

# Medical Mission in Brgy. Maharlika a success



Another successful medical mission was held in Barangay Maharlika, Imus Cavite Last May 3, 2023. The success of the event was mainly due to the support of the 3rd District Representative, Adrian Jay Advincula, and the City Mayor of Imus, Alex Advincula, along with the Sangguniang Panglungsod members and Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla. They

>> P2

## DENR NCR, nagsagawa ng ground at drone survey sa Pasig River

Nagsagawa ang Drone Survey Team ng Department of Environment & Natural Resources-National Capital Region ng ground at drone survey noong Huwebes, Mayo 4, 2023.

Sa pamumuno ni Engr. Patrick Macazo, kasama ng Pasig River Coordinating and Management Office at sa pakikipag-ugnayan sa Philippine Coast Guard at Presidential Security Group, isinagawa ang survey mula

>> P2

## SMC helps boost incomes for local corn farmers via direct buys

San Miguel Corporation (SMC), through its food unit San Miguel Foods, has purchased over 1.3 million metric tons of corn amounting to PHP23.9 billion from farmers nationwide since 2020 to date.

This is part of the company's continuing initiative to source raw materials for its food products directly from local growers to help boost farm incomes, reduce the country's dependence on imports, and help achieve food self-sufficiency.

The program, launched in 2020, is designed to benefit farmers from all over the country. Initially, it covers 13 provinces that include Batangas, Bicol, Bukidnon, Bulacan, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Isabela, Ormoc, Pangasinan, Tarlac, and Zamboanga, with plans

>> P2

## LRMC moves scheduled road closures for LRT-1 Cavite works



LRT-1 CAVITE EXTENSION PROJECT. Workers install a beam in the ongoing construction of the LRT-1 Cavite Extension project along Roxas Boulevard in Parañaque City on April 24, 2023. The closure of some portions of the road has been rescheduled due to adjustments in the construction timeline. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

The Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC) on Monday rescheduled some road closures along Roxas Boulevard due to adjustments in the construction timeline of the Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) Cavite Extension project.

In an advisory, the LRMC said the road closure is necessary for the construction of a pedestrian foot-bridge that is part of the Redeemptorist Station still under construction.

"The road closure is necessary to ensure safety during

>> P2

## House OKs early voting for seniors, PWDs, lawyers, health staff



The House of Representatives on Monday approved on the third and final reading a bill allowing qualified senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs), lawyers and health workers to vote early in local and national elections.

House Bill No. 7576, which was a consolidation of 15 separate measures filed in the current 19th Congress, grants senior citizens, PWDs, lawyers and human resources for health to cast their ballots at accessible establishments designated by the Commission on Elections (Comelec)

>> P2

## DOTr seeks private sector support to finance transport projects



The Department of Transportation (DOTr) is seeking the financing support of the private sector for the construction and implementation of transport projects and programs.

DOTr Secretary Jaime Bautista said that with limited public funds to bankroll such projects, the government could tap the assistance of the private sector. "There are

>> P2

## DOTr seeks private sector << P1

many government projects that need private sector's sup-

port because the government has limited funds," Bautista

said at the Makati Business Club (MBC) forum titled

"F2F with Cab Secs session" on Wednesday.

## House OKs early voting for << P1

within seven working days before the date set for local and national elections.

Human resources for health is defined as those "who are engaged in health and health-related work, and all persons employed in all hospitals, sanitaria, health infirmaries, health centers, rural health units, barangay health stations, clinics and other health-related establishments owned and operated by the government or its political subdivisions with original charters and shall include medical, allied health professional, administrative and support personnel employed regardless of their employment status who physically report to the frontlines during the day of the election."

"In consideration of their respective physical and health conditions, senior citizens and PWDs shall be allowed to vote early in national and local elections," read Section 2 of the measure.

"Similarly, in consider-

ation of the necessity of providing professional services and ensuring the health and safety of the populace during election day, lawyers and human resources for health, respectively, shall be allowed to vote early in national and local elections," it added.

HB 7576 mandates the conduct of a nationwide registration for senior citizens, PWDs, lawyers, and human resources for health to qualify them to avail of this early voting privilege. Those who are not registered under this Act shall vote with the rest of the eligible population on election day.

Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez hailed the progress of the measure which, if enacted, would benefit disadvantaged sectors as well as those that render indispensable services to Filipinos.

"By default, senior citizens and PWDs encounter more difficulty in the electoral process. They deserve more assistance in the language

of the law and HB No.7576 provides them with this in the form of voting early and separate from the vast majority of Filipinos," Romualdez said. "On the other hand, our lawyers and human resource for health perform duties of great urgency and impact on other citizens. As such, the benefit of early voting for them is both deserved and called for," he added

Deputy Speaker Ralph Recto said HB 7576 sends a message that no citizen should be denied of his right to vote on account of his work, age or physical traits.

"Disability should not

be a cause of disenfranchisement. By making it easier for them to vote, this bill, in effect, provides access ramps to democracy. And to seniors, handicaps brought by age, if any, should not be a hurdle to voting," the Batangas 6th District Representative said in explaining his vote.

He added that the bill also ensures that medical personnel would not be denied the opportunity to vote by their fidelity to their job.

"To these sectors, this bill seeks to create ease in their voting by instituting early voting for them," Recto said. (PNA)

## SMC helps boost income << P1

to expand by the end of the year.

"Through this program, we are assured of local corn supply for our food business while our local farmers are guaranteed a steady market and fair prices for their crops. Buying directly from them boosts their income and keeps their livelihood sustainable," SMC president and chief executive officer Ramon S. Ang said in a statement.

At the height of the pandemic in 2020, San Miguel Foods purchased over 500,000 metric tons or 500 million kilos of corn to help farmers in various provinces affected by quarantine protocols and supply chain disruptions that saw their produce going to waste.

Isabela province farmer Marjorie Gante said SMC's local corn buying program

has given her and her family a renewed sense of security.

"Nang dahil po sa programa ng San Miguel, hindi na po kami natatakot mag-ani o maglabas ng aming produkto dahil sigurado po kaming may pagdadalhan ito. Hindi katulad dati na kung saan-saan pa kami naghanap ng buyer at walang kasiguraduhan na maganda ang presyuhan at magiging maayos ang systema ng pagbayad sa amin (Because of San Miguel's program, we're no longer afraid to plant and harvest.

We are assured there is a market for our products, unlike in the past when we would have to go to different places to find buyers, and there was no certainty as to whether prices would be good, or if we could get paid properly)," Gante said.

Meanwhile, Emity

He identified big-ticket transport projects in the rail, aviation and road sectors where Public-Private Partnership (PPP) can be implemented. He cited the proposed EDSA Busway privatization as one possible PPP effort, as well as the construction of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in Cebu and Davao. "We ask the private sector to support the privatization of the EDSA Busway," Bautista said.

Bautista said the DOTr aviation projects in the pipeline include the improvement of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, adding other airports in the greater capital for possible PPP proponents such as in Clark, Bulacan and Sangley in Cavite. "We need additional airports to serve aviation requirements in Luzon," he said. The transport chief said that the PPP will also be a huge lift for ongo-

ing railway projects such as the North-South Commuter Railway, Metro Manila Subway Project, MRT-7, LRT-1 Cavite Extension Project and South Long Haul Project. During the session, Bautista also shared his insights and experience working as a public servant. "When you work with government you have to work not only 20 hours but almost 24 hours. There will always be supporters and detractors but at the end of the day what is important is you did your best, you work professionally with honesty and integrity, and with that, you should be proud of yourself," Bautista said. The session is part of MBC's ongoing efforts to further strengthen public and private dialogue through connecting its members with the country's key economic managers from the national government. (PNA)

## LRMC moves << P1

the girder installation works," it said.

The northbound portion of Roxas Blvd. (going to Manila) will be closed beginning 10 p.m. Monday (May 8) until 5 a.m. Tuesday.

In addition, the Roxas Blvd. Service Road near Baclaran Church will be closed beginning 10 p.m. Thursday (May 11) until 5 a.m. Friday.

The road closures were

earlier scheduled on May 2 to 3 and May 5 to 6 respectively.

"The rail line apologizes for the temporary inconvenience, and seeks for everyone's understanding and cooperation," it said.

As of March, the LRMC said the LRT-1 Cavite Extension has reached a progress rate of 82.7 percent and is on track to complete phase 1 and begin operation by the final quarter of 2024. (PNA)

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## DENR NCR, nagsagawa ng << P1

sa Ayala Bridge hanggang sa Mabini Bridge sa Malacañang Restricted Area na may distansyang dalawang kilometro (2km).

Ang mga resulta ng survey ay gagamitin upang makabuo ng mga mapa na

magpapakita ng orihinal na sukat ng Pasig River upang matukoy ang mga iligal na istruktura mula rito.

Dagdag din dito ang paggamit ng mga resulta sa pagbubuo ng river rehabilitation plan na makatutulong

para sa mas mabisang paglilinis at rehabilitasyon ng Manila Bay.

Ang Pasig River ay isang tributary river ng Pasig-Marikina-San Juan (PAMARISAN) River System na isa sa tatlong (3) ma-

gor river systems ng Metro Manila.

Ito ay nag-uugnay sa Laguna de Bay at Manila Bay. Panawagan ng tanggapan ang puso para sa Ilog Pasig ay para rin sa Manila Bay. (denr ncr/pia-ncr)

## Medical mission in Brgy. << P1

showed their gratitude and encouraged all residents to attend the free medical services being offered.

The event was supervised by the medical mission team from the Office of the Provincial Governor, along with the volunteers from the Provincial Health Office and Imus City Health Office. The medical mission was able to serve a total of 538 residents, providing free laboratory tests and medicines. The event was an excellent opportunity for residents to get the medical attention they needed, especially those who may not have the means to afford it. The event also showcased

the dedication and commitment of healthcare professionals, who worked tirelessly to ensure that all patients were given proper care and attention. This medical mission is an excellent example of how government officials and healthcare professionals can come together to make a positive impact on the community.

Overall, the medical mission in Barangay Maharlika was a tremendous success, and it is hoped that more events like this will be held in the future, providing residents with access to much-needed medical services.--- PICAD

### Extra-Judicial Settlement of the Estates of Simplicio A. Escover, Felisa E. Vergara, Macaria E. Pareja, Sotera A. Escover and Cornelia E. Mendoza

Notice is hereby given that the estate left by the late Simplicio Aure Escover who died on January 20, 1990 in Cavite, Felisa E. Vergara who died on August 22, 1991 in California, USA; Macaria E. Pareja who died on December 6, 2015 in Cavite; Sotera Aure Escover who died on February 6, 1995 in Mandaluyong City; Anselma E. Rosales who died on September 1978; and Cornelia E. Mendoza who died on August 14, 2009 in California, USA and all died intestate without leaving any will, consisting of one parcel of land under TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE 25020 containing an area of 433,296 square meters and situated in Magallanes, Cavite, had been subjected to deductions for CARP and a barangay road; and with CARMEN MENDOZA and CONCEPCION M. FELICIANO selling 67, 076 sq. m. of their share of 70,43 sq. m. and waiving the remaining 3,076 sq. m. in favor of ADELA VERGARA which she accepted the total area pertaining to ADELA VERGARA is 102, 430 sq. m. now therefore the remaining 310,528 square meters portion of said parcel of land had been ADJUDICATED and SUBDIVIDED among themselves by the LEGAL AND SOLE SURVIVING HEIRS of said deceased in accordance with the law, as stated in the instrument which is Document No. 423, Page No. 86, Book No. 1 Series of 2023 of Notary Public Atty. James P. Apostol dated April 27, 2023.

Southern Tagalog Herald Cavite  
May 7, 14 and 21, 2023

# CCC, NPC seal pact to accelerate GHG mitigation

The Climate Change Commission PH (CCC) is ramping up the implementation of strategies to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other human drivers of global warming by lessening carbon footprint.

The recent signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the CCC and National Power Corporation (NPC) signifies the Commission's commitment to advance the Philippines' Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of 75 percent GHG emissions reduction and avoidance by 2030.

The partnership further advances the Philippine government's Carbon Neutrality Program (CNP) – a climate change mitigation strategy through nature-based solutions.

The CCC-NPC partnership on carbon neutrality also aims to rehabilitate open and denuded upland forest, including the streambank identified by NPC within the Caliraya-Lumot Watershed Forest Reserve (CLWFR), through the reforestation of 25 hectares of land in Paete, Laguna; protect and maintain established reforestation project in CLWFR; and support other climate change-related initiatives of the CCC.

Forests play a critical role in mitigating climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide through the process of photosynthesis. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in their biomass and soil. This process, known as carbon sequestration, helps to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, which is a major contributor to global warming.

The CNP, formalized in June 2022, aims to facilitate a science-based forestation initiative to increase the country's carbon sequestration capacity through nature-based solutions, including tree planting and growing.

The MOA supports the CNP in advancing carbon neutrality among Filipinos, and implementing climate change initiatives related to forestry and sustainable natural resources management.

The MOA signing was led by CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director (VCED) Robert E.A. Borje and NPC President, Fernando Martin Y. Roxas.

"We hope that this MOA can be a model agreement that may be adopted by local government units, NGAs, and private sector. This approach has clear and measurable targets, and will help steer all stakeholders towards concrete results through smaller carbon footprints of organizations, agencies, and communities," said VCED Borje.

With smaller carbon footprints or emissions in the atmosphere, global warming may be maintained and slowed down, and climate change impacts particularly on vulnerable developing countries like the Philippines will be reduced.

This is the first agreement of NPC with a national government agency. Under the CCC-NPC five-year partnership, at least 15,625 native trees will be planted to sequester around 2,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (mtCO<sub>2e</sub>) per year. It will also promote biodiversity conservation, water conservation, and sustainable livelihoods for local communities in Paete, Laguna.

With continued efforts, the CCC endeavors to be carbon-neutral by 2032, calculated based on agency-level accumulated GHG emissions.

"We believe that this partnership with the CCC is a significant step towards achieving our goals and contributing to the global and national climate change targets," NPC Pres. Roxas highlighted.

The CCC already organized and participated in various reforestation activities with its partners. Through the CNP, the CCC expects more agreements and partnerships to be forged between and among government agencies, private partners and stakeholders toward the goal of carbon neutrality.

"Achieving carbon neutrality requires a whole-of-nation and whole-of-society approach. It is necessary to mobilize every sector and community to do their share in re-

ducing their carbon footprint and pursue development in a sustainable, climate-friendly manner," VCED Borje said.

Part of the CCC's Earth Month Commemoration, CCC and NPC signed the MOA on 26 April 2023 at the NPC Headquarters in Diliman, Quezon City.

CCC Strategic Partnership Division Chief Alexis Lapiz, NPC Vice President and General Counsel Atty. Melchor P. Ridulme, and NPC Vice President for Corporate Affairs Rene B. Barruela, also joined the event.

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Fourth Judicial Region  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
City of Bacoor  
Email: rtcbcrocc@judiciary.gov.ph  
Telephone No. 09273707489

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND  
(otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund),  
Mortgagee,

-versus-

MELCHOR R. SARMIENTO married to  
MARIA FLODELISA S. SARMIENTO,  
Mortgagors.

X-----X

Foreclosure No. 2023-86  
For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of  
Real Estate Mortgage

**NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE**

Upon Extra-judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135 as Amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee, **HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund)**, at The Petron Mega Plaza Bldg., No. 358 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, and against the mortgagors, **MELCHOR R. SARMIENTO married to MARIA FLODELISA S. SARMIENTO**, at Lot 5 Block 5, Phase 2, Kamagong St., Macaria Homes, Brgy. Molina 2, Bacoor, Cavite, MELCHOR R. SARMIENTO is herein represented by his wife MARIA FLODELISA S. SARMIENTO, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of March 13, 2023, amounts to TWO MILLION SIXTY THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY PESOS & 99/100 (P2,060,290.99), Philippine Currency, inclusive of inclusive of interest, and penalty charges but exclusive of other fee incidental to this foreclosure, the undesignated or her duly authorized representative will sell at the public auction on **May 31, 2023 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning** or soon thereafter, at the main entrance of the Hall of Justice of Bacoor City, Cavite, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

**TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2019014152**

"A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 3 BLK. 5, OF THE CONS./SUBD. PLAN, PCS-04-011539, BEING A PORTION OF THE CONS. OF LOT 11, BLK. 10 LOT 19, BLK. 12, PSD-042103-055127 & LOT 10163, IMUS ESTATE (FLS-042103-000065-D, L.R.C. REC. NO. 101200), SITUATED IN THE BRGY. OF MOLINO, MUN. OF BACCOOR, PROVINCE OF CAVITE. X X X, CONTAINING AN AREA OF EIGHTY (80) SQ. METERS."

"All sealed bid must be submitted to the undersigned on the above stated time and date."

"In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on June 7, 2023, without further notice."

Prospective buyers or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property and encumbrances, if any there be.

City of Bacoor, May 4, 2023.

**MELY C. HERMOSURA-VISTA**  
Clerk of Court VI

By:  
**DANILO B. BERLON**  
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:  
HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND  
(otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund)  
The Petron Mega Plaza Bldg., No. 358 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

ATTY. MELANIO A. BADENAS, JR.  
Rm. 209 Megaestate Bldg., No. 737 G. Araneta Ave., Tatalon, Quezon City

MELCHOR R. SARMIENTO married to MARIA FLODELISA S. SARMIENTO  
Lot 5 Block 5, Phase 2, Kamagong St., Macaria Homes, Brgy. Molino 2, Bacoor, Cavite

Warning: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this notice of Extra-Judicial Sale on or before the date of sale.

Publisher: Southern Tagalog Herald  
Email: herald\_group@yahoo.com  
Dates: May 14, 21 and 28, 2023

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Fourth Judicial Region  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
AND EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF  
Dasmariñas City, Cavite

UNION BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES,  
Petitioner/Mortgagee,

-versus-

**SPS. MARY GRACE L. GABUYA and  
MARK A. GABUYA, Mary Grace L. Gabuya**  
Represented by her duly designated Attorney-in-Fact, **Mark A. Gabuya.**  
Respondents/Mortgagors.

X-----X

File No. **FC-DC-0636-23**  
For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of Real  
Estate Mortgage under Act No. 3135  
As amended by Act No. 4118

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act No. 3135, as amended by Act No. 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, **UNION BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES**, a banking institution duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Philippines, with postal address at Union Bank Plaza Building, Meralco Avenue cor Onyx and Sapphire Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila against the respondents/mortgagors, **SPS. MARY GRACE L. GABUYA and MARK A. GABUYA, Mary Grace L. Gabuya represented by her duly designated Attorney-in-Fact, Mark A. Gabuya**, by virtue of Special Power of Attorney dated March 6, 2019, with postal address at Block 2, Lot 25, Promenade Residences, Brgy. Salawag, Dasmariñas City, Cavite, and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of 31 March 2023 amounts to ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED NINETY NINE PESOS & 09/100 (Php 1,842,499.09), exclusive of legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **June 23, 2023 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning** or soon thereafter in the Court Room of Branch 90, Regional Trial Court, Ground Floor, Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Buro 1, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite to the highest bidder and for CASH or CERTIFIED CHECK, in Philippine Currency, the following described real property together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit;

**TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2021048467**

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in Brgy. of Paliparan 3, City of Dasmariñas, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon, bounded and described as follows:

Lot No. 4 / Block No. 4 / Plan No. PCS-04-030935  
Portion of: Lots 6968-A & 6968-B, (LRC) PSD-319750 LRC Record No. 8843

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION:**  
**LOCATION:** BARANGAY OF PALIPARAN 3, CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON

**BOUNDARIES:**

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOTS
1-2	SW	Road Lot 4, PCS-04-030935
2-3	NW	Lot 3, Block 4, PCS-04-030935
3-4	NE	Lot 53, Block 4, PCS-04-030935
4-1	SE	Lot 5, Block 4, PCS-04-030935

TIE POINT Mon. No. 163, Imus Estate

LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE
To corner 1	S. 22016" W	1786.68 M.
1-2	N. 85024" W	4.00 M
2-3	N. 04036" E	11.00 M
3-4	S. 85024" E	4.00 M
4-1	S. 04036" W	11.00 M

**AREA:** FORTY-FOUR SQUARE METERS (44), MORE OR LESS  
**DESCRIPTION OF CORNERS:** All points are referred on the plan by P.S. CYL. Conc. Mons. 15x40 cms.  
**Bearings true:**  
**Declination:**  
Date of original survey July 27, 1905, June 1, 1908,  
Date of Subd./Cons. survey: May 8-13, 2017;  
Date of approved survey: July 17, 2017, Geodetic Engineer: Marietta D. Espiritu

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real property and the encumbrances thereon, if there be any.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the publication auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on July 7, 2023 at the same time and place without further notice.

Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite, May 10, 2023.

**GERALD A. FARGAS**  
Sheriff IV

**ATTY. MARCELA L. BAYBAY**  
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

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**SPS. MARY GRACE L. GABUYA and MARK A. GABUYA,**  
Block 2 Lot 25, Promenade Residences,  
Brgy. Salawag, Dasmariñas City, Cavite

- Notice Posted at
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  2. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Hall
  3. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Post Office
  4. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Public Market

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## SSS intensifies nationwide campaign vs erring employers in Batangas, MIMAROPA region

The Social Security System (SSS) intensified its nationwide campaign against delinquent employers in Batangas province and MIMAROPA Region, three days before the National Labor Day Celebration.

SSS Luzon South 2 Division Head Alejandro T. Diaz led the service of written notices to eight delinquent employers in Tanauan, Batangas. Meanwhile, SSS branch officials simultaneously visited 58 employers in Calaca, Batangas; Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro; San Jose, Occidental Mindoro; Sta. Cruz, Marinduque; Looc, Romblon and Puerto Princesa, Palawan. The SSS aims to remind the visited employers to pay their obligation and assist them in settling their as-

sessed delinquency amounting to P 10.6 million.

"We would like to reiterate that it is the employer's obligation under Republic Act 11199 or Social Security Act of 2018 to register their workers for coverage and remit their monthly SS contributions. We urge them to be responsible partner of the SSS in providing social security protection for their workers and their beneficiaries. This way, they will avoid any liability for violation of the law," SSS Acting Head for Luzon South 2 Division Alejandro T. Diaz explained.

Apart from the goal of intensifying employers' compliance with Republic Act 11199, the SSS also offered Contribution Penalty Condonation, Delinquency Man-

agement and Restructuring Program (CPCoDe-MRP) to delinquent employers which offers two payment options, either in full or installment ranging from 12 to 48 months, depending on the delinquency amount. After the full payment of the contribution delinquency, all accrued penalties will be condoned. Employers who wish to avail of the installment payment scheme are required to give a down payment of not less than 5% of the total delinquency amount.

"We encourage our employers who experienced financial difficulties to avail of the ongoing condonation program as it is intended to aid them in paying the unremitted contributions," Diaz concluded.



Application for the program should be done in the Branch Office/Large Accounts Department having jurisdiction over the account.

For inquiries, interested applicants may visit the SSS branch near them.

As of December 2022, SSS Luzon South 2 Division

collected P 4.2 million worth of contribution delinquency from 104 employers who were subjected to the RACE Operations in 2022.

## Leadership vacuum, series of setbacks wear out remaining NPAs

The few remaining members of the New People's Army (NPA) in the Visayas are now in disarray and getting tired of moving from one place to another as the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) faces a leadership vacuum following the deaths of its founder Jose Maria Sison and key leaders.

"Due to the leadership vacuum that the CPP-NPA is suffering coupled with the active support of the community to the security efforts of the government forces, the few remaining members of the terrorist group remain in disarray and with no clear direction," Visayas Command chief Lt. Gen. Benedict Arevalo said in a statement Thursday.

He said that the communist terrorists "are tired due to constant movement having no safe place to hide." Arevalo also lauded government troops for dealing with the CPP-NPA in Northern Samar, resulting in another huge blow in just a span of 10 days, making their morale "very low as attested by the former rebels who recently returned to the folds of the law."

After the April 30 encounter that killed seven NPA rebels and seizure of four high-powered firearms, soldiers from the 74th Infantry Battalion and a group of NPA terrorists under Front Committee (FC) 15 of the Sub-Regional Committee (SRC) Arctic of the Eastern Visayas Regional Party Committee (EVRPC) engaged in an encounter on Wednesday at Barangay Magsaysay, Mapanas in Northern Samar. The encounter lasted for about 20 minutes and resulted in the recovery of 15 firearms and war materiel, which include two M14 rifles, two AK47 rifles, two M16 rifles, two M4 rifles, one Ingram, one Uzi submachine gun, one homemade shotgun, three .45-caliber pistols, one .38-caliber revolver pistol, bandolier, 12 backpacks and subversive documents.

"I commend our troops for their steadfast commitment to our mandate of ending the local communist armed conflict in the Visayas region. These series of setbacks suffered by the CPP-NPA is a clear manifestation of how serious we are in delivering justice for our people," Arevalo said. Arevalo said it is not too late for the remaining NPA fighters in the mountains of Samar and Negros Island to give up their lost cause. "We know that you are tired and anxious. It's not too late for any of you. You still have the chance to make a difference and change the course of your life," he added. (PNA)



## HONTIVEROS URGES DOE, NGCP TO STEP UP AMID WIDESPREAD BLACKOUTS

Senator Risa Hontiveros urges both the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) to step up and proactively address the power shortage looming over the country.

"Taon-taon na lang problema ang blackouts at kakulangan ng suplay. Taon-taon na rin pinananawagan sa DOE at NGCP na kumilos sila pero bakit parang wala pa ring nangyayari? Both of these agencies should step up and put an end to this energy crisis once and for all," Hontiveros said.

She furthered that DOE and NGCP should also provide a transparent power and rates outlook for the coming days and months following the unexpected power outages across Luzon and the Visayas due to the tripping of NGCP's Bolo-Masinloc transmission lines.

"Expectation vs. Reality. Dapat maging tapat ang DOE at NGCP tungkol sa kondisyon ng power supply at ano ang aasahan ng milyun-milyong konsyumer sa mga susunod na araw at buwan. Baka mangako na naman na gaganda ang sitwasyon pero puro blackouts at taas-singil pa rin. Our consumers deserve to be informed and notified. Hindi bibiglain na naman," Hontiveros said.

The glitch not only affected the supply in Luzon, but also the exports to the Visayas, which had been running low on supplies since last week. The Manila Electric Company (MERALCO) had to implement manual load dropping, which caused power interruptions that lasted several minutes in many areas. Trading was also suspended at the WESM. According to Hontiveros, the Senate appears to have been "taken for a ride" by energy officials, specifically Secretary Lotilla, who assured that the country's electricity supply will remain adequate and stable for the year, which appears to be at odds with the current situation.

"Either the energy officials or the entire power system itself, is suffering from integrity problems. Mayroon nang reseta na noon pa na-prescribe para lutasin ang parehong problema ng suplay at reserba pero hindi sinusunod. Pangakong napako na naman," Hontiveros stated.

The Senator further warned that the power shortage brought on by the coming El Nino and the resulting deficit outputs at the Malampaya and hydroelectric projects would have a negative impact on prices. "Magkakambal ang problema sa suplay ng kuryente at taas-singil. Ang

nakakadismaya ay dalawa lang ang pagpipilian ng konsyumer - blackouts o dagdag na singil. The consumers should not be forced to choose between two unpleasant alternatives. Isa lang ang dapat ibigay sa atin gaya ng ipinangako —an affordable and reliable supply of electricity," Hontiveros said.

In addition, Hontiveros expressed significant concern that this worsening power crisis lends credence to the dubious argument that nuclear power is the only viable solution to the supply problems.

"Nagbibigay lang ito ng pagkakataon na maipuslit ang nuclear option sa bansa at sabihing ito ang mabilisang solusyon sa problema. Hindi ito ang dapat bigyang-prayori-dad dahil kahit sa United States ay hindi minamadali ang roll out ng small modular reactors dahil sa mahigpit na regulasyon ng mga estado," the Senator said.

She argued that instead of incorporating nuclear power into the current power mix that can't even be regulated properly, the government should prioritize the rapid development and deployment of distributed renewable energy systems, which offer greater variability, flexibility, sustainability, and the possibility for energy democracy to flourish in local communities.