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LRT-1 extends service by 1 hour for holidays

MANILA -- The Light Rail Transit Line 1's (LRT-1) schedule has been extended by an hour to accommodate more passengers during the holiday season.

In a message to reporters on Wednesday, Jacqueline Gorospe, Light Rail Manila Corp. (LRMC) head of communications, said the new schedule stems from the multiple feedback from passengers to extend the train service due to the 11 p.m. mall closing hour this holiday season and other Christmas events that usually end late at

night.

"Madami kaming nakukuhang feedback or requests na sana i-extend (We are receiving much feedback and requests asking us to extend the schedule) more to accommodate the surge of pax, especially this

(Turn to p. 2)

TESDA eyes increase of training partners by 20% yearly

MANILA -- The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is eyeing to increase the number of its training partners by 20 percent yearly, an executive said Tuesday.

These are the agency's partners in the dual training system (DTS), as well as in the enterprise-based training program.

To help achieve this goal, TESDA gathered about 120 partners and potential partners at the TESDA Women's Center in Taguig City on Tuesday, to discuss the industry's concerns, and how they could work better with TESDA in developing training curriculum.

"The government (TESDA) cannot create quality training alone. The industry is the one who needs quality

graduates. Thus, from the very start, the industry should help us develop the right curriculum," TESDA Partnership and Linkages Office executive director Sonia Lipio told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) during a seminar at its main office on Tuesday.

She explained that if TESDA doesn't have in its curriculum what the industry needs, then that would be a problem.

Partnership with TESDA, she said, is important. "So that in the future, they wouldn't complain that they still need to train TESDA graduates and that it would be additional cost for them," Lipio said.

DTS combines theoretical training in schools and practical training in companies. A Dual Training System Act (RA 7686) was signed in 1994.

January, Last TESDA Board has approved the revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of DTS. Among the amendments were: the normal number of hours in the training regulation shall be the minimum duration of training (40 percent in school, 60 percent in the company); training allowance of at least 75 percent of the minimum wage will be given in full to the trainees; and that DTS shall be included in scholarship programs.

Chief TESDA specialist Floramel Joy Songsong earlier explained that DTS brings better chances of employment. "The employability is higher because the partner companies are involved in the DTS training plan. This means the trainees (Turn to p. 2)

Secretary gives gifts to battle wounded soldiers

F O R T
BONIFACIO, -- As
Christmas approaches,
the Secretary of National
Defense (SND) Delfin N.
Lorenzana personally
gives gifts to the wounded
Philippine Army
personnel Tuesday,
December 10 at Army
General Hospital.

The activity was part of the Department of National Defense's Christmas tradition project KAPAGDAKA (Kapakanan at Gabay sa Dating Kaanyuan) that promotes the welfare of persons with disabilities particularly with the soldiers who were injured during their mission.

Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Gilbert I. Gapay assisted the Secretary in giving



grocery items and cash incentives to around 36 wounded soldiers, who were with their dependents.

"Ito po'y nagbibigay sa amin ng tuwa at moral na kami po ay nabibigyan ng pamasko. Kami po ay nagpapasalamat sa mga binigay niya na aginaldo. Kami rin po ay natutuwa na kami po ay binigyan niya ng pansin at halaga," said Sgt. Renato Eucogco who is currently recovering at

the hospital after he lost his legs during the Marawi Seige in 2017.

Lorenzana in his message also emphasized additional programs under KAPAGDAKA such as the distribution of wheelchairs and assistive devices; livelihood trainings for Wounded-In-Action (WIA) soldiers and their dependents; skills development opportunities to equip the WIA as they return or get

(Turn to p. 2)

EU eager to engage PH in fighting climate change

MANILA -- The this European Union (EU) is com ready to engage with the Philippines in raising first Filipinos' awareness on the ill-effects of climate change and ways to mitigate it as it commemorates the Human Rights Day in the country.

On Wednesday, the bloc hosted the first-ever human rights forum dedicated to the fight against climate change in hopes of stirring response from the Filipino people.

The event held in Makati was attended by Commission on Human Rights chairperson Chito Gascon, members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources who were joined by at least 160 participants from the private sector and advocacy groups.

In a speech, EU's Chargé d' Affaires in Manila Thomas Wiersing underscored that the Philippines is one of the countries identified as most vulnerable to flooding and potential submersion if climate change is not mitigated.

"And in these countries, the poor and disadvantaged risk to be even more affected than others. This is why we have decided to dedicate

this year's commemoration of Human Rights Day for the first time to the topic Climate Change: The new challenge for human rights: Act Now!" he said.

The United Nations Human Rights Council itself has recognized that human rights obligations have the potential to strengthen policymaking in the area of climate change and sustainable outcomes.

"The EU stands for democracy, the rule of law, and the respect of fundamental freedoms and human rights. Yes, we may not agree on all issues when it comes to human rights -- and the EU's position is well known -- but the EU is eager to engage with the Philippines to support sustainable development and to fight climate change," he said.

In this light, Wiersing underscored the need for the public to fight for their right to live in a sustainable environment regardless of wherever they come from.

"But climate protection is not only the job of governments. We all need to make an effort -- be it in our homes, communities and workplaces. If we move together, we will also move faster, and this is in the interest of all of us," he added. (PNA/By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora)

SECRETARY. . . FR. P. 1

discharged from the service; and other future programs that will further provide assistance to the wounded troops.

"Let me express my most serious thanks to you all for your great service to the nation, even risking your lives to serve our country and the people. I hope that you find comfort with the assurance that the government is at your back to support you and your families. You may have lost or injured a part of your body, but your spirit has definitely become stronger," said Lorenzana. (PA)

New Perspective: PCOO launches docu film, magazine on PH anti-illegal drug campaign

MANILA, -- The government on Wednesday launched a documentary film and a magazine tackling the anti-illegal drugs campaign of the Duterte administration, in a bid to address the proliferation of inaccurate narratives surrounding the program.

Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) Secretary Martin Andanar presented to the media a documentary entitled: "GRAMO," and a magazine "Saving the Future of A Nation: Countering Hard Drugs."

"We hope that both the documentary and the magazine will help enlighten everyone on the whole-of-nation approach the government is taking to address the problem of illegal drugs," he said.

"Gramo" is an hourlong documentary produced by the PCOO that analyzes the accomplishments gained by the administration on countering hard drugs.

Meanwhile, the magazine "Saving the Future of a Nation: Countering Hard Drugs" features the key performance indicators on the government's anti-illegal drug campaign that likewise zeroes in on the harmful social effects brought about by illegal drugs.

In his speech, the PCOO chief noted that reports on the numbers of individuals who surrendered and were admitted to the reformation program, and children who were rescued from illegal drug-related activities are 'triumphant' achievements for both the government and the civil society.

He said that the launch of the documentary and magazine is meant to show to the public the efforts of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in saving the future of the nation.

According to Secretary Andanar, despite the negative portrayal perpetuated by detractors, the administration stands firm in its mandate to rid the country of illegal drugs as well as corruption.

"Criticisms have been made with regards to this matter, in part through the proliferation of misinformation and fact-twisting by the oppositionists and other interest groups," he said.

"Despite this, the Duterte Administration will remain firm in its mandate and obligation to realize a drug-free and corruption-free Philippines," Secretary Andanar said.

On the alleged human rights issues committed in the name of the unrelenting war against illegal drugs, Secretary Andanar reiterated and affirmed that the administration will remain steadfast in protecting and preserving human rights and dignity in official police operations.

"We will continue to implement strong law enforcement with consistent adherence and observance of human rights and dignity through rescue, rehabilitation, reformation, and ridding drug war operations of corruption," he added.

"Gramo" will be televised on People's Television Network Inc. (PTV) on Thursday, December 12, 7pm with simulcast in PCOOmanaged social media pages. (PCOO)

TESDA..FR.P.1

learn the industry requirements," she said.

Lipio, meanwhile, noted that TESDA is also pushing for the enterprise-based training program. This includes various programs, such as:

* Apprenticeship - covers a minimum of four months and maximum (of) four months. This is designed to benefit both the employer and apprentice, ensuring availability of qualified skilled workers, according to TESDA.

* Learnership - any practical training on nona p p r e n t i c e a b l e occupation which may or may not be supplemented by related theoretical instruction.

* Supervised-Industry Learning - also known as on-the-job training, designed to complement the training gained in the institution.

These are basically in dustry-driven programs, said Lipio.

Lipio said that since 2015, there are only 367 DTS partner companies, and about 2,500 partners in the enterprise-based training.

"We target to increase these figures by 20 percent every year," she reiterated. (PNA/By Ma. Cristina Arayata)

LRT-1. . . FR. P. 1

time around," Gorospe said.

Some 30,000 more passengers are expected to be accommodated with the extension of the train schedule, which took effect on Wednesday and will end on December 31.

Under the new train

schedule, the LRT-1 would send out its first trains from both Baclaran and Roosevelt Stations at 4:30 a.m. while its last trains would leave at 11 p.m. from the Baclaran Station and 11:15 p.m. from the Roosevelt Station.

CAVITE NEWS WEEKLY NEWS BAYMOND Carl Dela Cruz

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341,757 households graduate from 4Ps: DSWD

MANILA -- The years. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said some 341,757 households were already delisted from the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) due to attrition or those whose households no longer have eligible children for monitoring. In an interview on Tuesday, 4Ps National Program Management Director Gemma Gabuya, said that 4Ps has already served 4.88 million households around the country as of Nov. 30, 2019.

"Through this course. several households have exited the program for various reasons and 341,757 of them have exited due to attrition meaning all the children in those families have already graduated," she said.

"There are also 34,513 households formerly included in the program but has voluntarily waived because "nakaangat na sila ng konti (their financial status have improved)," Gabuya added.

On Tuesday, DSWD Secretary Rolando Bautista and eight partner government agencies have signed implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the newly enacted 4Ps Law. 4Ps milestones

Since its inception in 2008, 4Ps have invested in human capital focusing mostly on its beneficiaries' health, nutrition, education, and family development.

From an initial 321,380 householdbeneficiaries during its pilot stage undertaken in cities and municipalities, and 28 provinces from all 17 regions back in 2008, DSWD, as the lead implementing agency, said it takes pride in the expansion of the program within a span of only 11

Based on Program Implementation Status Report for the first quarter of 2019, 4Ps is now implemented in 144 cities and 1,483 municipalities in 80 provinces from all 17 regions with the number householdbeneficiaries growing to 4,876,394.

With the IRR, 4Ps is on its way towards covering more poor households, providing livelihood opportunities, and extending higher cash grants.

Impact evaluation report

On the Impact Evaluation Report produced every three years by the agency and partner organizations World Bank, Australian Aid, and Asian Development Bank, it indicated the success of 4Ps in keeping Filipino children healthy and in school.

Some of the key findings of the study cited that the Pantawid Pamilya program encourages trial use of modern family planning methods, promotes facility-based deliveries and access to professional postnatal care, and improves children's access to some key health care services.

Among Pantawid beneficiaries, the study said about nine in 10 households are covered by the PhilHealth insurance program.

It also mentioned that Pantawid Pamilya keeps older children in school and Pantawid children work seven days less in a month compared non-Pantawid children.

added It that Pantawid Pamilya increases households' investments in education, does not encourage dependency or spending more on vice goods, and allows parents to aspire for a better future for their children.

The digital copy of

Supreme Court of the Philippines Fourth Judicial Region **FAMILY COURT Branch 5, Trece Martires City** fcbr5tmc@gmail.com 09234824559

Foreclosure Case No. F-301-19

BDO UNIBANK, INC., Mortgagee,

-versus-

MARIA SOFIA BLANCO INOCENCIO as represented by JAMIROSE ANDREA DANESSA BENEDICTO CASTILLO (ATTY-IN-FACT),

Mortgagor,

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, MARIA SOFIA BLANCO INOCENCIO as repre. by Atty-In-Fact, JAMIROSE Andrea Danessa BENEDICTO CASTILLO of legal age Filipino, with residence and postal address at: 1.) Lot 44, Blk. 18 Camella Tanza, Brgy. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite, and 2.) 55 Michael Raymond St., Sta Lucia, Pasig City to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness as of September 2, 2019 amounts to ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT PESOS & 53/100 (P1,382,738.53), Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties, and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all the other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on January 23, 2020 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the main e ntrance of the Government Center bldg. located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder of CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2018036313

Lot No. <u>44</u> Block: <u>18</u> Plan No. <u>PSD-04-225971</u>

PORTION OF: LOT 2051-F, PSD-04-166835; LRC REC.

No. 6832 LOCATION:

BARANGAY OF BAGTAS, MUNI-CIPALITY OF TANZA, PROVINCE

OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON

BOUNDARIES:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT(S)
1-2	SW	ROAD LOT 17, PSD-04-
		225971
2-3	NW	LOT 45, Block 18, PSD-04-
		225971
3-4	NE	LOT 5, BLK. 18, PSD-04-
		225971
4-5		LOT 6, BLK. 18, PSD-04-
		225971
5-1	SE	LOT 43, BLOCK 18, PSD-04-
		225971

AREA: FIFTY FOUR SQUARE METERS (54), MORE OR **LESS**

All sealed bids must be sbubmitted 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 <u>January 30, 2020</u> without further notice.

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

Trece Martires City November 28, 2019.

ANDRES B. ESPINA Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

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

11th Floor, BDO South Tower, BDO Corporate Tower 7899 Makati, Avenue Makati City 0726

MARIA SOFIA BLANCO INOCENCIO as repre. by Atty-In-Fact, JAMIROSE A. D. BENEDICTO CASTILLO

Lot 44, Blk. 18 Camella Tanza, Brgy. Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite 55 Michael Raymond St., Sta Lucia, Pasig City

Published at: Cavite News Dates December 5, 12, & 19 2019

WARNING: IT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED TO REMOVE DEFACE, OR DESTROY THIS NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF

No liquor consumption in government offices – CSC

QUEZON CITY, --The Civil Service Commission reminds government workers nationwide on the prohibition on consumption of alcoholic beverages in government offices even during office Christmas parties.

the report can be accessed here: https:// pantawid.dswd.gov.ph/ wp-content/uploads/ 2018/07/Pantawid-Pamilya-Impact-Evaluation-2014-Report-Final.pdf. (PNA/ Christine Cudis)

Pursuant to CSC Resolution No. 1100039, the consumption of alcoholic beverages such as, but not limited to malt, wine and intoxicating liquor in workplace among government officials and employees during office hours is prohibited.

CSC Chairperson Alicia dela Rosa-Bala stressed that mere consumption of alcoholic beverages in workplace during office hours as well as reporting for work while under the influence of alcohol shall be considered as an administrative offense, separate and distinct from

the offense of Habitual Drunkenness. However.

consumption of alcoholic beverages may allowed during programs and rituals such as ceremonial toasts and observance/honoring of local customs and traditions. In such instances, the alcoholic beverage must be limited to malt and wine, and the consumption shall not result to intoxication which is defined as, "the impairment of a person's mental faculties ensuing to the loss of control over his/her behavior and/or actions"

Should an untoward

incident happen as a result of such consumption, both the head of office and the officials or employees concerned will be held liable.

Officials employees caught in the of consuming intoxicating liquor and other alcoholic beverages during office hours, as well as those who will be reporting for work under the influence of alcohol shall be held liable for Misconduct which is punishable by suspension for one to six months for the first offense, and dismissal from service on the second offense. (CSC)

Supreme Court of the Philippines Fourth Judicial Region **FAMILY COURT Branch 5, Trece Martires City** fcbr5tmc@gmail.com 09234824559

Foreclosure Case No. F-311-19

EAST WEST BANKING CORPORATION, Mortgagee,

-versus-

SPOUSES NORIELYN Y. MARAÑON & ROMADEO D. MARAÑON.

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act. 4118 filed by Mortgagee, EAST WEST BANKING CORP., with business address at East West Corporate Center, the Beaufort, 5th Avenue cor. 23rd St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City 7899 Makati Avenue, Makati City against the Mortgagor/s, SPOUSES NORIELYN Y. MARAÑON & ROMADEO D. MARAÑON, both of legal age with residence and postal address at: 1.) Unit 902 B. West Tower P.S.E. Centre, Exchange Road Ortigas Centre, Pasig City; 2.) Lot 2, Block 9, Ph. 21 Kensington, Brgy. Navarro, Gen Trias City, Cavite, 3.) Blk. 7, Lot 17 Louisiana Valley View Royal Golf, Cainta, Rizal to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness as of October 15, 2019 amounts to NINE HUNDRED FIFTY NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY TWO PESOS and 32/100 (P959,562.32), Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all the other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **JANUARY 23, 2020** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the main entrance of the Government Center Bldg., located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder of CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2017043401

Lot No. 2 Block: 9 Plan No. PCS-04-028596

PORTION OF: LOTS 1688-A, 1688-B (LRC) PSD-8235 & LOT 1718 SFDM ESTATE DECREE

NO N-4270: LRC, REC, NO, 5964

LOCATION: BARANGAY NAVARRO.

MUNICIPALITY OF GEN. TRIAS CITY, PROVINCE OF CAVITE,

ISLAND OF LUZON

BOUNDARIES:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT(S)
1-2	NE	LOT 3, BLOCK 9, PCS-04-
		028596
2-3	SE	CREEK AND BEYOND BY
		LOT 1687 SFDM ESTATE
3-4	SW	LOT 1, BLOCK 9, PCS-04-
		028596
4-1	NW	ROAD LOT 2, PCS-04-
		028596

AREA: FIFTY EIGHT SQUARE METERS (58), 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 30, 2020** without further notice.

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

PGC conducts another orientation seminar on laws for senior citizens

MANILA -- The European Union (EU) is ready to engage with the Philippines in raising Filipinos' awareness on the ill-effects of climate change and ways to mitigate it as it commemorates the Human Rights Day in the country.

On Wednesday, the bloc hosted the first-ever human rights forum dedicated to the fight against climate change in hopes of stirring response from the Filipino people.

The event held in Makati was attended by Commission on Human Rights chairperson Chito Gascon, members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources who were joined by at least 160 participants from the private sector and advocacy

În a speech, EU's Chargé d'Affaires in Manila Thomas Wiersing underscored that the Philippines is one of the countries identified as most vulnerable to flooding and potential submersion if climate change is not mitigated.

"And in these countries, the poor and disadvantaged risk to be even more affected than others. This is why we have decided to dedicate this year's commemoration of

Human Rights Day for the first time to the topic Climate Change: The new challenge for human rights: Act Now!' he said.

The United Nations Human Rights Council itself has recognized that human rights obligations have the potential to strengthen policymaking in the area of climate change and sustainable outcomes.

"The EU stands for democracy, the rule of law, and the respect of fundamental freedoms and human rights. Yes, we may not agree on all issues when it comes to human rights -- and the EU's position is well known -- but the EU is eager to engage with the Philippines to support sustainable development and to fight climate change," he said.

In this light, Wiersing underscored the need for the public to fight for their right to live in a sustainable environment regardless of wherever they come from.

"But climate protection is not only the job of governments. We all need to make an effort -- be it in our homes, communities and workplaces. If we move together, we will also move faster, and this is in the interest of all of us," he added. (PNA/By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora)

Trece Martires City November 28, 2019.

ANDRES B. ESPINA Sheriff IV

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EAST WEST BANKING CORP.

c/o ONA PAMFILO & BUBAN LAW OFFICES ATTY. NANCY ALLEN L. YATCO 6th Floor, EastWest Corporate Center, 5th Avenue cor. 23rd St., Global City Taguig City 1634

SPOUSES NORIELYN Y. MARAÑON & ROMADEO D. MARAÑON

Unit 902B, West Tower PSC Centre Building Exchange Road, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City,

Lot 2, Block 9, Ph. 21 Kensington, Brgy. Navarro Gen. Trias City, Cavite.

Blk. 7, Lot 17 Louisiana Valley View Royal Golf, Cainta Rizal

Published at: Cavite News Dates: December 5, 12, & 19, 2019

WARNING: IT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED TO REMOVE DEFACE, OR DESTROY THIS NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF SALE

TESDA amends housekeeping training regulations

amended training regulations (TRs) for Technical Education and Skills Development Authority's (TESDA) Housekeeping NC III and IV qualifications will take effect in 2020.

"This (amended TRs) will take effect for the delivery of training programs, assessment, and certification within one year after the conduct of Regional Lead Assessor (RLA),"

TESDA information officer Rogelio Llovit said Wednesday.

The RLA, Llovit said, is an activity wherein assessors would be trained and oriented about the details of the amended TR.

The RLA is being organized and will be conducted as soon as possible, he added.

Llovit said it is still possible to have the RLA before yearend, and TESDA just needs to gather the assessors from around the country.

In a statement on Tuesday, **TESDA** Secretary Isidro Lapeña said the revised TRs aim to further promote qualifications and competencies that are indemand environment-friendly, and ensure their compliance with prevailing industry standards.

"The demand and

MANILA -- The skills requirements of hotel and restaurant businesses are constantly changing, and so TESDA should also keep up with the training we provide," Lapeña said.

> Training hours were expanded from 76 hours to 264 hours for Housekeeping NC III, and from 112 hours to 357 hours for Housekeeping NC IV.

> Further, the training would include competencies in planning and scheduling routine maintenance, repairs of physical assets, planning managing housekeeping services for guests, managing lost and found procedures, managing inventory, storage and issuance of linen and uniform, and managing laundry/valet service.

> Graduates of these qualifications may also be hired as public area supervisor, linen/uniform supervisor and laundry supervisor, according to TESDA.

> NC IV graduates may also become housekeeping assistant manager, housekeeping manager, head housekeeper, assistant housekeeper administrator, assistant executive housekeeper, and laundry manager, it added. (PNA/Ma. Cristina Arayata)

Ang kayamanan ng mayaman ang proteksiyon niya; Gaya iyon ng matibay na pader sa imahinasyon niya. (Kawikaan 18:11)

Devastation after volcano eruption

WHAKATANE, New Zealand? Tales of heroism, devastation and horrifying injuries emerged Tuesday after New Zealand's smoldering White Island volcano exploded, killing an estimated 13 people and turning what should have been an intrepid day trip into a nightmare.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said there were five confirmed fatalities and eight more people were presumed dead after Monday's eruption, while dozens of injured had been airlifted to hospital burns units across the country.

Among the 47 people caught on the island during the sudden blast were tourists from Australia, the United States, Britain, China, Germany and Malaysia, as well as local tour guides.

As relatives of the missing faced an agonizing wait to discover the fate of their loved ones, police said conditions remained too dangerous for recovery teams to set foot on the volcano.

Amid questions about how tourists were allowed on the island, police said they were opening an investigation into the circumstances of the deaths and injuries?but they backtracked on suggestions it could lead to criminal charges.

Ardern praised the crews of four rescue helicopters for landing on the island soon after the eruption.

"Those pilots made an incredibly brave decision under extraordinarily dangerous circumstances in an attempt to get people out," she told reporters.

Intensive care paramedic Russell Clark was among those dispatched by helicopter to the volcano, which sits semi-submerged 50 kilometers out to sea.

He was confronted by an "overwhelming" and "shocking" scene of devastation.

"We didn't find any survivors," he told TVNZ, remembering a dust-covered helicopter grounded with its rotor blades damaged.

"It was like.. I've seen the 'Chernobyl' mini-series and it was just everything was just blanketed in ash.

"I can only imagine what it was like for the people there at the time — they had nowhere to go and an absolutely terrible experience for them."

New Zealander Geoff Hopkins' tour boat was leaving the island when a huge plume burst from the volcano? at what scientists said was s u p e r s o n i c speed? followed by a "menacing" cloud of gray ash.

Despite the danger, Hopkins said the boat moved closer to the shore after seeing survivors jump from the island into the sea to escape.

"I don't think there was anyone that came off who wasn't badly burnt," he told the New Zealand Herald, describing how victims screamed and went into shock as fellow tourists tried to tend to their blistered skin.

Top New Zealand health official Pete Watson said 27 of the 34 survivors were being treated for burns to more than 71 percent of their bodies.

"It's important not to underestimate the gravity of the injuries suffered," he said.

After an initial rush, concerns about further eruptions, poisonous

gases and choking ash stalled efforts to recover bodies.

The risks were underscored Tuesday when a large-but-harmless 5.0 magnitude earthquake struck to the east of the disaster zone.

Ardern said New Zealanders were mourning alongside those from overseas whose nationals were caught up in the disaster.

"To those who have lost or are missing family and friends, we share in your unfathomable grief and in your sorrow," the prime minister said, just months after managing another national crisis during Christchurch's deadly twin mosque attacks.

Many of the victims are believed to be Australian and Prime Minister Scott Morrison warned his compatriots to brace for the worst.

He said there were fears that three of the five dead were Australian, and another eight citizens were unaccounted for.

"This is a very, very hard day for a lot of Australian families whose loved ones have been caught up in this terrible, terrible tragedy," he told reporters in Sydney.

The Malaysian government said one of its citizens had died and two British women were confirmed among those injured.

With the island offlimits, Adelaide man Brian Dallow was anxiously awaiting news about his son Gavin, daughter-in-law Lisa, and her daughter Zoe Hosking, 15.

"All we know at the moment is they were on the island and they're been confirmed as missing," he told AFP. "As far as we know they didn't get back on the ship."

Germany on alert as swine fever nears its border

Berlin-Sniffer dogs, drones and electrified fences: Germany is deploying a full array of defenses to stop boars from bringing swine fever into the country and avert a disaster for its thriving pork industry.

"The question is no longer if swine fever will come to Germany but when," Torsten Reinwald, a spokesman for Germany's hunting federation, told AFP.

The virus is not harmful to human health but can cause deadly bleeding in domestic pigs and boars.

The only way of getting rid of it is through mass culling at farms-a nightmare for German farmers.

Half of Germany's pork production of five million tons a year goes to foreign markets, making it Europe's biggest exporter of the meat.

It is feared that even a single case could wreak havoc.

"The probability that countries like China impose a total import ban is very high," said Sarah Dhem, a representative of Germany's meat products association.

Dhem gave the example of a total Chinese import ban following a few outbreaks in Belgium last year.

Losses could run

The eruption at White Island?also known as Whakaari?occurred on Monday afternoon, spewing a thick plume of white ash 3.6 kilometers into the sky.

At the time, visitors included a group of more than 30 from a Royal Caribbean cruise ship, the Ovation of the Seas, which left Sydney on a 12-day voyage last

into billions of euros and the European market would be flooded with cut-price pork.

Farmers first began to worry when swine fever was identified at a pig farm in western Poland in November.

But it was the discovery of a boar with the fever near the town of Nowogrod Bobrzanski?just 40 kilometers from the German border?that really raised the alarm.

As a result, German regions are pulling out all the stops.

In Saarland, near the French border, packs of sniffer dogs are being sent out to find dead boars so as to quickly remove any potential carriers of the virus.

In Saxony, which neighbors Poland, vets and emergency workers are holding drills in case of an outbreak and using drones and infrared cameras to find sick boars.

Further north, in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, 50 kilometers of electrified fence to stop boars along the border with Poland are being prepared.

But, fearing that a spread to Germany may be inevitable, Denmark is already putting up a fence along its own 70kilometer border.

There have been several recent outbreaks

week.

The island in the picturesque Bay of Plenty attracts more than 17,000 visitors every year and is marketed as an experience for the adventurous traveler.

But the volcano's threat level had been raised in recent days, leading to questions about whether tour groups should have been allowed to visit. **AFP**

of African swine fever in Central and Eastern Europe since 2014, which have devastated the local pig farming industries.

"Since it first appeared in Europe in 1957, the virus has almost always been brought into other countries through airports and ports. It has been exterminated everywhere except Sardinia" in Italy, said Sandra Blome, a swine fever expert at the Friedrich-Loeffler Institute.

The irony is that Germany so far has profited from the ravages of swine fever at farms in China, where more than a million pigs have had to be culled.

That pushed up the price of pork imports, which are expected to more than double in volume in 2019.

Until now, the possibility of humans spreading the virus inadvertently -- for example through discarded pork product sandwiches -- was thought the most likely.

Even though it has no effect on humans, the virus can survive for months in smoked goods such as hams.

At train stations and in parks and forests up and down the country, posters from Germany's agriculture ministry urge people not leave any food behind.

Reinwald also pointed out that the virus can survive for up to three months in mud carried in tyre threads.

But the attention now is firmly on roaming boars.

"The possibility of an infection from sick boars crossing the border is very high, higher now than the risk from humans," Blome said. **AFP**



MAKING LIVES BETTER FOR DASMARIÑAS RESIDENTS: A total of 443 indigent residents of the City of Dasmarinas including pedia, adult and senior citizens have availed free health care services from the Provincial Government of Cavite during the conduct of medical and dental mission recently at Barangay Sta. Fe Covered Court. Performed by volunteer doctors and dentists from General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital, 410 have benefitted medical consultation while 33 have availed tooth extraction services. The locals also received medicines and vitamins. The activity was made possible thru the initiative of Ms. Nicole Austria of the City Councilors' League. Meanwhile, Punong Barangay Emmanuel Noora expressed his gratefulness to the provincial government and the medical team for extending quality health care services to the community.—(PICAD)



SILANG CONDUCTS BUNTIS CONGRESS 2019: Carrying the theme "Mga Buntis Kalingain, Mga Bata Arugain", Silang Rural Health Unit conducted Buntis Congress 2019 recently at Barangay Tibig, Silang. Hundreds of pregnant women attended the affair wherein they availed the free HIV testing and counselling performed by the medical staff from the Provincial Health Office and Rural Health Unit. Likewise, Ms. Haydelisa Maderazo, Provincial HIV Coordinator lectured on prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV. Mayor Corrie Poblete graced the event and showed his support to the program.— (PICAD)

It is the blessing of Jehovah that makes one rich,

And He adds no pain with it.

Proverbs 10:22



CAPACITATING BARANGAY **TANOD** ONTRAFFIC MANAGEMENT: One thousand nine hundred (1,900) barangay tanod from the municipalities of Naic, Maragondon, Ternate, General Emilio Aguinaldo and Magallanes were able to join the lecture/seminar on traffic management held at Naic Municipal Covered Court recently. Facilitated by the Road and Safety Division headed by Mr. Rolando Alvaran, the seminar aims to capacitate barangay tanod on traffic management and teach them the proper attitude on responding to traffic issues and concerns. The partakers were given traffic gears that include vests, boots, gloves and flashlights. Also present during the event were Naic Mayor Junio C. Dualan, Naic Vice Mayor Rogelio H. Pangilinan, 8th District Board Members Reiniel Ambion and Virgilio Varias and some municipal councilors. —(PICAD)



INCENTIVES FOR BHW AND BNS: Recognizing the valuable contribution of Barangay Health Workers (BHW) and Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) in the community, Governor Jonvic Remulla led the distribution of the third and fourth quarter incentives to 2,398 BHW and 451 BNS in a simple ceremony held at Ugnayang La Salle, De La Salle University, City of Dasmariñas recently. Vice Mayor Rex Mangubat and other local officials welcomed and expressed their appreciation to the BHW and BNS for delivering the basic services in their respective barangays. Senator Risa Hontiveros, Vice Chair of the Senate Health Committee who was also present at the event stated that the passage of the Universal Health Care in the country will provide better benefits for BHWs.

PH records 6.8M international visitors from Jan-Oct; up 15% vs. previous year

MANILA, -- The Department of Tourism (DOT) welcomed the continued upward trend of Philippine international tourist arrivals tallying over 6.8 million visitors for another double-digit increase for the first ten months of the year.

According to the monthly report released by the DOT, the country recorded a total of 6,800,052 visitors from January to October 2019 equivalent to an impressive 15.04 percent increase from the 5,911,161 arrivals for the same period last year.

October visitor arrivals also revealed an affirmative year-on-year arrival growth for eight of the top ten source markets. For the first ten months, Korea still tops the list with a total of 1,609,172 arrivals (+21.75%), which is expected to further improve following the signing of the tourism cooperation program between the Philippines and Korea.

China came in second with 1,499,524 (+41.13%) followed by the United States of America (USA) at third place with 872,335 (+2.53%) for the tenmonth period.

Japan remained fourth in the list with 569,625 (+7.43%), followed by Taiwan, with a record of 282,220 (+36.77%) completing the top five markets.

DOT Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat attributed the encouraging figures to the



improved connectivity, intensified marketing promotions including the refreshed "It's More Fun in the Philippines" campaign, budding relations with other countries, as well the growing recognition of the country's sustainable tourism advocacy.

For October, tourist arrivals via air comprised 98.77% for 630,666 visitors. Manila, through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, served as the main gateway welcoming 396,446 tourists.

Cebu, which was recently included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Network of Creative Cities, followed suit with 131,217 arrivals. Incidentally, its Mactan-Cebu International Airport Terminal 2 earned the top prize in the Completed **Buildings-Transport** Category at the recentlyconcluded World Architecture Festival.

Air arrivals from Kalibo totaled 59,467, Clark with 35,236 while the rest of the airports yielded 8,300 arrivals.

On top of the growing tourist arrivals, the Philippines bagged back-to-back diving accolades at the World Travel Awards in Muscat, Oman. The country bested eight other global dive destinations namely Azores Islands, Bora Bora in French Polynesia, Cayman Islands, Fiji, Galapagos Islands, Great Barrier Reef in Australia, Maldives, and Mexico, after copping the Asia's Leading Dive Destination

"The collective efforts and resolve of the whole tourism industry have paid off with the continued increase in our visitor arrivals and tourist receipts as well as recognition from major international award giving bodies," Puyat enthused. (DoT)

DRAW CLOSE TO GOD AND HE WILL DRAW **CLOSE TO YOU**

James 4:8

President Duterte gives recognition to Army shooters

BONIFACIO, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte gave recognition to the Army shooters at the Malacañang Palace yesterday, December 9, for their excellence at the recently concluded **ASEAN Armies Rifles** Meet (AARM) 2019.

The members of the Philippine Army shooting team "Manunudla" were accompanied by the Philippine Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Gilbert I. Gapay and the Philippine Army Training and Doctrine Command Commander Maj. Gen. Cornelio Valencia Jr. in their courtesy call to the president.

Gapay introduced the shooting team to the president while they presented their medals and trophies from the AARM 2019. Duterte congratulated shooters. "I give my full support to the training of the Philippine Army



soldiers so they can perform their duties at the best of their abilities. For the shooters, aim to be on the top of AARM next year," he added.

The shooters were able to bring home a total of 22 medals comprised of 7 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze this year, putting them at the second place. The 6 gold, 7 silver, and 7 bronze were from the team events, and 1 gold, 1 silver from the individual events. The competitions during the AARM include the pistol (men & women), rifle/ carbine and machine gun matches.

"We will do our best

and train hard to meet the expectations not only of the president but also of the Filipino people," said Valencia.

Manunudla is a Filipino word that means shooter. The word has been chosen to symbolize the team as a way of embracing its Filipino identity while representing the country in various international events.

"With the support of the President, our soldiers will train hard to excel not only in the field of competition but in everything they do as we transform into a worldclass Army," said Gapay. (PA)



UGNAYAN SA BARANGAY AT BRGY. PASONG BUAYA 2. Thousands of Imuseños gathered at Brgy. Pasong Buaya 2 Covered Court in the City of Imus in another leg of Ugnayan sa Barangay Program of the provincial government led by Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla recently. The governor together with 3rd District Representative AA Advincula and the local officials of the City of Imus had the opportunity to communicate with their constituents and brought joy and hope to the people as they delivered words of encouragement just in time for the Christmas season. The residents also received packs of rice in exchange of plastic bottles as the provincial government has been pushing the ecological awareness and solid waste management program in the whole province. —(PICAD)

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Cavite State U pushes TNE initiatives of CHED

INDANG, Cavite - The Cavite State University (CvSU) on Monday convened collaborators for the research project named HECTOR (Higher Education Cooperation Towards Transnational Education Open Resource), that would further promote transnational education (TNE) in the Philippines.

At the grand inception meeting held at CvSU's Hostel Tropicana here, HECTOR Program Manager Dr. Rhodora Crizaldo said the event gathered project managers, consultants, advisory groups, and technical experts from the CvSU, Technological University of the Philippines (TUP), British Council-Philippines, Smart Philippines, Miriam College, University of the Philippines-Los Baños, among others, "to make these transnational stakeholders aware of this existing project, its purposes and details".

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) funded this two-year project, being undertaken by the CvSU campus here and TUP, in support of its initiatives to develop an open resource system for higher education institutions (HEIs) in the country providing TNE services.

The project entails the development of an open resource system for involved HEIs, including a descriptive analysis of the profile of TNE, and assessment of the current status and experiences of HEIs on TNE operation and implementation.

On August 28, 2019, President Rodrigo Duterte signed Republic Act 11448, a law establishing and administering a transnational higher education in the Philippines. It states that the country shall endeavor modernizing



TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION. Dr. Rhodora S. Crizaldo (1st row, 4th from left), program manager of the Higher Education Cooperation Towards Transnational Education Open Resource (HECTOR) project, leads the ceremonial toast during the Grand Inception Meeting to promote awareness on the project and encourage more Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the Philippines to promote transnational education, held at the Cavite State University (CvSU) in Indang, Cavite recently. The two-year HECTOR research project, initiated by CvSU in collaboration with the Technological University of the Philippines (TUP) is funded by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). (PNA photo by Gladys S. Pino)

its higher education sector, bringing international quality standards and expertise into the country and stimulating talent mobility (from student, faculty and staff) all in the spirit of making our education globally competitive.

However, Crizaldo said out of some 2,000 HEIs in the country, only 35 has TNE initiatives.

She said the project aims to raise the awareness on TNE and foster cooperation among HEIs in intensifying the landscape for TNE operation and implementation through promotion, advocacy and capacity building, with the hope of encouraging more involvement of HEIs in transnational education.

CHED's Chief of Management Division, Dr. Custer Deocaris, rationalized the government's support for the project, saying "we all need the data from this research to reach our full international potential and ambition".

He said the onset of globalization has made education internationalized and the new task for education today is to nurture the large quantities of talents who will have international perspectives, appreciation of cultures of other countries, endowed with skills for international collaboration. and can work as one with other setting aside from geographic differences to create a path towards a sustainable future.

"As a result, TNE models of all forms are beginning to develop and the country is no longer just exporting students to study abroad, but we now see an influx of foreign students studying in our country, foreign cooperation in schools, bilateral twinning programs with other countries, cooperation in scientific research, hiring of

Heat defeat Hawks in overtime Los Angeles, United States—Miami's Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo

Los Angeles, United States—Miami's Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo both posted triple-doubles as the Heat rallied late and dominated overtime to beat the Atlanta Hawks 135-121 on Tuesday and remain unbeaten at home this NBA season.

Adebayo scored a career-high 30 points with 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his first career triple-double—producing double figures in three key statistical categories.

Butler scored 20 points with a career-high 18 rebounds and 10 assists for the Heat, who improved to 11-0 at AmericanAirlines Arena.

Meanwhile, the Philadelphia 76ers also remained perfect at home, notching their third straight victory 97-92 over the Denver Nuggets.

Sixers big man Joel Embiid scored 22 points, coolly draining two free throws with 15.3 seconds remaining to seal the victory.

Embiid added 10 rebounds and six assists — with two steals and a blocked shot—and Tobias Harris added 20 points as Philadelphia improved to 13-0 at home with their seventh win in eight games.

Will Barton led the Nuggets with 26 points, after Denver's top scorer Jamal Murray departed in the first quarter after a collision with Ben Simmons.

A change of scenery didn't help the New York Knicks, who opened a fourgame West Coast road trip with a 115-87 loss to the Trail Blazers in Portland.

Damian Lillard scored 31 points and Hassan Whiteside added 17 points and 15 rebounds for Portland, who led by as many as 32 points against Knicks team that lost their 10th straight game.

Portland's Carmelo



Miami Heat guard Jimmy Butler (22) tries to dribble past Atlanta Hawks defender Trae Young (11) at American Airlines Arena in Miami, Florida. AFP

Anthony, a 10-time All-Star who joined the Trail Blazers in November after more than a year out of the league, scored 16 points against his former club.

Butler, Adebayo post triple double as

In Charlotte, Devonte Graham posted his sixth game of six or more three-pointers this season, draining half a dozen from beyond the arc on the way to 29 points in the Hornets' 114-107 victory over the Washington Wizards.

Davis Bertans scored a career-high 32 points off the bench for Washington, boosting his tally with eight three-pointers.

But six Hornets players scored in double figures as Charlotte secured the win.

After surrendering an early lead Miami trailed 117-111 with less than a minute remaining in regulation.
Atlanta's Trae Young told the Heat crowd "it's over"—

Atlanta's Trae Young told the Heat crowd "it's over"—but it turned out he spoke too soon.

Three-pointers from Duncan Robinson and Butler tied it up and the Heat opened overtime with a 16-0 scoring run.

"We've got grit," Adebayo said. "When we go into that huddle in overtime we know what time it is. We couldn't get it done in regular, but we got it done in OT so I'm happy for that."

Robinson finished with

a career-high 10 three-pointers on the way to a career-high 34 points.

Kendrick Nunn led Miami with a career-high 36 points—one shy of the Heat rookie record—as the hosts notched a third victory over Atlanta this season.

De'Andre Hunter paced the Hawks with 28 points and Young added 21.

Vince Carter contributed 12 for Atlanta and in the process became just the fifth player in NBA history to play in 1,500 games.

Carter, 42, joined Robert Parish (1,611), Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (1,560), Dirk Nowitzki (1,522) and John Stockton (1,504) in reaching the milestone.

"You have to be a big time professional," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said of Carter's longevity. "You have to commit to your craft and to your body in a way that most professionals aren't willing to do.

"You have to go to great lengths to keep yourself young in a young league ... Then you have to continue to reinvent yourself."

Miles Bridges nailed a three-pointer from the corner with 7.7 seconds remaining to give the Hornets a 112-107 advantage in a hardfought game that saw the lead change hands 20 times.

foreign teachers and students exchanges, the growth of Balik Scientists Program - all of which are an important component in international cooperation in higher education," he adds.

He said these key trends pose a challenge to enhance the country's TNE efforts which "does not rely on the government alone but also by researchers in the academy".

The full implementation of the project, based on the proposed work plan will be focusing on the four components, namely: profiling of TNE providers and assessment of TNE status in the Philippines; development of HECTOR in the Philippines; capacity building on TNE for HEIs in the Philippines; and promotion and advocacy of

TNE in the Philippines.

Results of the project research and data gathering would be forwarded to CHED which may issue guidelines and policies to further promote or institutionalize TNE in the Philippines

Based on its timeline, the project would be launched sometime in September 2021. (PNA/By Gladys Pino)