

# Gov. Remulla believes BBM destined for presidency

## Cavite oks ordinance on cash gifts to nonagenarian residents

CAVITE – The provincial board announced on Tuesday (Jan. 25) the approval of a provincial ordinance appropriating funds to grant cash gifts to nonagenarian citizens.

The policy aims to recognize the elderly who are considered to be sterling examples of citizens leading exemplary long lives.

People aged 90 to 99 years who have been a resident of Cavite for at least five years will be given a

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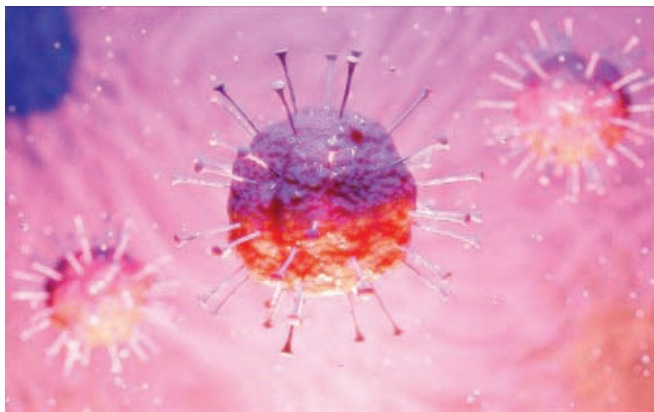
Remulla said he understands why people were furious with his prediction in a Facebook post, but he'll stick with it no matter what.

“Maraming letga sa hul-ing post ko kung saan sinulat ko na mananalo si BBM sa Cavite,” he wrote.

“Maraming letga sa aking pananaw na ginuhit ng tadhana na maging Pangulo si BBM. “Maraming letga sa aking impresyon na panahon na ni BBM bilang susunod na

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## Covid-19 case growth rate drops in NCR, 3 provinces



The number of Covid-19 cases in the National Capital Region continues to decrease, with a minus 42 percent growth rate as of last week.

During a televised public briefing on Monday, Dr. Guido David, OCTA Research Group member, noted the decline was also observed in Bulacan, Cavite, and Rizal.

“Iyong daily attack rate

natin ay nasa 61 na lang per 100,000 so mukhang mata-as pa rin iyan kaya sinasabi naman natin na high risk pa rin (Our daily rate is at 61 per 100,000 [individuals] so it still looks high, and we say it's still high risk),” David said. NCR's average daily attack rate was previously over 100. “Iyong positivity rate na-

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## Viral ancestral house-café in Cavite closed its doors

In 2020 and 2021, with layoffs happening due to the pandemic, many Filipinos decided to become the captain of their own ships and establish at-home enterprises of their own, many of which centered on food and drinks. The most famous business route is opening a coffee shop. Countless stories about humble coffee shops can be seen on social media. Among those that went viral is Kasa Antigua Café in Cavite. A unique coffee destination, Kasa Antigua Café merges the chill

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## ICTSI boosts Cavite Gateway operations

Billionaire Enrique Razon Jr.'s International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) deployed additional handling equipment at its Cavite Gateway Terminal in Tanza, Cavite province to support an increase in trade and business activity.

ICTSI said this included additional landside container handling equipment and barge equipment at the Cavite Gateway, which has the capacity to handle 115,000 twenty-foot equivalent units.

“As the country begins to re-open its economy, we shall continue to support the country's importers and exporters not only through enhancements in our operated terminals, but also through practical solutions and alternatives for our importers and exporters,” ICTSI executive vice president Christian R. Gonzalez said in a statement.

The company's Cavite Gateway is a dedicated container barge terminal that provides an alternate means to ship containers between the Port of Manila to provinces like Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon, and Rizal.

The upgrades were also implemented ahead of the temporary closure of the southbound portion of Roxas Boulevard in Manila, limiting land-based transport routes.

“We support the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) call to look for other ways to transport containers, and we are happy to be able to offer an alternative through the services provided by [Cavite Gateway],” Gonzalez said.

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## BSP warns of fake bills from ATMs



© STAR/File BSP warns of fake bills from ATMs

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) yesterday urged Filipinos to carefully inspect bills dispensed by automated teller machines (ATMs).

The central bank reminded the public to regularly inspect banknotes for authenticity through the “feel, look, tilt” approach as a precautionary measure against counterfeiting.

“Should a banknote dispensed by an ATM be suspected as a counterfeit, the holder is advised to immediately report it to the bank that owns the machine,” the BSP said.

According to the regulator, the bank that owns the ATM would conduct a thorough investigation to

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## Fisherman forging vaccination cards caught in entrapment

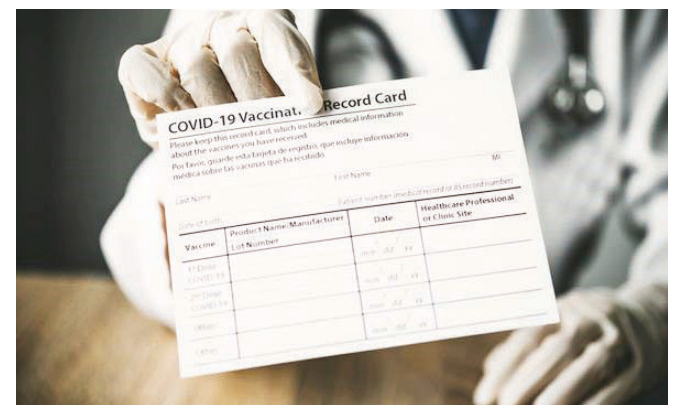
Rosario, CAVITE– A man was caught forging a vaccination card in an entrapment operation conducted by intelligence operatives in Rosario town in Cavite on Thursday, January 20.

The 48-year-old suspect, fisherman Roy Marquez of Barangay Wawa 1, was the subject of a complaint filed by Dr. Noriel Emelo, the municipal health officer of Rosario.

In the entrapment operation by local authorities, Marquez was caught with two pieces of short bond paper printed with COVID-19 vaccination forms and two pieces of name stamp. He received P200 of marked money from the authorities.

The operation stemmed from the complaint of the rural health unit of Rosario about the suspected illegal activity of printing counterfeit COVID-19 vaccination cards bearing the name of their office.

“Mabuti naman po at may mga nagmamalasakit



The rural health unit of Rosario town has complained of the suspected printing of counterfeit COVID-19 vaccination cards bearing the name of their office

na tao na nagsusumbong ng mga ilegal na gawain na katulad nitong pamemeke ng vaccination card. Ang vaccine po ay libre, at libre din ang pagkuha ng vaccination card, sumunod lang sa guidelines ng pagkuha nito,” Emelo said.

(It's good that there are people who care enough to report illegal activities like this vaccination card forgery. The vaccine is free, and getting a vaccination card is also free, just follow the guidelines for getting it.)

The suspect is under police custody. A complaint of falsification of public documents is being prepared against him, according to officer-on-case Police Corporal Ricardo Mendoza Jr.

Meanwhile, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) warned the public against people offering so-called “COVID-19 vaccination exemption cards” that unvaccinated individuals could sup-

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## Smuggling at iba pang isyung pang-ekonomiya, isusulong ni Arranza

INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY: "... Magpakumbaba kayo sa harapan ng Panginoon at itataas niya kayo..." (Santiago 4:10, Ang Tanging Daan Bibliya).

ARRANZA, KANDIDATONG SENADOR, UUNAHIN ANG SMUGGLING, PAGNANAKAW NG LIKAS NA YAMAN NG PILIPINAS, PANGANGAMKAM NG MGA LUPAIN NG GOBYERNO NG MAYAYAMAN AT MAKAPANGYARIHAN: Pananahamik ng matataas na opisyal ng gobyerno sa malawakang smuggling ng mga batayang pagkain sa bansa; anomalya sa pagpapalabas ng bansa ng mga likas na yaman upang magamit ng mga dayuhan sa kanilang sariling pagyaman.

At opangangamkam ng mga lupain ng gobyerno ng mga mayayaman at makapangyarihan sa pulitika. Ito ang mga uunahing bigyang-pansin ni Dr. Jesus Lim Arranza, independent senatorial candidate sa Halalan 2022, kung papalarin siyang mailuklok sa mataas na kapulungan ng Kongreso sa Mayo.

Inilahad ni Arranza, number three sa official Comelec ballot sa hanay ng mga tumatakbong senador, ang kaniyang mga pananaw na ito sa lingguhang 1 Boto Ko TV episode noong Miyerkules, Enero 26, 2022

Ayon kay Arranza, na siya ngayong kasalukuyang chairman ng Federation of Philippine Industries, Inc., samahan ng mga industriyalista o mga may-ari ng mga kompanya sa Pilipinas, mahalaga ang mga isyung kaniyang binabanggit para sa tunay na kaunlaran ng sambayanan.

MGA INDIGENOUS PRODUCTS, GAYA NG VCO O VIRGIN COCONUT OIL, AYAW PANSININ NG GOBYERNO PARA SA COVID VIRUS---SENATORIAL CANDIDATE ARRANZA: Bibigyang-pansin din ni Arranza ang pagwawalang-bahala ng gobyerno, lalo na ang Department of Science and Technology, Department of Health, at Food and Drugs Administration, sa pagsusulong ng mga katutubong gamot upang labanan ang COVID 19 at iba pang uri ng nakakahawa at malulubhang mga sakit.

Tinukoy ni Arranza na bago pa man maging malala ang pananalasa ng virus sa Pilipinas, ilang beses na siyang nagpadala ng mga panukala, batay sa mga kumpirmadong pagsusuri ng mga dalubhasa sa iba't ibang bansa, sa paggamit ng VCO, o virgin coconut oil upang paglabanan ang virus.

Ayon sa kaniya, napatunayan na ng mga doktor at mga dalubhasa mula sa New York, USA, na ang pinaka-pektibong pantunaw ng mga virus, mikrobyo, o ng iba pang pinagmulan ng mga sakit sa loob ng katawan ay ang langis mula sa niyog o buko.

EIGHT-POINT AGENDA, ISINUSULONG NG INDEPENDENT SENATORIAL CANDIDATE: Nakakalungkot lamang na hindi pinansin ang mga komunikasyon ni Arranza, at ibang remedyo kontra COVID ang isinulong ng gobyerno.

Sa ngayon, ang dapat pinagkaka-abalahan ng pamahalaan, dagdag ni Arranza, ay ang pagsasanib-puwersa ng kaniyang iba't ibang ahensiya, gaya ng DOST, DOH, Integrated Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases o IATF, sa pangunguna ng Office of the President.

Layunin ng ipinapanukala niyang pagsasama ng mga ahensiyang ito na isulong ang mga "indigenous products" na napatunayan na din ng matagal na panahon na epektibo sa paglaban sa mga sakit, at abot-kaya pa ng ordinaryong mamamayan.

Pangunahin dito ang VCO, o virgin coconut oil, lagundi, tawa-tawa, at maraming iba pang mga halaman na nagkalat lamang kung saan-saan sa maraming lugar sa bansa, dagdag pa ni Arranza.

Kasabay nito, ang ilan pang ibang mga legislative agenda na isusulong niya ay kinabibilangan ng mga sumusunod: Una, pag-alis sa paninigil ng special education fund bilang bahagi ng real property tax, o amilyar o buwis sa lupa na binabayaran ng mga mamamayang may-ari ng mga lupa o building.

PAGBUHAY SA EKONOMIYA, MANGUNGUNA KAY JESS ARRANZA: Ikalawa, pagbibigay ng kapangyarihang mag-angat ng anumang bagay na may kinalaman sa agrikul-



**Kakampi mo ang BATAS**  
ni Atty. Batas Mauricio

tura doon lamang sa mga sektor ng pagtatanim o pag-aalaga ng mga makakaing-hayop. Ikatlo, pagpapalakas sa Food and Drugs Administration, Bureau of Customs, at Bureau of Product Standards and Services, upang lalo silang maging epektibo sa pagtupad sa kanilang mga tungkulin.

Ikalima, pagpapatigil sa pangangamkam ng mga subdivision owners at developers sa mga bahagi ng subdibisyon na dapat ay open spaces, o hindi tinatayuan ng kahit na anumang istruktura, at maging ng mga bahagi na dapat ay daluyan ng tubig.

Ika-anim, pagtatayo ng mga industriya at pabrika sa mga lalawigan at mga bayang malayo sa Metro Manila, upang kahit saang lugar magpunta ang mga Pilipino ay mayroon silang mapapag-hanapbuhayan. Ikapito, ang pagtiyak na ang yaman sa bansa ay hindi na lamang nakokopo ng ilan lamang, kundi ng higit na nakararaming mamamayan.

Ikawalo, sa mga Pilipinong nagta-trabaho sa ibang mga bansa, mas maluwanag na mga alituntunin sa pagpasok ng mga dayuhang mamumuhunan, partikular doon sa mga hindi sa Pilipinas mangungutang ng gagamitin nila sa negosyo.

## COVID-hit SSS members qualified for sickness benefits



Social Security System (SSS) members who cannot work due to sickness, injury, and including those who contracted the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) are qualified for sickness benefits, the state-run insurance agency announced.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Aurora C. Ignacio explained that the sickness benefit is a daily cash allowance paid for the number of days that a member cannot work due to sickness or injury.

"We are aware that many of our members are getting sick right now. Some of them even got infected by the current Omicron variant. We want to assure them that SSS is providing them with sickness benefit to augment their lost income," Ignacio said.

Under the program, she furthered, a member must have paid at least three monthly contributions within the last 12 months prior to the semester of sickness or injury and has used up all his current company sick leaves for the current year.

Ignacio said a member must be confined either in a hospital or at home for at least four days.

Employed, self-employed, voluntary, and overseas Filipino worker (OFW) members are also qualified to avail of the sickness benefit which is granted up to a maximum of 120 days in one calendar year.

As a protocol members who contracted COVID-19 are required to provide a positive reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test.

Ignacio said the daily cash allowance is equivalent to 90 percent of the members' average salary credit (ADSC).

## Gov. Remulla believes BBM << P1

lider ng bansa," he added.

Voters shouldn't expect an apology from Remulla.

"To all those who reacted (special mention to the first-time visitors of the page who dropped by just to make their feelings known), let me make one thing clear: I am owning up to my words. I will never apologize to anyone for what I wrote or what I believe is the most likely outcome."

"Bilang isang pinuno,

mabuting marinig at malaman ko lahat ng panig sa diskursong pulitika."

"I welcome hearing all sides - even with the extreme emotions and expletives.

"It only proves one thing: We all care about our country."

"Sa galit at gayak pa lang ay nakikita ko na marami pa rin ang nagmamahal sa bansa," he continued.

Despite the hateful comments, Remulla thanked ev-

eryone who gave feedback.

"To everyone, thank you very much for the feedback. It gives me a great sense of hope that our love for the country remains steadfast and the virtues we want in our leaders are precise and clear."

"Let the final arbiter be the people."

He urged voters to choose their leaders "wisely."

"Every vote counts. For every vote is a win for our

democracy. It's a win for our future."

Remulla previously deleted his presidential poll on Twitter after the majority of users preferred VP Leni Robredo.

He did a new poll on Facebook that resulted in Marcos coming out on top.

In the 2016 elections, Remulla predicted that former vice president Jejomar Binay would win the presidency.

The Southern Tagalog email: herald\_group@yahoo.com

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Inilalathala tuwing araw ng Linggo at may sirkulasyon sa Lalawigan ng Cavite.  
Editorial office: Block 1, Lot 1, Phase 1A, Cithomes Subdivision, Molino 4, Bacoor City, Cavite  
CP# 09266990769 / 09178983982  
Email: herald\_group@yahoo.com

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# Manila Bay rehab Year 3: DENR told to put environment and people before 'development'

The rehabilitation of Manila Bay should put the environment and people's welfare before development projects that pose threats to the degraded ecosystem, environmental groups said, three years since the launch of a campaign called "Battle for Manila Bay."

On January 27, 2019, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources began the rehabilitation of Manila Bay. The program would be done in three phases: clean-up and water quality improvement, rehabilitation and resettlement, and education and sustainment.

The DENR recently reported a decrease in coliform levels in its sampling stations in the Baywalk area, Baseco beach area, and the rivers of Obando, Talisay and Pampanga in Central Luzon. The agency attributed the water quality improvement to solid waste strategies, geo-engineering interventions, and compliance monitoring of establishments around the Manila Bay area.

But for a scientists' group, genuine rehabilitation is more than about cleanup.

"The goal of the DENR should not only revolve

around making Manila Bay swimmable but also to restore marine ecosystems and improve fisheries production. Aside from addressing solid wastes, it is also important to conserve and restore marine ecosystems, such as mangrove forests and mudflats," the Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (AGHAM) said.

"In this aspect, the Duterte administration failed," it said, noting that mangrove forests and mudflats are being threatened by at least 23 reclamation projects covering approximately 25,000 hectares of the coast of Manila Bay from Bataan to Cavite.

Residents of Barangay Taliptip in Bulakan, Bulacan were displaced from their coastal settlements by 2020, paving the way for the construction of the New Manila International Airport.

The 2,500-hectare airport complex, a project of San Miguel Corp., is seen to generate at least one million jobs and boost the economy.

But for Sherlyn Mazurca, a former resident of Taliptip, living has become more difficult since they moved inland.

"Simple na nga lang ang

buhay namin tapos sisirain pa nila...Paano kami umunlad sa ganitong pamumuhay? (We were living simple lives then and they took that away. How can we improve our lives now?)" Mazurca said in a forum organized by fishers group Pamalakaya on January 19, adding fishers in their small community have been denied access to fishing grounds.

In November, the DENR began the demolition of illegal aquaculture structures in Cavite province, after bamboo structures were washed ashore at the Manila Baywalk area along Roxas Boulevard.

AGHAM said the clearing of fishing structures is believed to open the way for projects along the coast of Cavite.

"Sinasabi nila rehabilitation para sa karagatan, para umunlad. Sino nga bang umunlad?" Mazurca said.

(They said this was for the rehabilitation of the bay, for development. But who is this development for)

She acknowledged that rehabilitation would make Manila Bay attractive to tourists and visitors. "Tinitignan ba ng mga dumadayo na dayuhan 'yung mga napa-



paalis, kung naghihirap ba o umunlad?"

(Do those foreigners and visitors even consider those who were displaced, if we are suffering or if our lives have improved?)

AGHAM stressed the improvement of water quality and restoration of marine ecosystems should come first before reclamation, if it is necessary at all.

"Cutting of mangroves,

reclaiming the sea and building structures on it would prevent the reestablishment of marine ecosystems, thus canceling any ongoing rehabilitation effort," it said.

Environmental group Oceana Philippines, for its part, said the government's infrastructure development pathway will cause irreversible damage to fragile ecosystems and make communities more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

"There will be mitigated losses of fishing grounds for subsistence fishers and increased vulnerability to climate change impacts, such as flooding and storm surge," Oceana said.

The organization also called on the DENR to focus on "honest-to-goodness" implementation of environmental laws.

In 2020, the DENR transformed a polluted stretch of Manila Bay's shoreline into an artificial white sand beach covered with crushed dolomite rocks. Officials said such undertaking would help rehabilitate and protect coastal resources in the areas, and prevent erosion.

But scientists and environmentalist criticized the project as an expensive and temporary effort that will not address the bay's problems.

## Cavite oks << P1

certificate and a cash gift of P5,000 during the Annual Filipino Elderly Week every October in addition to other benefits and privileges granted under existing laws and

"With the DENR's refusal to conduct a robust scientific environmental impact assessment for the bay rehab's centerpiece dolomite dump, we were sure to end up with expensive but useless theatrics," said Leon Dulce, Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment national coordinator.

He said future leaders should "focus on genuine ecological restoration activities across the entire Manila Bay."

In a statement released on January 4, the DENR enumerated the gains of the program such as lower coliform levels, stoppage orders to illegal establishment along the coast, cleanup activities, and collection of water hyacinth in the bay.

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said the Manila Bay Interagency Task Force has "accomplished so much and we vow to continue our gains for a cleaner Manila Bay in 2022."

"As the rehabilitation continues, I call on my fellow Filipinos to be part of this huge and vital task to restore Manila Bay to its pristine condition through behavioral change. It's high time that we totally alter our habits on waste disposal as well as our attitude on taking responsibility for one's actions."

ordinances. The ordinance states that there will be annual appropriations for the cash gifts to be included in the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office fund.

## ICTSI boosts << P1

The Roxas Boulevard closure will allow the Department of Public Works and Highways to begin repairing a damaged box culvert in front of a pumping station in Pasay City.

"Roxas Boulevard is

part of a cargo truck trade route connecting the Port of Manila to Southern Luzon. Close to 900 trucks and over 1,000 trailers daily travel the road's southbound direction alone," ICTSI noted in the statement.

## Fisherman forging vaccination << P1

posedly used to get exempted from the government's stay at home and no-vax-no-ride orders. "The public is warned that there is no such thing

as a 'vaccination exemption card.' This is not authorized, issued, nor recognized by the government. In other words, these are fake," DILG Un-

dersecretary and Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya said in a press release on Tuesday, January 18. Malaya said exemption cards ran counter

to government's campaign to vaccinate the majority of the population, so it would never issue nor recognize such cards. - Rappler.com

## BSP warns of fake bills << P1

verify whether the banknote was indeed dispensed by the bank's ATM.

If the holder's claim is verified, the BSP said the bank should replace the banknote in question.

According to the BSP, all banks employ adequate risk

management measures to prevent such incidents.

"Aside from the installation of cameras at ATM areas, cash handlers and service providers tasked to refill ATMs are trained to detect counterfeit banknotes or verify their genuineness before

placing them in ATMs," it added.

Under Republic Act 10951, counterfeiters of Philippine currency are subject to the penalty of at least 12 years in prison and a fine not exceeding P2 million.

From January to Sep-

tember last year, the BSP seized more than 500 fake banknotes with a notional value of P480,000. Its seven enforcement operations also resulted in the arrest of 16 suspects, 14 of whom were members of crime syndicates.

## Covid-19 case growth rate << P1

tin, wala akong datos nito sa ngayon, pero sa pagka-intindi ko or extrapolation namin, baka nasa 40 percent na lang (Our positivity rate, I don't have data at the moment, but our extrapolation is, it might be at 40 percent only)," he said. If the current trend in the NCR continues, David said the region might experience a "happy" Valentine's

Day with less than 1,000 cases per day at moderate risk.

On Sunday, the NCR logged 5,433 new cases, lower than Saturday's 6,646.

The region recorded 7,279 on January 21; 9,455 on January 20; and 8,376 on January 19. On the other hand, new cases continue to rise in seven highly-urbanized cities (HUCs) -- Bacolod, Baguio,

Butuan, Davao, General Santos, Iloilo, and Mandaue.

As of Sunday, Bacolod has a one-week growth rate of 143 percent; Baguio, 68 percent; Butuan, 200 percent; Davao City, 316 percent; General Santos, 116 percent; Iloilo City, 168 percent; and Mandaue, 228 percent. "Kung may pagtaas na ng bilang na kaso sa isang

HUC or sa isang probinsiya ay kailangan mag-observe na talaga ng minimum public health standards ang mga kababayan natin diyan sa mga (If there is an increase in the number of cases in an HUC or a province, the people really need to observe minimum public health standards in the) affected areas," David said. (PNA)

## Viral ancestral house-cafe << P1

vibe of a café with the beauty of ancestral house its location, L. Cajiga, Caridad, is known for. Ivan Reyes, the fifth-generation owner of the 1896 house, had the idea of creating the hybrid experience as he lost his job due to the pandemic. Together with friend Darlon Castor, they

have made the spot known not just for its charm but also for its specialty brews. Unfortunately, the coffee shop's journey ends in 2022 as it announces its permanent closure last Jan. 21. "Me (Darlon Castor) and my business partner's (Ivan Reyes) decision was a difficult one.

But let's not end it here..." the post said. While the café didn't mention the cause of this closure, in the comment section, it reassured its patrons about its bigger plans in the future. "Wag kayo malungkot mga ka-Kasa babalik kame at hindang-hindi namen kayo iiwan. Mas

magpapalaki at magpagananda pa kami para sa inyo. See you soon mga ka-Kasa!!!! (Don't be sad, ka-Kasa, we will return and we will not leave you. We making ourselves bigger and greater for you guys. See you soon, ka-Kasa!!!!)" Our fingers are crossed that they're building a new café.





72 MALAKAS ST., BRGY. SAN GREGORIO, SAN PABLO CITY, LAZUNTA  
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# OCTA: Omicron surge not over despite improving NCR numbers

It may take a few more months before the Omicron surge in the country tapers off despite declining cases in the Metro Manila, an independent research group said on Monday, citing developments in the regions.

"Medyo matatagalan ang Omicron wave. Kahit medyo bumababa na sa NCR (National Capital Region) at Cavite, Rizal, pataas pa lang sa ibang lugar at may ibang lugar na hindi pa nagkakaroon ng pagtaas. Medyo matatagalan ito. Ang 1,000 cases or less per day ay medyo matatagalan din," OCTA Research fellow Guido David said in a media briefing.

[Translation: The Omicron wave will continue. Even if cases are going down

in NCR, Cavite, and Rizal, it is only starting in other areas. The increase hasn't even started in other parts of the country. It will take a while. It will take us a while to go down to less than 1,000 cases again.]

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the agency is monitoring the rising healthcare utilization rate in the regions, in particular the Cordillera Administrative Region and Eastern Visayas.

"We can see that all regions of the country have this increasing number of cases. It's just the NCR because we started earlier, but right now, all regions, we have about 13 areas at critical risk classification and there are

only 4 areas with high risk classification in the country. We are closely monitoring specific areas because their healthcare utilization is really increasing," she told CNN Philippines' The Source.

David said arriving at daily cases only by the hundreds similar to December 2020 may be achieved if the Omicron surge ends in March or April.

OCTA said Metro Manila's COVID-19 situation in terms of new cases began to improve in mid-January, with a substantial decline in cases from 18,000 to around 5,000 per day. He added that the capital region is on track to meet OCTA's projection of only 1,000 infections per day by Valentine's Day.



## Pacquiao vows to push for law against political dynasty

Presidential bet Senator Manny Pacquiao on Thursday said he would push for a law prohibiting political dynasties if elected president in the May elections, despite having brothers holding government positions.

Interviewed on Dabol B TV's 'Ikaw Na Ba?' Pacquiao said he would even forbid his brothers from running for government position if an anti-political dynasty bill is passed.

Two of Manny's brothers in government are House of Representatives Deputy Speaker and Sarangani Representative Rogelio Pacquiao, and OFW Family Partylist Representative Alberto "Bobby" Pacquiao.

"Kung 'yan po ang kagustuhan ng majority ng ating mga kababayan, then why not. Kapag nandyan yung batas ay susunod tayo," he said.

(If the majority of our countrymen want that, why not? We will follow when the anti-political dynasty law is passed.)

Asked about how the bill will be passed into law when many members of the Congress are also part of political dynasties, Pacquiao expressed optimism saying: "Pagdating ng panahon, kung ano ang gusto ng pangulo ay magagawa naman siguro" (Time will come when what



the president wants might be granted).

Meanwhile, Pacquiao said he wants to make mandatory the release of Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) of government officials.

"Dapat magpirmahan, willing na...waiver, yung bank secrecy sa lahat ng accounts. Gawin natin yan (na mandatory) para lahat ng mga nasa gobyerno makita natin," he said.

(We should have to sign a waiver on bank secrecy for all accounts. Let's make it mandatory so we could check on all government officials.)

For Pacquiao, he is "proud" to show his SALN because he said his wealth

is hard-earned, adding that other government officials should also do so.

"Huwag silang magtago ng kayamanan dahil doon po mabubunyang" (They should not hide their wealth because that's how they will be exposed), he added.

Asked about solutions to address the traffic problem in the country, Pacquiao said he will add more roads, roads, skyways, underpasses, subways, and trains including a bullet train "from north to south."

"Ang pangarap ko po ay magkaroon tayo ng bullet train from north to south (My dream is for us to have a bullet train from north to south)," he said. —LBG, GMA News

## Gatchalian seeks deeper probe into hacking of teachers' bank accounts

Senator Sherwin Gatchalian on Monday slammed the reported hacking of teachers' bank accounts by still unidentified "unscrupulous individuals" whom he said are concocting all kinds of methods to steal money via online and other digital means.

Earlier in the day, the Teachers' Dignity Coalition reported that some teachers lost at least P26,000 to P121,000 each after their LandBank payroll accounts were allegedly hacked and their money were "stolen" via unauthorized fund transfers to other banks or electronic wallets.

But Landbank, in a statement, maintained that their systems are safe and secure and claimed that the device of the teachers and their personal information were compromised by way of phishing.

Gatchalian, who chairs the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture, said Landbank and e-wallet operator GCash should cooperate and waste no time in working closely with the authorities to immediately identify and apprehend those behind the nefarious activity.

"This spate of bank account hacking is alarming and these unscrupulous individuals seem to be devising all fraudulent methods possible to raid the money from the victims' accounts. But what's even more disturbing in this latest hacking report is the fact that those victimized are holders of accounts in a government financial institution," Gatchalian said in a statement.

"Hindi natitnag ang mga kawatan sa kanilang mga gawain sa gitna ng pinaigting na mga hakbang ng mga



kinaaukulan laban sa ganitong mga krimen (These thieves do not hesitate to do such illegal activity despite moves to strengthen mechanisms to fight cyber-crimes)," he lamented.

While the government continues to remind the public to be careful and vigilant whenever making transactions through online platforms, Gatchalian said it is imperative for banks and digital payment platforms to strengthen their own cybersecurity measures.

"I urge the Landbank and GCash to undertake remedial measures the soonest time possible, including the reimbursement of the money lost by the affected clients," the lawmaker said.

"We, in the Senate, are working double time to pass the proposed Internet Transactions Act and Financial Products and Services Consumer Protection Act before Congress' adjournment to establish stronger consumer-centric policies and standards and empower regulators to enable them to take necessary actions," Gatchalian assured.