

CAVITE NEWS

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

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More than 6K Pasay students get P3-K aid

MANILA – Some 6,453 elementary and secondary students in Pasay City will receive financial assistance worth PHP3,000 each from the local government until Sept. 21.

Under the city's Financial Assistance to Students Program, the local government has

begun the distribution of the cash assistance last Sept. 16.

Among the beneficiaries who will be receiving cash aid include 4,174 students enrolled at the Timoteo Paez Elementary School, 2,279 students from Pasay City North High School-TRAMO, and Alternative

Learning System (ALS) students.

The city government has earlier provided financial assistance to 45,556 students of 24 public schools within the city during the distribution schedule on Sept. 2 to 7.

In a statement, (Turn to p. 2)

Only tourists from MGCQ areas allowed in Tagaytay

MANILA – The Joint Task Force Covid Shield on Thursday said only those coming from areas under modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) can enter Tagaytay City and other areas that reopened their borders to tourists without presenting a travel authority.

“Local tourists who would come from areas under general community quarantine (GCQ), modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ),

and enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) are still required to secure a travel authority,” task force commander Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar said in a statement.

This came after Tagaytay City reopened its borders to tourists to revive the local economy while other LGUs are also planning to do the same in the coming weeks.

Eleazar, however, stressed that the National Task Force on Covid-19 chaired by

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana is still giving the LGUs the discretion in implementing rules that would manage and control the entry of non-local residents in compliance with quarantine protocols.

“LGUs may or may not require a travel authority for entering tourists. We leave the decision to them for as long the travel protocols are still observed when they open their borders to tourists,” Eleazar said.



Tagaytay open to all

In a Facebook post, Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla clarified that visitors to Tagaytay

don't have to present travel pass.

Remulla's clarification came two days after he said non-Cavite residents are required to present a

travel pass before they are allowed to enter the city.

He, however, reminded visitors to take precautions after (Turn to p. 2)

73K OFWs, dependents enroll in TESDA's training programs

MANILA -- About 73,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their dependents have enrolled in the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority's (TESDA) training programs, its chief said on Tuesday.

According to TESDA, some 71,251

of the said figure have enrolled via the online program while the rest have taken actual scholarship programs this year.

The 71,251 have enrolled during the pandemic, from March 16 to September 13, it added.

In a briefing with Presidential Spokesperson Harry

Roque, TESDA Secretary Isidro Lapeña said the agency not only trains individuals but also ensures that the training would result in job opportunities or livelihood.

"Based on our survey, those who trained with us have an 85-percent employability rate," he said, adding that among

the most in-demand jobs now are in the fields of agriculture, construction, health and wellness, Information Technology and Business Process Management (IT-BPM), and marketing.

Lapeña said due to the slowdown in the economic activities, TESDA has been

prioritizing agriculture, to help address food security.

"We give focus to these fields that would likely give more employment opportunities to our countrymen during this time," he said.

To further reach out to the OFWs, Lapeña said TESDA has launched the "TESDA Abot Lahat and OFWs" last June.

The program

provides easy access to TESDA training programs, by providing the OFWs and their dependents with a link on TESDA mobile app. Through this link, the OFWs and their dependents can easily fill out the registration form, Lapeña said.

"The regional and provincial offices have also set up their respective OFW desk," he said, noting that (Turn to p. 2)

ONLY TOURIST . . . FR. P. 1

the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) along the Tagaytay-Sta. Rosa Road recorded 250 confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases.

He added that all establishments in the city have been ordered to comply with health and safety protocols.

"All restaurants in Tagaytay City are subject to IATF guidelines. The maximum occupancy of DOT (Department of Tourism)-accredited hotels is only 50

percent. Only one person is allowed at a hotel room at a time," he said.

Remulla also stressed that the province is implementing a strict quarantine system to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

"It's already rainy in Cavite and colds and cough which may be due to the rainy season can be a contributing factor to the spread of Covid-19. Stay safe and keep well everyone," he added. (By Christopher Lloyd Caliwang/PNA)

73K OFWs . . . Fr. p 1

there are also Malasakit Help Desks at the country's international airports, which will assist the OFWs and inform them of TESDA's programs.

Lapeña, meanwhile, said TESDA has been closely coordinating with the OFW community.

"Because of this,

we now have an ongoing training on scaffolding work inspection, with a former OFW as a trainer," he said.

That online training, he said, was attended by OFWs from different regions, former OFWs, and even those who are currently abroad. (By Ma. Cristina Arayata/PNA)

MORE THAN 6K . . Fr. p 1

Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano said the students' cash aid will be covering PHP1,000 monthly allowance from January to March of the school year 2019-2020, which is aimed at helping them with their daily expenses amid the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic.

She added that the city government will also provide a PHP1,000 cash allowance to about 5,000 travel city scholars who are "poor and deserving high

school and college students" enrolled in 54 private schools in Pasay.

On the other hand, the local government continues to provide weekly nutritious food packs to families of Covid- positive patients in the city.

The mayor reminded the residents to adhere to the government's health protocols and quarantine measures to help curb transmission of Covid-19. (By Lade Jean Kabagani/PNA)

Cemeteries, columbariums closed from Oct. 29 to Nov. 4: Palace

MANILA – All private and public cemeteries, memorial parks, and columbariums in the country will be closed from Oct. 29 to Nov. 4 to prevent the spread of Covid-19 during the observance of the Undas season, Malacañang announced on Friday.

In a news conference, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said the Inter-Agency Task Force for

the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) ratified the decision in its Resolution No. 72.

Roque noted that the public could visit these places before or after the scheduled closure of the cemeteries with a maximum venue capacity of 30 percent. They will be allowed to enter from Sept. 17 to Oct. 28, and from Nov. 5 to Nov. 15.

The wearing of face masks and face shields



and the observance of physical distancing will be required.

"Puwede naman po tayo dumalaw bago isara at matapos isara ang mga sementeryo pero 30 percent nga po ang capacity, kinakailangan face

masks, face shields," Roque said.

Age restrictions shall not apply to visitors in cemeteries, memorial parks, and columbariums. (By Filane Mikee Cervantes/PNA)

House okays disaster resilience dep't on 2nd reading

MANILA – The House of Representatives on Tuesday approved on second reading a measure creating the Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR), listed as legislative priority of the Duterte administration.

The chamber passed through voice voting House Bill No. 5989, otherwise known as the proposed "Disaster Resilience Act."

Under the bill, the DDR shall be the primary government agency responsible for "leading, managing, and organizing national efforts to prevent and reduce disaster risks; prepare for and respond to disasters; and recover, rehabilitate, and build forward better after the destruction."

The DDR would still have the Office of Civil Defense (OCD)

as its core organization, to which will be integrated the Climate Change Commission Office, the Health Emergency Management Bureau of the Department of Health (DOH), the Disaster Response Assistance and the Disaster Response Management Bureau of Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, a principal author of the measure, said the creation of the DDR will ensure that the country is able to anticipate and proactively respond to emergencies and disasters, which he expects to intensify with worsening climate conditions.

Salceda said the DDR will help the country deal with disasters and emergencies "not as (Turn to p. 5)

**CAVITE NEWS**

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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UN calls for int'l solidarity to find vaccine accessible to all



SOLIDARITY. Photo taken on Sept. 14, 2020 shows the outside view of the United Nations headquarters in New York, the United States. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday (Sept. 15, 2020) called for international solidarity to find vaccines that accessible to all. (Xinhua/Wang Ying)

UNITED NATIONS – United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday called on the international community to get united and find a vaccine that is accessible to all.

"As the Covid-19 pandemic has upended our world, we have once again seen that international solidarity is no longer a choice, but an obligation," the UN chief said at the wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the 59th anniversary of the death of former UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold.

He said the global community should work together "to find a vaccine that is accessible to all."

"That means working together to stop the spread of the virus," the secretary-general said. "And, just as importantly, working

together to recover better, protect the most vulnerable and reduce the inequalities (is) heightened by the pandemic."

"As we look ahead to the new session of the General Assembly that begins today, may we build on his extraordinary legacy to address the challenges upon us and, together, build a more peaceful, just and sustainable world," said Guterres.

Dag Hammarskjold was a Swedish economist and diplomat who served as the second UN secretary-general. He still remains the youngest person to have held the post, being only 47 years old when he was appointed in 1953. His second term was cut short when he died in a plane crash in Northern Rhodesia while en route to ceasefire negotiations during the Congo Crisis on Sept. 18, 1961. (Xinhua)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

Foreclosure Case No. F-088-20
HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND,
Mortgagee,

-versus-
**SPOUSES ENRICO M. MENDOZA
AND MA. FLORA ZINA L. MENDOZA,**
Mortgagor/s,

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act. 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Mortgagee, **HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND**, with business address at against the Mortgagor/s, **SPOUSES ENRICO M. MENDOZA AND MA. FLORA ZINA L. MENDOZA**, with residence and postal address 157 H. Alarcon St., C. Lawis Antipolo City and / or Lot 19 Blk. 39 Sunrise Place 2 Brgy. Tres Cruces, Tanza, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness as of February 14, 2020 amounts to **THREE HUNDRED FORTY SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY PESOS and 7/100 (P346,990.07)**, 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 **November 26, 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.
057-2014016764

A parcel of land (Lot 19 Block 39 of the consolidation subdivision Plan Pcs-04-024575, being a portion of Lots 2677, 2678, (Fls-325), & 2679 (RS-04-002668) all of Sta. Cruz de Malabon estate, and Block 31, Pcs-04-023349, L.R.C. Record No. 6832) situated in Barangay Tres Cruces Municipality of Tanza, province of Cavite, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the NE along line 1-2 by Lot 17 Block 39; on the SE along line 2-3 by road Lot 19 (8.00 M Wide); on the SW along line 3-4 by Lot 21 Block 39; and on the NW along line 4-1 by Lot 20 Block 39, All of the consolidation subdivision plan Beginning at a point marked "1" on the plan/XXX containing an area of thirty five (35) square meters

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 **December 3, 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.

Trece Martires City September 9, 2020.

RICARDO A. TOLEDO
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
Atty. Caesar S. Europa
24K Accounts Consultant, Inc.,
3F Fass Inteli College Bldg., No. 11, Pittsburg St.,
Brgy. Silangan, Cubao Quezon City;

**SPOUSES ENRICO M. MENDOZA
AND MA. FLORA ZINA L. MENDOZA**

US university finds antibody effective vs. virus

ANKARA – Scientists in the US state of Pennsylvania have managed to isolate the smallest biological molecule to date that neutralizes the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is the cause of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19).

The molecule, which is said to completely and specifically neutralize the virus, is 10 times smaller than a full-sized antibody, said scientists on Monday at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. It is used to construct a drug known as "Ab8" for potential use against the coronavirus.

Ab8 is highly effective in preventing and treating SARS-CoV-2 infection in mice and hamsters, they said, adding that "it does not bind to human cells – a good sign that it won't have negative side-effects in people."

"Ab8 not only has potential as therapy for Covid-19, but it also could be used to keep people from getting SARS-CoV-2 infections," John Mellors, chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at University of Pittsburgh and University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, said in the statement.

While American scientists and companies are racing to come up with a Covid-19 vaccine, other countries are also making progress.

Russia approved a vaccine in August despite Western experts voicing concerns about lack of adequate testing, and Chinese Sinovac Biotech announced on Sept. 6 that 90 percent of its employees and their families have taken an experimental vaccine. China said Tuesday a

vaccine could be available for the public as early as November, according to Wu Guizhen, head of biosafety at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, who herself took an experimental vaccine in April.

While China is the birthplace of the novel coronavirus, the country also accounts for nine of the 30 vaccines around the world that are currently under human trials. The University of Hong Kong also said last week a vaccine in the form of a nasal spray was entering its clinical trials.

On the demand side, some governments have already put plans in place to access millions of vaccines available for their public as soon as they become available.

The US Trump administration implemented Operation Warp Speed, which offers to pay Pfizer and BioNTech USD1.95 billion for 100 million doses if their vaccine proves "safe and effective," and a USD1.6-billion deal with Novavax to manufacture and deliver 100 million doses by next January.

South Korea will purchase 20 million doses from COVAX Facility – the Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access plan led by the World Health Organization – to distribute the shots fairly, and another 40 million doses from private drug companies.

The US has more than 6.5 million cases and more than 194,000 deaths from Covid-19, according to latest data from Johns Hopkins University.

Globally, figures are almost 29.3 million infections and more than 928,000 deaths. (Anadolu)

157 H. Alarcon St. C. Lawis Antipolo City
Lot 19 Blk. 39 Sunrise Place 2, Brgy. Tres Cruces, Tanza, Cavite

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

Reduced physical distancing stays unless revoked by PRRD

MANILA – The government's decision to gradually reduce physical distancing among passengers in public transportation stays unless revoked by President Rodrigo Duterte, Malacañang said Wednesday.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque made this remark after the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-IED), in a six-hour meeting on Tuesday, reassessed the policy to relax physical distancing guidelines following opposition from medical groups.

"The body (IATF-IED) came up with a recommendation to be submitted to the President and it will be the President who will ultimately decide," he said in an interview over CNN Philippines' The Source.

Roque said the President will decide on the recommendation "no later than tomorrow."

"It was previously approved in the last IATF meeting last Thursday so until the President revokes it, I think it will be implemented," Roque said.

Roque, however,

defended the decision of the task force to reduce physical distancing, saying the body's decision is "based on science."

He said former Health secretaries Manuel Dayrit and Esperanza Cabral even expressed support for the government's move to reduce physical distancing on public transportation.

"I'd like to assure everyone over and over again that doctors were consulted and not all doctors share the view that it is only one-meter distancing that is the solution. There are very respected doctors including two former Secretaries of Health saying you can achieve containment of the disease by wearing masks, shields, disinfecting the public transportation, and more importantly prohibiting talking, prohibiting the use of cellphones," he said.

Medical groups did not object to the directive when it was first approved by the IATF last Sept. 10, Roque added.

"When the IATF approved it, there was no objection, there was no controversy. The controversy came out again when medical groups after the

decision was made, made an issue out of it," he said.

He also emphasized that the government had to consider "all aspects" when making decisions, such as balancing health and the economy.

"It's not as if one side wants to expose the population to the disease intentionally just for the sake of the economy. Because the reality is, even if you survive the disease if you can't survive because you're in poverty, that would not lead to any positive results," he said.

On Monday, the government started implementing the directive to decrease physical distancing inside public utility vehicles to 0.75 meters from one meter, which is recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The distancing would then be reduced to 0.5 meters (approximately 1.8 feet) on Sept. 28 and 0.3 meters starting October 12.

Medical experts opposed the move, warning that it could lead to an increase in coronavirus disease infections. (By Azer Parrocha/PNA)

Pasig blood donors to get free antibody testing

MANILA – Interested blood donors under the Pasig city government's blood-letting drive will get free enhanced chemiluminescence immunoassay (ECLIA) testing, an antibody test that uses blood samples to determine if a patient has developed antibodies to combat the coronavirus disease (Covid-19).

The Pasig Blood Collecting Team said interested blood donors can visit the Plaza Bonifacio near the Pasig City Museum every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Individuals aged 22 to 59 years old and weighing at least 50 kilos can donate their blood.

Donors must be healthy, with no communicable and non-communicable diseases, and should have not been exposed to suspected coronavirus patients within 28 days.

Donors should not have undergone a major surgical operation and have not been vaccinated with anti-rabies within 12 months.

Pregnant women and lactating mothers are not allowed to donate.

"Nagpapatupad ang Pasig Blood Collecting Team ng safety and health protocols sa



venue, kung kaya naman, magsuot po tayo ng face mask at face shield kung pupunta roon (The Pasig Blood Collecting Team implements safety and health protocols at the venue, so let's wear a face mask and face shield if we go there)," the city government said in an advisory.

Bike shop survey, cash aid for students

Meanwhile, the Pasig City Transport invites Pasig-based and registered bike shops to participate in the city's 2020 bike shop survey and sign up as the local government's partner for its upcoming "city employee bike loan program."

On the other hand, the local government urged the city's college scholars who obtained academic honors for the school year 2019-2020 to register at the Pasig City Scholarship (PCS) office so they can start claiming their cash

incentives.

"To register, please submit the original copy of the certification of honors received and a copy of your graduation picture to the PCS office," the city government said in a separate advisory. The deadline for submission is on September 21.

"Pasig City Scholar who has access to the internet may opt to send electronic copies of the requirement through the PCS official e-mail address: scholarincentive@pasigcity.gov.ph with the subject: Academic Honor last name(ex. Academic Honor del Cruz)," the advisory said.

"However, the hard copy of the certification must be submitted to the PCS office for validation purposes," it added.

College graduates with academic honors summa cum laude will receive a PHP30,000 cash incentive; magna cum laude graduates will receive PHP25,000, and cum laude will receive PHP20,000.

Meanwhile, technical-vocational graduates who are valedictorian will receive amounting to PHP10,000 cash incentive while PHP5,000 will be given for salutatorian awardees.

The city government said it will also give cash gifts to elementary and high schools honor students. (By Lade Jean Kabagani/PNA)

said.

He noted that aside from mobile towers, the company also needs other infrastructures to develop the country's internet service.

"Aside from towers, we need an extensive fiber-optic network and we currently have at least 360,000 kilometers of a fiber-optic network. We also have data centers and partners for

international capacity. That's the kind of large-scale network that you would need to build in order to offer a competitive service," Panlilio said.

Currently, he said Smart has about 10,000 macro and micro-cell sites and more than 20,000 LTE base stations in the country. (By Raymond Carl Dela Cruz/PNA)

34 new tower permits issued to Smart

MANILA – The accelerated nationwide tower rollout of Smart Communications (Smart) continues as it received 34 building permits on Wednesday.

In a statement, Smart said the new permits brings the total number of building and pre-construction permits for telecommunications (telco) towers issued to Smart at 211 since August.

"These permits cover towers to be built in Metro Manila and in the provinces of Batangas, Rizal, Palawan, Bohol, Cebu, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Guimaras, Leyte, Samar, Southern Leyte, Camiguin, Davao Del Norte, Davao Oriental, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Misamis Oriental, North Cotabato, Lanao del Sur and

Maguindanao, among others," it said.

Alfredo Panlilio, Smart president and chief executive officer, said Smart typically builds 1,000 to 1,500 towers annually -- an average of about 83 to 125 towers per month.

"The initiative of government to make it easier for us to build more towers quicker will be a big help in terms of improving coverage," Panlilio

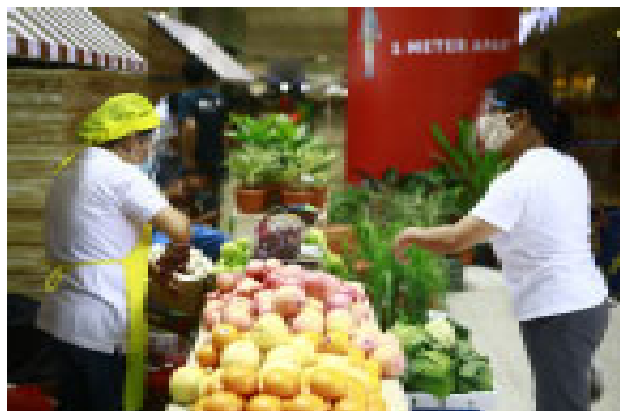
HAPPY GARDEN AT SM CITY DASMARIÑAS

Are you in for the crazy craze? Or you're seem too far to get to the fad? Nothing to worry, 'cause we've got you covered. **SM City Dasmariñas brings you closer to the world of "Plantitos" and "Plantitas", through its recently launched garden escapade dubbed as Cavite's Happy Garden.**

Cavite's Happy Garden gathers the local farmers in Cavite headed by Silang United Natural Farmers Association in support for the microbusiness unit and showcases local produce of Cavite which the mall goers encourage to buy. SM City Dasmariñas' tenants like Ace Hardware, Carica and Joyce Mushroom join the event as well. Moreover, it highlights plants in light of the growing plantito and plantitas community in the region.

Feast your eyes with a wide array of plants from local Plantito and Plantita at the Plant Fiesta, support Cavite's finest produce fruits and veggies at the Fresh Produce section and join the online plant workshop on September 18, 2020.

The Cavite's Happy Garden will run from September 10 to 24 at the Annex Event Center, happening simultaneously with SM City Bacoor and SM City Molino. Visit SM City Dasmariñas Facebook and Instagram account for more details.



Happy garden features produce from Cavite Farmers.



Shopper happily takes photo of the air plant inside the glass jar.



SM City Dasmariñas welcomes you to Cavite's Happy Garden!

HOUSE ... FR. P. 1

unfortunate incidents whose impacts are beyond our control, but as risks that can be mitigated."

"We can no longer deny the fact that climate change is real, that we are a volcanically and tectonically active country, and that we face several typhoons each year. Disasters are a fact of Philippine life. But we can mitigate the human and socioeconomic costs of these disasters. DDR will help ensure that we have a full-time agency in charge of keeping us strong and ready for disasters," Salceda said.

This year, the DDR was also identified by President Rodrigo Duterte as a priority measure during his fifth State of the Nation Address.

Once implemented, the DDR would be an institutionalized agency coordinating national response to disasters and emergencies, replacing

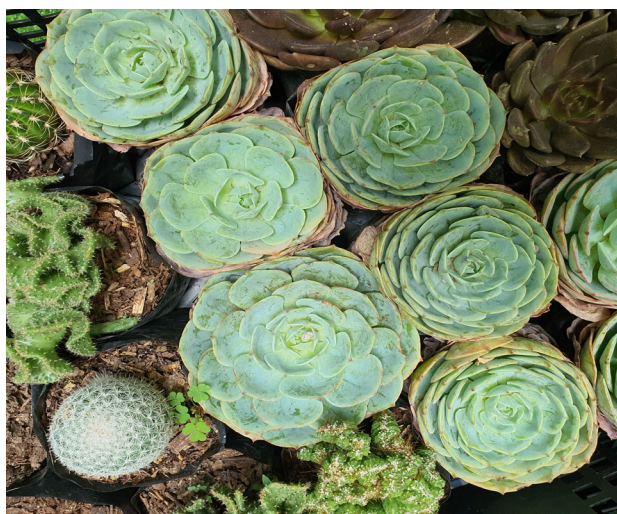
the ad-hoc and primary secretariat-type work of the current National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Salceda said the DDR will lead in the continuous development of strategic, holistic and systematic approaches to disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation, and anticipatory adaptation strategies, measures, techniques and options.

"Fortune favors the prepared. We cannot avoid typhoons and other calamities that come with our geography. But we can keep the risks low and the damage controlled. That is resilience: being able to achieve meaningful progress despite natural and external adversities," Salceda said. (By Filane Mikee Cervantes/PNA)

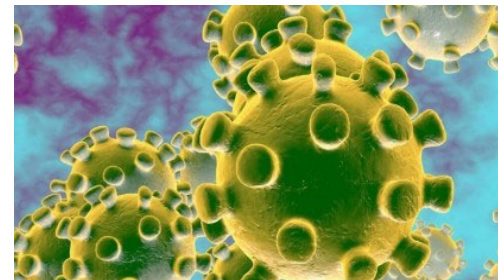


Plant pots have their own characters, too, just like plants.



Pick your favorite succulent from the wide array of plants at Cavite's Happy Garden.

PH hits 3M coronavirus tests



MANILA – aggressive testing program of the National Policy Against Covid-19 Deputy Chief Implementer Vivencio Dizon on Wednesday said the country has conducted more than three million reverse

transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) tests for Covid-19 as of the middle of September.

In a statement, Dizon said daily Covid-19 testing in the country now reached 42,000 compared to 500 tests per day in March.

The number of accredited laboratories also increased to 125.

Dizon said the government will continue to innovate to test more Filipinos and accelerate the release of Covid-19 test results.

He added they are looking into rolling out antigen tests and pooled testing.

"This is really a prime example of what we can achieve together if the national government, the local governments, and the private sector work on one unified purpose," he said.

Dizon said the

government is part of the second phase of the National Action Plan's Prevent, Detect, Isolate, Treat, and Reintegrate (PDITR) strategy.

Under the PDITR strategy, the government's goal is to quickly isolate Covid-19 patients from communities to lessen the transmission of the virus.

"We cannot argue the fact that we need to open up the economy now, as safely as possible. That, I think, should be our objective.

How do we do this? The experts have said that if we are able to have the capacity to test, isolate, and treat, and we make the

general population follow the minimum health standards such as wearing of (a) face mask and face shield,

proper hand hygiene, and physical distancing, then, we can open up the economy.

And this is what we're seeing in other countries," he added.

(By Kris Crismundo/PNA)

It is the blessing of Jehovah that makes one rich, And He adds no pain with it. Proverbs 10:22

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Masks assured 'to protect' more than vaccine: CDC chief

WASHINGTON – US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Robert Redfield said Wednesday that wearing masks may protect individuals against coronavirus disease (Covid-19) more than a vaccine.

Speaking at a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing, Redfield said face masks are "the most important, powerful public health tool" and the US could keep it under control if all individuals wore face coverings for six to 12 weeks.

"I might even go so far as to say that this face mask is more guaranteed to protect me against Covid than when I take a Covid vaccine because the immunogenicity maybe 70 percent and if I don't get an immune response, the vaccine's not going to protect me, this face mask will," said Redfield. "We have clear scientific evidence they work."

Masks are mandatory in several states and experts believe wearing one is vital for slowing the spread of the disease.

Redfield said a



FACE MASK. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) director Robert Redfield attends a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on "Review of Coronavirus Response Efforts" on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., the United States on Sept. 16, 2020. Redfield said wearing masks may protect individuals against coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) more than a vaccine. (Andrew Harnik/Pool via Xinhua)

vaccine might be available in November or December but not widely accessible until "the second or third quarter" of 2021.

"If you're asking me when is it going to be generally available to the American public, so we can begin to take advantage of vaccine to get back to our regular life, I think we're probably looking at the late second quarter, third quarter 2021," he said

Even if a vaccine for Covid-19 was released, it would take "six to nine months" for enough people to get it to create immunity, Redfield said.

According to a Xinhua report, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense released two documents Wednesday outlining the detailed strategy of the US government to deliver Covid-19 vaccine doses to the American people.

The documents provide a strategic distribution overview along with an interim playbook for state, tribal, territorial, and local public health programs and their partners on how to plan and operationalize a vaccination response to Covid-19, said the HHS.

Nuggets complete historic comeback vs. Clippers

MANILA – The Denver Nuggets achieved what no other team has ever done in the National Basketball Association playoffs after downing the Los Angeles Clippers, 104-89, in the decider of their Western Conference Semifinals at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, USA on Wednesday (Philippine Time).

The Nuggets shut down the Clippers in the second half, outscoring them, 50-33, to pull away for good.

Jamal Murray erupted for 40 points, 20 coming in the second quarter, along with four rebounds, five assists, and one steal for the Nuggets, who became the first team ever to come back from a 1-3 deficit twice in the same postseason.

The Nuggets also needed to climb back from 1-3 down to beat the Utah Jazz in the first round.

Nikola Jokic added a triple-double of 22 rebounds, 16 points, and 13 assists with three blocks and two

As of Wednesday, more than 6.6 million people have been infected with the virus and more than 196,000 in the US have died, according to Johns Hopkins University. (Anadolu with reports from Xinhua)

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steals for the Nuggets, who will face the Los Angeles Lakers in the West Finals beginning Saturday (Philippine Time).

Montrezl Harrell came up with 20 points and three rebounds for the Clippers, who failed to make the national semifinals for the second time despite leading 3-1 in the second round since 2015.

Kawhi Leonard and Paul George, acquired during the preseason to lead the Clippers, were held to a combined 24 points on a 10-of-38 shooting.

Meanwhile, the other conference finals, the East Finals between Miami and Boston, began with the former prevailing in overtime, 117-114.

Jimmy Butler, who was relatively quiet during the regulation, came alive late into the extension with the eventual game-winning and-one with 12 seconds that put the Heat on top, 116-114.

Jayson Tatum tried to equalize for the Celtics, but Bam Adebayo swatted his dunk attempt just as the ball was already close to the basket.

Adebayo, a steady

free throw shooter, still kept the door open for Boston to force another overtime as he only made a split from the free throw line off a Robert Williams foul, but Tatum missed another potential game-tying basket this time from three-point range before time expired, letting Miami escape.

Goran Dragic led the Heat with 29 points, seven rebounds, four assists, and one block.

Jae Crowder added 22 points, five rebounds, one assist, two blocks, and one steal.

Butler added 20 markers, five boards, five dimes, and two swipes.

Tyler Herro came close to a triple-double with 12 points, 11 rebounds, and nine assists.

Tatum came up with 30 points, 14 rebounds, five assists, three steals, and two blocks for the Celtics.

Jaylen Brown added 26 points, three rebounds, and one assist.

Both Miami and Boston will meet again in Game 2 of their best-of-seven series on Friday. (By Ivan Stewart Saldajeno/PNA)