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ALFONSEÑOS ASSURED WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) -- The local government of Alfonso entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) on May 4 to help Alfonseños realize their dream of owning decent houses.

Alfonso Mayor Randy Salamat said the housing project, located in RS Ville, Barangay Taywanak Ibaba is a rent-to-own scheme payable within 30 years thru the SHFC.

A government owned and controlled corporation, SHFC is the

lead government agency that undertakes financing of social housing programs catering to formal and informal sectors with low-income.

Salamat added that application for the housing project is open only to legitimate resi-

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Alfonso Mayor Randy Salamat

MOST WANTED PERSON RANKED NO. 7 IN PRO CALABARZON AND 30 OTHERS NABBED

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite - Cavite Police Provincial Office arrested the Most Wanted Person Ranked Nr. 7 in PRO CALABARZON and 30 others in Daily Anti-Criminality Drive and recorded 2,694 MECQ Violators over the last 24 hours. Cavite Police arrested a certain Jaime Alabat y Bon of Brgy. Dugal Camaligan, Camarines Sur, Most Wanted Person in PRO CALABARZON Ranked Nr. 7 for the crime of Murder with Criminal Case No. RTC-03-0389 by Tagaytay CPS in Market Site, Galicia 2, Mendez, Cavite and six other wanted persons were arrested for the crime of Theft and the Direct Assault in Dasmariñas City.

In the campaign against illegal drugs, eight (8) individuals were arrested in 5 buy-bust operations in Bacoor City, Dasmariñas City, Kawit, Cavite City and confiscated 26
 Cont.on PAGE 3



Alfonseños will now realize their dream of owning decent houses as the local government unit entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Social Housing Finance Corporation for a housing project located in RS Ville, Barangay Taywanak Ibaba. (Photo: Mayor Randy Salamat FB Page)

TESDA seeks private sector partners under EBT programs

PASIG CITY, (PIA) -- The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is pushing for a more proactive promotion of its Enterprise-Based Training (EBT) program among industry partners to better prepare workers and learners in their respective regions.

TESDA Deputy Director General Aniceto "John" Bertiz III called on the agency's industry coordinators and administrators of TESDA Technical Institutes (TTI) to ensure active participation of private sector in the EBT Program.

"In the implementation of EBT programs, promotion and advocacy play a vital role in achieving the targeted increase in the number of implementers. We encourage you to intensify the promotion and marketing of EBT and focus on nurturing the existing partnerships," he said.

"The Industry has been our partners in implementing our TVET programs. Now, we want to utilize this platform to set a strategic direction and enable you, as our frontliners in TVET, to be the advocates in making EBT the more pre-



TESDA Deputy Director Gen. Aniceto "John" Bertiz III
 (Contributed photo)

ferred training modality in TVET," he added.

Bertiz, who oversees the partnerships and linkages at TESDA, made the call during his opening remarks at the first-ever Capacity-Building Program for EBT Industry Coordinators and
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Published Weekly by: CAVITE WEEKLY CHRONICLE PUBLISHING AND PRINTING



Legal and Judicial Rate:

ADVERTISING RATES

Legal Notices P160.00 per col. cm.
Commercial Ads P200.00 per col. cm

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

1 year- P500.00 6 mos.-P250.00

PH to push through with Ivermectin clinical trial

MANILA – The country will proceed with the conduct of clinical trials on the use of Ivermectin for coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) executive director Jaime Montoya said.

In an interview with ANC's Headstart, Montoya said that while there have been existing studies on the use of Ivermectin for Covid-19, these were done in different countries.

"It would be good for us to document the local experiences, how they would respond, and if there would be adverse effects," he said.

Montoya pointed out that experts would like to determine the best treatment options for the Filipinos, and also the proper doses that they should take.

Over 1,000 non-severe patients are needed to participate in the clinical trials. This in-

cludes mild and asymptomatic patients. Montoya said "non-severe cases" have been chosen since most of the cases in the Philippines belong to that category.

"Remember that even asymptomatic cases could get severe. We want to see if Ivermectin could prevent that," he added.

A randomized double-blind placebo-controlled trial will be done, which may help health experts to determine if the drug can reduce the number of days the patient will experience symptoms, according to Montoya.

The executive clarified that conducting the clinical trial will generate evidence that could help the Food and Drug Administration in coming up with a decision.

On Monday, he announced that recruitment of participants and the clinical trial may likely start by the end of May or early June. Results are expected early next year. (PNA)

Virtual groundbreaking para sa P12.77M Batangas evacuation center, idinaos

LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS, Mayo 4 (PIA)--Pinangunahan ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Batangas at private sector partners nito ang pagdaraos ng groundbreaking ceremony para sa itatayong P12.77M Batangas Evacuation Center sa Brgy. Malainin, sa bayan ng Ibaan noong ika-14 ng Abril 2021.

Sa pamamagitan ng online audio and video teleconferencing, isinagawa ang naturang seremonya kung saan sisimulan ang konstruksyon ng isang two-storey, multi-purpose facility na magagamit sa biglaang pangangailangan sa panahon ng kalamidad o sakuna.

Ang Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) at BPI Foundation Inc., ang nagkaloob ng donasyon para sa itatayong evacuation center bilang bahagi ng proyekto nilang #TaaLove, isang donation drive na nabuo upang magbigay ng long-term support sa mga komunidad na labis na naapektuhan ng pagputok ng Bulkang Taal noong nakaraang taon.

Pangungunahan ng Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF), isang major private sector vehicle at coordinator sa bansa na nagbibigay-daan at koordinasyon sa disaster management ang mangan-gasiwa sa pagpapatayo ng pasilidad sa pamamagitan ng inisyatibo nitong Project Safe Shelters.

Tinatayang nasa 300 evacuees ang maaaring manatili sa pasilidad oras na magkaroon ng paglilikas bunsod ng iba't-ibang kalamidad tulad ng malakas na bagyo at lindol.

Isinaalang alang din sa pagpapagawa ng pasilidad ang gamit nito bilang isang health infrastructure facility lalo na ngayong panahon ng pandemya.

Nakiisa sa virtual groundbreaking ang mga opisyal ng BPI at PDRF tulad nina BPI President Cezar Conzing; BPI Foundation Executive Director Owen Cammayo; BPI Head of Sales and Service Channels Angeline King; PDRF President Butch Meily at PDRF Executive Director Veronica Gabaldon.

Sa bahagi naman ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Batangas, dumalo sina Governor Hermilando Mandanas, Vice Governor Mark Leviste, Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer Joselito Castro at iba pang department heads at opisyal ng pamahalaang panlalawigan. (BHABY P. DE CASTRO-PIA Batangas with reports from PIO Province)

Delivery of first batch of PhilID cards ongoing

MANILA – The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has started the distribution of the first batch of Philippine ID (PhilID) cards this week.

A total of 956 PhilIDs will be delivered nationwide, including Metro Manila, La Union, Ilocos Sur, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Pampanga, Rizal, Cavite, Iloilo, Bacolod, Albay, Bohol, Masbate, Capiz, Negros Oriental, Cebu, and Davao.

PHLPost, the official delivery partner of the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys), will deliver the PhilIDs that were printed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

PSA Undersecretary Dennis Mapa said they are making sure that the machines stay

in good condition to increase the volume of the next batch of PhilIDs.

"We are pleased to have commenced this major milestone in the implementation of the PhilSys. This exercise showed us what can be improved in our card production and personalization machines and processes," he said in a news release.

The PSA targets to register 70 million Filipinos by the end of the year and nearly the entire population by mid-2022.

It is encouraging more Filipinos to sign up online once the site, register.philsys.gov.ph, is up and running again.

The PhilSys online Step 1 Registration website, after receiving more than 40,000 regis-

tration requests during the first minutes of the pilot launch on April 30, is currently under maintenance.

The surge in registration caused delays in the sending of the one-time passwords necessary to proceed with the registration.

"We are urgently looking into the issue and updating the website to resolve this technical challenge. Once again, we apologize for any inconvenience this has caused. We thank you for your patience and support for the PhilSys program," the Facebook advisory read.

The second step of the registration will be done at registration centers as it will involve validation of demographic

information against the original documents and capture of biometrics, the PSA said.

Signed into law by President Rodrigo Duterte in August 2018, Republic Act 11055, or the Philippine Identification System Act, aims to establish a single national ID for Filipinos and resident aliens.

The national ID shall be a valid proof of identity and a means of simplifying public and private transactions, enrollment in schools, and opening of bank accounts.

It will also boost efficiency, especially in dealing with government services where people will only need to present one ID during transactions. SOURCE:(PNA)



ATICalabarzon

Agricultural Training Institute (Home of e-Extension in the Philippines)

The Department of Agriculture - Philippines' Office of the Special Agriculture Representative (OSAR) in Bangkok and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) are co-hosting a webinar featuring Mrs. Josephine Costales, Chair of Costales Nature Farms in Laguna and President of the Samahan ng Sakahang Panturismo ng Pilipinas. She will be sharing her wisdom and experiences on becoming a Filipino agripreneur, and some of their organic farming and farm tourism best practices.

This is in line with DA's goal of providing overseas and repatriating Filipinos information related to agribusiness in the Philippines.

The event will be conducted via Zoom on Saturday, 8 May 2021, 10 AM Manila time.

Free Agriculture Webinar

for Overseas & Repatriating Filipinos

- Tips on becoming an agripreneur
- Best practices in organic farming
- Farm Tourism

To register, pls go to:
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_tYqF-F4qRSKn7dP8lb45Cw

Speaker Josephine Costales
Chair, Costales Nature Farms
President, Samahan ng Sakahang Panturismo ng Pilipinas

Saturday MAY 8th 2021
10 AM PH TIME

TESDA seeks...from p1

TTI Administration held recently.

This capacity-building program is in line with the agency's goal to strengthen and expand the implementation of EBT in the country and in support of the second phase of the "EBT to the Max" Implementation Plan, particularly in equipping EBT implementers.

EBT Program covers the Dual Training System (DTS)/Dualized Training Program (DTP), Supervised Industry Learning (SIL), Apprenticeship, Learnership, Program on Accelerating Farm School Establishment (PAFSE), and In-Company or on-

site training arrangements, including other industry-based training programs.

The former lawmaker also pointed out that the TVET sector is also affected by the pandemic which is evident to the downward trend in the number of participating establishments in EBT programs.

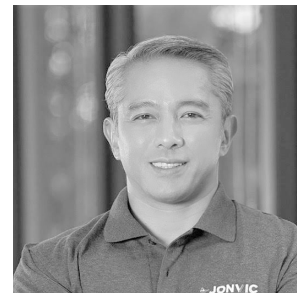
He encouraged everyone, especially those in charge of promoting the agency's programs, projects, and services, to reinvigorate their efforts in building a stronger TVET amid the challenges of the "new normal" environment.

"No one is spared

from the effects of the pandemic, TVET, likewise, experienced the dent in the nation's socio-economic activities. A year after, we are all into rebuilding and reconstructing our individual and corporate lives gravely affected by the pandemic. We've seen the potential of EBT programs as catalysts to economic activities in the pre-pandemic times," he said.

"We can help each other get back to where we left prior to this health pandemic," he said, as he reminded industry coordinators and administrators of training institutes to set their targets this year.

As to the implementation of EBT pro-



Gov. Jonvic Remulla

#MECQ Ep. 8 “PREMATURE”

Ako po ay muling humihingi ng paumanhin tungkol sa huling post ko.

Talking about the next elections in the middle of a pandemic was both premature and in bad taste. I want all of you to know that I only have the sincerest intentions in mind and I am very sorry for the bad timing.

Rest assured that I understand all of your concerns. Moving on, the topics you will hear from me will be more about how to help the people survive (vaccine efforts) and how to recover all the lost opportunities (such as livelihood programs). Action over words.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. Issues which only the National Government can solve (such as bus and PUJ fares, salary equalization) are some of the important things I have to continuously fight for. Please note however that ultimately the decision and orders remain exclusively with the Nat'l Govt. Pero no excuses: Gagawin ko pa rin lahat ng aking kaya para ipaglaban ito.

2. I will take up the water district problem with the concession holders (ATTN: Prime Water Dasmariñas).

3. Ang SAP ay problema pa rin. Inuulit ko po na wala sa kapangyarihan ng Tanggapan ng Gobernador ang pamamahagi nito. Pero walang tigil ang talakayan ko sa mga alkalde sa pagpapatupad nito.

MECQ UPDATES

1. Curfew is from 10PM to 4AM daily.

2. Mall hours are from 9AM to 8PM.

3. Indoor dining is now allowed but only at 10% capacity while barbershops and hair salons are at 30%. I urge you to restrain yourselves from eating in airconditioned rooms. Chances of COVID-19 transmission remains very high.

4. Kahapon ay may 316 na positibong kaso ng COVID-19 dito sa Cavite. Mas mababa na kesa nitong nakaraang ilang linggo pero mataas pa rin.

5. Ang mga pwestuhan ay sarado pa rin.

Patuloy po tayong mag-ingat lahat. Salamat po sa inyong pag-unawa.

ALFONSEÑOS ASSURED...PAGE 1

dents of Alfonso, thus applicants will undergo appropriate screening from concerned offices.

"Ang tanging makaka-avail ng pabay na ito ay ang mga lehitimong taga-Alfonso lamang. Hindi po ito magsisilbing relocation site ng mga taga ibang

lugar dahil hindi po natin isasantabi ang pagpapatatili ng maayos na peace and order status ng ating bayan," explained Salamat.

(Only legitimate Alfonso residents can avail of the housing project. It will not serve as a relocation site for

non-residents because we will not put aside the preservation of peace and order in our town)

Interested applicants can visit their respective barangay halls for details of the housing project and fill up the required application form. (Ruel Francisco with reports from Randy Salamat FB page)

MOST WANTED PERSON _page 1

pieces small size heat-sealed transparent plastic sachets containing white crystalline substance suspected as shabu, drug money and other drug paraphernalia.

On illegal gambling operations, elements of PSOG-Cavite PPO arrested eleven (11) individuals while engaging in illegal cockfighting "Tupada" in Dasmariñas City and confiscated 2 fighting cocks, 3 gaffs and cash money amounting to Php 5,500.00 in different denomination as bet money.

Five other suspects involved in various crimes were also arrested for the crime of Attempted Homicide, Mauling incident and Trespass to Dwelling in Bacoor City and RIR to Homicide in General Trias City.

grams, Bertiz pointed out that the set target for EBT enrollees is 56,738 while the target for EBT graduates is 51,064.

Bertiz also shared some updates on the implementation of other Technical Vocational Education and Training

(TVET) programs to the local industries and sectors in the regional and provincial levels. (PIA NCR)

MARITIME BANK CORPORATION (A RURAL BANK) BACOR, CAVITE Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2021		
ASSETS	Amount Current Quarter	Previous Quarter
Cash and Cash Items	5,024,621.20	4,743,161.65
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	9,227,335.78	9,273,579.62
Due from Other Banks	24,015,283.71	8,265,786.04
Loans and Receivables - Net	79,837,529.92	93,744,883.97
Loans and Receivables - Others	80,960,768.61	94,868,122.66
General Loan Loss Provision	1,123,238.69	1,123,238.69
Other Financial Assets	3,603,198.26	3,826,453.97
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixture, and Equipment-Net	1,445,176.99	1,517,944.63
Real and Other Properties Acquire-Net	1,727,387.30	1,727,387.30
Other Assets-Net	1,990,947.42	1,824,009.39
TOTAL ASSETS	126,871,480.58	124,923,206.57
LIABILITIES		
Deposit Liabilities	93,954,662.81	92,504,853.36
Other Liabilities	1,483,156.94	1,213,917.11
TOTAL LIABILITIES	95,168,579.92	93,718,770.47
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Capital Stock	83,004,300.00	83,004,300.00
Other Capital Accounts	289,775.14	-3,339,737.00
Retained Earnings	-51,860,414.01	-48,460,426.90
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	31,433,661.13	31,204,136.10
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY	126,602,241.05	124,922,906.57
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Others	206.00	215.00
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	206.00	215.00
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION		
Gross total loan portfolio (TLP)	110,809,342.30	124,716,696.35
Specific allowance for credit losses on the TLP	29,848,573.69	29,848,573.69
a. Gross NPLs	62,914,379.71	66,634,325.06
b. Ratio of Gross NPLs to gross TLP (%)	56.78	53.43
c. Net NPLs	33,065,806.02	36,785,751.37
d. Ratio of gross NPLs to gross TLP (%)	29.84	29.50
e. Ratio of NET NPLs to gross TLP (%)	0.00	0.00
f. Ratio of specific allowance for credit losses on the gross TLP to gross NPLs (%)	47.44	44.79
Classified Loans & Other Risk Assets, gross of allowance for credit losses	68,834,018.32	72,553,963.67
DOSRI Loans and receivables, gross allowance of credit losses	19,250.87	33,074.78
Ratio of DOSRI loans and receivables, gross of allowance for credit losses, to gross TLP (%)	0.02	0.03
Percent Compliance with Magna Carta (%)		
a. 8% for Micro and Small Enterprises	11.11	13.69
b. 2% for Medium Enterprises	3.32	5.48
Return on Equity (ROE) (%)	-80.93	-77.36
a. Total Car (%)	19.88	19.73

CITY OF Dasmariñas



MS. BASILISA MORALES- FELIX, another Dasmarineño centenarian who is awarded a cash gift by the City Government of Dasma headed by Mayor Jenny Barzaga amounting of Php 100,000.00 represented by her daughter as seniors who are not yet allowed to be out of homes. Also in photo are ABC President Jorge Magno and City Administrator Ariel San Gabriel.

IMUS RIVER REMAINS CLEAN THROUGH CENRO TRASH TRAP



Mayor Emmanuel Maliksi featured CENRO's continuous cleaning of the city's rivers last May 4, where the trash traps placed here are effectively used.



**Republic of the Philippines)
Imus,Cavite)**

I, Raquel P. Ocampo of the above mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above balance sheet are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. RAQUEL P. OCAMPO
Senior Manager

PhilGuarantee loans to MSMEs rise to P1.47B in end-March

MANILA – The Philippine Guarantee Corporation (PhilGuarantee) has continued to grow its program for viable but pandemic-hit micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) for the third straight month since its launch in December 2020, with a total of PHP1.47 billion in loans guaranteed as of end-March this year.

The guaranteed loans represent a remarkable 612-percent increase from the PHP207 million pilot guarantee portfolio achieved at the launching of the MSME Credit Guarantee Program (MCGP) in December, PhilGuarantee president-chief executive officer Alberto Pascual said in a report to Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III.

Pascual informed Dominguez the number of MSME beneficiaries grew by an impressive 312 percent to 12,122 enterprises in March 2021 from 2,948 that were reported to have availed of its guarantee program as of December 2020.

He said the implementation of improved processing and evaluation parameters starting this year led to the increase in the number of beneficiaries under MCGP. From the start of the MGCP's implementation last year, the PhilGuarantee Governing Board chaired by Dominguez thus far approved a total of PHP37.7 billion in credit guarantee facilities to 34 banks.

"Majority of the MSMEs covered were from the wholesale and retail sector which accounted for 67.26 percent of the total, or PHP503.5 million with 9,113 MSMEs assisted," Pascual said.

Pascual said the second-biggest group with guarantee coverage was the manufacturing sector, which accounted for 7.77 percent or PHP58.17 million with 1,048 assisted MSMEs.

The agriculture sector was the third biggest sector that have benefited from the MGCP, with 158 MSMEs assisted through guarantees amounting to PHP33.91 million, which is 4.53 percent of the loans covered so far under this program, he said.

In the severely affected hotel and restaurant sector, Pascual said 573 MSMEs were assisted with guaranteed loans amounting to PHP28.45 million, while the personal services sector accounted for guarantees amounting to PHP31.82 million.

The MGCP grants a 50-percent guarantee for working capital loans and a guarantee of up to 80 percent of the amount for term loans of up to seven years for capital expenditures.

The average loan size under the MGCP is less than PHP1 million, with the minimum loan amount set at PHP100,000, which can be availed mostly by micro-businesses borrowing from thrift banks and rural banks.

"In terms of geographical distribution, all regions of the country had received assistance under the MGCP," Pascual said.

The top three regions assisted in terms of guaranteed loan amounts were CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) or Region IV-A with PHP135.76 million, Central Luzon or Region III with PHP118.87 million, and the Ilocos provinces or Region I with PHP65.82 million.

From three active banks in December 2020, Pascual said there are now 14 active banks participating in the MGCP as of March 31, 2021.

"Twelve more banks are expected to start submitting MSMEs for guarantee coverage as their facilities will be operational," Pascual said.

Under Republic Act (RA) No. 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan 2), MSMEs account for PHP2 billion of the PHP5 billion appropriated for PhilGuarantee to aid pandemic-hit enterprises.

The Bayanihan 2 allocation for PhilGuarantee enabled it to further widen its guarantee headroom of economic activities and extend more assistance to viable but severely affected MSMEs, Pascual said. (PR)

Educational Assistance for College Students in Carmona



Ikaw ba ay isa sa CARMONA OLD SCHOLARS? Ito na ang pinakahihintay mo! Simula May 10, 2021 (Lunes) hanggang May 13, 2021 (Huwebes) ay bubuksan na ang application para sa Educational Assistance for College Students for Second Sem A.Y. 2020-2021.

Pumunta lamang sa inyong barangay upang mag-fill out ng APPLICATION FORM at magpasa ng REQUIREMENTS. Maglalabas sa May 9, 2021 (Linggo) ng OFFICIAL MASTERLIST na makikita sa Facebook page ng Municipality of Carmona, Cavite at ipapaskil sa mga barangay hall. Kung hindi kayo napabilang sa nasabing masterlist, MAGHINTAY lamang ng anunsyo tungkol sa aplikasyon para sa NEW SCHOLARS.

DILG assures public...page 6

In the second phase, various activities are carried out, including regular Serbisyo Caravans, immersion proper to match development gaps with existing local programs, and convergence meetings with provincial and national government agencies.

Phase 3 entails assisting LGUs in developing or improving their Barangay Development Plans, Comprehensive Development Plans, or Annual Investment Programs and training and equipping Barangay-Based Institutions (BBIs) to address immediate resolvable gaps (secondary issues) in target barangays.

The fourth phase includes organizing a citizen movement for peace and development, strengthening community security mechanisms and structures, implementing programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) that address primary issues in the barangay, and conducting an information drive on peace, security, and development. The final phase aims to assess the RCSP's implementation results to ensure the program's long-term viability.

"As one of the lead implementing agencies in localizing E0 70, the DILG remains steadfast in working closely with the LGUs so that the people in hard to reach areas will know that the government is working for them and cares for them," Malaya said.

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH RENUNCIATION OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the estate left by the deceased **MA. CECILIA GUINAULE**, consisting of a parcel of land situated at Bo. Daang Amaya, Tanza, Cavite covered by TCT No. T-250777 has been the subject of an Extra-Judicial Settlement of Estate with Renunciation of Rights by and among the heris, as per Doc. No. 38, Page No. 8, Book No. IX, Series of 2021 of Notary Public Atty. Gabriel B. Octava.

Sgd. By all the heirs

CN: April 28, May 5 & 12, 2021

DILG assures public of transparency in the development of 822 remote barangays which are formerly communist strongholds

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) today assured the public of transparency in the implementation of the P16.44-billion Barangay Development Program which will bring infrastructure and development projects to some 822 remote and neglected barangays nationwide that have been cleared of communist influence by government forces since 2019.

"The government's efforts in clearing these barangays of communist terrorists will be put to waste if we suddenly leave them hanging now that they have been freed from the clutches of communist terrorist groups. We therefore appeal to our Senators not to deprive these barangays of government support and assistance now that they need us most," said DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año.

Año said the P16.44-billion fund for various infrastructure projects through the Support to the Barangay Development Program (SBDP) will bring development and improve the conditions of the people living in the remote 822 barangays mostly in mountainous areas that have long been neglected by the government.

"The very reason that these barangays were misled and influenced by the communist terrorist groups (CTGs) is because the people never felt the presence of government. For the first time, they will get the government attention and assistance that they deserve," he said.

Several senators and House representatives have sought to defund the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) and realign its budget, including the funds for the Barangay Development Program. The DILG is one of the key member-agencies of the NTF-ELCAC.

The DILG Chief said that under the SBDP, each cleared barangay will be given up to P20-million for various projects like farm-to-market roads; school buildings; water and sanitation system; health stations; rural electrification; agricultural, livelihood, and technical vocational training or projects; assistance to indigent individuals or families; housing; COVID-19 Vaccination and other health-related projects; and projects in connection with natural or human-induced calamities.

"After more than 50 years of insurgency problem, we are finally gaining traction in the whole-of-nation approach in ending local communist armed conflict through the efforts of our government forces and with the Barangay Development Program. Ituloy-tuloy na po natin ito para hindi na muli makapanggoyo pa ang mga communist terrorists at magkaroon na ng tunay na kapayapaan at kaunlaran lalo na sa 822 barangays na ito na matagal nang naiwan sa laylayan ng lipunan," he said.

According to Año, a total of 2,386 SBDP projects have been identified by the local government units (LGUs) themselves across 40 provinces, 198 cities and municipalities, and 822 barangays nationwide. So far, 1,460 out of 2,386 proposed projects have been endorsed to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) worth P8.282-billion. These will benefit 31 provinces, 127 cities and municipalities, and 487 barangays nationwide.

Of the P16.44-billion SBDP fund, Region XI will receive P4.3-billion; Region XIII will get P3.82-billion; Region X will have P2.38-billion; Region VI will have P1.48-billion, and Region XII will receive P1.24-billion. Meanwhile, Region V will get P980-million; Region IX will have P680-million; Region IV-A will have P600-million; Region IV-B will get P500-million; Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) will have P160-million; Region VIII and Region II will receive P120-million each; Region I will get P40-million, and Region III will have P20-million.

Pursuant Executive Order (EO) No. 70, SBDP is a national priority program of the government which provides the much-needed support, both infrastructure and social services, to the 822 barangays that were cleared from insurgency from 2016 to 2019.

Five-step barangay clearing process

Meanwhile, DILG Spokesperson and Undersecretary Jonathan E. Malaya said that the 822 target barangays first underwent the five-step clearing process through the DILG's Retooled Community Support Program (RCSP) before infrastructure projects through the SBDP will be implemented.

"These barangays underwent a long and rigid process before they were declared cleared of communist influence. Nagkaroon ng maraming konsultasyon, dayalogo at training sa mga namumuno at reorientation para sa publiko," he said.

RCSP is a convergence mechanism for local governments to come together and identify issues and government interventions, particularly at the barangay level. It is based on an empowerment framework that aims to improve people's ability to organize themselves and develop their development by implementing value-chain interventions to improve their current situation.

According to Malaya, Regions VI, X, XI, and XIII have already reached Phase 5 of the RCSP implementation process and have now moved to the SBDP phase. Other regions are expected to continue with their RCSP implementation this 2021.

The phases of barangay clearing are as follows: The RCSP program begins with EO 70 and RCSP orientation for local chief executives (LCE) and Sangguniang Bayan members, followed by Phase 1 on organizing and orienting the provincial, city, and municipal RCSP Core Team.