as early as now to ensure that they would be treated properly and avoid any possible spike of COVID-19 cases in the city.

of their heighten measure, curfew across the city would be strengthen and proper use of face mask and face shield would also be monitored.

Romualdez admitted that during his own monitoring, he had seen people not wearing the face mask properly.

"Some tend to relax now," he said.

Business establishments in the city which does not use scanner would be required to have one for contact tracing purposes.

Mayor Romualdez again reiterated that while the city government will be more strict, he would not consider placing the entire city under lockdown.

AKO

readers, after reading (or singing) the above campaign song, can draw

all of that and more." "Normally a POS (Point of Sales) device costs around P30,000 to P90,000 which is the main reason why small and micro busi-

KAPUS-PALAD

..... TAO !

THAT you, our dear

Good Luck, and Aban-

... from Page 4 these racists are defamatory and discriminatory remarks that bring them down to the level of beasts in the wild. To some extent, these

white racists harm the Asian nationals even in public. I've seen videos of how they beat up their victims. One man for instance kicked an Asian woman's back, causing her to fall to the ground. He then proceeded in kicking her head several times though she was already lying down. It could have caused her death.

Surely, this feeling of rage directed toward Asians, in general, is grossly abusive and inappropriate. If they

gy adoption rate. They can't six of the founding team are afford it. Peddlr is a smart version of that device and it's free. On top of that, it works offline. No need for data or internet connection," he explained.

"Most of the businesses still use pen and paper in their businesses, which is not only time-consuming but also inefficient. With Peddlr, they will be at par with big businesses with their own POS Systems," Laygo added.

Peddlr is a Smart POS App that assists small and micro business in recording sales, log expenses and understand business performance. The app generates easy-to-understand accounting reports and other data.

Peddlr Philippines, Inc., is founded by a young group of professionals wherein all

are doing it for their hatred over the emergence of coronavirus, then they are wrong in generalizing all the Asians as this COVID-19 just originated from China, and China is not the whole of Asia. If they cannot hold back their hatred for it, then it should be just directed to the Chinese in Mainland China, particularly the originators of this virus in the

laboratories. If they hate the Asians just because they do not want to share their country with the latter, then they must realize that this continent is neither theirs-their ancestors just grabbed these lands from the natives, the real owners. They, too, are just strangers and aliens in these lands

ther, "Peddlr is free to use. It's been a very challenging journey, but even if the app

and co-founder, also a na-

tive of Catbalogan, said fur-

Aiko Reyes, the COO

from Eastern Visayas.

is free, we made all the major features available to all users. Our main goal is to jumpstart Philippine micro and small businesses to the digital world and put them at the heart of economic recovery for 2021 and beyond."

Peddlr is now available in the Apple Appstore and GooglePlay Store. Simply search "Peddlr" and users can easily install the app. All users are encouraged to join the "Peddlr User Community" Group in Facebook for further questions and technical support concerns.(PR)

they call the United States of America. They should go home to the UK where they came from.

If they are selfish and greedy enough not to share the "blessings" that their country is enjoying, then they should realize that this country is now deteriorating morally, economically, spiritually, politically, etc., not anymore like it was before. There are now places that are far better to live in, to work in, to visit, to enjoy, etc. These they ought to know somehow confront to their arrogance. In fact, that American dream has now become nothing but a myth, from the former regard as though America were heaven.

NEWS Lepte Samar Daily Express

Alfred...

And those coming from

Dr.Gloria Fabrigas, city

He also said that as part implementation



8

NOTICE is hereby given that Dinah Genotiva Fiji of legal age, the only surviving and sole heir of DAVID A. GENOTIVA who died intestate on March 11, 2021 at Tacloban City executed an affidavit of Self-Adjudication over a certain parcels of land with improveof land with improvements thereon designated as Lot 32, Block 19, of the consolidation subdivision plan, (LRC) Pcs-13819, being a portion of the consolidation of Lots 2870, 2871, 2872, 2873, 2874, 2884, 2886, 2887, 2903, 2904, 2905, 2920, 2921, 2922, 2923, 2924, 2925, 2927, and 3381, Tacloban Cadastre, LRC (GLRO) Record No. 1040) covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-38302; Parcel 2, A registered parcel of land with improvements thereon designated as Lot 34, Block 19, of the consolidation subdivision plan, (LRC) Pcs-13819, being a portion of the consolidation of Lots 2870, 2871, 2872 2873, 2874, 2884, 2886, 2887, 2903, 2904, 2908, 2920, 2921, 2922, 2923, 2924, 2925 2927, and 3381, Tacloban Cadastre, LRC (GLRO) Record No. 1040), covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-38201, containing an area of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180) SQUARE METERS, more or less, and locaged at Barangay Caibaan, Tacloban City; per Doc. No. 461, Page No. 94, Book No. IV, Series of 2021 of Notary Public Atty. Amabelle LSDE: April 6, 13 & 20, 2021 J. Salino-Darantinao, R.N.

SELF ADJUDICATION WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that heir of the late LEONCIO SALABAO, who died in-testate executed an Affidavit of Self Adjudication with Absolute Sale over a parcel of land more particularly described as follow to wit: a residential Land situated in Brgy. Daanlungsod, Bato, Leyte under TD No.08-06-0013-00302 declared in the name of Leoncio Salabac with Cad Lot No. 1736 containing an area of 1,011 sq. m. covered by Original Certificate of Title No. P.-26751. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of SPS. LEONCIO AND HER-MINIGILDA LUDEVISE both of legal age, Filipinos, resident of Brgy. Daanglungsod, Bato, Leyte. Per Doc. No. 17, Page No. 17, Book No. 63, Series of 2021 of Notary Public LSDE: April 6, 13 & 20, 2021 Atty. Rico E. Aureo.

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT AMONG HEIRS OF **GASPAR AGUILAR WITH ABSOLUTE SALE**

NOTICE is hereby given that heir of the late Gaspar Aguilar, who died without exe-cuting a will, extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of land more particularly described as follows to wit: An Agricultural Land situated at Brgy. Ponong, Matalom, Leyte under TD No. 08-27020-00233, Cad Lot No. 2749 containing an area of 1824.32. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of Sps. Dionesio and Junadette Jasmin. both of legal ages, Filipinos, and residents of Poblacion Bato, Leyte, containing an area of 100 sq.m. and 275 sq. m. or a total portion of 375 sq.m., per Doc. No. 521, Page No. 5, Book No. 30, Series of 2015 of Notary Public Atty. Rico E. Aureo. LSDE: April 6, 13 & 20, 2021

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT AMONG HEIRS OF TERESITA BASACA WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the Late TERESITA BASACA, who died in-testate, extrajudicially settled partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of land more particularly described and bounded to wit: An Agricultural Land situated at Brgy. Ponong, Bato, Leyte under TD No. 08-06002600398 with Cad. Lot. No. 2345 containing an area of .189107 has. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of DIOSCORA NOTARTE, of legal age, Filipino, Single and resident of Brgy. Ponong, Bato, Leyte. Per Doc. No. 27, Page No. ,Book No. 65, Series of 2021 of Notary Public Atty. Rico E. Aureo LSDE: April 6, 13 & 20, 2021

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH UNDERTAKING

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late ESTEBAN MONTERO extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a cash deposit with Land Bank of the Philippines Guiuan Branch in the amount of Php635,456.31 under a Visa ATM Regular Account Number 39160292-83. Per Doc No. 384, Page No. 40, Book No. VIII, Series of 2021. Notary Public Clotilde Japzon-Salazar. LSDE: March 23, 30 & April 6, 2021

AFFIDAVIT OF CLAIM WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late CELSO U. MIRANDA extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a savings deposit account with the Philippines Veteran's Bank - Catarman branch under Savings Account No. 0052-348-426-100 with a balance of Php40,281.25 and heirs hereby request the bank to release the balance of the said deposit account in favor of LOURDES MIRANDA. Per Doc No. 165, Page No. 33, Book No. IV, Series of 2020. Notary Public Atty. Arturo M. Cebujano LSDE: March 23, 30 & April 6, 2021

AFFIDAVIT OF CONFIRMATION OF EXTRAJUDICIAL PARTITION **OF THE ESTATE AND QUITCLAIM**

NOTICE is hereby given that Conegundo Regis, Emerio Regis, Celso Regis Regis Manongdo and Villaflor Regis executed an affidavit of Confirmation of Extrajudicial Partition of the estate and Quitclaim of a document signed by Eugenia S. Regis. mother and Adelina Regis Corral both deceased, said original copy of said document was lost last November 8, 2013 during the Super Typhoon Yolanda and executing this affidavit of confirmation of extrajudicial partition of the estate and quitclaim for the purpose of paying the Estate Tax to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) for the issuance of the Electronic Certificate of Authority to Register for the estate Tax and registering the said document to the Register of Deeds and to attest to the truth of the foregoing circumstanc-Vicente B. Cañas. LSDE: March 30, April 6 & 13, 2021

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH **CONFIRMATION OF OUITCLAIM. RENUNCIATION. WAIVER OVER A PARCEL OF LAND AND DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE**

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late FORTUNATA VERGARA, extrajudi cially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a 1/7 portion of agricultural land situated at Brgy. Esperanza, (Lingayon), Alang-alang, Leyte designated as Lot 2279 consisting of 5,115,57sq.m., more rless being the equivalent of 1/7 of the 35,809sq.m., under TD No. 08-02-034-00133 and 08-02-034-00146 covered by OCT 33763 and heir, JOSE VERGA-RA hereby WAIVED and RELINQUISHED all rights, interests and participation over the above-described property in favor of RUBEN VERGARA. A Deed of Absolute sale was executed in favor of RUBEN V. VERGARA as vendee of the share from the above-de-scribed parcel of land and that said shares are free from any and all claims, liens and encumbrances whatsoever. Per Doc No. 32, Page No. 8, Book No. III, Series of 2020. Notary Public Richmond G. Longjas. *LSDE: March 30, April 6 & 13, 2021*

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late PETRONILA JOSAIN ANDAYA extraudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of agricultural land situated at Brgy. San Lorenzo, Kawayan, Biliran, under Tax Dec. No. 00185 and OCT No. OCL-3410, /square meters, assessed value of P151,160.00 f 10.139600 ha of P1,035,356.40. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of NILDA MONTEROLA RO-SALES and ROWEL MONTEROLA RASALES as vendee for the above-described parcel of land; per Doc. No. 3580, Page no. 638, Book No. XI, Series of 2019 of Notary Public Atty. Mario Lydinno R. Opeña. LSDE: March 23, 30 & April 6, 2021

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH DEED OF SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late ERNESTO CANETE extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of agricultural land situated in Brgy. Madao, Kawayan, Biliran, denominated as survey No. 3553-B, Csd-08-011706-D, cov-ered by Katibayan ng Original na Titulo Blg. P-5078, under Tax Dec. no. 00215, with an area of 15,120 square meters (1.551000 has. as per Tax Dec. No. 00215). A Deed of Sale was executed a portion of 200 square meters, denominated as Lot 3553-B-2-part, from the above-described property in favor of ALEMAR T. MAHINAY as vendee; per Doc. No. 470, Page No. 94, Book No. 60, Series of 2020 of Notary Public Atty. Redentor C. Villordon. LSDE: March 23, 30 & April 6, 2021

EXTRAJUDICIAL PARTITION WITH SALE (PORTION OF RESIDENTIAL (URBAN) LAND

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late BRAULIO ANDRESCIO extrajudicially settled, partitiioned and adjudicated over a parcel of residential land, situated at Brgy. Poblacion, Albuera, Leyte, Region 8, designated as cad/survey 655 Lot 6502 with PIN 044-03-001-20-016, containing an area of 139 square meters and subdivided into 5 shares. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of MARLENE A. REFORZADO as vendee for the above-described parcel of land, per Doc. No. 692, Page No. 139, Book No. LVIII, Series of 2020 of Notary Public Atty. Rene Allan G. Jervoso. LSDE: March 23, 30 & April 6, 2021

Northern Samar top cop warns illegal loggers

TACLOBAN CITY-The top police official in Northern Samar has issued a stern warning to illegal loggers in the province following the arrest of seven suspects and the confiscation of P872,500 worth of hot logs and conveyance in San Isidro town last week.

"Paulit-ulit na akong nagbabala na kung hindi kayo hihinto sa illegal na pagtrotroso at pagkawasak ng ating yamang gubat ay siguradong may kalalagyan kayo. Hindi kami titigil ipatupad ang mga batas pang

SELF-ADJUDICATION WITH DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE

ties

NEWS

kalikasan at sa aming

kampanya laban sa mga

lumalapastangan sa ating

kalikasan," warned Colo-

nel Arnel Apud, director

of Northern Samar Po-

urged the public to re-

port any illegal logging

activities to the authori-

elements of San Isidro

Municipal Police Station,

led by Lieutenant Lyn-

don Dagalea, intercepted

a total of 29 assorted dip-

terocarp species, 20 boat

keels, and a motorized

banca worth P400,000.

Last March 26, 2021,

The police official also

lice Provincial Office.

NOTICE is hereby given that LOURDES CLITAR BOLANTE, sole surviving heir of the late MARCELO CLITAR executed a Deed of Self-Adjudication over 2 parcels of land described as; 1) A parcel of agricultural land designated as Lot No. 2081, Survey No. 519-D situated at Brgy. Tinabilan, Palompon, Leyte embraced in Katibayan ng Orihinal na Titulo No. P-76354 with TD No. 08-31048-00150 R13 containing an area of 2,318sq.m.;; 2) A parcel of agricultural land designated as Lot No. 2084, Survey No. 519-D situated at Brgy. Tinabilan, Palompon, Leyte embraced in Katibayan ng Orihinal na Titulo No. P-76358 with TD No. 08-31048-00151 R13 containing an area of 0679 hectares more or less: A Deed of Absolute Sale was executed in favor of SPS. SANTI V. SON AND CHARRO MATER SON as vendees of the above-parcel of lands free from liens and encumbrances. Per Doe No. 143, Page No. 29, Book No. LXXXI, Series of 2020. Notary Public Donna Villa M Gaspan-Cerna. LSDE: March 23, 30 & April 6, 2021

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION WITH SOLE HEIR WITH SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that LUCENA JERVOSO CANEZAL, sole surviving heir of the late SPS_LEON TIOZON JERVOSO AND ADRIANA LAZAR JERVOSO executed a Deed of Self-Adjudication over a parcel of agricultural land located at Pob. District II, Macarthur, Leyte with an area of .7615sq.m., more or less known as Cad Lot No. 510. Estate Tax issued CAR No. 1999-0026477. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of SPS. RODOLFO AND ROSARIO MATOZA as vendees of the above described property together with all the improvements thereon. Per Doc No. 477, Page No. 66, Book No. 51, Series of 2006. Notary Public Generoso Casimpan. *LSDE: March 23, 30 & April 6, 2021*

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION WITH SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that JESUSA DIAZ VALEN heir of the late SERAFINA H DIAZ executed an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication over a parcel of land (Lot 2417-C-8 of the non-subdivision plan Psd-08-002495 being a portion of Lot 2417-C, Psd-08-002287 LRC Cad Rec. No. 1068 situated at Brgy. Utap, Tacloban City containing an area of 633sq.m., covered by TCT No. T-39050. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of MARITES D. ACA-BADO married to RAMIR D. ACABADO as vendees of an un-segregated portion with an area of 300sq.m., from the above-described parcel of land. Per Doc No. 254, Page No. 51, Book No. 1, Series of 2021. Notary Public Eric L. De Veyra, Jr. LSDE: March 30, April 6 & 13, 2021

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late BIENVENIDO M. BERENGUER extrajudi-cially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a joint bank account together with his brother. Anacleto M. Berenguer particularly described as; 1) Dollar Account No. 8-466-00420-1 of RCBC Tacloban Branch under account name ANACLETO M. BERENGUER AND BIENVENIDO M. BERENGUER in the amount of \$48,543.23 as of 9/28/2018; 2) Peso Account No. 1-466-465-63-8 under account name ANACLETO M. BERENGUER AND BIENVENIDO M. BERENGUER in the amount of Php1,022,210.78 as of 9/28/2018. That being a joint account, the late BIENVINIDO M. BERENGUER as his spouse, the herein Genara I. Berenguer, own one-half of each of the said bank accounts. Per Doc No. 402, Page No. 85, Book No. 1, Series of 2018. Notary Public Eric T. De Veyra. LSDE: March 30, April 6 & 13, 2021

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late ROLANDO A. OMEGA extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a motor vehicle (Tricycle with Franchise) which is particularly described as; MV FILE NO: 0801-00000005012; ENGINE NO KSW00E071225: DENOMINATION: TRICYCLE: SERIES: CCG125WHF: YEAR MOD EL: 2015; PLATE NO: HX6438; CHASSIS NO: KSW00070886; MAKE: HONDA; BODY TYPE: MC WITH SIDECAR; FRANCHISE NO: 2006-BATCH. Per Doc No. 420, Page No. 85, Book No. XII, Series of 2021. Notary Public Aljim Denver M. Arcueno. LSDE: March 30, April 6 & 13, 2021

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late RENERIO M. HORCA extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of land covered by TCT No. 5488. Per Doc No. 421, Page No. 86, Book No. XII, Series of 2020. Notary Public Aljim Denver M. LSDE: March 30, April 6 & 13, 2021 Arcueno.

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late EUFEMIA VERGARA extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a 1/7 portion of agricultural land situated at Brgy. Esperanza, Alang-alang, Levte designated as Lot 2279 consisting of 5,116sq.m., more or less being the equivalent of 1/7 of the 35,809sq.m., under TD No. 08-02-034-00146 covered by OCT No. 33763. A Deed of Absolute sale was executed in favor of RUBEN V. VERGARA as vendee of the the above-described parcel of land free from any and all claims, liens and encumbrances whatsoever. Per Doc No. 33, Page No. 8, Book No. III, Series of 2020. Notary Public Richmond G. Longias. LSDE: March 30, April 6 & 13, 2021

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late ADOLPH H. FRIGILLANA extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over 2 parcels of land described as1) A parcel of land designated as Lot 1, Block 27 of the subdivision plan Psd-08-021950-D being a portion of Lot 3-U, Psd 08-015396-D situated at Brgy. Dalakit, Catarman, Northern Samar covered with TCT No. T-12848 with an area of 373sq.m.,; 2) A parcel of land designated as Lot 16, Block 27 of the subdivision plan Psd-08-021950-D being a portion of Lot 3-U, Psd 08-015396-D situated at Brgy. Dalakit, Catarman, Northern Samar covered with TCT No. T-12863 with an area of 373sq.m.,; A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of SPS. HIPOLI-TO R. GABORNI AND ADELAIDA C. GABORNI as vendees of the above-described property. Per Doc No. 15, Page No. 4, Book No. XLII, Series of 2020. Notary Public Albert P. Yruma. LSDE: March 30, April 6 & 13, 2021

Operatives the suspects in the act came after the seizure of of transporting undocumented lumber products along the seawater of Barangay Balite, San Isidro.

On March 23, police arrested seven suspects and seized 800 pieces of "lawaan" worth P239,999 in Bobon town.

Elements of Northern Samar Provincial Special Operation Group and Allen Municipal Police Station also apprehended a trailer truck loaded with P79,360 worth of sawn lumber in Allen port area on March 14. The anti-illegal log-

caught ging operation in Allen P117,000 worth of illegal lumber in San Isidro town.

> On March 12, Northern Samar police also confiscated 151 flitches of lawaan lumber worth P500,000 loaded in a wing van from Bobon town bound to Legazpi City in Bicol region.

> The owners of the confiscated illegal lumber will face charges in violation of Presidential Decree 705, or the Forestry Reform Code of the Philippines. (RONALD O. REYES)

DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE NOTICE is hereby given that Hermogenes B. Dasulvo, 80 years old, Filipino, widow-er and a resident of Brgy. Tingib, Basey, Samar, hereinafter referred to as the VENDOR and BYREN C. ALA, of legal age, Filipino, single and resident of Brgy. 92 Apitong, Tacloban City, Leyte, hereinafter referred to as the VENDEE. That the vendor is the absolute and registered owner with Katibayan Ng Original Na Titulo Blg. 23072, which parcel of land is particularly described as follows: Katibayan ng Original na Titulo Blg. 23072, Lot No. 334 Cad 973-D (Module 1) with an area of Ten Thousand Four Hundred Seventy One (10,471) sq.m. Whereas, Vendor desire to sell and the vendee agrees to buy the aforementioned parcel of land Lot No. 334, Cad 973-D (Module 1) with Katibayan ng Orihinal na Titulo Big 23072 with an area of Ten Thousand Four Hundred Seventy One (10,471) square meters per Doc. No. 458, Page No. 93, Book No. 25, Series of 2018 of Notary Public Atty. Joseph N. Escalona. LSDE: April 6, 13 & 20, 2021

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that ALFONSO SENO ANTIVO SR. died in Tacloban City on August 15, 2011 extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over the follow ing properties more particularly described as follows: 1) Lot No. 4004-TCT No. T-0059, DAR CLOA No. 00279705, One-half (1/2) share, pro-indiviso of a parcel of agricultural land (Lot No. 4004 of the Cadastral Survey of Tacloban) with the improvements thereon situated in Brgy. Salvacion (formerly Tigbao) Municipality of Tacloban, containing an area of 16,885 square meters, more or less; 2) Lot No. 2-D TCT No. T-19152 one-half (1/2) share, pro-indiviso of a parcel of land (Lot No. 2-D of the subdivision Plan Psd-08-00123342202, being a portion of Lot 2, LRC PC-9229, LRC Cad Record No. 1060) situated in Barangay Caibaan, City of Tacloban, containing an area of 492 square meters, more or less; per Doc. No. 85, Page No. 18, Book No. V, Series of 2021 of Notary Public Atty. Earl Caesar Rosario. *LSDE: April 6, 13 & 20, 2021*

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the deceased OSCAR P. FLORES who died intestate on April 26, 2014 in Tacloban City, Philippines, extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of land situated at Barangay Pagsulhugon, Babatagon, Leyte covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-6096, which was thereafter covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) of the government. That by reason of the said CARP coverage, the said parcel of land was acquired by the government through the Land Bank of the Philippines and deceased left an amount of Six Hundred Fifty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred Seventeen Pesos and Eighty-Six Centavos (Php 654,517.86) representing as just compensation of the above-mentioned parcel of land under claim number VIII-VO-91-364; per Doc. No. 17, Page No. 5, Book No. LVIII, Series of 2020 of Notary Public Atty. Mark Gil M. Tadena. LSDE: April 6, 13 & 20, 2021

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH SALE AND WAIVER

NOTICE is hereby given that Heirs of Jovena C. Verona extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a certain parcel of land located at Brgy. Atipolo, Tanauan, Leyte which is more particularly described as follows: A parcel of land designated as Lot 4349, located at Brgy. Atipolo, Tanauan, Leyte, covered by Original Certificate of Title No. P-59147, containing an area of Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred and Eight (16,408) square meters. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of Spouses John Ryan Picache and Melissa Guatno, both of legal age, Filipinos, married and residents of Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila and hereinafter called the VENDEES do hereby SELL, TRANSFER and CONVEY absolutely and unconditionally unto the said vendees equivalent to 1/4 portion of Lot 4349 containing an area of 4,102 square meters; per Doc. No. 112, Page No. 24, Book No. IV, Series of 2020 of Notary Public Atty. Granny R. Varona. *LSDE: April 6, 13 & 20, 2021*

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH SIMULTANEOUS SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late Gil Llames, the sole heirs of Fabiana Llames who died intestate extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a certain parcel of land located at Brgy. Abango, Barugo, Leyte and described as follows: A parcel of Coconut Land situated at Brgy. Abango, Barugo, Leyte designated as Cad Lot No. 9076, Survey No. PLS 1061-D with Tax Dec. No. 08-05-0006-00192 with a whole area of 2,968 sq.m. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of ROWENA P. GOZON of legal age, Filipisq.m. A Deed of Sale was executed in Tavor of KOWEINA P. GOZON on regar age, rimp-no, single, and a resident of Brgy. Guindapunan West, Carigara, Leyte we hereby SELL, CEDE, TRANSFER and CONVEY by way of Absolute Sale for a portion of 2,000 sq.m. of the above-described property; per Doc. No. 163, Page No. 32, Book No. 29, Series of 2021 of Notary Public Atty. Edgar J. Tonolete. LSDE: April 6, 13 & 20, 2021

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT AMONG HEIRS OF ROBERTO INOCENTE WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late Roberto Inocente, who died intestate extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of land more particularly described as follows to wit: An Agricultural Land situated at Brgy. Linao, Inopacan, Leyte under TD No. 08-16013-00165 declared in the name of Roberto Inocente with Cad. Lot No. 2133 containing an area of 1.6720 has. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor of Sps. Sanders and Lorelie Lumarda, both of legal age, Filipinos, and residents of Inopacan, Leyte for a portion of 1,131 sq.m. located on the western part of the entire land designated as Lot 2133-D-3, per Doc. No. 63, Page No. 13, Book No. 63, Series of 2021 of Notary Public Atty. Rico E. Aureo. *LSDE: April 6, 13 & 20, 2021*



DPWH starts construction of the P57 million worth flood control structures in Balangiga town

BORONGAN CITY-The Department of Public Works and Highways – Eastern Samar District Engineering Office is started the construction of the two flood control structures along Balangiga River at Barangay 1, Poblacion and in Brgy. Sta. Rosa, Balangiga, Eastern Samar, with a total contract amount of P57,779,508.15.

The two flood control projects are the Construction of Balangiga flood control in Brgy. 1 (along Balangiga River) with a length of 127 meters, with project cost amounting to P48,116,943.97 and the construction of flood control in Brgy. Sta. Rosa, also in Balangiga, with a length of 63 meters, with a project cost amounting to P 9,662,564.18.

Balangiga Municipal Mayor Randy Gaza expressed his thanks to DP-WH-ESDEO for the construction of the two flood control structures in their municipality during the preconstruction conference held in his office on February 16, 2021.

"In behalf of the people of Balangiga, we are very thankful to the government thru DPWH for the infrastructure project that is given to the Municipality. I could say that we are so lucky to have these projects," the town mayor said.

ESDEO Project Engineer Marlon Kuizon explained the details of the project to Graza, in the presence of Balangiga's Municipal Engineer and other ESDEO Technical Personnel.

Meanwhile, DPWH ES-DEO District Engineer Ma. Margarita C. Junia in an interview said that the department aims to provide infrastructure facilities that are responsive to the needs of the community, and infra projects that would protect the lives and properties of the local residents.

"These recipient barangays are so lucky enough to have these projects funded by the government as these will give assurance of protection as these structures lessen harm to the lives and physical infrastructure of the community during calamity," said DE Junia.

Both flood control infrastructure projects in the Municipality of Balangiga started the construction on February 18, 2021, with funding under General Appropriations Act 2021. (IRMA BALLETE, PIO STAFF)

FEATURE Despite of the raging pandemic, colorful Holy Week tradition of 'penitentes' lives on in Palo

RONALD O. REYES

FIDELINO JOSOL, 53, did not mind the heat as he wore his hood and robe while walking barefoot in the streets of Palo, Leyte as Catholics observed this year's Holy Week amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Josol, a senior member of an all-male group of religious devotees called "Penitentes," joined in the veneration of the cross and the procession as part of their religious service and sacrifice to the parish on Good Friday.

A procession of penitentes during Holy Week has become a feature of the annual celebration of the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ in the town.

"Despite of the pandemic, the tradition lives on," said Monsignor Gilbert Urbina, the newly-installed vicar general of Archdiocese of Palo.

Monsignor Urbina led this year's "Renewal of Promises" of the penitentes on Palm Sunday.

On Holy Wednesday, the priest also officiated in the admission of 30 other young men to the brotherhood.

"This new batch makes us reflect and acknowledge a special divine blessing to those who embark on this form of penance, and we are counting not just decades but centuries," he said.

"Normally, the rite is done on the eve of Palm Sunday; but due to the pandemic the mentor-formators needed more time for their formation, especially their instruction in the faith in relation to the church group they are about to be part of," he said.

"The pandemic prevented the leaders (mentor-formators) from conducting activities such as chapel visitation, outreach (social action) activities and the like as part of their formation in the faith and in the brotherhood," Monsignor Urbina added.



The decades-old presentation on the passion and death of Jesus Christ held at Palo, Leyte continues despite of the raging health pandemic cause by the coronavirus disease. Photo shows the 'penitentes' carrying the Santo Entierro. (Photo by Cecilia Cobacha)

According to the priest, the new batch of penitentes came from diverse social backgrounds and educational attainment but was united in one aspiration, that is, to grow in the practice of the faith as a penitente.

Colorful tradition

Spanish Franciscan priest Pantaleon de la Fuente, who served as parish priest of Palo from 1887 to 1898, introduced the penitentes to add drama to the Holy Week observance.

In 1894, he formed the penitentes to discourage the increasing number of fanatic Catholics and flagellants during Holy week.

The penitentes assist the parish during religious processions and in soliciting donations for the celebrations.

The highlights of the group's "performance" is during the reenactment of the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday, the veneration of the Cross on Good Friday, and the station of the Cross on Black Saturday.

The penitentes usually stage a reenactment of the passion and death of Jesus Christ in the town square.

The act of fast and abstinence during the Holy Week also highlighted the formation of the group.

"The practice of doing public penitential practices during Lent and Holy Week in Palo dates back to the early years of the evangelization of this town in the late 16th century, as attested to by Jesuit historian, Fr. Pedro Chirino; obviously it has continued for centuries until today," wrote Monsignor Urbina.

As an organized and officially recognized parish organization, the penitentes of Palo portray the penitential mood of the parish and embody the penitential acts of all the parishioners, according to the priest.

"Each one does not only make a sacrifice for his own sake but like the Lord Himself, vicariously suffers for others. And so they remind others in the parish (and all the baptized elsewhere) that we have to make sacrifices for the sake of our families, communities, our country, and the world - in short, for others," added Monsignor Urbina.

Like the penitentes of southern Spain, the Palo penitentes don a medieval-style robe with their covered faces, reminding the public of the "anonymity when it comes to praying and sacrificing for others."

"The inconvenience of wearing the long and heavy robes in a humid country like the Philippines underlines the sacrificial character of the activity," said the priest.

Unfortunately the robe (costume) has been usurped by the anti-Catholic American group, the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) in the late 19th and early 20th century, according to Monsignor Urbina.

"That is why for many Catholics who have less knowledge of the history of Catholic popular piety, they immediately see in these penitentes the evil and scary image of the KKK," the priest said.

"Hopefully, non-Paloanos (especially fellow Christians) who encounter them especially on Good Friday may be reminded of the Lord's injunction to pray and offer sacrifices - more so today as we face the pandemic that has been around for more than a year," he added.

Trade surplus in EV drops in December 2020, PSA says

TACLOBAN CITY – The total trade in goods of the region has slipped to \$165.80 million in December 2020, a report from the regional office of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

PSA-8 Regional Director Wilma Perante told reporters that this amount is 38.63 percent lower than the \$ 270.18 million total trade reported in December 2019.

Perante reported that the total value of exports of the region dropped to \$150.51 million in December 2020 from \$255.05 million in December 2019 or a 40.99 percent contraction of exports revenues.

She added that the total value of imports, meanwhile, slightly increased by 1.10 percent, from \$15.13 million in December 2019

- to \$15.30 million in Decemof ber 2020.

Consequently, the balance of trade in goods registered a 43.64 percent decrease, from \$239.92 million in December 2019 to \$135.21 million in December 2020, Perante said.

Perante also reported that the total volume of exports in December 2020 was 77.37 million kilograms valued at \$150.51 million. The major export for the month was copper and articles thereof commodity group worth \$ 138.99 or 92.35 percent of the region's total export revenue.

"The region's top export market destination was Thailand with \$47.31 million worth of exports which comprised 31.43 percent of the total export revenues in December 2020," Perante *see Trade /page 10 ...*

NEWS

Mayor Romualdez presence during

immunization encourages TCH personnel

to submit for anti-COVID inoculation

Norwegian found dead with gunshot wound in Biliran

TACLOBAN CITY- A Municipal Police Station, 63-year old Norwegian national was found dead with a gunshot wound on his jaw in Naval, Biliran last March 31.

The victim was identified as Svein Ingar Hakonseal, a resident of Sitio Cao-cao, Barangay Villa Caneja, a mountainous village in Naval town.

Personnel of the Naval

led by Major Michael John Astorga, responded to the shooting around 10:25 p.m. after they received a report from the barangay captain. As of press time, there was no suspect description

Borongan City gets anti-drug abuse performance award

BORONGAN CITY-Borongan City Mayor Jose Ivan Dayan C. Agda received the "National Anti-Drug Abuse Council Performance" for his full support to the country's fight against illegal drugs in a simple ceremony at Stellar Hotel, this city.

The citation that is concretely engraved in a large DILG glass marker was presented by the Provincial Director of DILG, Engr. Visitacion V. Giva to Mayor Agda.

DILG Provincial Director Giva said the award was given to Borongan City for the 2018 performance audit with other criteria including the holding of regular City's Anti-Drug Abuse Council (CADAC) meetings, allocation of funds, support to the CADAC programs and the implementation of the programs.

Borongan landed at the number one spot in the country's list of 339 local government units (LGUs) awardees and the province's eight LGUs.

Borongan City received the distinguished recogavailable. Police are investigating the incident. (RONALD O. REYES)

nition for an exemplary performance of the city government unit achieving a high score, numerically equivalent to 90%, said DILG.

For his part, Mayor Agda pointed out that sometimes, some people need to be recognized for a job well done.

But he was quick to stress that an award is just a bonus because as state workers, they are expected to execute their mandate. For him to sustain the honor is even a greater challenge. (nbq/ sdc/ PIA E. Samar)

The victim was identi-

fied as Joey Caratay, a resi-

local

launched a hot pursuit op-

eration for the arrest of the

identified suspects who are

all residents of the city.

police

dent of the said barangay.

the 10 suspects, armed with undetermined caliber of long and short firearms, suddenly appeared inside the house of the victim around 6:10 a.m. on that

TACLOBAN CITY-

As a concerned father

of the city, Mayor Al-

fred Romualdez see to it

that his presence during

the vaccination of the

health care workers as-

signed at the Tacloban

City Hospital (TCH)

against coronavirus dis-

ease (COVID-19) virus

will at least uplift their

spirit that they should

submit themselves vol-

untarily to vaccination.

expressed his thanks

and gratitude to those

concerned who made

possible the immuniza-

tion of the city's health-

gether with TCH head,

Dr. Geodina Gumagay,

witnessed the vaccina-

tion of the healthcare

workers who willingly

submitted themselves

for immunization held

A total of 35 health-

The city mayor to-

care frontliners.

Romualdez

Mayor

The suspects forcibly tied the victim and dragged him outside their house before he was shot several times in the different parts of his body that caused his instantaneous death, police said.

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The gunmen immediately fled on foot towards Barangay Patong in Calbayog.

care workers composed

of doctors, nurses, den-

Police have yet to deter-



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(053) 561-6823

(055) 560-9747

(055) 271-2121

(055) 543-9127

(053) 500-7834

(053) 327-0130

(053) 327-0300

(055) 534-3020

tists, laboratory technicians, nutritionists,

Trade...

... from Page 9 said.

The director said that the total value of import receipts amounted to \$15.30 million in December 2020 with total gross weight of

87.09 million kilograms. Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes were the major commodity dietary personnel, technicians, medical nursing assistants courageously submitted for inoculation of Sinovac.

In an interview, Dr. Gumagay said of the 35 healthcare workers who were immunized, only few had experienced pain and some numbness at the injection site for an hour.

Most of them never experienced any adverse effect following immunization.

In fact, some of them like the six dietary personnel went back to their respective works.

TCH, which has 167 healthcare workers, has opened its doors to walk-in patients coming from various towns of Eastern Visayas with the help of Tingog partv-list.

(GAY B. GASPAY, TISAT)

gion.

Its import valued at \$6.48 million in December 2020 was 42.39 percent of the region's total import receipts during the period in review.

The region's top import trading partner in December 2020 was Singapore with \$3.95 million worth of imported goods, or 25.85 percent of the region's total import value, Perante said. (RESTITUTO A. CAYUBIT)





100% Human Hair EYELASH EXTENSION

Authorities initially said **dettie**panis Salon and Spa

1,police said.

The

10 gunmen shoot dead farmer in Calbayog City TACLOBAN CITY-At least 10 gunmen shot to death a 43-year-old farmer in Barangay Canjumadac, Calbayog City on April

last March 9.

day.

