



Leyte-Samar

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TACLOBAN
RIZAL AVENUE

City marks the 132nd fiesta amid COVID-19 surge

Taclobanons to pay homage to Sr. Santo Niño

LIZBETH ANN A. ABELLA

TACLOBAN CITY - Taclobanons and other faithful coming from outside the city are to pay their homage to the Child Jesus as the city marked its annual fiesta today, June 30.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which started over a year ago now, has resulted for the cancellation of several events relative to the city fiesta in keeping with the protocols imposed by the government.

Among these minimum health protocols is the gathering of mass of people to avoid any further spread of the infection.

City Mayor Alfred Romualdez, however, assured the Taclobanons that he would not be imposing any lockdown across the city during its two-day religious event despite of the surge of COVID-19 cases in the city.

He, however, cancelled all activities and events that are regularly held during the celebrations.

see Taclobanons /page 6 ...



VIVA SEÑOR STO. NIÑO! Despite of the COVID-19 pandemic, Taclobanons and other faithful are to pay their homage to Señor Santo Niño as Tacloban celebrates its 132nd city fiesta today, June 30.

Alfred throws support on VP bid of Rep. Romualdez



Mayor Alfred Romualdez

TACLOBAN CITY- Mayor Alfred Romualdez is giving his full support on the reported vice presidency bid of his cousin, Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez.

The mayor of this city said that the possible election of his cousin could be of big help to the people of Tacloban in terms of programs and services.

"Of course, I support my family. (But

I have been telling him that he can bank on my support on condition that he will also support the Taclobanons. That has always been my condition," Mayor Romualdez said.

He narrated that when another cousin, Imee Marcos, sought for her support when she ran for senator during the 2019 elections, he also asked her to give support to the people of Tacloban.

Tacloban is part of the first congressional district

of Leyte which is currently being held by Rep. Romualdez and is considered to be the family's main political bailiwick along with the town of Tolosa.

Earlier, President Rodrigo Duterte mentioned Rep. Romualdez as his candidate for Vice President saying he would not seek for the said position in favor of the Leyte solon.

During his June 17 *see Alfred /page 6 ...*

Samar mayor seeks help amid COVID-19 infection of their health personnel

TACLOBAN CITY- A municipality in Samar is calling help to the national government through the Department of Health (DOH) as practically all of its health personnel are in isolation after they were tested positive of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Motioning town Mayor Renato Cabael said that except for a nurse and a midwife, 16 of their health personnel to include their municipal health officer Dr. Katerina Abiertas, are in isolation as they were tested for COVID-19.

"They were tested for COVID-19 and in isolation though some of them are just waiting to complete the protocol relative to quarantine or isolation," Cabael, in a phone interview, said.

He said that he already wrote a letter to the DOH addressed to regional director Dr. Exuperia Sabalberino seeking for augmentation and more vaccine supply.

Aside from their municipal health officer, also tested positive for COVID-19 were midwives, nurses, contact tracers, and utility workers assigned at the rural health unit.

They get the infection due to their exposure to persons who were earlier tested of the virus.

According to Mayor Cabael, their rural health unit is temporarily closed

for disinfection and for contact tracing purposes.

"Our current situation now is heavily impacting our vaccination campaign as right now, we have only one nurse and a midwife," he said.

"But we are thankful to our nearby municipalities who have provided us their medical personnel. In fact, our MHO (in officer-in-charge capacity) is from Hinabangan town," Cabael said.

He, however, said that they could not totally rely on these health workers from their neighboring towns considering that they are also busy with their own vaccination campaign.

It was learned from Mayor Cabael that they will resume their vaccination drive on July 8 and 9 as some of their health workers are ready and with the deployment of health personnel by the DOH.

see Samar /page 6 ...



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WE DELIVER!

Inflation rate in Eastern Visayas escalates to 3.2 percent in May, 2021

Inflation Rate (IR) in Eastern Visayas escalated to 3.1 percent in May 2021. This IR is 0.3 percentage point higher compared with the 2.8 percent IR in April 2021. This May IR of the region is also 1.3 percentage points higher than the recorded 1.8 percent IR in the same period last year.

In comparison with the national average IR, the regional IR is 1.4 percentage points lower than the 4.5 percent national IR in May 2021.

Among the provinces, only Southern Leyte and Leyte registered decreases

in IRs.

Southern Leyte's IR declined to 3.3 percent in May 2021 from 4.1 percent in April 2021, a reduction by 0.8 percentage point. Leyte's IR, meanwhile, decreased to 0.9 percent in May 2021 from 1.4 percent in April 2021.

It was the lowest IR among the provinces during the month in review. Samar registered the highest increase in IR by 1.6 percentage points. Its IR rose to 8.3 percent in May 2021 from 6.7 percent in April 2021. It recorded the highest IR among provinces during the reference

month.

Northern Samar grew by 0.9 percentage point, registering 1.6 percent IR in May 2021. Biliran's 0.6 percentage point increase in IR brought its level to 5.5 percent. While Eastern Samar's IR settled at 5.4 percent, prompted by the 0.5 percentage point increase during the month in review. (PR)



Leyte Governor Leopoldo Dominico "Mic" L. Petilla has turned over an emergency vehicle worth P 995,000 to Councilor Erwin Ocana of Tolosa on June 25, 2021, coinciding with the distribution of checks to the nine barangay officials as financial assistance of their different priority projects. With him were Melanie Feliza Vivero, ABC president and Joselito Labata, municipal disaster risk reduction management officer. The turn over was held in front of the municipal building of Tolosa, Leyte. (GINA P. GEREZ)

Flood control protects river bank and bridge in Sabang North, Borongan City

BORONGAN CITY- The Department of Public Works and Highways - Eastern Samar District Engineering Office completed the construction of 151-meter flood control structure in Brgy. Sabang North, Borongan City with the project cost amounting to P18,756,247.68 funded under General Appropriations Act of 2020.

District Engineer Ma. Margarita C. Junia said that the flood control structure in Sabang North is a long-term solution to the problem of the residents, where portions of their residential lot have been eroded during flooding.

"This newly constructed flood control structure aims to protect the lives and properties of the residents of Sabang North, Borongan. This will protect the riverbanks from scouring," DE Junia said during interview.

District Engineer Junia also disclosed that the project also protects the approach and foundations of Borongan Bridge along Borongan-Guiuan Road from further exposure.

"It is also important to protect the bridge because it connects the northern part of Eastern Samar to the main proper of Borongan," DE Junia added.

Grace Basada Mengote, a resident of Brgy. Sabang North, said in an interview that before the construction of the flood control in the area, the soil from her yard erodes because of the rapid water current.

"Tikang han akon pagukoy dinhe ha Sabang North, damo na nga mga babaha an akon na-eksperyensyahan, especially nga yadi kami hit bukangan it kasulgan yanhe ha amon. Gidadaku-i talaga an nahibulig hini nga proyekto han DPWH [For all the years that I have been living here in Sabang North, I have already experienced quite a number of flooding, especially that my house is situated where the water current is rapid. This project of DPWH is really a big help to us.]" she said.

Mengote expressed her gratitude to the agency for the construction of the flood control.

"Sana tuloy-tuloy iton mga proyekto nga iginpapatuman hiton DPWH. Damo iton iyo nabubuligan, dire la dinhe ha Brgy. Sabang North, kundi it bug-os nga Eastern Samar ngan bug-os nga Pilipinas. God bless hiton namumuno ngan mga empleyado nga nagpapatuman hiton atun mga proyekto [I hope that the

TACLOBAN CITY- The Department of Agriculture (DA) in Eastern Visayas has so far provided indemnification to more than 600 hog raisers in Leyte who were affected by the African Swine Fever (ASF).

The DA, on its report, said that these hog raisers were from the towns of Pastrana, La Paz, Javier, Abuyog, where the first COVID-19 case in Eastern Visayas was first monitored January of last year, and this city.

About 603 hog raisers from these areas have so far received the indemnification this month totaling to more than P8.92 million,

projects implemented by DPWH be continuous. This is really a big help, not just here in our Barangay, but around Eastern Samar and the Philippines. God bless to the leaders and employees that work hard to make all the projects possible," she said.

According to District Engineer Ma. Margarita Junia, Eastern Samar DEO guarantees its stakeholders and beneficiaries that the office will continue to construct infrastructure projects that will protect the

the DA said.

Each hog raisers have received P5,000 per swine culled. About 1,781 pigs were culled on these areas.

The DA also said that around P12.84 million are ready for disbursement to be paid to more than 700 farmers in other areas hit by ASF documents like payrolls.

These hog raisers have applied for indemnification from the DA as asked the other affected farmers to apply for them at the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) to receive the indemnity fund set up by the agency before the end of this month.

lives and properties of the Estehanons.

"We uphold the vision of the agency, to which our aim is to build infrastructure projects that would be beneficial to the locals in the community; a structure that would give assurance and give peace of mind to the locals during the time of calamities," said DE Junia.

The flood control structure in Brgy. Sabang, Borongan City started its construction on February, 2020 and was completed on August 3, 2020. (PR)

Earlier, the DA said that the spread of the infection among pigs in the region could be a combination of swill feeding, boar service providers as most of the affected pigs were adult female swine and even meat traders who could have unknowingly were carrying products that were already infected by the ASF virus.

It was learned that about 2,829 hog raisers from the region's 30 areas have been affected by ASF.

About 12,946 pigs have been culled since the ASF hit the region early this year, the DA said.

Angel Enriquez, the executive regional director

of DA, said that of the six provinces in Eastern Visayas, only the province of Biliran has not reported of any ASF case.

The most affected province was Leyte involving 21 towns and Tacloban City affecting 2,596 hog raisers followed by Northern Samar with 116 hog raisers coming from the towns of Lope de Vega, Mondragon and Catarman.

In Samar province, 58 hog raisers were affected from the cities of Catbalogan and Calbayog and Sta. Rita town; 42 in Eastern Samar from Dolores town; and 17 in Silago, Southern Leyte. (JOEY A. GABIETA)

DA indemnifies more than 600 hog raisers hit by ASF

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**PROVINCE OF LEYTE
OFFICIAL SEAL**

**LEOPOLDO DOMINICO MIC
PETILLA**
GOVERNOR, PROVINCE OF LEYTE

Maupay na patron ha igkasi ko Leyteños ha Tacloban! Viva Sr. Sto. Nino! May He continue to bless our land with His benevolence, mercy and generosity!

We are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, a time when we cannot celebrate the annual fiesta with joyous gatherings of family and friends, parades and revelry. Fortunately, we are also given the opportunity to focus on strengthening our spiritual faith, physical and mental health, and sense of community.

As the Lord promised us during challenging times, this too shall pass! We in the Provincial Government of Leyte believe it to be so and we work hard to ensure that our fellow Leyteños enjoy good governance to weather the storm.

*Happy fiesta
and God bless us all!*



**CITY OF TACLOBAN
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD**

**MAUPAY NGA PATRON
SR. STO. NIÑO
HAN TACLOBAN**
Ngan igkasi ko Taclobanon

**HON. AIMEE D. GRAFIL
CITY COUNCILOR**

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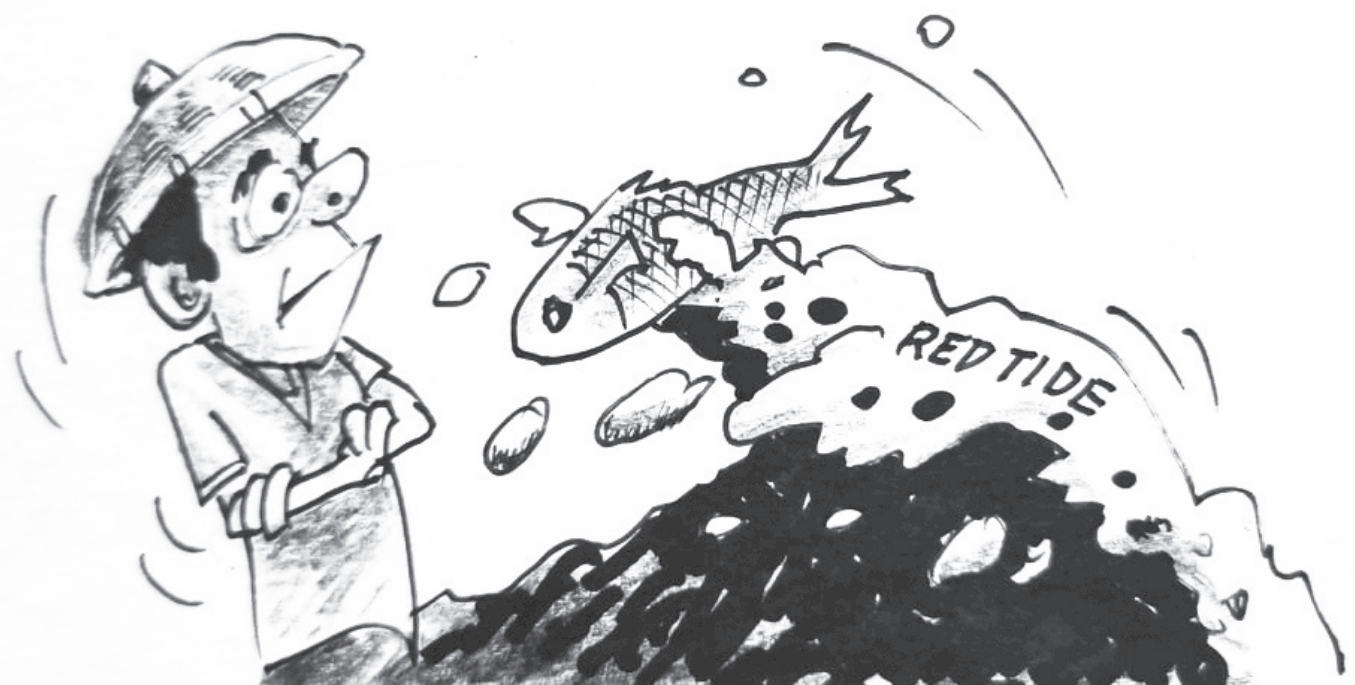
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A red menace

Of the thirteen places in Visayas and Mindanao that BFAR had identified to be under the onslaught of red tide, four are in our region, thus yielding selected sea harvests that are unsafe for human consumption.

Positive to red tide infestation in the region are Irong-Irong Bay of Western Samar, the seas surrounding Daram Island, the seas of Calubian Leyte, and Cambatutay Bay of Western Samar. Seashells in particular that are harvested from these places are then unsafe to eat according to the BFAR alert.

It can be recalled that the red tide menace has been one of the lingering problems in the country, ours being a country of scattered islands and islets, surrounded by big bodies of water. Whenever

red tide is active, our waters easily fall prey to this phenomenon. And it is not a thing to ignore since, for years now, it has been endangering the lives of the ignorant and careless.

At least, the government agencies concerned in disseminating alerts and information drive have been responsible enough in doing their job just to spare our people from red tide's toxicity. Ours is just to keep ourselves updated about the whereabouts of this tide to avoid food poisoning. Wiser still is to consult the BFAR regarding current updates before feasting on marine products that we plan to have on the table.

In the face of today's pandemic, ASF, etc., we cannot afford to ruin our health out of carelessness. We have to be extra careful, mindful of everything that could put us at high risk. Avoidance sometimes is the key.



Fiestas and faith

How time quickly fly, the end of the month is just around the bend. At this time of year, Tacloban is on its feet in revelry. There is that permanent double feature of the events at Balyuan and that in the RTR Plaza. We in the academe take turn in giving entertainment to our bisita's (meaning tourists and relatives). The concerts

came in handy as it was sponsored by the beverages of choice, alcoholic and soda type. There were opportune homecoming in the schools and food fair including exhibits of all sorts.

Central of the fiesta celebration are the Parades, the Pintados, and Parade of Lights whose rivalry is tense and can only be

equaled by the competing teams stacked against each other in a protracted war of sorts in these contests.

With the sanguine optimism of the people, great entertainment including lovely beauty contests and the best buys in our streets. Wow that was the fiesta in my mind.

Festivals in the Philippines can be religious, cultural, or both. Several of these are held to honor the local Roman Catholic patron saint, to commemorate local history and culture, to promote the community's products, or to celebrate a bountiful harvest. They can be marked by Holy Masses, processions, parades, theatrical play and reenactments, religious or cultural rituals, trade fairs, exhibits, concerts, pageants and

various games and contests. However, festivals in the country are not limited to Christian origins. Many festivals also focus on Islamic or indigenous concepts. There are more than 42,000 known major and minor festivals in the Philippines, the majority of which are in the barangay (village) level. Due to the thousands of town, city, provincial, national, and village fiestas in the country, the Philippines has traditionally been known as the *Capital of the World's Festivities*.

But here and now, we are Huerfano's (orphans) of the Hermanas and Hermanos of the fiesta. There is an ongoing Pandemic and social distancing is the rule. We need to distance ourselves to our viv... see Fiestas /page 5...



What's New Mr. Q?

TENTE U. QUINTERO

PACMAN's "Ups & Downs" (9th of a Series)

Since last March, this Columnist received Two (2) xeroxed copies of Articles written by known writers of Two (2) leading national broadsheets -- the Manila Times & the Manila Standard, from avid readers of our regular column in this newspaper.

Oh we really wanted to reprint their very interesting articles as written; but due to limited publication space, this Columnist took the liberty of omitting some portions of their Articles, retaining the "more interesting parts."

ARTICLE No. 1 - "CAPTAIN PACMAN, ANYONE?" written by Tita Villarama of the Manila Times dated 21 June 2021.

"Senator Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao wants to run for president in the 2022 elections. But based on his stated plans for the country, he seemingly has the illusion of becoming a superhero instead.

"Without any provocation, the senator said "Kung ako maging presidente, magkakamatayan diyan (sa gobyerno). Gusto ko ipakulong lahat ng mga kawatan diyan sa gobyerno."

(If I become president, there will be many who will get killed. I want to kill all the thieves in the government.)

"Simplistic plans if he becomes president, isn't it! (According to the author Ms. Villarama) But Senator Manny didn't say how he's going to do it.

Here's more -- "Kung ako maging president, four to five years wala

kang makikitang squatter sa buong Pilipinas. Lahat magkakaroon ng sariling tahanan, lalo na ang Metro Manila. Lahat ng squatter magkakaroon sila ng tahanan, condominium o subdibisyon. Wala silang babayaran kahit piso.

"Listening to the interview can either bring you to "wonderland" if you won't think how Pacquiao can make his dreams a reality or leave you nauseated, as he jumps from one illusion to another, and at times, gives you a statement that conflicts with a previous one.

(But the following portions of the Article, really "jolted" this Columnist...)

"With his enormous wealth gained from winnings in his boxing bouts, Pacquiao wouldn't need the ruling Partido Demokratiko Pilipino - Laban ng Bayan, to finance a national campaign.

"There was talk last year that he (Pacquiao) was designated the party's acting president because of his money." (End of quote.)

(So with Senator Pacquiao's plan "to jail ang mga kawatan, he should name the person or persons who received the ("rumored) "million reasons" that maneuvered for him to become the PDP-Laban's "Hold-over Acting President" instead of the customary No. 2 man -- the Executive Vice-President of a party, when a president resigns or is incapacitated.)

Author Ms. Villarama then asks -- "Where will Pacquiao get the extra-ordinary powers to make the Philippines free from

corruption and squatters? Can he be Captain Pacquiao or Super Manny?

ARTICLE No. 2 - "ABSENTEE PACQUIAO IS NOT FIT FOR THE PRESIDENCY." written by Rey Requero & Macon Ramos Araneta of the Manila Standard newspaper dated 24 March 2021.

"Sambayan lead convenor retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said Senator Manny Pacquiao lacks the the competence to become the next president of the Philippines; even mentioning Pacquiao's poor attendance in legislative sessions.

"As congressman, Pacquiao was the Number One Absentee -- he was the Topnotcher in absences in Congress!

"As senator, he again topped -- he was Number One in Absences," Carpio said.

"Manny Pacquiao may have a good heart and we know that. But running a country with 110 million people requires competence," the retired magistrate said.

"I think we should understand that we have to look for a leader who has competence, who can revive the economy, who can generate employment for the people, who can solve the pandemic.

And we cannot have a president who (usually) absent," Carpio added.

Fiestas...

...from Page 4

id and happy memories. We cannot be complacent as virus spread is a reality and we have not curbed the number of the Covid-19 infestations, we are seeing a dangerous roller coaster ride of cases, where the most prudent thing to do is to stay at home.

Ultimately, when we removed the celebration and substitute them with prudent praying and calibrated pious observance of the festival taking stock of the good year that was, in spite of the punches of the virus, we come through better and safe.

Festivals is also about faith, about how to steadfast amid the tribulations.



Commentary

FR. ROY CIMAGALA

Appreciating St. John the Baptist better

IF we want to be truly Christian, we need to appreciate more deeply the role of St. John the Baptist in the whole economy of salvation. He was the one who prepared the people for the coming of Christ, the one who pointed Christ, the lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world, to the people. Somehow, we have a duty to follow the example of this saint in preparing people for the coming of Christ.

We know all too well that like St. John the Baptist whose call for repentance as preparation for the coming of the Redeemer was a lonely cry in the desert, we too can be like the voice of God today as well as that of the Church or of any spiritual and moral Christian teaching that has become a voice of one crying in the wilderness.

Present circumstances in the world point to a growing deafness and insensibility to truths of faith and morals. The prologue

of St. John's gospel already captures this phenomenon: "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." (1,11)

The Psalms have many references to the same predicament. For example, Ps 76 says: "How often they rebelled in the wilderness! / How often they grieved him in the desert! / Again and again they put God to the test / and provoked the Holy One of Israel. / They forgot his strength, they forgot the time / when he saved them from the oppressor's power."

I don't refer so much to those who openly declare themselves as atheists or agnostics as to Christians themselves, some of whom flaunting their Christianity, who fail to be consistent to their beliefs. The former needs a lot of understanding and patience. The latter, some "spanking."

We have to have the same attitude of St. John the Baptist. Like him, we too should help in preparing

everyone to be fit for the coming of the Lord. This definitely will be going to be a very challenging task, given the conditions we are having today.

We cannot deny that there is a lot of ignorance, confusion and indifference to the things of God these days. The life of piety seems to be waning in many parts of our country, let alone, the whole world. Many people are hardly praying, and the practice of devotion seems to be facing extinction.

Just the same, we should not forget that regardless of what may appear to be a deep-seated culture of irreligion these days, every man continues in the deepest part of his heart to yearn for God. What the Catechism says about this is always relevant:

"The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for." (CCC 27)

Yes, God himself will always draw us to himself in ways that can be very mysterious. And we, on our part, should try our best to discern the directing ways of God. This is where everyone has to do his part in preparing himself to see and follow God's ways.

What should be foremost in our mind is that we are preparing people fit for the Lord, starting with our own selves and then reaching out to others. For this, let's continue to use both the human and the supernatural means.

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.

It's about stoic discipline and genuine care to our fellowmen. The saints whose fiesta we honor had mostly been an embodiment and epitome of discipline and self-less devotion, not famous for the outgoing, sociable and grand celebration. After all, these carousing and revelry is misplaced in today's menu. We are in difficult times, fiestas must therefore be about faith, about goodness and about Him, who had always been with us, He who never let go on His hold on our fragile state.



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

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

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

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

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



14 NSSDEO projects request final billing for June 2021

NSSDEO, BARANGAY BURABUD, LAOANG, Northern Samar-The DPWH-Northern Samar Second District Engineering Office (NSSDEO), requested a Notice of Transfer Allocation (NTA) from Department of Budget and Management (DBM) amounting to P170,359,728.05).

The said amount is intended for contract claims by contractors for their project for the month of

June 2021 as to their actual work accomplishments.

Among the notable and significant projects with high impact to the community which are included in the list for the contract claims are the following (prior years): (1) Preventive Maintenance, Pangpang-Palapag-Mapanas-Gamay-Lapinig Road, K0798+(-619)-K0800-327, Palapag Northern Samar, P33,900,289.95, contracted by JUPA Construction/

EZ JONES Construction, Inc. on joint venture with Gil Herrera as Project Engineer; (2) Road Widening, Pangpang-Palapag-Mapanas-Gamay-Lapinig Road, K0803+590-K0805+230, K0805+247-805+690, Northern Samar, P11,740,909.74, contracted by JBM Engineers and Supply/CDU Construction (JV) with Gil Herrera as PE; (3) Concreting of Poblacion-Siljagon Road, Brgy. Poblacion, Mapanas, Northern Samar, P11,359,208.53

under contract with Christfer Construction and Supply with Gil Herrera as PE; Rehabilitation/Reconstruction/Upgrading of Damaged Paved Roads, Pang-Pang-Palapag-Mapanas-Gamay-Lapinig Road, K0826+250-K0827+076, K0827+102-K0827+454, K0828+550-K0828+800, K0834+300-K0834+800, Second District, Northern Samar, P8,581,869.23, under contract with JUPA see 14 NSSDEO / page 7 ...

Taclobanons...

...from Page 1

Among these events banned by the city mayor was the holding of the Sangyaw Festival's Parade of Lights which is regularly held a day before the annual city fiesta.

Villages in the city have imposed fines for those who will accept guests coming outside their respective areas to ensure that the COVID-19 spread would be avoided.

The Department of Health (DOH) has earlier said that among the causes why the region's COVID-19 cases are surging is due to super spreader events which includes fiesta celebration.

As of Monday (June 28), the region has 29,483 total COVID-19 cases of which 2,624 are considered as active. Tacloban, meantime, has total COVID-19 cases of 3,861.

While socio-civic activities were cancelled for two straight years now, Masses and other religious activities remain unchanged.

During the 10-day nove-

Alfred...

...from Page 1

online press conference, Rep. Romualdez admitted that he would find some difficulties in leaving the congressional district saying it is where his heart belongs.

"It is really very difficult (as it is where) my focus ever since. That is my hometown. That's where my family comes from. That's where it is closest to my heart," he said.

And if he would really plunge to run for the second highest elective posi-

tion in the land, he would consult, among others, his allies and political leaders in Leyte, especially in the first district which is composed of Tacloban and seven towns, Romualdez said.

His wife, Yedda, once served as the congressional representative of the district when Romualdez ran but lost for senator during the 2016 elections.

Yedda is now a party-list representative under the banner of Tingog party-list.

(JOEY A. GABIETA)

na, the Santo Nino Parish has conducted a motorcade across the city's main streets bearing the image of the miraculous Child Jesus.

Archbishop John Du will be presider of today's Pontifical Mass to be held at Santo. Niño Church.

In keeping with the prohibition of mass gathering, the number of faithful who will be allowed to get inside the Church will be limited.

The management of

Sto. Nino Parish emphasized the need for the parishioners to be safe.

Thus, it encouraged churchgoers to observe the following: sanitize, avoid contact, fulfill obligations and entrust lives to Sto. Nino.

This year's general theme is "Mystery of Divine Intervention and Healing: A Gospel Received and the Mission to Proclaim it", the parish is also celebrating the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines with the theme gifted to give.

(JOEY A. GABIETA)

Samar...

...from Page 1

And since they have started their campaign, they have only managed to inoculate 689 individuals, a far cry from their target of at least 12,000 individuals for Motiong to achieve herd immunity.

At present, the town has 20 active cases most of which were medical workers or frontliners.

Dr. Abiertas, in a separate phone interview, said that she was swabbed on June 18 after she was exposed to a positive person with her positive result coming out on June 20.

"But I feel ok. I'm done with my doses," she said.

Abiertas also said that she hopes that whatever benefits health workers like her will be received by them as they continue to serve the public during this time of pandemic caused by COVID-19.

Since the start of the pandemic last year, Motiong has posted 57 COVID-19 cases.

(JOEY A. GABIETA)



14 NSSDEO...

...from Page 7

Construction with Gil Herrera as PE; (5) Widening of Permanent Bridges, Camparanga Br. (B00302sm) Along Catarman-Laoang Rd, Pambujan, And Northern Samar, P 6,316,299.36 contracted by CDU Construction with Arturo Corocoto as PE; (6) Construction of Catubig Flood Control Structure and Drainage System, Catubig River Basin, Catubig Northern Samar, P6,201,183.83 under contract with JUPA Construction/PJ Tan Construction (JV) with Arturo Corocoto as PE; (7) Construction of Evacuation Center Brgy. Cagugubngan, Northern Samar, P 802,102.50, under contract with PJ Tan Construction with Arturo Corocoto as PE; (8) Construction of Road, Brgy. La Perla-Cabulaloan-Yabyaban, Laoang, Northern Samar, P2,536,467.47 contracted by JUPA Construction with Arturo Corocoto as PE.

While the following are projects in current years: (1) road concreting, Barangay Caba-to-An, Pambujan, Northern Samar, P4,912,443.63 under contract with JUPA Construction with Arturo Corocoto as PE; (2) construction of road at Barangay Coronog-Lubog (Pagsangan), San Roque, Northern Samar, P 2,400,849.01 contracted by JD Partuza Construction with Arturo Corocoto as PE; (3) concreting of road, Barangay Geguinta, Las Navas, Northern Samar, P402,494.55 under contract with CDU Construction with Arturo Corocoto as PE; (4) concreting of road, Brgy. Poblacion, Lapinig N. Samar, P1,583,926.85 under contract with CDU Construction with Gil Herrera as PE; (5) construction of multi-purpose building, (Daycare Center), Brgy. Mapno, Palapag, Northern Samar, P1,620,639.14 contracted by JD Partuza Construction and Supply with Filoteo Delorino as PE; and (6) construction of road at Brgy. Irawahan, Catubig, Northern Samar, P2,392,545.56 under contract with Deacons Temple



RCEF MECHANIZATION

Produced by: Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section
Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 8
Kanhuraw Hill, Tacloban City

ANO PANUYO HAN RCEF MECHANIZATION PROGRAM?

Agud mapahita-as an kita ngan ani han mga parag-uma, ngan magka may-ada kapas makakompetensya ha iba nga mga nasud ha pina-agi han paggamit han sakto nga mga teknolohiya parte mekanisasyon tikang han pagtanom kutob postharvest.

Partikular na panuyo han programa:

1. Ma-ipakilala an paggamit han cost-efficient farm machinery ha mga parag-uma.
2. Matagan hin insentibo an mga manufacturers han farm mechanization pinaagi han agresibo na pagpa-upay, produksyon, ngan implementasyon han mga teknolohiya.
3. Makakarawat ngan makagamit han mga sakto na makinarya tikang ha planting kutob postharvest ha bulig han mga Farmers' Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs)

ANO AN MGA KINAHANGLANON NA MGA DOKUMENTO PARA MAGING BENEFISYARYO HAN RCEF MECHANIZATION PROGRAM?

- Letter of intent ngan resolution tikang ha Farmers' Cooperative and Association (FCAs)
- Proof of Accreditation tikang ha Department of Agriculture
- Impormasyon han FCA: 1. Listahan han mga miyembro ngan an ira kabug-usan land area (ektarya) 2. Listahan han mga makinarya nga nakarawat na ngan iba pa na mga kadugangan na mga resikitos nga pag-aarun han ahensya.

ANO AN MGA KLASE HAN MAKINARYA NGA IGUIN-DIDISTRIBWER HAN PROGRAMA?

1. Agricultural Tractor	8. Rice Reaper
2. Farm Tiller Rice Seeder	9. Mechanical Rice Dryer
3. Rice Transplanter	10. Rice Mill
4. Irrigation Pump	11. Iba pa nga mga maki-narya na kinahangla-non para mas mani-lampuson an pag-uma.
5. Small Solar Irrigation	
6. Rice Thresher	
7. Rice Harvester	

Facility for 'banig' products ground breaks in Basey town

TACLOBAN CITY- A facility showing products made of 'banig' is soon to open in Basey town as Samar Rep. Sharee Ann Tan and Governor Michael Tan led the groundbreaking last Sunday (June 27).

The facility, Lara Samar Showroom, will house the intricately woven and world-class banig products of Basey.

Rep. Tan thanked the House Speaker Lord Allan Jay Velasco for allocating P10 million for the banig showroom and processing center located in Barangay

Construction and Supply with Carlos Paulo Perfecto as PE.

The contract claims consist of 14 projects for final billing amounting P94,751,229.35 which comprises 55% of the 170 million NTA, and the remaining 45% were progress interim billing and 10% of the retention money.

The 14 projects with final billing are from prior years amounting to P81,438,330.61, while there are six current projects with claims amounting to P13,312,898.74.

These projects will eventually create high impact to end-user communities in the second district of Northern Samar improving the lives of the people particularly the transportation, trade and industry sector. (ISRAEL B.TULIPAS,PIO STAFF)

Canmanila.

Tan also expressed her appreciation to the Department of Tourism, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry for helping the banig industry.

Tan also mentioned Mayor Luz Ponferrada for her unconditional support towards the efforts in promoting banig products.

The Samar lawmaker said that she is positive that her bill to make Basey town as the banig capital of the Philippines will be realized. (LIZBETH ANN A. ABELLA)



Samar Rep. Sharee Ann Tan and her brother, Gov. Michael Tan leads in the groundbreaking of a facility that will serve as a showroom of world-class items made of 'banig.' (Photo Courtesy)

Happy 132nd Fiesta Señor Sto. Niño de Tacloban!



Greetings from:



LEYECO II FAMILY

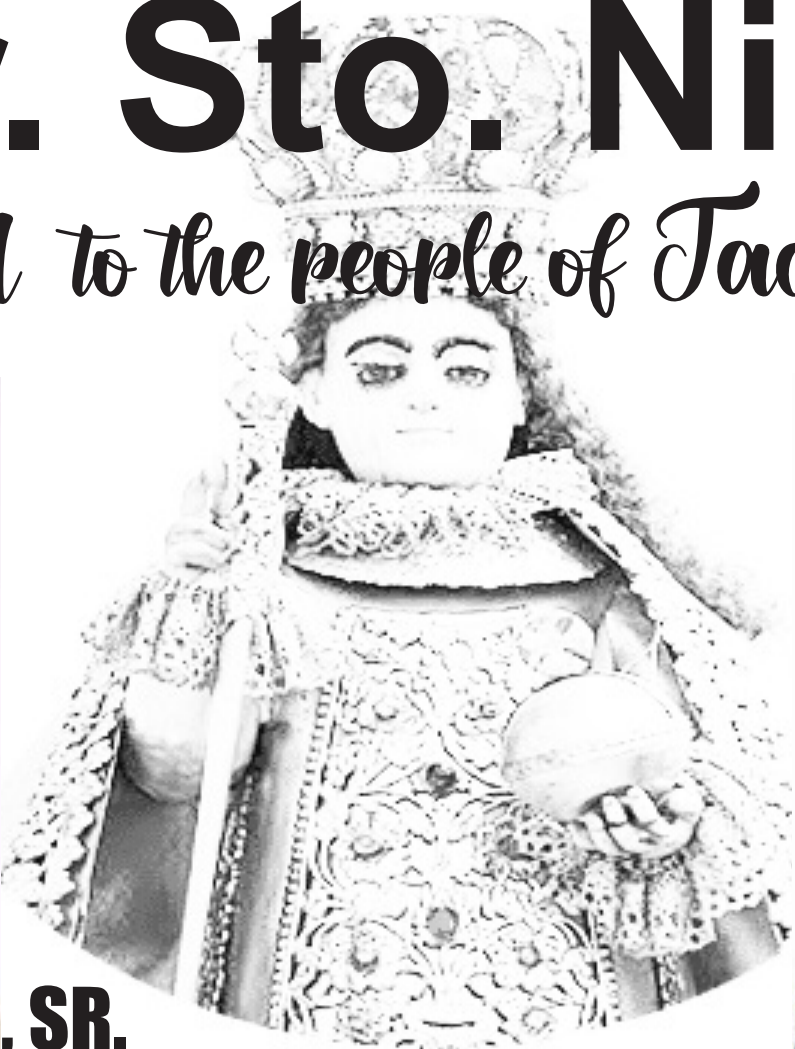


Happy Fiesta to
Sr. Sto. Niño
and to the people of Tacloban City

Greetings from:



HON. EDUARDO ONG, SR.
*Mayor
Carigara, Leyte*



HON. EDUARDO ONG, JR.
*Vice Mayor
Carigara, Leyte*



Happy 132nd Fiesta Celebration
TACLOBAN CITY

Greetings from:



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS & HIGHWAYS
*Leyte Second District Engineering Office,
Carigara, Leyte*

Cops nab 2 human trafficking suspects, rescue 9 in Tacloban City

TACLOBAN CITY- Joint police operatives arrested two personalities for alleged human trafficking and rescued nine female victims, including one minor, during the simultaneous entrapment operations here in the city.

The suspects were identified as a 24-year-old hairdresser who was arrested at Senator Enage Street, Barangay 1 and 4, Tacloban, and a 24-year-old jobless resident who was arrested in front of the Sto. Niño Church at Barangay 25 in the city Thursday evening, June 24, 2021.

Man shot dead in Ormoc City

TACLOBAN CITY-A 52-year old man was found dead with gunshot wounds outside his house in Ormoc City last June 26, 2021.

Authorities identified the victim as Diogracio Lucero, a resident of Sitio Kinagtasan 2, Barangay Guintigui-an of the said city.

He was shot by still unknown gunman around 2:30 a.m. Saturday, according to the police.

The victim was hit on his left arm and abdomen.

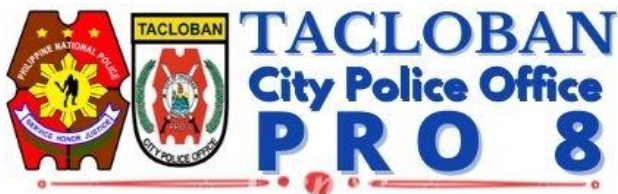
Police also recovered an empty fired cartridge of .45 caliber at the scene.

Authorities are investigating the incident. (RONALD O. REYES)

Authorities also confiscated and recovered from the suspects mobile phones, marked money, a condom, and cash, according to the information released by the Police Regional Office-Eastern Visayas.

The victims are now under protective custody of the City Social Welfare and Development Office.

While the suspects are temporarily detained at Tacloban City Police Office-Station 2 detention facility while appropriate charges are being prepared against them. (RONALD O. REYES)



Happy Fiesta Tacloban City!

From the men & women of TACLOBAN CITY POLICE OFFICE

"A SAFE AND SECURE CELEBRATION FOR ALL"

For crime-related incidents or any other emergencies, the Tacloban PNP Hotline Numbers are available 24/7 or visit the nearest police station in your area



PCOL DARWIN S MIRANDA
City Director



First quarter 2021 number of constructions in EV soars by 31.88 percent,PSA says

TACLOBAN CITY - The total number of construction in Easter Visayas soared by 31.88 percent, from 985 constructions recorded in the first quarter of 2020 to 1,299 constructions in the same quarter in 2021, a report from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA-8)said.

PSA Regional Director Wilma Perante told reporters that increases in all types of constructions contributed to this growth.

She reported that the see First /page 10 ...

OCD CALLS FOR PUBLIC OBSERVANCE OF THE NDRM 2021

In observance of the National Disaster Resilience Month this July, the Office of Civil Defense Regional Office VIII calls the public to support the various government activities designed to building disaster resilience covering the four thematic areas: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and rehabilitation and recovery.

Illustrated by the theme, “**Tamang Pamamahala’t Kahandaan, Kaalaman at Pagtutulungan sa Sakuna at Pandemya’y Kalasag ng Bayan**”, this year’s NDRM observance stressed the important role of disaster risk governance and participation of all Filipinos to defeat the difficulties of this pandemic and to build a green and resilient normal in the country.

Below are the following NDRM activities:

Activity	Date	Registration
NDRM Opening Ceremony	01 July 2021 1000H – 1130H	http://bit.ly/NDRM2021-Opening
Recycle, Upcycle and Repurpose Contest	01-20 July 2021	For youth only: http://bit.ly/NDRM2021-RURContest Mechanics and Guidelines are stated in the registration link.
Resilience Challenger	01-20 July 2021	[TBD] Please check Civil Defense PH FB page and viber community for more details.
Resilience Hours (a webinar series)	02, 09, 26, 23 July 2021; 0900 – 1200H	
International Disaster Resilience Month	29-30 July 2021; 0900H – 1600H	
NDRM Photo Collage	01-31 July 2021	http://bit.ly/NDRM2021-PhotoCollage
Regional Resilience Forum (Updated NDRM Plan)	07 July 2021	[TBD] Please check Civil Defense Eastern Visayas FB page for more details.
Mangrove Tree Planting	09 July 2021	Area to be determined.
Mobile Photography and Spoken Word Poetry Contest	July 1 - 23 July 28	[TBD] Please check Civil Defense Eastern Visayas FB page for more details.
Culminating Activity (Awarding of Contest Winners)	July 30, 2021	[TBD] Please check Civil Defense Eastern Visayas FB page for more details.

FB page: Civil Defense Eastern Visayas - <https://www.facebook.com/ocdregionaloffice8>

CARPER LAD Form NO. 51
(Revised Carp-LAD Form NO. 51)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Provincial Agrarian Reform Office
Liceo del Verbo Divino, Former Law Building
Avenida Veteranos, Tacloban City

NOTICE OF LAND VALUATION AND ACQUISITION

March 5, 2021

JOSEFINA M. MARTINEZ married to DIOSCORO MARTINEZ
Brgy. Jalas, Villaba, Leyte

Sir/Madam

This refers to your agricultural land covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) pursuant to Republic Act (R.A.) No. 6657, as amended by R.A. No. 9700, particularly described as follows:

OCT/TCT No.	: OCT-P-31729
TD No.	: 08-41021-00131
Lot No.	: 2-A, B and C
Approved Survey No.	: Psd-08-042108 (AR)
Area per OCT/TCT/TD No. (has)	: 7.0164 Has.
Area acquired per ASP	: 1.9803 Has.
Location	: Brgy. Jalas, Villaba, Leyte

Please be informed that out of the total area indicated in the aforesaid title of Tax Declaration an area of **1.9803** hectares is subject to immediate acquisition and distribution to qualified agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) under () Voluntary Offer to Sell (x) Compulsory Acquisition.

On the basis of the value determined by the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) per attached Memorandum of Valuation (MOV) and Land Valuation Worksheet (LVW), the compensation for your landholding amounts to **ONE HUNDRED THIRTY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY THREE PESOS AND 97/100 (Php 131,543.97)** covering **1.9803** hectares, including improvements thereon, if any.

We have already requested the LBP, with address at: Sagkahan Street, Tacloban City to deposit in your name the said amount, in cash and bonds. The release of payments shall be effected or may be withdrawn upon your submission of all documents required by LBP on the release of claims.

Please accomplish the attached CARPER LAD Form 53 (Landowner's Reply to NLVA) within thirty (30) days upon receipt of this Notice and return it to the DAR Provincial Office.

In case you reject the compensation offered for your property or fail to reply to this notice within thirty (30) days from receipt thereof, we shall advise the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (DARAB), with address at DAR Regional Office Compound, Sto. Niño Extension Tacloban City to conduct summary administrative proceedings on the matter. In the event that you subsequently accept the value as computed by the LBP based on existing valuation guidelines, you should manifest in writing with respect to such acceptance of the original value, or jointly with LBP manifest in writing with respect to the recomputed value by the LBP, with the DARAB or the regular court.

The DAR shall take immediate possession of the property upon issuance of a Certification of Deposit (COD) by LBP and the concomitant transfer of the title to the landholding in the name of the Republic of the Philippines.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) RENATO G. BADILLA, MPMRD
Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer II

ATTACHMENTS:
CARPER LAD Form No. 50 (Memorandum of Valuation) with Land Valuation Worksheet
CARPER LAD Form No. 53 (LO's Reply to NLVA)

Copy Distribution:
Original - LO
Duplicate - LBP
Triplicate - DARPO
Quadruplicate - DARMO

First...
...from Page 9

number of residential building constructions grew by 43.78 percent, from 635 constructions in the first quarter of 2020 to 913 constructions in the same period of 2021.

Non - residential buildings increased by 13.42 percent, posting 262 constructions in the first quarter of 2021 from 231 constructions in the first quarter of 2020.

“The combined number of additions/alterations and repair of buildings rose from 119 constructions in the first quarter of 2020 to 124 constructions during the quarter in review, an increment of 4.20 percent,” Perante said

She added that the residential buildings comprised 70.28 percent of the total constructions in the region, while non-residential buildings and additions/alterations and repairs


accounted for 20.17 percent and 9.55 percent, respectively.

“The total value of constructions in the region during the first quarter of 2021 was estimated at P2.15 billion. This figure is 4.02 percent higher than the P2.07 billion total value of construction in the same quarter of 2020,” Perante said.

The director added that the aggregate value of additions/alterations and repair of existing structures significantly expanded by 46.92 percent, from P139.78 million in the first quarter of 2020 to P205.35 million during the quarter in review.

An increase by 28.54 percent was also recorded in the total value of residential buildings. Its value grew to P1.11 billion in the first quarter of 2021 from P863.44 million in the same period of 2020.

Total value of non-residential buildings, on the other hand, declined by 21.54 percent, from P1.06



Regional Development Council VIII Eastern Visayas

ANO ANG REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL VIII?

KILALANIN ANG RDC VIII

- Ang pangunahing institusyon sa rehiyon na nagsasaayos at gumagabay sa mga socio-economic development efforts ng Eastern Visayas.
- Binubuo ng mga Regional Line Agencies (RLAs), Local Government Units (LGUs), at Private Sector Representatives (PSRs).
- Pinamumunuan ng Chairperson at Co-Chairperson mula sa LGUs at PSRs.
- Ang RDC VIII ay may apat na Sectoral Committees na tumutulong sa konseho na bigyang-pansin ang mga mahahalagang isyung sektoral sa rehiyon.
- Ang apat na Sectoral Committees ay ang Economic Development Committee (EDC), Social Development Committee (SDC), Infrastructure and Utilities Development Committee (IUDC), at Development Administration Committee (DAC).

Contact Us:
ATTY. BONIFACIO G. UY
Head of Secretariat
Regional Development Council (RDC) VIII
Government Center, Baras, Palo, Leyte

MGA PANGUNAHING TUNGKULIN NG RDC VIII


- Pagsiyasat at pag-endorso ng mga proyekto sa rehiyon na nangangailangan ng pondo mula sa National Government;
- Monitoring ng mga proyekto sa rehiyon na aprubado ng Investment Coordination Committee; pinondohan mula sa Official Development Assistance (ODA); Security and Peace and Order-related; o di kaya ay Disaster Rehabilitation and Reconstruction-related.
- Pagsisiyasat at pagpapatupad ng mga short-term at medium-term development plans at pag-coordinate ng mga socio-economic policies sa rehiyon.
- Nagsusuri at nag-eendorso ng taunang budget ng mga RLAs at State Universities and Colleges (SUCs).

@rdcviii (053) 832-2140
@nedaregion8 rdc8@nro8.neda.gov.ph



Officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Northern Samar Electric Cooperative (Norsamelco) sought an audience with Rep. Paul Daza (1st district) regarding problems encountered by their respective offices. The DPWH is doing road widening which in some instances, needs power poles to be relocated. The solon vowed to help both offices on their concern. (PETER D.PAREDES)

Happy 132nd fiesta celebration Sr. Sto. Niño de Tacloban...



Panny's Bakeshop

We accept cake orders for
Birthdays, Weddings & for All kinds of occasions ...

(Maasin Main) Ground Flr. SJC Building Tomas Oppus St., Tunga-tunga, Maasin City, So. Leyte Tel. No. (053) 570-8236	(Tacloban Branch) Juan Luna St., Tacloban City Tel. No.: (053) 523-8383	(Palo Branch) Metrobank Center Brgy. Luntad, Palo, Leyte Tel. No. (053) 832-1991
(Baybay Branch) M.L. Quezon St., Zone 14, Baybay City, Leyte Tel. No. (053) 563-9120	(Ormoc Branch) (Newly-opened)	(Hilongos Branch) R.V. Villaflores St., Hilongos, Leyte Tel. No. (053) 567-8184

Welcome guests &
a fiesta greetings to one & all!

A fiesta greeting to all people of Tacloban...

Viva Sr. Sto. Niño!



From:

Philippine Coconut Authority

Staff & Personnel
Candahug, Palo, Leyte

NSSDEO personnel participates in the 3rd Real Executive Conversation Series (RECS)

NSSDEO, BARANGAY BURABUD, LAOANG, Northern Samar- Assistant District Engineer Charlito S. Carlobos, Admin Officer V Elvira F. Dones and CMT II Edmund P. Somoray, participated in the 3rd Real Executive Conversation Series (RECS) via Zoom. The activity was conducted by Region Eight Administrators League (REAL) Inc., last June 18, 2021 from 8:30am to 4:00 pm with over 300 participants all over Region VIII.

The RECS meeting is an executive/managerial learning and development (L&D) intervention especially designed for leaders and managers of agencies. It aims to discuss and share knowledge and experiences as well



as building competencies in facing challenges of excellent and ethical public leadership among REAL members and point persons.

The 3rd Real Executive Conversation Series (RECS) with the theme "Empower and Collaborate for Inclusive Workplace" was discussed and expounded by Rey-

naldo B. Garnace, member of the Board of Trustees and Chairperson, Committee on Learning and Development.

The other discussant is Victoria F. Esber Pres-



PAANO NATIN MAKAKAMIT ANG MATATAG, MAGINHAWA, AT PANATAG NA BUHAY SA 2040?

Ang National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Regional Office VIII ay patuloy na nagsisikap upang matiyak na makamit natin ang ating collective vision ng isang matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay para sa lahat, na nakapaloob sa Ambisyon Natin 2040, sa pamamagitan ng paglikha ng mga balangkas patungo sa kaunlaran, kagaya ng Updated Regional Development Plan, Regional Development Investment Program, at Results Matrices; at pagbantay sa pagpapatupad ng mga ito.

Contact Us:

ATTY. BONIFACIO G. UY
Regional Director
National Economic and Development Authority VIII
Government Center, Baras, Palo, Leyte

f @rdcviii **t** (053) 832-2140
f @nedaregion8 **e** nro8@neda.gov.ph



Happy 132nd Fiesta Señor Sto. Niño de Tacloban...

Greetings from:

Former City Councilor

Atty. Jerry S. Uy

Paper World Enterprises
Tacloban City



Viva Sr. Sto. Niño!
Happy fiesta

ELECTRONIC BINGO

Today is your lucky day!!!
Try your Luck, Relax and Feel the
Excitement of the Games...!
Just play it...a big Round Top
Jackpots Awaits You...
Enjoy and have more fun...

Visit us @G/F Robinsons North Tacloban
Brgy. 91 Abucay, Tacloban City
opens from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM daily
&

2nd Level YT Bldg., Brgy. 14, Justice Romualdez St., Tacloban City
Opens from 9:00 AM to 12 Midnight daily

ident, REAL Inc., and Regional Director IV of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Regional Office No. 8.
(ZAILYN A. GALIT, PIO STAFF)



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look for Aileen M. Grafil



Site visit in Pope Francis Village in Brgy. 99 Diit, one of the Yolanda Housing Projects, with IATF Yolanda Program chairman and Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles. National Housing Authority (NHA) Regional Manager Engr. Constancio Antiniero, Fr. Edwin Bacaltos C.Ss.R. Francesco president and Mayor Alfred Romualdez welcomed and assisted the official during the turn-over of donations to the community.

The donated items were hygiene kits such as facemask, t-shirts, virgin coconut oils, goods from Rise Against Hunger Philippines and 1,000 food packs care of Mc Donalds House Charities.

Councilors Aimee Grafil, Dr. Elvira Casal, Brian Granados, and others from the civil society and people's organizations were also in attendance.(TCIO)

Flood control protects river bank and bridge in Sabang North, Borongan City

BORONGAN CITY—The Department of Public Works and Highways – Eastern Samar District Engineering Office completed the construction of 151-meter flood control structure in Brgy. Sabang North, Borongan City with the project cost amounting to P18,756,247.68 funded under General Appropriations Act of 2020.

District Engineer Ma. Margarita C. Junia said that the flood control structure in Sabang North is a long-term solution to the problem of the residents, where portions of their residential lot have been eroded during flooding.

“This newly constructed flood control structure aims to protect the lives and properties of the residents of Sabang North, Borongan. This will protect the riverbanks from scouring,” DE Junia said during interview.

District Engineer Ju-

nia also disclosed that the project also protects the approach and foundations of Borongan Bridge along Borongan-Guiuan Road from further exposure.

“It is also important to protect the bridge because it connects the northern part of Eastern Samar to the main proper of Borongan,” DE Junia added.

Grace Basada Mengote, a resident of Brgy. Sabang North, said in an interview that before the construction of the flood control in the area, the soil from her yard erodes because of the rapid water current.

“Tikang han akon pagukoy dinhe ha Sabang North, damo na nga mga babaha an akon na-eksperiensyahan, especially nga yadi kami hit bukana ngan it kasulgan yanhe ha amon. Gidadaku-i talaga an nahibulig hini nga proyekto han DPWH [For all the years that I have been living here in Sabang North, I have already experienced quite a num-

ber of flooding, especially that my house is situated where the water current is rapid. This project of DPWH is really a big help to us.],” she said.

Mengote expressed her gratitude to the agency for the construction of the flood control.

“Sana tuloy-tuloy iton mga proyekto nga iginpatuman hiton DPWH. Damo iton iyo nabubuligan, dire la dinhe ha Brgy. Sabang North, kundi it bug-os nga Eastern Samar ngan bug-os nga Pilipinas. God bless hiton namumuno ngan mga empleyado nga nagpapatuman hiton atun mga proyekto [I hope that the projects implemented by DPWH be continuous. This is really a big help, not just here in our Barangay, but around Eastern Samar and the Philippines. God bless to the leaders and employees that work hard to make all the projects possible],” she said.

According to District Engineer Ma. Margarita

Junia, Eastern Samar DEO guarantees its stakeholders and beneficiaries that the office will continue to construct infrastructure projects that will protect the lives and properties of the Estehanons.

“We uphold the vision of the agency, to which our aim is to build infrastructure projects that would be beneficial to the locals in the community; a structure that would give assurance and give peace of mind to the locals during the time of calamities,” said DE Junia.

The flood control structure in Brgy. Sabang, Borongan City started its construction on February, 2020 and was completed on August 3, 2020. (PR)



7-year improvement eyed for 4Ps families in Northern Samar

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is eyeing to elevate the level of well-being of more than 44,000 Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries in Northern Samar province in the next seven years.

DSWD 8 (Eastern Visayas) information officer Abelardo Bibat said in a phone interview Friday the DSWD and the provincial government have signed a memorandum of understanding on June 22 on the implementation of the “Kilos-Unlad” social case management strategy implementation of the 4Ps.

Bibat said the partnership is a seven-year case management strategy that aims to guide 4Ps beneficiaries to achieve an improved level of well-being towards graduating from poverty.

The strategy, he said, seeks to achieve economic, physical, psychological, and emotional readiness and improvement.

“This involves intensive case management from the time of their registration in the program. We have done a needs-based assessment and provided them access to training and livelihood opportunities with the help of the local government, partner agencies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. They also attended family development sessions,” Bibat added.

For this year alone, the DSWD is targeting to see 8,110 4Ps household-beneficiaries achieve self-reliance. A total of 44,604 poor families are listed as 4Ps recipients in the province.

“We want to see families supporting their own needs, with stable income, have access to all services, and can stand on their own even without financial support from 4Ps,” he said.

Led by the DSWD, the 4Ps is a poverty reduction strategy of the national government. Household beneficiaries are entitled to receive cash subsidies provided they meet the conditions on health, nutrition, and education.

The conditional cash transfer is given under the following scheme: P300 per month for a child in kindergarten and elementary school for a maximum of 10 months per year; P500 per month for 10 months for a child enrolled in junior high school; P700 per month for 10 months for every child enrolled in senior high school and a health and nutrition grant of P750 per month for 12 months per year.

The government can only provide for the needs of a maximum of three children for each family.

(SARWELL Q. MENIANO)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS EASTERN SAMAR DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE



DOMCELIO M. NATIVIDAD
OIC-Assistant District Engineer



ARTURO C. APURA
Chief, Planning & Design Section



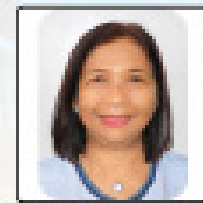
MICHAEL C. ADOR
Chief, Construction Section



ESTEBAN P. CASILLANO
Chief, Maintenance Section



JUDY C. ELGERA
OIC-Chief, Quality Assurance Section



NILDA A. LIMBUAN
Chief, Administrative Section



ROLANDO C. ROSAROSO
Chief, Finance Section

**KEY OFFICIALS AND STAFF OF DPWH
EASTERN SAMAR DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE**

MA. MARGARITA C. JUNIA, D.M.
District Engineer



House Majority Leader and Leyte Rep Martin Romualdez answers questions from news anchor Karen Davila during the live interview for ANC Headstart program. Romualdez said the House passed all of the President's legislative priorities including previous Bayanihan Laws which is very effective for corona virus response.

photo by Ver Noveno

In Eastern Samar

NPA surrenders, points where they hid their firearms

TACLOBAN CITY- A cache of firearms reportedly owned by the New People's Army (NPA) were recovered by government soldiers in remote villages in Gen. MacArthur, Eastern Samar last June 21.

The discovery and recovery of the firearms came about after a former NPA member surrendered to the 78th Infantry Battalion which is based in Borongan City, also in Eastern Samar.

Captain Arnold Arias, civil military officer of the said battalion, said that the former rebel, identified as Ka Roel, led the government forces to these areas

where they hid their firearms.

The recovered firearms consisting of five M16 rifles, two M14 rifles, and six IED main charge components, were found in the mountainous portions in the villages of Laurel, Macapagal, Magsaysay, and Osmena.

Last June 15 of this year, Ka Roel, 45, voluntarily surrendered to the 78th IB under the command of Lt. Col. Oliver Alvior.

During his surrender, the former rebel also turned in one 5.56 mm M16A1 rifle, and several rounds of ammunition.

Difficulties living like hunger and running around

as a rebel for the past five years were the reasons cited by Ka Roel why he decided to return to the folds of the law, Arias said.

Lt. Col. Arias welcomed the surrender of the former rebel as he vowed to provide all needed financial assistance to him for him to start a new life.

"The increasing number of NPA surrenderees and the recovery of numerous firearms and explosives signify that the NPA in Eastern Samar are directionless because their top leaders in Eastern Samar have abandoned their fighters," Alvior, in a statement, said. (JOEY A. GABIETA)

Held online for second straight year

Samar bet is this year's Miss Pintados; Eastern Samar lass wins the Miss Teen Pintados title

TACLOBAN CITY – The current holder of 'Mutya ng Samar' was adjudged as this year's Miss Pintados, besting 17 other equally beautiful and talented young women from all over the ceremony.

Leslie Ann Pomida, representing Catbalogan City, was crowned as Miss Pintados via an online ceremony held Sunday (June 27) night at the auditorium of the St. Paul School of Business and Law in Palo

town, Leyte.

In the same ceremony, Judy Rose Patalinghug of Guiuan, Eastern Samar was crowned as this year's Miss Teen Pintados, defeating 16 other candidates.

The annual beauty and brain search, now on its 35th year which is held during the annual Tacloban city fiesta, was staged online due to the pandemic of coronavirus disease.

Leyte Governor Leopoldo Dominico Petilla

crowned the new Miss Pintados who also represented Samar province during the Miss Millennial contest sponsored by 'Eat Bulaga,' the country most popular noontime television show.

Both newly-crowned beauty queens also received cash prizes.

Pomida, 20, during the question and answer portion, said that she wanted to become a lawyer protecting the rights of women and see Samar /page 15 ...

Borongan mayor extends MECQ status for another week

TACLOBAN CITY – The modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) status in Borongan City has been extended for another week by Mayor Jose Ivan Dayan Agda.

Agda signed Executive Order No. JID-CA-003-0621 last June 25 extending the MECQ status of the city until July 3.

The current quarantine status ended last Saturday (June 26).

The issuance was based to the City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (CESU) of the City Health

Office (CHO) that there is a new wave of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak in the city.

"After the span of two weeks, the City Health Office and the CESU assessed that the infection rate of COVID-19 cases in the city had not declined yet," Mayor Agda said.

"Upon careful deliberation and comprehensive assessment, the CHO has recommended that the MECQ status of Borongan be extended in order to flatten the curve of COVID-19 cases," he added.

ed.

Meantime, the city government inaugurated a new isolation facility last June 3 to address its COVID-19 surge.

The new isolation facility has 17 fully air-conditioned isolation room facility with each room has its toilets and bathrooms, sprinkler system and fire extinguisher. Each room also has an adjustable modern patient bed with sliding glass window and with two nurses stations and sterilizing room. (ROEL T. AMAZONA)

DDB donates 10 tents to Maasin City which will serve as COVID-19 isolation facility

TACLOBAN CITY – The Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) has provided 10 tents to Maasin City which will be used as their isolation facility for individuals tested of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

This was disclosed by Mayor Nacional Mercado who said that the donation of the tents to the city was timely as Maasin is facing a surge of COVID-19 cases.

"We are truly grateful to Secretary Catalino Uy and Usec. Earl Saavedra for facilitating our request and for the prompt action by their office," he said.

Maasin City, the cap-

ital of Southern Leyte province, has now a total of 895 confirmed cases of COVID-19, as of June 27, 2021.

Of which 703 are tagged as clinically recovered, 169 are active cases with 23 deaths.

The active cases are currently isolation with close monitoring from medical workers of the city, according to the mayor.

"We have also instructed our contact tracing team to submit their primary and secondary contacts to closely monitor and to subject them for RT-PCR testing," the mayor said.

With the city facing

surge of COVID-19 cases, Mayor Mercado urged his people to always observe all the minimum health protocols to stop any further spread of the virus.

"The city government strongly urges the public to religiously practice the infection-prevention and control measures. Please limit your outside exposure to essential activities," the mayor said. (ROEL T. AMAZONA)



WINNERS. This year's Miss Pintados and Miss Teen Pintados, for second straight year, was held virtually with the candidate of Catbalogan City, Leslie Ann Pomida, winning the Miss Pintados. Judy Rose Patalinghug of Guiuan town, garnering the Miss Teen Pintados crown. Also photo are the runner-ups in both categories. (Pintados Foundation)



The greatness of our culture and the strength of our beliefs cannot be diminished by the challenges of today. We may be facing a worldwide pandemic due to COVID-19, but it should not stop us from celebrating the festivity of Señor Sto. Niño, at home and with proper social distancing. Let us renew our faith and hope that better things are about to come. Happy Fiesta!

ATTY. CARLO P. LORETO
VICE GOVERNOR, PROVINCE OF LEYTE

 @AttyCarloPLoreto

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DENR lauds tribe members for rescuing of the Philippine deer

TACLOBAN CITY -

The regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has urged the public to be mindful and help protect endangered wildlife in the region.

The call of the DENR in the wake after a Philippine Deer was rescued in a mountain village of Lanawan in MacArthur town, Leyte.

In May this year, two Philippine deer locally called "bugso" were rescued by members of the Mamanwa tribe who lives in Barangay Kagbana in Burauen town, a neighboring village of Lanawan.

The two deer were trapped from an "awang", a trapping pit used by locals in the upland to catch animals for food.

The animals sustained wounds from falling into the trap and were brought to the village chief of Lanawan Michael De Luis who kept them first into his care until they were fit for travel to the Regional Wildlife Rescue Center in Palo town.

The deers were turned over to the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Palo.

Lanawan village chairman De Luis said that they have been conducting awareness campaigns for people to be aware and mindful of the laws that



protects wildlife.

"When the Mamanwa came to me, they were brief about the sanctions for killing and inflicting harm to these species specially those classified as endangered," he said.

Meanwhile, Palo CENR Officer Crisostomo Badeo Jr., lauded the efforts of the locals in protecting the re-

gion's wildlife species.

"The presence of the Philippine deer in our forests is an indication that we still have an ecologically balanced ecosystem, thus the need for more intensified protection efforts from all of us," Badeo said.

He then urged people to emulate what the leader of

Lanawan and the Mamanwa residents did and be mindful of their responsibilities toward environment.

"If you are in possession of any wildlife species, and if you see any wildlife species in danger please contact the DENR office nearest you," Badeo added.

(ROEL T. AMAZONA)

Man posing as PDEA agent nabbed in Ormoc City

ORMOC CITY- A man who claimed to be an agent of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) was arrested by the real agents of the said agency here in the city last Saturday (June 26).

Arrested was Ronaldo Galapin, 47, who was arrested in a buy-bust operation in Barangay Salvacion, this city, while he was visiting his pregnant wife who was temporarily staying with her parents.

Seized from the suspect were a caliber .45 pistol, 12 pieces live bullets, two magazine assembly, fake PDEA badge and identification

cards, 8.6502 grams of crystal meth (shabu) and the P2,000 bust money.

PDEA 8 Chief Operation Division Intelligence Agent V Christine Dumas said that they have been conducting surveillance against the suspect for six months.

She said that they have received report that the suspect has claimed to be a PDEA agent and extort money from arrested drug suspects.

Galapin, a resident of Alta Vista village, also of this city, chose to decline to comment when asked by the members of the local media.

The suspect was then brought to the PDEA region for custody while charges

were prepared against him.

He will be charged for violations of Article 9165 otherwise known as Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, particularly drug selling and possession and also violations of the Revised Penal Code of Article 177 known as usurpation of authority for posing as PDEA agent and Article 151 also known as disobedience of persons in authority for alleged resisting arrest.

Also, charges for illegal possession of firearms particularly in violation of Article 10591 otherwise known as Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act is being prepared for filing by police station 4 against the suspect.

(ELVIE ROMAN ROA)

Samar...

...from Page 13

children.

"I want to represent them in court; give that hope, give them that light in the end of the tunnel no matter how dark it may seem because I believe that if we give voice to the voiceless, then they can be a voice to the voiceless as well," she said.

Her court includes Caryl Anne Beltran of Southern Leyte (1st Runner-up), Susan Mitchell of Baybay City (2nd Runner-up), Emily Marie Brumby of Tanauan, Leyte (3rd Runner-up), and Jaira Sophia Rose Encina of Tacloban City (4th Runner-up).

Special awards for Miss Pintados were given to Susan Mitchell with Miss Goldilocks and Bank of Commerce award, Emily Brumby with Our Lady of Fatima EENT Center Ambassador, and Joyce Ann Mendoza with Miss Sukwan Day Spa.

Patalinghug, the winner in this year's Miss Teen Pintados, said that she is pushing for mental health protection, especially during this time of pandemic.

"I am willing to do anything to work with (Pintados) organization and to achieve your vision and mission, furthermore I am an advocate of mental health and right now we are in need to push through this advocacy because it is very relevant and to everyone out there who is feeling depressed, anxiety, and everything else. I believe I am with you and will battle

with until the end," the 17-year old said.

Other winners were Joncine Javier of Abuyog, Leyte (1st), Jeansy Mae Zepeda of Merida (2nd), Aiyana Shane Dedal of Mahaplag (3rd), Ma. Therese Camiller of Pas-trana (4th).

Special awardees were Ma. Therese Camiller as Miss Goldilocks, Franziska Zimny with Our Lady of Fatima EENT Center Ambassador and Miss Teen Sukwan Day Spa, and Jeansy Mae Zepeda as Miss Teen Bank of Commerce.

Gov. Petilla, in his message, said that the candidates are inspirations to the youth during this time of pandemic.

"The youth is our future. This is yours; this planet is yours. I think you joining here will inspire a lot of youth today to fight back to survive and fight this pandemic so that we have a better future than we have now," he said.

Petilla also expressed his thanks to the Pintados Foundation for continuing the pageant despite of the pandemic.

"Hopefully next year I'm very hopeful that we will have an audience and congratulation for doing this every year. You never failed us that is why we continue supporting their programs," he added.

This year's panel of judges was led by Vice Gov. Carlo Loreto with outgoing director of the Philippine Information Agency, Olive Tiu, among the members of the panel.

(ROEL T. AMAZONA)



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