



Gov Remulla says 'focus on leadership not cheap talk'

Cavitex completing two new segments

Cavitex Infrastructure Corp., a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corp., said Tuesday it expects to complete two new segments of the Manila-Cavite Expressway C-5 Link Expressway Project by the end of 2022.

"Despite the challenges of stricter mobility and the surging cases of COVID, we are happy to report that the project is moving. We are now about 18 percent com-

>> P3



Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla on Thursday (September 2) posted a critique of the government's pandemic response and spoke up against officials who were indulging in cheap rhetoric and pointless disputes, instead of showing leadership in the face of the pandemic.

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Recto wants 'Buy Filipino' rule restored in nat'l budget

The purchase of billions of pesos of PPEs, face shields and masks from China – when better quality locally-produced ones were available at a far lower price – underscores the need to restore the "Buy Filipino" provision in the national budget, Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto said. Recto said the provision, present in the general appropriations

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Rise in Covid cases in some regions slows; PH still high-risk

The increase of Covid-19 infections in some regions is slowing down but the country's case classification and health systems capacity remain at high risk, a health official said Monday.

Speaking at an online media forum, Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said 95 percent of the provinces, highly urbanized cities and independent component cities are still flagged under alert level 3 or 4.

"Cases may still continue to increase next week due to higher transmissibility of Delta variant of concern and as we continue active case finding in our

>> P3

Demolition of fishing structures in Cavite to push through, says DENR

The DENR has ordered the dismantling of unlicensed fishing structures in Cavite after bamboo poles drift into the shores of Manila Bay following heavy monsoon rains in July

The demolition of unlicensed fishing structures in the Cavite part of Manila Bay will push through in the next two weeks after the deadline given by the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for

>> P3



New Section Of Cavite Laguna Expressway Completed, Full Completion Set For 2023



The Cavite Laguna Expressway (Calax) Silang East Interchange was opened to the public on Tuesday, August 24th. With this development, there is only one section left on the 45-kilometer expressway before the completion of the expressway's Laguna segment.

Through the 5.2-km Silang East Interchange, motorists can easily travel from Mamplasan in Binan, Laguna all the way to Silang East, exiting via Tibig Road in Silang, Cavite.

According to the Metro

Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the interchange will serve over 5,000 motorists a day, helping to divert traffic from Aguinaldo Highway, Governor's Drive, and the Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road, as reported by Rappler.

The agency reiterated that the entire 45-kilometer expressway is set for completion by early 2023. Once construction is completed, Calax will have nine interchanges that stretch between Kawit, Cavite and Mamplasan,

>> P3

Imus, launches probe into 4,000 lost vaccine doses



The Imus, Cavite government on Thursday said it has started its own fact-finding mission on the reported 4,000 vaccine doses that remained unaccounted for. According to John Consulta's "24

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Mga Pilipino, naghihirap pero mga pulitiko, Halalan 2022 ang pinaghahandaan

INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY: "... Kung hindi na kayo makikinig sa tinig ng Diyos at hindi na kayo susunod sa Kaniyang mga utos, padadalhan Niya kayo ng mga sumpa... Patuloy kayong gigipitin, pagnanakawan at sasamsaman ng inyong mga ari-arian at darambungin ang inyong yaman, ngunit walang sasaklolo sa inyo..." (Deuteronomio 28:15, 29, Ang Tanging Daan Bibliya).

SAMBAYANAN, NAMIMIGHATI DAHIL SA COVID, BAHA, BAGYO, KORAPSIYON, AT DROGA, PERO MGA PULITIKO ABALA NAMAN SA PAGHAHANDA PARA SA HALALAN 2022: Pulitika para lamang sa kapakanang pang-sarili, pampamilya, pampulitika, at pang-kaalyado, at hindi kailanman para sa interes ng sambayanan. Ito ang nakakalungkot na katotohanang pinagmamasadnan ng milyon-milyong mga Pilipino sa kasalukuyang mga araw, sa harap ng mga mabibigat at maseselan na problema ng bansa.

Kasama sa mga problemang ito ang di pa rin mapigilang paglobo ng bilang ng mga Pilipinong nagkakasakit at namatay dahil sa Covid 19 araw-arawa; ang hirap at siphayong dulot ng nagngangalit na mga hangin, bumubuhos at nag-aalimpuyong ulan sa halos buong bansa, at rumaragang baha sa lahat ng dako, na nagbubunga ng kapinsalaan ng mga bahay, ng mga taniman at iba pang mga ari-arian, at, sa ilang mga sawimpalad na Pilipino, ng pagka-kitil ng kanilang mga buhay.

Nandiyan din ang problema ng patuloy na korapsiyon at pandarabong sa kaban ng bayan, at di-mapigil-pigil na pamamayagpag ng ilegal na droga, na mga dayuhan pa ang nangangasiwa sa ating sariling bayan.

Sa kabila ng lahat ng ito, noong ika-walo ng setyembre 2021, sa halip na kumilos laban sa mga problema ng bayan, ginaganap sabay-sabay ang sinasabing pambansang kumbensiyon ng dalawang partido pulitikal kung saan abala ang mga pulitiko, kasama ang mga pinuno ng pamahalaang namumuno sa mga partido, sa pagpapakilala sa kanilang magiging mga pambato sa halalan sa susunod na taon.

MGA PARTIDO-PULITIKAL, AT MGA PULITIKO, NAGSASAGAWA NG MGA KUMBENSIYON PARA PILI-IN NA ANG KANILANG MGA PAMBATO SA 2022: At sa halip na tulungan ang bayan, patuloy sa bangayan ang mga nakaupong opisyal na mga bansa na nasa mga sensitibong posisyon, na inaasahan sanang lalaban sa pandemya at sa mga mas nakakahawa at mas makamandag na mga variants at mga uri nito.

Sa halip na tumulong, nagbabatuhan ang mga pulitiko ng mga akusasyong nagpapakita, di na lamang ng mga katiwalian ng kani-kanilang inaakusahang mga kalaban, kundi ng sarili nila mismo, at ng mga tanggapan o ahensiya na kanilang pinamamahalaan.

Ang isang kasapi naman ng pamilyang matagal na hum-

awak sa kapangyarihan sa pilipinas ay nagpapahayag na hindi pa niya matiyak kung kasama nga siya sa Halalan 2022 dahil, sa kaniyang pananaw, wala pang katiyakan sa pulitika ngayon.

Pinupuna din ng marami ang kawalan ng kabuuang pagtugon sa hiling ng mga frontliners, o mga health workers lalo na sa gobyerno, na ibigay na sa kanila ang kanilang special allowances, at ang iba pang benepisyonang pinansiyal, upang magamit ang mga ito para sa kapakanan, kung hindi man ng frontliners, ay ng kanilang mga mahal sa buhay.

Ganundin, hindi kinakikitaan ang mga autoridad ng pagtugon sa krisis sa kakulangan ng mga medical and hospital facilities, na nagiging dahilan ng pagtanggap ng maraming mga ospital at mga clinics sa bansa na tumanggi na sa pagtanggap ng mga pasyente, lalo na yung nahawa ng Covid 19.

Puno na kasi ang mga ospital na ito, at wala ng mapaglagyan ng mga naganais makakuha ng atensiyong medikal. Lumalabas din na hindi na din natutugunan ang mga batayang pangangailangan sa mga pasyenteng lumulubha ang kalagayan sa paglakad ng mga oras, gaya ng oxygen supply, at maging ng mga tinatawag na ventilators upang tulungang makahinga ang mga may Covid 19. MARAMING PULITIKO DI ALINTANA ANG HIRAP NG MGA TAO KASI ALAM



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

NILA NA MABABAYARAN DIN ANG KANILANG MGA BOTO: Ikinamamangha ng marami na sa harap ng mga mabibigat na dalahing ito ng bayan, nakukuha ng maraming mga pulitiko at ng mga di mabilang na pinunong Pilipino na unahin ang kanilang pagtakbo sa pulitika sa susunod na halalan.

Mas minamatamis nila na nakikita silang nagpupulong-pulong at nagsusulong ng kani-kanilang mga kinikilingang kandidato sa mga sensitibong posisyon. Lumilitaw na mas minamahalaga ng mga pinuno at mga pulitikong ito ang kanilang magiging panalo sa Halalan 2022, kaysa sa kapakanan ng mas nakararaming Pilipino. Marami ang nagbibigay ng kanilang mga dahilan kung bakit ganito ipinagwawalang-bahala ng maraming mga pulitiko ang sambayan at iniwan ang mga pilipino sa kanilang mga kasawian sa buhay.

Magkaganunman, ang isa sa mga pinaka-mabigat na pananaw ay yung nagsasabi na alam kasi ng maraming mga pulitiko na tiwali din naman ang karamihan sa sambayanang boboto sa Halalan 2022, dahil mabibili din lamang naman ang mga ito sa halagang P500 bawat boto, pagdating ng eleksiyon.

Group backing Isko for president launches in Cavite

Tanza, Cavite—A multisectoral group pushing for Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso to run for President in the May 2022 elections launched its Cavite chapter in a hybrid event at the Oasis Hotel here on Thursday.

The "Ikaw Muna" (IM) Pilipinas movement debuted in Cavite after its successful national launching, held in the same hybrid fashion, at the University of the Philippines-Diliman last July 2, where some 200 leaders from 16 provinces attended.

The group is composed primarily of farmers, workers, tricycle drivers and operators, small business owners, professionals, health workers, schoolteachers, women, youth, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community, and the private sector.

IM is rooting for "Yorme Isko" to run for the highest position as "we need a new brand of leader and leadership," said Tim Orbos, the former Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) general manager who also served as Undersecretary of the Department of Transportation.

"He did a great job with his governance in Manila, what more for the Philippines?" stressed Orbos, the group's lead convenor, as he justified their choice of President in the upcoming elections. The group highlighted Domagoso's unique qualities that endear him to the masses and said "Yorme" is different from the rest.

"He is a rare breed of leader that is very down to earth and will reach out to the poor not because he remembers them but cares for them. Thus, it is no wonder why the underprivileged and poor sectors are asking him to run for President," their statement said. The group is "astonished" by how Domagoso has administered the capital city despite "fallacious accusations" from the

present administration. They referred to the recent comment of Malacañang on Yorme's suggestion to improve the government's pandemic response by purchasing remdesivir, tocilizumab, and ventilators instead of buying more face masks.

"It was unfortunate that 'politicking' is the only known answer of the present administration amidst the pandemic," IM said.

"The vulgar incompetency, corruption, and hunger for power of the present administration make it more tactical and strategic for ordinary people to regain what truthfully belongs to them," it added.

The worsening split on the administration-led Super Block, on the other hand, paves the way for the opposition and all its allies "to restore a pro-people democracy."

Orbos was joined by the movement's national convenors such as Phillip "Dobol P" Piccio, IM-P head for political affairs Bong Mangahas, and Secretary General Elmer S. Argaño, with provincial convenors like Bryan D. Briones, Nelson Louie E. Genido, and Manny Capiral, President/Founder of the Philippine Eagles Riders Club.

Also seen at the event were Labor leader of the Cavite Economic Zone Lucky Soliman; Radjie C. Gross - founder of LGBTQA Cavite Bachelorette; Rosalina Alota - women's leader; Fiona Celine Cayabyab - youth leader; Thelma Alicdan - vendors leader; and Daviejane Hementera - TODA (Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association) President.

These persons "are voluntarily extending their commitment of support because they believe Moreno can champion their welfare and rights," IM said. The event also hosted the swearing-in of commitment of sectoral leaders of IM Pilipinas- Cavite.

Imus, launches probe into << P1

Oras," the Department of Health Calabarzon office found that there are discrepancies in the vaccine vials of Imus last Aug. 19. With this, Imus, Cavite Mayor Emmanuel Maliksi immediately au-

thorized his city officials to conduct an investigation into these so-called irregularities in their vaccination rollout.

"Ayaw siyempre natin na mabahiran ng anomalya, kung mayroon," said Maliksi.

(Of course, we don't want to have anomalies if there are.)

In a Sept. 1 "24 Oras" report, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said it has also started a probe into

the lost vaccines from Imus. The vaccines were allegedly donated to companies, who are willing to pay for the drugs. -Consuelo Marquez/MDM, GMA News

Gov Remulla says 'focus on << P1

In a post he titled "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly," the governor said that leaders were not elected to "drown in the illusion of power," but rather to protect the rights of their citizens.

"Nothing lasts forever, as they say. Let us not abuse the patience of the people on cheap talk and arguments that won't lead to anything,"

he went on to say in Filipino.

Remulla also urged fellow officials to avoid ridiculing each other and focus on the situation of the country instead. "When did mockery shed light on issues just so we can avoid issues that need answers? First, there was someone who was described as a callboy. Later on, a lawmaker was advised

to lose weight. There were also arguments on someone's hairdo and on aging the other way," he added. He ended his post with the statement: "The people are desperate for LEADERSHIP. The people are demoralized and in need of a SOLUTION. The people are disheartened and in need of a VISION that includes a plan for RECOVERY

and ACTION. There is no time to waste." Though the Cavite governor did not drop names, it can be recalled that President Rodrigo Duterte resorted to jabs against Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso's sexy photos as an actor, Senator Richard Gordon's girth, and Senator Panfilo Lacson's hairstyle.

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New section of Cavite, Laguna << P1

Laguna. It will pass through General Trias City, Dasmaringas City, Kawit, Imus, and Silang in Cavite and Santa Rosa City and Binan City in Laguna. Motorists can expect toll rates to be set at P14 to P64 for Class 1 vehicles, P29 to P128 for Class 2 vehicles, and P43 to P192 for Class 3 vehicles.

Calax is just one of many infrastructure projects rising in Cavite that aim to improve mobility within and around the city, generate employment opportunities, and facilitate the efficient exchange of goods.

Among the biggest infrastructure projects set to rise here is the \$10 billion Sangley Point International Airport (SPIA) scheme, which was initially canceled early this year but relaunched a month later, as reported by Global Construction Review.

When finished, the province of Cavite is expecting the SPIA to be a modern, sustainable, and world-class international airport that serves as Central and Southern Luzon's counterpart to Metro Manila's Ninoy Aquino

International Airport (NAIA).

The proposed Cavite Tagaytay Batangas Expressway (CTBEX) is another transportation and mobility project that will connect Calax to J.P. Laurel Street in Nasugbu, Batangas. According to Manila Bulletin, the expressway is intended to decongest the main highway of Tagaytay, particularly the Tagaytay-Nasugbu area.

Besides roadworks, Cavite will also see the completion of the LRT-1 Cavite Extension, which will extend the existing Baclaran Station in Taft Avenue, Pasay to Niog Station in Bacoor, Cavite. As detailed by BusinessWorld, the LRT-1 Cavite Extension is already 60% finished and is scheduled for completion by the end of the year with partial operations beginning in the first quarter of 2023.

The P64.9 billion project will add an 11.7-kilometer Baclaran to Bacoor segment to the existing 18.1-kilometer railway. The new line will boast eight stations.

Cavite is a promising residential center because of

its accessibility, progressive commercial and economic growth, and urban development. With the completion of the aforementioned infrastructure projects, the city will most likely experience a boost in demand and an increase in real estate supply to keep up with consumer appetites.

The rise of transit-oriented communities may also spur interest in Cavite as a premier residential and commercial hub, especially for those looking to escape the worsening pollution and traffic congestion in Metro Manila.

Based on Lamudi's forecast released early this year, areas like Silang are already posting high growth rates in pageviews and leads for commercial properties, following the decision of many companies to relocate to less densely populated areas that are still close to Metro Manila.

Lamudi's recent trend report also reveals that buyers are interested in fringe cities like Cavite with open areas and extra space to move around. These devel-

opments may be a response to the shift in consumer behavior triggered by the pandemic. Strict lockdown mea-

sures implemented to curb the spread of COVID-19 forced many to stay at home, inspiring people to look for spacious properties that could accommodate their new normal lifestyles. The

rise of e-commerce activities also galvanized interest in areas with warehousing and logistics opportunities like Cavite's technoparks, as previously mentioned in Lamudi's forecast.

2 public hospitals in Cavite 'understaffed'

DASMARINAS CITY, Cavite: Ospital ng Dasmaringas (OnD) and General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH) in Trece Martires City have announced plans to temporarily shut down their doors to new patients.

Hospital staff and personnel of these public hospitals have recently been infected with Covid-19 and are now "understaffed."

"Thank you for understanding. We are at full capacity and understaffed, most of our doctors and nurses have tested positive and some are in quarantine. This is temporary until our staff has recovered. We have disinfected the hospital and have recharged for quality service," Dr. Malu Caguiling-Campos, hospital director of OnD, wrote

in a social media post. In GEAMH, Dr. Nonie John Dalisay, provincial health officer, announced in an interview on Monday, September 6, the emergency room, intensive care unit, tuberculosis, and newborn screening department were temporarily closed due to some infected hospital staff.

According to Dalisay, for the past three weeks, provincial hospitals had been undermanned because Covid-related cases rose, and cited 58 out of the 72 staff of the public health unit tested positive. Two-hundred-fifteen staff of the General Trias Municipal Hospital under-

went quarantine because 78 turned positive. "After the staff had finished their quarantine, hopefully, they could return to work, staff rotation could resume as well the admission of patients," Dalisay said.

In the entire province, the occupancy rate of Covid wards in public hospitals hit 79.1 percent, 63.3 percent in isolation facilities, 92.7 percent in intensive care units, and 79 percent in mechanical ventilators. According to Dasmaringas local government unit, seven motels in the city have been turned into temporary isolation sites for Covid-positive patients.

Cavitex << P1

plete for Segment 2 and about 30 percent complete for Segment 3A-2," said CIC president and general manager Roberto Bontia in a virtual briefing. CIC aims to complete the construction of the P6.56-billion Segment 2 and the P2.32-billion Segment 3A-2 of C5 Link Expressway by the first quarter and fourth

quarter of 2022, respectively. Segment 2 is a 1.9-kilometer, 2x3 lane expressway from Cavitex Expressway to a proposed interchange at Sucat. Segment 3A-2, a sub-section of Segment 3, is a 1.6-kilometer, 2x3 lane expressway from Merville to RSG (Airport View) Subdivision in Parañaque.

Demolition << P1

owners to dismantle these structures are owned by big industries, and small fisherfolk are forced to catch fish in the spaces between fish pens and cages, yielding little catch. They can go to farther areas where there are no big fishing structures, but they would have to pay for gasoline costs.

The local government units identified the following unlicensed fishing structures – including fish pens, fish cages, stationary lift nets, fish corrals, and mussel farms – for demolition:

- 271 in Cavite City
- 2 in Noveleta
- 97 in Kawit

The number of affected structures in Bacoor wasn't available.

The DENR said the Manila Bay Site Coordinating/Management Office (MB-SCMO) in Calabarzon will meet with the LGUs, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, Department of Public Works and Highways, and Philippine Navy on Wednesday, September 8, to finalize the schedule and deployment for the demolitions.

The DENR ordered the dismantling of unlicensed fishing structures in Cavite after bamboo poles drifted into the shores of Manila Bay following heavy monsoon rains in July.

MBSCMO-4 Deputy Regional Coordinator Cynthia N. Rozaldo said small-scale fisherfolk would benefit once illegal fishing structures are dismantled. She explained that most illegal fishing

structures are owned by big industries, and small fisherfolk are forced to catch fish in the spaces between fish pens and cages, yielding little catch. They can go to farther areas where there are no big fishing structures, but they would have to pay for gasoline costs.

Rozaldo added that fisherfolk, who work for owners of illegal fishing structures, only get paid a fixed amount when they can earn more if they owned their fishing business.

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA), however, considered the dismantling order "unjust and anti-fisherfolk." It said this would affect 15,000 fisherfolk and residents who depend on Manila Bay for their livelihood.

The group also believe the move is a precursor to the 420-hectare reclamation project in Bacoor.

"The suspension of the demolition is an initial victory for thousands of fisherfolk who were about to lose their livelihood," PAMALAKAYA said in Facebook post. "Yet we remain vigilant against any plan of the government to wipe out our only source of livelihood in the name of profit-oriented interests." – Rappler.com

Recto wants 'Buy Filipino' << P1

laws proposed and signed by presidents from Marcos to Aquino III, disappeared in the 2014 national budget. Before its scrapping, the Buy Filipino provision mandates government to prioritize the procurement of Philippine-made products.

Recto said the Buy Filipino provision should be put back in the national budget to help struggling domestic manufacturers keep operating and meet payroll during the pandemic.

Recto said if the Buy Filipino provision was part of the 2020 national budget, "foreign carpetbaggers" would not have been able to corner government's bulk procurement of face shields, PPEs and masks last year. "It would have provided some deterrence."

In the wake of the "capitalist domination by a fly-by-night, undercapitalized, zero track record foreign-owned company in a big PS-DBM-DOH contract," "a united Senate" should reinstate the Buy Philippine-Made provision in the 2022 national budget, Recto said.

But pandemic or not, there is a "vibrant domestic manufacturing industry" that can supply the government's annual shopping list of supplies and equipment, Recto said.

"Wala pang COVID, meron nang ganung batas noon. Eh di mas lalo na ngayon na kailangan ng mga naghihingalong lokal na kumpanya ng benta upang manatili silang bukas at hindi magsisante ng mga mang-

gagawa," Recto said. The kind of aid local companies would prefer is that government buy from them instead of giving them bailouts, he said. "Para sa maraming kumpanya, benta ang mainam na bakuna laban sa pag-sasara kaysa kakarampot na ayuda"

He described the government as a big supplies and equipment buyer, with a budget in the hundreds of billions annually. "From soap to cars, from paper to guns, government buys these in bulk."

When the Buy Filipino provision made its last appearance in the 2013 General Appropriations Act, it stated that "priority shall be given to the purchase of locally-produced and manufactured materials to be undertaken

either by administration or by contract." Covered by the rule were "foreign-assisted projects whose covering loan agreements expressly allow or do not prohibit the same."

If the quality of the locally-produced and manufactured material is sub-standard compared with its imported counterpart, then importation was also allowed, Recto added.

The third exception was "if no locally-produced and manufactured material is available as certified by the Department of Trade and Industry," Recto said.

"As you can see, it was a balanced rule. While preference was stipulated, it was not a blanket mandate to buy pricey local lemons simply because they're made by Filipinos," he said.

Rise in Covid cases in some << P1

areas," Vergeire said. As of Sept. 5, the top five regions with the most number of new Covid-19 cases are the National Capital Region, Region 4-A (Calabarzon), Region 3, Region 1 and Region 7.

The top five areas with the most number of new Covid-19 cases are Quezon City and the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Rizal and Bulacan.

"Our epidemic curve shows a new peak of cases every week since the second week of August. Cases from Aug. 30 to Sept. 5 recorded 18,292 cases per day, an increase of 1,779 or 11 percent cases per day compared to

the previous week of August 23 to 29 which was at 16, 513 cases," Vergeire said.

All areas in the NCR Plus, she added, are showing an increase in the number of cases while Luzon areas are showing steep increase in infections.

A plateau in the number of cases was observed in the Visayas areas and a continued increase in cases in Mindanao.

The country's two-week growth rate is at 32 percent with an average daily attack rate of 15 percent per 100,000 population.

For the period of Sept. 1 to 5, the nation's average deaths per day due to

Covid-19 is 40 while the total number of deaths is 199. Meantime, an additional 279 cases of the highly contagious Delta variant were detected, breaching the 2,000-mark.

Vergeire said of the 11,132 samples sequenced and assigned with lineage as of Aug. 27, 24 percent of samples were positive for the Beta variant, 21.5 percent for the Alpha variant and 16 percent for the Delta variant, 0.02 percent for the Gamma variant.

She added that about 62 percent of the 11,132 samples with assigned lineages are positive for the Alpha, Beta or Delta variant, and all regions either have Alpha or

Beta variant while 16 regions have Delta variant cases.

All cities in the NCR were found to have a variant of concern.

Meanwhile, about 513 or 61 percent of the 839 samples from returning overseas Filipinos were positive for a variant of concern.

The Department of Health called for the strict implementation of granular lockdowns, shortening of interval between detection and isolation, enforcement of minimum public health standards adherence to cut community transmission and ramp up priority vaccination to protect the vulnerable population. (PNA)



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PH Red Cross gears up for Typhoon Jolina

The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) alerted its local chapters to stay vigilant and prepare for any disturbance as Typhoon Jolina has made landfall over Dimasalang, Masbate, and is now traversing over mainland Masbate as of press time.

“Predict, plan, prepare and practice - this is how we work in the Red Cross. We predict what could happen, given the facts and weather reports. We plan and prepare based on these scenarios. Whatever we do, we practice so our volunteers and staff will have that instinct and will know what to do during these situations,” PRC Chairman and CEO Senator Richard Gordon said in a media release Tuesday.

PRC is beefing up its disaster management services through its local chapters as all rescue vehicles, logistic hubs, and emergency response units are ready for

situations like this.

The PRC proposes also these three easy steps to prepare the household during a typhoon:

1. Build a disaster kit that contains supplies for about three days (72 hours).

- a gallon of water per person per day

- non-perishable food

- a flashlight and extra batteries

- a first aid kit, medications

- copies of important documents

- other items for young children such as diapers, and for family members with special medical needs

2. Prepare an emergency plan and make sure that everyone in the household knows about it

3. Stay informed and updated by listening to news and local authorities

Gordon has directed the deployment of assets and re-

sources of the PRC Chapters that are directly affected by “Jolina”:

- The PRC Hilongos Chapter has mobilized 4 manpower for assessment in Brgy. Matapay regarding a tornado incident.

- PRC Masbate Chapter is having ongoing coordination with the Local Government for reported pre-emptive evacuation centers in Masbate National Comprehensive High School, Jose Zurbito Sr. Elementary School, Amancio Aguilar Elementary School, Restituta Z. Medina Elementary School

- PRC Iloilo Chapter deployed an assessment team for reported flash floods in Miagao.

- In Biliran, PRC mobilized RC143 volunteers in Bool East, Culaba, Biliran to conduct clearing operations.

- In Eastern Samar, PRC deployed 2 teams with 8



Philippine Red Cross Chairman and CEO, Senator Richard Gordon (File photo)

manpower for assessment in the southern portion of the province.

- Meanwhile in Negros Occidental, PRC is having ongoing coordination with the LGU on reported flooded areas and pre-emptive evacu-

ation centers in Pontevedra, particularly Brgy. Cambarus and Brgy. San Isidro.

- PRC Western Samar is also having ongoing coordination and validation with LGUs and volunteers for reported damages and evacu-

ation centers in Catbalogan City. - PRC Chapters that are on standby and alert status include Aurora, Laguna, Lapu-Lapu/Cordova, Northern Samar, CamSur, Cam Norte, Mindoro Oriental, Leyte, and Sorsogon. (PR)

‘BFFs’: Cavite, Laguna govs funny banter amuses netizens

Cavite Governor Jonvic C. Remulla and Laguna Governor Ramil L. Hernandez engaged in light-hearted ribbing over class suspensions on Wednesday (September 8) due to Typhoon Jolina.

Remulla fired the first shot, teasing Hernandez for being the first to suspend classes. Because of the provinces’ proximity to each other, students of the neighboring local government units often compare notes on class suspensions.

“Minamahal kong BFF Ramil, ayan ka na naman. Walang ganyanan. Diba nagkaintindihan na tayo na ako ang una lagi sa #WalangPasok (My beloved BFF Ramil, there you go again. Didn’t we agree that I’ll always be the one to suspend classes first?)” Remulla posted on his Facebook page.

“Dine sa Cavite, mahina pa ang ulan pero mamaya pang hapon ang hagupit ni Jolens. Ganun pa man litga ako sa iyo. Baka naman kala dine eh logtu si Gobnila, (Here in Cavite, the rain is still light but the effects of Typhoon Jolina will be felt in the afternoon. Even so, I’m mad at you. People here might think that their governor is sleeping on the job),” he joked.

Hernandez fired back after a few hours.

“Sa aking BFF Jonvic, mukhang nagiging pusong mamon kana ata. Epekto ba yan ng kakahanap mo ng vaccines? (To my BFF Jonvic, it seems that you’re getting oversensitive. Is that the effect of hunting for vaccines?)” Hernandez posted on Facebook.

“Pasensya kana naunahan kitang magdeclare ng walang pasok at sabik akong magtrabaho after two weeks akong minahal ni Covid (Sorry if I was the first to declare class suspension. It is because I’m excited to go back to work after two weeks of having a love affair with COVID),” he added.

Hernandez announced on August 22 that he tested positive for the virus.

“Padalahan mo naman ako ng tahong ng Cavite. Matesting aring panglasa ko kung ayus na nga (Send me mussels from Cavite so I can test if I have my sense of taste back),” Hernandez ribbed.

Netizens were quick to join in the light-hearted banter in the comment section, noting that the online exchange gave them something to laugh about amid the typhoon.

DENR defends plan to dismantle 370 ‘illegal’ fish pens in Cavite amid opposition

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said small-scale fishermen stand to benefit from its plan to demolish “illegal” fish pens and cages in Cavite, even as a fisherfolk group warned that thousands of people will lose their livelihood.

In a briefing on Wednesday, DENR spokesperson Benny Antiporda said the unauthorized aquaculture structures only help big companies and the workers they pay, to the detriment of small fishermen.

“Nung itinayo po ‘yan, nawalan po ng espasyo para makapangisda ang ating maliliit na mangangisda, at kailangan pang bumiyaha sila ng 15 kilometers away from the shoreline,” Antiporda said.

[Translation: These structures take up space that would have benefited small fishers, forcing them to travel 15 kilometers away from the shoreline.]

The bamboo poles from the pens and cages, he added, also contribute to pollution in Manila Bay, as they are washed away during storms. According to Antiporda, 370 of these structures will be de-



stroyed: 271 in Cavite City, 97 in Kawit, and two in Novleta. He also said there is no truth to reports that mussel farms or “tahungans” will be dismantled, assuring that mussel growers with permits will be allowed to operate.

The impending demolition by the DENR has been heavily opposed by some fishermen and activists, in-

cluding fisherfolk group Pamalakaya which believes it is a “precursor to a massive reclamation plan in Cavite.”

The group said the demolition will wipe out their livelihood and displace their communities. It also accused the DENR of using the Manila Bay rehabilitation program to justify its “unjust and anti-fisherfolk” plan.