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# MPTC's Christmas and New Year Gift: Free Toll for Motorists

## WWP in Ternate and Tagaytay

The provincial government of Cavite under the leadership of Governor Athena Bryana D. Tolentino spearheaded the Women's Welfare Program in the municipalities of Ternate and Tagaytay City on December 20, 2024, as part of her administration's continued efforts to uplift and empower women in the province of Cavite.

Held at Poblacion I, Ternate and Tagaytay International Convention Center, the program distributed ₱2,000 cash assistance to 2,000 women in each location, showcasing a strong commitment to fostering economic resilience and promoting women's welfare.

The event was graced by Governor Athena Bryana D.

>> P2



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Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) is delighted to spread holiday cheer this season by offering free toll passage to motorists during select festive hours. This special initiative is our way of making travel easier and more enjoyable for families and friends as they gather to celebrate Christmas and welcome the New Year. >> P2

This toll-free holiday treat is available on the following expressways operated by MPTC: NLEX (North Luzon Expressway), SCTEX (Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway), the NLEX Connector, CAVITEX

## PGC distributes hito fingerlings to farmers, fisherfolks

In a continued effort to uplift the livelihoods of farmers and fisherfolks, the Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist Fisheries Extension Services Section, distributed 20,000 Hito (catfish) fingerlings to 18 Cavite farmers and fisherfolks on December 18, 2024. The event, held at the OPA Administrative Lobby aimed to reinforce the government's commitment to agricultural and fisheries development.

The program opened with a brief yet insightful lecture on Hito culture led by Aquaculturist II Sheryl P. Luna, joined by Ms. Leni Pinsan, owner of the MLEP Catfish Hatchery. The discussion provided practical

>> P2

## PGC's Medical Mission provides Free Healthcare to 452 Residents



On Dec. 18, 2024, Brgy. Ramon Cruz's covered court became the center of a vital healthcare mission, where 452 residents received free medical check-ups, medicines, and vitamins. This event was a collective effort aimed at improving public health and wellness, warmly supported by local leaders and the community. 5th District Board

>> P2

## Gov. Tolentino leads WWP in Bacoar, Kawit

On December 18, 2024, Governor Athena Tolentino led the Women's Welfare Program aimed at advancing women's welfare in the City of Bacoar and the municipality of Kawit. The program reflecting the governor's steadfast dedication to women's empowerment, provided Php 2,000 in cash assistance to 2,000 women in each municipality.

WWP not only served as a financial lifeline but also symbolized the province's broader mission to uplift and

>> P2



## NBI ordered to name individuals behind rice price manipulation

By Filane Mikee Cervantes

A House mega-panel on Wednesday directed the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to probe the role of middlemen in alleged rice price manipulation that has burdened Filipino consumers and farmers.

During the hearing of the House Quinta Committee, House Deputy Majority Leader and Iloilo 1st District

>> P3



PRICE MANIPULATION. The House Quinta Committee convenes on Tuesday (Dec. 10, 2024) to investigate the implementation of government programs to address smuggling and price manipulation of basic goods and essential commodities, mitigate hunger, and promote food and nutrition security. The mega-panel on Wednesday (Dec. 11) directed the National Bureau of Investigation to probe the role of middlemen in alleged rice price manipulation that has burdened Filipino consumers and farmers. (Photo courtesy of the House Press and Public Affairs Bureau)

## 49 gov't infra projects exempted from poll ban on public works

By Ferdinand Patinio

A total of 49 government infrastructure projects such as railways, hospitals and airports are exempted from the election ban on public works in connection with next year's midterm polls.

In a certificate of exception signed by Commission on Elections (Comelec) Chairperson George Garcia on Dec. 11 but made public on Friday, the construction of the projects will continue as they are not covered by the ban provided under the Omnibus Election Code and in relation to a resolution from the poll body.

The infrastructure projects are the University of the Philippines (UP)-Philippine General Hospital Manila (Cancer Center Project) and Diliman projects, UP-

>> P3



# From mythical giant to resilient vendor: The journey of Romeo Dillo

By Zen Trinidad

Standing at an imposing 7'3", Romeo "Raul" Dillo once had a promising career in basketball but was cut short by a knee injury, prompting him to enter the show business industry.

Known for portraying larger-than-life mythical creatures in Filipino fantasy films, Raul became a household name for his roles as "kapre" and the mysterious "tikbalang." His deep voice and extraordinary stature captured the imagination of audiences and solidified his status as an icon of local folklore.

But life off-camera took a different turn. Today, Raul can be found navigating the bustling streets of Imus City in Cavite province, not as a mythical giant but as a humble "longganisa" (native sausage) vendor. His story is one

of resilience, humility, and reinvention—a testament to the power of hope in the face of adversity.

Raul lives with his wife, Helen, and their two children in a modest apartment.

After stepping away from the glitz and glamour of show business, he faced the harsh reality of finding a stable livelihood. Initially, he tried his hand at cooking and selling "lugaw" (porridge) and pancit, which were well-received by the community.

However, the physical demands of running a food business began to take a toll on his health.

The pandemic in 2020 brought one of Raul's most challenging moments when he was hospitalized. During this time, he relied heavily on the support of friends and his community.

Upon his recovery, a friend entrusted him with the capital to start a small longganisa business, igniting a spark of hope. "Wala po talaga akong pang puhunan, nagkaroon lang ako ng kaibigan na nagtiwala sa akin (I don't really have any capital, I just had a friend who trusted me)," he recounted.

While Raul humbly admits he is not a natural salesman, his determination keeps him going. Recently, his story gained attention in social media, where he was spotted selling longganisa on the busy streets of Imus.

The viral post reached the local government, which encouraged him to apply for a livelihood grant from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

DOLE-Calabarzon Regional Director Roy Buenafe sought Raul to provide him with an opportunity to rebuild his life.

Last Dec. 4, Raul's efforts bore fruit when the agency awarded him with a meat processing package worth PHP29,915. This included a meat grinder and raw materials, enabling Raul to produce his own homemade longganisa.

"Itong mga binigay nyo sa akin ay sana mapalago ko, at maipakita ko sa



**NEW CAREER.** Romeo "Raul" Dillo (center), a former basketball player at the University of the East who turned to show business after a knee injury, now makes and sells "longganisa" (native sausage) in Imus City in Cavite province. On Dec. 4, 2024, he received from Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)-Calabarzon Regional Director Roy Buenafe (left) and DOLE-Cavite Provincial Director Marivic Martinez a livelihood aid package worth PHP29,915. (Photo courtesy of DOLE-Calabarzon)

mga tumulong sa akin, lalo na sa DOLE, na ang kanilang binigay ay paka-iingat at palalaguin (These things you gave me, I hope I can grow, and I can show those who helped me, especially DOLE, that what they gave is to be preserved and grown)," Raul said during the handover ceremony.

DOLE-Cavite Provincial Director Marivic Martinez said in a phone interview Wednesday said that she encouraged Raul to persevere and assured him that, if

eligible, he could apply for further livelihood enhancements in the future. "You can expect that the DOLE is here to support people like Ka Raul who dream of improving their lives," she remarked. Raul's journey from being a character actor to a resilient entrepreneur is a poignant reminder of the strength it takes to rebuild one's life. Grateful for the support of his friends and the government, he is determined to make his longganisa business a success.

"Itong ay patunay na nandito pa rin ang ating gobyerno, anuman ang sitwasyon natin, maari po nila tayong abutin (This is proof that our government is here, regardless of our situation, they can reach us)," he said.

As Raul diligently works to grow his business, his story serves as an inspiration to many. It's a powerful narrative of resilience, proving that with hard work, humility, and a little help, second chances can lead to triumphs. (PNA)

## Gov. Tolentino leads << P1

empower women. The event in Bacoor saw the presence of Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista Mendiola and members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, reflecting strong local government support. In Kawit, Senator Francis "Tol" Tolentino lent his backing to the initiative, further emphasizing the collaborative effort of provincial and national leaders in promoting

women's rights and welfare.

Governor Tolentino's leadership exemplifies the power of collective action and the importance of investing in women as catalysts for societal progress. By prioritizing women's economic empowerment, this initiative seeks to create opportunities for growth, self-reliance, and community engagement.--- OPIO

## PGCs medical mission << P1

Member Aidel Belamide graced the program, expressing unwavering support for the initiative and highlighting the importance of accessible healthcare.

The medical mission was made possible through the collaboration of the medical team from General

Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH) and Carsigma District Hospital, and the team from the Office of the Provincial Governor.

Together with the assistance of Barangay Health Workers (BHW), they worked tirelessly to meet the healthcare needs

of the community. Patients were provided with medical check-ups conducted by a dedicated team of doctors, nurses, and healthcare volunteers.

The distribution of free medicines and vitamins aimed to address immediate health needs and promote

preventive care within the barangay. This medical mission exemplifies the strong collaboration between local officials, healthcare teams, and the provincial government under the leadership of Governor Athena Bryana D. Tolentino.--- OPIO

## PGC distributes hito << P1

guidance on raising Hito, ensuring beneficiaries are equipped with the knowledge to maximize their yields.

Aquaculturist II Edrich H. Caparas, together with

OPA Administrative Officer V, Lourdes N. Janohan, facilitated the fingerling distribution. Beneficiaries expressed their gratitude, recognizing the initiative

as a step toward improving their income and livelihood opportunities.

The distribution program, born from the growing demand for Hito

fingerlings, underscores the Provincial Government's dedication to providing sustainable solutions and resources for local farmers and fisherfolks. --- OPIO

## WWP in Ternate and << P1

Tolentino in Ternate, while Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentiono and Vice Mayor Agnes Tolentino led the event in Tagaytay City. They emphasized the importance of empowering women as a way to build stronger,

more inclusive communities and invest in the future of society. Governor Tolentino highlighted that the initiative is part of her administration's broader mission to ensure that Caviteñas have access to resources and opportunities

to improve their quality of life. The Women's Welfare Program reflects the provincial government's dedication to inclusive and sustainable development, ensuring that women's voices are heard and their

contributions recognized. Governor Tolentino's initiative has inspired many to take active steps toward personal and collective empowerment, fostering a brighter future for all Caviteños.--- OPIO

## MPTCs Christmas and New Year << P1

(Cavite Expressway), and CALAX (Cavite-Laguna Expressway). Motorists can enjoy this privilege during these hours:

- Christmas Eve to Christmas Day: From 10:00 PM on December 24 to 6:00 AM on December 25.

- New Year's Eve to New Year's Day: From 10:00 PM on December 31 to 6:00

AM on January 1.

MPTC Chairman and CEO, Manuel V. Pangilinan, emphasized the importance of family during this time of year, stating, "Family time is priceless, especially during the holidays. Offering toll-free access is our humble gift to families who wish to maximize their time together." To ensure seamless travel, motorists

are encouraged to check their RFID balance and functionality before entering the expressways. RFID users can visit any Easytrip service center for assistance, while cash-paying customers are encouraged to transition to RFID for faster and more convenient passage.

Outside of these designated hours, standard toll fees will apply. We urge

everyone to plan their trips accordingly and drive safely during this busy season.

MPTC wishes all travelers a joyful and memorable holiday season. May your journeys be filled with happiness as you create cherished memories with your loved ones. Happy holidays from all of us at Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation!

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# DA chief warns rice importers involved in profiteering

By Stephanie Sevallano

The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Thursday warned importers who are allegedly selling branded rice at an “unreasonable” profit margin.

In an ambush interview at the sidelines of the DA’s joint market inspection with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said he has monitored high retail prices of branded rice which show possible “profiteering” of some rice importers.

“Alam niyo naman dati akong negosyante kaya kaya kong himayin talaga ng masinsinan ito at makita ko iyong landed cost, makita ko iyong margin nila na unreasonable. Susugpuin natin itong isyung ito (You all know I was a businessman before, that’s why I can really dig deep into this and assess the landed cost,

their unreasonable margin. We will eliminate this issue),” he said.

Tiu Laurel said he would immediately call for a meeting and order the listing of branded rice with spiking prices in local markets, to be followed by tracing of brand owners or importers.

He reiterated that the profit margin should only be at a PHP5 to PHP7 per kilogram, for a reasonable range of branded rice at PHP47/kg to PHP50/kg.

“Talagang we’ll drill down dito sa mga ganitong brand na may practices na medyo sobra naman yun. Kung PHP42 (landed) cost mo, ibebenta mo PHP62, that’s 50 percent na patong (We will drill down in these brands with practices that are somehow excessive. If your landed cost is PHP42/kg, you will sell at PHP62, that’s a 50 percent markup),” he said.

## 49 gov’t infra projects << P1

Los Baños Agro-Industrial Information Technology Parks “Agrifutura,” San Juan-Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino (4PH), Manila Central Post Office (MCPO) Project, Rizal Park Western Section Development Project, MT. Data Hotel Project, Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. International Convention Center, Metro Manila Subway Project (MMSP) Operations and Maintenance (O&M) PPP Project, and Metro Manila Rail Transit (MRT) Line 3 O&M. Also exempted are the NCR (National Capital Region) Busway Project; North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR) Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Project; Philippine Automatic Fare Collection System, Operations and Maintenance of the Cebu Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project; Manila Bay-Pasig River-Laguna Lake Ferry Project; Rehabilitation-

Expansion-Operation-Maintenance of the Iloilo International Airport; Upgrade, Expansion, Operation and Maintenance of the Kalibo International Airport Project; Baguio City Integrated Terminal Project; and Redevelopment of the Baguio City Public Market and Smart Urban Mobility Project. The Development and Improvement of Asin Hydropower Plants Dialysis, Dialysis Center PPP Project for the Renal Center Facility of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC), Cagayan Valley Medical Center (CVMC) Hemodialysis Center, National Food Authority Hub Project, Entertainment and Events Hub Package 2 Multi-Modal Mobility Terminal, Central Luzon Link Expressway (CLLEX) Phase II, Boracay Bridge Project, Operations and Maintenance of Pampanga Dialysis Centers Project, and Pampanga Bulk Water

bigas. Bakit ito importante? Dahil kapag nagkakaroon ng sabwatan sa baba, pumapasok ang gobyerno para magbenta at ibaba ang presyo (The NFA lost its power to sell rice. Why is this important? Because when there’s collusion below, the government intervenes to sell and bring down prices),” she said.

Garin highlighted that some middlemen exploit to control access of legitimate wholesalers, driving prices higher.

“At ‘yung retailer ay tila hindi nabibigyan ng direk na linya papunta sa totoong wholesaler kasi kontrolado nito ang mga middleman na ito (Retailers appear unable to connect directly to legitimate wholesalers because these middlemen control access),” she said.

She said the NBI

The DA chief vowed to explore all “legal ways” available to hold unreasonable importers liable, in collaboration with law enforcement bodies.

Tiu Laurel, meanwhile, announced the availability of the P29 program in Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) kiosks in public markets, LRT, and MRT stations.

“Magdadagdag tayo ng (We will add) P29 for 4Ps (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program beneficiaries), senior citizen, single parent, and PWD sa mga booth. So may PHP40, may PHP29 (in the booths. So, there’s PHP40 and PHP29),” he said. The KNP Rice for All refers to the sale of PHP40/kg mixed of local and imported well-milled rice; while the P29 is the sale of aging but good quality stocks of National Food Authority (NFA) rice to the disadvantaged sector.

In terms of KNP ex-

Water Supply, Bislig City Septage Project, National Single Window Through An Integrated Trade Facility Platform, Comprehensive Digital Housing Platform Project, and Special Products Automated Revenue Collection System (SPARCS) Project PRA Digitalization Project.

“This Certificate of Exception shall not be construed as a waiver on the part of the Comelec to prosecute for other election offenses such as Sections 104; 261 (o), (v) and (w) of the Omnibus Election Code, nor shall it exempt the certificate-recipient from complying with the provisions of the Commission on Audit in its Circular No. 2013-004,” the poll body said.

“Any alteration in this document shall invalidate this Certificate and the use of an altered document constitutes a criminal offense,” it added. (PNA)

Under a rice emergency, the National Food Authority (NFA), under the amended Rice Tariffication law, may sell its stocks to the public to alleviate the impact of spiking rice prices in the country.

“If declaring a rice emergency allows us to sell NFA’s nearly 6 million bags of rice at flexible prices to the public, then that’s definitely a good move,” Tiu Laurel said. (PNA)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
CITY OF IMUS, CAVITE

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

-versus-

JOSEPHINE SEE ROMERO  
Mortgagor,  
X-----X

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135 AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

FC CASE NO. 19260-24

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118 filed by **HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as PAG-IBIG FUND)** mortgagee, with principal place of business at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City 1200, against **JOSEPHINE SEE ROMERO**, mortgagor, with residential and postal address at Lot 10 Blk. 18, Greenplace Homes 2, Brgy. Malagasang 2, Imus, Cavite and/or B18 L12 Green Place Homes 2, Brgy. Malagasang 2A, Imus, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of November 12, 2024 amounts to **ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY PESOS & 50/100 (P1,101,150.50)**, Philippine Currency, including interest and penalties, but excluding attorney’s fees, sheriff’s fees and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale the undersigned will sell at public auction on **JANUARY 21, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.** or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC-Imus Hall of Justice, Aguinaldo Highway, Imus, Cavite, to the highest bidder, for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all improvements therein, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2017006002

“A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 10, BLK. 18 OF THE CONS AND SUBD. PLAN PCS-04-024955, BEING A PORTION OF THE CONS. OF LOTS 1846-A, PSD-28429 & 1845-A-2, (LRC) PSD-223425, L.R.C. RECORD NO. 8843) SITUATED IN BRGY OF MALAGASANG – 2, MUN OF IMUS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 11, BLK. 18, ON THE SW & NW., ALONG LINES 2-3-4-5-6 BY ROAD LOT 23; ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 6-7 BY ROAD LOT 30 AND ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 7-1 BY LOT 9, BLK 18 ALL OF THE CONS AND SUBD PLAN. X X X CONTAINING AN AREA OF FIFTY FIVE (55) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS. X X X”

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, it shall be held on **JANUARY 28, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.** without further notice.

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

Imus, Cavite, December 12, 2024.

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# Barangays in Cavite given executive course in promoting sustainable peace

By Patricia Bermudez

DASMARIÑAS CITY, Cavite (PIA) – The role of barangays in fostering lasting peace in the community is highlighted as a university in Cavite launched the Barangay Peace and Conflict Transformation (BPACT) Executive Course.

Helmed by the ninth batch of Master in Sustainable Leadership and Governance students of De La Salle University in Dasmariñas, the BPACT Executive Course aims to provide barangay officials and Sangguniang Kabataan leaders with vital skills in conflict resolution, mediation, and peacebuilding.

The program likewise seeks to empower grassroots leaders to foster inclusive, harmonious, and resilient communities.

Professor Rommel Mazo, Director of the university's School of Governance, stated that BPACT is a 13 to 15-week highly specialized course designed to support the barangay justice administration overseen by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

"Peace is essential in development. Progress cannot occur without peace. The state exists fundamentally to promote peace and order. Without peace and order, there is no development,

no culture, no civilization," Mazo said.

Engr. Danilo Nobleza, Provincial Director of DILG Cavite, recognized the importance of the academe in its mission to empower barangays in maintaining peace and promoting development within their communities.

"This program is highly significant as we have seen how an academic institution was given the opportunity to offer a program that addresses the skills and knowledge needed for serving our communities,"

Nobleza assured that the interior department will fully support the BPACT Executive Course by offer-



ing technical assistance and advocating for its adoption in other local governments. For barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials, the inaugural BPACT course is a valuable learning opportunity designed to enhance their conflict resolution skills and prevent disputes from escalating to the courts.

Ariane Agustin, a Sangguniang Kabataan member in Tanza, Cavite urged fellow SK officials to support this initiative as part of their responsibility to inspire other youth to be involved in local governance.

"To my fellow SK officials, let's support the BPACT program. We need this because as youth leaders, we are expected to fulfill our duty and inspire the youth to participate in the community."

Matde Blancaflor from Barangay Biwas, Tanza stated the course will better equip them to resolve cases and disputes at the barangay level and prevent them from being elevated to higher authorities.

"It provides guidelines on how cases are processed at the barangay level, helping

reduce conflicts and prevent issues from escalating to the courts when they can be resolved within the barangay."

Aligned with the principles of Conflict Sensitive and Peace Promotion (CSPP) from the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity (OPAPRU), the BPACT Executive Course also supports the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SGD) 16, which focuses on promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions. (PB/PIA4A)

## Financial assistance distributed to 44 ISF families for relocation



Bacoor City, December 16, 2024 – The City Government of Bacoor, led by Mayor Strike B. Revilla and Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista Mendiola, distributed financial assistance to 44 informal settler families (ISF) residing near the danger area (Manila Bay) of Barangay Zapote 3. The distribution, organized by the Housing and Urban Development and Regulatory Department (HUDRD) headed by Atty. Aimee Tor-

refranca-Neri, took place at the Strike Gymnasium.

The relocation of these families is a result of a Supreme Court Mandamus, requiring the removal of structures situated in danger zones.

The City Government, in collaboration with the National Housing Authority (NHA), is providing these families with new housing units and financial assistance to aid in their relocation.

Aside from the financial assistance, each family will also receive relief packs, free truck transportation for their belongings, and bus transportation to their new homes. This initiative demonstrates the City Government's dedication to providing support and assistance to vulnerable communities. The relocation program aims to improve the living conditions of the ISF families while ensuring their safety and security.

## PGC continues on its track towards a healthier Cavite

The dedicated medical and dental mission team of the Provincial Government of Cavite revisited the Municipality of Maragondon and rendered healthcare services to a total of 200 patients - 166 in medical and 34 in dental, on November 22, 2024. The LAB for ALL van was also onsite to provide free ECG and X-ray examinations to the residents.

In addition, medicines and vitamins were distribut-



ed to complete the health services availed by the patients. The MDM program continues on its track towards better health and well-being of Caviteños.--- OPIO

## IT IS CHRISTMAS IN THE PHILIPPINES PART 3

But we celebrate this special month to remember that the spirit of the Christmas season is about the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in remembrance of His amazing life, that is the reality of the reason is all about Him.

Since we repented of our sin and we accepted Him in our hearts as the Redeemer of life and He redeemed all of us who nailed Him to the Cross of Calvary because of our sin to forgive our shortcomings, mistakes, and sins.

Despite all this, the true purpose of celebrating Christmas is sharing God's blessings to one another, as if it were a time of giving Christmas gifts, forgiveness, reconciliation, unity and love.

In fact, every day that God has made in our lives is always Christmas, not only in the month of December but always because our Lord God has not failed to provide our daily needs.

So we should sincerely praise and thank God the Creator, that He never fails us in our needs. We thank God for everything what we have and glorify Him in our lives.

One of the beautiful highlights of the Christmas spirit is that we are alive with God's grace, we have a strong body and health that we borrowed from God.

The special celebration of Christmas was not missed because the Filipino people celebrated the so-called "Simbang Gabi" which we can really see that people are looking for faith and that is a symbol that they have a heart for the Lord God willingly they approach and ask for help and mercy, hoping that God will give it to them because God is faithful to His promises for those who believe for Him.

Indeed, all over the world, celebrating Christmas which is in the centered reason of the Christmas seasons is the Lord Jesus Christ, nothing else and nothing more, but the gift of His life, death, burial and resurrection to all humanity and that is the Gospel the God's Message for salvation of our souls and to reaching out the lost souls for Christ's sake.



**PUBLIC TALKS**  
by Joseph Elias Bontogon