

CAVITE NEWS

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

VOL. XX NO. 37

JANUARY 2-8, 2020

P10.00

ISSN: 2651-7450

Entered as Second Class Mail at the Imus Post Office under Permit No. 2003-11 dated August 29, 2003

Duterte urges Filipinos to 'do better, aim higher' in 2020

MANILA -- A day before the entire nation welcomes 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday encouraged all Filipinos to seek improvements and aspire for a better life next year.

The President made the call as he joined his fellow countrymen and

the global community in welcoming the New Year.

"We celebrate this occasion with our loved ones, filled with gratitude for blessings received in the past and with much optimism for the wonderful possibilities ahead," Duterte said in his message for New Year on Tuesday.

"While the New Year is indeed a time to reflect on lessons learned, it is also an opportune time to do better and aim higher," he added.

December 31 and January 1 have been declared as special non-working days and regular holidays, respectively, to
(Turn to p. 2)

DOLE condemns death of another OFW in Kuwait

MANILA -- The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on Tuesday slammed the reported death of another overseas Filipino worker (OFW) in Kuwait.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said the Philippine government is offended over the killing

of Jeanelyn Padernal Villavende allegedly by her employer.

"The Labor Department is deeply saddened and outraged over the violent death of Filipino worker Jeanelyn Padernal Villavende in the hands of her Kuwaiti employer," he said in a

statement.

"The case is a clear violation of the agreement signed by both Kuwait and the Philippines in 2018 that seeks to uphold and promote the protection of the rights and welfare of our workers in the Gulf state," the DOLE

chief added.

At the same time, Bello urged for the immediate resolution of the death of the household service worker (HSW).

"The Department looks forward to the swift resolution of the case and that justice will be served

to Villavende and her family," he said.

The DOLE head also assured that assistance will be provided to the family of the Filipino worker.

"The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration will provide burial and

livelihood assistance, as well as scholarship to the family members of Villavende," Bello added.

On Monday, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported that a Filipina worker has been killed allegedly by her employer's wife.

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Firecrackers injuries down by 35%: DOH

MANILA -- Firecracker-related injuries decreased by 35 percent nationwide as the country welcomed New Year's Day, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said on Wednesday.

In a press briefing, Duque said from December 1 to the early morning of January 1, the Department of Health (DOH) recorded 164 firecracker-related injuries lower than 251 cases reported during the same period last year.

Duque said the Executive Order No. 28, limiting the use of firecrackers in the country, has an impact in lowering the firecracker-

related injuries.

He also attributed the decrease to the DOH information campaign dubbed 'IwasPapatok', recognizing the support of media and local government units in providing awareness to the public.

"This is indeed a welcome development but we will not stop until we achieve zero firework-related injuries," he said.

The number of injuries this year is 71 percent lower than the 403 cases reported in a five-year average, from 2014 to 2019.

Though there is a decline of firecracker-related injuries, Duque

said these numbers may still increase due to late consultations of the patients.

Duque also said there were no immediate reports of firework-related deaths so far.

The DOH will monitor and record cases until January 6.

Zero Injury Target

Meanwhile, Duque said the DOH will try to achieve a zero firework-related injuries.

He said the health department is working toward achieving this in the future saying: "What is the instrument of achieving (zero casualty)? Its banning it just like all other countries have banned the use of

fireworks."

Among the top five fireworks causing injuries were kuwitis, lucas, fountain, piccolo and baby rocket-- and only piccolo is illegal.

"There is no such thing as illegal or legal, these are all injurious," Duque said.

He hopes the current administration will be able to create a legacy of an absolute ban of fireworks to achieve the zero-injury target.

"The DOH, I believe has the moral ascendancy to lead the way in banning fireworks, an absolute ban," he said.

Although the banning of fireworks will provide a great impact on



OPLAN IWAS PAPUTOK. In a press briefing on Wednesday (Jan 1, 2020), Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said the firecracker-related injuries reduced as much as 35 percent this year. From Dec. 1, 2019 to Jan. 1, 2020, the Department of Health recorded a total of 164 firecracker-related injuries, which is lower than the 251 cases reported during the same period last year. (PNA photo by Lade Kabagani)

achieving the goal, Duque said DOH will explore some considerations in proposing the law.

"DOH has been known to be a very

democratic institution and it always seeks the views of our parties, of our sectors before we craft a putative or a supposed law on banning
(Turn to p. 2)

PCSO provides P5.8-M aid to flood victims in Cagayan

MANILA -- The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) on Monday said it has turned over PHP5.8 million cash assistance and grocery packs to 21 municipalities affected by floods in the province of Cagayan.

As part of the agency's "Pamaskong Handog" to the community, PCSO General Manager Royina Garma went to Cagayan on Sunday to personally hand over gift packs containing basic necessities to the indigenous community in the province and nearby communities.

Garma said the PCSO is here to help countrymen who were affected by the typhoon and every year the agency appropriates calamity fund to assist families affected by natural and man-made calamities just like any other assistance released by the agency.

Meanwhile, PCSO director Sandra Cam distributed similar items

in Camarines Norte, Sorsogon and Camarines Sur while Anjo de Leon, representative of PCSO chairman Anselmo Simeon Pinili was in Catanduanes also to hand over gift packs to the communities in the area.

Garma recently reported the agency provided PHP89 million in calamity assistance to areas hit by earthquakes and typhoons during the last quarter of the year.

Garma earlier said the PCSO would introduce more games in 2020 and strengthen its campaign to patronize only legitimate number games.

The PCSO serves as the principal government agency for raising and providing funds for health programs, medical assistance and services, and charities of national character.

Garma called on the public to continue patronizing PCSO's products as a large chunk of its revenues goes to charity programs. (PNA By Christopher Lloyd Calivan)

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Filipinos."

He however cautioned: "Although the numbers released on our total population is lower than what was previously projected, we should not fall into a state of complacency. We should keep in mind that our country still has one of the highest population growth rates in the ASEAN region. There are still lingering issues that we all have to address as we usher in

the new decade: management of limited resources in the face of climate change, unrestrained internal migration leading to congestion in urban areas, as well as the disturbing rise of adolescent and teenage pregnancy nationwide, among others."

"We still have a lot of work ahead of us with regard to population management and FP," the undersecretary exhorted.

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give Filipinos more time to celebrate the New Year.

The Chief Executive expressed confidence that "with the guidance and grace of the Almighty and the enduring spirit of bayanihan (teamwork) and malasakit (compassion), Filipinos will enjoy a "stronger and brighter future."

He also promised that his administration would double its efforts to achieve its goal of bringing a comfortable life to all Filipinos.

"As this administration enters its fourth year, I am hopeful that all our policies and programs for the improved welfare of our citizens and the continued progress of the Philippines will be realized with the active participation of everyone," he said.

"Let us begin anew

DOLE... FR. P.1

The DFA said that an investigation of the case is being conducted.

Villavende's death happened while there is an existing memorandum of agreement between Manila and Kuwait City involving the welfare and safety of OFWs signed in 2018.

In February last year, President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the Philippine Overseas

"It would still take a comprehensive approach that links government efforts to nongovernment organizations and private sector—an approach that allows population programs like FP to reach

with a stronger commitment in our shared task of nation-building and ensure that all our development efforts will be made sustainable and inclusive," Duterte added.

Earlier Tuesday, Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said the public can expect more productive and progressive changes in 2020.

Improving the country's infrastructure is one of the President's promises that would continue to be fulfilled next year and the coming years, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said in a separate statement on Tuesday.

Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Martin Andanar earlier assured

Employment a four-month total maltreatment of OFWs there, particularly the killing of Joanna Demafelis.

The ban was later lifted as the Philippine and Kuwaiti governments entered into an agreement on the deployment and protection of OFWs in the Gulf state. (PNA By Ferdinand Patinio)

every community in all 42,000 barangays nationwide. We also enjoin our countrymen to do their part, as their decisions on FP will affect our communities." (POPCOM)

FIRECRACKERS... FR. P.1

fireworks," he said.

Duque said the DOH will have a more balanced approach in crafting the law or a bill for Congress to take up.

This is not a single, one-dimensional issue we have to take into consideration many other fastens of the issue, the economic implications, the people's livelihood will be affected," he added.

Duque said the government has to consider the alternative livelihood for those who will be affected by the banning of fireworks.

He added there are many ways to make noise during the merrymaking, which are safer.

the public that the policies and programs of the Duterte administration will further give "beneficial gains and advantages" to Filipinos in 2020, as well as in succeeding years. (PNA By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos)

"I am appealing to the parents once again to be responsible. The future of their children rests in their shoulders," Duque said.

On the other hand, the Bureau of Fire Protection spokesperson Senior Supt. Geranndie Agonos said the fire incident from last year is 24 percent lower this year.

"This means the joint Oplan Iwas Papatok campaign by the DOH, PNP (Philippine National Police) and BFP is effective," he said.

The PNP Explosive Management Division Officer-in-charge, Lt. Col. Lorenzo Cobre said they are monitoring and inspecting the safety of all fireworks manufacturer's storages.

"We are also monitoring the supplier of the chemicals," he added.

He said the fireworks circulating in the market are legally manufactured in the Philippines. (PNA By Lade Jean Kabagani)

CAVITE NEWS

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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THIS NEWSPAPER IS EDITED, PUBLISHED AND CIRCULATED IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE AT BLK. 3 LOT 75 ISTANA MALAGASANG 1F IMUS CAVITE

Commercial Advertising Rate: P200.00/col.cm
Legal Rate P160.00/col.cm.

HEALTH NEWS

Caffeine may offset some health risks of diets high in fat, sugar

CHICAGO -- Caffeine may offset some of the negative effects of an obesogenic diet by reducing the storage of lipids in fat cells and limiting weight gain and the production of triglycerides, according to a study in rats posted on the website of the University of Illinois (UI) this week.

For four weeks, the rats in the study ate a diet that contained 40 percent fat, 45 percent carbohydrate and 15 percent protein. They also ingested one of the forms of caffeine in an amount equivalent to that of a human who drinks four cups of coffee daily.

The researchers performed cell culture studies in which they exposed adipose cells from mice to synthetic caffeine or the coffee or mate caffeine extracts, and found that regardless of its source, caffeine decreased the accumulation of lipids in adipose cells by 20 percent to 41 percent.

To be specific, the rats that consumed the caffeine extracted from mate tea gained 16 percent less weight and accumulated 22 percent less body fat than the rats that consumed decaffeinated mate tea.

The researchers also tracked the expression of several genes associated with obesity and lipid metabolism, including the fatty acid synthase gene (Fasn) -- an enzyme compound involved in the synthesis of fatty acids



PNA photo by Loretta Allarey-Paje

from glucose, and the lipoprotein lipase gene (Lpl), which codes for an enzyme that breaks down triglycerides.

All of the caffeine treatments, regardless of origin, have significantly downregulated the expression of both Fasn and Lpl.

In the cell cultures, Fasn expression diminished by 31 percent to 39 percent, while Lpl expression decreased by 51 percent to 69 percent among cells treated with synthetic caffeine or the caffeine from mate tea or coffee, the researchers found.

In the rats that consumed the mate tea caffeine, expression of Fasn decreased by 39 percent in their fat tissue and by 37 percent in their livers.

The decreased expression of Fasn and two other genes in the liver evoked lower production of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol and triglycerides in the liver as well, according to the study.

Mate tea is an herbal

beverage rich in phytochemicals, flavonoids and amino acids that is consumed as a stimulant by people in southeastern Latin American countries. The amount of caffeine per serving in mate tea ranges from 65-130 milligrams, compared with 30-300 milligrams of caffeine in a cup of brewed coffee.

"The consumption of caffeine from mate or from other sources alleviated the negative impact of a high-fat, high-sucrose diet on body composition due to the modulation of certain lipogenic enzymes in both adipose tissue and the liver," said Elvira Gonzalez de Mejia, a co-author of the study and director of the division of nutritional sciences at UI. "The decreased expression of Fasn and Lpl brought about lower synthesis and accumulation of triglycerides in the adipose tissue."

The study was published in the *Journal of Functional Foods*. (Xinhua)

HK gov't rejects foreign interference

HONG KONG -- The government of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) rejected foreign interference in Hong Kong's affairs.

In a statement on Wednesday, which was made in response to an open letter from a group of overseas politicians and persons to the HKSAR chief executive, the HKSAR government firmly refutes unfounded and misguided claims in the letter.

In the statement, a spokesperson of the HKSAR government said that over the past six months violence had escalated and reached an alarming level.

Masked rioters vandalized public facilities and shops, committed arson, hurled petrol bombs as well as wantonly attacked police officers and people with different views, the spokesperson said.

An innocent man was set on fire in broad daylight by protesters while a government contract cleaner was killed by a brick thrown at him. So far, 520 police officers have been injured on duty. Meanwhile, no protesters were killed as a result of direct police action.

The extent of students and minors being involved



in such violent protests is particularly worrying, the spokesperson added.

On New Year's Eve, rioters hurled petrol bombs in various districts, causing damage to a police vehicle and three private cars, according to Hong Kong police.

Despite the rampant violence, police exercised restraint in law enforcement, the spokesperson said, noting that police did not initiate actions against protesters and only responded with appropriate and proportionate force when protesters took part in illegal activities.

The actions and response of police over the Christmas period, and at all times over the past six months, were only in response to the blatant disregard for public safety and order by radical protesters, the spokesperson said, adding that police acted with

restraint and the minimum force necessary to restore law and order.

The spokesperson further stated that the HKSAR government is determined to safeguard the core values of Hong Kong at all times as they are "the cornerstone of our long-term prosperity and stability."

Noting that the extensive media coverage -- local, international and in the digital world -- about the protests and events, the spokesperson said it is "unprecedented in Hong Kong's history."

"That in itself is evidence enough that the freedom of the press is well protected, and citizens of Hong Kong continue to enjoy the freedom of participating in lawful and peaceful demonstrations to express their views," the spokesperson said. (Xinhua)

US to deploy more troops after embassy attack in Baghdad

WASHINGTON -- United States Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said Tuesday that the United States will deploy about 750 troops immediately to the Middle East, a move taken hours after demonstrators stormed the US Embassy in Baghdad.

"Approximately 750 soldiers will deploy to the region immediately and additional forces from the IRF (the Immediate Response Force) are prepared to deploy over the next several days," said the Pentagon chief in a series of tweets on Tuesday evening.

"This deployment is an appropriate and precautionary action taken in response to increased

threat levels against US personnel and facilities, such as we witnessed in Baghdad today," Esper added.

Pentagon's decision came hours after hundreds of demonstrators in mourning for the Hashd Shaabi members killed by a US attack in Iraq on Sunday, stormed the US Embassy in Baghdad's Green Zone.

Trump blamed Iran for "orchestrating an attack" on the embassy in a Tuesday morning tweet. He later threatened in another tweet that Iran "will be held fully responsible for lives lost, or damage incurred, at any of our facilities."

"They will pay a very BIG PRICE! This is not a

Warning, it is a Threat," the White House host added.

US forces on Sunday attacked five locations in Iraq and Syria controlled by Iraq's paramilitary Kata'ib Hezbollah (KH), or Hezbollah Brigades, in response to recent attacks on US forces in Iraq, triggering strong responses from Iraq and Syria.

Iran has denied any role in the recent attacks on US forces in Iraq.

Hashd Shaabi, an Iraqi state-sponsored umbrella organization, was formed by the KH and other Shia Iraqi paramilitary groups in 2014. It currently consists of more than 40 militant groups. (Xinhua)

China to work with other countries for 'beautiful future': Xi

MANILA -- Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday said China is ready to make "unremitting" efforts with other countries to build a "beautiful future" for everyone.

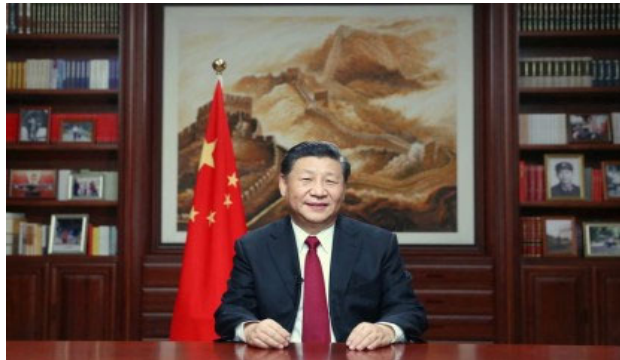
In his New Year speech in Beijing, Xi said China will unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development, safeguard world peace and promote common development.

"Human history, like a river, runs forever, witnessing both peaceful moments and great disturbances. We are not afraid of storms and dangers and barriers. China is determined to walk along the road of peaceful development and will resolutely safeguard world peace and promote common development," Xi said.

"We are willing to join hands with people of all countries in the world to build together the Belt and Road Initiative, and push forward the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, and make unremitting efforts for the creation of a beautiful future for mankind," he added.

In 2019, Xi said China open its arms wider to embrace the world by hosting the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation attended by different world leaders, including Philippine President Rodrigo R. Duterte, from April 25 to 27 in Beijing.

China also hosted the Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition,



BEAUTIFUL FUTURE. Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a New Year speech in Beijing to ring in 2020 on Tuesday (Dec. 31, 2019). Xi said China is willing to make "unremitting" efforts with other countries to build a "beautiful future" for everyone. (Photo courtesy of Xinhua/Ju Peng)

the Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations, and the second China International Import Expo, "showcasing a civilized, open and inclusive China to the rest of the world."

"I held meetings with many heads of state and government, sharing with them China's proposals, promoting friendship and deepening consensus. A few countries joined hands with us. The number of countries that have diplomatic ties with China now stands at 180. We have friends in every corner of the world," Xi said.

In 2017, Duterte also attended the first Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation upon invitation of Xi.

The Belt and Road Initiative has been a major foreign policy initiated by Xi in 2013. The initiative envisions global connectivity through infrastructure, facilitation of free trade, financial integration, and people-to-people exchanges.

Milestone significance
Xi said 2020 will be a year of milestone

significance as he promised to finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and realize the first centenary goal.

"2020 will also be a year of decisive victory for the elimination of poverty," the Chinese leader said.

Xi also extended best wishes to Hong Kong and Hong Kong compatriots.

"In recent months, our hearts have been concerned about the situation in Hong Kong," Xi said.

"Without a harmonious and stable environment, how can people live in peace and enjoy their work! I sincerely wish Hong Kong well and our Hong Kong compatriots well. Hong Kong's prosperity and stability is the wish of Hong Kong compatriots and the expectation of people of our motherland," he added.

He said China's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to near 100 trillion yuan (USD14.37 trillion) while its per capita GDP is expected to reach USD10,000 in 2019.

Key progress, he



PTCAO JOINS THE 2ND CALABARZON TOURISM EXPO: The Cavite Provincial Tourism and Cultural Affairs Office (PTCAO) took part in the 2nd CALABARZON Tourism Expo and Appreciation Night spearheaded by the Department of Tourism Region IV-A on December 11-13, 2019 at Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna. The 3-day event was officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Laguna Governor Ramil Fernandez, Laguna Board Member Angelica Jones Alarva, OIC-Regional Director Marites Castro and EK Chief Operating Officer Cynthia Mamon. During the program, OIC-Regional Director Castro warmly welcomed everyone and expressed her gratefulness to all the partner agencies for their unwavering support and commitment in boosting the tourism industry in the region. The exhibit was joined by the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon showcasing their respective tourism products and services, cultural performing arts group, local delicacies and tourist destinations. Aside from participating provinces were various travel agencies offering best travel deals. Highlight of the program was the signing of the pledge of commitment of the partakers signifying their promises in managing businesses towards sustainable tourism and development. — (PICAD)

noted, has been made in efforts to forestall and defuse major risks, carry out targeted poverty alleviation, and prevent and control pollution.

Around 340 poor counties across China will get rid of poverty and more than 10 million people will be lifted out of poverty by the end of 2019, Xi said.

He highlighted advances in science and technology. Chang'e-4 probe made a historic landing on the moon's far side; the Long March-5 Y3 carrier rocket was successfully launched; polar icebreaker Xuelong 2 set sail on its maiden voyage to the Antarctic.

A new batch of pilot free trade zones was established, the Shanghai Pilot Free Trade Zone

was expanded, the science and technology innovation board was launched smoothly, and over 2 trillion yuan of taxes and fees have been cut over the year.

Xi noted solid reform progress in national defense and armed forces. A grand military parade took place on the National Day. The first Chinese-built aircraft carrier was commissioned.

"The most memorable moment of 2019 was the celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China," said Xi, adding that the sheer force of patriotism was felt by the people.

Xi said over the year he traced the routes of

China's revolution. "Our original aspiration and mission are our inexhaustible source of motivation during our Long March of the new era."

"As usual, no matter how busy I was, I spent time visiting people in the countryside," Xi went on to recollect his interaction with the people during the year.

Xi mentioned the names of individuals among many ordinary people who, he said, "touched us deeply" over the past year.

He urged the Chinese people to "seize the day and live it to the full and greet the arrival of the year 2020 together." (With reports of Xinhua/PNA/CMG By Jelly Musico)

GLAM UP THIS SEASON WITH TONY & JACKEY!

SM CITY BACCOOR, CAVITE - Be more beautiful this season with Tony & Jackey's latest health care services now available at the lower ground of SM City Bacoor! Give your crowning glory a well deserved treat with their complete color and treatment packages for an ultimate Christmas fab and glammed up look! SO hurry and get your hair done only at Tony & Jackey's - SM City Bacoor.

Package #	Services	Now Only	Save
Complete Package #1	3D Rebond or Setting / Digital Perm + Hair Color + Kera-Protein Treatment + Haircut	P3,499	46%
Complete Package #2	L'Oreal Rebond or Setting/Digital Perm + Hair Color + Kera-Protein Treatment + Haircut	P4,999	37%
Complete Package #3	Alpha Amino Rebond or Setting/ Digital Perm + Kera-Protein Treatment + Hair Color + Haircut	P7,499	25%

Package	Services	Now Only	Save
Rebond or Perm Package	3D Rebond or Setting / Digital Perm + Kera-Protein Treatment + Haircut	P1,499	63%
Ultimate Package for Rebond or Perm	Alpha Amino Rebond or Setting / Digital Perm + Rescue 911 + Haircut	P6,499	30%

Package	Services	Now Only	Save
Color Package - Healthy Color	Hair Color + Haircut + Rescue 911	P3,499	39%
Treatment Package	Kera-Protein Treatment + Haircut	P1,000	33%
Color & Shine	Hair Color + Haircut + Pro Hair Coating	P2,999	37%
	Rescue 911 Treatment + Haircut	P1,500	54%

Package	Services	Now Only	Save
Rebonding Perm Package	D Rebond + Setting / Digital Perm + Kera-Protein Treatment + Haircut	P2,998	54%
Alpha Amino Rebonding Perm Package	Alpha Amino Rebond + Setting / Digital Perm + Pro Hair Coating + Rescue 911 + Haircut	P9,999	42%

POPCOM: PH population growth slows down to 1.5%

MANDALUYONG CITY, -- The population growth of the Philippines recorded a decline of 0.21 percentage points (ppt) to 1.52% in the latter half of this decade, from the previous 1.73% between 2010 and 2015, according to the Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM).

Given this statistic, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) projects the population in July 2020 to be 108.7 million Filipinos, which is lower than its earlier estimate of 109.9 million, or a difference of 1.2 million.

According to Undersecretary Juan Antonio Perez III, MD, MPH, the expected increase in population between 2019 and 2020 is about 1,483,828, or an annual increase of 1.38%.

“Certain segments of the populace are contributing to the decline, particularly the 0-to-4 years-old group, which is showing a 1-ppt drop from 11% in 2010, to 10.12% in 2020. Meanwhile, the 0-to-14 age group will see a greater decrease of almost 4%: from 34% in 2010, to 30.14% in 2020,” POPCOM’s executive director

expounded. At the opposite end of the spectrum, Perez pointed out that growth is seen to be occurring in the older age groups, with 70.3 million working-age Filipinos comprising 64% of the population. They were only at 62% at the start of the decade.

“Filipinos 60 years and older are also increasing in number and will grow to 9,686,762 in 2020, constituting 8.8% of the population. With a growth rate of more than 4% between 2015 and 2020, the seniors’ numbers are growing at a faster rate than other age groups,” he stated.

The updated numbers from POPCOM revealed that almost two out of every five Filipinos, or 38.7%, will be residing in the mega-region of Central Luzon, the National Capital Region and Calabarzon at the start of the new decade, with almost half of the population growth between 2019 and 2020 occurring in the same three areas. On the other hand, most localities from the Visayas and Mindanao will have growth figures below the aforementioned national average of 1.52%.

New numbers welcomed

The POPCOM chief welcomed the most recent Philippine population figures from the PSA, which is lower by over 1 million than the former’s initial projection. Earlier, it estimated that the country’s entire citizenry will surpass 110 million at the start of the new decade.

Regarding the new population projection, Perez commented: “We welcome the new information from the PSA—proof that our nationwide efforts on reproductive health as well as family planning (FP) are yielding positive results, as they are steadily being embraced by

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VOL. XX NO. 37

JANUARY 2-8, 2020

P 10.00

Merrier ChriSMiles at SM CITY BACOOR and SM CITY MOLINO!

BACOOR, CAVITE - Sixty-one (61) cute little kids from Panapaan 5, Day Care Center, Bacoor City Cavite wore their biggest smile recently as SM City Bacoor conducted a fun filled gift-giving activity with their ChriSMiles 2019. Fifty-eight (58) Volunteers from SM City Bacoor were happy to serve as they lead the children during the games and other activities. Mall Manager Ms. Josephine Arvesu gave a short but meaningful message to the kids before the fun begun. The children were so happy dancing and playing with the employee volunteers who became their Christmas Buddies during the exciting games. Goodies and other treats were given along with the cute and cuddly SM Bears of Joy collected from the SM Bears Of Joy Project. And who would not smile with the sight of our favorite bee? Children were delighted as Jollibee gave a surprise dance number before they enjoy their journey with the exciting Rides at SM Storyland's Orbiter Ferris Wheel and Train.

Simultaneously, Fifty (50) kids from CitiHomes Daycare Center were given a special treat by twenty-three (23) Volunteer Employees of SM City Molino during their ChriSMiles Program. Exciting games such as Candy Color Coding, The Boat is Sinking, and Stop Dance brought the children more fun. The employee volunteers also performed a special number followed by an intermission number performed by the cute and sweet kids from the CitiHomes Daycare Center. Treats and SM Bears Of Joy were distributed before the kids munch on their favorite snacks at Jollibee.

Christmas is indeed merrier when people are freely giving and is filling the season with love, smiles and laughter. Thanks to the Malasakit of SM City Bacoor and SM City Molino's shoppers who bought and donated SM Bears of Joy, and their Employee Volunteers who served as this year's Christmas Elves. Surely, these children will be going home with lasting smiles with this year's



SM City Bacoor Volunteer Angela Balbuena having fun with her cute little fellas as they ride the Storyland Train



Kids from City Homes Daycare Center playing color game with SM City Molino's Volunteers



Children from Panapaan 5, Day Care Center, Bacoor City with their new cuddly friends SM Bears of Joy, and the volunteers from SM City Bacoor



Volunteers from SM City Molino making this season merrier as they hand out Bears Of Joy to the kids

Double pay for work on New Year's Day

MANILA -- Private sector workers who will report for work on January 1 (New Year's Day), which is a regular holiday, should get paid twice their regular daily wages, the labor department reminded employers.

This is contained in Labor Advisory No. 13, series of 2019, issued by Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III to guide employers on the proper payment of wages for the regular and special (non-

working) days for the year 2020.

The advisory is pursuant to Proclamation No. 845 signed by President Rodrigo Duterte on November 15, 2019.

Employees who will report for work on January 1 shall be paid 200 percent of their wage for the first eight hours [(basic wage + COLA) x 200%]; while employees who will not work shall be paid 100 percent of their wage for that day [(Basic wage + COLA) x 100%].

As to employees who will render overtime work, they shall be paid an additional 30 percent of their hourly rate on said day [Hourly rate of the

basic wage x 200% x 130% x number of hours worked].

Meanwhile, employees who will work on a regular holiday that also falls on their rest day shall be paid an additional 30 percent of their basic wage of 200 percent, [(basic wage + COLA) x 200%] + [30% (basic wage x 200%)].

Lastly, employees who will render overtime work on a regular holiday that also falls on their rest day shall be paid an additional 30 percent of their hourly rate on the said day [Hourly rate of the basic wage x 200% x 130% x 130% x number of hours worked]. (aldm/DOLE)



SM City Molino Volunteers Playing with the kids during the event



Kids enjoying the rides at SM City Bacoor's Storyland Orbiter