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Calabarzon NICA briefs government communicators on whole-of-nation approach

CALAMBACITY, Laguna, (PIA)– The National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) Region 4 led a briefing with government communicators of the Philippine Informa-

tion Agency (PIA) Region 4A on the Whole-of-Nation Approach in addressing the state of the Communist-Terrorist Group (CTG) problem in the country this April 12. This is in line with

the Joint Regional Development Council (RDC) and Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) Resolution No. IV-A-02-2019, otherwise known as “Creating the ...Page5



IMUS GOV'T HAS P1.6-B RESERVE FUND

PGC RECOGNIZES HEROISM OF RSD PERSONNEL

Board Members Kerby J. Salazar and Jeremiah Gandia led the awarding of Certificate of Commendation to Mr. Leonirey P. Hernandez, Administrative Aide II of the Road Safety Division during the Monday flag raising ceremony of provincial capitol employees held on April 22, 2019 at the Provincial Gymnasium in Trece Martires City. Mr. Hernandez is a traffic ...page 4

**DOST Secretary **
Fortunato de la Peña

DOST LEADS IN BUILDING FIRST 3D PRINTING R&D CENTER IN PH

The Philippines' first 3D printing R&D institution will soon rise in the country. Called the Advanced Manufacturing Center (AMCen), it will promote

research and development in Additive Manufacturing commonly known as three-dimension (3D) printing technology. Leading the

groundbreaking ceremony of the said research center at the DOST Complex on 15 March 2019 was no less than DOST Secretary Fortunato de ...Page 5



Mayor Manny Maliksi

IMUS CITY, Cavite—This city government has a reserve fund of P1.6 billion even as it had loaned P2.76 billion from a bank for various projects under the modernization program.

Mayor Emmanuel Leonardo Maliksi confirmed this in a press conference recently to refute allegations made by the opposition against the loan and the city tax collection and expenditures.

“While it is s fact that we (the administration) have loaned 2.76 bilion from the Development Bank of the Philippines that has yet to be released, the city government has P1.6 billion reserve fund,” Maliksi said in part as he explained the details in power point presentation the present and future projects and some income and expenditures of the city.

The mayor said that the reserve fund can be proven and attested to by the City Treasurer and the other concerned offices.

Maliksi reiterated that the administration had to loan 2.76 billion from DBP to realize what he called administration's “legacy” projects which include the construction of the city's new government center, the Green School Program, Organic Farming, government ...Page 5

Sen. Ejercito vows to push for the creation of disaster management department



Senator JV Ejercito

REELECTIONIST Senator JV Ejercito has revived his proposal to create a permanent disaster management department in the wake of two consecutive earthquakes that hit the country early this week. In a statement, Ejercito said if reelected, he would immediately re-file his bill seeking to create the Department of Disaster and Emergency Management.

"I will pursue it kung sakaling palarin tayo, tatrabahuin ko sa senado na magkaroon tayo ng isang full-fledged Department of Disaster and Emergency Management in the same manner that I pursued the creation of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, which is now a law," he said. A 6.1 earthquake jolted Luzon last Monday, which reportedly left 16 people dead, 81 injured, and 24 missing; and destroyed properties. The following day, a

magnitude 6.5 earthquake shook Eastern Samar. Ejercito's Senate Bill No. 1553 had sought to establish a permanent, institutionalized, cohesive, and comprehensive framework for disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation, and response to be implemented by a full-time and focused specialized agency with its own mandate, powers, and funding. He said in disaster risk reduction and management, disaster prevention, shall, first of all, aim the outright avoidance of the adverse impacts of hazards and related disasters. "Since the Philippine is situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire, it is prone to typhoon, volcanic eruption, and earthquake, kailangan siguro itong NDRRMC (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council) ay gawin nang Department of Disaster and Emergency Management para buong taon nagsasanay, naghahanda, at

nagtuturo sa ating mga kababayan ng dapat gawin kapag may disaster," Ejercito said. He added: "What we really need is preparedness to prevent casualties, minimize injuries. We need a full-fledged department na hindi tuwing may disaster lang nagmi-meeting." The department shall also lead in consolidating and integrating the relief and rehabilitation efforts of the government and shall strengthen the capacity of local government units in responding to disaster and emergencies. The 2016 World Risk Report published by the United Nations University Institute of Environment and Human Security stated that the Philippines was number 3 in the list of most disaster-prone countries.

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DOH urges public on summer related diseases

The DoH-Calabarzon declared the warning on summer-related diseases with the anticipated influx of domestic and international tourists in the different resorts in the region, particularly in the province of Laguna. Some of the best tourist destinations in the country are found in Calabarzon. DoH regional director Dr. Eduardo Janairo told the public to be care-

ful of their health and to be equipped when spending a holiday with families and friends. "Summer is officially here and we should take precautionary measures and be on-guard against summer-related diseases such as sore eyes, cough and colds, skin diseases, typhoid, hepatitis, cholera, measles, diarrhea and rabies. Kailangan din nating mag-ingat sa heat stroke

at sun-burn," Janairo said. He also urged the public to drink lots of water. "Yung alam natin na eight glasses of water, kulang 'yun dahil madali tayong pawisan at ang katawan natin madaling ma-dehydrate sa sobrang init. Mas maraming iniinom na tubig, mas maganda dahil kailangan ito ng ating katawan para maka-replenish agad. Isa ring mabisang paraan ito

upang makaiwas sa anumang uri ng sakit ngayong tag-init," he said. The DoH official also advised against staying outside from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Calabarzon is among the region which recorded high heat indexes, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), with 43.7° celsius recorded in Ambulong, Batangas and 43.2° Celsius in Sangley Point, Cavite at 2p.m. last April 15.

Senior citizens are also recommended to stay indoors during daytime to avoid hypertension asthma, heat stroke, exhaustion, heat cramps, fainting and rashes. "Drowning is also a concern during holidays, especially those who will be spending time in beaches and swimming pools. We should always accompany our children to avoid any water accident," the regional director emphasized. News source: People's Journal

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PALARONG PAMBANSA

SHAPING THE FUTURE THROUGH SPORTS

DAVAO 2019

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DPWH aims to finish Manila Bay cleanup by July

MANILA — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is looking to finish the “Sagip Manila Bay” clean-up works of the 1.5-kilometer area of Manila Bay in the next three months.

D P W H Undersecretary for Technical Services and Unified Project Management Office (UPMO) Operations Emil Sadain reported that the deployment of two units of multi-purpose amphibious

dredge Watermaster Classic 5 will contribute to their efforts of completing the removal of debris, plastics, other solid wastes and dissolved solids or the so-called muck with some traces of sand by July.

He noted the units with cutter suction that offers combination of mobility and heavy-duty dredging capacity will further fast-track the cleaning between the area of US Embassy to Manila Yacht Club in preparation

for the upcoming rainy season.

“Improvements as a result of DPWH activities can now be seen but we will not relax and instead we beefed up our operating fleets of two crawler mounted land based, four amphibious excavators, debris segregators, and among others,” Sadain said during an inspection of the dredging operations on Wednesday.

The operation at Manila Bay Area was divided into five sectors each ranging from 200 to 300-meters long, until the entire 1.5-kilometer is finished.

It is estimated that to date, the total volume of removed muck and silt from 20 meters distance from shore to bay and thickness/depth of two meters is at 18,000 cubic meters.

With cleaner water, Sadain said Manila Bay will soon be fit again for swimming and other contact forms of recreation.

Also present dur-



CLEANUP OF MANILA BAY’S SHORELINE

ing the inspection were Bureau of Equipment Director Noel Ilao and Assistant Director Amador Andrada, and Project Director Patrick Gatan of UPMO-Flood Control Management Cluster.

Early last month, DPWH Secretary Mark Villar officially launched desilting operations by deploying a fleet of equipment composed of amphibious excavators, dumping scows, dump trucks, debris

segregator, street sweepers, and vacuum sewer jet cleaners.

In addition, the DPWH's Bureau of Equipment, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and Philippine Coast Guard, have also been continuously conducting water quality monitoring and bathymetric surveying of the

desilting sites to monitor the progress.

The average amount of dissolved oxygen level, which is one of the primary parameters under the DENR water quality guidelines of around 4.7mg/L prior to the cleanup activity, has improved to the minimum dissolved oxygen level of 6mg/L necessary for sustaining aquatic life. source:(PNA)

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City Social Welfare and Development Office- City of Bacoor

Congratulations #MsLilianeUgaldeRSW for being awarded by the ALSWDOPI (Association of Local Social Welfare and Development Officers of the Philippines, Inc.) as Gawad Parangal 2019-MOST OUTSTANDING CSWDO OF THE PHILIPPINES (Component City Category) held today, April 24, 2019 at Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City.

Our heartfelt thanks to Hon. City Mayor Lani Mercado-Revilla, Congressman Strike B. Revilla, Vice Mayor karen Sarino-Evaristo and the members of Sangguniang Panglungsod for the full trust and support to the initiatives of Ms. Ugalde in terms of improving the social welfare services, and also to ALSWDOPI-Cavite Chapter.

This is our shared success!??



CAVITE PPMC JOINS THE 2019 SEARCH FOR OUTSTANDING LOCAL PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE IN CALABARZON

Cavite Provincial Project Monitoring Committee (PPMC) Chairperson and Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator Mr. Jesus I. Barrera welcomed regional evaluators from the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) during the meeting and validation for the 2019 Search for Outstanding Local Project Monitoring Committee in Calabarzon held on April 16, 2019 at the Ceremonial Hall of the Provincial Capitol in Trece Martires City. Cavite PPMC, in a bid to advance its monitoring and evaluation activities joined the search and was among those shortlisted during the desk review on March 19 at the NEDA regional office in Calamba City, Laguna.

Ms. Gied Evangelista of NEDA IV-A provided a brief overview of the 2019 Search for Outstanding Local Project Monitoring Committee in Calabarzon with emphasis on the primary goal of the program to motivate Local Project Monitoring Committees and identify model LPMCs to provide a benchmark in terms of project monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Ms. Rujen A. Polo, OIC-CPMS of DBM-RO IV-A, Engr. Arnel Tolon of DILG-RO-IV-A and Ms. Evangelista carefully reviewed the prepared documents of the Cavite Local Project Monitoring Committee, which include the Executive Order that reorganized PPMC, trainings provided to members, work and financial plan, plus the project monitoring plan and accomplishments in 2018. During the validation, several points were discussed and areas for improvement were raised which will aid in the future initiatives of the PPMC and can be rolled



out to the LPMCs in the different cities and municipalities in Cavite.

The evaluation committee also recognized some commendable accomplishments of the PPMC including the detailed field inspection reports with corresponding photos and project status which manifest the commitment of the members on their work to assess project implementation. The team also lauded the active participation of PPMC members from civic organizations who do not receive any remuneration for their partnership with the local government. On the other hand, Ms. Polo looked for committee reports and recommended that such documents be submitted to the regional project monitoring committee on a quarterly basis for full compliance.

Mr. Barrera took the opportunity to solicit suggestions and some



tips to further improve the work flow and reporting system of the monitoring committee. He also asked on how the province can give incentives to members especially those from the non-government organizations. The PPMC secretariat also took note of how to monitor implementation schedule, with consideration to the targets and program of works, as per Engr. Arnel Tolon.

Over-all, the meeting which was attended by the OIC-Provincial Budget Officer Ms. Ma. Dulce Tangco, Provincial General Services Officer Ferdinand Belamide, Internal Auditor Maribel Bernal, OIC-Provincial Information Officer Evelyn Reyes and other committee members from different offices of the provincial government became a leap forward to further improve the system and efficiently carry out project monitoring tasks to achieve the dream of becoming the Most Outstanding Local Project Monitoring Committee in the region.

SOURCEPROVINCIAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

FOREIGN NEWS Sri Lankan Easter bombings death toll climbs to 310

COLOMBO -- The death toll from a string of explosions that rocked Sri Lanka on Sunday rose to 310 while over 500 were injured, the police said recently .

Another minor explosion occurred in Kochchikade in the capital Colombo on Monday evening when the Bomb

Disposal Squad was attempting to deactivate an explosive device found in an abandoned vehicle, causing no injuries.

Police spokesperson Ruwan Gunasekara said so far 26 suspects have been arrested from across the country and search

operations were ongoing to nab more suspects.

He said security would remain beefed up across the island country and urged people to avoid gathering in public places.

He also asked people to immediately inform the police if any suspicious packets were found abandoned on the

roads or public transport.

Sri Lanka's Cabinet spokesperson Rajitha Senaratne told reporters on Monday that police had received prior information on possible terror attacks but adequate measures had not been taken.

He said the government would look into this and apologized to the nation over the deadly attacks.

President Maithripala Sirisena declared a conditional state of emergency from midnight Monday to ensure citizens remain safe and for the maintenance of essential supplies and services.source: PNA (Xinhua)



People work at a blast scene at St. Anthony's Church in Kochchikade in Colombo, Sri Lanka on April 21, 2019 (Xinhua photo)

PhilHealth introduces new claim requirement to ensure quality of care

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) recently introduced a policy to ensure that its members who seek treatment in hospitals are provided with health care services that are of the desired quality and at par with existing medical standards.

In its PhilHealth Circular No. 2019-0002 entitled “Documentary Requirements for Claims Reimbursement and Medical Prepayment Review of Claims (Revision 2),” the state health insurer prescribes a medical prepayment review and requires the

use of Claim Form 4 (CF4) for all admissions starting March 1, 2019.

Medical pre-payment review is done prior to actual processing, wherein claims that are not compensable as well as those that are not compliant with existing policies and standards on quality of care shall no longer be processed. The review shall be based on data from the CF4 which summarizes a patient’s pertinent clinical information. The submission of the CF4 eliminates the submission of voluminous complete clinical charts for claims reim-

bursements. The policy does not preclude submission of other documents if necessary.

The new policy shall cover claims using case rates with the exception of directly filed claims those for confinements abroad and claims for Z Benefits, among others.

The new system enables PhilHealth to efficiently assess provider claims and to detect irregular practices such as over utilization or under-utilization of services; unnecessary use of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and interven-

tions; irrational medication and prescriptions; fraudulent, false or incorrect information; gross or unjustified deviations from currently accepted standards of practice and/or treatment protocols; inappropriate referral practices; use of fake, adulterated, misbranded or unregistered drugs; among others.

“With this new policy, we aim to maximize our limited human and financial resources to promptly act on good and compliant claims. This also translates to faster turnaround time for claims processing, and good



health outcomes for our patients.” PhilHealth Acting PCEO Dr. Roy B. Ferrer explained.

The Policy, signed last Feb 8, 2019, allowed for a transition period for the month of March for hospitals to align and update their systems. To help HCIs in adapting to the new system, PhilHealth allowed facilities with eClaims systems to transmit the encoded CF4s of admissions starting

March 1, 2019, while other HCIs may still use available offline applications provided by PhilHealth. On the other hand, those manually submitting claim applications shall submit soft copy of encoded CF4 together with manually transmitted claim application. Claims submitted to PhilHealth without the required CF4 shall be returned to the hospital for compliance starting April 1. (END)

NICA...from page 1

Regional Task Force on Whole-of-Nation Approach in attaining inclusive and sustainable development.”

As defined in the resolution, “the Whole-of-Nation Approach addresses the root causes of insurgencies, internal disturbances and tensions, and other armed conflicts and threat by prioritizing and harmonizing the delivery of basic services and social development packages by the government, facilitating societal inclusivity, and ensuring active participants of all sectors of the society in the pursuit of peace agenda.”

Through the collaborative efforts of the RDC and the RPOC, the Calabarzon region was the first to initiate a task force echoing the Administration’s Executive Order No. 70 aimed at institutionalizing said approach, creating a National Task Force to end local communist armed conflict, and directing the adoption of a National Peace Framework.

With this, NICA 4 continually reaches out to government entities and has recently enjoined the government communicators of PIA 4A.

NICA 4 personnel presented them the status of the problem on CTGs in the region, including the extent of its infiltration in the government, indigenous peoples and even the

youth, among others.

NICA 4 Regional Director Librado B. Moog said: “Sa bigat ng problema sabi ko nga is hindi kakayanin lang ng isang agency dapat sabay-sabay. Ang gusto natin i-address dito is not actually those involved kundi kung ano ba ang dahilan kung bakit sila nagrebelde. Iyong root cause ang i-address natin.”

(With this big of a problem, one agency alone cannot handle it. All agencies should help. What we want to address is not really who is involved but the reason why they rebel. We should address the root cause.)

Moog explained that all the government agencies must work hand-in-hand in addressing the challenge fronted by CTGs and must target the root cause by identifying the very reason for their rebellion.

Discontentment, poverty, health issues and the quality of government services provided to the people are usually the root causes of rebellion, he specified.

He pointed out that if the constituents of the barangays and communities are satisfied with the services of the government, then no one would rebel against the government.

“Lyon ang gusto natin i-address. Iyong serbisyo natin sa bayan ay ibigay natin ng tama, walang

IMUS...FROM P1

housing units for the poor and city hall workers and e-vehicles.

Maliksi said all the city projects were approved by the City Council under Vice Mayor Arnel M. Cantimbuhan after feasibility studies and proceedings were made.

The loan for the projects was approved by the DBP and the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) on November 2018 and February this year, respectively, and that the Monetary Board has yet to come out with a resolution to keep the processes going.

Maliksi said the loan was made after the BLGF and DBP have seen the good financial standing of the city and its borrowing capacity and paying capability. The loan will be paid by the city government in terms of 15 years.

“These are long-term projects which will be beneficial for the city and the citizens. It (the projects) underwent studies and proceedings before it was approved by the administration. We are still waiting for the loan which may be released, with the MB resolution after the May 13 mid-term elections and even later,” Maliksi said.

Maliksi also said that he and his officers would do the best to collect the P1.3 billion owed by the real property and business tax delinquents to the city government with the approval of the city tax amnesty ordinance early this year.

During the conference also attended by Vice Mayor Cantimbuhan, Maliksi had called on the opposition to file charges against him and the administration if there ought to be anomalies or any wrongdoings with regards to the city expenditures and the loan made by the administration.

magrebelde,” he added.

(That is what we want to address. When we serve the country the right way, then nobody would rebel.)

Resolving this long-standing insurgency boils down to good governance where local government units (LGUs) play a fundamental role. However, in cases the LGUs lack the capacity, line agencies of the government are deemed to provide the assistance and augmentation these LGUs need.

Continuous collaboration between the NICA 4 and the PIA 4A will be expected in advancing the promotion of the Whole-of-Nation Approach among stakeholders to succeed in achieving an inclusive and sustainable development not only for the Calabarzon region but for the whole nation. (Joy Gabrido, PIA4A)

DOST LEADS...from p1

la Peña.

The AMCen will feature two state-of-the-art research facilities that will focus on Additive Manufacturing research and development. Additive Manufacturing allows rapid fabrication of various three-dimensional objects ranging from small parts to structures as big as bridges. It has limitless potentials—from aircraft and automobile to medical and fashion applications.

The DOST tapped Dr. Rigoberto Advincula, a Balik Scientist and Case Western Reserve University professor, as consultant for AMCen.

“The AMCen presents a unique position for the Philippines as it will be one of the first government-led cen-

ters in the ASEAN region that aspires to be a game-changer leading to Industry 4.0 goals,” says Dr. Advincula.

Dr. Advincula, with the support of DOST PCIEERD, will lead the development of the center together with researchers from the DOST- Industrial Technology Development Institute and the DOST-Metals Industry Research and Development Center.

AMCen is likewise seen to strengthen the country’s capabilities in 3D printing and advanced design and manufacturing in the following areas: 1) aerospace and defense, 2) biomedical/healthcare, 3) printed electronics, 4) agricultural machinery, and 5) automotive. (By Enrico P. Belga Jr, DOST-STII)

COMELEC...FROM P6


teachers and some volunteers, at the General Trias Memorial Elementary School in Barangay San Juan I.


Similar roadshows were conducted in Noveleta town, led by election officer Jasmin Gilera, following the seminar on the operation of the VCM at the Noveleta Public Market Roofdeck conference room in the town poblacion.


In Tanza town, election officer Joan Romela Erni also led the pre-election seminar at Tanza Sport Complex to ensure the right electoral procedures would be in place before the May 13 national and local elections. source:(PNA)

A Commission on Elections (Comelec) personnel from General Trias City assists a local barangay affairs employee during the demonstration procedure on the voting counting machine during the roadshow at the GenTri Elementary School in Barangay San Juan 1, General Trias City on April 23, 2019. (Photo by Dennis Abrina)









Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Imus

IMPORTANT NOTICE

TO: ALL IMUS CITY REAL PROPERTY TAXPAYERS

Owners and/or Administrators of Real Property (Land/Building/Machinery) in the City of Imus (Cavite) are hereby notified that pursuant to

City Ordinance No. 03-120 series of 2019,

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An Ordinance Granting Tax Relief/Tax Amnesty to Delinquent Real Property Taxpayers in the City of Imus, Cavite.

Be it known that surcharges, interests and penalties on their delinquent Real Property Tax liabilities are hereby granted tax relief/tax amnesty.

All Real Property Taxpayers with delinquent tax liabilities for the year 2019 and prior years shall be qualified to avail of the tax relief/tax amnesty.

TO: ALL IMUS CITY BUSINESS TAXPAYERS

You are hereby notified that pursuant to

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An Ordinance Granting Tax Relief/Tax Amnesty to Delinquent Business Taxpayers in the City of Imus, Cavite.

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All Business Taxpayers with delinquent tax liabilities for the year 2019 and prior years shall be qualified to avail of the tax relief/tax amnesty.

The period to avail will be from

April 1, 2019 to September 30, 2019.

The City Treasurer's Office will be open to serve the public from

8:00 AM to 6:00 PM (Monday to Friday) and 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Saturday and Sunday)

except on the following dates, May 4, 5, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM:

Hon. ARNEL M. CANTIMBUHAN
City Vice-Mayor

Hon. ALEX L. ADVINCULA
Representative, 3rd District of Cavite

Hon. EMMANUEL L. MALIKSI
City Mayor

MANUEL REYNOLD W. DELA FUENTE
City Treasurer


For inquiries on Tax Amnesty/ Tax Relief, you may come or send an authorized representative at the following offices:

Real Property Tax

- City Assessor's Office
- City Treasurer's Office

Business Tax

- Business Permits & Licensing Office
- City Treasurer's Office


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TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite -- The Commission on Elections (Comelec) here disclosed on Tuesday that it has already tested the voting counting machines in 23 towns and cities in the province to ensure the equipment's integrity in the upcoming May 13 mid-term polls.

Lawyer Arnulfo Pioquinto, Comelec Cavite provincial election supervisor, told the Philippine News Agency (PNA), that the election officers of each town and city have undertaken their seminars on the election processes, specifically on the operation of the VCMs and the electronic counting procedures.

"These activities on the VCM demonstration have been lined up by the local Comelec offices before the actual election to be aware of everything that would happen on election day for a 'Malayang Halalan 2019' (Free and Fair Election 2019)," Pioquinto said.

He said 14 out of the 23 election officers have been reshuffled beginning March 27 or two days before the start of the local election campaign period last March 29 to ensure clean and fair polls.

General Trias City election officer Magdiell Oallares led the demonstration on the casting of votes using the electronic counting machine and witnessed by Mayor Antonio Ferrer, Vice Mayor Morit Sison, city hall employees, public school

...Page 5

Divine Mercy Reflection

Detachment From the World



The “world” is referred to in Scripture many times, especially by Jesus Himself. He said that the world will hate you and will not understand you. The world will, in fact, persecute you. This could become the cause of fear and distress for some. It causes these effects within us when we are overly concerned about looking good in the eyes of the world and acting so as to win its esteem. Do not fall into this trap. The world will love you only if you become worldly, taking on its secular and sinful values. Instead, keep your eyes fixed on Heaven. Live as though you are in the world, but not of it. Allow the Lord to shield you from worldly enticements so that you will live only in Him and for Him at all times (See Diary #537).

Seriously ask yourself, today, how much influence the opinions of the world have on you. Do you find yourself dreaming of being well regarded and respected in the public eye? If so, be very careful with this desire. Sure, if you have given yourself completely to Christ and, as a result, many people speak well of you, this is good. But it's not all that common. More often, when we commit ourselves to Christ and to His holy mission, we will find that we are misjudged, scorned and even persecuted. It may be only in small ways, but don't be surprised if it becomes more pronounced as you draw closer to the Will of God. Do not worry about this. Keep your

eyes on Christ and be concerned only about His judgment of you. His "opinion" is all that matters because His opinion is Truth.

Lord Jesus, You were not controlled by the opinions of others. You did not allow the false values and pressures of the world to direct You. Help me to keep my eyes on You and Your Will in all things. Give me courage to be concerned only with pleasing You. Jesus, I trust in You.