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TD 'Usman' brings moderate to heavy rains over Visayas, Mindanao

MANILA -- Moderate to heavy rains are expected in several areas in the Visayas and Mindanao Thursday as tropical depression "Usman" maintains its strength, the weather bureau said.

In its latest severe weather bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric,

Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said "Usman", last spotted at 435 kilometers east of Guiuan in Eastern Samar, is moving west-northwest at 20 kms. per hour with sustained winds of 55 kph and gusts of up to 65 kph.

The weather bureau said the hoisting of tropical cyclone warning signal number 1 is possible over Albay including Burias Island, Romblon, Aklan, Capiz, northern Negros Occidental, and northern Iloilo in the next severe weather bulletin.

(Turn to p. 2)

Customs urged to donate 30K bags of seized rice to DSWD

MANILA -- Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has ordered newly-installed Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero to make a fresh donation of 30,000 bags of undocumented rice shipments to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to aid in the government's anti-poverty and disaster relief programs.

In a news release this week, the Department of Finance (DOF) said

Dominguez gave the order to Guerrero after the new Customs commissioner reported that the bureau intercepted the shipment after being tagged in Zamboanga City as undocumented imported rice.

"Donate that to the DSWD. They can use that," Dominguez told Guerrero, who attended his first Executive Committee meeting at the DOF last Nov. 5.

The 30,000 bags of rice for donation to the DSWD are on top of the

16,000 bags earlier turned over by the BOC under then-commissioner Isidro Lapeña to augment disaster relief efforts for typhoon victims, also on Dominguez's orders.

About 9,000 bags of rice seized in the Port of Cebu were turned over by the BOC to the DSWD on Sept. 14.

Another 6,921 bags in the Port of Zamboanga and 748 bags in the custody of the bureau's Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) were also donated to the DSWD on Sept. 19 and

24, respectively.

The BOC said it also donated to the DSWD 5,040 pieces of canned goods, 109 packages of emergency survival blankets, 350 boxes of bed sheets, blankets and towels, 1,332 boxes of brand-new clothes, and 153 packages of face masks from the Manila International Container Port (MICP) last Sept. 21.

According to a BOC report to Dominguez, the Bureau will also donate used clothing of various volumes seized from the ports of San Fernando in

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DOH reports 11 more fireworks-related injuries

MANILA -- The Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday reported 11 more fireworks-related injuries (FWRIs) in Calabarzon, Bicol Region, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula and the National Capital Region (NCR).

The FWRIs were recorded by sentinel hospitals from 6 a.m. on Tuesday until 5:59 a.m., December 26. Four cases were from NCR, three from Western

Visayas, and one each from Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon), Bicol Region, Central Visayas and Zamboanga Peninsula.

The cases involved males aged between two and 49 years and who used fireworks banned by the government. Five suffered from burns without amputation, were given antibiotics, and were sent home after the treatment.

Two persons were (Turn to p. 2)



PATROL MOTORCYCLES FOR EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICES DELIVERY: Cavite Governor Boying Remulla formally handed the symbolic key for 26 units of multi-purpose vehicles known as Bokyos to the municipality of Amadeo on December 19, 2018, being one of the priority projects aligned with intensifying security and safety measures in every community. Amadeo Mayor Rading Viado and Liga ng mga Barangay (LnB) Federation President Florencio Cesicar along with co-chiefs of barangays who received the tricycle units thanked the governor and pledged that they will use the vehicles properly to further enhance mobility on monitoring public activities. Likewise, Vice Mayor Leo Angelo Bayot told barangay officials that everyone must be responsible for the maintenance of the vehicles for continuous and efficient delivery of services to constituents. Governor Remulla was also joined by his son, Indang Municipal Councilor Ping Remulla, along with Tanza Municipal Councilor Lito Langit, former Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs Engr. Redel Dionisio and members of the Sangguninag Bayan. —(PICAD)

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La Union, Manila, MICP, Legazpi City, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, and Subic.

Earlier, Dominguez directed the BOC to immediately release smuggled rice and other food items seized by the agency to the DSWD to augment ongoing government preparations before Typhoon Ompong struck Northern Luzon.

According to the Finance chief, "government-to-government transfers in emergency situations can be legally fast-tracked" as in the case of the BOC release of the seized food stocks to the DSWD for disaster relief.

Under Chapter 10, Section 1141 of the

Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), goods under BOC custody that are up for disposal "may be donated to another government agency or declared for official use by the Bureau, after approval of the Secretary of Finance, or sold at a public auction within 30 days after a 10-day notice posted at a public place at the port where the goods are located and published electronically or in a newspaper of general circulation."

Also, goods suitable for shelter, food items, clothing materials and medicines "may be donated to the DSWD," the law further states. (PR)

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also injured from blast and needed to be amputated while four others suffered from eye injuries.

Meanwhile, a six-year-old boy in Tondo, Manila ingested on Tuesday the contents of a "pili" firecracker which possibly contains potassium chloride and potassium nitrate. He showed signs of mild toxicity. He was treated and is still admitted at the Philippine General Hospital.

The DOH said the recorded FWRIs, starting December 21, are 54 percent lower compared to the same period last year, and 52 percent lower than the five-year average.

Since then, seven FWRIs were recorded in the NCR, three in Central Luzon, five in Western Visayas, four in Central Visayas, two in

Zamboanga Peninsula, one from Calabarzon, one from Bicol Region and one in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Four were admitted in hospitals.

Under Executive Order No. 28, the use of firecrackers shall be confined to community fireworks display to minimize the risk of injuries and casualties.

The DOH also warned the public against illegal fireworks, such as watusi, piccolo, atomic triangle, large Judas belt, large bawang, pillbox, boga, Goodbye Philippines, Bin Laden, mother rockets, lolo thunder, coke-in-can, kwitom, atomic bomb, five star, pla-pla, giant whistle bomb, kabasi, and other unlabeled and imported firecrackers. (PNA)

4.1-M indigents benefit from 4Ps in 2018

MANILA -- In line with its mandate to protect the poor, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has served more than 4 million beneficiaries under its Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) this year. DSWD Undersecretary Florita R. Villar on Friday reported the 4Ps continues to invest in the health and education of poor and vulnerable households "to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty in the country".

"As of October, 4Ps is being implemented in 143 cities and 1,489 municipalities in 81 provinces nationwide," Villar said.

She noted that a total of 4,178,985 are active household beneficiaries.

Of the beneficiaries, Villar said, 3,950,012 are covered by the regular Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program while 228,973 are covered by the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT).

The MCCT includes

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It added that "Usman" may intensify into a tropical storm prior to landfall over Eastern Samar on Friday, December 28.

Moderate to heavy rains, which may trigger floodings and landslides, may affect Bicol Region, Eastern Visayas, Surigao del Norte and Dinagat Islands starting today.

Residents of these areas, especially those living near river channels and in low-lying and mountainous areas, are advised to take precautionary measures,

beneficiaries who are not covered by the regular CCT, such as homeless street families, the victims of natural and man-made disasters who are rendered homeless and with no means of livelihood, and indigenous peoples in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

"The DSWD also continues to provide indigent Filipinos with access to sustainable livelihood opportunities through its Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP)," Villar said.

The SLP is the DSWD's capacity-building program that provides access to opportunities that increase the productivity of the livelihood assets of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized communities, helping them improve their socio-economic well-being.

Under the SLP, beneficiaries are given the option to take either the micro-enterprise development track, which supports microenterprises to become organizationally

and economically viable, or the employment facilitation track, which assists Filipinos to access appropriate employment opportunities.

"As of October, the program was able to serve a total of 82,455 households nationwide. Of this number, 73,546 households or 89.2 percent were served under the micro-enterprise development track while 8,909 households or 10.8 percent were served under the employment facilitation track," Villar said.

Out of the 82,455 households served by the SLP, 70,073 are beneficiaries of the 4Ps.

Some 63,600 4Ps households were assisted under the micro-enterprise development track, while 6,473 were facilitated for employment.

DSWD has also

prepared and uploaded to the Land Bank of the Philippines the payroll documents for the PHP2,400 unconditional cash transfer (UCT) grants of some 8,603,905 beneficiaries.

UCT is the tax subsidy provided under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law, which is the largest tax reform mitigation program under the administration of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. It aims to help the poor cushion the adverse economic impact of the law for three years starting 2018.

"In 2019, the 'one-time big time' UCT grants will be PHP3,600 and the payment period will be from June to July 2019," Villar said.

She noted that the remaining 2.6 million beneficiaries are

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INSPIRING TRECEÑOS THRU UGNAYAN SA BARANGAY: Cavite Governor Boying Remulla once again visited constituents in Trece Martires City, this time in Barangay Cabuco, on December 17, 2018 for another leg of Ugnayan sa Barangay program of the provincial government. The governor expressed his appreciation to the locals for the warm welcome as he delivers his message of continued support to them, disclosing that the provincial capitol will stay in the city. Other guests who joined the outreach event were Indang Municipal Councilor Ping Remulla, Tanza Municipal Councilor Lito Langit and some members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod including Trece Martires City Councilors Aldrin Anacan and Kim Lubigan. —(PICAD)

DOST-FPRDI botanists discover new *Hoya* subspecies

Known for its ball-like cluster of waxy flowers, the *Hoya* plant is a favorite among many flower enthusiasts especially in Asia. And although there is already a great variety of officially recognized *Hoya* plants, a new subspecies was recently discovered by botanists from the DOST-Forest Products Research and Development Institute (DOST-FPRDI).

Hoya meliflua Merr. subsp. *escobinae* Kloppenb. Conda, Buot & Pitargue was added to the International Plant Names Index (IPNI) in 2016. It was discovered by DOST-FPRDI's For. Jennifer M. Conda, Mr. Fernando C. Pitargue Jr., and Dr. Ramiro S.

Escobin.

Conda explained the process of discovery: "Our team collected cuttings of the plant from the Quezon Protected Landscape in 2012. Immediately after the first flowers bloomed, we sent samples for examination to Dr. Dale Kloppenburg, a renowned *Hoya* expert from the United States. He then confirmed that it was a new subspecies, which showed several similarities with *Hoya meliflua* Blanco ex Merr. but with some notable differences. Results were published in *Hoya New*, a publication devoted to studies about *Hoya*, and listed in the IPNI." According to her, the

calyx lobes (sepals) of the new subspecies are tongue-like and long, as compared to the broadly oval to oblong of the *Hoya meliflua* Blanco ex Merr. Its corolla lobes (petals), meanwhile, are elongated and have serrated edge, in contrast to the latter's broadly triangular lobes.

"Of the 109 *Hoya* species recorded in the country, 39 species and 3 subspecies are found in Quezon province. It is no wonder that another subspecies was uncovered in the same area," explained Conda.

Also called wax plant, wax vine, wax flower or shooting star, *Hoya* is an Asian native

NAPC EXEC SEES 14% POVERTY RATE IN 2022

By: Dione D. Datwin

President Duterte's point man in the anti-poverty campaign has expressed confidence the country's poverty incidence would have been whittled down to 14% in 2022 once "government services are brought closer to the 14 basic sectors of society without let-up." The country's poverty incidence currently stands at 21.6%.

But in Davao City last week, National Anti-Poverty Commission Secretary and lead convenor Noel K. Felongco said NAPC has figured out a formula—that combines social reform agenda and poverty reduction activities—in sustaining government services to these basic sectors.

He said this is backed all the way by President Duterte and former Special Assistant to the president Christopher 'Bong' Go.

The *Malasakit Centers*, a one-stop medical center established in 10 cities by President Duterte with Bong Go in a crucial role, fits exactly into the system.

Felongco said the approach has been unveiled in Manila on December 7 with at least 10 government agencies participating to include agencies under

the Department of Health, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Justice and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"TESDA unveiled a jobs fair, the DOH provided free medicine and consultation, the public attorney's office gave consultation and notary services, the DA gave out seeds for urban gardening, the BFAR taught fish culture and the local government unit that hosted the event provided the venue and food, among other things," he said.

The signing of a memorandum of understanding with government agencies sealed the continuity of the program.

Felongco said the approach will be replicated in the regions where "the country's top 40 most poverty-stricken provinces are located." The regions also host the 10 poorest municipalities and the 10 poorest barangays.

With the reduction of poverty the ultimate goal, the program is determined to engage the participation of 14 basic sectors (urban poor, farmers, fisherfolk, labor and informal labor,

workers and informal workers, women, persons with disabilities, victims of disasters and calamities, children, senior citizens, non-government organizations and cooperatives) in the country's top 40 poverty-stricken provinces.

"This is on instruction of President Duterte himself," said Felongco, adding that the Sambayanan or convergence approach will not leave out any province.

"We shall go to all provinces without exception to engage all 14 basic sectors that make up the majority of Philippine society," he said.

Felongco said the approach is meant to capacitate or to show to the basic sectors how to engage government services in addressing the 10 basic needs that included food, water, shelter, work, health care, education, social protection, healthy environment, peace and participation in decision-making.

"The Duterte administration may look harsh against corruption and illegal drugs, but it has the concerns of the poor at heart, hence this continuing social reform program and poverty reduction activities," said Felongco.

plant that usually creeps or climbs. It has thick, waxy leaves and a cluster of flowers that holds up to 40 individual flowers firmly packed together.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE



SHARING BLESSINGS THRU HEALTH MISSION: Hundreds of Dasmariñenos who are residents of Barangay San Luis 1 happily thanked Governor Boying Remulla for the successful conduct of medical and dental mission on December 19, 2018 at their covered court. Village chief, Barangay Captain Edna Andalajao expressed gratefulness to the medical volunteers on behalf of all the beneficiaries of the outreach project who have availed free prescribed medicines after undergoing consultation and dental extraction. — (PICAD)

Salceda: Teknolohiya, paglago ng industriya isusulong ng Nuclear Regulation Act

Pasado na sa ikalawang pagbasa ng mababang kapulungan ng Kongreso ang p a n u k a l a n g “Comprehensive Nuclear Regulation Act” (HB 8733) na magsusulong sa teknolohiya at paglago ng industriya. Layunin nito ang paglikha ng Philippine Nuclear Regulatory Commission (PNRC) at pagtatag at pagtalaga ng makabuluhang balangkas at sistema ng nuclear sa bansa.

Ayon kay Albay Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda na siyang naghain ng HB 8733 sa kamara, ang PNRC ay hiwalay na ‘nuclear regulatory body’ na tututok sa wasto at ligtas na paggamit sa ‘nuclear’ na yaman ng bansa, gaya ng sa China, South Korea, Japan, Australia, Singapore at iba pa. Isasailalim ito sa Department of Science and Technology (IDOST). Isa si House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sa

mga nagtutulak nito.

Ipinaliwanag ni Salceda na magiging kapaki-pakinabang ang wasto at ligtas na paggamit ng sistemang ‘nuclear’ sa agrikultura, kalusugan at medisina, paglikha ng kuryente, industriya, ‘scientific research’ at edukasyon. Kikilatisin din nito ang panganib mula sa ‘ionizing radiation’ at pangangalagaan ang kapaligiran at lipunan, habang masinop na titiyakin ang ligtas na pangangasiwa sa basurang ‘nuclear.’

Kasama sa mga tungkulin ng PNRC ang pagbalangkas ng mga alituntunin sa pagpapatupad ng “Comprehensive Nuclear Regulation Act;” pagtatalaga ng mga pamantayan sa kakayanan ng mga kumpanyang lalahok sa mga programa nito; regular na inspeksiyon at tiyak na pagpapanagot ng mga ito sa paglabag sa

mga alituntunin at kasiraang lilikhain nila; pakikipagugnayan sa ibang ahensiya sa kalusugan, kaligtasan, kapaligiran, paghakot sa mga ‘nuclear materials’ at iba na naaayon sa mga alituntunin ng International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Pamumunuan ang PNRC ng isang Commissioner na aagapayang ng apat p a n g D e p u t y Commissioners at isang Executive Director na mangangasiwa sa mga tungkuling ehekutibo, administratibo at pagpapalano. May mandato rin ang ahensiya na maningil ng makatotohanang bayad para sa mga serbisyo nito na ilalagak naman sa Bureau of Treasury ng pamahalaan. Magtatatag din ito ng Nuclear Waste Management Fund mula sa benta ng lilikhaing kuryente na gagamitin sa wasto at tiyak na ligtas na pangangasiwa sa



FREE MEDICAL SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE OF MENDEZ: More than 200 residents of Mendez benefitted from the medical and dental mission sponsored by the provincial government of Cavite through the initiative of OPG-Extension Office and Provincial Health Office on December 19, 2018 at Galicia III Covered Court. Volunteer doctors and dentists rendered their services which include medical consultation, dental check-up and tooth extraction. Some vitamins and medicines for basic illnesses such as fever, cough and colds were also distributed during the event. —(PICAD)

PGC'S PASSION IN SERVING THE PUBLIC

In line with its environmental campaign, the Provincial Government of Cavite led by Governor Boying C. Remulla continuously conduct, “Kalinga sa Kalikasan Program” to promote a secured and well-kept community through a proper environment preservation and nature management on December 14, 2018 at Poblacion Covered Court in the municipality of Noveleta. The clean-up activity was also attended by Noveleta Mayor Dino Chua

together with municipal councilors, former Provincial Administrator for Internal Affairs Enrico Alvarez and Cavite City Councilor Rommel Enriquez to show their support in eliminating the pollution around the province.

Likewise, on the same day, another leg of Ugnayan sa Barangay held at San Mateo Covered Court in the City of Dasmariñas was conducted to ensure that the primary necessities of the locals are properly sustained. The local

management made it possible for the indigent residents to easily utter their concerns and needs as they were given the chance to communicate with Governor Jonvic Remulla. He echoed the full commitment of the Remulla Administration in extending assistance and initiating programs that are beneficial for Caviteños. Dasmariñas Vice Mayor Rex Mangubat together with City Councilors were also present during the event. —(PICAD)

basurang ‘nuclear.’

Magkakaroon din ng Advisory Board ang PNRC na pamamatnugutan ng DOST Secretary bilang chairman, at Health Secretary bilang vice chairman. Kasama nila sa naturang Board ang mga Kalihim ng Departments of Energy, National

Defense, Environment and Natural Resources, Agriculture, Trade and Industry, at mga limang iba pa mula sa akademya at mga pribadong organisasyon.

May akmanang mga kaparusahan ang mga lalabag sa bagong batas kasama ang

pagkabilanggo ng hindi hihigit sa limang taon o multang P1 milyon hanggang P5 milyon. Ililipat din sa PNRC ang lahat ng kapangyarihan, responsibilidad at kagamitan ng kasalukuyang Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI).

DSWD holds advocacy campaign for homeless families thru painting session

MANILA, (PIA)-- The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH), Manila Police District (MPD), Manila Health Department, and the City Government of Manila, gathered street children from this city to teach them some art skills through painting

The activity, which is part of the information cum service caravan for street children and homeless families was held at the Rajah Sulayman in Malate, Manila.

DSWD Usec. Glenda Relova said the activity dubbed as "Art for the Homeless cum Information and Serbisyo Caravan" was actually a mini-training session that teaches street children skills on creative arts and design through painting.

She said it was also a part of the Agency's "HELPTTheHomelessPH" advocacy campaign that

aims to educate the public about the plight of homeless families, and to encourage people to provide appropriate means of assistance to families at-risk on the streets and street children.

"Through the HELPTTheHomelessPH, we hope to raise public awareness about the condition of homeless families, street children and unattached individuals staying on the streets and to show them that there are better, appropriate and responsible means of helping our homeless kababayans instead of just giving alms," Relova said.

The DSWD also collaborated with MPD's "Ang Guro Kong Pulis" project to provide basic education to street kids through their mobile library and film showing activity, while the DOH conducted free medical and dental services to homeless families staying

in the area.

Social workers were also present to answer queries on the programs and services of the DSWD.

"We are very glad to call our partners in the activity as HELP Champions because of their dedication in providing the right types of assistance to street children and homeless families. We hope that we can encourage more people to do the same, not only for this holiday season, but also in the future," Relova said.

Revola added that there is more work needed to dismantle the inequality, discrimination, and exclusion experienced by street dwellers.

"We need the help of more people to become champions by giving the right forms of assistance that will bring back the dignity and empower the lives of our homeless kababayans," she said.

Guided by the Stars: Lights On for Christmas at the Kilometer Zero of the park.

The lights exhibit and installation of colorful Christmas decors have been the tradition of the park for the past years. The lights on ceremony symbolized the agency's mission of providing joy to all park-goers from all walks of life.

Belmonte said they aim to feed the public's eyes with beautiful and sparkling decorations while enriching the visitor's experience through the various events and activities for the holiday season.

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expected to have their scheduled payouts via over-the-counter or conduits this December.

As of November, this year, some 412 municipalities have also implemented the DSWD's Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS) National Community-Driven Development Program, while a total of 4,558 sub-projects have been completed and benefited 1,536,100 households

The program helps by enhancing communities and local government units' capacity and by providing seed funding for community implementation of priority social infrastructure sub-projects that help reduce poverty and improve sustainability.

The DSWD also continues to support the recovery of individuals and families from unexpected crisis through the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS).

The AICS, which is delivered through the various Crisis Intervention Units (CIUS) at the DSWD Central Office, Field Offices, and satellite offices, in the provinces, provides educational, medical, transportation, burial, and food and non-food assistance.

"From January to October, the Department has released PHP2,794,260,205 to 671,192 clients of DSWD CIUS nationwide. Medical assistance remains to be the top aid with disbursement amounting to PHP1,926,892,425, followed by burial and educational assistance with PHP386,361,798 and PHP324,626,840, respectively," Villar said.

The DSWD also

contributed to the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) program of the government and Republic Act 11037, or "Institutionalizing a National Feeding Program for Undernourished Children in Public Day Care, Kindergarten and Elementary Schools". The DSWD continues to implement its Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP), which is the provision of snacks and hot meals in addition to the regular meals to children currently enrolled in child development centers and supervised neighborhood play.

"As of today, a total of 1,543,903 children in 52,949 day-care centers from all regions have benefited from SFP with a total budget of PHP3,153,931,755," Villar said.

In adherence to Republic Act 9994, or the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act", which seeks to help augment the daily subsistence and medical needs of indigent senior citizens, the DSWD continues to implement the Social Pension Program for Indigent Senior Citizens.

The program provides PHP500 monthly stipend to poor senior citizens who are frail, sickly and with disability, without regular income or support from family, and with no existing pension from the Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System, and other organizations.

"As of October, a total of 3,114,064 indigent seniors have benefited from the program with the total pension amounting to PHP13,976,334,000," Villar said.

On the other hand, the DSWD has recognized and awarded a total of 977 centenarians in all regions

of the country for 2018, for a total of PHP97,700,000.

Under RA 10868, or the "Centenarians Act of 2016", all Filipinos who have reached 100 years old and above, whether residing in the Philippines or abroad, will be given a Centenarian gift amounting to PHP100,000 and a Letter of Felicitation signed by the President.

The highest number of centenarians came from Region NCR (National Capital Region) with 381," Villar said.

The DSWD also provided assistance to trafficked persons under the Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons (RRPTP).

The RRPTP is a comprehensive program that ensures adequate recovery and reintegration services provided to trafficked persons.

It uses a multi-sectoral approach and delivers a complete package of services to enhance the psychosocial, social, and economic needs of the clients.

The beneficiaries of the program include the victims-survivors of trafficking who are returning or have returned to the Philippines, families, and relatives of the victims-survivors, and communities with a high incidence of trafficking.

"As of September, the DSWD has served a total of 1,984 trafficked persons in all regions under the RRPTP," Villar said.

The NCR Field Office served the highest number of new Trafficking in Persons (TIP) cases with a total number of 580 followed by Field Office IX and Field Office III with 338 and 235 cases, respectively. (PNA)

NPDC holds free concert on Christmas Day

MANILA, (PIA) -- Christmas Day became doubly merry at the historic Rizal Park in Manila, as the National Parks Development Committee (NPDC) presented a Christmas Day concert featuring various artists in line with the park's theme, "Guided by the Stars" especially prepared with the Filipino family in mind.

Parkgoers were entertained during the free concert at the Open-Air Auditorium where artists shared the spirit of Christmas through various performances.

According to NPDC Executive Director

Penelope D. Belmonte, the "Stars" means a sign from God to follow His path. In the biblical history, the star of Bethlehem has guided the three kings to the infant Jesus. These "Stars" inspires us to be unique and different; and to be ready to face great opportunity and success.

The Christmas Day concert featured excellent performances of varieties of program from different artists with different musical backgrounds, she said.

Earlier, Rizal Park ushered the holiday season by brightening up the park through its event,

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Another 6,921 bags in the Port of Zamboanga and 748 bags in the custody of the bureau's Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) were also donated to the DSWD on Sept. 19 and

24, respectively.

The BOC said it also donated to the DSWD 5,040 pieces of canned goods, 109 packages of emergency survival blankets, 350 boxes of bed sheets, blankets and towels, 1,332 boxes of brand-new clothes, and 153 packages of face masks from the Manila International Container Port (MICP) last Sept. 21.

According to a BOC report to Dominguez, the Bureau will also donate used clothing of various volumes seized from the ports of San Fernando in

(Turn to p. 2)

DOH reports 11 more fireworks-related injuries

MANILA -- The Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday reported 11 more fireworks-related injuries (FWRIs) in Calabarzon, Bicol Region, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula and the National Capital Region (NCR).

The FWRIs were recorded by sentinel hospitals from 6 a.m. on Tuesday until 5:59 a.m., December 26. Four cases were from NCR, three from Western

Visayas, and one each from Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon), Bicol Region, Central Visayas and Zamboanga Peninsula.

The cases involved males aged between two and 49 years and who used fireworks banned by the government. Five suffered from burns without amputation, were given antibiotics, and were sent home after the treatment.

Two persons were (Turn to p. 2)



PATROL MOTORCYCLES FOR EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICES DELIVERY: Cavite Governor Boying Remulla formally handed the symbolic key for 26 units of multi-purpose vehicles known as Bokyos to the municipality of Amadeo on December 19, 2018, being one of the priority projects aligned with intensifying security and safety measures in every community. Amadeo Mayor Rading Viado and Liga ng mga Barangay (LnB) Federation President Florencio Cesicar along with co-chiefs of barangays who received the tricycle units thanked the governor and pledged that they will use the vehicles properly to further enhance mobility on monitoring public activities. Likewise, Vice Mayor Leo Angelo Bayot told barangay officials that everyone must be responsible for the maintenance of the vehicles for continuous and efficient delivery of services to constituents. Governor Remulla was also joined by his son, Indang Municipal Councilor Ping Remulla, along with Tanza Municipal Councilor Lito Langit, former Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs Engr. Redel Dionisio and members of the Sangguninag Bayan. —(PICAD)