



Around 10,000 people will participate in the experimental trials, which will be supervised by the De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute.

CAVITE SET TO BEGIN COVID-19 VACCINE TRIALS

The Cavite provincial government will start next month the clinical trials for the coronavirus disease 2019 vaccines of pharmaceutical companies in the US and United Kingdom, Gov. Juanito Victor Remulla announced yesterday. Around 10,000 people will participate in the experimental trials, which will be supervised by the De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute. Remulla said 5,000 people would receive the vaccine while the other 5,000 will get a placebo.

"It should start in the next two weeks," Remulla said in an interview over ANC. A majority of the participants are aged 21 to 45 and considered high-risk individuals as they are susceptible to the virus because of their jobs. They include police officers,

>> P2

Cavite wants more coordinated COVID-19 contact tracing among LGUs

Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla on Friday called for a concerted contact tracing efforts among nearby provinces and cities, saying that the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) knows no borders.

Remulla said 90 percent of COVID-19 cases in Cavite can be traced to Metro Manila.

"Some, they say 'eh sa Cavite naman 'yan eh, wag na dito, dito lang kami

>> P3



A contact tracing team of the City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (CESU) of the Quezon City government conducts house to house tracing of possible COVID-19 patients in Brgy. Baesa. INQUIRER/GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

DoLE develops Covid QR code

The Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) has developed a quick response (QR) code that takes the body temperature and writes down contact details that allows quick tracing of visitors and employees.

The department said the QR code would help contain the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), particularly in the industry-rich Region 4A (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon or Calabarzon).

The online health checklist, which functions like a digital logbook using QR codes, was rolled out by DoLE's Regional Office in Calabarzon to screen all visitors and employees.

"These online services aim to respond to the chal-

>> P3

PH Volleyball Team's Marcos sell fish in Cavite

IMUS, Cavite: The Philippine team's volleyball player, Ricky Marcos, has opted to sell fresh fish to make a living as practice remains uncertain at these challenging times of the coronavirus pandemic. In an interview with the Manila Times, Marcos shared that he8 has been selling fish with

>> P3

Remulla says cash aid a 'disaster' in Cavite, hopes MSME assistance under Bayanihan 2 is better



© TED CORDERO, GMA News At least five major local companies and one Chinese firm are interested in the provincial government of Cavite's initiative to expand the Sangley Airport to as an international gateway, Governor Jonvic Remulla told reporters on Tuesday, October 29, 2019. Ted Cordero

Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla is hoping that assistance for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act or Bayanihan 2 is better compared to the aid provided by the national government under the first Bayanihan law.

In a television interview on Friday, Remulla specifically mentioned the Social Amelioration Program, which he branded as a "disaster" in the province of Cavite. "They haven't released details on how to

do it but I hope it's better than SAP 'cause SAP was a disaster here in the province," Remulla told ANC. "I hope they choose carefully, I hope they do it right. I hope it goes with the investment or in the payroll support of the MSMEs, not to the owners," he said.

Remulla did not elaborate on why he called the first SAP aid distribution a disaster. Under the Bayanihan 2, which has a P165.5-billion budget, a total of P10 billion was allocated for the DTI Small Business Corporation

(SBCorp), in which P4 billion will be devoted for low-interest loans to MSMEs, cooperatives, hospitals, and OFWs. Like the first Bayanihan law, the current bill also provides a P5,000 to P8,000 subsidy to affected low income households in areas under granular lockdown and those with recently returned overseas Filipino workers as well as to displaced workers.

The proposed measure is now up for President Rodrigo Duterte's signature. —Anna Felicia Bajo/KBK, GMA News

Cavite set to begin Covid-19 << P1

public utility vehicle drivers and factory workers.

"I think these are the ones who are most vulnerable. They are spreaders of the disease," the governor said.

Remulla did not give a specific number but said senior citizens will also take part in the trials. Although the volunteers will not receive incentives, he assured them of their safety.

"We have been assured by the developers that clinically it's not a dangerous vaccine," he said. It will take about a month before they have results on the efficacy of the vaccines.

Clinical trials for lagundi Meanwhile, Science and Technology Secretary Fortunato dela Peña said the Food

and Drug Administration (FDA) has finally approved the conduct of clinical trials on lagundi as a cure for COVID-19. He added that the FDA approval would lead to a start on the clinical trials. This came after an ethics committee of UP-Manila also gave its own approval to the clinical trials on lagundi as an adjunctive therapy against COVID-19.

Three quarantine centers in Metro Manila, he revealed, have agreed to become clinical trial sites for the lagundi research and development—Quezon Institute Quarantine Center in Quezon City, the Santa Ana Hospital in Manila, and the PNP-NCR Community Quarantine Center. Dela Peña said

the trials will involve mild COVID-19 patients as well as probable or suspected cases in those centers. The DOST earlier approved the funding of P4.9 million for the lagundi clinical trials. Aside

from lagundi, melatonin, convalescent plasma and virgin coconut oil (VCO), the DOST will also fund R&D on tawa-tawa as potential cures for COVID-19. – Rainier Alan Ronda

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

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND,
Mortgagee,

-versus-

Foreclosure Case No. F-096-20

MARILOU B. ABIERA,
Mortgagor/s,

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND, with business address at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358, Sen. Puyat Avenue, Makati City against the Mortgagor/s, MARILOU B. ABIERA, with residence and postal address LOT 36, BLOCK 49, HOLIDAY HOMES SUBDIVISION, BICLATAN, GEN. TRIAS, CAVITE to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness as of February 17, 2020 amounts to FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY NINE PESOS and 67/100 (P530,999.67), Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties, and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all the other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on NOVEMBER 12, 2020 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the main entrance of the Government Center Bldg. located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder of CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2013024507

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 36 BLK. 49 OF THE CONS/SUBD. PLAN PCS-04-011670 BEING A PORTION OF THE CONS. OF LOTS 2847-B, 2847-C, PSD-04-030633, & LOT 2848 SAN FRANCISCO DE MALABON ESTATE, L.R.C. REC. NO.) SITUATED IN THE BO. BICLATAN, MUN. OF GEN. TRIAS, PROV. OF CAVITE, IS OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON THE SW., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 32 OF BLK. 49 OF THE CONS./SUBD. PLAN; ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY RD. LOT 27 OF THE CONS./SUBD. PLAN ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 35; AND ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 4-1 BY LOT 17 BOTH OF BLK. 49 OF THE CONS./SUBD. PLAN. BEGINNING AT A PT. MARKED "1" ON PLAN XXX CONTAINING AN AREA OF FORTY FOUR (44) SQ. METERS.

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 NOVEMBER 19, 2020 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 4, 2020.

RICARDO A. TOLEDO
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:

MARIA VICTORIA D. CAPIRAL
c/o **ATTY. NELSON I. GETIGAN**
RM. 209 Megastate Bldg., No. 737 G,
Araneta Avenue, Tatalon, Quezon City

MARILOU B. ABIERA
LOT 36 BLOCK 49 HOLIDAY HOMES SUBDIVISION,
BICLATAN, 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

The Southern Tagalog Herald Cavite
September 6, 13 & 20, 2020

Republic of the Philippines
Fourth Judicial Region
Regional Trial Court
Office of the Clerk of Court
Trece Martires City

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY,
Mortgagee,

-versus-

Foreclosure Case No. F-094-20

SPOUSES ERLINDA B. BAGATUA
& **JERUEL N. BAGATUA,**
Mortgagors,

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 (METROBANK), with principal and business address at Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue Extension, 1200 Makati City against the Mortgagor/s, SPOUSES ERLINDA B. BAGATUA & JERUEL N. BAGATUA, both of legal age with residence and postal address at ; 1.) No. 253 Aguilar Compound, Tandang Sora, Quezon City and Lot 26, Block 2, Road Lot 13, Kensington 10, Brgy. Navarro, Gen. Trias City, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness as of February 28, 2020 amounts to NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR PESOS and 84/100 (P989,564.84), Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties, and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all the other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on November 12, 2020 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the main entrance of the Government Center Bldg. located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder of CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2019004096

Lot No.: 26 Block: 2 Plan No.: PSD-04-226211
PORTION OF: Block 15, PCS-04-027752, DECREE NO. 4270 ; LRC REC. NO. 5964

LOCATION: BARANGAY OF NAVARRO, MUNICIPALITY OF GEN. TRIAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON

BOUNDARIES:

LINE DIRECTION ADJOINING LOTS

1-2 SE LOT 17, BLOCK 2, PSD-04-226211
2-3 SW LOT 27, BLOCK 2, PSD-04-226211
3-4 NW ROAD LOT 13, PSD-04-226211
4-1 NE LOT 25, BLOCK 2, PSD-04-226211

AREA: FORTY SQUARE METERS (40), 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 NOVEMBER 19, 2020 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 4, 2020.

ANDRES B. ESPINA
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY
(METROBANK) c/o **RICASIO LAW OFFICE**
& **ASSOCIATES**

ATTY. JOEL R. RICASIO

One Corporate Ctr. 24th flr.
Cor. Julia Vargas & Meralco Ave. Ortigas Ctr. Pasig

SPOUSES ERLINDA B. BAGATUA
& **JERUEL N. BAGATUA**

No. 253 Aguilar Compound, Tandang Sora,
Quezon City
Lot 26, Block 2, Road Lot 13, Kensington 10, Brgy. Navarro, Gen. Trias City, Cavite

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Cavite solon Luis Ferrer contracts COVID-19



Cavite 6th District Rep. Luis “Jon Jon” Ferrer IV announced Sunday that he tested positive for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

In a Facebook post, Ferrer said he was made aware of the results of his COVID-19 swab test on Saturday evening. The lawmaker said he began to experience flu-like symptoms over the past few days, prompting him to isolate himself and undergo a swab test. “Mahirap man po itong tanggapan ay kailangan ko po itong harapin ng buong tatag at pananampalataya sa Diyos para po sa aking pamilya, mga kasama sa serbisyo, at upang ako po ay agarang makabalik sa aking paglilingkod sa inyong lahat,” Ferrer said. (This may be hard to accept but

I have to face this with courage and faith in the Lord for my family, my colleagues, and so that I can immediately return to serving you all.) Ferrer said he is currently confined in a medical facility while the district office has been temporarily closed as he called on those he has interacted with to coordinate with the city health office. “Nagsasagawa po ngayon ng contact tracing ang City Health Office (CHO). Kaugnay nito, nanawagan ako sa lahat ng aking nakasalamuha sa nakalipas na labing-apat na araw na makipag-ugnayan sa CHO, at mag self-isolate kung kinakailangan,” Ferrer said.

(The CHO is now conducting contact tracing. In line with this, I am asking everyone who I have interacted with over the last 14 days to coordinate with the CHO and to self-isolate if needed.) “Mabigat man ang hamon ng COVID-19, naniniwala po ako na malalampasan po ito ng inyong lingkod sa tulong ng inyong panalangin,” he added. (The challenge brought by COVID-19 may be hard but I believe I will get through this with the help of your prayers.) A few days earlier, Northern Samar 1st District Rep. Paul Daza also confirmed having tested positive for COVID-19. As of August 31, there are 217,396 COVID-19 cases in the country, of which 56,473 are considered active cases. Recoveries are at 157,403 while the death toll is at 3,520.



Kuya J restaurant: An exquisite, frolic dining experience for the whole family



The Filipino dishes and comfort food has proven time and again that it can compete with the world’s best when it comes to taste and package. One of the best dining experiences we had was with Kuya J restaurant, one of the finest casual dining restaurants in the Philippines. We would like to thank first Ms. Rea and Ms. Junnie Casabon for the warm accommodation you had with us during our food review for Kuya J at SM City San Pablo.

The following foods were served and here is our honest review:

The appetizers: Kuya J Lumpia Presko. Sauteed crab meat and ubod (bamboo shoots) rolled in malunggay-infused wrapper with sweet garlic sauce. This has to be one of my favorite merienda growing up, and Kuya J delivers the good for this appetizer. It has the perfect blend of filling and the wrap was just soft as it should be. Their plating for this is just as admirable. I like the sweet garlic sauce, tough. Grilled scallops. With cheesy butter topping, grilled scallops from Kuya J is one of the finest we had ever tasted. I like the way it was prepared, and the perfect combination of cheese and butter is what I liked best with this appetizer. I’m a fan of sea foods and this is a plus factor as an appetizer for me.

Coolers: Buko Pandan sweetly buko pandan flavored drink infused with pandan jelly. Mango sago, sweet milky mango flavored drink topped with sweetened sago. Both were refreshing drinks and had a cool and sweet taste of their respective flavors. Though I wish they could have made it better with additional sweeteners maybe. But overall, it was nicely done.

Viands: Chicken Halang-halang. Chicken cooked tino-la-style na may added creaminess of coconut milk and extra kick of spiciness ng green chilli peppers. Relyenong Talong. The Filipino Omelet! Pan-fried inihaw na talog with egg, fresh kamatis, and cheese. I really liked eggplant when it is fried but with this omelet twist, Kuya J’s relyenong talong is such a breeze of innovation when it comes to viand. It’s mix of veggies and dairies is a sure delight. Grilled Tuna Belly in Chilly Butter sauce. As earlier said, I am a seafood lover and the moist, texture and juiciness of this viand cannot escape my taste buds. This is truly worth it, Tuna Belly’s meat is just as tender and has a perfect taste as well. Kuya J Crispy Pata, seen over the news, was a recommended must try Crispy Pata in the World’s Best Dishes of 2019 according to Taste Atlas. I couldn’t agree more, because Kuya J’s Crispy Pata is one of the best tasting crispy patas I’ve tasted. It has the perfect amount of crispiness and the tenderness of its meat is something that will surely catch anyone’s appetite. Kuya J Sinigang na Tadyang. A hot bowl of Sinigang splendor, the kind of typical Filipino household viand just got a lot better with Kuya J’s Sinigang na Tadyang. This has to be the best tasting sinigang I’ve ever tasted. It has its soup in perfect thickness of taste, all the flavors of tamarind and vegetables are mouthwatering. It has a delectable Filipino sinigang taste that you will surely love.

The desserts: Kuya J Halo-Halo Espesyal. Topped with my favorite leche flan and oozing with delightful cream around, wait till the middle part bursts with flavorful cream as well, all in the lush bedding of milky-shaved ice cream ice. I’m sure dessert enthusiasts will definitely go back for more with Kuya J’s halo-halo. Kuya J Ube Halo-Halo Espesyal. Kuya J Duo Halo-Halo Milky and Ube Ice. This has to be one of the most innovative foods that have been delivered in casual dining. We were just enamored with its delicious assemblage and heavenly taste. Bravura work for halo-Halo Espesyal.

DoLE develops Covid QR Code << P1

lenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic by developing new systems, innovating ways to communicate and in bringing fresh approaches in providing better client experience while observing health and safety protocols,” DoLE 4A Regional Director Henry John Jalbuena said.

Workers and clients entering the regional office are required to scan the QR code first using their mobile phones or tablets.

Jalbuena guaranteed that all personal information gathered through the QR code can only be accessed by the administrator of the system and is protected by the Republic Act 10173 or the

“Data Privacy Act of 2012.” To maintain contactless transactions and safeguard the welfare of its employees and clients, DoLE 4A has also developed a Client Appointment System, Request for Assistance Online Filing System, Registration of Establishment, and Request for Certificate of Involuntary Separation for Social Security System Unemployment Benefits. It has also developed an online system for its Construction Safety and Health Program, Application for No Pending Case, Report of Safety Organization, Annual Medical Report, Registration of Job Service Contractor/Job Contractor, Request for Technical Safety

Inspection, Application for Alien Employment Permit, Internal Documents Requisition System, and Online Application System for DOLE 4A Vacancies. The system enables the office to keep track of the employees and visitors through a digital log and allow for quick contact tracing by health authorities if one of them tests positive for Covid-19.

“Contact tracing is an essential step that is why the online health checklist is being implemented to speed up the current manual processes and to make it quicker to stop the spread of the virus, particularly if the restrictions are eased,” Jalbuena said. Those with Apple gadgets can use

their cameras to scan the QR code, while Android users are encouraged to download the Google Lens application to scan the code.

Users will be required to provide their contact information after scanning the code posted at the office entrance and answer a quick health symptoms questionnaire which will be evaluated by the safety officers on duty.

“It is only for one purpose, to help in contact tracing. It aims to assist public health authorities to find those persons who are at risk more quickly, thus helping them to get early diagnosis and treatment and to ensure that everyone is protected at all times,” Jalbuena said.

PH Volleyball team’s Marcos << P1

his mother and sister at the Kapatiran Village covered court in Barangay Pasong Buaya II here.

“This is a very lucrative business as long as you remain diligent and persevering,” noted Marcos as he arranged the fish he was about to sell for the day on his makeshift stall on his bicycle with a sidecar, locally

referred to as a pedicab. He cited that he and his family had to be at the fish port by 2 AM to buy the fresh produce, which they will sell to neighbors and other residents in the area.

Marcos was part of the strong PH men’s volleyball team, who recently won Silver during SEA Games 2019 finals held in Manila. He is

part of the National University’s (NU) Bulldogs Team. He is currently finishing his second college degree—Bachelor of Science in Education after successfully completing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) major in Financial Management. Marcos played his Juniors in Perpetual U Molino campus as varsity under the

Coach Sandy Rieta and Jason Sapin, before they transfer to Home of the Altas in Las Pinas in 2014 and became National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Season 91 Champion in 2015.

He makes it a point to squeeze in a daily exercise routine of running, biking and body conditioning keep his athletic frame.

Cavite wants more coordinated << P1

mag-aasikaso, but there are no borders in this pandemic. A hundred thousand everyday come in and out of Cavite and 90 percent of our cases originated in the NCR,” he said in an interview on ABS-CBN News Channel.

(Some say that they should not care about the cases because it’s in Cavite, but there are no borders in this pandemic. A hundred thousand people go in and out of Cavite daily, and 90

percent of our cases originated in the NCR.)

“We try to share our contact tracing with them but they don’t share their contract tracing with us. So it should be a two-way street,” he stressed.

Remulla also said that the contact tracing reporting through the COVID Kaya system should also be nationalized and not just be a local matter. COVID KAYA is a case and contact tracing

reporting system provided by the DOH for epidemiology and surveillance officers, health care providers and laboratory-based users.

“When we report that, especially in Cavite, Rizal, Batangas, Laguna, who are the workforce in Metro Manila, it should be a concerted effort with one central authority tracing everyone,” said Remulla. “Local governments don’t coordinate well with each other. It’s a ‘your

problem is not my problem’ and it should be a shared problem for all of us,” he pointed out.

As of 3 p.m. Thursday, Cavite has already recorded a total of 4,044 COVID-19 cases with 40 new additional cases, according to the regional office of the Department of Health in Calabarzon.

Of this number, 3,122 are active, 844 are recoveries, and 78 are deaths.



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LGU Imus launches BIDA I-KonEK Mo project for city's online learning



IMUS CITY, Cavite, Sept 1 (PIA) -- The city government of Imus launched the "BIDA I-KonEK Mo: Bayanihang Imuseño, Damayang Areglado! Imus, Konektado sa Edukasyong Makabago" program in support of the online learning modality in the New Normal on Friday, August 28, 2020 at the Imus National High School-Main.

About 36 public schools in the city will benefit in this program which also included connectivity for households in the partner communities with a total of 683 students from Sitio Pulo, Barangay Anabu 2-C and 93 students of Sitio Sto. Niño, Barangay Anabu 1-G.

The program, considered to be the first in the country is a collaboration between Converge ICT for a fast and reliable internet connection, and the Imus City Schools Division Office (DepEd Imus) for the delivery of quality education to all.

It boasts of localization of the educational platforms of the Department of Education (DepEd) that facilitates the quick access to the educational sites and materials that are needed by the school children which does not use a higher bandwidth.

Moreover, the program also launched the EKonnect: Educational Gadget Loan Promo in coordination with the City of Imus Cooperative, Livelihood and Entrepreneurial, and Enterprise Development Office (CICLED), Imus Cooperative Federation, Guardian Cooperatives and Eskwela Kooperatiba for the student members of EK, a city government's program that encourages children to save.

Under the EKonnect, members were given assistance in the procurement of their own gadgets which they will use for their online classes at affordable prices, and payable in 10 installment payments within five months.



PHIVOLCS, NAKAPAGTALA NG 14 NA VOLCANIC EARTHQUAKES SA BULKANG TAAL

Nakapagtala ang Phivolcs ng 14 na volcanic earthquakes sa Bulkang Taal sa loob lamang ng magdamag. Ayon sa Taal Volcano Bulletin ng ahensya, ang mga naturang aktibidad ay dahil sa pagkakaroon ng rock-fracturing sa bulkan.

GOCAVITE
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The city government also distributed IT equipment to the public schools in the city and provided for the production of learning materials in support of the needs of the students and teachers for the coming school opening on October 5, 2020.

"This is the point-to-point solution of the city government to help school children continue their studies amid the pandemic," Mayor Emmanuel Maliksi stated.

He further added that, "Education gives the children

a bigger chance to achieve a better future. I believe in the prowess and talent of every children for they will be the next leaders and professionals in the country."

The local chief executive encourages all the concerned sectors in society and the residents as well for their cooperation to help in the fight against the health crisis and to rise above the challenges that the pandemic brings. (Ruel Francisco/Imus City Information Office)

Gatchalian bats to lure more out-of-school youth ahead of class opening

Senator Win Gatchalian is seeking to strengthen the Alternative Learning System (ALS) as part of the education sector's recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in reaching out to more than four million learners who did not enroll this coming school year and



give them a second chance. Though the economic downturn and fears of the virus are pushing the spike in the number of out-of-school children and youth, Gatchalian explained that the ALS program will bridge these learners' reintegration in the formal school system when the virus is suppressed and the economy bounces back.

ALS is the Department of Education's (DepEd) parallel learning system that increases learning opportunities for out-of-school youth, adults, and children in special extreme cases. It also covers those who cannot access formal education due to economic, geographic, political, cultural, and social barriers. These include persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, children in

conflict with the law, persons deprived of liberty, migrant workers, and other marginalized sectors. According to Gatchalian, DepEd should tap the ALS program in a final stretch to reach learners who are at risk of dropping out of school. Gatchalian pointed out that enrollment turnout for ALS has been dismal for this coming school year. As of August 27, there are 361,398 ALS learners enrolled for this school year, only 49 percent of 738,929 learners enrolled last year.

Based on the World Bank's May 2018 Philippines Education Note, at least 24 million Filipinos aged 15 and above have not completed basic education.

"Ang ALS program na ito ang sasalo sa mga hindi makakapag-aral. Importan-

teng may mekanismo na sasalo sa kanila. 'Di pwedeng putulin yung paghihikayat na pumasok itong mga out-of-school youth," said the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture.

Gatchalian is the principal author and sponsor of Senate Bill No. 1365 or the ALS Act, which will institutionalize ALS under the proposed Bureau of Alternative Education and put up an ALS Community Learning Center (ALS CLC) in every city and municipality, making the program more accessible to potential enrollees.

Like DepEd's Basic Education-Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP), the proposed measure also utilizes a mix of learning modalities such as digital learning, modular

instruction, and radio and television-based instructions, among others. The Senate approved the ALS Act on third and final reading last May. The House of Representatives has passed its version of ALS on third and final reading this August. A bicameral conference committee will soon convene to reconcile differing provisions on the measure.

"Sa pagbangon ng ating sektor ng edukasyon mula sa pandemya ng COVID-19, mahalagang mabigyan natin ng pangalawang pagkakataon ang mga naudlot ang pag-aaral.

Sa pamamagitan ng ALS, hindi lamang mga kabataan ang ating aabutin, mabibigyan natin ng pangalawang pagkakataon ang bawat Pilipinong napagkitaan ng edukasyon," Gatchalian ended.