

DOH-Calabarzon pushes improved rural health services

IMUS CITY, health workers particularly on family planning to improve rural health services in the region. The Department of Health (DOH) in Calabarzon (Region 4A) has embarked on a series of training of its

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DOT assures continuous support for farm tourism

SILANG, Cavite -- The newly appointed director of the Department of Tourism (DOT) 4-A (Calabarzon) assured last Sept. 19 the agency's support for the farm tourism industry.

In his message at the launch of the updated version of the coffee table book "Agriculturally Awesome: A Regional Farm Tourism Travel Guide", DOT 4-A Director Joseph Francisco Ortega said farm tourism is an opportunity for the local community to be involved in, as farmers could benefit from tourism, which is a driver of economic growth.

"Local farmers
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Department of Tourism 4-A (Calabarzon) Director Joseph Francisco Ortega (seated, 2nd from right) reads through the pages of the latest version of the "Agriculturally Awesome: A Regional Farm Tourism Travel Guide" after its launch at the Teofely Gardens in Silang, Cavite last Sept. 19. Calabarzon is recognized as having the most number of DOT-accredited farm tourism sites in the country.

Book features PH native plants



The book cover of "Sariling Atin", which was unveiled at Teofely Gardens in Silang, Cavite last Sept. 19. The book, which showcases 25 promising native plants in the country, aims to bring back awareness and appreciation of the country's native plants.

SILANG, Cavite -- Do the words alingaro, bignay, and mangkono ring a bell to you? These are some of the country's 25 promising native plants featured in the coffee table book "Sariling Atin", a publication of the Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI).

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(MPTC... from page 1)

farm workers now embark on a direction that is sustainable, eco-friendly, and beneficial to all," Ortega said.

In the past, the DOT subjected farm tourism sites to various industry skills training in support of the manpower and service standard needs of agri-tourism sites and farm enterprises in the region.

Ortega said the regional tourism office has completed the formulation of the three-year Regional Farm Tourism Strategic Action Plan.

"This steers us into a vibrant direction, where interventions relevant to infrastructure, product and market development will catalyze inclusive growth," he said.

The Calabarzon region is recognized as having the most number of DOT-accredited farm tourism sites, numbering 30 to date, and has served as the benchmark

and the standard of excellence for farm tourism in the country.

The farm tourism sites add up to the leisure possibilities in the region with its diverse offerings -- from organic farming, health and wellness, and even distinct culinary dishes served from farm to table.

But more than just a leisure destination, the farms also serve as learning sites for students and professionals who want to grow their own farm or enter into the farm business.

The coffee table book is a publication of the Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Training Institute in the region. It is a merged version of Volumes 1 and 2, and contains the list of all DOT-accredited farm sites as of June 2019.

Added features to the book are the region's famous delicacies and agri-related festivals.

PPG partner withdraws from Palawan exploration project

Phinma Petroleum and Geothermal Inc. (PPG) said last Sept. 20 one of its partners in Petroleum Service Contract No. 55 has pulled out of the project to search for oil and gas in southwest Palawan.

PPG subsidiary Palawan55 Exploration and Production Corp. and the latter's remaining partner, Pryce Gases Inc., are pushing for renewed

drilling activity under SC 55, which covers an offshore area of 9,880 square kilometers.

Palawan55 is the operator of the SC 55 project, which does not involve an area that is under dispute with other nations such as China. Pulling out of the consortium is Century Red Pte. Ltd., which issued to Palawan55 a deed of assignment that trans-

ferred the Australian firm's 37.5-percent interest in SC 55. This exercise needs the approval of the Department of Energy (DOE).

"Century Red is effectively withdrawing as cocontractor in SC 55, leaving Palawan55 and Pryce Gases Inc. as the remaining cocontractors," PPG said.

"Upon DOE's approval of the assignment,

the participating interest of Palawan55 in SC 55 shall increase to 75 percent," the company said.

Last month, Palawan55 and Pryce Gases Inc. formally sought the green light from the DOE for them to enter an "appraisal period" effective Aug. 26. Such move commits the partners to drill an "ultra-deepwater" well within the first two years.

(BOOK... from page 1)

through its office in Region 4-A (Calabarzon), in partnership with the MoCa Family Farm Learning Center.

The coffee table book, launched at the Teofely Gardens here last Sept. 19, aims to bring back awareness and appreciation of the country's native plants, said Rolando Maningas, information chief of DA-ATI 4-A.

"It is the desire of this book to re-introduce some of these native plants, identified for (their) culinary uses, landscape potentials, and timber utilization, to its readers," Manin-

gas said. He said priorities in food production changed to products with higher yield, but diversity and sustainability dictate that native plants and fruits should not be ignored.

MoCa Family Farm owner Gigi Morris, who nurtured her interest in native plants, saw the benefits of these plants despite the pressure of the misconception that Philippine native trees have little economic benefit.

Morris said together with other custodian farmers who manage a wide range of native

plant production in their own little way, growers, propagators, and promoters of native plants are reaping the benefits of these plants.

She said these benefits include nutritional diversity, food security, income-generating opportunities, ecosystem benefits, and maintenance of cultural identity.

Morris said she hoped the book would lead to the understanding of the economic potentials of native plants.

One of the 25 native plants featured in the book, arranged alphabetically, is the alingaro (scientific

name *Elaeagnus triflora* Roxb, from the Elaeagnaceae family), whose fruit has a sweet, tangy flavor and can be used to make an excellent savory sauce or sweet jam.

The fruit of the alingaro tree (of the Sapindaceae family) may look warty and has a tough peel but its whitish, semi-transparent flesh, wrapped around a black seed, tastes delicious and juicy.

The book contains photos and general information about the plants and their economic potentials, culinary uses, and tips on propagation

(DOH... from page 1)

"Kailangan nating ayusin lahat ng mga Rural Health Units (RHUs) at mabigyan sila ng sapat na pangangailangan upang makapagbigay ng wastong serbisyon pangkalusugan," DOH-Calabarzon Director Eduardo C. Janairo said last Sept. 17.

Janairo said the first batch of the Revised Family Planning Competency-Based Training (FPCBT) held in Quezon City from Sept. 9 to 13, is

pre-requisite to improve the skills of all health care providers particularly the newly-hired nurses and midwives assigned in remote barangays.

"They serve as the first point of contact for patients and families when scheduling appointments, coordinating patient follow up, and arranging transportation for patients to and from the nearest health facilities," he said.

Prioritizing health

workers of RHUs from island communities will also help attain and sustain "Zero Unmet Need for Modern Family Planning" as mandated by Executive Order No. 12.

A total of 42 rural nurses and midwives from Quezon province, including Polillo Island, comprised the first batch of trainees.

Maria Luisa M. Malana, outcome manager for family planning

ment, emphasized that child spacing and the choice of contraceptive method is the decision of the couple.

"Our role is to educate them and provide them the proper information regarding their choice of family planning method. And it is the duty of frontline health workers to give them the essential knowledge and ensure that these are fully understood," Malana told the health workers.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 23
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

BDO UNIBANK, INC.,

Mortgagee,

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-224-19

-versus-

SPS. GERRY C. ASYAO AND
MA. SALLY S. ASYAO,

Mortgagors.

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Mortgagee, BDO UNIBANK INC., with business address at BDO Corporate Center, 7899 Makati Avenue, Makati City against the Mortgagors, SPS. GERRY C. ASYAO and MA. SALLY S. ASYAO, with residence and postal addresses at Blk. 05, Lot 16, Ph-2, Kensington, Hrgy. Navarro, Gen. Trias, Cavite and No. 51-H Banahaw St., San Martin de Porres, Cubao, Quezon City to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of June 4, 2019 amounts NINE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETEEN PESOS and 95/100 (P917,619.95) Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **October 16, 2019 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning** at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2016001012

Lot No. 16 Block: 5 Plan No. Psd-04-221811

Portion of: Lot 1670 San Francisco de Malabon Estate, RS-04-60283

Location: Barangay of Navarre, Municipality of Gen. Trias, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon

Boundaries:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT(S)
1-2	SW	Lot 15, Block 5, Psd-04-221811
2-3	NW	Road Lot 10, Psd-04-221811
3-4	NE	Lot 17, Block 5, Psd-04-221811
4-1	SE	Lot 1, Block 5, Psd-04-221811

Area: FIFTY SQUARE METERS (50), more or less

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **October 23, 2019** without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property and encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

Trece Martires City, September 02, 2019.

(Sgt.) LUCIO C. ALEJO III
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:

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and No. 51-H Banahaw St., San Martin de Porres, Cubao, Quezon City

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

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Date : September 9, 16 & 23, 2019

EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **EMILIANO CAPCO MATAWARAN** who died intestate on June 4, 2010 in Quezon City, Metro Manila, consisting of a certain real property situated at Lot 7, Blk. 37 Bahay Pangarap Subd, Hrgy. Navarre (Nampalaw IV), City of Dasmariñas, Cavite containing an area of Thirty Six (36 sq.m.) square meters, embraced and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. T-572460 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite has been adjudicated and extra-judicially settled by and among his heirs in equal shares on August 30, 2019 at Dasmariñas City, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Karen T. Hermosa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 140; Page No. 28; Book No. 119; Series of 2019.

(Sgd.) Affiliates/Heirs

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Date : September 9, 16 & 23, 2019

PH plans air talks with Jordan

The Philippines is eyeing air talks with Jordan within the year in a bid to strengthen diplomatic ties, a government official said.

Carmelo Arcilla, executive director of the Civil Aeronautics Board, said in an interview that Jordan had invited the Philippines for talks mainly aimed at strengthening bilateral relations.

"We might have talks by December," Arcilla said.

He explained that negotiations would focus on building commercial arrangements. But these could eventually pave the way for direct flights between the two countries.

Arcilla said the upcoming talks with Jordan would be similar in nature to Morocco, with whom the Philippines recently negotiated an Air Services Agreement.

The agreement opens the prospect for carriers to mount daily flights between the two territories.

Arcilla said there were no immediate plans for carriers from both sides to start direct flights. But he said this would be possible moving forward given the growing number of Filipino workers in Morocco.

He said the Philippines also plans to establish an embassy in Morocco by 2020.

in Asia, is even considering to put up a manufacturing site in Southeast Asia, its first outside of China. A top official said the Philippines was a potential candidate for this site.

Di Yang, RELX director for Southeast Asia, told reporters on the sideline of the launch that the Beijing-based company wanted to eventually attract 10 to 20 percent of the 15 million tobacco users in the Philippines.

This is under the assumption that the number of tobacco users remains at 15 million in the next few years.

The company has so far enjoyed enormous success since being founded in January last year. In just less than two years, Yang said the company, which sells in more than 50 countries, already had eight million users worldwide.

Apart from launching its product, it also partnered with a business process outsourcing company in the Philippines to provide customer support for its English-speaking market. Yang did not give the name of

the BPO firm.

Here in the Philippines, it has already partnered with chain retailers Lighters Galore and Fuma, which both have more than a hundred outlets in the country. It is also in talks with convenience stores 7-Eleven and Family Mart, which could spike its reach with the addition of more than 2,000 outlets.

In the Philippines, its standard e-cigarette is sold at a retail price of P1,599, with more variants to be introduced depending on how the market would respond.

"[The e-cigarettes] are all manufactured in China right now, but we are also actively looking to manufacture them in Southeast Asia as well," he said.

When asked if the Philippines is also a candidate for their manufacturing site, he said this "depends on regulation because growth pace."

The Chinese brand is entering the Philippine market at a time when the government is poised to regulate the e-cigarette industry, from slapping taxes to banning diverse flavors.

Chinese e-cigarette maker enters PH

A Chinese e-cigarette maker wants to attract at least 1.5 million users in the Philippines in five years even as the Duterte administration moves to further tighten its grip on the growing industry. RELX Tech launched its e-cigarette brand in the Philippines last Sept. 20 as it aims to convince adult smokers to make the switch to the allegedly safer smoking alternative. The company, which claims to be the top e-cigarette brand

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the deceased **GABRIEL C. MONTOYA, SR.**, who died intestate on January 10, 2014 in San Diego, California, USA, consisting of his conjugal share (or 50%) of the following parcels of land registered in the name of Gabriel C. Montoya married to Aida H. Montoya which, except for TCT No. T-761031 which has improvements thereon, are without improvements thereon, more particularly described as follows:

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 296423
A parcel of land situated in the Dist. of Cubao, Q. City, containing an area of **THREE HUNDRED (300) SQUARE METERS**

Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-761031
A parcel of land situated in the Brgy. of Poblacion, Mun. of Imus, Prov. of Cavite, containing an area of **ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-THREE (123) SQUARE METERS**

Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-761032
A parcel of land situated in the Brgy. of Poblacion, Municipality of Imus, Province of Cavite, containing an area of **TWENTY-NINE (29) SQUARE METERS**

Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-280747
A parcel of land situated in the Mun. of Imus, Prov. of Cavite, containing an area of **TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY (280) SQ. METERS**

Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-807426
A parcel of land situated in Poblacion, Mun. of Imus, Prov. of Cavite, containing an area of **FOUR HUNDRED SIX (406) SQUARE METERS**

Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-45286
Lot No. 5335 of the Imus Estate Subdivision, Province of Cavite, containing an area of **ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETEEN (1,119) SQUARE METERS**

and his conjugal share (or 50%) of 1/3 of the following parcels of land which he co-owned:

Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-761030
A parcel of land situated in the Brgy. of Poblacion, Municipality of Imus, Province of Cavite, containing an area of **THIRTY-TWO (32) SQ. METERS**

Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-761032
A parcel of land situated in the Brgy. of Poblacion, Municipality of Imus, Province of Cavite, containing an area of **TWENTY-NINE (29) SQUARE METERS**

has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his heir **EQUALLY** with the Deed of Absolute Sale, for and in consideration of the amount of **ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P1,400,000.00)**, of conjugal estate of **GABRIEL C. MONTOYA**, without improvements thereon, covered by TCT No. T-280747, situated in the Mun. of Imus, Prov. of Cavite, containing an Area of **TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY (280) SQ. METERS** in favor of Spouses **JEFFREY MAXIMO ARGUELLES** and **MARY JILL ETCUBAN ARGUELLES**

on September 3, 2019, in the City of Imus, Province of Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Epifanio M. Almeda, CPA, and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 136; Page No. 29; Book No. LXXV; Series of 2019.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO H. MONTOYA**
For himself and as the AIF of **AIDA H. MONTOYA**,
GRACE MONTOYA HOWARD, **GABRIEL H. MONTOYA, JR** and **EMIL H. MONTOYA**

Publication : **PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA**
Dates : September 9, 16 & 23, 2019

EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **EVELYN RANARIO MATSUMOTO** who died intestate on June 09, 2019 in City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, consisting of a motor vehicle, more particularly described as follows, to wit:

MAKE/TYPE: **HYUNDAI SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE**
CHASSIS NO. **KMHUT11BACU499634**
ENGINE NO. **04KDCU727578**
MV FILE NO. **1366-00000165643**
PLATE NO. **TOUJ15**
CR NO. **000000026620305**

has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among her heirs in pro indiviso equal shares with waiver of rights, interest, and participation in the said motor vehicle in favor of **TAKAMASA MATSUOTO** on September 12, 2019 at Dasmariñas City, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Karen T. Hermosa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 492; Page No. 99; Book No. 119; Series of 2019.

(Sgd.) Heir/Transferee for himself
and in behalf of his minor children
and Heirs/Transferees

Publication : **PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA**
Dates : September 16, 23 & 30, 2019

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE EDUARDO E. VISTA WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **EDUARDO E. VISTA** who died intestate on November 12, 2014, at the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, consisting of a parcel of land including the improvement existing thereon situated at Bldg. 117 Lot 5, Brgy. Sta. Lucia, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his heirs in the waiver of rights, interest and participation over the above-mentioned parcel of land including the improvement existing thereon in favor of **JULIETA E. VISTA**, her heirs and assigns on June 10, 2019 at the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Reina M. Villa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 96; Page No. 20; Book No. 328; Series of 2019.

(Sgd.) Heirs

Publication : **PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA**
Dates : September 23, 30 and October 7, 2019

Industries' earnings slow, but jobs, compensation continue rise

Major industries posted a slower revenue increase of 6.5 percent in the second quarter, no thanks to delays in the budget approval that led to government underspending and stunted economic growth.

The growth in the gross revenue index between April and June was below the 9.6-percent expansion a year ago, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said in a report last Sept. 19.

The finance and trade sectors posted the fastest increases in gross revenues during the second quarter, at 12.6 percent and

12.5 percent, respectively. Revenues of electricity, gas and water supply firms rose 10.1 percent; real estate, up 9.1 percent; other services, 6.2 percent; transportation, storage and communication, 5.8 percent; mining and quarrying, 4.2 percent; and manufacturing, 2.4 percent.

To recall, second-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to 5.5 percent, an over four-percentage-point low, as the government under-spent P1 billion a day on public goods and services due to the late implementation of this year's budget, as public construction projects screeched to a halt due to the ban ahead of the May 13 midterm polls and the lack of budget to roll out government infrastructure projects.

Meanwhile, the compensation index climbed 4.7 percent in the second quarter, also faster than the 3.7 percent recorded last year.

Compensation in the electricity, gas and water supply sector jumped 10.9 percent; mining and quarrying, 8.1 percent; manufacturing, 7.1 percent; trade, 5.8 percent; transportation, storage and communication, 4.4 percent; mining and quarrying, 4.1 percent; trade, 2.2 percent; electricity, gas and water supply, 1.3 percent; and finance, 0.7 percent.

However, other services and construction companies shed jobs by 0.1 percent and 2 percent, respectively, during the April to June period.

On the other hand, salaries in the construction sector registered a 0.1-percent contraction during the April to June period.

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF NIDA PALTUON GOMEZ-GUALDRAPA

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the deceased **NIDA PALTUON GOMEZ-GUALDRAPA** who died intestate on August 1, 2019, consisting of the following:

• a parcel of land including the improvement existing therein situated in the Brgy. Paliparan, Municipality of Damaritan, Province of Cavite with an area of SIXTY THREE (63) SQUARE METERS more or less, covered by TCT No. 1247374;

• a parcel of land including the improvement existing therein situated in the Brgy. Paliparan, Municipality of Damaritan, Province of Cavite with an area of SEVENTY SEVEN SQUARE METERS AND FIFTY DECIMETER (77.50) more or less, covered by TCT No. 1298455;

That in the aforesaid parcel of land it has been declared as commercial land with an applied business permit under business name KHAYE & NANOKA SPACE RENTAL registered with the Business Permit and Licensing Office of Damaritan City and with the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

• a Savings Deposit in her name under Account No. 0000000199973544 and also a Joint Account with Encarnacion Sanchez under Joint Account No. 0000000012327990 at the First Commercial Banking Corporation at Alabang Matrigal Business, Alabang Muntinlupa City.

has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among her heirs equally;

that **RONELYN G. UCHIDA** and **RONILO G. GUALDRAPA**, waive their rights and interest with the business declared to the aforesaid deceased in favor of their sister **REYNALYN G. GUALDRAPA**.

on September 16, 2019 at the City of Damaritan, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Reina M. Villa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 227; Page No. 46; Book No. 137; Series of 2019.

(Sgd.) **RONILO G. GUALDRAPA**, Heir and
REYNALYN G. GUALDRAPA,
Heir-in-fact of Ronelyn G. Uchida

Publication: PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates: September 23, 30 and October 7, 2019

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE (BY 2 SPOKE HEIRS)

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the deceased **REBY GARDOR GLENDRO** who died intestate in the City of Damaritan, Province of Cavite which was her residence at the time of her death on August 25, 2019, consisting of a vacant lot situated with Banno De Oro, Argenteo (Highway Damaritan City Branch/Route), in the amount of **291,001.55** plus interest according has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among her heirs with waiver of them in the aforesaid estate of the deceased in favor of **LINO G. GLENDRO** on September 17, 2019 at Damaritan City, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Karen T. Hermosa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 97; Page No. 20; Book No. 120; Series of 2019.

(Sgd.) **Lino Glendro**

Publication: PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates: September 23, 30 and October 7, 2019

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE JAIME M. ARROYO

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the deceased **JAIME M. ARROYO** who died intestate on July 11, 2017 at Pasay City, consisting of a parcel of land including the improvement existing therein situated at Bldg. 7 Lot 19, Street 1, City of Damaritan, Cavite has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and between his heirs on September 18, 2019 at the City of Damaritan, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Reina M. Villa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 425; Page No. 87; Book No. 137; Series of 2019.

(Sgd.) **Beth Heers**

Publication: PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates: September 23, 30 and October 7, 2019

PH bans pork imports from 3 countries

The Philippines will confiscate and expand the ban on destroy all pork and pork imports in three pork-related products more countries—coming from the said Myanmar, Serbia and countries within 24 South Korea—affected hours from intercept by African Swine Fever (ASF).

In an earlier Aug. 17 memorandum, the Customs Commission updated list of the Bureau of Customs (BOC). B. Goertzen also ordered to prohibit the memorandum issued discharge of letters by Deputy Commissioner leftovers refuse and sister Edward James food waste from Sen. A. Dy Buan to all design aircraft and vessel and sub-port call to avoid ASF.

Due to the growing concern on the

To date, the Philippines has banned continuous spread portation of pork and of ASF of which no pork-based products treatment or vaccine from 11 countries and has yet been decontamination, which also spread, there is a chain-included Belgium, Bolivia for the observation garia, Cambodia, China, of stringent quarantine Czech Republic, Hong time protocols, Cambodia, Hungary, Laos, subsequently, stretched North Korea, Latvia, refuse-leftovers food Moldova, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, Russia, while countering South Africa, Ukraine, with ASF-infected Vietnam and Zambia, pork and pork-based

"All distinct collectors, sub-port collecting foreign vessels and all other self or aircraft whose concerned are directed last port-of-call is an ed to coordinate with ASF-affected country DA-BAL (the Department of Agriculture's risk path of introduction of the causal industry) personnel in virus in the locating all international air population," Guerrero and sea ports for the explained.

Under Section 118(g) of the Customs the checked-in and Modernization and Trade-hand-carried luggage if Act (CMTA), Guerrero of all incoming passengers from ASF-affected countries, countries are prohibited.

GSIS eyes PPP model to maximize value of property holdings

The Government acting general manager, seminar conducted by The decision to Service Insurance System (GSIS)—the country's largest pension fund—said last Sept. 20 annual report, the GSIS Authority chair and confirmed PPP specialist lawyer Alberto Agra, the Philippine Reclamation use the PPP mode to maximize the value of its properties comes a few months after the fund—under its president Rolando Macasaet, said. According to its 2018 Authority chair and confirmed PPP specialist lawyer Alberto Agra, the fund—under its president

it would pursue a public-private partnership (PPP) model to derive more income from the large inventory of real estate held in its books. In a statement, the agency that manages the pension fund of over 2 million active and retired state workers said it wanted to maximize the use of its property assets for the benefit of its members.

"Through PPP, GSIS can redevelop its properties for productive or commercial use, which will boost our income and sustain our fund life," its chair and

holds P99.1 billion worth of investment property, up 49 percent from the P66.4 billion recorded in the previous year. These include properties that were previously the subject of mortgage loans, commercial-industrial loans, or lease purchase agreements to corporations, which were foreclosed or acquired through foreclosure sale arrangements in favor of the GSIS due to nonpayment of loans.

"In its continuing efforts to enhance revenue income from its investment properties, the governing board of the GSIS attended a PPP

seminar, the GSIS board of trustees were briefed on various PPP modalities that include build-operate-transfer schemes, joint ventures, divestment, lease, management contract, service contract, real property swap and concession.

In 2012, the GSIS entered into a PPP contract with the Philippine Investment Alliance for Infrastructure, considered as the first private equity fund for infrastructure projects in the country.

The former GSIS leadership wanted KTSI to either buy the 67-hectare property from them for at least P37 billion or pay monthly rent, but the port operator said it already paid rent for the port area land to the Philippine Ports Authority as mandated by the Marcos-era presidential decree.

PH earned more dollars than it spent in Aug

After recording payments made by foreign-invested firms, the national government in June, the Philippine economy experienced net dollar inflows for the second consecutive month in August, buoyed by remittances from overseas Filipino workers as well as short- and long-term equity investments made by foreign managers and businessmen during the period.

In a statement, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said the country's overall balance of payments posted a surplus of \$493 million in August 2019 which was, however, lower than the \$1.27-billion surplus registered in the same month last year.

"Inflows in August 2019 were reflected in the national government's net foreign currency deposits and BSP's income from its investments abroad," the BSP said. "These inflows were offset partially, however, by outflows representing

payments made by foreign-invested firms, the national government in June, the Philippine economy experienced net dollar inflows for the second consecutive month in August, buoyed by remittances from overseas Filipino workers as well as short- and long-term equity investments made by foreign managers and businessmen during the period.

The balance of payments—the total net tally of dollar flows into and out of the Philippines for a given period due to trade and investment—has been on an upswing since November 2018, being interrupted only last June.

On a cumulative basis, the balance of payments position for the January-August 2019 period posted a surplus of \$5.53 billion, representing a turnaround from the \$2.44-billion deficit recorded in the first eight months of 2018.

"The surplus may be attributed partly to remittance inflows from overseas Filipinos during the first seven months of the year, and to net inflows of foreign direct investments and portfolio investments during the first half of the year," it said.

First hydrogen plant to rise in PH

Petro-based Air Liquide is capturing and liquefying the gas to Philippine unit, is house gas for other investing 30 million

euros or about P1.73 billion in a hydrogen manufacturing plant that has been contracted to supply gas to Philippine Shell Petroleum Corp's oil refinery in Butangas.

The hydrogen plant, which Air Liquide Philippines will own and operate, will be built within Shell's Tabangas refinery complex.

The planned facility will be fitted with a carbon dioxide recovery unit that mitigates direct carbon emission

ability," Atrial said. The Ceres Romero said

On Aug. 28, Air Liquide and Shell held a groundbreaking ceremony for the hydrogen facility that

was expected to be completed by the end of 2020. It will be the first such facility in the Philippines.

According to Shell, the production of hydrogen in Tabangas will enable the refinery to process more crude oil varieties, especially lower-grade crude. This, in turn, will help Shell ramp up its output of diesel fuel.

Earlier this year, Pilipinas Shell president and chief executive

Romero said this meant that the Philippines would be host to one of a few hydrogen units that catered to Shell worldwide—five of which were located in Germany.

Expected to start commercial operations in the first quarter of 2021, the hydrogen maker in Tabangas would be a standalone facility and would source its feedstock or raw material from within the refinery complex.

SMC bent on pursuing Boracay bridge project

Conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) wants to pursue its P5.5-billion Boracay bridge project despite the opposition of the governor of Aklan province.

The 1.2-kilometer bridge project will open the resort island to road access from the main province of Aklan in Visayas.

SMC Ramon S. Ang said the bridge proposal, which was submitted to the Department of Public Works and Highways

bridge project would contain pipes to remove sewage and provide fresh water to Boracay while trucks could easily move solid waste off the island.

Ang said the project would allow about 25,000 workers in Boracay to live in Caticlan, further decongesting Boracay. SMC also operates the Caticlan Airport, also known as Boracay Airport.

"There are many advantages to this bridge," Ang said. Not all stakeholders

agree. Last month, Aklan governor Florencio Miraflores expressed his opposition to SMC's unsolicited proposal, local reports showed.

Instead of a bridge, Miraflores preferred an integrated seaport on the main province. The facility will also have provisions for cruise ships, he said.

During the interview, Ang alluded to certain individuals who were blocking the project for "personal reasons."

GDP growth seen to swing back to 6-7% range in 3rd quarter

With the govern- of the state-run Philippine Institute for Development Studies' (PIDS) Fifth Annual Public Policy Conference, Socio- chief economist on economic Planning Thursday expressed Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia said "we'll 19 that economic have a higher performance" in terms of growth would return to the target band in gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the third quarter.

On the sidelines the third quarter.

Pernia, who heads the state planning agency National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said third-quarter GDP growth would be "higher than the first semester [figure]," which averaged 5.5 percent or below the 6-7 percent full-year growth goal.

The Neda chief

said that besides the usual growth drivers, catching up on budget implementation augured well to boosting the economy in the third quarter.

Pernia said the economy could grow by 6 percent in the July to September period, adding that "we have to believe in ourselves."

The attack on

Saudi Arabia's oil fields would also unlikely impact on growth even as Pernia had said it was a risk to inflation.

"Saudi [government] has said they will be back in business by the end of September. So it's an ephemeral thing, short-lived," Pernia said.

Last Sept. 18, Pernia warned that the easing inflation environment might be at risk in case global oil prices shoot up.

Based on the monitoring of industry group Laban Konsumer Inc., Dubai crude prices eased to \$62.32 per barrel on Thursday from Wednesday's \$66.90 a barrel.

'Hot money' fled PH in Jan-Aug on trade war fears, slower GDP growth

Short-term portfolio investments fled local financial markets in August resulting in large net outflows for the first eight months of the year—a phenomenon that the central bank attributed to fears of a US-China trade war combined with the lackluster performance of the Philippine economy in the first half.

According to data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the economy saw \$391.7 million in net outflows of so-called hot money

last month, which was a reversal of the \$225.8 million in net inflows recorded during the same period last year. Because of this, net portfolio outflows for the first eight months of 2019 reached \$1.1 billion, marking a sharp contrast versus the \$602-million net inflow recorded during last year's January to August period.

A closer examination of the numbers showed that BSP-registered investments in August hit \$1.2 billion, down 27.8 per-

cent from \$1.7 billion in July. About 75.7 percent of investments registered during the month went to Philippine Stock Exchange-listed securities, mainly property companies, holding firms, banks, food, beverage and tobacco, and transportation firms; while 24.3 percent accounted for investments in peso-denominated government securities.

The United Kingdom, Singapore, the United States, Malaysia, and Hong Kong were the top five investor countries for the month, with combined share to total at 73.9 percent.

Outflows for the month of \$1.6 billion were slightly lower compared to the \$1.7 billion recorded in July 2019. The United States received 78 percent of total outflows.

Overall transactions for August 2019 yielded net outflows of \$392 million, in contrast to the net inflows of \$15 million in the previous month.

Coco product firm sets lower per share price for IPO

Leading integrated coconut product manufacturer and exporter Axelum Resources Corp. has fixed the price of its initial public offering (IPO) at P5 per share.

The final offering price was disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange last Sept. 20.

By further lowering the IPO price from the earlier maximum price of P5.72 per share, the company seeks to attract more investors.

With the upcoming IPO, Axelum will be the first purely coconut product manufacturer to list on the stock market.

It was originally planning to sell as much as 700 million primary

common shares, plus 430 million existing common shares or part of the shares held by Singaporean private equity firm CP Compass Singapore Pte. Ltd. The company has yet to announce the final number of shares to be sold.

The offering will run from September 24 until September 30, with the target listing date on October 7 under the trading symbol AXLM.

The main production facility of Axelum is located in Medina, Misamis Oriental. It also owns, through foreign subsidiaries, two distribution facilities in the United States and Australia.

Lack of clear rules to tackle swine fever outbreak hit

A group of meat processors lamented last Sept. 20 the lack of "clear and unified" guidelines among various government agencies on addressing the African swine fever outbreak even as laboratory results confirmed additional cases of the disease, this time in Quezon City.

"Agriculture Secretary William Dar has ordered the implementation of quarantine and depopulation procedures in barangays Bagong Silangan and Payatas in Quezon City," DA spokesperson Noel Reyes said.

"This means [these areas] are ASF (African swine fever) positive and that the 1-7-10 pro-

cessors lamented tion," Reyes said.

Hog raisers within a 10-kilometer radius of the affected farms are required to report to authorities when their pigs show signs of the disease. Also, there will be monitoring of and limitation of the movement of pigs within a 7-kilometer radius. Pigs are not allowed to be brought outside a one-kilometer radius.

In case of culling, hog raisers are provided P3,000 per head as indemnity.

In a media briefing, the Philippine Association of Meat Processors Inc. (Pampi) appealed to the government to clarify and streamline the red tape among the

departments of agriculture, health, trade and industry, and local government.

"Local government personnel are asking our members for documents from the DA that shows we are allowed to move our products and are free of the African swine fever," Pampi spokesperson Rex Agarrado said.

"We can't do that because processed meat is no longer supervised by the DA," Agarrado said. "Since the National Food Security Act took effect three years ago, processed meat has been the responsibility of the Department of Health, but the locals apparently do not know this."



Q & A on Consumer Rights

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San Miguel's P10-B five-year bond offering OKd

Conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to offer to the public P10 billion worth of five-year bonds.

The fixed rate bonds will mature in 2024, which will comprise SMC's "series

the bonds on Sept. 23 through Sept. 27.

This is the fourth tranche of SMC's P60-billion shelf registration that was approved by the SEC in 2017.

Net proceeds of the offer may be used either to fund the redemption of the outstanding series

2-B preferred shares of the company or refinance existing loan obligations.

SMC earlier announced the redemption of P6.78 billion worth of preferred shares that were issued seven years ago as part of a landmark capital market deal, a move seen to pare down a costly

component of its capital base. This is part of the P80 billion worth of perpetual preferred shares issued in 2012, the largest capital market foray in the PSE to date.

The plan is to redeem all of 90.428 million series 2 preferred shares—series B at P75 per share

plus any unpaid dividend by October this year.

SMC has mandated BDO Capital & Investment Corp., China Bank Capital Corp., PNB Capital and Investment Corp. and RCBC Capital Corp. as joint lead underwriters and book-runners for this offering.