



Pampanga to buy vaccine vs Covid-19

Delta marshals support of all sectors

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- "Kailangan po nating magtulong-tulong para makabili ng epektibong anti-Covid-19 vaccine. Hindi po puwedeng iasa ang lahat sa national government."

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PNP chief Gen. Debold Sinas and PRO-3 director Brig. Gen. Valeriano de Leon give final check to assault rifles before distribution. PHOTO COURTESY OF PRO-3

500 Galil assault rifles to CL police

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- Philippine National Police chief Gen. Debold Sinas personally led Monday the distribution of 500 Galil Ace 5.56mm basic assault rifles to the Central Luzon police force in Camp Olivas here. The Israeli-made weapons

"would boost and capacitate the firepower of mobile force personnel to assure the safety of the public against criminal elements and terrorist groups," said Police Regional Office 3 director Brig. Gen. Valeriano De Leon in a statement. It was not mentioned when or from

where the rifles were procured and their costs.

In the same event, Sinas inaugurated the newest PRO-3 quarantine facilities. "We converted container vans for this purpose. This is the im-

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CRK terminal fee included in airline ticket

BY BONG Z. LACSON

CLARK FREEPORT -- Starting Jan. 1, 2021, passengers flying out of the Clark International Airport here will no longer pay their terminal fee over the counter as this would be included in the cost of their airline ticket. "We want to begin 2021 a hassle-free new year for our passengers departing from Clark,"

said Bi Yong Chungunco, chief executive officer of Luzon International Premier Airport Development Corp. (LIPAD), the operator of the Clark airport.

With passenger service charges or terminal fees for both domestic and international passengers included in ticket costs, travelers will no longer queue to pay

PAGE 7 PLEASE

Bishop urges faithful to face 2021 with hope

BY ERNIE ESCONDE

ABUCAY, Bataan -- Bishop Ruperto C. Santos of the Diocese of Balanga on Monday urged everyone to face the coming year "with much hope, to unite with one another, not to forget the family, and to put trust in our Creator."

The Bataan prelate acknowledged that the current year had been marred by tragedy but that the people must not lose confidence.

"Oo nga't tayo'y nahip-

PAGE 7 PLEASE



Santos

New SFEX road opens to motorists from December 28 to January 15

STARTING December 28 and until January 15 next year, the new and expanded section of the 8.2-km Subic Freeport Expressway (SFEX) will be opened temporarily to serve motorists coming in and out of the Subic Bay Freeport Zone during the holiday season.

Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark A. Villar along with Subic

Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chairman and Administrator Wilma B. Eisma and NLEX Corporation President and General Manager J. Luigi L. Bautista, led the drive-thru of the new expressway lanes built to improve traffic flow and road safety.

The new SFEX road, constructed beside the existing SFEX carriageway, will be available to motorists on December

28, 2020 until January 15, 2021 from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. During this period, it will be closed from 6:01 pm to 5:59 am the next day for the continuing construction of remaining works.

"The project is 92 percent complete. While there are still works to be done in some areas, we are temporarily opening the new road to ease the travel of our motorists

PAGE 7 PLEASE



DPWH Secretary Mark A. Villar and other officials pose before the SFEX tunnel. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

4 LGUs in CL among most competitive in PH

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO -- Four local government units in Central Luzon made it to the top three spots in separate categories for the most competitive cities and municipalities nationwide.

Malolos City earned the top spot for the Most Improved Component Cities, while Baliwag town in Bulacan bested other 1st to 2nd class mu-

nicipalities in the country in terms of infrastructure.

Baliwag also ranked 3rd in overall competitiveness, 4th in terms of government efficiency, and 6th in resilience and economic dynamism.

Baler in Aurora was ranked as the 3rd among all 3rd to 4th class municipalities in the country in terms of overall competitiveness. It also ranked 3rd in terms of infrastruc-

ture while it ranked 6th in terms of economic dynamism.

Sta. Maria town in Bulacan garnered the 3rd spot among 1st to 2nd class municipalities in the country in terms of economic dynamism. It also ranked 5th in overall competitiveness.

Department of Trade and Industry regional director Judith Angeles said the ranking is based

on the results of the 2020 Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI), which shows economic development and competitiveness indicators among local government units.

"All participating LGUs were assessed based on four pillars namely economic dynamism, government efficiency, infrastructure, and resiliency. CMCI is

developed by the National Competitiveness Council through the regional competitiveness committees with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development," she explained.

Aside from these LGUs, other Central Luzon towns and cities included in the top 10 in different CMCI categories were Bacolor, City of

San Fernando, and Sta. Rita in Pampanga; Mari-lao, Baliwag, Sta. Maria, Angat, Bustos, Bocaue, Paombong, Malolos, and San Jose Del Monte City in Bulacan.

Also in the ranking were Talavera and Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija; Tarlac City; Subic and Olongapo City in Zambales. -- **By Marie Joy S. Carbungco/PIA-3**

Holiday sting in AC nets P5.4-M shabu, 3 suspects



SEIZED. Shabu in plastic bags and the marked bills seized from the suspects undergo on-spot inventory after the buy-bust. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

BY BONG Z. LACSON

ANGELES CITY -- Police seized P5.4-million worth of shabu and arrested three suspected "notorious" drug peddlers in a buy-bust operation in Barangay Ninoy Aquino here Saturday evening.

Some 800 grams of shabu packed in 11 heat-sealed transparent plastic bags with an estimated Dangerous Drug Board value of P5,440,000 were confiscated from the suspects along with the P5,000 marked money, said city police chief Col. Rommel Batangan.

Batangan identified the suspects as Noraden Naser Ariray of Ba-

rangay Ninoy Aquino, whom he described as a "high-value target," drug watch-listed Roberto Angeles Carbungco of Barangay Lourdes Northwest, and Anthony Quit-alig Bonifacio of Bambang, Tarlac, who had been jailed previously due to illegal drugs.

Appropriate charges for violation of Sections 5 and 11 of Republic Act 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drug Act of 2002) are now being prepared for filing in court against the suspects, who are now all locked up in jail, according to Batangan.

"Through our revitalized anti-drug campaign in line with the directives

of our chief PNP Gen. Debold Sinas, along with the support of the community even during this pandemic, we continue to yield positive results," Central Luzon police director Brig. Gen. Valeriano De Leon said in a statement on the successful police operations.

He asked the support of the public in their campaign against illegal drugs.

"As we keep on working double time to stop the proliferation of illegal drugs in the region, we also urge everyone to help us in our campaign against illegal drugs," De Leon said. -- **With media reports**

DBP bags int'l award for first ASEAN bond issuance

STATE-OWNED Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) was cited by a renowned international multi-media firm for its bond issuance last year, which was aimed at raising funds to bankroll projects on the environment and financial inclusion, a top official said.

DBP President and Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel G. Herbosa said the bank's maiden issuance of ASEAN Sustainability Bonds, amounting to P18.125-billion, won as

Best Sustainability Bond -- Financial Institution in The Asset Country Awards 2020 presented by Hong Kong-based financial publication The Asset.

"We take pride and honor for this achievement as it recognizes DBP's role as a catalyst for inclusive development," Herbosa said. "As a development financing institution, DBP has always been at the forefront of sustainable development and environment protection."

DBP is the seventh largest bank in the country in terms of assets and provides credit support to four strategic sectors of the economy -- infrastructure and logistics; micro, small and medium enterprises; environment; social services and community development.

The proceeds from last year's bond issuance, which was the first bond program exclusively focused on sustainability, were used to fund projects that contribute towards economic inclusion, climate change mitigation and adaptation, natural resource conservation, pollution control and prevention, and other social issues.

Herbosa said the P18.125-billion raised, which was upsized from the initial amount of P5-billion, represents the initial tranche of DBP's P50-billion Bond

Program, geared at financing environmental and social projects eligible under the Bank's Sustainability Finance Framework.

He said 83% of the proceeds were allocated to 15 projects in sustainable and renewable energy, while the rest was allocated evenly between initiatives for water supply and sanitation and health care.

"The bond issuance did not only provide for a sound investment but also accorded investors an opportunity for directly partaking in initiatives that advance social and economic advancement," Herbosa said.

Herbosa said DBP recently raised P21-billion in its second bond issuance to fund various development projects of vital economic sectors, reeling from the ill-effects of the pandemic.

-- **Press release**

Sta. Monica Pawnshop, Inc. Notice of Public Auction

Date: (DECEMBER 29, 2020)
Time: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Address: B. Mendoza St. Sto. Rosario, CSFP, 2000
Contact no: (045) 961-3540

Branches Covered:

- B. Mendoza Branch** B. Mendoza St. Sto. Rosario, CSFP
- Essel Park Branch:** Unit H, Essel Commercial Bldg, Essel Park, Telebastagan, CSFP
- St. Francis Branch:** Emerald Business Center, MAH Dolores, CSFP
- Jumbo Jenra Branch:** Stall#118 Jumbo Jenra Mall MAH, Sindalan, CSFP
- Sindalan Branch:** No.1 Maligaya St, Sindalan,CSFP
- Apalit Branch:** Stall No.2, Santiago, San Vicente, Apalit, Pampanga
- Bulaon Branch:** Stall B2 Bldg. Bulaon Public Market Bulaon CSFP
- San Matias Branch:** No. 1 Parilaya St. San Matias, Sto Tomas, Pampanga
- Madapdap Branch:** Blk 155 L65, Madapdap Resettlement, Mabalacat, Pampanga

(ALL UNREDEEMED LOANS GRANTED FROM SEPTEMBER 1 - 30, 2020 ARE ALREADY SUBJECT FOR AUCTION.) Lahat ng mga nasangla magmula SETYEMBRE 1 - 30, 2020 na hindi pa natutubos ay kasama na sa subasta sa **DISYEMBRE 29, 2020**. Maaari niyo pa pong tubusin ang mga ito ng may karampatang interest at penalty hanggang sa **DISYEMBRE 28, 2020**.

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **WENCESLAO REYES ESGUERRA** and **FLORENCIA BUÑING ESGUERRA** who died intestate on December 7, 2012 and October 6, 2020, respectively, executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement on their estate, more particularly described as parcels of land, to wit:

ARP NO. 2018-19008-00438
PROPERTY INDEX NO. 020-19-008-003-059-L
LOCATION: Dulong Malabon, Pulilan, Bulacan
CADASTRAL LOT NO. Lot 3821
TOTAL AREA: 32,299 sqm.
Agricultural: 32,099 sqm.
Residential: 200 sqm

ARP NO. 2018-19008-00862
LOCATION: Dulong Malabon, Pulilan, Bulacan
TOTAL AREA: 858 sqm.

before Notary Public Ryann T. Rueda as per Doc No. 401, Page No. 82, Book No. X, Series of 2020.

Punto! Central Luzon: December 28, 2020, January 4 & 11, 2021

COVID-19 IN BATAAN

Active cases continue to drop

BY ERNIE ESCONDE

BALANGA CITY -- The number of active cases of coronavirus disease in Bataan continued to drop, this time to 87 as per Monday report of Gov. Albert Garcia.

The governor said that the patients are all isolated at the Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center, exclusive hospital for Covid-19 in this city.

Per latest report of the provincial health office, there were two new infections and seven new recoveries recorded, increasing the number of confirmed cases to 3,651 and those who have recovered to 3,486.

The number of deaths remained at 78.

The new confirmed cases are both women, a 24-year-old from Mariveles and a 45-year-old from Hermosa.

The new recoveries are three from Mariveles, two from Samal, and one each from Balanga City and Orani, with ages ranging from 26 years to 62 years.

There are 40,591 who have undertaken Covid-19 tests with 36,709 already tested negative and 231 still waiting for results.

NOTICE OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

Notice is hereby given that **ANALYN P. MATIC**, widow, Filipino, resident of San Vicente, Bacolor, Pampanga and heir of **LIONELL SAMPANG MATIC** who died intestate on January 31, 2019 in Capas, Tarlac executed an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication on his estate, more particularly described as China Banking Corporation Account No. 159002013133 under the name ALZ Steel and General Merchandise in the amount of P 101, 212.57, before Notary Public Elmo H. Ocampo as per Doc No. 251, Page No. 52, Book No. 137, Series of 2020.

Punto! Central Luzon: December 28, 2020, January 4 & 11, 2021

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **AURORA VERGARA SIOJO** who died intestate on June 11, 2009 in Minalin, Pampanga executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Sale on her estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot No. 921, Cad. 379-D), with improvements thereon, situated in Sta. Rita, Minalin, Pampanga and covered by Original Certificate of Title No. 6207, Free Patent No. 035414-90-55, before Notary Public Carlota N. Dela Cruz-Manalo as per Doc No. 130, Page No. 27, Book No. XXX, Series of 2020.

Punto! Central Luzon: December 28, 2020, January 4 & 11, 2021

CDC partners with Food Panda to help displaced workers



CLARK CARES, PANDA SHARES. A partnership between the CDC and Food Panda Philippines Inc. will give hope to 77 displaced workers of Clark and their families as a new year approaches. **PHOTO COURTESY OF CDC-CD**

CLARK FREEPORT – Some 77 displaced workers around the Metro Clark area will benefit from Clark Development Corporation's (CDC) livelihood assistance project called "Kabuhayan Assistance for Displaced CFZ employees".

The work opportunity would stem from the agreement signed by CDC Officer-in-Charge for the Office of the President Engr. Mariza O. Mandocdoc with Food Panda Philippines, Inc. (FPPI).

Under the agreement, the target beneficiaries will each receive financial assistance from FPPI. A start-up allowance amounting to P3,000, including a P500 first year insurance for each Food Panda rider to be hired, will be provided once the operation of the food courier commences inside the Freeport.

"It's heartwarming for us to find a partner in Food Panda. Probably for us it's just a signing of document or hiring but for employees who have been displaced, that means a lot to their families and to them," Mandocdoc said.

Also present during the activity are CDC Asst. Vice President for External Affairs Rommel C. Narciso, FPPI Director of Finance Leopoldo De Castro Jr., FPPI Regulatory and Public Affairs Manager Rosalie C. Romero, and FPPI Expansion Project Manager Jevalene S. Delizo.

De Castro also thanked CDC for partnering with them in order to establish their corporate social advocacy within Food Panda Philippines.

"Thank you for choosing us as your partners. I think our motivation to continue such kind of advocacies is basically as a result of these types of partnership. And hopefully we're able to roll this out in many cities," De Castro said.

"Again it's not only putting together a business context but it's also how we wanted to give opportunities for those that were hit by this pandemic," he added.

FPPI City Manager Louis Chito S. Gomez and FPPI Legal Manager Atty. Rafael Juico were also present during the signing event.

Food Panda is a global online food delivery marketplace which operates in more than 40 countries across five continents.

In the Philippines, it was launched in June 2014 and has since grown to over 1,000 partner restaurants nationwide.

The online platform of Food Panda's systematic delivery service allows users to order directly from their favorite restaurants delivered straight to their homes.

With this type of service in demand during these times, CDC and FPPI will work hand-in-hand with the aim to give economic opportunities to displaced workers and also to provide support to the affected businesses, particularly restaurants of this Freeport. **-CDC-CommDiv**

NGCP continues annual Christmas outreach, relief ops despite pandemic

DESPITE THE COVID-19 pandemic, NGCP continued on with its annual gift-giving tradition to its partner communities through its Christmas project, alongside relief operations for areas affected by the recent typhoons.

Instead of the usual Christmas party with games, prizes, and entertainment, NGCP turned over Christmas packages to barangays from NGCP's host communities, which were then distributed to the most indigent

families in the area.

A total of 7,100 Christmas packages were distributed to around 33 barangays from NGCP's host communities nationwide. The Christmas packages contain rice, noche buena items, coffee, and canned goods.

"Christmas is all about sharing. Times may have changed under the new normal, but this will not stop NGCP from giving back to its host communities. We hope this will give the most indigent families more reasons to celebrate the holidays," said

NGCP.

Besides the Christmas gift-giving, NGCP also continues with its relief assistance to provinces in the Bicol Region, Southern Tagalog, Cagayan, Isabela, Agusan del Sur, and Surigao del Sur affected by the recent typhoons Rolly, Ulysses, and Vicky. Grocery items amounting to over PhP 37 million and t-shirts were turned over to the provincial governments for distribution to communities heavily affected by the weather disturbances.

-Press release



Yule Taiwan



CHRISTMAS' EVE AND NEW YEAR'S EVE BUFFET

Festive celebrations filled with Taiwanese Cuisine, Steak, Seafood, Outdoor street food booths, Bottomless wine, Raffle and Performances.

PHP 2,999 NET/PERSON

December 24 & 31, 2020 | 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

<p>DAILY DINNER BUFFET Starting December 21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PHP 1,399+</p> <p>MONDAY - SATURDAY 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm</p> <p>3+1 Free (Monday to Thursday)</p> <p>When you bring a restaurant or buffet receipt worth at least Php 3,000.00. Receipt must be 7 days old maximum upon dine in.</p>	<p>SUNDAY LUNCH BUFFET</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PHP 999+</p> <p>11:00 am to 2:00 pm</p> <p>PROMO</p> <p>Buy 50+ vouchers - 10% off Buy 100+ vouchers - 15% off</p> <p>Terms and conditions may apply.</p>
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To the Point

Most unfortunate

"NO VACCINES, no VFA!"

Treating the Americans like a bunch of yokels might have sealed our fate to settle for China's Sinovac in lieu of the US-made Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines.

Such a pronouncement from the President is at the very least, unfortunate. I think there could be a more diplomatic or at least a better way of asking a longtime ally to help us avail of the vaccines for our people without sounding like we are blackmailing our way into it.

What is more unfortunate is that we had a good chance to procure vaccines early from the US, but someone from our side dropped the ball, and has yet to be held accountable up to this day.

SO SENATOR Panfilo "Ping" Lacson called our called out President Duterte for practically "blackmailing" the United States, in his bid to secure US-made vaccine for the country.

"Unfortunate," Lacson said of Duterte's threatening the US of ending the PH-US Visiting Forces Agreement if it fails to ensure the supply of at least 20 million doses of the vaccine to the Philippines.

This, even as Lacson underscored the "more unfortunate" issue of "someone from our side dropped the ball," referencing Foreign Affairs Secretary Teddy Locsin Jr., that resulted to the loss of opportunity for the country to procure the Pfizer vaccines early.

As indeed, the most unfortunate of no one held accountable for that epic fail that put the health of the nation at grave risk.

Inutile FDA

SABIHIN KO sa iyo, marami na ang nagpa-injection dito sa Sinopharm... Halos lahat ng sundalo natusukan na.

I have to be frank and I have to tell the truth. I will not foist a lie. Marami nang nagpatusok and lahat.

SO, PRESIDENT Duterte himself claimed that many Filipinos have already received the Covid-19 vaccine from the Chinese pharmaceutical company Sinopharm even as it has yet to get approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

This, Duterte said, right to the face of FDA director Eric Domingo – reduced to utter inutility in the face of his President clearly in violation of his agency's mandate under the law.

'Courageous'

PSG's decision to take the risk is a courageous step that greatly supports its mandate. We did it not for personal agenda but on a greater pursuit that is even way beyond our mission of protecting our President.

SO, PRESIDENTIAL Security Group commander Gen. Jesus Durante confirmed the President's claim of soldiers having been vaccinated, notwithstanding the absence of any emergency use authorization from the FDA to any Covid-19 vaccine.

(Culled from news reports)



The precious silence of a quiet Christmas

BY MONSIGNOR EUGENE G. REYES

IT IS a quiet Christmas.

"Among, nucarín cayu pu magsimbang bengi? (Father, where do you say the Misa de Aguinaldo?)," asked my good neighbor as he saw me watering my plants, a day before the start of the traditional Masses.

After I answered his question, with a bit of a sad note on his face, my neighbor continued: "E ya pu masaya ing pascu ngeni, tahimic ya pu at maracal ing mebauas a saya at sigla. (Christmas is not a cheerful one this time, it is so quiet and so much of the jovial preparations are gone)."

To which I quipped, wanting only to say something that will be equally pleasing to his statement, "Awa, jo, o inia pin umpisa na pa nuning September, panayan cu neng magcanta i Jomari Chan, pero angga na ngeni ala pa! (Yeah, and I've been waiting for Jomari Chan to sing his famous Christmas medleys, but haven't heard him till now)."

Much as I was amused at our conversation, I am not surprised that I almost agree with him. I agree with him that this Christmas is indeed "tahimic" in the sense that many of the "fanfare" elements that have characterized the past Christmases have been reduced or almost done away with (at least for the time being, am sure)... no more Christmas parties, for one; traditional carolers from house to house are not allowed; family reunions or large neighborhood gatherings are practically banned; the hide and seek game between ninongs/ninangs and their inaanaks is not gonna happen it seems; the turnout of big number of Massgoers is controlled and restricted by health protocols. There are infractions of course, and knowing the "Pinoy spirit" there will be "clandestine" ones, but still and true enough these restrictions will still render our Christmas preparation and the celebration of the day itself, a silent one.

It is a quiet Christmas, and its silence is felt. But I do not lament it. On the contrary, I welcome this silence. Or, was it not silence that welcomed the little baby Jesus? When due to the "restrictions" they encountered, his parents had no choice but to be "cornered" in a stable, away from the noisy human activities in the inns and residences, since it was an unusual day of census, a crowded time, a noisy and busy time for people? So, the baby Jesus was born in the quiet and stillness of the stable. It is this fact that I am sure gives sense to the song, "Silent Night." But it is in that silence of the first Christmas that it all made sense. Jesus was ushered into this world, with Mary and Joseph, silently savoring that wonderful moment of the birth of the Savior. No noise, no hustle and bustle and no crowd that steal their attention from their lovely baby. In that still silence, they had all the time and the opportunity to be

with and for the baby, the baby had their full attention. The God-incarnate had their hearts unto Him alone, and their joy was so full, and they savored every moment and every thought so divine and good.

I take it that it is but time and fitting to celebrate this Christmas in its precious silence. We have been far too noisy in the past; noise that distracted us and took away our attention from the essence of the Child Jesus' coming among us. Noise that bothered us and made us lose our focus on the golden moment that God have wanted us to have... the silence to grow in spirit, in hope and faith, which Jesus, the Savior, came to give us.

This pandemic somehow has paved the way for this silence... it has kept us away from the usual things we loved to do but which in turn may have kept us away from the real sense of Christmas.

May we see and feel in this silence the growth of faith and trust in God, and realize how much many other good things in us which our "silenced moments" have elicited in us, and enabled us to do, things which we were not accustomed to; may we see how this silence have helped us see better the goodness, kindness and importance of our family members, and appreciate one another; the generosity and concern of our neighbors and friends which maybe in the past we have ignored or not even appreciated.

May we see in this silence the joy of simply being together, working and helping each other; see the beauty of being dependent on others and others dependent on you; that simple yet profound joy of knowing "we have each other" in our families.

Above all, may we also see the growth in our prayer life; appreciate the moments that we had to fall really on our knees and talk to God from our hearts; those golden and quality moments of opening ourselves to God in tears, in our helplessness, disappointments and perhaps, desolation; those moments when we have to really look up to God as the one and only source of our well-being.

If Christmas this time is thus so silent and quiet, but becomes the golden moment for us to grow as faithful and believers indeed, then despite the absence of the usual noise and haste (and perhaps, also waste) of our past Christmas celebrations, it is still a joyful and very merry Christmas.

A Silent, but truly Joyful and God-filled Christmas to one and all!

Sometimes the measure of friendship isn't your ability to not harm but your capacity to forgive the things done to you and ask forgiveness for your own mistakes. –Randy K. Milholland

There's such a difference between saying a thing yourself and hearing other people say it. You may know a thing is so, but you can't help hoping other people don't quite think it is. –L. M. Montgomery



LLL Trimedia Coordinators, Inc.
Publisher

General Manager **Atty. Gener C. Endona**
Editor **Caesar "Bong" Lacson**
Marketing Manager **Joanna Niña V. Cordero**
Layout **Dondie B. Ventura**
Circulation **Lacson Macapagal**

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The Public Pulse

Jun Sula

Opinion

The Covid horizon 2021

THE WORLD will be a safer place against the COVID 19 IN 2021. It's a fearless bet, a friendly wager that is more than a fervent hope; it's an unshakeable optimism based both on science and faith, which can be both one and the same. Never mind the impostors called variants.

The silver bullet, or whatever color you may want to assign to it, is the discovery of more than one vaccine to counter the pandemic that has imbruted the entire world. When it rains, it pours. Miracles are ageless.

Many countries of the world have begun to roll out their mass vaccination programs as early as the week before Christmas Day. Some will start jabbing their most vulnerable sectors in a prioritized approach not later than January next year. The remaining few countries, for some reason – partly because of logistics, partly because of politics or both— may have to wait a little longer before the vaccines arrive.

The possibility, in their case, is so real you can cut it with a knife, so goes a song. The victims and potential victims could freeze before the much-needed solution in freezers would reach their destination in the tropics. It's worrisome, if not frightening. Geography and geopolitics might dictate the tempo and speed of the worldwide vaccination drive in this age of acceleration.

Sadly, the Philippines may belong to those who, in the verses of Alexander Pope, are "the last to lay the old aside" and are not those "to whom the new are tried".

On second thought, President Duterte has announced that, in fact, his soldiers and, according, Secretary Ed Año, some Cabinet members have been inoculated with the vaccine by Sinopharm from China. A caveat: the Food and Drug Administration has clarified that it hasn't approved any vaccine yet.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque is clueless, or he makes it appear that way. Hath his eyes not seen nor his ears heard that a vaccination program in the country has been made already? What everybody heard from the President through a television performance is the same as what he did, he said. Honest-to-goodness.

Duque, of course, has been raked over the coals by senators and others in the past for his patented cluelessness on critical issues affecting his department and the government, particularly on health concerns and charges of corruption at PHILHEALTH. They wanted him out of both agencies not one minute longer. But he's somebody special to the President and, fortunately or otherwise, he seems not feckless but flawless. So, he stays and let the rest of the country go hang.

In his latest, not last, public address, Duterte has threatened to abrogate the Visiting Forces Agreement with the United States unless the latter provides at least 20 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine to the Philippines, pronto. No vaccine, no VFA.

Either the President is bluffing or is dead serious. Sen. Miguel Zubiri takes the President seriously and is presumably not happy with what he calls the politicization of the anti-COVID vaccine. Others think he's bluffing, or probably the precise word is joking, subject to interpretation by his jesters who have been chided for their alleged breaking of health protocol. It's on record: he called off his earlier plan to cross the South China Sea on a jet ski. No big deal.

It's a guessing game. Duterte is enamored by things Chinese, like Sinovac vaccine. If the U.S. calls his bluff, he could always say "see, I gave them the chance to walk their talk but they proved the old saying that in politics, domestic or international, there are no friends, only permanent interest". If the US caves in, Duterte can always say, I would rather have the Chinese vaccine because it's consistent with my independent foreign policy. Besides, China doesn't need an advance payment for it.

By the way, China is so confident of the efficacy of its much-ballyhooed vaccine that it had ordered millions of doses of the Pfizer brand. Maybe it doesn't have enough supply to jab its Red Army with and the rest of the teeming billion Hans.

Obviously, unlike Duque and company, Xi Ping and his comrades did not drop the ball in their negotiation with Pfizer. Something must have been lost in translation between Pfizer executives and Philippine leaders. It goes to show that, indeed, the use of English in the Philippines is fast deteriorating. The last survey found that elementary English is what's spoken in Philippine colleges and universities. We've come a long way, baby.

People remember that someone has referred to the COVID 19 as veerus. I tell you, we're really in trouble in English alone.

It's a good thing that local government officials have declared their intention to purchase some, if not all, the vaccines they need and start the ball rolling as soon as possible, with or without the national government.

Karl Marx, who invented communism, foresaw this coming a long, long time ago. From each, according to his ability, to each, according to his need, he wrote.

He didn't foresee red-tagging, though, while a pandemic is raging. Political philosophers and their power-addled clients have always been blindsided by history or their heresy. Herod thought murdering children 2 years and below would write finis to the greatest story every told. He was not only dead wrong; he's been dead many times over.

Santayana has a fair warning: forget the past or repeat it at your own peril.



Napag-uusapan Lang

Felix M. Garcia

'I don't care, eh eh eh'

I DON'T care eh eh eh, ang huling nasambit ng ginang bago siya, binaril ng pulis pati ang anak na, yakap ng mahigpit pinaputukan din, ng dalawang ulit

yan ay sanhi lang ng katagang narinig nitong akusadong nagdilim ang isip, na hindi nagawang pigilin ang galit, palibhasa'y sanay pumatay ang lintik.

I don't care eh eh eh, ay isang salitâ na kung limiin ay di naman masamâ; ito'y katugunan lamang ng matandâ na sa pananakot ay di nabahalâ.

At sa ganang atin ang sagot ay tamâ sa pangungusap na tinuran ng batâ; na nahirati sa di magandang gawa ng kanyang tatay na makapal ang mukha.

Sabihin man natin, na ito'y pabalang ngunit di masama, yaong kahulugan ang salitang "wala raw siyang pakialam" madalas marinig, sa mga bangayan

At sa pagtatalo mahirap iwasan ang mga kataga, na masahol pa r'yan; lalo't sa kagaya ng taong naturan, na ang pagkitil ng buhay laruan lang.

Kung minsan ang taong likas na masama sa emosyon nila hirap masawata kaya't ang kadalasan walang napapala kundi kabiguan at pagkakadapa.

Ang pagtitimpi ay napakahalaga sa pagkakataon na tayo'y inis na, ang taong kung misan kulang ang pasensya, ay siyang sa kulungan malimit magdusa.

Ang pagtitimpi ay, di lang nararapat sa mga kawal at alagad ng batas manapa ito ay ugaliin dapat ng sinumang tao, anuman ang antas.

maging mahinahon, sa lahat ng oras upang sa peligro, tayo'y makaiwas, ang pagsisisi ay palaging sa wakas malimit makamit ng sinumang ungas.

I don't care eh eh eh, kapagka narinig tawanan na lang at huwag ikainis; ito ay salitang, di naman masakit di gaya ng mura, nakakapagngitngit.

Laging isa-puso, tuwina'y isa-isip pag-iwas sa gulo, ligtas sa panganib; nang di magaya sa tarantadong pulis, na dapat balatan ng buhay ang bwisit.

Aywan lang sa ating 'high ranking official' ng PNP bakit ang kagaya niyan, na noon pa man ay talamak na palang kriminal di nila sinipa ang buwang?

Bantayan natin ang kaso nito, at huwag nating hayaan na ibasket at sukat ng mga kabaro nito upang di lumigwak ang kaso n'yan kundi bitay ang marapat.

Nang di pamarisan ng 'men in uniform' na kumita lang at magbilang ng milyon sa kinikita ay nagagawa nitong papanatilihin sa puesto ang gunggong!

Vhelle V. Garcia
December 23, 2020
Abu Dhabi

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NG MALAYANG PILIPINO!

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Providing livelihood through the years: Tita's Special launches new product line

BY JOANN MANABAT

ANGELES CITY — Providing many Filipinos livelihood through the years, Tita's Special has recently come up with a new product line dubbed "Philippine Favorites".

For over 45 years, George Dungao and wife Teresita "Tita" Olalia Dungao have been processing meats and making a difference in the local market scene as a producer and distributor of high quality processed meat products.

Determined to elevate its standards, Tita's Special strives to provide premium products from raw materials to manufacturing, and distribution from its branches, and distributors to supermarkets and retailers.

Labor of love

What started with a mere 5-kilo of pork to produce tocino, George and Tita began building their dream in a kitchen space at their parents' house. Starting small in its humble beginnings, they both decided to venture into producing longaniza as well putting much of their time and hands into all the work. Their mornings were spent purchasing raw meat and spices. Pre-

paring and processing the meat came at noon while packaging took time as they finished until the next day. By nightfall, they were then delivering products to their first few customers.

With the encouragement of their parents and with the family's strong faith in God, Tita's Special started to increase production generating enough income for their family.

During the late 70's, Tita's Special had already acquired its market in Central Luzon and started saturating the urbanized city that is Manila.

To meet the growing demands, Tita's Special started producing other meat products as they also hired more helpers thereafter. Since then, both George and Tita decided to help more by hiring people and offering lower prices for their wholesale dealers, retailers, and consumers making it part of its corporate social responsibility in helping every Filipinos by providing livelihood.

Philippine Favorites

From what started with a single variety of tocino and longaniza, Tita's Special has now launched a new line of



Tita's Special through the years. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

meat products to showcase the best delicacies from the different regions in country dubbed "Philippine Favorites" which includes Pampanga de Recado Skinless Longa-

niza of City of San Fernando, Lucban Longaniza of Quezon, Vegan Longaniza of Ilocos, Batutay Longaniza of Cabanatuan, and Pindang Damulag of Pampanga.

Through its dedicated research and development staff, Tita's Special have developed advanced processing technology that has elevated them to the industry

leaders in meat processing. It aims to provide a variety of tastes and selection thus bringing an exquisite and satisfying taste of home to every household.

Pamasko Packs!

Everyone's happy with the assorted pleasures inside each Pamasko Pack! Treat your friends and family to a variety of delectable sweets.



Ultimate Holiday Treat

- Assorted Nougat 6s
- Sylvanna Kisses
- Cashew Chews 15s
- Walnut Brownies 18s
- Butterscotch Fingers
- Native Baby Ruth 14s
- Food for the Gods
- Assorted Pastries 24s

Superior Holiday Treat

- Caramel Bars 12s
- Cashew Chews 2x5s
- Assorted Nougat 6s
- Native Baby Ruth 14s
- Assorted Pastries 19s
- Butterscotch 10s

Deluxe Holiday Treat

- Butterscotch 10s
- Assorted Nougat 6s
- Cashew Chews 5s
- Brownies 12s
- Sylvanna Kisses

Bars Overload

- Revel Bars 6s
- Food for the Gods 6s
- Caramel Bars 6s

Cookie Treats

- Sylvanna Kisses
- Brownie Brittle
- Butterscotch Fingers

Bayong Bundles!

Delight your loved ones with our festive Bayong Bundles! Just buy any of our Christmas bestsellers to get yours.



Bayong (Native Basket)

- Small - P60
- Medium - P70
- Large - P80



NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **RODOLFO P. SERRANO** who died intestate on June 26, 2007 in Floridablanca, Pampanga executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Waiver of Rights on his estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 141 of the consolidation and subdivision plan, Bcs-03-000138 (OLT), being a portion of consolidated Lots 1138 & 153, Floridablanca Cadastre & Lot 154-B, (LRC) Psd-131732, L.R.C. Rec. No.) situated in the Barrio of Valdez, Municipality of Floridablanca, Province of Pampanga and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 10335, Emancipation Patent No. A-374366, before Notary Public Leila Mae M. Estabillo as per Doc No. 194, Page No. 40, Book No. 8, Series of 2020.

Punto! Central Luzon: December 28, 2020, January 4 & 11, 2021

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of spouses **FRANCISCO G. NEPOMUCENO** and **JUANITA LUMANLAN** who died intestate on March 2, 1997 and August 13, 2000, respectively, executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement on their estate, more particularly described as parcels of land, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 045-2018012483

Road Lot 1 of the subdivision plan, Psd-93371 (Sheet 1), being a portion of Block 34-A-3, described on plan LRC Psd-64836, LRC (GLRO) Cad. Rec. No. 124, situated in the District of Cutcut, City of Angeles, Island of Luzon;

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 045-2018012484

Road Lot 2 of the subdivision plan, Psd-93371 (Sheet 1, 2 and 3), being a portion of Block 34-A-3, described on plan LRC Psd-64836, LRC (GLRO) Cad. Rec. No. 124, situated in the District of Cutcut, City of Angeles, Island of Luzon;

before Notary Public Crisanto A. Cocal as per Doc No. 2770, Page No. 67, Book No. 168, Series of 2020.

Punto! Central Luzon: December 28, 2020, January 4 & 11, 2021

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **PAULINA M. DAVID** who died intestate on October 17, 1999 in Mabalacat, Pampanga executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Waiver of Rights on her estate, more particularly described as her rights and interest over a certain property with improvements thereon identified as Block 04 Lot 01 (C7E) Phase II of the Sta. Lucia Resettlement Project in Magalang, Pampanga and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 470849-R, before Notary Public John Manuel B. Bautista as per Doc No. 401, Page No. 81, Book No. XXVII, Series of 2020.

Punto! Central Luzon: December 14, 21 & 28, 2020

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **FLORENCIA BUÑING ESGUERRA** who died intestate on October 6, 2020 in Pullian, Bulacan executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement on her estate, more particularly described as Savings Account Passbook in Gatebank (Pullian, Bulacan Branch) under Savings Account No. 0484-004-01-000388-0 in the amount of Pp200,335.71, before Notary Public Ryann T. Rueda as per Doc No. 334, Page No. 68, Book No. IX, Series of 2020.

Punto! Central Luzon: December 21, 28, 2020 & January 4, 2021

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of spouses **ANDRES BONDOC** and **MARCIANA DIZON** who died intestate on September 6, 1977 and September 9, 1997, respectively, both in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga, executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Sale on their estate, more particularly described as parcels of land, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 31890-R

Lot 4, Block 10 of the subdivision plan, (LRC) Psd-19813, being a portion of Lot 5, (LRC) Pcs-1472, L.R.C. Cad. Rec. No. 138) situated in the Barrio of Del Pilar, Municipality of San Fernando, Province of Pampanga;

Lot 5, Block 10 of the subdivision plan, (LRC) Psd-19813, being a portion of Lot 5, (LRC) Pcs-1472, L.R.C. Cad. Rec. No. 138) situated in the Barrio of Del Pilar, Municipality of San Fernando, Province of Pampanga;

before Notary Public Ryann T. Rueda as per Doc No. 27, Page No. 7, Book No. X, Series of 2020.

Punto! Central Luzon: December 21, 28, 2020 & January 4, 2021

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **FILIPINAS F. SORIANO** who died intestate on April 17, 2000 in London executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Deed of Donation on her estate, more particularly described as parcels of land, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 60917

Lot 3, Block 20 of the subd. plan (LRC) Pcs-23701, sheet 2, being a portion of the consolidated Lot 1-A-7 (LRC) Psd-22095, situated in the Barrio of Malabanas, Mun. of Angeles, Prov. of Pamp.;

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 351130-R

Lot 2, Block 1 of the cons-subd. plan Pcs-03-000529, being a portion of the consolidated Lot 4274, 4277, 4281, 4282, San Fernando Cads., situated in the Barrio of Balite, Mun. of San Fernando, Prov. of Pamp.;

before Notary Public Ronaldo P. Duro as per Doc No. 35, Page No. 70, Book No. 22, Series of 2020.

Punto! Central Luzon: December 14, 21 & 28, 2020

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **EMILY GUTIERREZ LOZANO** who died intestate on August 9, 2020 in Mabalacat City, Pampanga executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement on her estate, more particularly described as Insurance Plans in the following corporations:

- EASTWEST AGEAS Life Insurance
- FORTUNE Life Insurance Co., Inc.
- BDO Life Insurance Plans / BDO Unibank, Inc.

before Notary Public Leila Mae M. Estabillo as per Doc No. 523, Page No. 106, Book No. 7, Series of 2020.

Punto! Central Luzon: December 14, 21 & 28, 2020

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of **ROLANDO MASIL DIWA** and **DIONICIA PARDO DIWA** who died intestate on October 29, 2019 and July 27, 2007, respectively, both in Mabalacat, Pampanga executed an Affidavit of Extrajudicial Settlement with Deed of Absolute Sale on their estate, more particularly described as a parcel of land (Lot 16, Block 214 of the cons.-subd. plan Pcs-03-009243, being a portion of consolidated lot of Block 17, Psd-03-084472, Lot 1-G, Psd-03-092530, Lot 74-3, Psd-03-091246, LRC Rec. No.) situated in the Barrio of Capaya, Angeles City and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 118942, before Notary Public Anna Margarita K. Co as per Doc No. 263, Page No. 54, Book No. IV, Series of 2020.

Punto! Central Luzon: December 14, 21 & 28, 2020

Pampanga to buy vaccine vs Covid-19

FROM PAGE 1

Thus, Gov. Dennis "Delta" Pineda on Sunday called on all sectors to marshal resources for the province to raise an initial P200 million to P300 million for the purchase of anti-Covid-19 vaccines and immunize priority sectors in the province.

Pineda said the vaccine should be administered before the second quarter of 2021 to medical frontliners in public and private hospitals handling Covid-19 patients as well as to workers in private companies

to strengthen the capacity of the health system while restarting the economy.

These groups would consist the first batch of recipients of vaccine allotments from the national and provincial government.

For the multi-sectoral fund drive, the governor urged local executives and legislative councils in 19 towns and three cities to appropriate funds for the vaccination program. He said Vice Gov. Lilia "Nanay" Pineda and the sangguniang panlalawigan are supportive of larger allocation pro-

posals from him.

"We will all have to sacrifice some projects in order to prioritize further the health needs of our constituents," the governor said.

Pineda said he is set to begin dialogues with the business sector, which is encouraged to put up counterpart funding and launch other means.

He said the brand of vaccine should be approved by appropriate health authorities and purchased in accordance with the government's procurement law.

In a meeting last Dec.

18, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and provincial officials discussed ways to help the local economy recover from the pandemic. As consultant to the provincial government, Ms Arroyo recommended the clustering of barangays in enforcing health protocols, with councilors overseeing the clusters.

She said that in this way, Covid-19 incidence in Pampanga, which is much lower than those of other large provinces near Metro Manila, would flatten further.

- Pampanga PIO

500 Galil assault rifles to CL police

FROM PAGE 1

mediate response of PRO-3 to the call of the chief PNP to build quarantine and treatment facilities for police personnel with Covid-19. It is an area for isolation, re-

cuperation and rest," De Leon said.

Each container van is divided into two air-conditioned rooms partitioned according to the standards set by Department of Health with one hospital bed, a table, chair and

its own toilet. Free Wi-fi access is also provided. Forty-four quarantine facilities have been set up inside the PRO 3 headquarters in Camp Olivas. "I am happy that Gen. De Leon has already complied with these

quarantine facilities that would cater to the needs of our uniformed and non-uniformed personnel," Sinas said. The official also opened the new PRO-3 public information office. -- Carlo Lorenzo J. Datu/PIA-3

CRK terminal fee included in airline ticket

FROM PAGE 1

for the fees at the airline counters but only to secure a boarding pass.

A total of 17 airlines have signed the memorandum of agreement with LIPAD for the ar-

range.

During the transition period, passengers are advised to proceed to their respective airline check-in counters to secure a printed boarding pass.

Those who have their

terminal fees integrated may proceed directly to final security check after check-in.

For passengers who bought their tickets before the effectivity date, there are still payment counters inside the ter-

minal.

Among those exempted from paying terminal fees are infants below two years old for both domestic and international flights, and overseas Filipino workers for international flights.

Bishop urges faithful to face 2021...

FROM PAGE 1

rapan, tayo'y nabigatan sa taong 2020 na may panganib na kakambal, subalit kailangang tayo ay humarap sa 2021 ng may pag-asa. Humarap tayo kung saan nakikipagtulungan tayo sa bawat isa. Palagi tayong lalapit at magtiitwala sa

Diyos," he said.

"Kailangan din natin ang pamilya, kailangan natin ang isa't isa," Santos added.

The pandemic caused by the dreaded coronavirus disease is one that made the lives of many people difficult during the current year but the bishop was hope-

ful that the country, especially Bataan, will surpass it under the guidance of the Almighty.

Santos officiated in the blessing of the new municipal hall of Abucay, Bataan located adjacent to the public market.

Municipal administrator Engr. Ernesto Vergara said total cost for

building construction and accessories, including site development reached P120 million.

Vice Mayor Robin Tagle said that the construction of the new municipal hall was a priority project of Mayor Liberato Santiago, Jr. that every Abucay residents could be proud of.

New SFEX road opens to motorists...

FROM PAGE 1

this holiday season, especially the truckers and merchants who are delivering essential goods," said Secretary Villar.

The 1.6-billion SFEX Capacity Expansion entails the conversion of the Subic Freeport Expressway to a 2x2 divided expressway, with the construction of two additional expressway lanes, two new bridges, and a new tunnel. This will increase the road capacity of SFEX from one lane in each direction to two lanes in each direction.

The project also includes the installation of expressway-standard

LED lights, the raising of elevation of Maritan Highway-Rizal Highway-Tipo Road junction, and the enhancement of the drainage system for better flood management in the area.

A series of road safety audits showed that the whole project alignment, except for the portion of Jadjad Bridge which is still under construction, has complied with the safety requirements thus safe for use by the motoring public.

Earlier, TRB and NLEX representatives led by TRB Executive Director Abraham Sales and NLEX Vice President for Tollway Devel-

opment and Engineering Nemesio Castillo, together with the Independent Certification Engineer, conducted a pre-opening inspection to ensure that the SFEX sections to be opened are safe for use by motorists.

The SFEX Capacity Expansion is envisioned to enhance accessibility and promote travel efficiency on this key road that connects Bataan and Zambales. It is also expected to boost Subic's competitiveness as an ideal shipping gateway for businesses in Central and North Luzon.

"With the improved and expanded SFEX, the transport of goods in and

out of the Subic Freeport will be faster and easier. Night driving will also be equally safe and enjoyable for our motorists," said Bautista.

The Subic Freeport Expressway was built when the Philippines was chosen to host the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in 1996. It initially aimed to cut down travel time from Hermosa, Bataan to Subic, Zambales from almost one hour to less than 10 minutes. With the capacity expansion project, more motorists will be accommodated at any given time and will enjoy a safer and more convenient journey. --PR

No Hidden Agenda!

WE TELL IT AS IT IS. WE GIVE YOU NEWS THAT'S STRAIGHT TO THE POINT

SM Group brings Christmas joy through Kalinga donation drive

THE SM Group is spreading hope and good cheer this Christmas season to thousands of families nationwide as it mobilizes its Christmas Kalinga donation drive.

This is a joint project among SM Supermalls, SM Retail, SM Markets, and SM Foundation to provide essential items to residents and families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and recent natural calamities.

"Christmas is the time for solidarity and generosity. After experiencing great adversities this year, this is the time for us to give hope and reach out to those in need. It is through our converged effort that we can make this possible," said SM Supermalls president Steven Tan.

The SM Group will be distributing over 70,000 food packs across the country.

The drive kicked off in Pasay City, with SM Supermalls President Steven Tan, SM Retail Senior Vice President Eugene Saw, SM Hy-

permarket Arnold Daluz, and SM Foundation Assistant Vice President for Livelihood and Outreach Program Christie Angeles leading the distribution of Christmas Kalinga packs to the residents of Brgy. 14, District 1, Pasay City.

In the City of San Fernando, food packs distribution in Pulung Bulu Sitio Italya, Barangay San Juan, Barangay San Jose and Sitio Pid-Pid in Porac received the Christmas Kalinga food packs. Leading the food pack distributions are SM Foundation Assistant Vice President for Livelihood and Outreach Program Cristie Angeles, SM Supermalls Vice President for Operations Engineer Bien Mateo, Assistant Vice President Engineer Junias Eusebio, Regional Operations Manager Andrea Madlangbayan, Assistance Vice President for Marketing Jeff Suarez with Managers and officers of SM malls in Pampanga, Telabastagan and San Fernando Downtown. Also joining the distribution are

SM Major Anchors The SM Store and SM Supermarket headed by Assistance Vice President for North Luzon Eva Gatbunton.

More beneficiaries in the areas of Angeles City in Barangay Amsic, Barangay Pampang and Barangay North Cutud. Also distributing in areas of Sitio Turbina in Barangay Tabun and Sulput in Barangay Mabiga in Mabalacat City in partnership with Air Base Group in Basa Air Base headed by Captain Jerson Sadsad.

All identified areas who received the Christmas Kalinga food packs are in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development III (DSWD) headed by Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program Coordinator Darrell Dizon.

For updates and further announcements, visit www.sm-supermalls.com or follow @smsupermalls on all social media platforms. **-PR**

SM Supermalls VP Engineer Bien Mateo and AVP Engineer Junias Eusebio lead gift-giving activity in Sitio Italya in Barangay Pulung Bulu in the City of San Fernando, continuing the nationwide distribution of over 70,000 Christmas Kalinga food packs for underserved communities this holiday season. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

MERRY Christmas AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

BRANCH SCHEDULE	
December 24 and December 31	All branches open until 5:00pm
December 25 and January 1	Only mall-based branches are open following the mall's operating hours
December 26, 30, and January 2	Regular operating hours

*Mall-based branches will follow mall operating hours

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