

CAVITE NEWS

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

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Climate of fear among PH lawyers mere insinuation: exec

MANILA -- The Office of the President on Tuesday described as mere insinuation the conclusion of a foreign delegation in Manila that there is "a climate of fear and intimidation" in the Philippines that prevents Filipino lawyers from doing their jobs.

"We don't see that kind of climate of intimidation happening considering there are cases being filed, considering there are cases being heard in court," said Undersecretary Severo Catura, Executive Director of Presidential

Human Rights Committee Secretariat (PHRCS), in an interview.

This as Catura's reaction after an international delegation of lawyers organized by the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), Union of
(Turn to p. 2)

2M households benefit from DILG's close to 5K water projects

MANILA -- The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on Wednesday said over 2 million households nationwide have benefitted from 4,963 completed potable water supply projects, which were administered by the agency through the Office of Project Development Services-Water Supply and Sanitation Project Management Office (OPDS-WSS PMO)

since 2012. Interior Undersecretary for Local Government Marivel Sacadoncillo said DILG is one of the 28 agencies involved in the implementation of national programs such as the Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig Para sa Lahat (SALINTUBIG), Bottom-up Budgeting (BuB)- Water Supply, Assistance to Municipalities (AM)- Water Supply, and Local

Government Support Fund (LGSF)- Water.

Of the 4,963 completed projects, 1,468 were done through SALINTUBIG; 2,962 through BuB- Water; and 533 through AM- Water.

"Napakahalaga ng ginagawa natin dahil hindi tayo basta (What we are doing is significant because we are not just DILG, whatever we do we contribute to the bigger picture on



PR-Product Clinic for Cavite MSMEs

In its aim to further enhance quality and develop the local products of Cavite, the Provincial Cooperative, Livelihood and Entrepreneurial Development Office (PCLEDO), with assistance from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), conducted a product clinic for MSMEs under food category for aspiring entrepreneurs from different cities and municipalities of the province recently at Cavite Cooperative Development Center in

Trece Martires City. Entrepreneurial Division Head, Ms. Liza C. Gabatan oriented the participants on the activity overview and assured everyone that PCLEDO will always be of help to the MSMEs for the development of their products. Likewise, DOST-Cavite Provincial Director Engr. Raul D. Castañeda mentioned DOST's willingness to support local entrepreneurs through the provision of small equipment that can contribute to production upgrade and pointed out

the livelihood opportunities that can be obtained from trash. In his message, OIC-PCLEDO Atty. Khervy B. Reyes encouraged the participants to become members of cooperative and shared insights on how a well-developed product could lead to a long-lasting business.

Consultation covers the discussion on Product Quality led by Mr. Alex M. Palomo of DOST-FNRI and Ms. Lyn F. Aggangan of DOST-CALABARZON; Packaging Material by Ms. Grace D. Noceja of

achieving and sustaining good local governance," she said.

Amid the water shortage in some parts of

Metro Manila, the DILG official said the agency will scale up this year its potable water supply projects in parts of the

country, where there is no sufficient access to clean and safe water supply.

"The current water
(Turn to p. 2)



DOST-ITDI and Ms. Ana Maria Veronica A. Solano of DLS-CSB; and Label Design by Mr. Jaime Zeus Agustin of DLSU-URO. During the consultation, the

participants learned from the experts several important points on product weaknesses, proper labelling design, appropriate packaging and recommendations for

the development of products.

Meanwhile, seminar on Food Safety and Current Good Manufacturing Practices was tackled
(Turn to p. 2)

2M HOUSEHOLDS... FR. P. 1

shortage in some parts of Metro Manila serves as a reminder for us to conserve water," Sacendoncillo said.

For his part, Interior Undersecretary Jonathan E. Malaya called on the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and local government units (LGUs) to extend help in rationing water to affected communities of the water crisis in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Malaya urged local government leaders to be on top of water rationing efforts to avoid panic and chaos.

"We expect our LGU leaders to be proactive in aiding support to communities affected by the water shortage. K a i l a n g a n g maramdaman ng ating mga kababayan sa mga barangay na kasama nila ang lokal na pamahalaan sa pagharap sa pagsubok na ito (The people in the communities need to feel that the local government is one with them in facing this challenge)," he said.

Meanwhile, Sacendoncillo led the opening of the photo exhibit held Monday afternoon as part of the series of activities in celebration of World Water Day (WWD) 2019 from March 18-22.

To showcase the DILG's relentless efforts

in the water sector, the Department launched the coffee table books "Tubig Para sa Lahat" Volumes 2 and 3 during the WWD celebration.

According to OPDS Director Rolyn Q. Zambales, the coffee table books featured stories of hope, change, and triumph such as Tatay Danilo Lolong of Buenavista, Marinduque; 14-year old Glensy Calizo of Pola, Oriental Mindoro, and 11-year-old Jose Pallo of Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro, who have benefitted from the completed potable water supply projects in their respective communities.

"The stories of Tatay Danilo, Glensy and Jose are just three of the 2 million stories that put faces behind the numbers of the 4,963 completed potable water supply projects. These stories remind us that while we have done so much, there are still many more to be done as we aim to achieve zero waterless communities by 2030," Zambales said.

Printed copies of Tubig Para sa Lahat volumes 2 and 3 were distributed to the DILG and partner agencies both during the book launching and photo exhibit. Flipbook versions of these coffee table books can also be viewed from the DILG website. (PNA)

PR PRODUCT... FR. P. 1

Patrick Glenn C. Ilano, Assistant Professor II, Cavite State University-Indang and Member of the Regional Food Safety Team. The topic focused on sanitation, personal hygiene and proper procedure of handling and processing of food products to avoid contamination. Mr. Andrew Delos Angeles, FDRO II talked about the Food and Drug Administration guidelines on Licensing

Requirements elaborating the steps and procedures to acquire a license. This was followed by the discussion on food labelling, registration requirements and step by step procedure delivered by Ms. Givinia Tuason, FDRO II.

In closing, certificate of appreciation to the consultants and certificate of participation to the participants were awarded. (PICAD

CAVITE HOLDS INT'L CONFERENCE ON AGUINALDO'S 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Historians, scholars and members of the academe convened on March 19-21, 2019 at the Lyceum of the Philippines University-Cavite Campus Auditorium in the City of Gen. Trias for the International Conference on the 150th Birth Anniversary of Emilio Aguinaldo.

Participants who gathered in commemoration of the life and works of the most illustrious son of the province were welcomed by LPU-Cavite Vice President Ms. Teresa O. Pilapil on behalf of the University President Atty. Roberto P. Laurel, telling how our heroes in the past can be considered as best teachers from whom we learn what it means to be Filipino.

Meanwhile, humbled to be given the opportunity to deliver a message during the opening program of the conference, Cavite Governor Boying Remulla paid his respects to the guests and attendees, especially to former Prime Minister Cesar EA Virata and National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) Chairman Dr. Rene R. Escalante. The governor also acknowledged the collaborative efforts of the NHCP, the Provincial Tourism and Cultural Affairs Office (PTCAO) and the Cavite Historical Society in rekindling the heroism of Aguinaldo. Likewise, the governor encouraged members of the academe to further understand the process of history, as well as to teach history in the right perspective.

Former Prime Minister Cesar EA Virata, Chairman of the Cavite Historical Society, and a descendant of Aguinaldo shared stories of political events during President Emilio Aguinaldo's time and called to settle the issues to collectively gain peace and strength towards nation-building.

On the other hand, Dr. Manny Calairo of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas and member of the NHCP Advisory Committee provided the



overview of the conference to further stir the interest of the participants in revisiting and understanding more of Aguinaldo's contributions and legacy of as one of the main pillars of our nation.

Among the resource speakers and scholars who shed light on various issues related to heroism and independence by sharing their historical insights and research were Dr. Reynaldo Iletto of the Australian National University who tackled "The Multiple Roles of Emilio Aguinaldo in the History of Nation Building"; Dr. Lance Collins of the Hawaii Institute for Philippine Studies with his "Ontology of Statecraft: Studying the Ideas of the Malolos Constitution"; and, Dr. Karl-Heinz Wionzek of Dr. Lutke Foundation based in Germany on his work "Emilio Aguinaldo, the Germans and the Australian Ferdinand Blumentritt: Contacts and Mutual Relations between 1897 and 1901, plus many other studies related to the life of the Father of Philippine Independence.

Other sessions include topics on Emilio Aguinaldo before the revolution, behind the uniform and traces on Freemasonry, and different views on him from the northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The three-day conference that honored the life, achievements and enduring legacy of Aguinaldo concluded with an educational tour to the heritage sites in Cavite spearheaded by OIC-Provincial Tourism Officer Rozelle



Sangalang.

The NHCP, the Cavite Studies Center and the Provincial Tourism also invited everyone to join them on March 22, 2019 to celebrate the 150 years of the First President of the Republic of the Philippines at the Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite. Among the activities lined-up are musical performances from the Kawit Singing

Ambassadors and the Campus Medley, the Bayanihan Dance Troupe cultural presentation, karakol competition and the Aguisaysayan 2019 (Aguinaldo sa Kasaysayan: Tagisan ng Kaalaman sa Buhay at Kasaysayan ng Unang Pangulo ng Republika ng Pilipinas), a module writing competition. (PICAD

CAVITE NEWS

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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LINGAP KALIKASAN IN BACOOR CITY: More than 4000 environment volunteers expressed their willingness in promoting a clean, healthy and safe community as they took part in Kalinga sa Kalikasan thru a clean-up drive conducted on March 18, 2019 at Brgy. Molino 3 Covered Court in the City of Bacoor. On behalf of Governor Boying C. Remulla, Governor Jonvic Remulla visited the locals and voiced out the provincial government's commitment in intensifying environmental awareness throughout the province. With him were Vice Governor Jolo Revilla, Senator JV Ejercito, 2nd District Board Member Reynaldo Fabian, Tagaytay City Vice Mayor Raymond Ambion and the city councilors of Bacoor. — (PICAD)

Almost 6,000 Bacooreños from barangays Aniban and Zapote gathered for another Kalinga sa Kalikasan project, benefiting from the cash for work program of the provincial government for the protection of the environment on March 20, 2019. Bacoor City Mayor Lani Mercado Revilla called for the cooperation of her constituents to support the "Battle for Manila Bay," a campaign project for its rehabilitation through proper waste disposal and participation to river cleanups. Vice Governor Jolo Revilla together with Board Members Aba Gawaran and Rey Fabian also visited the communities thanking Governor Boying Remulla for continuously backing the environmental awareness drive in the city. Also in attendance to the event was Governor Jonvic Remulla who pledged commitment to some locals in Zapote for the provision of decent resettlement areas for them to live. (PICAD)



Bacoor Residents Join the PGC's Kalinga sa Kalikasan: Thousands of environment volunteers from the City of Bacoor joined in the Provincial Government of Cavite's Kalinga sa Kalikasan program conducted in Brgy. Ligas 2 and Queens Row Central on March 19, 2019. Governor Jonvic Remulla together with Vice Governor Revilla led the environmental awareness campaign and encouraged the people to continuously support all the programs of the provincial government. Bacoor City Mayor Lani Mercado-Revilla warmly welcomed the visitors and participants of the event. Board Members Edralin Gawaran and Reynaldo Fabian was also present to support the activity.—PICAD



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN CONTINUES IN BACOOR: Cavite provincial government's environmental awareness campaign continues as the Lingap sa Kalikasan program goes to the City of Bacoor recently. The first stop was at Barangay Banalo Covered Court followed by another leg at Barangay Maliksi 1 Covered Court. Governor Jonvic Remulla, on behalf of Governor Boying Remulla, delivered inspiring messages and words of encouragement to continue saving the environment for future generations. Participants included senior citizens who were also inspired to take part in the cleaning activity despite their age. Joining the governor were Board Members Edralin G. Gawaran and Rainier A. Ambion, and Mr. Dennis Padilla who represented former Assistant to the President Bong Go. They were warmly welcomed by Mayor Lani Mercado Revilla and the Sangguniang Panlungsod members. — (PICAD)

SSS to raise savings rate for higher retirement benefits

QUEZON CITY, -- The state-run Social Security System (SSS) has said the increase savings rate for higher retirement benefits in the contribution schedule, as stated in the newly-signed Social Security Act of 2018, will be implemented starting April 1, 2019.

Based on the new law, contribution rates will increase to 12 percent from the current 11 percent starting the second quarter of the year, and the adjustment of the minimum and maximum Monthly Salary Credits (MSC) to P2,000 and P20,000, respectively.

SSS Officer-In-Charge Aurora Ignacio said it is high time to adjust the contribution rates and Monthly Salary Credits of SSS to allow members to save more for their retirement.

"We all want a comfortable retirement and to do that, those who are in their productive years must work hard to save more. SSS is the cheapest and most accessible pension scheme. All workers, regardless of nature of employment, must save in the pension fund for their future retirement years," Ignacio said.

Ignacio said that along with the contribution increase, the Monthly Salary Credit will be adjusted to a maximum of P20,000 which will increase the amount of benefits and privileges of members.

"The good news is that those who will save more with SSS under the new maximum Monthly Salary Credit of P20,000 will have higher amount of benefits and loan privileges as the Monthly Salary Credit is one of the main factors used in the computation of benefits and loan privileges. For example, a member whose monthly salary is P20,000 and has paid 12 contributions in the 12-month period before the semester of contingency of sickness will enjoy P600 in sickness benefit per day from the current P480 per day," Ignacio added.

Similarly, another

member who has paid the minimum 120 contributions at the old maximum MSC of P16,000 will have a basic monthly pension of P6,400. If the member pays under the new maximum MSC of P20,000, the member's new basic monthly pension will increase to P8,000.

SSS said that the 1 percentage-point increase in contribution is reasonable, citing as an example an employee who earns a salary of P10,000. The current personal monthly contribution of P363.30 will increase by P36.70 to P400 while, the employer will now pay P800, an increase of P63.30 from the current P736.70 employer-share.

The law is also expected to generate an additional P31 billion for the pension fund as it imposes the implementation of a gradual increase of monthly contributions from the current 11 percent to an additional 1 percentage point starting this year, until it reaches 15 percent in 2025, and the gradual adjustment of the minimum and maximum MSCs.

It will also add 13 more years to the fund life of the SSS up to 2045 upon full implementation of the law by 2025.

The new law, Republic Act (RA) 11199, which repealed RA 1161 as amended by RA 8282, aims to strengthen the pension fund through its salient features such as the rationalization of the powers of the SSC—the policy-making body of the SSS—to allow it to expand the investing capacity of the pension fund to generate better income for the benefit of its members and pensioners.

"We hope that our members will understand the importance of adjusting contributions to make sure that the pension fund remain strong and viable for the current and forthcoming generations," Ignacio concluded. (SSS)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 23
TRECE MARTIRES CITY
FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-259-18

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND,
Mortgagee,
-versus-
ANDREW C. NEBRIDA,
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 14th Floor, JELP Business Solutions Center, No. 409 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, against the Mortgagor/s, **ANDREW C. NEBRIDA**, with residence and postal address at Humayao Road, Langkaan II, Dasmariñas, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of July 19, 2018 amounts to **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY FOUR PESOS AND 63/100 (P250,974.63)** Philippine Currency, including interest and penalty charges as of said date but excluding foreclosure expenses and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **June 4, 2019** at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the main entrance of the Government Center Building, located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following property/ies with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-75157

A parcel of land (Lot 19, Blk. 36 of the cons./subd. plan, Pcs-04-011578, being a portion of the cons. of Lots 3521, 3524, 3526 & 3528, all of Fls-1839, Sta. Cruz de Malabon Estate, LRC. Rec. No.), situated in the Brgy. of Inocencio, Trece Martires, Is. of Luzon. Bounded on the W. along line 1-2 by Lot 17, Blk. 36; on the N., along line 2-3 by Rd Lot 30; on the E., along line 3-4 by Lot 21, Blk. 36; on the S., along line 4-1 by Lot 18, Blk. 36, all of the cons./subd. plan. Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan. x x x containing an area of **FORTY (40) SQUARE METERS xxx**

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above stated time and place.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **June 11, 2019** without further notice

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

Trece Martires City, **March 4, 2019.**

LUCIO C. ALEJO III
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
14th Floor, JELP Business solutions Center
No. 409 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

ANDREW C. NEBRIDA
Humayao Road, Langkaan II, Dasmariñas, Cavite

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

Published at: Cavite News
Dates: March 7, 14, & 21

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 23
TRECE MARTIRES CITY
FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-260-18

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND,
Mortgagee,
-versus-
RAMON S. CRUZ JR
married to **ANNALYN M. CRUZ,**
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 14th Floor, JELP Business Solutions Center, No. 409 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, against the Mortgagor/s, **RAMON S. CRUZ JR married to ANNALYN M. CRUZ**, with residence and postal address at #468 L. Boni Avenue, Brgy. New Zaniga, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of July 19, 2018 amounts to **SIX HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE PESOS AND 21/100 (P627,271.21)** Philippine Currency, including interest and penalty charges as of said date but excluding foreclosure expenses and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **June 4, 2019** at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the main entrance of the Government Center Building, located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following property/ies with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-1285801

A parcel of land (Lot 18, Blk. 16 of the cons. & subd. plan, Pcs-04-020925, being a portion of the cons. of Lots 2565 & 3484, (Rs-04-002981), San Francisco de Malabon Estate L.R.C. Rec. No. 5984), situated in the Brgy. of Santiago, Mun. of Gen. Trias, Prov. of Cavite, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the SE., along line 1-2 by Road Lot 7; on the SW., along line 2-3 by Lot 19 Blk. 16; on the NW., along line 3-4 by Lot 58 Blk. 16; and on the NE., along line 4-1 by Lot 17 Blk. 16, all of the cons. & Subd. plan Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan. x x x containing an area of **FORTY (40) SQUARE METERS xxx**

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

Trece Martires City, **March 4, 2019.**

LUCIO C. ALEJO III
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
14th Floor, JELP Business solutions Center
No. 409 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

RAMON and ANNALYN M. CRUZ
#468 L. Boni Avenue, Brgy. New Zaniga,
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

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

Published at: Cavite News
Dates: March 7, 14, & 21

MMDA ties up with Sesame Street in education drive for kids

MANILA -- Children all over Metro Manila may now learn about road safety, waste management, and public safety in a fun way with Sesame Street's Elmo, Cookie Monster, Big Bird, and their friends.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has recently teamed up with Sesame Workshop, the non-profit educational organization behind the iconic television series, for a three-year educational campaign for kids.

The partnership launch took place at the Children's Road Safety Park in Malate, Manila last March 18, 2019.

The collaboration aims to teach kids the values of discipline and responsibility in the context of MMDA's functions.

The MMDA believes Sesame Street is the ideal partner for this endeavor since the show pioneered the educational program format for kids.

"We are very excited about this initiative which focuses on children, the future citizens of Metro Manila. It is everybody's responsibility to teach kids respect for the rules and compassion for the community, and we at the MMDA are proud to be with Sesame Workshop at the frontline of this endeavor. We hope that through our line-up of activities under this partnership, the kids will carry out these lessons throughout childhood and into their adult lives as well," MMDA chairman Danilo Lim said.

Meanwhile, Will DePippo, director Asia Pacific for Sesame Workshop, said, "For the last 50 years, Sesame Street has brought the life-changing benefits of early learning to children around the globe,"



"We're proud to partner with MMDA on a campaign where Elmo, Cookie Monster and Big Bird are helping to deliver educational messages in a fun and engaging way for children and their families," he added.

The program started with the signing of the memorandum of agreement between Lim and DePippo.

Invited guests were then treated to an exclusive preview of the ongoing MMDA x Sesame Street Wall Art, which spans 500 meters and is done in partnership with Davies Paints.

The event concluded with children and members of the media taking a guided tour of the venue, the Children's Road Safety Park.

Through the walkthrough, they were taught about traffic rules and regulations through the miniature street-related structures in the vicinity.

The MMDA hopes to mount a traveling road safety park of similar nature, which the agency will take to various cities around Metro Manila.

Within the three-year partnership, MMDA and Sesame Street will work hand in hand on activities such as but not limited to wall arts along the major

thoroughfares of Metro Manila, a family fun run, the MMDA Children's Handbook, and a children's exposition, which is essentially a cross between an educational theme park and experiential museum. (PR)

MRT-3 coaches await air-con units installation in time for summer

MANILA -- Eighteen new air-conditioned units (ACUs) for the Metro Rail Transit Line-3 (MRT-3) have arrived Tuesday and are ready for installation in time for the summer season.

In a statement on Tuesday, the DOTr said the new ACUs will be used for the train coaches of the MRT-3.

"Passengers can expect a colder and comfortable commute for this summer season," the DOTr's statement read.

Last October, 42 ACUs arrived in the country and are now currently installed on the MRT's train coaches.

Another set of 18 ACUs are expected to arrive and be deployed to the railway system within the next few months.

The DOTr has procured a total of 78 trains from the Czech Republic which amounted to PHP116.5 million as part of the rehabilitation of the MRT system.

During the Holy Week next month, the MRT-3 will implement a seven-day shutdown from April 15 to April 21 as part of its "annual general maintenance shutdown." Operations will return to normal on April 22. (PNA)



Gov't assures measures vs. African swine fever in place

MANILA -- The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) on Wednesday said appropriate measures are already in place to avert the possible entry of the dreaded African swine fever (ASF) in the country.

During the Senate agriculture and food committee hearing on the ASF virus, BAI director Ronnie Domingo said the government is implementing strategies, dubbed as "BABES" approach, to prevent a local outbreak.

ASF is a highly contagious viral disease affecting both domestic and wild pigs of all ages with up to 100 percent fatality rate. However, it is not a public health threat nor food-safety concern.

"ASF is a serious disease challenge requiring multi-sectoral and multi-level cooperation," Domingo said.

Under the BABES approach, Domingo said the importation of domestic and wild pigs, their meat, meat products, and by-products from ASF-affected countries is banned.

The pork import ban is in effect for 15 countries: Russia, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Moldava, South

Africa, Zambia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Belgium, Latvia, Poland, Romania, China, Mongolia, and Vietnam.

Aside from the ban on pork imports, Domingo said other steps under the BABES approach include avoiding swill feeding; blocking entry of smuggled shipments and luggage from ASF-affected countries, food wastes from foreign vessels and hand-carried meat products; educating the public; and submitting laboratory samples.

There was already a directive for all quarantine stations at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) "to establish footbaths in all entry points of the country, the interception and confiscation of all pork-based products."

Domingo said among the future preparations to prevent the ASF outbreak is to acquire 40 meat-sniffing dogs and 100 additional workers, establish local quick response teams, conduct outbreak simulation exercises, craft a national biosecurity plan, draft a legislation on animal health code, and declare a state of emergency. (PNA)

CLIMATE FEAR... FR. P. 1

International Advocates (UIA), and Day of the Endangered Lawyer Foundation recently conducted a fact-finding mission to look into the alleged spike of human rights violations against Filipino lawyers and other legal professionals during the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte.

Following a series of interviews and conferences with point persons, the group released its initial findings, citing threats against lawyers defending those accused of drug crimes and the killings of those in the exercise of their profession, among others.

Catura said this was the first time that they have heard about the cases, but he assured the government has always been open in addressing such issues.

"This is the first time that we've heard about these cases of lawyers of drug suspects being harassed. Sinong nangha-harass? Mga pulis? Dapat i-prove

nila 'yan na mayroon talaga at huwag lang mag-insinuate (Who harassed who? Police? They should prove it that there are indeed cases of harassment and don't merely insinuate)," he said.

Catura called for cases to be filed in the court as he noted that legal mechanisms are in place in the country.

Catura revealed that they were taken aback following the probe as he described the visit as "unofficial."

"The visit is unofficial in nature so what's their basis to call for the military? You can't just barge in and say 'Hey, we are here to investigate,'" he said.

"All we can say is that I think there is an effort to really shame this administration because if you are an honest to goodness fact-finding mission, there would always be an effort to report to the government your findings first and not to the public," he added. (PNA)

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QC regulates e-cigarette use in public spaces

MANILA -- Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista on Wednesday approved an ordinance regulating the use of e-cigarettes in public spaces, including public conveyances, advertisements and promotions of e-cigarettes.

City Ordinance 2737-2018 aims to fully protect the health and welfare of the residents of Quezon City and at the same time safeguard the interests of all stakeholders, including smokers who have the right to choose less harmful alternatives to cigarettes.

Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes are handheld products that generate a nicotine-containing aerosol without combustion. They are supposed to be significantly safer than conventional tobacco smoking.

The ordinance states that the use of e-cigarettes indoors is prohibited in places of worship, hospitals or other healthcare centers, public conveyances, government offices, and educational or recreational facilities primarily intended for minors.

In all enclosed places that are open to the general public and private use, e-cigarette product use shall be allowed provided that the owner, proprietor, operator, possessor, manager or administrator of such places shall post: "Use of e-cigarettes is allowed inside" in a clear and conspicuous manner at

every ingress point.

Private workplaces may also include a designated vaping area within the building, which may be an open space or in a separate area with proper ventilation but shall not be located within the same room that has been designated as a smoking area.

It is unlawful under the ordinance to purchase e-cigarettes from a minor, for minors to sell e-cigarettes, and for minors to purchase e-cigarettes.

Advertisements of e-cigarettes shall be allowed in points-of-sale through direct marketing and on the internet but must not be aimed at or particularly appeal to persons under 18 years of age. It shall only depict persons using e-cigarettes who are or who appear to be above 25 years of age.

It shall not contain cartoon characters or subjects that depict humans or animals with comically exaggerated features or that attribute humans with unnatural characteristics to animals, plants or other objects.

Advertisements shall not show, portray or depict scenes where the actual use of, act of using, or puffing of e-cigarette products is displayed. It shall not undermine quit-smoking messages and encourage non-tobacco or non-nicotine users to use the product.

It shall not contain any information or element that is untrue or not scientifically substantiated, in particular with regard to product characteristics, health

effects, risks or emissions.

Promotional communications shall allow adult consumers to learn about the availability of e-cigarettes, receive information about how to use them, try them before purchasing them, subject to proof of age and certification of smoker status, and receive pre-sale and after-sales support.

Advertisements shall not appear on television, radio, or cinema. All allowable advertisements and promotional materials for nicotine receptacles shall contain the health warning: "This product may damage your health and is addictive." This health warning shall occupy 10 percent of the bottom area of the advertisement.

Punishable under the ordinance are vaping in public places where it is expressly prohibited, non-compliance by the owners or administrators of enclosed places open to the general public, and requiring vapers to use the same designated smoking areas provided under the Tobacco Regulation Act unless smoking is allowed in the entire establishment.

Violators of the ordinance shall be fined PHP500 to PHP1,000 for the first offense, a fine of over PHP1,000 to PHP2,500 for the second offense, and for the third offense, in addition to a fine of over PHP2,500 to PHP5,000, the business permit or license to operate of the offender may be cancelled or revoked. (PNA)

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