



BAYANIHAN INSPIRED COMMUNITY PANTRIES SPROUT IN CAVITE

The Bayanihan spirit inspired by the community pantry in Maginhawa Street in Quezon City had spread like wildfire across the province with private individuals and organizations donating food to help those who are heavily affected by the quarantine.

SC offices physically open during MECQ

The Supreme Court (SC) will be physically open until May 14, 2021, despite adjusted work arrangements in lower courts during the modified enhanced community quarantine period (MECQ).

SC Spokesperson Brian Keith Hosaka clarified that "only the SC offices are physically open." "The other courts (covered by the MECQ) are

>> P2



Community pantries sprouted like mushroom in the province especially in the upland towns of Magallanes, Amadeo, and Ternate thru the efforts of Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) youth councils and other volunteers. Fruit stand owners in

>> P2

P12.1B allotted for MPT South projects this year

MPT South Corp. said it is spending P12.1 billion this year on its C-5 Southlink Expressway, Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) Segment 4 Extension, and Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) projects. MPT South's capital expenditures for 2021 are broken down as follows: "P5.34 billion for

>> P2

Bacoor LGU pushes for herd immunity, opens new vaccination hub

BACOR CITY, Cavite May 3 (PIA) -- In a bid to inoculate more Bacoreños with the arrival of the next batch of CoViD-19 vaccine supply from the Department of Health (DOH), the city government here recently opened an additional vaccination hub at the Niog Elementary School.

A total of 328 residents under the A2 and A3 priority groups were vaccinated during the said launching activity.

Likewise, simultaneous vaccination activities conducted at the Bacoor Coliseum and at the Alima Elemen-



tary School vaccination hubs gave out 350 and 329 vaccine jabs respectively for a total of 1,007 senior citizens and those with comorbidity residents vaccinated on May 1, 2021.

The turnout of residents for the vaccination is due to the intensified information campaign for the CoViD-19 vaccination program by the city government which changed the general perception of the residents particularly the senior citizens in the city from hesitation to trust. "Nandito kami ngayon para magpabakuna laban sa

>> P3

Portion of Cavite-Laguna expressway now 93% complete, opens in Q3

MPCALA Holdings Inc. on Friday said it is on course to make the 7.2-kilometer link from Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Interchange to Silang East Interchange of the Cavite-Laguna expressway (CALAX) operational by the third quarter of 2021.

Roberto V. Bontia, MPCALA president and general manager, said Subsection 5,

which runs from Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Interchange to Silang East Interchange, is now 93% complete.

Toll structures at the Silang East Interchange are already erected, while works are ongoing for the construction of drainage system, and installation of expressways

>> P3



Church offers use of school to augment shortage in isolation facilities

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite May 3 (PIA) -- In the wake of the full use of the isolation facilities in Tanza town, the Catholic Church leaders here offered the St. Augustine High School as additional temporary treatment and monitoring facility for senior citizens and those who have comorbidities.

This initiative of the parish leaders is a welcome measure to help with the current CoViD-19 emergency situation in the municipality.

"It is okay to use the school building since classes are still online," the parish priest said.

It is also unfortunate

that the isolation facilities that cater to mild and asymptomatic cases now had to treat patients with pneumonia. Department of Health (DOH) 4-A Isolation Phy-

sician, Dr. Lani Patacsil reported, "Ang dami damping cases ng may pneumonia para nang hospital ang set-

>> P2



Remulla: 'Middle men' for presidential aspirants already seeking support for elections

Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla said Monday that several "middle men" for presidential aspirants have already been reaching out to him to get the support of the vote-rich province for the 2022 elections.

"Marami na ang mga namamagitan para sa mga may am-

>> P3

Alfonseños assured with affordable housing

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite, May 6 (PIA) -- The local government of Alfonso entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) on May 4 to help Alfonsoseños realize their dream of owning decent houses.

Alfonso Mayor Randy Salamat said the housing project, located in RS Ville, Barangay Taywanak Ibaba is a rent-to-own scheme payable within 30 years thru the SHFC.

A government owned and controlled corporation, SHFC is the lead government agency that undertakes financing of social housing programs catering to formal and informal sectors with low-income.

Salamat added that application for the housing project is open only to legitimate residents of Alfonso, thus applicants will undergo appropriate screening from concerned offices.

"Ang tanging makaka-avail ng pabahay na ito ay ang mga lehitimong taga-Alfonso lamang. Hindi po ito magsisilbing relocation site ng mga taga ibang lugar dahil hindi po natin

isasantabi ang pagpapanatili ng maayos na peace and order status ng ating bayan," explained Salamat.

(Only legitimate Alfonso residents can avail of the housing project. It will not serve as a relocation site for non-residents because we will not put aside the preservation of peace and order in our town)

Interested applicants can visit their respective barangay halls for details of the housing project and fill up the required application form. (Ruel Francisco with reports from Randy Salamat FB page)



Alfonseños will now realize their dream of owning decent houses as the local government unit entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Social Housing Finance Corporation for a housing project located in RS Ville, Barangay Taywanak Ibaba. (Photo: Mayor Randy Salamat FB Page)

P12.1B allotted for MPT South << P1

C5 Southlink, P0.27 billion for CAVITEX Segment 4 Extension, and P6.49 billion for CALAX," MPT South Corp. President and General Manager Roberto V. Bontia said in an e-mailed statement on Monday.

Mr. Bontia said on Friday last week that the CALAX Subsection 5 that is targeted to be opened in the third quarter of the year is now 95% complete.

The CALAX Subsection

5 links Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Interchange to Silang East Interchange. It is part of the 45-kilometer CALAX expressway running from Kawit, Cavite to Mamplasan Interchange in Biñan, Laguna.

The initial operational CALAX segments connect Mamplasan to Santa Rosa in Laguna.

CALAX, once completed, is expected to serve around 45,000 vehicles daily. The Public Works and High-

ways department targets to finish works by the end of 2022. "Just like most businesses, the toll road industry has been affected by the mobility restrictions implemented," Mr. Bontia said.

"Still, our construction remains in full swing for areas with adequate available ROW (right of way), while strictly adhering to COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) protocols set by the national government,"

he added. MPT South is under the Metro Pacific Investments Corp., one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being PLDT, Inc. and Philex Mining Corp.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in BusinessWorld through the Philippine Star Group. — Arjay L. Balinbin
BW FILE PHOTO

Church offers << P1

ting ngayon, wala na kaming choice. Dyan na nagaganap ang gamutan." (There are numerous cases with pneumonia that it is like a hospital setting now, we don't have a choice. Treatment is being done there.) Moreover, hospitals could not immediately accommodate admissions with patients' waiting list reaching up to a hundred because of the rate of infection of the disease.

According to Rural Health Officer Dr. Ruth Punzalan, a sad and unfortunate reality is that patients with moderate, severe or critical symptoms who needed to be

admitted in the hospital succumb to the disease at home before they could even be hospitalized.

Punzalan calls on the public to help with the project thru donations of hospital beds, oxygen tanks, wheelchairs, and other useful medical equipment.

The project for the conversion of the school building into isolation facility is a partnership between LGU Tanza, the DOH, and other civic organizations which is targeted to be opened this month of May. (Ruel Francisco with reports from Balitang Tanzeño FB Live)

SC offices physically open << P1

to remain physically closed," he said. All offices in the Supreme Court shall be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 3 to 14, 2021, read the order of Clerk of Court Marife Cuevas and approved by Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo.

Adjusted work arrangements in courts lower than the SC, including physical closure in select areas, were

extended last week following the declaration of another period of MECQ.

Under the advisory, the seven-day extension under previous issuances for the filing and service of pleadings, motions, and other court submission with the Supreme Court started Monday.

The National Capital Region, Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite, and Laguna, will be under

MECQ until May 14, and until May 31 in Quirino and Abra provinces and Santiago City in Isabela. In Administrative Circular No. 29-2021 dated April 30, Gesmundo said all first and second level courts, and appellate collegiate courts and their judicial officers in the areas "shall continue to be physically closed until May 14".

The order also applies to

court and judicial offices in other areas under localized ECQ and MECQ. Essential judicial offices shall maintain the necessary skeleton staff to address urgent matters and concerns while courts in areas under general community quarantine (GCQ) and modified GCQ shall be physically opened with a workforce of not more than 25 percent. (PNA)

Bayanihan inspired community << P1

the city of Tagaytay give out fruits and vegetables while a group called 'Tropang Pugon' continue to receive donations of vegetables, rice, and other food items for the weekly visit of their mobile community pantry in the different barangays in Tagaytay.

In Alfonso town, the The Sharing Table (TST) initiated by the Sahagun-Nuestro family in Barangay Sulsugin during the height of the pandemic last year was reopened. A TST will be set up in each barangay to give easy access to the residents while properly observing the minimum health protocols.

The LGU Alfonso, Liga ng mga Barangay, SK Federation, Alfonso Municipal Police Station, Samahan ng mga Barangay Kagawad, and other non-government organizations, farmers cooperative, and market vendors association in the municipality fully supported the TST.

To give back to the people for their free education as scholars, a group of students and new graduates from the Cavite State University and PUP Maragondon asked for support for contributions and donations for food items to be shared in the community pantry they set up in Barangays Halayhay and Julugan catering to fisherfolks.

"Pinag-aral kami gamit ang buwis ng taong bayan kaya oras na para magbalik ng tulong sa mamamayan," saad nila. (We have been educated using the tax paid by the people so it's time to return the favor to them.)

Likewise, a community pantry in the City of General Trias was set up by a group of volunteers to help the local farmers of the city. A FB post by group member Xian Lozares that says "BayANIhan mula sa anihan hanggang sa hapagkainan," implied the intention of the group to help

the local farmers with the purchase of their farm harvests which in turn will be shared in their community pantry. "This way we are able to help the farmers with their livelihood and help others as well thru sharing of the farm produce," Lozares said.

Meanwhile, the stock box community pantry in the municipality of Silang put up by Marvin Garcia caught the attention of netizens with the comic tag lines that remind people to take as they need.

"We don't mean to offend anyone. So we thought of a fun way to tell them," Garcia explained.

Government agencies also joined the bandwagon of goodhearted citizens such as the BARANGAYanihan Community Pantry of the Trece Martires Component Police Station (CPS) headed by LtCol. Jose Junar Alamo together with the Sangguniang Barangay Conchu as they

gave out noodles, rice, coffee, and sardines to the residents in need.

Aside from food sharing, LTO Carmona employees distributed road safety flyers and leaflets in their Hapag Damayan Community Pantry as part of its continuing efforts to keep the road safe for all.

A notable version is the Community PlanTree of Carlo Gonzales, owner of C&K's Garden in Cavite City. His pantry offered free ornamental plants, Humic Plus Fertilizer, osmocote, hanging baskets, and even succulents to give the residents a productive and healthy hobby and keep their minds off the anxiety and depression brought by the pandemic.

The pantry was a success that he targets to have 'fruit-bearing trees' in his next Pan Tree offering. (Ruel Francisco with reports from LGU FB pages)

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NEDA: "walang kadala-dala" sa COVID 19 restrictions

INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY: "...Huwag kayong makiy-on sa takbo ng mundong ito. Sa halip, hayaan ninyong baguhin ng Diyos ang inyong pag-iisip upang maunawaan ninyo ang kanyang kalooban. Sa gayon, magagawa ninyo kung ano ang mabuti, kalugod-lugod at ganap na kalooban ng Diyos..." (Roma 12:2, Ang Tanging Daan Bibliya).

NEDA "WALANG KADALA-DALA" SA PANUKALA NITONG IBABA NA NG GOBYERNONG DUTERTE ANG MECQ STATUS SA METRO TUNGO SA GCQ; "Walang kadala-dala. Ito ang naging pagsasalarawan noong umaga ng martes, Mayo 04, 2021, ng ilang mga dalubhasang duktor at mga ekonomista sa panukala ng National Economic Development Authority o NEDA na dapat ng luwagan na naman ng gobyernong Duterte at ng Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases o I.A.T.F. ng Pilipinas ang mga umiiral na reqlamento sa Covid 19.

Nais kasi ng NEDA, sa kaniyang kalatas sa Malacanang na ibaba na mula sa kasalukuyang Modified Enhance Community Quarantine (MECQ) ang Metro Manila Bubble, tungo sa General Community Quarantine. Ginagawa ng NEDA ang panukalang ito sa layuning mapasiglang muli ang negosyo, pangangalakal, at pagkakaroon ng trabaho ng milyong mga Pilipino sa National Capital Region, at sa katabi nitong mga lalawigan.

Sa isang pakikipagpanayam sa Kakampi Mo Ang Batas, sinabi ng isang opisyal ng OCTA Research Group na humiling na huwag na munang banggitin ang kaniyang pangalan, na kapag susunod ang gobyernong Duterte at ang IATF sa panukala ng NEDA, tiyak ang pagkakaroon na naman ng mas maraming bilang ng mga nahahawa ng Covid 19 sa Metro Manila, at sa Bulacan, Cavite, at Laguna, gaya ng nauna ng nangyari.

Sa kasalukuyan kasi, ayon sa OCTA Research Group official, nasa alanganin pa din ang sitwasyon ng Covid 19 sa mga lugar na ito. Hindi pa din naaabot, ayon sa OCTA research, ang katanggap-tanggap na bilang ng mga nahahawa, at malaki pa din ang bilang mga tinatamaan araw-araw. Kung patuloy

na madami ang nahahawa araw-araw, sa bilang na hindi bumababa sa pitong libong katao araw-araw, nagpapatuloy din ang bagsik ng Covid 19, dagdag pa niya.

OCTA RESEARCH GROUP, NAGBABALA LABAN SA PAG-ALIS NG MECQ SA NCR BUBBLE: Batay sa mga datos ng Department of Health, sinabi ng iba pang mga opisyal ng OCTA Research na may apatnapu at tatlong ospital at infirmaries sa Metro Manila ang punum-puno pa din ng mga pasyente, habang limampu at siyam namang iba pa ay nasa mas mataas na antas na ng critical level, mula noong Abril 24.

Isa sa mga pangunahing dahilan nito, ayon pa sa OCTA Research, ay ang kabiguan ng mga pamahalaang lokal sa NCR Bubble na supilin ang paglobo ng bilang ng mga nahahawa ng Covid 19 sa kanilang mga lokalidad. Kung sa gayon ay ibabalik na ng gobyernong Duterte sa GCQ ang katayuan ng NCR Bubble, tiyak na sasabog na naman ang bilang ng mga tatamaan ng virus sa kanilang mga nasasakupang mamamayan. Hindi magtatagal at kakalat na naman ang pandemya sa mga katabing bayan o lungsod, dagdag pa ng OCTA Research.

Sa harap ito ng pagpupumilit ng NEDA na dapat ng maging GCQ ang status ng Metro Manila ngayong Mayo. Kailangan nga lamang, dagdag ng NEDA, na papag-ibayuhin ng gobyerno ang ang kaniyang mga pagkilos upang pigilin, ihiwalay, gamutin, at tulungang makabawi sa kalusugan ang mga nahahawa, ayon na rin sa estratihya nitong PDTIR, o prevent, detect, isolate, treat and recover strategy.

Ayon kay NEDA Director General Karl Kendrick Chua noong Lunes, hindi na kaya pa ng buong bansa na nananatili ang mga istrikong regulasyon sa MECQ status ang Metro Manila, dahil napakalaki ng kontribusyon nito sa pangkalahatang pagsulong ng ekonomiya. Sinabi ni Chua, 42.6 na porsiyento sa service sector at 20 punto 8 porsiyento naman sa industrial sector ang nagmumula sa NCR, at hindi ito natatanggap ng bansa ngayon dahil sa kaniyang MECQ status.

PAGBABAGO SA ISIP NG MGA TAO, DAPAT ISULONG NG MGA SIMBAHAN: Samantala, ayon naman sa Filipino think tank group na Dimensions And Solutions Inc.,



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

ang isang taktikang dapat bigyang pansin ng gobyernong Duterte at ng I.A.T.F. ay ang pagkakaroon ng maraming mga pamilyang Pilipino ng sarili nilang mapagkakakitaan, bagamat sila ay naka-quarantine sa loob ng kanilang mga tahanan.

Magagawa ito sa pamamagitan ng mga urban gardening initiatives, kung saan bibigyan ng gobyerno ng libreng mga buto at mga gamit sa hydroponics cultivation ang mga pamilya. Marami na ang nakakagawa nito sa kasalukuyan, ayon sa Dimensions And Solutions, Inc., at gagayahin na lamang ng gobyerno ang kasalukuyang sistema.

Magagamit din kasi ang hydroponics cultivation sa pag-aalaga ng tilapia, hito, o iba pang mga isda ng hindi na kailangan ng malaking gastos. Kasabay itong pag-aalagang ito ng mga isda ng pagpapalaki ng mga hydroponics plants o vegetables, ayon naman kay Professor Noi T Albo, ang pinuno ng think tank group.

Ipinanawagan din ng Dimensions And Solutions Inc. ang pakikipagtulungan sa gobyerno ng mga pinuno ng mga simbahan sa bansa upang turuan ang kanilang mga kawan na magkaroon ng bagong pag-iisip. Masyado na kasing nasanay ang mga Pilipino sa kaisipang nagta-trabaho sila sa mga kompanya o sa mga paktor, o sa abroad, na lahat ay nakadepende sa buwanang suweldo.

Ang kailangan ngayon, baguhin ang kaisipan ng mga tao at ibigay sa kanila ang kamalayan na pupuwede din silang maging mga negosyante, mangangalakal, o di kaya ay entrepreneur. Maliliit lamang ang magiging umpisa ng mga negosyo o kalakal na ito, pero mabubuksan nito ang isip ng mga pilipino na ang tunay nilang kapalaran ay ang pagkakaroon ng sarili nilang ikabubuhay, gamit ang kanilang sariling mga puhunan.

Remulla: Middlemen for presidential << P1

bisyong tumakbo bilang pangulo. Gustong humarap sa akin, makipag-usap at kumuha ng suporta para sa dating na halalan," Remulla disclosed in a Facebook post.

(There are several middle men for presidential aspirants who want to talk to me and get support for the upcoming elections.)

In a text message to INQUIRER.net, Remulla said at least three people have reached out to him to seek his support for their presidential bets.

"Safe to say 3 people have asked," he said.

He refused to disclose which political camps they come from.

In his Facebook post, Remulla said he also has no interest in meeting with them yet.

"So far, wala po akong interes makipagkita kahit kanino. Ito ay hindi dahil sa

ayaw ko sa kanila. Gusto ko lang kasi muna malaman kung ano ba ang plano nila para isaayos ang ating bansa?" the governor said.

(So far, I don't have interest in meeting with anyone. This is not because I don't like them. I just want to know what their plans are to fix the problems of the country.)

"Time and again we have been disappointed by what always start as good intentions. Yet, what we always get is one's inability to follow through and deliver. Anyone in position will always fall short of the people's very high expectations," he added.

Remulla then said he is contemplating if his constituents should be the ones to advise him on who the province should support in the upcoming elections.

He noted, however, that this will be a long process of

consultation with his constituents.

"Sure, this will be a long process of consultation and dialogue. But you see, this cannot be my decision alone. I'd rather we do this together as one massive collective force of 2.2 million strong registered voters—so we can shape the conversation and contribute as a whole to the country," said Remulla.

According to Remulla, some of the pressing issues that must be addressed by presidential aspirants are the economic woes of the country, the West Philippine Sea,

and their plans for the youth.

On the issue of the West Philippine Sea, Remulla stressed that the next president should be a leader who is "loyal to the interest" of Filipinos.

"Hanggang biro ng jetski na lang ba tayo (Can we only joke about riding a jetski?) What we need is a leader who will be LOYAL to the interest of the people and the country," he said.

Meanwhile, Remulla said he will run for re-election as governor in the next polls. (By: Cathrine Gonzales - Reporter / @cgonzalesINQ)



Portion of Cavite-Laguna << P1

road and safety features such as road lights, guard rails, and barriers, he added. "Once operational, we expect CALAX to serve around 5,000 motorists daily, thereby helping decongest traf-

fic along Governor's Drive, Aguinaldo Highway, and Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road," Bontia said in a statement. "It is also expected to help accelerate economic progress in Laguna and Cavite as it connects

the two provinces of Region IV-A." The whole 45-kilometer stretch of CALAX includes eight interchanges in Kawit, Governor's Drive, Open Canal, Silang (Aguinaldo) Highway, Silang East,

Santa Rosa-Tagaytay, Laguna Boulevard, and Laguna Technopark. MPCALA is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corp., the tollway arm of conglomerate Metro Pacific Investments Corporation.

Bacoor LGU pushes for herd << P1

CoViD-19. Taliwas sa mga unang napapabalita tungkol sa vaccine tungkol sa mga namamatay, mas minabuti nang maging protektado laban sa CoViD-19," a fe-

male senior citizen resident proudly said.

(We are here today to get vaccinated against CoViD-19. Contrary to initial reports about the deaths

from the vaccine, it is better to be protected against CoViD-19.)

As of May 1, 2021, records show a total of 8,074 Bacooreños inoculated with

the 1st dose of the CoViD-19 vaccines. (Ruel Francisco with reports from the City Government of Bacoor FB page)

Over 100 moms receive early Mother's Day treat from Kapuso Foundation



Over a hundred moms from Tanza, Cavite enjoyed an advanced Mother's Day treat from the GMA Kapuso Foundation.

According to a report on "24 Oras," 102 super moms who make their livelihood selling tinapa in Barangay Julugan III received grocery packs ahead of their special day.

One of the beneficiaries is Aida Arcega, a single mother who supports her six children all alone after her husband's death in 2014.

"Maliit pa ang mga anak ko nagtitinapa na ako," said Nanay Aida. "Handa akong sumuporta sa kanila hanggat makakaya ko."

("I've been selling tinapa since my children were small. I'm ready to support them for as long as I can.")

Aside from grocery packs, the moms received kitchen ware, beauty products, face masks, face shields, mamon bread.

Forty mothers who are willing to undergo medical tests also received free pap smear and breast examination.

The Kapuso Foundation is still accepting donations through bank deposits, Cebuana Lhuiller, and Pay Maya. Vouchers can also be bought from Shopee and Zalora.

For more information, visit GMA Kapuso Foundation's website.

—MGP, GMA News

Cavite rep, Carmona mayor on home quarantine



Spouses Cavite 5th District Rep. Dahlia A. Loyola and Carmona Mayor Roy M. Loyola are under strict home quarantine after one of their children contracted COVID-19.

Mayor Loyola announced this in a Facebook post on Wednesday (April 28).

“Sumailalim po ang lahat ng close contact sa RT-PCR test at awa ng Diyos ay negative po kaming lahat (Our close contacts have undergone RT-PCR test and thank God, the results turned out negative),” Loyola wrote.

“Gayunpaman, kami ay kailangan sumunod sa 14-day quarantine requirement (Either way, we still need to follow the 14-day quarantine requirement).”

Loyola assured his constituents that despite being quarantined, this will not hamper any government service delivery, including financial aid distribution.

Statement of Senator Risa Hontiveros on the aggression of the China Coast Guard and the prolonged stay of Chinese vessels in the WPS

The Philippines has had enough. Tama na. Beijing should command its Chinese Coast Guard to leave Bajo de Masinloc, the Kalayaan Island Group, and all other areas of the West Philippine Sea now. The Philippine Coast Guard has the absolute right to conduct maritime patrols and training exercises in the entire West Philippine Sea. Lubos na nakakagalit na ang coast guard pa natin ang nahaharangan at hinahamon ng Tsina sa ating mga teritoryo.

I support the Department of Foreign Affairs in protesting China Coast Guard's dangerous maneuvers and radio challenges to our PCG, and for pushing back against the prolonged and illegal presence of Chinese vessels in our waters. But we must not stop at these diplomatic protests. Dapat maghanap na tayo ng paraan kung paano magbayad ang Tsina hindi lang para sa mga nasira niyang likas-yaman, kundi pati narin sa lantarang paglabag niya sa batas na maring sinusunod ng mga bansa sa buong mundo.

China's attitude towards the Philippines and other South China Sea claimant countries is an infraction of sovereign agreements, to which she is a signatory. If China cannot follow international law, including the UNCLOS, the global community must continuously band together to pressure China to comply.

Excessive Chinese claims should be challenged, lest they become the norm. We should also send more ships to the WPS to show China how worthless, illegitimate, and unlawful her claims are. This is not the time to kowtow to the autocratic and hypocritical regime in Beijing. If we don't assert our rights under international law, we lose them. Let's not stop until China is put in her place. Bullies never win.

RFID users with insufficient balance will soon be fined P1,000

The three-strike policy shall be made effective on May 15, 2021

The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) will start implementing its three-strike policy on May 15, 2021. Guidelines have already been set by the TRB in order to properly educate motorists with regard to their duties and responsibilities as RFID users. As per the TRB's guidelines, an LTO-deputized traffic enforcer will remind violators of their insufficient RFID load during the first offense. Also, for documentation purposes, the enforcer will record the violation in their database system and will issue a TRB-prescribed document as proof of violation. The same practice also applies when a motorist reaches their second offense. Once the RFID user has made its third offense, the driver's license will be confiscated, plus, a traffic violation tick-

et will be issued along with a P1,000 fine.

Notably, the TRB has already done its part in order to avoid such repetitive violations, it assuring that real-time load crediting is observed by all reloading facilities. Moreover, the government agency will also send a monthly email to all RFID users, therefore, ensuring that the Electronic Toll Collection System is working in accordance with the approved Minimum Performance Standard and Specifications (MPSS).

In conjunction with this, both Easytrip and Autosweep gave users the flexibility to reload anywhere and anytime through GCash, PayMaya, and any of its bank partners. Plus, motorists also have the option of reloading through 7-Eleven stores,



Robinsons Mall, and SM supermalls. The Easytrip RFID is used on toll roads under the Metro Pacific Toll Company (MPTC), including the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), C5 Link, Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), and Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway. While the Autosweep RFID is used on San Miguel

Corporation (SMC) toll roads that include the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), and Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX). Given this, RFID users should remain aware and mindful of their current balance in order to avoid this common mistake on toll roads.



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Duterte Ready to Lift Quarantine Restrictions



President Rodrigo Duterte is willing to lift the quarantine rules once the situation in the country improves, Malacañang said on Tuesday.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque issued the statement, a day after Duterte vowed to stop restrictions on public movement if the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) no longer serves as a threat. Roque, in an online press conference, said quarantine restrictions would be lifted, on conditions that more Filipinos get inoculated against Covid-19, the number of intensive care unit (ICU) beds in the country increases, and the transmission of the coronavirus slows down.

“Ang ibig sabihin po ni Presidente, ‘pag marami-rami na ang nabakunahan at ‘pag napadami na natin iyong ating mga ICU beds lalung-lalo na at napakita natin na napababa na natin iyong pagkalat ng virus ay pupuwede na po talaga tayong magbukas muli ng ating ekonomiya (The President wants to say that if many Filipinos get vaccinated and we are able to get new ICU beds and slow down the transmission of the virus, we can reopen our economy),” he said.

In a taped address to the nation, Duterte admitted that it is not easy to prolong the strict health and quarantine protocols amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Duterte, however, acknowledged that he needs to heed the “proper advice” of medical professionals to curb the spread of the coronavirus in the country. “Sa katapusan nito, magpasalamat tayo sa mga doctor, the medical people who really give us the proper advice. It is good to listen to people na may alam. Linya nila ‘yan eh (We should thank the doctors and medical people who really give us the proper advice after its end. It is good to listen to knowledgeable people. That's their expertise),” he said.

He, nevertheless, ensured the public that he will order the immediate lifting of quarantine restrictions, “once things begin to clear.”

A more restrictive modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) has been imposed in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Quirino, Abra, Ifugao, and the City of Santiago in Isabela until May 14.

On the other hand, Apayao, Baguio City, Benguet, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Ecija, Vizcaya, Batangas, Quezon, Tacloban City, Iligan City, Davao City, Lanao del Sur, and Puerto Princesa City are under the more relaxed general community quarantine (GCQ) for the whole month of May.

The rest of the country stays under the least restrictive MGCQ until May 31. The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases has approved the resumption of more businesses in MECQ zones by allowing restaurants, eateries, and other food preparation establishments to resume their indoor dine-in services at an initial 10-percent seating capacity.

Beauty salons, beauty parlors, barbershops, and nail spas are also allowed to operate at an initial 30-percent venue capacity. (PNA)