

# CAVITE NEWS

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

VOL. XX NO. 31 NOVEMBER 21-27, 2019 P 10.00

## AUTHENTIC JAPANESE FOOD AT BOTEJYU-SM CITY BACCOOR



*Botejyu at SM City Bacoor's Upper Ground*



*Present in the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony hosted by Katya Santos are Viva artists Yayo Aguila, Zarah Lopez, Yumi Garcia, Viva International Food Executives and SM Leasing Operations Regional Manager Jeanette Gelera. SM CITY BACCOOR, CAVITE - Craving for Japanese food? Now, you can have an authentic Japanese dining experience, and taste the real goodness of freshly made dishes in the newest store in the South! Located at the Upper Ground Floor of SM City Bacoor, Botejyu is ready to take you to the finest cuisines of Japanese towns and cities, serving the freshest meal each of them has to offer with over 60 dishes on their menu. Try their Edo-styled Shrimp Tempura Sushi Roll covered in neatly prepared fresh fish roe, best shared with its larger serving. If you can't decide whether to order a spicy or salty and garlicky takoyaki, try their Takoyaki All Star so you can get six of the best flavored Takoyaki in town. Of course, you wouldn't want to miss Botejyu's signature Okonomiyaki which is served with their original Secret White Mayonnaise. Hungry yet? Come now at Botejyu-SM City Bacoor located at the Upper Ground floor.*



*Botejyu's Shrimp Tempura Sushi Roll*



*Taste more of Botejyu's finely served dishes*



*CAPE Inc. takes oath at the office of the governor or Gov. Jonvic Remulla recognizes Cavite Publishers by Joy V. Estrellado.*

"You are the last dying breed of media practitioners in the newspaper industry," started Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla last Wednesday, November 20, 2019. The members, officers, and board of directors of the newly established Cavite Association of Publishers and Editors, Inc. (CAPE) were warmly welcomed by the good governor himself.

CAPE was initially established a couple of months ago. Its mission is to establish unity and good leadership among legitimate publishers and editors in the province of Cavite. There are many projects waiting, all for the welfare of media practitioners and the community. This November 20, at 10 o'clock in the morning, they have been officially recognized by the governor himself as they take their oath of office. The event was held at the office of the governor in the provincial capitol. Trece Martires City. "I wonder how you make amends meet, with the internet and the social networking websites being rampant in this modern era. Nevertheless, I don't want you to write news in favor of me. I want you to write what is fair, what is balanced, and what is true." He added.

Those who were present were: CAPE President, Websiter Ace Paginag; Vice President, Irene Gascon; Secretary, Heidelita Paginag; Treasurer, Milagros Bagaporo; and Public Relations Officer, Joy Estrellado. Among the members of the board who took oath were: Jerry Ancheta, Rosemae Geduriagao, Sonny Anarna, Florendo Cactin, Engr. Aurelo Bautista, and Andro Amores. Among the active members who were there compose of: Bayani Zoleta, Zerryvi Octavio, Jacquilou Lirio, Don Russel Nava, Joey Mariscotes, Larry Magtibay, Nestor Mose, and Gretchel Lumas.

"I would like to thank the governor for gracing our oath taking. I would specially like to thank all the member of CAPE who are present here. I am inspired with what the governor said as I see hopeful faces among our peers. We have many projects coming up, and I am glad that the governor is with us all throughout the way." stated President Ace Paginag.

After the oath taking, CAPE members conducted its first meeting to discuss its plans and projects. Congratulations, CAPE Inc.

*Ang kayamanan ng mayaman ang proteksiyon niya; Gaya iyon ng matibay na pader sa imahinasyon niya.*

*(Kawikaan 18:11)*



## PTCAO holds the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavite Tourism Summit

With its aim to intensify awareness on sustainable tourism development and achieve 100% rate of DOT-accredited tourism establishments in the province, the Provincial Tourism and Cultural Affairs Office (PTCAO) conducted the 2nd Cavite Tourism Summit attended by city/municipal tourism officers and stakeholders on November 22, 2019 at Tanza Oasis Hotel and Resort. The event was designed to build a strong partnership among relevant stakeholders as well as recognize their contributions in boosting the tourism industry.

Participants were warmly welcomed by Tanza Tourism Coordinator Mr. Ramil Pareja while PTCAO Head Ms. Elinia Imelda Rozelle S. Sangalang delivered her opening remarks calling for everyone's cooperation in making the province not just the leading but "preferred" destination for local and international tourists. Ms. Sangalang also underscored the significance of accreditation in ensuring the safety and security of the visitors.

On behalf of Governor Jonvic C. Remulla, former Board Member Irene Bencito motivated the partakers to actively participate and support the local administration's undertakings for continuous economic and tourism development as Cavite is expecting large number of visitors coming in and out of the province in the succeeding years. She also hoped to see good leaders who will continue pursuing projects and programs beneficial to the community. Meanwhile, OIC-Regional Director of DOT IV-A Ms. Marites T. Castro acknowledged the presence of all the attendees and delivered the keynote speech on



behalf of DOT Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat focusing on a wide range of opportunities for growth in hospitality and tourism sector.

Moreover, DOT Tourism Operations Officer I Ms. Blessy Grace Tansingco discussed programs and updates on accreditation system elaborating guidelines and procedures to assist tourism enterprises with the process and documentary requirements to acquire license. Ms. Tansingco also clarified issues and

concerns in accreditation raised during the program.

Highlight of the summit was the recognition of tourism enterprises' invaluable contributions in uplifting tourism industry based on the 2018 Tourist Attraction Record according to their same-day and overnight tourist arrivals. Tagaytay City was named as the LGU with highest DOT-accredited entities and the highest number of submitted same-day tourist arrivals. PTCAO/PICAD

### 4TH CPPOC . . FR. P.4

violence arising in their locality to alleviate the task of the enforcers and penalize the persons committing crimes against the law.

Moreover, Mr. Alisandre Joshua Babaan of the Provincial Planning and Development Office explained the Provincial POPS Plan for 2020-2022 and elaborated the resolution approving the release and utilization of the 2020 confidential fund to finance campaign against illegal drugs and address the issues on peace and order as reflected in the POPS Plan 2020-2022.

PD Rozul on the other hand, presented the resolutions passed during the 3rd quarter meeting, 4th quarter accomplishments of the PPOC and PADAC and the forthcoming activities. She also reported the resolution for the composition of the PPOC Secretariat. She also led the PTF-ELCAC presentation of

the 12 ELCAC clusters or line of efforts including situational awareness and knowledge management; local government empowerment; legal cooperation; strategic communication; sectoral unification, capacity building and empowerment; basic services; poverty reduction, livelihood and employment; infrastructure, resource management and employment; localized peace engagement; peace, law enforcement and development support; E-CLIP and amnesty program; and international engagement.

The event was concluded with the signing of the pledge of commitment by the members of PTF-ELCAC to ensure the inter-agency convergence in the implementation of the framework and to develop a strategic communication, advocacy and peace constituency plans in case



**GENTRISEÑOS AVAIL FREE MEDICAL SERVICES:** More than 200 Gentriseños availed the free medical services brought by Cavite Provincial Government through the medical and dental mission conducted on November 20, 2019 at Barangay Manggahan Health Center, City of Gen. Trias. OPG-Extension Office and the Provincial Health Office spearheaded the health mission in partnership with the City Health Office. The event was made possible thru the support of Congressman Jonjon Ferrer, Mayor Ony Ferrer represented by his son Toby Ferrer, Vice Mayor Morit Sison, Sangguniang Panlungsod of Gen. Trias, Board Member Kerby Salazar and IPP Kyle Jassel Salazar. Members of the barangay council led by Punong Barangay Raniel Barientos with the barangay health workers and barangay nutrition scholars were also in attendance and assisted the medical volunteers in facilitating the mission.—PICAD



**UPHOLDING ITS COMMITMENT TO SERVE THE PUBLIC:** To uphold its commitment to serve the public, provincial government's Ugnayan sa Barangay program continuously visited different barangays in the province to brought joy and hope to their constituents. On November 19, 2019, Ugnayan sa Barangay team headed by Governor Jonvic Remulla went to Barangay Mulawin in the Municipality of Tanza and was able to reach out to the people. The governor relayed the good news on the construction of the coastal road connecting Cavite Expressway to Tanza and the provincial government's effort to provide free wifi access in the entire province. Thousands of residents together with their local chief executive, Mayor Yuri Pacumio welcomed and thanked the governor for always extending assistance to the people of Tanza. Seventh District Board Member Lito Langit, Vice Mayor Raymundo Del Rosario and Sangguniang Bayan Members were also present at the event and showed their support to the program.—(PICAD)

of ceasefire, as well as capacity building measures to enable local chief executives and local peace bodies to engage and facilitate local peace engagement or negotiations and interventions.

In attendance during the meeting were local

chief executives including Trece Martires City Mayor Gemma Lubigan, Mendez Mayor Frederick Vida, Amadeo Mayor John Redel Dionisio, GMA Mayor Walter Echevarria, Ternate Mayor Lamberto Bambao, Maragondon

Mayor Reynaldo Rillo, SK Provincial Federation President Jerome Napoleon Gonzales, heads and representatives from various offices in the provincial and local government and the members of AFP, PNP, PDEA, and DILG.





### FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

The PROPOSED new 5G networks are not needed.

- Peer reviewed science indicates that exposure to wireless radiation can increase risk of brain cancer, tumors, DNA damage, infertility, lower sperm & egg count, birth defects and more.
- Children are especially vulnerable due to their underdeveloped bodies and organs.



**SHARPENING THE SKILLS OF BARANGAY TANOD ON TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT:** Committed on his advocacy on traffic management, Governor Jonvic Remulla remains optimistic that road safety and traffic management be taught in all the barangay tanod in the province. On November 20, 2019, one hundred forty nine barangays in the municipalities of Amadeo, Indang and Tanza and the cities of General Trias and Trece Martires were able to send their barangay tanod for a seminar/lecture on traffic management held at the provincial gymnasium in Trece Martires City. The participants were educated on road traffic apprehensions, rightful manners in accommodating traffic disruptions, compliant behaviors on handling obstruction on normal traffic flow and other matters pertaining to traffic management through the help of the Road and Safety Division led by Mr. Rolando Alvaran. Moreover, they were given complete traffic gears including vest, boots, gloves and flash lights. They were also given packs of rice. In attendance during the seminar for tanod were 6th District Board Member Kerby Salazar, 7th District Board Member Lito Langit, TreceMartires City Mayor Gemma Lubigan and some city and municipal councilors .

## 4th CPPOC and PADAC Quarterly Meeting

Strongly committed to preserve the peace and order in the community and totally eliminate the drug-related crimes in the province, members of the Cavite Provincial Peace and Order Council (CPPOC) and the Provincial Anti-Drug Abuse Council (PADAC) convened to collaborate in the 4th Joint Quarterly Meeting of CPPOC and PADAC held at The Bayleaf Hotel in General Trias on November 15, 2019.

Roll call and acknowledgement of participants was facilitated by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Cavite OIC Provincial Director and Head Secretariat Eloisa G. Rozul. Upon the determination of the quorum, the meeting was



called to order by Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs Alvin Mojica.

Updates on peace and order situations, internal security, drug clearing updates, road clearing validation, and African Swine Flu were presented by Cavite Provincial Police Office OIC-Provincial Director PCOL Marlon Santos, Commanding Officer 202nd Infantry Brigade Col Alex Santos Rillera, Provincial Officer Philippine Drug-

Enforcement Agency (PDEA) – Cavite Billy Viray, Engr. Archie delos Reyes of DILG and Provincial Veterinary Office Head Dr. May Magno, respectively.

In response, Governor Jonvic Remulla pointed out his views on how the provincial government can help on easing the access to information to solve the crimes being committed against any individual as the province strengthens its program on information technology

by implementing the free wifi connectivity in the whole province. The governor also echoed his commitment in providing additional police vehicles for police operations and reiterated the initiative of the provincial government in instigating programs that can help in maintaining the peace and order situations in the community. He encouraged the partakers to be vigilant and accountable enough to report any forms of

(Turn to p. 5)

## Manila reminds public on vandalism law

MANILA-- After the walls of Araullo High School were defaced anew with an anarchy symbol this time, the Manila City Hall on Wednesday reminded the public on existing laws about vandalism and the penalties that go along with it.

"Lilinisin po ng school at ng city government'yong mga bandalismo (The school and the city government will clean the vandalized walls). We remind everyone po to comply with our existing laws, particularly Ordinance No. 7971 which penalizes vandalism in the nation's capital," Manila Public Information Office (MPIO) chief Julius Leonen said in a text message to the Philippine News

Agency (PNA).

"Makiisa na po tayo sa ating hangarin na linisin at isaayos ang ating mahal na Lungsod ng Maynila (Let's cooperate in cleaning our city of Manila)," he added.

Earlier, students of the said school allotted time and effort to clean the walls painted with slogans bearing messages like "Aktibista, hindi terorista – PS" (Activist not terrorist) and "Makatwiran ang maghimagsik – PS" (Reasonable to rebel).

PS reportedly pertains to a group called Panday Sining.

The new graffiti painted on Araullo High School's walls now bears the prominent circle with a capital letter "A", which stands for the modern-day symbol of anarchy.

A group has yet to claim responsibility for vandalizing the school property. (PNA)



## DOLE supports e-payment of wages

MANILA -- The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has urged employers to support the electronic payment of salaries to their workers.

Undersecretary Claro Arellano said instead of manual cash disbursements, the opening of formal accounts for payment of wages would be easier to verify and validate.

"A low financial inclusion among the wage earners may be a source of abuses against the workers and violations of labor laws as there can be difficulty in verifying and validating the payment of correct wages and other mandatory benefits," he said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

Arellano added that only 6.6 percent of the country's private sector wage earners receive their salaries through a formal account, which is a deposit or e-money account held in a supervised financial institution, citing the 2017 Global Findex report.

"A low financial inclusion among the wage earners may be a source of abuses against the workers and violations of labor laws as there can be difficulty in verifying and validating the payment of correct wages and other mandatory benefits," he said.

The DOLE partnered with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to promote financial inclusion through the e-payment of wages

and benefits.

The initiative is part of the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion which signifies the country's commitment to pursue a state wherein there is effective access to a wide range of financial products by all.

Although there is no law or regulation yet, Arellano said the advantages of paying salaries through formal accounts.

"For the employers, electronic payment of salaries will not only cut the transaction, administration, and overhead costs but will also reduce the incidence of leakages during disbursements," he said.

"For the employees, meanwhile, a formal account translates to easy access to financial products, including savings, credit, insurance, and investment," Arellano said.

Among the groups in the workers' sector identified by the Financial Inclusion Steering Committee which may immediately benefit from the e-payment of wages are the construction workers, bus drivers and conductors, kasambahay, factory workers, and workers in the retail and service industries.

The value of the payment of wages and salaries through formal accounts has also been acknowledged in countries such as Thailand, Qatar, India, Finland, Singapore, and Bangladesh. (PNA)

### ERRATUM

This is to correct the error made in the publication of Notice of Extra-Judicial Sale filed by Mortgagee **MANILA CREDIT CORPORATION**, against the Mortgagors, **SPS. NILDA H. ADAJAR and GENER ADAJAR** in the 10th line of the Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-1291559 (212) should be **121**.

Published at: Cavite News  
Date: November 21, 2019

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
BRANCH 23  
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-281-19

**BDO UNIBANK, INC.,**

*Mortgagee,*

-

*versus-*

**SPS. RONING CRUZ SANTOS**

**And ELSIE NARISMA SANTOS,**

*Mortgagors,*

x-----x

#### NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Mortgagee, **BDO UNIBANK, INC.**, with business address at BDO Corporate Center, 7899 Makati Avenue, Makati City against the Mortgagor/s, **SPS. RONING CRUZ SANTOS and ELSIE NARISMA SANTOS**, with residence and postal addresses at Unit 5, Bldg., 1, Salem Complex, domestic Rd., Malibay, Pasay City and Blk. 3, Lot 22, Ph-5, Manchester, Brgy. Navarro, Gen. Trias, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of September 1, 2019 amounts to **THREE MILLION SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY PESOS and 34/100 (P3,682,660.34)** Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **January 9, 2020** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning 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 described proerty with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

#### TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2016052641

**Lot No. 2 Block No.11 Plan. No. Pcs-04-028181**

**Portion of:** Lot 1706-O, BSD-04-002033 (OLT); Road Lot 17, Pcs-04-028064, Lot 2, Block 11, Psd-04-228261; Block 10 & Block 11, Pcs-04-028155, Decreed 4270, LRC Rec. No. 5964 & CLOA

**Location:** Barangay of Navarro, Municipality of Gen. Trias, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon

#### **Boundaries:**

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOTS (2)
1-2	NW	Lot 21, Block 3, Pcs-0-028181
2-3	NE	Lot 88, Block 3, Pcs-04-0288181
3-4	SE	Lot 27, Block 3, Pcs-04-0288181
4-5	SW	Lot 23, Block 3, Pcs-04-028181
5-6-1	NW, SW	Road Lot 9, Pcs-04-028181

**Area: TWO HUNDRED THIRTY THREE SQUARE METERS (233), more or less**

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **January 16, 2020** without further notice.

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

Trece Martires City, **November 7, 2019.**

**LUCIO C. ALEJO III**  
*Sheriff IV*

Copy Furnished:

**BDO UNIBANK, INC.**  
**RISK MANAGEMENT GROUP-REMEDIAL**

## Trees planted at La Mesa Watershed to fight climate change

MANILA-- Showing its commitment to battling climate change within the member-states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), Norway led on Tuesday a tree-planting ceremony at the La Mesa Watershed in Quezon City.

The activity was attended by no less than Norwegian Ambassador to the Philippines Bjørn Jahnsen, together with the Norwegian Ambassador to the Asean orten Høglund.

"By planting 500 seedlings this year, we are offsetting roughly 74 tons of carbon footprint equivalent to the projected carbon footprint that the embassy is producing per annum," Jahnsen said.

At the event, the embassy committed to plant 500 indigenous seedlings in La Mesa Nature Reserve, covering one hectare of land in the watershed, in partnership with the Asean Center for Biodiversity (ACB) and ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation.

La Mesa Watershed has been chosen as the project site as it serves as the carbon dioxide sink of Metro Manila. The watershed is also a major source of water for some 12 million residents of Metro Manila.

"With land conversion and degradation rapidly gobbling up forests and other vital ecosystems, any effort to conserve the last standing forests that we have deserves praise. I am glad that we are not alone in protecting and preserving the remaining biodiversity in the region," ACB executive director Munda Lim said.

"The Royal

Norwegian Embassy's commitment to support our fight against climate change, specifically the Embassy's pledge to plant an estimate of 500 trees, could not have come at a better time. This supports the Asean's latest undertaking the Asean Green Initiative, which was introduced during the 15th Asean Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Siem Reap, Cambodia, last October," Lim added.

The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila continues to look for possibilities to reduce carbon footprint in the Philippines and the tree planting is part of the said cause.

Since 2015, Norway was invited as a sectoral dialogue partner of Asean, promoting cooperation in many areas such as peace and reconciliation, energy, trade, and private sector development, and climate change and biodiversity.

For Høglund, the tree planting activity is a way to reaffirm Norway's commitments to strengthen cooperation in the conservation of biodiversity in the Asean region.

"We urge countries to act together to tackle the global challenge of climate change, and focus on the impact of these changing conditions in Asean and its international relations," he added.

This year, Norway signed an agreement with the Asean to protect the environment and human wellbeing from plastic pollution. It also hosted the Our Ocean Conference in Oslo where USD64 billion of the total was pledged to protect the oceans. (PNA)

#### MANAGEMENT UNIT

11th Floor, BDO South Tower, BDO Corporate Center 7899 Makati Ave., Makati City

#### SPS. RONING & ELSIE SANTOS

Unit 5, Bldg. 1, Salem Complex, Domestic Rd. Malibay, Pasay City and Blk. 3, Lot 22, Ph-5, Manchester, Brgy. Navarro, Gen. Trias, Cavite

Published at: Cavite News

Dates: November 14, 21, & 28, 2019

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



# IT'S AN OUT OF THIS WORLD SM MALLIDAYS AT SM CENTER IMUS



*SM CENTER IMUS, CAVITE - Looks like Santa Claus made his route a little extraordinary this year as he accomplish his secret Christmas mission at SM Center Imus Christmas Sky Adventure! The kids enjoyed their outer space adventure with elves on their side as Starstruck VII Ultimate Survivor Kim de Leon and Anthony Rosaldo of GMA's The Clash joined them in celebrating a very Happy SM Malliday. Sure Santa's UFO is bound to give more fun to the kids and shoppers at SM Center Imus this season.*



*Anthony Rosaldo of GMA's The Clash and Starstruck VII Ultimate Survivor Kim de Leon made the celebration sweeter as they great the shoppers*



*Children were thrilled to play with Santa*



# SparklingSMallidays at SM City Trece Martires

SM City Trece Martires, Cavite – Indeed the happiest season is finally here at SM City Trece Martires as they officially unveiled the Beary Merry Christmas Centerpiece featuring the cuddly friends working for Santa's factory.

The celebration of the beginning of Christmas at SM Trece was filled with music, fun and excitement. Kids geared up with their colorful and beautiful Christmas costumes as they visited Santa's factory. Trece Martires City Mayor Gemma Lubigan together with the City Vice Mayor Bobby Montehermoso and City Councilors also graced the celebration and delivered Christmas greetings to all the shoppers and guests.

Christmas is truly the brightest and happiest time of the year. From dining to gift shopping, or enjoying fun experiences – for 61 years, SM has witnessed every Filipino family's milestones and celebrations. This year, SM brings you the #SparklingSMallidays as they unwrap a host of fun-filled activities, dazzling displays, exciting deals, and thrilling surprises to light up the lives of everyone this holiday season!



*SM Santa danced with his Bear factory workers during the Christmas Centerpiece unveiling at SM City Trece Martires*



*This adorable kid sat down with the giant bear at the Beary Christmas Centerpiece.*



*Kids in their Christmas costumes were filled with happiness and excitement*



## Bush fire threat spreads in Australia

Sydney-The fire danger was elevated across wider swathes of southern Australia on Thursday, with residents warned to avoid at-risk areas as smoke from bush fires choked Sydney and other major cities.

Devastating fires along the country's east coast have claimed six lives and destroyed more than 500 homes since mid-October, with climate change and unseasonably hot, dry conditions fueling the unprecedented blazes.

Now the fire danger has moved into states further south, with a so-called "Code Red" the highest possible fire risk in Victoria being declared in the state's northwest for the first time in a decade.

"What that means is that if we see fires in those areas they will be fast moving, they will be unpredictable, they will be uncontrollable," emergency management commissioner Andrew Crisp told reporters.

Country Fire Authority chief Steve Warrington told people living in rural areas to leave for the safety of cities.

"We are saying, 'do not be there, do not be there when a fire occurs, because you will not survive if you are there,'" he said.

"There is a good chance if a fire occurs that your home will be destroyed."

The fire danger was also elevated to "severe" in the island state of Tasmania off mainland Australia's southeastern coast, where a total fire ban was declared.

Two bush fires in the state's northeast did not pose an immediate threat to residents, the Tasmania Fire Service said.

For the second time in two days, smoke from bush fires blanketed Sydney, Australia's biggest city and home to more than five million people, sending air quality plummeting to hazardous levels.

More than 110 fires are still burning in worst-hit New South Wales and neighboring Queensland, while in South Australia more than 40 fires broke out during catastrophic fire conditions Wednesday.

A South Australia Country Fire Service spokeswoman said all of those blazes had been

brought under control or extinguished by Thursday, with the exception of a major fire on the Yorke Peninsula that had come perilously close to a small town.

Conditions were expected to ease in the coming days in South Australia, where the state capital Adelaide was also shrouded in bush fire smoke and residents were being told to stay indoors for health reasons.

Bush fire-prone Australia has experienced a horror start to its fire season, which scientists say is beginning earlier and becoming more extreme as climate change pushes temperatures higher and saps moisture from the environment after months of severe drought.

Growing calls to curb fossil fuels and drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions are being ignored by the country's conservative government, which is eager to protect its lucrative mining industry.

The country is bracing for challenging fire conditions to continue throughout the Southern Hemisphere summer.

(GAB) on second and third reading by next week," he said.

Sotto also expressed optimism that the bicameral conference committee, which is expected to convene by the first week of December, would be able to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the budget in an expeditious, yet orderly manner.

"The bicameral debates will be unpredictable. We expect healthy debates

## Worried families wait outside besieged school in Hong Kong

Hong Kong--The relatives of some of the young pro-democracy protesters holed up inside a Hong Kong university held an anxious vigil Tuesday as police vowed to arrest those inside.

Around 100 demonstrators remain barricaded inside Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) surrounded by riot squads who have been besieging them for three days.

One mother in her 50s, whose surname is Chan, said she was terrified that police would storm the campus with guns blazing and her 18-year-old son would be injured or even killed.

"I'm worried when the police go in to attack there will be heavy casualties, a Tiananmen 2.0," she said, referring to the 1989 quashing of pro-democracy protests in the Chinese capital that left hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people dead at the hands of the Chinese military.

A woman named Cheung said she had spent last night in a park near a police cordon as she waited for news of

among members of the bicameral panel as they thresh out and reconcile the differences in our respective versions of the measure. We hope they will remain level-headed and open-minded during the discussions," Sotto said.

Congress is eyeing to have the proposed 2020 General Appropriations Act signed by President Rodrigo Duterte on December 20 before lawmakers go on break for the holidays. (PNA)

her adult son, who she said came to the campus as a first aider.

"I was very, very worried, worried his life could be in danger. He's scared. He's scared about being arrested by the cops," she said.

Demonstrators, who took to the streets in their hundreds of thousands in June over a now-shelved bill that would have allowed extradition to China, are demanding the right to elect their own leaders, as well as an inquiry into alleged police brutality.

The protest tactics morphed in the last 10 days into a "Blossom Everywhere" strategy of disruptive vandalism that has brought much of the transport network to a standstill and shuttered schools.

But the three-day PolyU occupation is the most serious and sustained episode yet.

Another mother, identified by her surname Chung, told the South China Morning Post her 16-year-old daughter was still inside the university, despite assurances that minors would not face any immediate legal action if they surrendered.

"No one can ask her to come out now. She wants to walk out freely, and does not believe the police at all," she told the paper.

"She communicates with me but refuses to listen to me."

A father in his 50s, who gave his name as Wong, said his 17-year-old daughter had initially refused to surrender because she feared arrest and a ten-year jail

term for rioting, but had finally agreed to come out with her school principal.

"I'm worried about her personal safety, the legal stuff we can sort out later," he told AFP.

"If the police really go in to clear the place, once they're inside no one knows what would happen in there. Anything could happen and we can't predict.

"If in the worst case scenario, they really use live rounds, they could give any story they want and we wouldn't know what really happened... Who would people believe?"

Cheung said she just wanted her son to come out safely.

"I believe they won't charge my son, because he's just helping people... He's not one of the people in black, he doesn't have masks at home or any other tools like that, he just came out in jeans, a T-shirt and a windbreaker."

The government, however, has shown no willingness to compromise, with chief executive Carrie Lam saying Tuesday that those inside the campus had no option but to surrender.

The increasingly unpopular police force has vowed to arrest everyone, insisting that they must face the force of the law.

"If the government is giving up on this generation, then what about the next?... Are they giving up on them too?" asked Cheung. "What would become of Hong Kong then?"

## Sotto assures 2020 budget to be passed on time

MANILA -- Senate President Vicente Sotto III on Wednesday assured that the proposed PHP4.1 trillion national budget for 2020 would be passed on time as the Senate is on track in its calendar for the approval of next year's budget.

"It was submitted on time. We are right on track of our timetable without sacrificing important issues being raised in the different departments," Sotto said, noting that senators have

been given ample time to bring up and clarify questionable or ambiguous provisions in the budget bill.

The Senate leader said plenary discussions on the budget measure, including the period of interpellation, individual amendments and committee amendments are expected to be completed by the last week of November.

"The Senate also expects to approve the proposed General Appropriations Bill



## DOLE supports e-payment of wages

MANILA -- The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has urged employers to support the electronic payment of salaries to their workers.

Undersecretary Claro Arellano said instead of manual cash disbursements, the opening of formal accounts for payment of wages would be easier to verify and validate.

"A low financial inclusion among the wage earners may be a source of abuses against the workers and violations of labor laws as there can be difficulty in verifying and validating the payment of correct wages and other mandatory benefits," he said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

Arellano added that only 6.6 percent of the country's private sector wage earners receive their salaries through a formal account, which is a deposit or e-money account held in a supervised financial institution, citing the 2017 Global Findex report.

"A low financial inclusion among the wage earners may be a source of abuses against the workers and violations of labor laws as there can be difficulty in verifying and validating the payment of correct wages and other mandatory benefits," he said.

The DOLE partnered with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to promote financial inclusion through the e-payment of

wages and benefits.

The initiative is part of the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion which signifies the country's commitment to pursue a state wherein there is effective access to a wide range of financial products by all.

Although there is no law or regulation yet, Arellano said the advantages of paying salaries through formal accounts.

"For the employers, electronic payment of salaries will not only cut the transaction, administration, and overhead costs but will also reduce the incidence of leakages during disbursements," he said.

"For the employees, meanwhile, a formal account translates to easy access to financial products, including savings, credit, insurance, and investment," Arellano said.

Among the groups in the workers' sector identified by the Financial Inclusion Steering Committee which may immediately benefit from the e-payment of wages are the construction workers, bus drivers and conductors, kasambahay, factory workers, and workers in the retail and service industries.

The value of the payment of wages and salaries through formal accounts has also been acknowledged in countries such as Thailand, Qatar, India, Finland, Singapore, and Bangladesh. (PNA)

### BILL BANNING...FR. P. 1

vaporized nicotine is still nicotine.

"Other vaporized chemicals, whether organic or not, remain harmful especially if inhaled directly into our lungs directly or from vaping of someone with you in the same enclosed room or just some feet away," Alonte said.

"This bill is necessary to protect both the young and adults who have become addicted to the chemicals vaporized with the use of electronic device systems," Alonte said.

She said the bill covers electronic devices that vaporize nicotine and any other chemicals.

Duterte issued the directive, following the first reported case of an illness related to vaping in the country.

The Department of Health (DOH) on

November 15 confirmed that a 16-year-old girl from Central Visayas who has been using e-cigarettes for six months is allegedly suffering from an electronic cigarette or vaping-associated lung injury (EVALI).

The girl, who allegedly complained of "sudden-onset severe shortness of breath," met the case criteria of EVALI upon evaluation, based on the guidelines of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Vaping devices, which vaporize a solution that users inhale, do not use tobacco leaves, unlike regular cigarettes.

E-cigarette became popular among Filipinos who assume that it was a healthier alternative for puffers who want to quit smoking. (PNA)

### CAVITE...FR. P. 1

activities were facilitated to showcase the talents and demonstrate the physical and mental health of the elderly. Simultaneous vaccination and ballroom and folk dance competition participated by senior citizens from different cities and municipalities in the province.

Awarding of ballroom and folk dance competition highlighted the event as the Municipality of Mendez was hailed as the overall champion while Carmona bagged the second place and Silang won the third place. They received cash prizes of P20k, 15K and 10k, respectively.

Closing remarks concluded the celebration as Mr. Reiner H. Miguel, Provincial Vice President of the Federation of

Senior Citizens expressed his gratitude to the senior citizens, provincial officials and other attendees who participated in the celebration.

Also present to support the activity were Former Board Member Irene Bencito, Dir. Annie E. Mendoza, OIC-Regional Director DSWD Field Office IV-A, Dr. Romulo Lua, Jr., OIC-Cavite Provincial Health Office, Ms. Elena Estacio, Regional Vice President of Federation of Senior Citizen, Dr. Armie Camposagrado, Provincial Health Team Leader DOH Extension Office, Provincial Council for the Elderly members, LGU's C/MSWDO, OSCA Head, Partner Herbal Wellness, sponsors and other agencies and stakeholders.

### PRRD...FR. P.1

welcomes Christmas with family and friends in his hometown, Davao City, where he served as mayor for more than two decades before his overwhelming victory as the country's first leader from Mindanao in 2016.

It has also been his Christmas tradition to visit young cancer patients at the Southern Philippine Medical Center in Davao City every year.

When he was mayor of Davao City, Duterte always hosted a Christmas party for residents at his ancestral home in Bangkal village.

He, however, was no longer able to attend the event when he became president for security reasons, although the

annual gift-giving continues.

Thousands of Filipinos waited outside Duterte's old house in Bangkal last year, in the hope of receiving a present from the President.

In 2018, Duterte's Christmas wish was to have a "progressive and peaceful" nation for the prosperity of his countrymen.

He also urged Filipinos to remember the "wealth of lessons" from the nativity of Jesus Christ.

"As we take part in the festivities during this joyous occasion, may we also contemplate on the wealth of lessons we can learn from the narrative of the Savior's birth to

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the calls of compassion, echoed throughout the kindness, and globe," Duterte said last reconciliation being year. (PNA)



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## PRRD wants Filipino families to enjoy 'happy' Christmas

MANILA -- With only 36 days to go before Christmas, President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday wished that his fellow Filipinos would remain cheerful despite the challenges they face.

Duterte expressed optimism that Filipino families would find joy when they share a simple

Noche Buena, a celebration observed by the nation on Christmas Eve.

"I hope that you will be sitting on a table, having Noche Buena with your family and (being) happy about whatever the situation finds us," he said in a press conference at

Malacañan Palace on Tuesday night, when quizzed about his Christmas wish for the nation.

"I said we cannot control everything. There are things which (are) beyond our control," he added.

The President usually  
*(Turn to p. 2)*

# Bill banning vaping filed at House

MANILA-- A lawmaker at the House of Representatives on Wednesday filed a bill regulating the use and sale of vaping devices or electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes).

Biñan City Rep. Marlyn Alonte filed House Bill 5561, or the proposed Tobacco and Vaping Regulation Act, which proposes to

include vaping in the same category as tobacco products and apply the same strict regulations.

The bill seeks to ban smoking and vaping in public places. It also prohibits the sale or distribution of tobacco products and vaping devices to minors.

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier ordered

the total ban on the use of vaping devices or e-cigarettes in public, as well as the importation of such devices.

"There is mounting evidence of the harmful effects of electronic cigarettes on public health and safety ranging from lung injury from the liquid nicotine and chemicals to bone fractures and burns from

exploding vaping devices. Congress must step forward to protect the people," Alonte said.

"High excise taxes are not enough to effectively counter this new health menace. The same strict regulations applied to smoking must be applied to vaping," she added.

Alonte said the vaping fumes are as



dangerous as the smoke from cigarettes, considering that  
*(Turn to p. 2)*

## Cavite Holds the Elderly Filipino Week Celebration

In recognition of the significant role and contributions of our elderly in nation building and appreciation of the responsibility of senior citizens' key leaders in the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of the elderly, the Provincial Government of Cavite thru the Provincial Social Welfare Development Office led the annual Elderly Filipino Week Celebration with the theme: "Healthy and Productive Aging Starts With Me" held at the Provincial Gymnasium in Trece Martires City on

November 18, 2019.

PSWD Officer Ms. Felipa Servañez warmly welcomed all the participants while Mr. Ciriaco Angeles, newly elected President of the Regional Federation of Senior Citizens Association IV-A thanked the governor for his constant support to the senior citizens. On the other hand, Mr. Alvin S. Mojica, Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs reiterated that the provincial government led by Governor Jonvic Remulla and Vice-

Governor Jolo Revilla remain steadfast in the provision and implementation of plans and programs for the senior citizens. Board Members Dennis Lacson and Khervy Salazar, Chairperson, Committee on Elderly, Women, Family, Children and Social Services and Chairperson, Committee on Health, respectively stressed that they will continue on studying additional ordinances that can be implemented in order to uplift the lives of the senior citizens in the whole province.



A discussion on Healthy and Productive Aging and Orientation on Pneumococcal Disease was facilitated by Dr. Maria Victoria C. Salvatus-Torres, Head, Family Health Unit of the

Provincial Health Office. She explained all the issues pertaining pneumonia and flu, its symptoms, who can be affected and who can avail of the vaccines. She ended her lecture by

reminding senior citizens not only to take care of their physical health but also make time to nurture their emotional wealth. With more than 1000 participants, various  
*(Turn to p. 2)*