

# CAVITE NEWS

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

VOL. XXI NO. 23 SEPTEMBER 24-30, 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

## House panel approval of disaster resiliency dep't welcomed

MANILA – The approval on third and final reading at the House of Representatives of the measure calling for the creation of the Department of Disaster Resiliency (DDR) is another step that would enhance the country's disaster risk reduction

and management.

"We welcome this development made possible through the efforts of our legislators. We look forward to the next pace of this legislative process as we continue to fulfill our current functions," National Disaster Risk

Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) spokesperson Mark Cashean Timbal said on Thursday.

Early this week, the House, with 241 affirmative votes, seven negatives, and one abstention, passed  
*(Turn to p. 2)*

# Cops urged to strictly implement smoking ban amid pandemic

MANILA – As the country continues to grapple with coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, police commanders nationwide have been reminded to strictly implement the smoking

ban on terminals of public utility vehicles (PUVs) and other public places.

"In this time of pandemic when the coronavirus targets the respiratory system, smoking is really dangerous not only to

the smokers but also to non-smokers," said Lt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, Joint Task Force COVID Shield commander, in a statement.

He said his call for the strict imposition of a smoking ban is in line

with guidelines of the National Task Force on Covid-19 to contain the spread of the deadly virus.

"Smoking in public places particularly bus, jeepney, and tricycle terminals compromises

*(Turn to p. 2)*



## PH displays 'int'l leadership' for call to address climate change

MANILA – The Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (ICSC), an international climate and energy policy group based in the Philippines, lauded the Philippine government for its display of "international leadership" during the 75th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), where President Rodrigo Duterte called on

parties of the Paris Agreement to fight climate change.

"The Philippine government displayed international leadership at the right moment by affirming the need to flatten both the Covid-19 and the climate curves as urgently as possible," Renato Redentor Constantino, the group's executive director, said in a statement Wednesday.

Duterte's historic

address to the UNGA underscored the need for the international community to act collectively based on science to tackle both the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic and climate change, Constantino said.

Citing scientists, he said the world has to keep global warming below the 1.5-degrees Celsius threshold to avoid the worst impacts



of climate change.

"Solutions such as decentralized

renewable energy, active mobility, and sustainable transport,

and mangrove and watershed management  
*(Turn to p. 2)*

**COPS... FR. P. 1**

the health safety of both the drivers and the passengers," Eleazar said.

Eleazar made his call after health experts said smokers and those who would inhale the secondhand smoke coming from cigarettes are susceptible to Covid-19 infection as their immune system is already compromised.

The JTF COVID Shield has been receiving complaints that there are some drivers and passengers who are smoking in PUV terminals, especially in the provinces.

Eleazar said police commanders were also tasked to account and regularly monitor the existence of smoking

areas in their respective Areas of Responsibility (AORs).

He said police commanders should coordinate with the Local Government Units (LGUs) for the utilization of barangay tanods and the city and municipal Public Order and Safety personnel for the enforcement of the nationwide smoking ban.

Earlier, the Manila International Airport Authority has temporarily closed all the smoking areas in all terminals of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport due to the threat of coronavirus infection among smokers. (By Christopher Lloyd Caliwang/PNA)

**PH... Fr. p 1**

can address not only Covid-worsened public health and economic problems in the short term but also climate risks and development challenges in the long haul," Constantino said.

He said they expect the President's remarks "to be reflected in the ongoing drafting of the country's Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement, as well as in the national budget deliberations and the policies of the Department of Energy and Department of Transportation."

Duterte, in his pre-recorded speech aired Wednesday (Manila time) at the UNGA, stressed the urgency of arresting the spread of the coronavirus and addressing the climate crisis.

"This is a global challenge that has

worsened existing inequalities and vulnerabilities from within and between nations. Climate change has worsened the ravages of the pandemic. People in developing countries like the Philippines suffer the most. We cannot afford to suffer more," he said as he called on all parties, especially those who have not made good on their commitment to fighting climate change, to honor it.

In 2017, Duterte signed the Paris Agreement, which aims to reduce the emission of gases that contribute to global warming.

The Philippines earlier pledged a 70-percent cut in emissions by 2030. (PH displays 'int'l leadership' for call to address climate change

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora/PNA)

**Gov't sends more than 200K OFWs to home provinces**

MANILA – Over 200,000 returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) had been transported back to their home provinces, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said on Thursday.

Citing report of Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), DOLE Secretary Silvestre Bello III said the government has assisted 218,205 OFWs since May.

The OFWs were repatriated after losing jobs due to the impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

According to OWWA, the latest batch of 1,440 OFWs was transported to their respective provinces after testing negative for



Covid-19.

Aside from Covid-19 test, the government provided accommodation, food, and transportation going back to their home provinces upon their arrival in the country.

The DOLE has also been extending a one-time USD200 (PHP10,000) cash aid

under the Abot Kamay ang Pagtulong (AKAP) program to OFWs whose incomes were affected by the pandemic, both on-site and those stranded in the country.

Bello said more OFWs will benefit from the AKAP program following President Rodrigo Duterte's signing of Bayanihan to Recover as One or Bayanihan 2 law.

Meanwhile, Bello said there are alternative overseas job markets for displaced OFWs particularly in the Middle East.

"In the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia, which has resumed accepting and processing work visas; Qatar, which has abolished the 'kafala' system that requires migrant workers to get permission from their employers should they decide to change jobs; and the Kingdom of Bahrain, which has renewed the recruitment of household service workers," he said in a statement.

He added that job markets available for Filipino workers are China, Japan, Czech Republic, and Taiwan. (DOLE PR)

**HOUSE... Fr. p 1**

on third and final reading House Bill 5989, otherwise known as the proposed "Disaster Resilience Act".

"We thank both the leadership and members of the House of Representatives for their support and commitment to our goal to build national resilience," Timbal said, adding that the agency is preparing for the changes that would be ushered in once a new law on DRRM is ratified.

The bill has been certified as a priority measure by President Rodrigo Duterte during his 5th State of the Nation Address last July.

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 country's geographical location makes it exposed to recurring typhoons and earthquakes.

According to a 2019 status report from the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, in terms of disaster risk, the Philippines ranked third among all countries with the highest risks worldwide, citing the World Risk Report 2018, with an index value of 25.14 percent. (By Priam Nepomuceno/PNA)

**CAVITE NEWS**

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

raquel.caviteneews@gmail.com  
09974094932/09329770888

RAQUEL M. MAGTIBAY  
Publisher

JOMAR MENES  
Editor-In-Chief

JOHN JEPREE MAGTIBAY  
Lay-out-Artist

LAURO M. MAGTIBAY  
Circulation Manager

ATTY. MARIO MONTEVIRGEN  
Legal Counsel

**Papi** Publishers Association  
of the Philippines, Inc.

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.

## BOC intensifies audit on rice imports vs smuggling

MANILA, -- In its bid to protect government revenue as well as the local producers of agricultural products, the Bureau of Customs (BOC), through the Post Clearance Audit Group (PCAG), has heightened its campaign against undervaluation and misclassification of rice importations through continuous checking of compliance of rice importers with Customs laws and regulations.

The transaction-based audit of importers is a continuing effort of the BOC to determine the correctness of the valuation of the goods and determine the liability of the importer for duties, taxes, and other charges, including fine or penalty for rice importations.

According to PCAG, a total of 245 entities falling under Tariff Heading 1006 have imported rice from March 5 to June 20, 2019. Of which, 60 entities with the greatest number of incidents of deviation and the highest percentage discrepancies in duties paid were selected for transaction-based audits.

Based on the audit results, auditees were found liable for the payment of Php 1,417,167,368.10 customs duties, penalties, surcharges, and interest due to undervaluation, misclassification, and/or understatement of freight and insurance charges. Moreover, it was found that undervaluation of declared customs value remains the primary risk in revenue collection

from rice imports, accounting for P497,941,773.72 or 36.08% of the total deficiency assessment.

In terms of the level of compliance, the audit findings show a low level of compliance among the audited importers, as 47 auditees or 85.45% were found to have violated customs laws and regulations. Meanwhile, 8 auditees were found to have properly declared their goods and provided pertinent documentary requirements as stipulated in the CMTA.

On the other hand, audit examination and investigation of the five (5) auditees were deferred due to its pending dispute settlement proceedings with the respective ports of entry.

Under Customs Administrative Order No. 01-2019, the BOC may conduct an examination, inspection, verification, and investigation of records of any goods declaration within three years from the date of final payment of duties and taxes or from customs clearance.

The Bureau of Customs assures that the agency will remain steadfast in protecting government revenue through compliance audits of imported goods, especially during this critical time. The Bureau also forewarned that legal measures and penalties will be imposed on those importers that will be found involved in the smuggling of agricultural products and other commodities into the country. (BOC)

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

## Botika on Wheels Program



PGC's BOTIKA ON WHEELS VISITED MUNICIPALITY OF NOVELETA: Botika on wheels (BoW) program which was the brain project of the office of Governor Jonvic Remulla, continue to serve and protect Caviteños amidst the COVID-19 pandemic by delivering basic health services right at their doorsteps. On September 7-10, 2020, BoW team visited the municipality of Noveleta to distribute free maintenance medicines and vitamins to 1,563 senior citizens. Moreover, 1,817 children were also given vitamins to help boost their immune

system. The team was accompanied by 1st district Representative Francis Gerald A. Abaya in roaming around the municipality and expressed his support to the provincial government's health program.

To date, Botika on Wheels has visited a total of 180 barangays in the municipalities of Maragondon, Naic, Kawit and Noveleta and in Cavite City. Likewise, eleven thousand, six hundred eighty-four (11,684) senior citizens and two thousand nine hundred eighty-seven (2,987) children benefitted from the program.-- PICAD

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

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

Published at: Cavite News  
Dates: September 17, 24, - October 1, 2020

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

## 20 private colleges, universities still have no billing submissions for the release of TES stipends-CHED, UniFAST

QUEZON CITY, -- From the list of 264 noncompliant private higher education institutions (HEIs) previously released by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Unified Student Financial Assistance System on Tertiary Education (UniFAST) in June, 20 schools remain to be noncompliant in their billing requirements to the Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC) thus delaying the processing and disbursing of the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) stipends to 500 TES grantees for Academic Year 2019-2020.

PEAC processes the TES billings of private HEIs and endorses these billing claims to CHED and UniFAST for payment, and those private schools that have already received the TES stipends are those TES billings that have been endorsed by PEAC to the UniFAST Secretariat and CHED.

A total of 253,585 continuing and new TES beneficiaries from 1,247 private HEIs nationwide were validated for AY 2019-2020 to receive the TES grant.

To date, UniFAST has processed 91% of the billing claims endorsed by PEAC for 234,436 grantees in 943 private HEIs. The 20 schools are part of the remaining 9% that consists mostly of billing claims yet to be endorsed by PEAC to UniFAST from 304 private HEIs with a total of more than 15,000 grantees.

“The CHED and UniFAST staff have been reminding these HEIs to immediately comply with their billing submission requirements so their

student-grantees can immediately receive the subsidy due in their last academic year especially now that classes for AY 2020-2021 have started,” said CHED and UniFAST Board Chairman J. Prospero E. De Vera III.

PEAC has reached out to these private schools to follow-up on their submissions. While some of the schools are in a rush to comply, most of them were unavailable to answer calls.

While CHED recognizes that the quarantine imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic may have delayed the submission by these private HEIs, nine months have passed and these HEIs still have not complied. The TES Management System Portal was opened in January for these HEIs to submit their TES billing documents. Their students continue to suffer from their inaction. The Commission will now look into how these HEIs can be penalized for not following their responsibilities in the Memorandum of Agreement they signed with CHED.

Students enrolled in private HEIs who are eligible in the TES Program will receive Php 60,000.00 per academic year if they belong to the Department of Social Welfare and Development - National Household Targeting Office (DSWD-NHTO) Listahanan 2.0 or they reside and study in private HEIs in cities and municipalities where there is no existing public university or college. The TES benefit covers payment for their tuition and education-related expenses. (CHED)



#SMAnnouncements: Please be advised of SM City Molino’s adjusted mall hours effective September 19, 2020.

So plan an early dinner date with your friends as you enjoy #SafeMallingAtSM!

Wearing of face shield, aside from face mask, is required upon entering the establishment.

Only bearers of official quarantine passes and/or proof of exemption are allowed to move around during this period.

Mall Hours: 10am - 7:30pm  
SM Hypermarket: 8am - 7:30pm

Enjoy your shopping! Stay safe!

## BACK TO SCHOOL WITH NATIONAL BOOK STORE- SM CITY BACCOOR!



Kumpletuhin ang school supplies na kailangan niyo sa NBS! Bumili ng mga ballpen, libro, notebook, pad paper, at iba pang mga gamit para sa modular learning at online schooling.

Bumisita na sa National Book Store!

Go #BackToSchoolWithNBS!

#NBSEveryday

## IT'S TIME TO DINE AT SM CENTER IMUS!



SM CENTER IMUS, CAVITE – We know how you miss dining out with your family and friends here! Be safe by doing the habit of frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing especially before and after eating. Don’t forget to wash your hands with an Anti-bacterial soap to kill germs and viruses. Remember to stay safe with our safety reminders in SM Center Imus as you dine with us.



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

## NTA consults tobacco private sector for stronger cooperation

QUEZON CITY, -- Gearing up for the upcoming tobacco season, the National Tobacco Administration (NTA) got commitment for stronger cooperation from cigarette manufacturers, leaf buyers and traders to boost the industry for the benefit of the local tobacco growers.

In a consultative conference at the NTA Central Office in Quezon City on September 10, NTA Administrator Robert Victor G. Seares Jr. said the cigarette manufacturers, through their representatives, have pledged to increase their purchase commitment for locally produced tobacco.

At present, the local manufacturers are buying 25% of the local production and the agency pushes for a higher rate or at least 45% to sustain growth for the tobacco industry.

"This support is crucial as we enter a tobacco season under the current pandemic which have impacted a lot of sectors, especially agricultural production," said Seares.

"Our partners from the private sector also agreed to our proposals to come up with their own five-year purchasing plan in line with our medium-term roadmap for sustainable tobacco production, and to submit quarterly reports with respect to their local purchases and import data to

enhance our data gathering," he added.

The industry development roadmap, the Sustainable Tobacco Enhancement Program (STEP), is expected to accelerate the modernization and industrialization of the tobacco industry towards increased production and higher income for the farmers for the next five years.

"We always aim to give better opportunities of our growers to earn more for their tobacco venture as this is our major thrust under our administration, and with the support of our key industry players," said Seares.

Present in the meeting were representatives from Japan Tobacco International (JTI), Atty. Jose Paolo Patajo and Robert Eugenio; and Philip Morris and Fortune Tobacco Corporation (PMFTC), Atty. Anicka Zaragoza and Atty. Archie Gonzales. The representative from La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Factory, Walter Barrios, joined the discussion through video conference app JioMeet.

According to Deputy Administrator for Operations Roberto R. Bonoan, the meeting provided a more focused discussion on the issues and challenges affecting the industry.

"We need this cooperation as we prepare the next

cropping season under a difficult situation brought about by the pandemic," said Bonoan.

Directors Rodolfo F. Salanga and Nestor C. Casela, both members of the NTA Governing Board, and NTA Regulation Manager Atty. Rohbert A. Ambros also joined the meeting facilitated by Bonoan.

In a separate meeting on September 14, leaf buyers and traders also gave their commitment to buy more locally produced tobacco for the export market.

Local production last year reached 46.6 M kg, a 7.7% increase from the 43.2 M kg production in 2018. According to Winston Uy, president of Universal Leaf Philippines, Inc., 75% of the local production goes to the export market.

Seares said that the leaf buyers, true to their commitment before the trading season in March, bought all leaf produced by the tobacco growers despite the difficulty of trading activities due to lockdown.

Uy, joined by Matthew Diong of TransManila Inc. (TMI) in the said meeting, assured NTA that they continue making their contract growers to be more efficient with better technology and sufficient production and financial assistance in producing quality tobacco that can

## PhilMech, DA-7 distribute P75-M farm machineries

The Department of Agriculture (DA-7) and the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) turned over P75 million worth of farm machineries to Negros Oriental farmers on Sept. 17, 2020.

In a turnover ceremony held in Bayawan City, the farmer's group in the town received four units Hand Tractor, five Floating Tillers, one Rice Precision Seeder, one unit Walk-behind Rice Transplanter, one Riding-type Rice Transplanter, and five units mini Rice Thresher.

DA-7 Regional Executive Director Atty. Salvador Diputado and PhilMech Director Baldwin Jallorina personally handed-in the machineries to the recipient farmer's group - the Bayawan United Farmer Irrigators' Association, Inc.

compete with the world market. Kingsley Pua of Pentaleaf Corp joined the meeting via JioMeet.

The leaf buyers and the NTA agreed to adopt the policy of market-driven tobacco production. In particular, the leaf buyers encouraged the production of Virginia Topped and Burley Topped this year in response to the current

Funded under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), other recipient farmers' group of these machineries in Negros Oriental are from the cities of Bais, Canlaon, and Tanjay; and the municipalities of Sta. Catalina and Siaton.

PhilMech Director Jallorina who attended the turnover ceremony explained the benefits of farm mechanization to optimize farm yield.

The event was the first in a series of distribution activities in Central Visayas.

Per guidelines, only the provinces of Bohol and Negros Oriental are covered under the RCEF program in Central Visayas, being the major rice-producing provinces in the region.

The team will also conduct a distribution activity of these machineries to Bohol farmer beneficiaries.

"This project is part of the Rice Mechanization Program implemented by Agriculture Secretary William Dar to increase farm production and income," Diputado said.

He went on saying that the rice mechanization program

would reduce the amount of physical labor required from the farmer and improve their planting efficiency.

Diputado also shared the challenge of Secretary Dar to the Local Government Units to increase their farm production to at least 10 percent, which was positively accepted by the local officials present.

Data of PhilMech reveals that about two to three percent of postharvest losses can be saved with the use of mechanized rice mills, mechanical dryers, and combined harvesters, among others.

Director Jallorina shared in the official PhilMech webpage that using rice machines is very applicable amid the COVID-19 pandemic, since only two to three people are needed to get things done.

Negros Oriental Vice Gov. Mark Macias, Tanjay City Mayor Reynaldo Concepcion, and 1st District Representative Jocelyn Limkaichong attended the turnover ceremony with the farmer beneficiaries. (PR/DA-RFO-7, RAFIS)

market trends.

Uy said that world demand for other tobacco types/subtypes are significantly down last year.

He added that other countries, such as

Brazil, have devalued their tobacco prices due to the current pandemic and importing countries are expected to go for the cheaper ones. ### (Melanie Rapiz-Parel, DA-NTA)

# CAVITE NEWS

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

VOL. XXI NO. 23 SEPTEMBER 24-30, 2020 P 10.00

## PJ Simon retires from basketball

MANILA – Magnolia guard PJ Simon announced his retirement from basketball in a lengthy social media post on Wednesday.

"This is PJ Simon, The SuperSub, Your Scoring Apostle, signing out," the 40-year-old star said.

On why he is calling it a career after 19 years that go all the way back to the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association (MBA), Simon said, "It's time to focus on my family. My wife is pregnant and gusto ko magkasama kami (I want us to be together) as we start a family."

He added that his situation in Davao amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic factored in making the decision.

"Kinailangan kong umuwi ng Davao nung nagkasakit at namatay ang father ko at nahirapan na rin akong makabalik dahil sa pandemya. Sign na rin siguro yun na ito na yung tamang time para magretiro (I had to fly back to Davao when my father got sick and eventually died, and I had a difficult time returning due to the pandemic. It may be a sign that it is the right time to retire)," Simon said.

**From 'overlooked' to legend**

He said he was surprised by what his career has gone through all these years.

"Hindi ko inakala na pagkatapos hindi mapansin nung 2001 PBA (Philippine Basketball Association) Rookie Draft na posible pa pala mag-iwan ng sarili kong marka sa liga (I never thought that after I was



**PBA player PJ Simon**

overlooked in the 2001 PBA Rookie Draft, it would still be possible for me to leave a mark in the league)," Simon said.

He was selected in the fifth round of the 2001 Draft but Sta. Lucia, the team that selected him, did not sign him to a contract, leaving him as a free agent.

Simon eventually found himself joining the Davao Eagles in the 2001 MBA season, where he became their focal point of offense.

His stint with Davao ended right when the MBA met its demise in 2002 but Hapee, then a powerhouse team in the Philippine Basketball League (PBL), recruited him afterward.

Simon instantly became a key player in Hapee's offense and he developed an individual mini-rivalry with Welcoat's star, James Yap.

However, in 2004, Magnolia acquired both Simon and Yap through free agency and the draft, respectively, and they became the team's 1-2 punch in the offense.

Behind Simon, Yap, and defensive ace Marc Pingris, the Purefoods franchise won seven championships from 2006 to 2014, capped by a grand slam.

Even after Yap was essentially shipped back to the Welcoat franchise, now known in the PBA as Rain Or Shine in a trade for Paul Lee, Simon would still win a title for Magnolia, ruling the 2018 Governors' Cup.

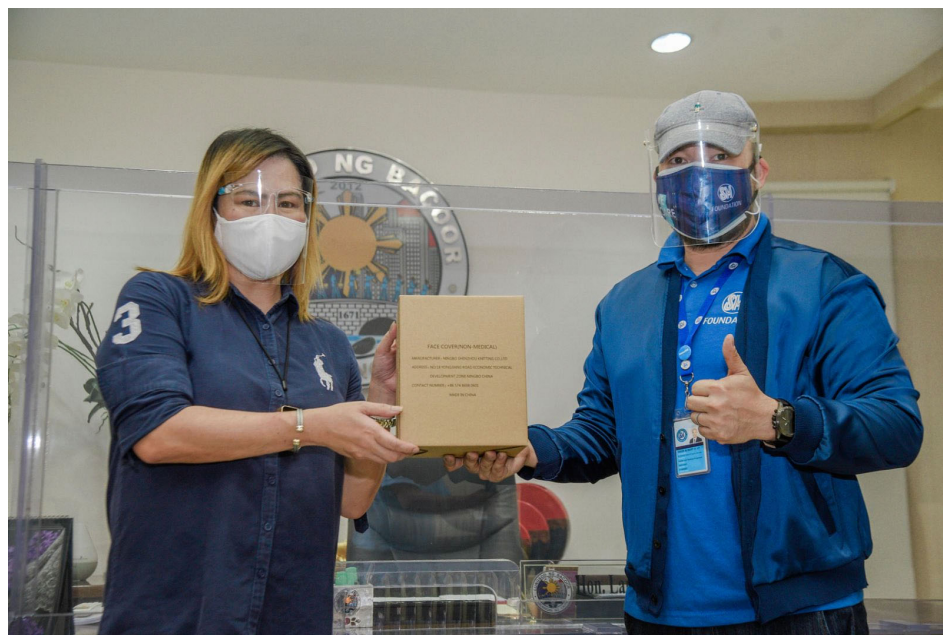
"Binigay ko yung 17 years ng buhay ko sa PBA, sa Magnolia Hotshots, at sa lahat ng fans (I gave 17 years of my life to the PBA, the Magnolia Hotshots, and all the fans)," added Simon, who played with the Purefoods franchise throughout his illustrious career that is also highlighted by eight All-Star Game appearances, the 2008 All-Star Game Most Valuable Player award, and being a member of the 2014 Mythical Second Team.

He thanked San Miguel big boss, Ramon S. Ang, for giving him the opportunity in sports and business, and his coaches, teammates, and fans in the 17 years he played basketball.

### **Jersey retirement up**

Before the start of the season, the Hotshots' management said Simon's number eight jersey would be retired, becoming the fourth Purefoods player to have his jersey lifted to the rafters.

## SM FOUNDATION INC. AND UNIQLO PHILIPPINES DONATES FACE MASKS TO BACCOOREÑOS



**SM CITY BACCOOR, CAVITE** – In support to the hardworking front liners of Bacoor City, SM Foundation Inc. and Uniqlo Philippines recently donated several Uniqlo AIRism Face Masks to the the Office of Mayor Lani Mercado and Bacoor City Health Unit. Mr. Albert Uy from SM Foundation Inc. handed over the donations to Jocelyn Mercado, Office of Bacoor City Mayor's Internal Chief of Staff, and Dra. Ivy Marie Yrastorza, Head of Bacoor City CHO. Uniqlo's AIRism masks have a smart, breathable base layer that releases heat and moisture and adapts to any weather condition, which will be very comfortable to the front liners especially on long working hours to serve patients and other residents in need of medical attention.



Reacting to the jersey retirement plan, Simon, in an interview on March 8 following the franchise's season opener against sister team San Miguel, said, "Sobrang honored ako na yun yung gagawin sa akin ng Purefoods (I am so honored that Purefoods would do that for me)."

With his jersey set to be retired, he will join an elite list that includes Alvin Patrimonio, who is currently the club's team manager, Jerry Codiñera, and Rey Evangelista.

dominance during the '90s.

Except for Codiñera, who still got to play for the TNT franchise, then known as Mobiline, and FedEx later on, Patrimonio and Evangelista, like Simon, played their entire careers with the Purefoods franchise.

"Nakakatuwa kasi isang team lang kami (I was very happy because we only played with one team)," Simon said about joining Patrimonio and Evangelista in the retired jerseys list.

Simon still got to play

in the season opener, making four points in 11-and-a-half minutes off the bench but the Hotshots fell to the Beermen, 78-94.

The Magnolia management initially set Simon's jersey retirement on May 10, when the team was to take on Ginebra in the latest chapter of the "Manila Clasico", but the pandemic forced the postponement of the season and, in effect, the retirement ceremony. (By Ivan Stewart Saldajeno/PNA)