



Leyte-Samar

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TACLOBAN
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P15.00 IN TACLOBAN

Southern Leyte highway closed due to landslide



ROAD CLOSED. A portion of the highway in Southern Leyte hit by landslide on Sunday (Feb. 27, 2022). The primary road remains closed on Monday (Feb. 28, 2022) due to the incident.

(Photo courtesy of Norman Patricio)

TACLOBAN CITY – A primary highway in Southern Leyte remains closed due to a major landslide in Sogod town, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said on Monday (Feb. 28).

In an advisory, the DPWH said the landslide occurred past 10 a.m. on Sunday in Pancho Villa village in Sogod town. The estimated 144 cubic meters of rocks and soil blocked the highway considered as a shorter route for Mindanao-bound motorists.

“Clearing operations are ongoing with the joint efforts of DPWH Southern Leyte district engineering office quick response team and the contractor working on a certain project within the affected area. The said road will remain temporarily closed until further notice as soil erosion is still active due to the continuous rainfall in the area,” the DPWH said.

Motorists are advised to take the Tacloban-Baybay-Bato-Bontoc route for those heading to Sogod and Liloan towns. If going to Maasin City or Sogod town, motorists were told to take the Tacloban-Bay-

bay South road.

Those travelling to Panay Island and the Pacific towns in Southern Leyte, the DPWH recommends to take Tacloban – Mahaplag – Baybay – Bato – Bontoc – Sogod – Daang Maharlika – Liloan – San Ricardo road

see Southern /page 7 ...

80% Taclobanons now fully vaxxed DOH reports declining COVID-19 cases in EV

JOEY A. GABIETA

TACLOBAN CITY- The number of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Eastern Visayas continues to decline with the Department of Health (DOH) reporting of just three new cases on Monday (Feb. 28), by far the lowest after the region experienced a surge last year.

With the drop of cases in the region since the start of the year, Eastern Visayas has only 113 active COVID-19 cases.

Jelyn Lopez Malibago, regional information officer of the DOH-8, said that the three new cases were from Leyte province with two; and one from Eastern Samar.

Meantime, the 113 active cases are in Leyte with 79 cases; Southern Leyte, 17; Samar, 8; Northern Samar, 4; Biliran, 3; and two for Eastern Samar.

In Tacloban, the region's capital city, its COVID-19 cases are also in the declining fashion as it recorded a zero case on Monday for the first time after almost two months.

In fact, its active cases are now at 12, says Dr. Gloria Fabrigas, its city health officer.

The decreasing number of COVID-19 cases of the city was partly attributed to its active campaign on vaccination.

Based on her report, see DOH /page 7 ...



COURTESY VISIT. Tacloban City Mayor Alfred Romualdez welcomed Lain Cox, the political counselor of the British Embassy to the Philippines, who paid him a courtesy visit on Saturday (Feb. 26). The two leaders discussed several issues and concerns, notably the management of COVID-19, and on about politics, environment, and economic developments. The two leaders also talked to further intensify the relationship between the city of Tacloban and the British Embassy. Also present during the meeting were British Embassy Manila senior political adviser Kristine Borja and British Embassy Manila digital diplomacy officer Mariel Louise Cunanan.

(ALFRED ROMUALDEZ FACEBOOK)

Natural barrier against storm surge Mangrove planting held in Barangay 88, one of the hard-hit village due to 'Yolanda'

TACLOBAN CITY- More mangrove trees will protect Tacloban coasts few years from now after a tree planting activity took place in San Jose District.

Initiated by Barangay 88 officials, in partnership with Red Cross - Leyte Chapter, said activity was successfully carried out last February 24.

The village, to recall, was considered to be among the hardest-hit areas when Tacloban was pummeled by Super Typhoon 'Yolanda' almost nine years ago.

Forester Marito Barillo

of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) provided technical assistance during the mangrove planting activity as he also helped the team identify the appropriate area to plant the seedlings at Purok Timex.

According to village chairwoman Emelita S. Montalban, Red Cross provided them with a series of trainings and seminars on mangrove growing and its impact on environment resilience. More seedlings are being nurtured by barangay workers at their nursery for the next planting activities.

A brainchild of the barangay, this project which started rolling at the height of the pandemic see Mangrove /page 7 ...



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WE DELIVER!



Leyte Governor Leopoldo Dominico “Mic” L. Petilla turned over two units drop side mini trucks to Mayang Cruz a farmer member of the Peace and Prosperity Village Farmers Association on February 18, 2022. The trucks will be used by the 11 farmers associations to transport their agricultural products to the market. Joining the governor were former congresswoman Carmen L. Cari(5th district) and members of the farmers association, and PDRRMO Engr. Arvin Monge. The turn over was held at Provincial Government complex ground Pawing, Palo, Leyte.. (GINA P. GEREZ)

Absolute Service: PAF Reinforced its Disaster Response

The Philippines is a country that is not a stranger to powerful December storms. On 16 December 2021, Typhoon Odette (International: Rai), a super typhoon equivalent of a category 5 hurricane with 160mph winds has made landfall on Siargao Island in the southeastern part of the country, the final storm of the year, a beast. It made several other landfalls as it intensified and moved through the country.

It was difficult to prepare or evacuate for a super typhoon that rapidly strengthened from category 1 to 5 within the same day. Due to this rapid intensification of Typhoon

Odette, more than 300,000 people were evacuated ahead of landfall with 16 million estimated at risk according to National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), more than 10,000 villages mainly in the Visayas and Mindanao and some parts of Southern Luzon were in the path of the typhoon.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) operations center classified the high-risk regions as Mimaropa, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas, Northern Mindanao, SOCSKARGEN, and Caraga; medium risk regions as Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, CALABARZON, Bicol, Zamboanga Peninsula, Davao,

BARMM; while low risk regions as NCR, Central Luzon, and CAR.

The AFP has deployable assets or resources for search, rescue, and retrieval with 3,175 SRR teams, 558 land assets, 281 sea assets, and 8 air assets.

As such, the PAF's UH-1H "Huey" combat utility helicopters were utilized in the humanitarian assistance and disaster response efforts in the aftermath of Typhoon Odette to aid in the transporting relief goods in the Visayas area. PAF Spokesperson, LTC MAYNARD MARIANO PAF said, "The UH-1H fleet took off for the first HADR mission on 28 December 2021. PAF personnel and its air assets

have been working round-the-clock in providing relief operations to areas affected by Typhoon Odette."

Captain George Goking, a PAF reservist and Cagayan de Oro City councilor recognizes and commends the PAF as the generous partner in pre-emptive evacuation, search, rescue, and relief missions in far-flung areas of the Caraga and Northern Mindanao regions. Various Reservist units helped in transportation assistance to trapped flood victims, consolidation and distribution of relief goods, and cash assistance to different areas of Cagayan de Oro City, Butuan City, and Surigao.

The PAF worked with various partners and stakeholders in the local community to collect, consolidate, and donate relief packages to calamity-stricken families in affected areas. The relief items were loaded onto the PAF's C-130 military aircraft and transported to high-risk areas where they are turned over to the national government through the NDRRMC as the main distributor of such donations.

Bringing temporary relief and happiness to those affected by Typhoon Odette and serving a small token to the victims for them to enjoy Christmas and New Year despite what happened to them, the Philippine Air Force proves itself as an ally that can rapidly mobilize and bring aid to those who need it. (PR)

DPWH Eastern Samar completes the first phase of Borongan Bypass Road

District Engineer Ma. Margarita C. Junia disclosed that the first phase of Borongan Bypass Road has already been completed.

DE Junia said that DPWH Eastern Samar has already concreted 333-meter length of the Borongan Bypass Road with four-lane road, concrete sidewalk and three-meter wide bicycle lane on both sides.

The district engineer said that the Phase-1 of the Borongan Bypass Road focused on the opening of 1.2-kilometer road and concreting of 333-meter road. The second phase is still on-going and focuses on the opening of another 1.2-kilometer road.

"We have no concreting works for the second phase because most of the items of works have been allotted to unsuitable excavation along the rice field and to replace it with good materials for the base preparation prior to PCCP," said DE Junia.

She further added that

the third phase of the project amounting to Php 100 million which will be implemented this year will focus on concreting works of the unpaved section of Phase 1 and Phase 2.

"The construction of the Borongan Bypass Road will have a total length of 14.9 kilometers with three (3) bridges: the Borongan Bridge, Loom Bridge and Can-obing Bridge," added DE Junia.

The construction of Borongan Bypass Road started in Brgy. Maypangdan, and will end in Brgy/ Locsoon, Borongan City. The construction started in early 202, and is considered as one of the high impact projects of Eastern Samar District Engineering Office.

"Once the whole road project is completed, it will reduce travel time of the motorists, decongest traffic in the city proper and will introduce new development in Borongan City," DE Junia added.

(IRMA A. BALLETE, PIO STAFF/PR)

Eastern Visayas posts \$120.76 million trade surplus in November 2021

The total value of export and import goods in Eastern Visayas amounted to USD 190.19 million in

November 2021. This indicates an increase of 8.22 percent from the USD 175.74 million total trade in November 2020.

The growth in total trade can be attributed to the increase in imports which more than doubled from USD 14.23 million in November 2020 to USD 34.71 million in November 2021. Exports declined by 3.73 percent, from USD 161.50 million in November 2020 to USD 155.48 million in November 2021.

Balance of Trade in Goods (BoT-G) in November 2021 amounted to USD 120.76 million, representing a trade surplus with an annual decline of 18.00 percent from the USD 147.27 million BoT in the same month of 2020.

The total volume of goods exported by the region in November 2021 was 92.32 million kilograms with a total value of USD 155.48 million.

Copper and articles thereof commodity group led the region's export, with sales amounting to USD 149.50 million. This comprised a large chunk or 96.16 percent of the total value of exports during

the month. The People's Republic of China was the major export market in November 2021 with sales amounting to USD 88.16 million or a share of 56.71 percent to the total exports during the month.

The total volume of goods imported by the region in November 2021 was 111.75 million kilograms valued at USD 34.71 million. Imports were led by the commodity group of mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation, bituminous substances, mineral waxes. The import value for this commodity group was see Eastern /page 7 ...

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Army hopes next President will continue the NTF-ELCAC implementation

TACLOBAN CITY – The region's top Army official, Major Gen. Edgardo De Leon, expressed his optimism that whoever will become the country's next President will continue to implement the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC).

This way, the decades-long campaign of the government against the country's communist group will come to its end, he said.

"Naghihintay kami kung sinong administration ang magtutuloy ng programa sa ELCAC. Nakikita niyo naman sa mga kandidato kung sino sa kanila ang magpapatuloy programa ng ending local communist armed conflict," De Leon said.

Under the program, barangays which are considered to be conflict-areas, are to receive financial assistance of P4 million to

fund their chosen projects.

Here in the region, 200 barangays have been identified to be funded under NTF-ELCAC through its barangay development program.

Meantime, senatorial candidate and Sorsogon Governor Francis 'Chiz' Escudero said that he supports the NTF-ELCAC saying that in his province, at least 16 villages have benefited from the program.

"If only the budget was not cut by the Senate, a total of 160 additional villages will be benefiting the program. This means more development to the community. Unlike other programs, this empowers the community because they are the ones that identify the projects that needed to be funded, not the municipal government or the provincial. I hope this will be continued by the next administration," Escudero said.

(ROEL T. AMAZONA)

Kauswagan Caravan reaches Laoang far-flung barangays

CATARMAN, Northern Samar – To bring government services closer to the people, the Provincial Government of Northern Samar led another service caravan last February 24, 2022 in Barangay Rombang, Laoang town.

The Kauswagan Caravan, the 9th so far, delivered services to the people of Rombang and its neighboring barangays - Yapas, Tino-blan and EJ Dulay, who all gathered in Bgy. Rombang located in a narrow waterway along Hangtud River.

Food packs, hygiene kits, farm tools, seedlings, veterinary medicines, slippers, toys, biscuits, vitamins and medicines, kiddie gifts, face masks, alcohol and other supplies were among those distributed to eager residents while some agencies conducted ID registration, gave free haircut and provided their agency's respective services. These included PSA, TESDA, BFAR, DAR, DTI, DSWD, DepEd, PCA, UEP, DPWH, BFAR, DSWD, DOH, PCA, DA,



Governor Edwin Ongchuan led in a tree-planting activity in Barangay Rombang, Northern Samar. The tree planting was part of the activities during the Kauswagan caravan held in the said village last Feb.24.

Philippine Army, PNP, BFP, among others.

Other than offices under the provincial government, LGU Laoang also joined the caravan, along with non-government partners such as Red Cross and private individuals.

Governor Edwin Ongchuan addressed the public during the Opening of the Caravan, so with Laoang Mayor Harris Ongchuan and the barangay chairpersons of the 4 beneficiary barangays.



TURNOVER OF COVERED COURT. Another infrastructure project has been completed and was officially turned-over today by Tingog partylist Rep. Yedda Marie Romualdez to Brgy. Guintigi-an chairman Nestor Lacaba and the barangay council. Also present in the event were Babatngon Mayor Maria Fe Rondina (beside YKR), vice mayoral candidate Bong Fabi, Jr., municipal council candidates Joel Rondina, Jojo Fabi, Karl Embana, Evelyn Montaña, Julius Niegas, Butch Lawson, and Winston Menzon. The covered court is among Tingog Partylist's many projects intended to help local government units in Eastern Visayas. photo by Miko Noveno

Ranking NPA leader in Samar surrenders to police authorities

TACLOBAN CITY – A ranking leader of the New People's Army (NPA) oper-

ating in Samar has surrendered to police authorities in Samar.

Police B/Gen. Bernard Banac, police regional director, identified the communist rebel leader as Dennis Loberando, 24, said to be the team leader of Squad 1 SYP Platoon Zandrew, FC-2, SRC Emporium.

Loberando surrendered before police authorities of Gandara town where he is now temporarily detained on Feb.22.

Banac informed that Loberando submitted himself to the Gandara police

and turned in one 9mm Smith and Wesson revolver with five live ammunition and one fragmentation grenade.

His surrender to the police was due mainly through the program of the government, the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC).

"Through the programs of the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), I am more confident that more NPAs will be persuaded to bring back

their trust to the government", Banac said.

"We are consistent with our pursuit to stop armed conflict in the region and prevent any atrocities committed by the communist terrorist group," the police regional director added.

Meanwhile, Banac said that he will facilitate for the former rebel avails needed assistance under the government's Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP).

(LIZBETH ANN A. ABELLA)

PVO, PCC conduct seminar to help increase carabao population in Northern Samar

CATARMAN, Northern Samar –The Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) initiated a gathering which aims to further help the skills among the artificial insemination technicians in the province.

Dr. Reynaldo Ogalesco of the PVO said that with the adoption of the new skills and knowledge that the artificial insemination technicians will learn out of the training, its hope that this will result in the increase of the population of carabaos in the province

Dr. Reynaldo Ogalesco of the PVO said that with the adoption of the new skills and knowledge that the artificial insemination technicians will learn out of the training, its hope that this will result in the increase of the population of carabaos in the province

and in the process, help bring down the prices of pork.

"Our purpose for artificial insemination is not only for the meat the carabao will provide, but also for the milk as another protein source," he said during his remark at the seminar held last Feb.23.

see PVO /page 7 ...

ERRATUM

The article, 'DepEd Leyte's Leadership Academy develops excellent school heads,' that appeared on this paper on Feb.22 on page 3,2022 should have read 'DepEd Leyte's LeaderShape Academy develops excellent school heads.' Our apologies. (ED)

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Crippling event

Just when we are about to be off the hook of the COVID-19 pandemic, another globally crippling event unfolded before our very own eyes—and that is Russia's attack on its neighboring country, Ukraine.

We may not be affected directly as no missiles are hitting us from both countries, but indirectly, we are already suffering from the adverse effects of this conflict. And to think that we are just days ago since the war broke out. How much more if it will drag on for weeks and months, and what if it will escalate into a bigger and wider conflict among nations?

Of these effects, prices of oil products are the most glaring, hitting our pockets with devastating blows. And the price hike continues unabated, with no signs of stopping. Indeed, we cannot tell as to how much the price of a liter might cost, for as the tensions build up,

uncertainty likewise soars high. The key players particularly Russia have no intentions to sit down and talk to give peace a chance.

It's not only in our mobility that the oil price increases are felt; soon, we will bear their effects as we try to secure the basic goods and services that we need. As we all know, when the prices of crude oil from the world market increase, prices of other commodities follow suit without fail. And as usual, it's our hard-up countrymen who eventually suffer the most.

What we can do is to simply hope and pray that the leaders of these countries will be enlightened with the reality that what they are doing is promoting chaos, instability, and death. If they prove to be hard-headed in heeding the anguish of their victims, we can perhaps pray that some lightning will strike them dead so we can have peace.



Didactic Tales

DOMS PAGLIAWAN

Funny claim

As we conclude the month-long celebration of the Arts (month of February), I would like to make this "pahabol" reminder although it might not be perfectly in line with the arts. The fact that some artists are at the same

time academicians made me think that this consciousness should as well be common knowledge among artists. Otherwise, they will cease to be artists.

According to some academicians in the country today, Ph.D. is the most

superior form of doctorate, enjoying the highest popularity and respect, and rendering the rest of doctorates inferior. This is a notion that has been spreading in some colleges and universities, causing the Ph.D. holders to be extra proud while discriminating albeit in mind the "lesser" doctorate degrees.

What does a Ph.D. require? Basically, it requires that a taker has satisfactorily finished a Master's Degree in one's chosen field of study. Then it prescribes a list of subjects for one to take up and pass. After finishing these academic requirements, one has to take and pass a comprehensive examination. Af-

ter this, one should then embark on an original research commonly known as dissertation and be able to successfully defend it in a series of hearings before a panel of experts in one's academic field. Only after one successfully hurdles all this that one becomes a rightful holder of a Ph.D.

Looking at the above requirements and procedures, one could infer that a Ph.D. is in no way different from other forms of doctorates in the Philippines. They are all basically the same in terms of requirements; they only differ in contents and perhaps length of time. But as regards organization and

see Funny /page 5 ...



Commentary

FR. ROY CIMAGALA

Our inherent desire for heaven

THAT'S true. Despite our weaknesses, mistakes, sins, etc., we have in our heart of hearts an inherent desire for heaven. As the Catechism would put it, "This desire (for happiness) is of divine origin: God has placed it in the human heart in order to draw man to the One who alone can fulfill it." (1718)

This truth of our faith is illustrated in that gospel episode where a rich young man approached Christ, asking what he had to do to gain eternal life. (cfr. Mk 10,17-27) As that gospel story unfolded, Christ told him first to follow the commandments, and when the young man said that he had observed all those, Christ then told him to "sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

Well, we know how the young man reacted to that response of Christ. It was a sad ending, precisely because the young man found it hard and was unwilling to follow what Christ told him. That's when Christ said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God!... It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God."

We have to realize that to meet our inherent desire for eternal happiness, for heaven, we need to free ourselves from any attachments to earthly things, even as we use them and even enjoy them in our earthly affairs. The things of this world should be a means for us to be with God. They should not be a competitor with God.

That is why we have

to live in the strictest sense possible the virtue of Christian poverty that allows us to use the things of this world to give glory to God and to lead us to heaven.

We cannot overemphasize the strategic relevance of this virtue. With all the glut of material and temporal things now on us, we need to be more conscious and adept in living and developing this virtue of detachment.

I don't think we can afford to be casual about this concern anymore. The worldly things are now so attractive, so tempting and so riveting that if we are not careful, there's no way but be swept away by its

Funny...

...from Page 4

protocol, they share many things in common. How, then, could Ph.D. boast of superiority when, as a matter of fact, it is devoid of peculiarity and edge?

The notion that elevates Ph.D. to the highest level is baseless and—forgive the word—embarrassing. Why, it is tantamount to being ignorant. Some thinking-great-of-themselves holders of it must have invented the idea in an attempt to likewise lift their egos. But the truth is, they are wrong, though they may have based their belief on the fact that Ph.D. is the first doctorate that became internationally renowned. Being first doesn't necessarily dictate superiority and dominance. It's just an edge relative to time sequence.

Come to think of it, our academic structures and all are patterned after the United States, so we can't therefore deviate

rampaging worldly laws and impulses.

This virtue has the primary purpose of emptying our mind and heart of anything that can compete or, worse, replace the love for God and for others which is proper to all of us.

It's not about running away from worldly things, much less, of hating the goods of the earth and our temporal affairs, but of knowing how to handle them, so as not to compromise the fundamental law of love that should rule us.

To repeat, it is not just a matter of emptying ourselves but rather of filling ourselves with what is proper to us. In short, we practice detachment to acquire and enhance the attachment that is proper to us as God's image and likeness and as God's children.

It's quite clear that a requirement for entering heaven is detachment from earthly things. This should be clear to all of us, and should guide us in the way we use the things of the world. These things should lead us to God and to others, not isolate us, building up our own world and destiny.

from the standards that they provide. The International Affairs Office of the U.S. Department of Education lists over 20 frequently awarded research doctorate degree titles accepted by the National Science Foundation (NSF), and these degrees are considered equivalent in research content to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree.

These equivalent degrees are: Doctor of Arts (D.A./D. Arts), Doctor of Business Administration (D.B.A.), Doctor of Church Music (D.C.M.), Doctor of Canon Law (J.C.D./D.C.L.), Doctor of Design (D.Des.), Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), Doctor of Engineering (D.Eng./D.E.Sc./D.E.S.), Doctor of Fine Arts (D.F.A.), Doctor of Health Science (D.H.Sc.), Doctor of Hebrew Letters (D.H.L.), Doctor of Industrial Technology (D.I.T.), Doctor of Juridical Science (J.S.D./S.J.D.), Doctor of Management



High-Powered Objective

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DR. PACIENTE CORDERO, JR.

Indian Lloyd Pharma to produce local molnupiravir

Barely over one week ago, I wrote about challenging Philippine Pharma Laboratories to discover formulation for anti-covid medicines. Two days back, a news item about an Indian Pharmaceutical company called LLOYD LABORATORIES' whose registration was approved by the Board of Investments (BOI), and avail of the grant of incentives for the production of COVID-19 medicine MOLNUPIRAVIR. A grant of P24-million is available from the BOI for a local pharmaceutical firm solo or in collaboration with a foreign

entity.

"The project was approved as activities related to pandemic response are part of those qualified for incentives under the 2020 Investment Priority Plan under the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act."

Lloyd Laboratories, Inc., as domestic producer of Molnupiravir capsules, has expanded its production facility in Malolos, Bulacan for the production of the anti-covid drug. The L.L.I. is expected to start production this month and has an annual capacity of one million 400 mg capsules of Molnupiravir. The L.L.I. is using the technology transferred from Optimus Pharma, an integrated pharmaceutical organization in Hyderabad,

India. Earlier. Earlier, Optimus Pharma supported a clinical trial with the Stella Pharma of Vietnam, and showed promising results with RT-PCR negativity on day 5 at 75.4 percent. The said result was used as basis by the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to issue a compassionate special permit to Lloyd limited to supplying Recuenco General Hospital a total of 20,000 400mg capsules Molnupiravir for one year.

The locally made Molnupiravir sells at P65 per pill, much lower than the imported ones available at P100-P150 per capsule.

The BOI is talking to international pharma to link with Philippine pharma firms for partnerships in the production of locally manufactured anti-covid medicines and vaccines. This is a good news, but I believe it should have been done much earlier or before COVID - 19 struck the Philippines. But, better late than never!

ooo000ooo

NEXT TOPIC : "Breakthrough Vaccine Against Omicron Variant Available in 2022"

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

<p>Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation and Communication LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD Regional Office No. VIII Palo, Leyte</p>	<p>Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation and Communication LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD Regional Office No. VIII Palo, Leyte</p>
<p>R8-EV/PA-PB-2022-02-20200132 CASE NO. VIII-2020-0132</p>	<p>R8-EV/PA-PB-2022-02-20200132 CASE NO. VIII-2020-0132</p>

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of a Certificate of Convenience
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ALVIN TRANSIT, INC.,
Applicant/s
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CITY-CATARMAN-RAWIS & VICE
VERSA” with the use of **ONE (1)** unit/s

DEED OF SELF-ADJUDICATION WITH ABSOLUTE SALE
NOTICE is hereby given that CONCORDIO C. BAGION, heir of the late
CONCORDIA MALABO executed a Deed of Self-Adjudication over a real property locat-
ed at Atipolo, Naval, Biliran consisting an area of 0.152600 hectares with TD No. 00618.
A Deed of Absolute Sale was executed in favor of JUANITO S. MONTES, JR. married to
KATRINA V. MONTES as vendees of the above-described property free from liens and
encumbrances. Per Doc No. 232, Page No. 47, Book No. I, Series of 2021. Notary Public
Atty. Lolita G. Casas-Nueve. *LSDE: March 1, 8 & 15, 2022*

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION
NOTICE is hereby given that OLLIE MAE FLORANO heir of the late MARICEL
FLORANO executed an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication over a bank deposit at BDO account
with passbook account no. 008120058084. Per Doc No. 106, Page No. 23, Book No. III,
Series of 2022. Notary Public Atty. Alexander F. Opeña.
LSDE: March 1, 8 & 15, 2022

**EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT AMONG HEIRS
WITH ABSOLUTE SALE**
NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late DOROTHY U. CAALIM extrajudicial-
ly settled, partitioned and adjudicated over an agricultural land situated at Brgy. Lamak,
Hilongos, Leyte under TD No. 1402-00884 with Cad Lot No. 6764-Rem portion contain-
ing an area of 1.7993 hectares covered by Katibayan ng Orihinal na Titulo Blg. P-P-45305.
A Deed of Sale was executed in favor JEFERSON L. MELIANG as vendee of a portion
equivalent to 283sq.m., from the above-described property free from all liens and encum-
brances. Per Doc No. 81, Page No. 17, Book No. 63, Series of 2021. Notary Public Atty.
Rico E. Aureo. *LSDE: February 15, 22 & March 1, 2022*

**EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE WITH DEED
OF ABSOLUTE SALE**
NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late ROBERTO DEL ROSARIO, one of
the children of the late ENCARNACION M. DEL ROSARIO extrajudicially settled, parti-
tioned and adjudicated over a parcel of land known as Lot No. 1498-B-9 situated at Brgy.
Cogon, San Jose, Tacloban City containing an area of 1,000sq.m., covered under TCT
No. 122-2016000843. A Deed of Absolute Sale was executed in favor of SPS. LUCIO D.
ABORDO, JR. AND REGIE E. ABORDO as vendees of a portion equivalent to 100sq.m.,
of the above-described real property taken from our respective share of the inheritance, and
that we hereby warrant valid title or ownership thereto and that same are free from liens
and encumbrances. Per Doc No. 328, Page No. 67, Book No. XV, Series of 2021. Notary
Public Atty. Reginildo R. Cañas. *LSDE: March 1, 8 & 15, 2022*

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION
NOTICE is hereby given that OLLIE MAE FLORANO, heir of the late MARICEL
FLORANO executed an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication over a bank deposit with BDO
under Passbook Account No. 008120058084. Per Doc No. 106, Page No. 23, Book No. III,
Series of 2022. Notary Public Atty. Alexander F. Opeña.
LSDE: February 22, March 1 & 8, 2022

**EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH SALE
OF A PORTION OF REAL PROPERTY**
NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late BERNARDINA CATUBAY extrajudi-
cially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of land situated at Brgy. Maybocog,
Maydolong, Eastern Samar embraced by OCT No. P-4116 designated as Lot No. 1641,
Cad 662-D containing an area of 3,557sq.m.,more or less. A Deed of Sale was executed in
favor of SPS. RODELITO G. MUMAR & LAILA M. MUMAR as vendees of a portion
equivalent to 330sq.m., more or less designated as Lot 1641-A. Per Doc No. 65, Page No.
14, Book No. XXXVIII, Series of 2021. Notary Public Atty. Charles B. Culo.
LSDE: February 22, March 1 & 8, 2022

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH SALE
NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late EMELIANO AMANTE extrajudicially
settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of agricultural land designated as Lot No.
187 located at Brgy. Bacubac, Basey, Samar covered by ARP No. 2266 containing an area
of 8,803sq.m.,with assessed value of Php25,650.00. A Deed of Sale was executed in favor
of SPS. EPHRAIM CECIL LOCSON ABIA AND IDA SEREVILLA ABIA as vendees of
a certain parcel of land from the above-described property. Per Doc No. 530, Page No. 89,
Book No. 3, Series of 2009. Notary Public Atty. Ultimo C. Servande.
LSDE: Feb. 15, 22 & March 1, 2022

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION
NOTICE is hereby given that CESARIO DARANTINAO, heir of the late LUISA
TAGPIS DARANTINAO executed an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication over a bank depos-
it at BDO Zamora, Tacloban City under Account No. 000990350746 in the amount of
Php90,444.80. Per Doc No. 110, Page No. 23, Book No. 57, Series of 2022. Notary Public
Atty. Ismael C. Lloren. *LSDE: February 22, March 1 & 8, 2022*

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT AND PARTITION OF ESTATE
NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late ADELA A. ROMERO extrajudicially
settled, partitioned and adjudicated over 2 parcels of land particularly described as: 1) Lot
No. 8703-E-1, Psd-08-011834-D situated at Brgy. Gacat, Baybay, Leyte under TCT No.
TP-23034 containing an area of 1,903sq.m., more or less; 2) Lot No. 10324-C, Csd-08-
005717-D situated at Brgy. Gacat, Baybay, Leyte covered by Katibayan ng Orihinal na
Titulo Blg. P-60733 containing an area of 776sq.m.,more or less. Per Doc No. 819, Page
No. 164, Book No. LXII, Series of 2021. Notary Public Atty. Rene Allan G. Gervoso.
LSDE: February 22, March 1 & 8, 2022

**EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH DEED
OF ABSOLUTE SALE**
NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late CLARO CASTRO ESTREMOS ex-
trajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of agricultural land situated
at Mapuyo, Kawayan, Biliran under TD No. 00199 under TCT No. TE-7244, Survey No.
Lot # P-1-9 CSD 08-002763 OLT with an area of 0.860200 hectares. A Deed of Absolute
Sale was executed in favor of RICHARD GARGOLES as vendee of a portion measuring
296sq.m., from the above-described property. Per Doc No. 3508, Page No. 624, Book No.
XI, Series of 2019. Notary Public Atty. Mario Lyndinno R. Opeña.
LSDE: Feb. 15, 22 & March 1, 2022

SELF-ADJUDICATION OF THE ESTATE WITH ABSOLUTE SALE
NOTICE is hereby given that FELICITAS C. DAGAMI, heir of the late DIONESIA
CABERO executed a Deed of Self-Adjudication over a parcel of land situated at Brgy.
Gen. Antonio Luna, Mayorga, Leyte designated as Lot 1448, Case-7, Cad 1017-D cov-
ered by Katibayan ng Orihinal na Titulo Blg. CARP2016000455 containing a total area of
5,468sq.m. A Deed of Absolute Sale was executed in favor of ARNIE I. CALAMAYA as
vendee of a portion equivalent to 200sq.m., from the above-described property free from
liens and encumbrances of whatever nature. Per Doc No. 33, Page No. 08, Book No. VIII,
Series of 2021. Notary Public Atty. Rex L. Flores, RN.
LSDE: February 22, March 1 & 8, 2022

<p>Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation and Communication LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD Regional Office No. VIII Palo, Leyte</p>	<p>Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation and Communication LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD Regional Office No. VIII Palo, Leyte</p>
<p>CASE NO. VIII-2020-0145</p>	<p>CASE NO. VIII-2020-0145</p>

Application for Additional Unit of
Consolidated Route of Corporation/
Cooperative of a Certificate of Public
Convenience to operate a **FILCAB** Service
with **Issuance of Provisional Authority**

**TACLOBAN CAMPETIC TRANSPORT
COOPERATIVE (TACATRANSCO),**
Applicant/s
x-----x
NOTICE OF HEARING
Applicant request authority for the Issu-
ance of a Certificate of Public Convenience
to operate a **FILCAB** service along the line:
“**TACLOBAN CITY-ST. PAUL’S-CAM-
PETIC & VICE VERSA”** with the use of
FIFTY NINE (59) unit/s.

In the present application, applicant
request authority to add **THREE (3)** unit/s
to the original **FIFTY NINE (59)** units
along the route: **TACLOBAN CITY-ST.
PAUL’S-CAMPETIC & VICE VERSA.**
NOTICE is hereby given that this
application will be heard by this Board on
MARCH 15, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at its office
of the above address.
At least TEN (10) days prior to the above
date, applicant/s shall cause the publication of
this Notice of Hearing once in a newspaper of
local circulation.

This application will be acted upon
by this Board on the basis of its records and
documentary evidence submitted by the parties,
unless the Board deems it necessary to receive
additional documentary and/or oral evidence.
WITNESS the Honorable
GUALBERTO N. GUALBERTO, Regional
Director, this 21st day of **FEBRUARY, 2022.**

(Sgd.) **ATTY. GIL D. MENGULLO**
Attorney IV

**EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT
AND PARTITION OF ESTATE
WITH DEED OF DONATION**
NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of
the late JUANITA ROMERO CAINTIC
extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adju-
dicated over a parcel of land designated as
Lot 5, Pcs-08-001421-D for the parcels of
land Lot 8703-E-land Lot 10324-C contain-
ing an area of 298sq.m., more or less and
heirs LEONARDO M. CAINTIC, EDWIN
R. CAINTIC, EDNA C. LORETO AND
EDMOND R. CAINTIC hereby transfer
and conveys by way of DONATION the
above-described property in favor of SPS.
EDRETS R. CAINTIC AND IVYMAY O.
CAINTIC free from all liens and encum-
brances. Per Doc No. 992, Page No. 199,
Book No. LIX, Series of 2021. Notary Pub-
lic Atty. Rene Allan G. Gervoso.
LSDE: February 22, March 1 & 8, 2022

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS
NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late SPS. EXPEDITO B. DOMALAON and
LUCILA D. DOMALAON extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a par-
cel of residential land, designated as Lot No. 69-H-1-A, located at Brgy. Airport Village,
Catarman, Northern Samar, containing an area of 135 square meters, covered by Certificate
of Title No.2016000193 and one storey residential building covered by Tax Dec. ARP No.
2012 06002 00601, located at Brgy. Airport Village, Catarman, Northern Samar, and heirs
executed a waiver in favor of co-heir brother EDMUNDO D. DOMALAON, the above-de-
scribed property; per Doc. No.161, Page No. 33, Book No. I, Series of 2022 of Notary Public
Atty. Jayvee Wilfred C. Baya. *LSDE: March 1, 8 & 16, 2022*

Publication Notice
RA 9048

Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICE
Dolores, Eastern Samar

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 7 of R.A. 9048, a no-
tice is hereby served to the public that **ELVIRA
A. ENCIO** has filed with this Office a **Petition for
change of first name** from **MARIA LUZ** to **MARI-
LOU** in the Certificate of Live Birth of **MARIA LUZ
OBINA ACUDESIN** who was born on **August 15,
1968** at **Dolores, Eastern Samar** and whose parents
are **DOMINGO RIVERA ACUDESIN** and
ESTELA QUITORIO OBINA.

Any person claiming interest or may adversely af-
fected by said petition may file written opposition
with this office not later than **11 MARCH 2022.**

(Sgd.) **ELDA P. ACUDESIN**
Municipal Civil Registrar
LSDE: February 22 & March 1, 2022

DPWH to complete SPCR project by June 2022

NSSDEO, Brgy. Bu-
rabad, Laoang, Northern
Samar- Located in Brgy. Si-
mora, Palapag, Northern Sam-
mar, the contractor of one of
the high-impact projects in
the second district of North-
ern Samar, Samar Pacific
Coastal Road (SPCR) has
provided the NSSDEO their
latest monthly accomplish-



ment report.

In its Monthly Progress
Report No. 45 covering the
period December 26, 2021
to January 25, 2022, the
project has actual cumu-
lative accomplishment of
60.170%.

At present, their spec-
ific work components are
launching of girders at Span
4 to Span 1 (Simora Bridge),
driving of sheet piles and ag-
gregates subbase course.

Other activities include
subgrade preparation-com-
mon materials, pouring of
concrete to PCCP and in-



tial/loop road of the whole
Samar Island. Moreover,
travel time from the main-
land province including the
capital town Catarman to
the Pacific towns is expect-
ed to lessen substantially.

The said accomplish-
ment report on the SPCR



stallation of metal guardrail
(post).

The SPCR project aims
to construct an 18.6472-ki-
lometer Portland Cement
Concrete Pavement (PCCP)
including the construction
of three (3) bridges locat-
ed in Barangays Simora and
Jangtud with total length of
261.0 linear meters. It will di-
rectly connect by land travel
poblacion Palapag with Brgy.
Simora in the mainland
Northern Samar province.

Once completed it will
become a major road link
between the neighboring
provinces of Northern and
Eastern Samar and finally
completes the circumferen-

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH CONFIRMATION OF SALE
NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late MELITON BERRES exe-
cuted an Extrajudicial Settlement over a parcel of undivided one-seventh share
of land designated as Lot No. 2066 with improvements thereon situated at Bo.
Pangdan, Catbalogan, Samar containing an area of 298,849sq.m., covered by
TD No. 20968 and heirs hereby CONFIRMED the sale of the said property unto
Rogelio Palacio married to Sinforosa Berres. Per Doc No. 371, Page No.
76, Book No. XXII, Series of 1976. Notary Public Atty. Hermenegildo Llemos.
LSDE: February 22, March 1 & 8, 2022

**EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE
WITH DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE**
NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late CLARO CASTRO ESTREMOS ex-
trajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of agricultural land situated
at Mapuyo, Kawayan, Biliran under TD No. 00199 under TCT No. TE-7244, Survey No.
Lot # P-1-9 CSD 08-002763 OLT with an area of 0.860200 hectares. A Deed of Absolute
Sale was executed in favor of SPS. ERNIE GUNABE & NELDA GUNABE as vendees
of a portion measuring 323sq.m., from the above-described property. Per Doc No. 3506,
Page No. 624, Book No. XI, Series of 2019. Notary Public Atty. Mario Lyndinno R. Opeña.
LSDE: February 15, 22 & March 1, 2022

**EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE
WITH ABSOLUTE SALE**
NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late SIMON BEDIO executed an Extrajudi-
cial Settlement of Estate over 2 parcels of land both situated at So. Masacpasac, Motiong,
Samar particularly described as: 1) TCT No. T-12681, Lot 658, Pls 658-D containing an
area of 8,245sq.m.; 2) TCT No. T-12682, Lot 639 containing an area of 32,355sq.m., A
Deed of Absolute Sale was executed in favor of VIRGINIA ALIMAN-HILVANO married
to HAROLD L. HILVANO as vendees of the above-described properties, free and clear of
all liens and encumbrances of any kind. Per Doc No. 509, Page No. 103, Book No. 294,
Series of 2016. Notary Public Atty. Medino L. Acuba.
LSDE: February 15, 22 & March 1, 2022

DPWH Eastern Samar turns over laboratory building to ESSU-Borongan City

BORONGAN CITY—The Department of Public Works and Highways – Eastern Samar District Engineering Office turns over a 2-storey one unit laboratory building to Eastern Samar State University – Main Campus on February 7, 2022.

The newly-constructed laboratory building in Eastern Samar State University is funded under General Appropriations Act of 2020 with total project cost amounting to P18,619,963.07.

The construction of the laboratory building in

Eastern Samar State University started on December 3, 2020.

DPWH – ESDEO Assistant District Engineer Domcelio M. Natividad turned over the newly completed laboratory building to ESSU President Andres Pagatpatan through a turn-over and inauguration ceremony, in the presence of Borongan City Mayor Jose Ivan Dayan Agda, Representative from the Congressional District Office Leonaldo Ador, Jr., and some of the faculty and staff of ESSU – Main Campus.

ADE Natividad said that the newly completed laboratory building in ESSU is constructed in accordance to the standards and specifications of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

He further added that in implementing projects, ESDEO is committed to the agency's mission which is to provide quality infrastructure facilities and services responsive to the needs of the Filipino in the pursuit of development objectives.

(IRMA A. BALLETE, PIO STAFF/PR)

Mangrove...

...from Page 1

ic, aims to protect their place from possible water surge during typhoons.

Mangroves, having been proven by experts to be beneficial to marine ecology, are seen to also strengthen the livelihood of roughly over 300 fisherfolks in the area.

Joining the Barangay 88 officials and Red Cross- Leyte in the environmental activity were representatives from the City Mayor's Office, Aviation Security Unit 8 (AVSEU-8), Philippine Coast Guard, Fisherman's Village Elementary Schools, Brgy. 88 fisherfolks, barangay workers, and Hiraya President Raymund Romualdez along with his staff.

(TACLOBAN CITY INFORMATION OFFICE)

PVO...

...from Page 3

The gathering was also attended by personnel from the Philippine Carabao Center at Visayas State University (PCC-VSU).

According to PCC-VSU, while Northern Samar has the greatest number of carabao heads in Eastern Visayas, they are smaller and swamp-type water buffalo.

As AI is a reproductive tool utilized to cross the swamp-type carabaos with purebred dairy buffaloes, their office is hoping that the province will have bigger and healthier carabaos, as compared to those produced from inbreeding, it said.

Edgar Nuñez, artificial insemination and bull-loan

program coordinator of the PCC-VSU, their office has already trained 25 AI technicians from the LGUs and an additional 25 village-based AI technicians.

The PCC has also distributed 75 bulls to 14 Northern Samar towns.

Since 2011, these technicians have conducted 2,094 AI services, with a high of 684 in 2012, which kept on dwindling in the succeeding years that culminated with 0 services done in 2021. The total calf drop is also only 63 for the past 10 years.

In order to address this decline, among the options being considered is for the provincial government to provide incentives to AI technicians while the PCC gives them AI equipment.

(EUGENE M.ENANO)

DOH...

...from Page 1

Tacloban City was the first area in the region to achieve 80 percent of its targeted population for vaccination.

Dr. Fabrigas said that as of Monday, the city was able to fully vaccinate 175,162, representing 81.14 percent of the targeted population of more than 215, 800 while around 191, 584 or 88.74 percent of the target have received their first vaccine.

Fabrigas said that she hope with the intensified campaign of the city government, Tacloban will become a zero COVID area which it attained last December.

In Eastern Samar, Gov-

ernor Ben Evardone has rescinded the requirement on the S-pass for one to enter the province effective Monday.

Based on his order, only a vaccination card will be required for one to be allowed to enter the province.

S-pass is a travel management system developed by the government as a requirement amid the COVID-19 pandemic to one to gain entry to a particular place or office. **(with LIZBETH ANN A. ABELLA)**



Leyte remains peaceful as its cases drop

TACLOBAN CITY – Leyte province remains to be generally peaceful.

Thus said PCol Edwin Balles, provincial director, in his report to Governor Leopoldo Dominico Petilla.

Balles said that this can be seen in the decrease of the average monthly peace and order index and due to the strict implementation of enhanced managing police operations thru maximum utilization of available human and logistical resources and the support of the local government units.

In his report to the governor, PCol Balles said that

compared to January 2021 data to January 2022, total crime incidents decreased by 20 percent or from 205 to 164.

The peace and order index from the same period also declined from 141 in 2021 to 105 in 2022 or by 26 percent.

The public safety index also declined from 64 to 59 or by 8 percent, from the same period.

On the peace and order index, comparative data on the month of January 2021 to the same period in 2022, index crime declined from 26 to 16 cases or 62 percent

while the non-index crime declined from 115 to 89 cases or by 77 percent.

In the crime solution efficiency, Balles reported of a decline from 84 percent to 82 percent. This is also the same for the crime clearance efficiency from 99 percent to 97 percent.

"However, the investigation effort for the updating of crime solved and cleared is in progress, thus the crime solution and crime clearance are expected to increase," Balles explained.

The average crime rate also declined from 12.30 percent to 9.81 percent per 100,000 population or a decline of 20 percent, while the average monthly index crime rate declined from 1.55 to .096 or by 38 percent lower of the same period in last year.

"On the comparative statistics on eight focused crimes, rape, murder, and homicide have notable decrease while there is an increase on theft and robbery incidents," Balles shares.

(ROEL T. AMAZONA)

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Kauswagan...

...from Page 3

serve the people by bringing services closer to them, especially those geographically isolated, as much as look into their issues and concerns as basis for developing meaningful programs and interventions.

(NORTHERN SAMAR PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICE)

Eastern...

...from Page 2

USD 21.21 million or 61.10 percent of the total import value of the region in November 2021. The major supplier of imported goods was Singapore which accounted for USD 11.17 million or almost one-third (32.17%) of the total import value of the region. **(PR)**

Are we ready?

BY: MELINDA P. SEVERINO

Flashback to 2019 when almost all students would be thrilled with the ideas of holidays, suspension of classes, and weekends to get away from the four-cornered classroom. However, that room which was filled with deadlines, activities, quizzes, and impromptu academic demands also houses the shared laughter, craziness, secrets, and other fun adventures in a student-life. Thus most students in this pandemic craves and wishes for a more fun and knowledge-filled delivery of instruction—face-to-face classes.

With the onslaught of the pandemic, face-to-face classes was thrown out as a medium of educative process due to the risks of Covid-19 transmission. Modular and online instructions were implemented instead. But this year—2022, face-to-face classes were slowly executed to selected schools.

Tacloban City Division already issued a memorandum regarding preparation for the implementation of the expanded phase of lim-

ited face-to-face. Necessary documents, facilities, and equipment were required from all the identified elementary and secondary schools. Classroom layout and structure, school traffic management plan, school map indicating location of hygiene facilities, school disinfection, sanitation and waste management plan, and psychosocial support plan are among the required documents. Facilities and equipment such as hand washing facilities, personal protective equipment, comfort rooms, thermal scanner, signage for well-being and protection, and school clinic will be inspected.

Those schools who will be able to comply with these requirements will hopefully implement face-to-face classes before the school year ends. Thus, when face-to-face classes already are opened, Tacloban City Division is ready!

(Note: The author is the secondary school principal 2 of the Scandinavian National High School, Barangay 100, San Roque, Tacloban City)

Southern...

...from Page 1

route and Abuyog-Silago road.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) ranked Southern Leyte province as the seventh most vulnerable to heavy landslides in the Philippines.

Based on MGB's geo-hazard mapping and assessment, the province recorded a 78-percent landslide probability.

(SARWELL Q. MENIANO/PR)

DOT seeks ‘volunteer’ divers to help revive tourism of typhoon-hit Southern Leyte

TACLOBAN CITY – Part of the strategy of the Department of Tourism(DOT) to revive the diving activities in the province of Southern Leyte after it suffered a major blow from Typhoon ‘Odette’ is to look for divers who would want to do volunteer works.

DOT-8 Regional Director Karina Rosa Tiopes said although the province’s tourism industry was badly hit by Odette last year, stakeholders are working hard to revive the sector, particularly the diving activities.

“We are looking for divers who would want to become volunteer tourists. Meaning, they will go there for diving activity and they will also have to participate in activities for reviving the tourism industry of the province like clean-up drive,” she said.

“They will go there not only for leisure but with a purpose of reviving the diving industry of the province and the tourism activity in the community,” Tiopes added.

Diving shops in Southern Leyte particularly those located in Padre Burgos town are planning to have their soft open-



As diving resorts in Southern Leyte are to open after these were devastated by Typhoon ‘Odette,’ they are calling for diver volunteers to help them revive the industry. (PHOTO COURTESY)

ing this month and will be welcoming foreign tourists starting this April.

They are expecting foreign tourists from Europe and North American countries who will be staying in the province for about two weeks.

Dive shops located along Sogod Bay had finished repairing their areas and were able to buy new boats that are essential when providing diving ac-

tivities.

In an earlier interview, Philip Mcquire, owner of Sogod Bay Scuba Resort, said that they had received many inquiries not only on when they will resume their operations but also on how they can help in restoring the diving activities and typhoon-affected communities in their place.

“We’re having lots of inquiries now. People wanted to come back not just to

dive but also help, to see, to look, and be involved,” Mcquire said.

Moreover, asked on the preparedness of the tourism sector in accepting tourists after more than two years of not operating due to travel restriction, “as far as the popular tourism site they are relatively ready,” Tiopes replied.

She added that they regularly and constantly remind tourism players on policies and protocols set by the national government that needs to be followed while the country is still facing the problem on Covid-19 pandemic.

“The tourism officers in every local government unit also knows what they need to do and they also do monitoring at tourism facilities and destinations in their respective areas,” Tiopes added.

(ROEL T. AMAZONA)

Northern Samar’s agri-entrepreneurs attended gathering initiated by DA, PAO

CATARMAN, Northern Samar- The Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO) together with the regional office of the Department of Agriculture (DA)-Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (DA-AMAD) conduct-

ed recently an enterprise development assessment attended by agri-entrepreneurs.

The activity, held last Feb.23, aimed to help sustain agri-business operations in the province, started with an enterprise assessment where producers were made to identify the issues and concerns in their respective ventures; assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) of their enterprise; and develop a three-year capacity development plan. It also sought to assess the organizational structure and administration of the association, including policies implemented and systems of operation; marketing and financial aspect, as well as the sustainability of their enterprise.

Spearheaded by the DA-AMAD under the Republic Act 11321 or the Sagip Saka Act, the activity was part of the priority agenda of Governor Edwin Ongchuan dubbed as ‘Sustained PROGRESS,’or ‘Pro-Poor Programs and Agro-Industrial Development.’

(EUGENE M. ENANO)



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Half-kilometer flood control soon to protect remote barangays in Oras, E. Samar

BORONGAN CITY - Department of Public Works and Highways Eastern Samar District Engineering Office (DPWH ES-DEO) will construct more than half-kilometer of flood control structure to protect remote barangays in Oras, Eastern Samar.

District Engineer Ma. Margarita C. Junia of DPWH ESDEO said that the district office is going to implement two flood control structure projects for Brgy. Gamot and Brgy. Cagpile, Oras.

“We will implement this year the construction of flood control in Brgy. Gamot with a length of 310 meters with an appropriation of P100 million and in Brgy. Cagpile with a length of 205 meters amounting to P50 million,” said DE Junia.

On January 20, 2022, DE

“According to the barangay officials in Brgy. Gamot, three houses and barangay roads were already damaged and vanished because of soil erosion,” said DE Junia.

She also added that once the projects are completed, it will protect the lives and properties of the locals, especially those who are living along the riverside.

“The flood control structure will also preserve and protect the land area of the two barangays which decreases annually because of scouring caused by the strong current of the river, particularly during bad weather,” she also added.

DPWH Eastern Samar DEO has already issued a notice to proceed dated February 7, 2022 for the



Junia together with other DPWH ESDEO heads inspected the location of the projects and witnessed the impact of soil erosion in the barangays.

construction of flood control projects in Cagpile and Gamot has not yet started because the fund of the projects is categorized as for later release.(PR)

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