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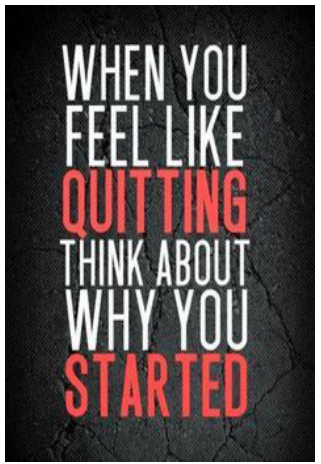
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# HERALD

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OCTOBER 3-9, 2021 P 15.00 VOL. XXVII NO. 10



# LP Cavite solon pledges support to Sara Duterte



Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio

A lawmaker who is a member of the Liberal Party on Friday threw his support behind the possible presidential candidacy of Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio. **>> P2**

## Cavite Covid cases reach 100K

The province of Cavite province has recorded 109,497 cases of Covid-19 since the pandemic began last year. According to the report from the Department of Health Center for Health Development-4A on Sunday, there were 586 new cases in the province, bringing the total number of active cases to 17,973. There 89,029 recoveries and 2,495 fatalities since March 2020. Bacoor City has a total of 19,806 confirmed cases, Imus City has 17,588 and General Trias has 13,765.

## DPWH reservoir projects to play pivotal role in mitigating floods in Imus, Bacoor

PUBLIC Works and Highways Secretary Mark A. Villar on Thursday, September 23, 2021, led the inauguration ceremony of Cavite's two floodwater reservoir projects in Barangay Buhay na Tubig, Imus City. Villar was joined by



**>> P2**

## Japan-designed retarding basin in Cavite inaugurated

The Japanese-designed retarding basin in Imus, Cavite was inaugurated on Thursday, the Japanese Embassy in Manila said.

The project, designed to mitigate flood damage in low-lying areas, is part of the Flood Risk Management Project for Imus River financed by Japan's official development assistance.

The Imus Retarding Basin includes an 84-meter



The Imus Retarding Basin (Photo courtesy of Japanese Embassy in Manila)

**>> P3**

## Maynilad to draw water from Cavite rivers



West Zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) improved its capacity to draw water from the rivers within the province of Cavite and nearby areas, with the completion of the installation of its P68.6-million Julian Modular Treatment Plant (MTP).

The Julian MTP is one of the four treatment plants Maynilad is constructing in Cavite to help improve service levels in the area by producing additional water supply drawn from nearby rivers.

Located inside Maynilad's Patindig Araw

Pumping Station in Imus City, the Julian MTP can produce four million liters of water per day (MLD).

Maynilad said that once it becomes operational by yearend, the Julian MTP will help improve water availability and pressure for about 19,000 Maynilad customers in Cavite.

Last May, Maynilad announced it was preparing for the construction of its new P10-billion water treatment plant in Muntinlupa. However, the company had to push the target completion date

**>> P3**

## SSS receives over 17,726 maternity benefit applications online

A month after its initial implementation last May 31, 2021, the Social Security System (SSS) received over 17,726 maternity benefit applications online through the My.SSSPortal on the SSS website.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Aurora C. Ignacio said that the online submission of Maternity Benefit Application (MBA) was implemented to provide faster, easier, and more convenient options for female members to transact with the SSS.

"As one of the vulnerable sectors of our society, the SSS immediately responded to the needs of our pregnant members especially during this pandemic," said Ignacio. Qualified to submit MBA online are female self-employed, voluntary, overseas Filipino

**>> P3**

# Oposisyon sa Halalan 2022, matatalo lang Sara Duterte



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

INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY: "... Ang mga kaaway na magtatangkang lumaban sa inyo ay ipatatalo sa inyo ni Yahweh na inyong Diyos. Sasalakayin nila kayo, ngunit magkanya-kanya sila ng pagtakas..." (Deuteronomio 28:7, Ang Tanging Daan Bibliya).

OPOSISYON, WALANG IISANG KANDIDATO SA PAGPA-PANGULO SA HALALAN 2022: Hindi magkakaroon ng iisang kandidato sa pagka-pangulo sa Halalan 2022 ang mga grupong nagsasabing sila ang oposisyon sa pamahalaang Duterte sa ngayon. Lahat kasi sila ay nagnanais na mahirang na siyang kakandidatong pangulo, at walang nakahanda sa kanila na magbigay-daan sa iisang kandidato lamang.

Dahil dito, inaasahan ng maraming mamamayang Pilipino ang matinding pagkatalo na naman ng mga kandidatong tumututol sa pagpapatuloy ng isa pang Duterte presidency sa pamamagitan naman ni Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte Carpio.

Ang pinakamabigat na dahilan ng napipintong pagkatalo ng oposisyon kay Sara Duterte sa Halalan 2022 ay ang pagkakahati-hati ng boto ng kanilang mga taga-suporta. Dahil marami ang kandidato ng oposisyon, tiyak na hindi sila makakakuha ng sapat na boto upang talunin si Sara.

Ganundin, sa parehong dahil ng pagkakawatak-watak, magiging mahina din ang makinarya at ang resources ng mga kandidatong oposisyon. Magkakaroon pa sila ng pag-aagawan sa mga posibleng campaign contributors, na tiyak magdadalang-isip sa pagbibigay sa kanila ng campaign funds.

DAHIL WATAK-WATAK ANG OPOSISYON, TAGUMPAY NG KANDIDATO NG ADMINISTRASYONG DUTERTE INAASAHAN: Ang ipinagtataka lamang ng mga nagmamasiid sa pulitika ay ang pagpupumilit ng mga kandidato sa oposisyon na tumakbo bilang pangulo. Nagiging katataw-tawa ang mga kandidatong ito dahil alam naman nila, o di kaya ay dapat alam na nila, na wala sila sa katayuan upang tumakbong pangulo kalaban ng isang kandidatong nakatuntong sa makinarya at resources ng nakaupong pangulo.

Dehado ang tayo ng mga kalaban ni Sara, pero, nagpupumilit silang tumakbo. Iba't iba ang dahilang nakikita ng mamamayan sa pagtakbong ito ng mga kandidato sa oposisyon.

Ang unang dahilan dito, sa mata ng mamamayan, ay kayabangan na lamang ng ilang kandidato. Alam ng mga kandidatong ito na wala silang pera, walang makinarya, at walang popularidad na hahatak ng mga boto. Pero dahil nag-iisip sila na sila ang itinakdang wawasak sa gobyernong Duterte, o di kaya ay magiging tagapagligtas ng mga naghihirap na mamamayan, nanggagalait pa din sila, at ipinagpipilitan ang kanilang mga sarili. Ang iba naman ay nabubuyo na lamang ng kanilang mga taga-suporta o mga kaalyado sa pulitika. Nagpipikit na lamang ng mata ang mga kandidatong ito upang mapagbigyan lamang ang mga pinagkaka-utangan nila ng loob sa pulitika, na ang nais lamang ay maipakitang buhay pa ang partido nila.

ILANG MGA KANDIDATO, ALAM NAMANG MATATALO SILA PERO TUMATAKBO PA DIN: Ang iba namang kandidato ay may pera, at popular dahil sa mga naunang kaganapan sa kanilang mga buhay. Ang nagiging problema lamang, nakikita ng taumbayan na magiging kulang ang kanilang kakayahan sa pamumuno pag nanalo sila, at ang mga nakapaligid lamang sa kanila ang hahawak ng kapangyarihan sa gobyerno. Bagamat sinasabing magaganda ang mga ipinapahayag nilang plataporma de gobyerno, hindi

naman maliwanag kung ano ang kanilang mga inihahandang hakbangin upang magkaroon ng tagumpay ang kanilang mga sinasabing mithiin para sa bayan.

Mayroon din namang mga kandidato sa hanay ng oposisyon na itinatago ang kanilang balaking kumandidato sa layuning may mga magpupumilit sa kanila upang lumahok sa halalang pampanguluhan sa 2022.

Nahihiya, o di kaya ay talagang kumbinsido ang mga kandidatong ito na wala din sila sa katayuan upang manalo, pero pag nakaroon ng mga panawagan sa kanila upang tumakbo, doon sila magpapahayag ng pagtakbo.

Kahit paano, kapag natalo ang mga kandidatong ito, may maidadahilan silang noong una pa man ay ayaw na nilang tumakbo pero napilit lamang sila.

## DPWH reservoir projects << P1

Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Kazuhiko Koshikawa, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Undersecretary for Unified Project Management Office (UPMO) Operations Emil K. Sadain, Cavite Governor Juanito Victor C. Remulla, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Chief Representative Eigo Azukizawa, Cavite 2nd District Representative Strike Revilla and Cavite 3rd District Representative Alex L. Advincula.

The event was also attended by DPWH UPMO Flood Control Management Cluster (FCMC) Project Director Ramon A. Ariola III, UPMO Project Directors Benjamin A. Bautista and Rodrigo I. Delos Reyes and Project Manager Aurelio C. Mendoza.

Villar said that the Imus and Bacoor retarding basins implemented by DPWH UPMO-FCMC are expected to help manage or mitigate the challenges of rainy season for Imus and Bacoor that are highly susceptible to rain-induced flash flooding.

The project will help address flooding woes in low-lying areas affected by the confluence of Imus River and Bacoor River, Villar added. According to Sadain, the design of the two retarding basins was based on a comprehensive flood management master plan prepared by Jica.

These constructed retarding basins will temporarily store most, if not all, of the rainwater run-off during very high rainfall to reduce the peak volume of flood flow and later release at regulated rate, Sa-

dain said. The reservoirs that will also reduce the floodwater going downstream were built under financing of Jica's Official Development Assistance (ODA).

When water level increases during flooding, the floodwater overflows into the retarding basins and will be discharge once the water level in Imus and Bacoor River subsides or at normal rate. The Imus and Bacoor River has a water

detention area of about 35 hectares with 2-meters-by-2-meters one barrel drainage sluice and 84 meters overflow dike.

On the other hand, the Bacoor retarding basin located in Barangay Buhay na Tubig has two basin connected by a 2.7-meters-by-2.7-meters one barrel sluiceway for a total pond area of nine hectares with overflow dike of 42 meters and 1-meter-by-1-meter one barrel drainage sluice.

**"YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO BUILD SOMETHING FAR BIGGER THAN YOURSELF"**

Seth Godin

## LP Cavite solon pledges << P1

"For the Duterte family, there is no opposition. If you are in need, they will be there. That is my reason for backing the candidacy of Mayor Sara for President in 2022," Cavite First District Rep. Francis Gerald Aguinaldo Abaya told reporters.

Abaya stressed that his decision is entirely his own, and does not reflect the views of other Liberal Party members in Cavite. "We all have our own minds in the Liberal Party," he explained. "This is my own."

Abaya revealed that the assistance in terms of projects from the President, and even from the Davao City mayor, have been "continuous and heavy," be it "ayuda (cash aid)", medical help, burial assistance from the

DWSD, and others.

"I do not know the President, nor do I know tLiberal Party he Mayor from Davao City, and I am from the opposition," he pointed out. "Still the assistance keeps on coming. There is just no way I can ignore the kindness and support of the President and his daughter, especially now when my constituents in the 1st district continue to suffer because of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Abaya said his support for Mayor Duterte-Carpio's candidacy is anchored on the generous programs of her father, and the "promise of continuity" should she succeed him as the next President of the Philippines in the next six years.

The Cavite legislator

likewise pointed to Mayor Duterte-Carpio's qualities of being "independent-minded and principled," both of which swayed him to make his decision to support her should she decide to run for President.

"I especially liked her stand not to run when her father said he will run for Vice-President, because they have an agreement that only one Duterte should hold national office. That, for me, shows Mayor Sara is a very principled politician, and is not an opportunist," he noted.

Abaya, meanwhile, thanked the President for giving assistance and support to his move to upgrade the Kawit Kalayaan Hospital to a Level 2 District Hospi-

tal under House Bill 7123, which he filed last July 20 at the 18th Congress.

The measure proposed that the public hospital be upgraded from 25 beds to 100 beds. Abaya said the President's full support will help his urban poor constituents who desperately need affordable and accessible healthcare facilities and services amid the COVID-19 scourge.

The Kawit Kalayaan Hospital is located at Barangay San Sebastian, Kawit, Cavite.

"I am delighted to announce the continued support by the President of my bill to upgrade the capacity of Kawit Kalayaan Hospital from 25 to 100 hospital beds," he said.

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## SSS receives over 17,726 << P1

worker (OFW), non-working spouse members, and members who are separated from employment and have not receive any advanced payment of maternity benefit from their previous employers, including household employees.

They should also meet the standard qualifying conditions including the contribution requirement of at least three monthly contributions within the 12-month period immediately preceding the semester of the childbirth, miscarriage, or emergency termination of pregnancy (ETP). They may submit their maternity notification via the My.SSS portal on the SSS website or through the SSS Mobile App.

“We would like to remind our members that only contributions paid prior to the semester of childbirth,

miscarriage, or ETP will be considered in determining eligibility for maternity benefits. That’s why it is very important for individual members to pay their contributions regularly,” added Ignacio.

In the case of employed members, they should notify their employers upon learning about their pregnancy. Meanwhile, employers should pay them their maternity benefits in advance and file for maternity benefit reimbursement application online through the My.SSS Portal in the SSS website.

The SSS Chief also reminded its members and employers to enroll their bank accounts first in the Disbursement Account Enrollment Module (DAEM) before submitting their applications and reimbursements.

Covered under the online MBA are initial or new maternity benefit claims, as well as adjustments for the following scenarios: member being a solo parent; correction on the type of delivery from normal to caesarian delivery or from miscarriage to ectopic pregnancy with operation; SSS computation is higher than the employer’s computation; additional

posted contributions will increase the benefit amount, correction of the approved number of compensable days from 60 (normal delivery) or 78 (caesarian section delivery) to 105 days; and allocation of leave credits not used due to separation from employment of child’s father or qualified alternate caregiver.

Uploading of supporting documents are required

for the filing of MBA online. Members are reminded to ensure that the uploaded documents are complete, properly scanned and clear, and not altered or tampered to avoid rejection of the claim.

The mandatory implementation of MBA online

took effect last September 1, 2021, where over-the-counter applications or filing through drop box in SSS branch offices are no longer accepted. The step-by-step procedure of online submission of MBA can be accessed through this link <https://bit.ly/372GvQc>.

## Death rather than Sin

St. Dominic Savio

## Maynilad to << P1

for the project to the latter part of 2023 due to pandemic-triggered delays.

At the time, the water company said it has already commenced the laying of a primary pipeline along Umali Street in Barangay Poblacion, Muntinlupa City, in preparation for the construction of a new water treatment plant that will draw water from Laguna Lake.

This 1,800mm-diameter pipeline will convey water to be produced in the soon-to-rise Poblacion Water Treatment Plant.

The P10-billion treatment plant is part of Maynilad’s medium-term plan to produce additional supply so it can meet the growing water demand in Metro Manila and nearby areas and ease over-reliance on Angat Dam.

Angat Dam is currently the only major water supply

source for Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

The Poblacion plant is going to be Maynilad’s third such facility to be built in the area since it began tapping and treating water from the Laguna Lake– the largest lake in the Philippines – in 2010.

Designed to produce 150 MLD of potable water, Maynilad’s new treatment facility will primarily serve Cavite areas too, and also other areas south of the West Zone concession.

It was originally set for completion in 2022 but quarantine restrictions affecting the mobility of workers have forced Maynilad to push back its target completion date to the latter part of 2023, the company said.

Once the Poblacion facility is completed, Maynilad will have a total of five water treatment plants catering to the West Zone.

## Japan-designed << P1

overflow dike, standing an average of three meters in height with 1.3 kilometers of surrounding dike and 1.1 kilometers of separating dike.

The Department of Public Works and Highways excavated approximately 2 million cubic meters of soil to unearth seven meters in depth in the 35-hectare land area for the retarding basin.

Retarding basins are being constructed to temporarily store most, if not all, of the rainwater run-off, to absorb and contain flooding in periods of high rain, and later release it at a regulated flow rate.

The project also includes another retarding basin in Bacoor which will be completed by 2021, based on the flood management master plan for Imus River prepared by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

At the inauguration ceremony in Imus, Ambassador Koshikawa Kazuhiko said the proper operation and maintenance of this first retarding basin will serve as a “key in demonstrating its full capability in the long run.”

He later urged local personnel to work together “to make every Caviteño feel safer and more protected from typhoons and flooding.”

Similar flood mitigation projects were also completed at the Cagayan River Basin in Northern Luzon and Tagoloan River Basin in Misamis Oriental with Japan’s assistance to support the Philippines’ disaster preparedness initiatives.

Koshikawa was joined by Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar and Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla during the inauguration. (PNA)

### REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT TRECE MARTIRES CITY

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY  
Mortgagee,

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-078-21

-versus-

SPOUSES IAN MARK L. ENOT AND CRISTY P. ENOT  
Mortgagors,  
x-----x

#### NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act. 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Mortgagee, METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY., with business address at Metrobank Plaza Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue Ext. City of Makati against the Mortgagors, SPOUSES IAN MARK L. ENOT AND CRISTY P. ENOT, with residence and postal address at 088 San Jose St., Poblacion I, Tanza, Cavite and Block 7 Lot 25 Ph2 Lavanya Subd., Brgy. Bacao, Gen. Trias, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of 15 July 2021, amounts to THREE HUNDRED FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FOUR PESOS AND 69/100 (P304,404.69), Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will set at public auction on November 25, 2021 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, 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. 057-2012031638

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 25, BLK. 7 OF THE SUBD. PLAN PSD-04-198105, BEING A PORTION OF LOT 2, PCS-04-023484 (LRC) RECORD NO. 5964), SITUATED IN BRGY. OF BACAO, MUN. OF GENERAL TRIAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON, BOUNDED ON THE SW., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 26, BLK. 7, ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY LOT 23, BLK. 7, ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY ROAD LOT 6, AND ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 4-1 BY LOT 27, BLK. 7, ALL OF THE SUBD. PLAN BEGINNING AT A PT. MARKED “1” ON PLAN XXX CONTAINING AN AREA OF THIRTY SIX (36) SQUARE METERS XXX

All sealed bids 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 and time, it shall be held on December 16, 2021 without further notice.

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

Trece Martires City, September 14, 2021.

LUCIO C. ALEJO III  
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:  
METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY  
Metrobank Plaza Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue Ext. City of Makati

SALLAN & JOCSON LAW OFFICES  
Suite 1910, 19th Floor Antel Global Corporate Center  
No. 3 Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

SPOUSES IAN MARK L. ENOT AND CRISTY P. ENOT  
088 San Jose St., Poblacion I, Tanza, Cavite  
Block 7 Lot 25 Ph2 Lavanya Subd., Brgy. Bacao, Gen. Trias, Cavite

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

Publication: THE SOUTHERN TAGALOG HERALD  
Dates: September 19, 26 & October 3, 2021

### REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT TRECE MARTIRES CITY

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY  
Mortgagee,

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-070-21

-versus-

SPS. ALVIN L. DIRECTO & CHERRY C. DIRECTO  
Mortgagors,  
x-----x

#### NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act. 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Mortgagee, METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY., with business address at Metrobank Plaza Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue Ext. City of Makati against the Mortgagors, SPS. ALVIN L. DIRECTO & CHERRY C. DIRECTO, with residence and postal address at B9 L2 Dreamland Hagonoy, Taguig City and Block8A Lot 11, Kensington 17, Brgy. Navarro, Gen. Trias, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of 30 June 2021, amounts to SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY FOUR PESOS AND 13/100 (P730,594.13), Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will set at public auction on November 25, 2021 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, 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. 057-2017039752

LOT NO. 11 BLOCK NO. 8A  
PLAN NO. PSD-04-231268  
PORTION OF: LOT 1725, SAN FRANCISCO DE MALABON ESTATE (FRS-04-005312) DECREED NO. 4270; LRC REC. NO. 5964 LOCATION: BARANGAY OF NAVARRO, MUNICIPALITY OF GEN. TRIAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE  
BOUNDARIES:  
LINE DIRECTION ADJOINING LOT(S)  
1-2 SE LOT 10, BLOCK8A, PSD-04-231268  
2-3 SW LOT 13, BLOCK8A, PSD-04-231268  
3-4 NW ROAD LOT 8, PSD-04-231268  
4-1 NE LOT 9, BLOCK8A, PSD-04-231268  
AREA: FIFTY SQUARE METERS (50), MORE OR LESS.

All sealed bids 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 and time, it shall be held on December 16, 2021 without further notice.

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

Trece Martires City, September 14, 2021.

LUCIO C. ALEJO III  
Sheriff IV

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Metrobank Plaza Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue Ext. City of Makati

GALLEGO & VILLAMOR LAW OFFICES  
Suite 15, 2nd Floor, Facilities Centre Building  
548 Shaw Boulevard, Highway Hills  
Mandaluyong City 1552

SPS. ALVIN L. DIRECTO & CHERRY C. DIRECTO  
B9 L2 Dreamland Hagonoy, Taguig City  
Block8A Lot 11, Kensington 17, Brgy. Navarro, Gen. Trias, Cavite

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## Drive-thru COVID-19 testing center for PUV, tricycle drivers launched in Kawit, Cavite

KAWIT, Cavite – The local government unit (LGU) here launched a drive-thru coronavirus disease (COVID-19) testing center for tricycle and public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers at the municipal hall loop on Tuesday (September 28).

In a Facebook post, Mayor Angelo G. Aguinaldo said that Malasakit COVID-19 Testing Drive-Thru Express aims to monitor drivers' health given that they interact with numerous passengers every day. The LGU will also set up testing schedules for other frontliners, including healthcare workers, teachers, and market vendors.

Frontliners are encouraged to register online to get a schedule. The testing center can accommodate 500 people per day.



Angelo G. Aguinaldo / Facebook / MANILA BULLETIN

## Congress approves additional budget for PSC

The House of Representatives on Tuesday approved the request of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) for an additional P650 million for the Philippine Sports Commission's (PSC) 2022 budget from general appropriations. POC President Abraham N. Tolentino, who is also a representative from the eighth district of Cavite, sought for the additional budget to fund the training and participation of national athletes to at least five major international competitions.



The Department of Budget and Management (DBM), through the National Expenditure Program, appropriated only P175 million for the PSC, figures that cover only bare essentials for the government sports agency's operations for the coming year.

Mr. Tolentino informed the House committee of the importance of major international competitions that are held every four years as necessary to build on the momentum of the multiple medals won in the recent Olympic Games in Tokyo, where the country won its first-ever gold medal.

These are the Beijing Winter Olympics (Feb. 4 to 20), Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (AIMAG) in Thailand (March 10 to 20), The World Games (TWG) in Birmingham, Alabama, USA (July 7 to 22), Huangzhou Asian Games (Sept. 10 to 25) and Shantou Asian Youth Games (Dec. 20 to 28).

In his manifestation during the House Committee on Finance hearing, Mr. Tolentino also included the postponed 31st Southeast Asian Games which Vietnam is bound to host also in 2022.

"With due respect to the DBM, we in the POC were not consulted — and again with due respect to the PSC — we were not also asked,

as part of planning, on how much is needed to fund our athletes for these major international competitions," Mr. Tolentino said in his manifestation. "We are protecting and making sure that our qualified national athletes can compete in full force in those four major events that happen only once every four years, plus the SEA Games in Vietnam where we are the defending overall champion," he said.

Mr. Tolentino earlier planned a budget of P5 million for the Winter Olympics, P150 million for the AIMAG, P10 million for the TWG, P270 million for Asian Games and P15 million for the AYG. The SEA

Games budget was pegged at P200 million.

"The total budget is a measly sum and this could be tapped from several sources ... my concern is the budget needed by our athletes in these major competitions," he said. "I am also willing to put a provision — as an oversight function — that all cancelled competitions will be treated as savings and will be returned to the DBM or the National Treasury."

Both the Minority and Majority supported Mr. Tolentino's manifestation for the additional budget for the PSC. PSC Chairman William Ramirez and his chief of staff Mark Velasco were also present at the hearing.

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## Senate approves Maynilad, Manila Water franchise bills

The Senate has approved on third and final reading the renewal of the 25-year franchises of water concessionaires Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc.



© STAR/File Senate approves Maynilad, Manila Water franchise bills

With 23 affirmative

votes and no abstention cast during the plenary session on Monday, the two water companies were granted a 25-year franchise where Maynilad Water Services Inc. shall retain its services in the west zone of Metro Manila and the province of Cavite under House Bill 9422, while Manila Water Co. Inc. shall continue to provide its services in the east zone of Metro Manila and the province of Rizal under HB 9423.

"In the next 25 years, we must challenge our water concessionaires to be able to provide better water services in the new normal with clear long-term goals and short-term targets that would address water scarcity," said Sen. Grace Poe, chair of the Senate committee on public services that deliberated on the applications.

Since both water concessionaires were granted concession agreements for water and sewerage services back in 1997, the new agreement includes amendments that set higher expectations for water service providers, she said.

One of the amendments requires the concessionaires to submit a completion plan for the establishment and operation of water, sewerage and sanitation projects covering a period until 2037 that includes five-year completion targets, with the end goal of achieving 100 percent combined sewerage and sanitation coverage.

Other amendments introduced in the agreement mandates the concessionaires to institute mechanisms that will facilitate consultation with stakeholders on their services and create employment opportunities that prioritize the residents of the area where the concessionaire operates.

The Revised Concession Agreement also includes a tariff freeze until December 2022, where the National Capital Region would not experience an increase in water rates until next year.