

DILG chief says 'lockdown' saves lot of lives

MANILA – Interior Secretary Eduardo Año on Thursday maintained that the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) has saved a lot of people from the deadly coronavirus disease (Covid-19).



Año made this remark as the Department of Health (DOH) on Thursday reported 276 new cases of Covid-19, bringing total infections nationwide to 8,488 with 568 deaths and 1,043 recoveries.

He said the country's confirmed Covid-19 cases continue to increase because the government has improved its testing capacity which is now at 6,300 tests per day.

"Kapag dumating na tayo sa capacity na umaabot na tayo ng 30,000 a day, mas lalo nang hindi na natin kailangan ng lockdown sapagkat (Once our testing capacity reaches 30,000 tests a day, the more we don't need a lockdown because) we can beat the virus faster instead of waiting for symptoms," Año said in a virtual press briefing.

He said the ECQ being imposed throughout

Luzon and in some areas of Visayas and Mindanao since March 16 has helped slow down the spread of Covid-19 in the country.

"In the process, we are able to flatten the curve, kasi nga napigilan na natin yung mga movement ng mga tao (because we have prevented the people's movement)," he said.

He said the government decided to extend the ECQ in select areas including Metro Manila up to May 15 to further stop the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Ginawa natin ito kasi gusto nating ma-increase iyong ating mass testing capacity at saka healthcare capacities para kung magkaroon ng second wave, kaya natin i-address. (We did this ECQ extension to increase our testing capacity as well as healthcare capacities so that if the second wave of

the pandemic will occur, we can address it)," he said. "So, this lockdown really helped us a lot and saves lots of lives."

He urged the public to adopt a new normal by practicing home quarantine and social distancing.

"Kung hindi kinakailangan ay huwag kang lalabas ng bahay, yung lang naman talaga ang key (Do not go out of your home if it's not needed, that's the only key)," he said.

Aside from Metro Manila, the ECQ was extended in Central Luzon, except Aurora; Calabarzon; Pangasinan; Benguet; Iloilo province; Iloilo City; Bacolod City; Cebu province; Cebu City; and Davao City until May 15.

Other areas that are not under ECQ will be placed under less stringent general community quarantine.

Dasma chess wizards to represent country in FIDE Chess World Cup

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) -- Daniel Quizon and Michael Concio, Jr., two 16 year-old Grade 10 students of the Dasmariñas Integrated High School will represent the country in the FIDE World Cup chess tournament

in Sochi, Russia on July 2021. Quizon and Concio, are both 16 years old and are in Grade 10 at Dasmariñas Integrated High School. Congratulations and keep up the

hard work!

The chess athletes ranked top 2 in the recently concluded Asian Zonal 3.3 Chess Championships after winning against Indonesian Grand Masters who represented Indonesia in the Board 1 and 2 of the Chess Olympics.

During the last round of the championships, Quizon tied with Indonesian Grand Master Susanto Megaranto leading with 7 points - 5 wins and 4 draws while Michael Concio scored 6.5 points as he defeated Indonesian Grand Master Novendra Priasmoro in the last round in 103 moves.

The Asian Zonal 3.3 Chess Championship was held via online using the Tornelo platform where the boys played from the home of their coach FIDE Master Roel Abelgas.



Fourth District Representative Pidi Barzaga was proud and expressed support to the teen chess wizards.

"Nakaka-proud isipin na pawang disi-sais anyos ang dalawang batang Pinoy na sina Quizon at Concio ay Grade 10 sa Dasmariñas Integrated High School. Congratulations and keep up the hard work! Ang buong lunsod ng Dasmariñas ay patuloy na sumusuporta sa ating mga batang atleta," said Congressman Barzaga.

(It makes me proud to think that two young Filipinos,

hard work! The entire city of Dasmariñas continues to support our young athletes.)

The solon thanked the rest of the Team Dasma, coaches GM Darwin Laylo, Fide Master Roel Abelgas, and Chester Caminong for relentlessly guiding the young athletes.

The International Chess Federation (FIDE) is the governing body of the sport of chess and regulates all international chess competitions. (Ruel Francisco with reports from Rep. Pidi Barzaga FB page)

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DIAL 161

tara, CAVITE tayo!

INTERESTING FACTS

WAGAYWAY FESTIVAL

- An annual celebration held in Imus City in commemoration of the Battle of Alapan, where Filipinos led by General Emilio Aguinaldo fought against Spaniards.
- This marks the first time the Philippine Flag was unfurled signifying victory on May 28, 1898, thus declaring May 28 of every year as National Flag Day.
- The Wagayway Festival was launched in 2008 as a reminder to the people to love and respect the Philippine Flag and honor the heroes of the Battle of Alapan.
- A flag-raising ceremony at the site of the Battle of Alapan kicks off the week-long celebration featuring various fun activities.

@cavitetourism

PH eyes New Zealand expertise to upgrade BOC, SSS frontline services

By DOF

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III and New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines Peter Kell have discussed possible bilateral cooperation arrangements that would allow the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Social Security System (SSS) to tap New Zealand's expertise on modernizing their respective processes and services to better serve the public.

Ambassador Kell said during a recent virtual meeting with Secretary Dominguez that New Zealand can get involved in the ongoing BOC modernization project as a consultant and advisor.

He said New Zealand can provide training and the services of its experts to assist the BOC in capacity building and modernizing its trade facilitation and border protection functions.

New Zealand is also finalizing the financing component of a project with the SSS to redesign the processing of social security pensions and other benefits, which aims to improve the approval system and procedures for SSS members applying for these claims.

Secretary Dominguez expressed his deep appreciation for New Zealand's offer of assistance and assured the Ambassador of the support of the Department of Finance (DOF) for both initiatives.

During the meeting, Ambassador Kell also thanked Secretary Dominguez for the DOF's assistance to the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) in the preparation of a project proposal on establishing the DAP's competency framework.

This DAP project will be implemented with technical assistance

from New Zealand.

Ambassador Kell also informed Secretary Dominguez of the significant progress made in the discussions between New Zealand and Philippine officials on a project that will continue New Zealand's support to Mindanao's agriculture sector and agribusiness enterprises.

He said he looks forward to working closely with the Philippines as New Zealand hosts this year the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meetings, which are expected to focus on discussions on how to overcome the global economic impact of the lingering COVID-19 pandemic.

In partnership with the United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM), the New Zealand government has extended about P64.25 million in assistance to support the Philippine government's response against COVID-19, particularly in providing assistance to vulnerable communities in Mindanao.

New Zealand and the IOM have also donated 35 cold storage units necessary for the efficient delivery and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Through the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the New Zealand government has likewise continued to assist Mindanao's agriculture sector with a US\$2.69 million project to support agriculture-based livelihoods and agribusiness enterprises in Maguindanao and North Cotabato.

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DIRECTRESS



EDITORIAL - Paghandaan ang tag-ulan!

Narito na ang tag-ulan. Ito ang inihayag ng Phi--lippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA). Pinagbasehan ng PAGASA sa pagdedeklara ng tag-ulan ang 25 millimeters ng ulan sa loob ng tatlong sunud-sunod na araw.

Noong Linggo ng hapon, umulan nang malakas sa maraming lugar sa Metro Manila na nagdulot nang pagbaha sa ilang mababang lugar. Hindi lamang-ulan ang malakas kundi pati na rin hangin. Noong Lunes, umulan muli dakong hapon na nagdulot din ng pagbaha. Noong Martes, muling umulan ng dakong hapon. Sabi ng PAGASA, wala pa namang namamataang sama ng panahon sa mga susunod na araw.

Pumasok na ang tag-ulan at siyempre kakambal nito ang problemang baha. Taun-taon, kahit pa sinabi ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) at Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) na nagkaroon na sila ng paglilinis sa imburnal, estero at kanal, problema pa rin ang baha. Marami pa ring nakabarang plastic na basura. Ang mga plastic ay hindi natutunaw kaya habambuhay itong nakabara sa mga daanan ng tubig. Walang ibang paraan kundi ibawal ang single-use plastic. Sa mga lungsod sa Metro Manila, Quezon City pa lang ang nagbawal sa paggamit ng single-use plastic.

Sa panahon ng tag-ulan maraming sumusulpot na sakit – dengue, leptospirosis, malaria at iba pa. Makikipagsabayan ang mga sakit na ito sa COVID-19 na kasalukuyang nananalasa hindi lamang sa Pili-pinas kundi sa buong mundo. Posibleng kumalat ang COVID sa evacuation centers. Kadalasang kapag nagkaroon ng bagyo at baha, inililikas sa evacuation centers ang mga apektado at dito sila posibleng magkahawahan.

Baha at sakit ang dulot ng tag-ulan kaya nararapat na mag-ingat. Habang may panahon pa, ipagpatuloy ng DPWH, MMDA at LGUs ang paglilinis sa mga estero at kanal para maging maayos ang daloy ng tubig at maiwasan ang baha.

Wasakin ang mga posibleng tirahan ng lamok na nagdulot ng dengue at malaria. Linisin ang kapaligiran para walang mabuhay na daga na nagdulot ng leptospirosis. Ang leptospirosis ay sakit na naku-kuha sa baha na kontaminado ng ihi ng daga.

Paghandaan ang tag-ulan, baha at ang mga sakit na dulot nito.

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An English-Filipino newsweekly published every Monday by Pahayagan ng Kabitenyo with Editorial and Business Office at 147 Panapaan IV, Bacoar, Cavite.

Email: pahayaganngkabitenyo@yahoo.com.
Entered as Second Class Mail at Postal Region IV San Pablo City under Permit NO 200305 on May 27, 2003

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Publisher

DIOSAN MARUAL
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DIOSDADO ARIEL F. ALTO, JR.
Editor-In-Chief

SUBSCRIPTION RATE : P1,000.00/year
Advertising Rate : P200.00/col. cm.
Legal Rate : P160.00/col. cm.

DBP bags international award for first ASEAN bond issuance

By DBP

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna, (PIA) --State-owned Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) was cited by a renowned international multi-media firm for its bond issuance last year, which was aimed at raising funds to bankroll projects on the environment and financial inclusion, a top official said.

DBP President and Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel G. Herbosa said the bank's maiden issuance of ASEAN Sustainability Bonds, amounting to P18.125-billion, won as Best Sustainability Bond – Financial Institution in The Asset Country Awards 2020 presented by Hong Kong-based financial publication The Asset.

"We take pride and honor for this achievement as it recognizes DBP's role as a catalyst for inclusive development," Herbosa said. "As a development financing institution, DBP has always been at the forefront of sustainable development and environment protection."

DBP is the seventh largest bank in the country in terms of assets and

provides credit support to four strategic sectors of the economy – infrastructure and logistics; micro, small and medium enterprises; environment; social services and community development.

The proceeds from last year's bond issuance, which was the first bond program exclusively focused on sustainability, were used to fund projects that contribute towards economic inclusion, climate change mitigation and adaptation, natural resource conservation, pollution control and prevention, and other social issues,

Herbosa said the P18.125-billion raised, which was upsized from the initial amount of P5-billion, represents the initial tranche of DBP's P50-billion Bond Program, geared at financing environmental and social projects eligible under the Bank's Sustainability Finance Framework.

He said 83% of the proceeds were allocated to 15 projects in sustainable and renewable energy, while the rest was allocated evenly between initiatives for water supply and sanitation and

health care.

"The bond issuance did not only provide for a sound investment but also accorded investors an opportunity for directly participating in initiatives that advance social and economic advancement," Herbosa said.

Herbosa said DBP recently raised P21-billion in its second bond issuance to fund various development projects of vital economic sectors, reeling from the ill-effects of the pandemic.

He said net proceeds of the second tranche would be earmarked for financing renewable energy, green buildings, clean transportation, energy efficiency, pollution prevention and control, sustainable water management, climate change adaptation, affordable basic infrastructure, affordable housing, food security, and other similar developmental initiatives.

"The second bond issuance would allow us to reach a wider network of stakeholders, especially in the countryside, as we take a step closer to becoming a P1-trillion bank by 2022," Herbosa added. (PIA-4A/DBP)

Philippines and Argentina forge cooperation on Diplomatic Training, Science and Technology, Agriculture and Culture

By DFA

The Philippine and Argentine delegations pose for a photo at the start of the 4th Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (Photo: OAMSS-ICTD)

MANILA, May 21 -- Acting Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Af-

fairs Elizabeth P. Buensuceso successfully co-chaired the 4th Philippines-Argentina Bilateral Consultation Mechanism (BCM) on 17 May 2021 via Zoom together with Argentinian Undersecretary for Foreign Policy Gustavo Alejandro Dzugala.

The Philippine del-

egation included Philippine Ambassador to Argentina Linglingay F. Lacanlale and Assistant Secretary Maria Lumen B. Isleta of the Office of American Affairs and officials from other agencies such as the DTI, DepEd, DICT, DA, DOST, PNRI, PhilSA, NCCA, DOH and PSC.

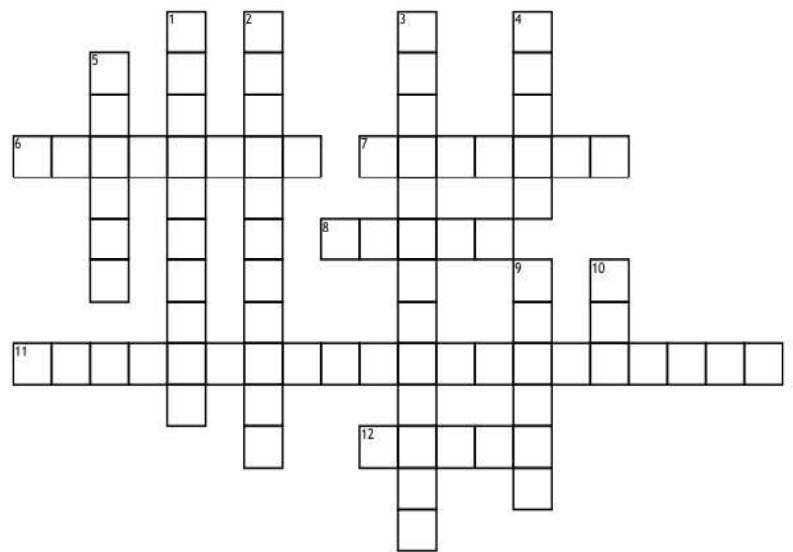
3.5-magnitude quake hits Isabela

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the quake, which struck at 5:48 p.m., had its epicenter 46 kilometers northeast of Palanan.

It had a depth of eight kilometers.

No damage to property nor aftershocks were recorded.

CROSSWORDS!!



Across

6. What is Leonardo da Vinci's most famous master piece?
7. What was William Shakespeare's most common passion
8. About how many categories did Shakespeare write?
11. What did some people call Marco Polo?

12. How many planets are in our solar system?

Down

1. Who made Marco Polo a court member in Asia?
2. What route did Marco Polo take to Asia?
3. What type of writing did Leonardo da Vinci use?

4. What do the planets do around the sun?
5. Where did William Shakespeare start to write/act?
9. How many layers of paint are on the Mona Lisa?
10. What is the center of the universe?

The BCM provided an opportunity for the two countries to update each other on domestic political and economic developments, as well as relevant regional and multilateral issues.

ISEN Director, Ambassador Victorio Maria Taccetti, and FSI Director General, Ambassador Jose Maria A. Cariño, sign the MOU on Diplomatic Training between the PHL and ARG Diplomatic Academies (Photo: OAMSS-ICTD)

A virtual signing ceremony was also held during

the BCM on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and the Instituto del Servicio Exterior de la Nacion (ISEN) on diplomatic training. FSI Director General Jose Maria A. Cariño and ISEN Director Victorio Maria Taccetti signed on behalf of their respective diplomatic academies.

The Philippines and Argentina expressed their readiness to sign the MOU on Agricultural Cooperation at a mutually conve-

nient date and time. Signing for the Philippines would be Agriculture Secretary William Dar.

The two countries also agreed to extend the validity of the 2012 Cultural Agreement. They also agreed to deepen cooperation in education, nuclear energy and aerospace technology, and sports, while further strengthening trade and investment.

The third BCM was held in Buenos Aires in 2017. Due to the current pandemic-related restrictions, the Manila hosting of the 4th BCM was done via video-conferencing. (DFA)

Bong Go urges DOE, LGUs, electricity providers to ensure power supply to secure vaccine storage and unburden Filipinos amid hardships caused by COVID-19

By OSBG

MANILA, June 2 -- Senator Christopher "Bong" Go urged the Department of Energy, local government units and concerned electric providers to address power shortages that may add burden to the hardships experienced by Filipinos amid the ongoing pandemic.

He also stressed the need to ensure continuous power supply to secure vaccines stored in cold storage facilities as warmer temperature and unplanned outage of several power plants could cripple supply in the power grid.

"Sa mga concerned cooperatives, sa lahat ng mga LGUs, sa lahat ng power providers, nakikiusap kami sa inyo, dapat handa tayo sa maaaring maging brownout," said Go right after he distributed assistance to fire victims in South Harbor, Manila on Tuesday, June 1. "Kahit isang minuto, dapat walang brownout sa panahong ito, at dapat walang masira ni isang bakuna," he added.

On Monday, May 31, Department of Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said power supply was severely affected by several power plants on outage. He added that a higher heat index resulted in the increase in energy demand.

Go, meanwhile, stressed the urgent need to address and prevent blackouts, saying, "Hindi po report lang ang kailangan natin dito. Kailangan po maaddress kaagad ito at maagapan po. Mahirap pong magka-brownout sa panahong ito, lalung lalo na po na patuloy tayong nagbabakuna."

"Wala pong bakuna na dapat masira dito, we cannot afford na masira ang bakuna dahil alam nating pinaghirapan po natin ang mga bakunang ito. Alam ninyo, sobrang limitado ang bakuna, agawan sa ibang bansa," he added.

Go also said that he will discuss the issue with President Rodrigo Duterte



Senator Christopher "Bong" Go urged the Department of Energy, local government units and concerned electric providers to address power shortages. Photo by OSBG and Sec. Cusi. As a long-term solution, Go echoed the DOE's plan to attract more investments in the energy generation sector.

"Kakausapin ko po si Secretary Cusi at si Pangulong Duterte, dahil sabi nga ng Department of Energy, shortage ng electricity supply is due to high heat index, that recently increased demand for power and caused unscheduled maintenance work sa key plants in Luzon, kasama na rin dito ang low gas pressure mula sa Malampaya at balak ng DOE magkaroon ng long-term solution sa pamamagitan ng paghihikayat ng investment," Go said.

A few weeks ago, 348 vials of Sinovac vaccines were deemed no longer usable for vaccination after they were left in a freezer without electricity for more than two days in Makilala, North Cotabato.

Meanwhile, Go continues to encourage all Filipinos to get vaccinated, de-

tailoring the painstaking efforts government officials have to go through to procure the much-needed vaccines.

"Kwento ko na lang po sa inyo. Nabanggit po kagabi ni Secretary Galvez, ako mismo ang nilapitan niya,

sabi niya ang four million vaccines mula sa Sinovac ay hinahanapan pa ng pambayad... ng pondo, dahil may kulang pang papeles at hindi po mababayaran ng ADB," said Go.

"So, nakita ninyo, sobrang pinaghirapan po natin ang mga bakunang ito, dapat ni isa, o ni piso wala pong dapat masira o masayang dito sa mga bakunang ito," he added.

As the government plans to expand the national vaccination program to A4 and A5 priority groups, Go asks all Filipinos not to fear the vaccines.

"Magtulungan na lang po tayo. Ulitin ko, magpabakuna na kayo, ang dami pa ring takot dito. Kanina tinatanong ko, less than 50% pa po ang willing magpabakuna. Nandiyan na po ang bakuna, bubuksan na po ang A4 at A5 sa susunod na buwan para po bigyan na po ng tiyansa ang mahihirap nating mga kababayan," said Go. (OSBG)



CDA continues to provide assistance to cooperatives amid pandemic

CALAMBA CITY, (PIA) --The Cooperative Development Authority Region IV-A (CDA IV-A) assured its stakeholders that they will continue to support cooperatives in the region during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a recent interview with the Philippine Information Agency IV-A's Sulong Calabarzon online program, CDA IV-A Regional Director Salvador Valeroso admitted that some of their services were limited due to the imposition of community lockdowns at the height of the pandemic.

"[Our roles are mainly] Regulation, developmental and adjudication.

Mas matimbang para sa amin ang developmental function dahil dito namin mas nararamdaman ang assistance na ibinibigay para umunlad ang mga cooperative," Valeroso said.

[Our roles are mainly regulation, developmental and adjudication. But for us, the most important is the developmental function because we are able to provide more assistance to help co-

operatives develop.]

Data from the CDA IV-A show that around 2,768 cooperatives in the CALABARZON region have already registered with the government. This includes 555 cooperatives in Batangas, 546 in Cavite, 716 in Laguna, 566 in Quezon province and 441 in Rizal province.

"Karamihan ng mga kooperatiba ay nasa Laguna, pero karamihan sa mga ito ay micro [scale cooperatives]," Valeroso explained.

