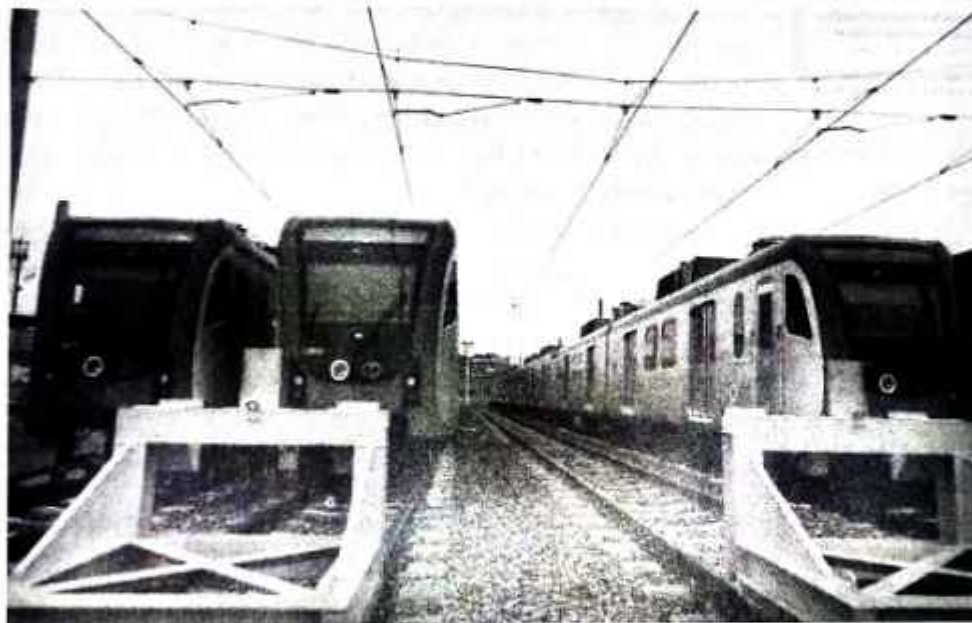


The Department collaborating to boost of Science and the coffee industry in Technology (DOST) the region. in Calabarzon and Inataped reported the Cavite State last Oct. 29, DOST University (CvSU) are Turn to page 2

DPWH to build houses for families affected by Cavite flood control project

Affected households hectare site in barangays Highways (DPWH) will by the construction of from Imus, Kawit, barangays San Rafael from Imus, Kawit, San Rafael II and III in construct 569 housing the Cavite Industrial Noveleta, Rosario, II and III in Noveleta, Noveleta, Rosario, and Noveleta, Cavite units for the informal Area Flood Risk and General Trias Cavite, according to General Trias will be The Department settlers who will have to Management Project. will be relocated to an DPWH Undersecretary relocated to an eight- of Public Works and leave the areas affected Affected households eight-hectare site in



New LRT-1 trains arrive from Spain, Mexico; more to come — DOTr

More train coaches Arthur Tugade said the were delivered for the management of LRT-1 Light Rail Transit 1 has received the 12th to accommodate more brand new fourth-generation trains set, passengers of the and these are now at the Pasay-Manila train route, and soon for the Cavite extension, Pasay. the Secretary of Each train set the Department of consists of four light Transportation (DOTr) rail vehicles, which announced last Oct. 26, could accommodate up DOTr Secretary Turn to page 2

Emil Sadain's report to Acting Secretary Roger Mercado last Oct. 26.

The flood mitigation project involves the construction of the San Juan River Diversion Channel, which will connect the confluence of Ylang-Ylang River and Rio Grande River to Manila Bay. It also includes 6.9 kilometers worth of river improvements for the two rivers and a four-kilometer Turn to page 2

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Perlas ng SILANGAN BALITA

ISSN: 2651-8228

NESTOR S. BARCO
Publisher-EditorELISA S. BARCO
Sales, Marketing & Advertising Director

Perlas ng Silangan Balita is published weekly and circulated in the provinces of Cavite and throughout the Philippines. It has its editorial and business offices at Block 18 Lot 12 (near Family Homes Subdivision, Arado I-A, City of Imus, Cavite). It is registered with the Department of Trade and Industry, Philippines under Certificate No. 04264731. Our landline is (348) 489-1878, telephone is 0927-788547 and e-mail is nestorbarco@yahoo.com.ph

Subscription Rate
1 month - P 40.00
3 months - 120.00
6 months - 240.00
One year - 480.00

Advertising Rate
Commercial: P200.00 per cm.
Large - 180.00 per cm.

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PH still among deadliest places for journalists

The Philippines remains one of the deadliest countries in the world for journalists, according to a global media watchdog report released last Oct. 29, which again highlighted the dangers faced by media professionals working under hostile governments or weak criminal justice systems.

petrators remain free. The Philippines ranked seventh on the list, the same as last year, with 13 murders still unsolved.

Only nations with five or more unsolved cases are included in the latest index, which this year covers 12 countries.

These cases were cited out of the total of 85 recorded in the country between 1992 and 2021.

For this year, the New York-based watchdog took note of the unsolved killings that happened between Sept. 1, 2011, and Aug. 31, 2021, spanning the period from the Benigno "Noy" Aquino III administration to the current Duterte presidency.

According to the annual Impunity Index issued by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), which trains the spotlight on countries where journalists have been killed and the per-

(NEW... from page 1)

1,300 passengers.

The passenger train sets have destination signs up front, a digital sys-

(DPWH... from page 1)

drainage for Maalimango Creek.

The DSWD, through the Unified Project Management Office, signed an agreement with National Housing Authority (NHA) General Manager Marcelino Escalada Jr. to request their assistance and expert advice on the construction of the

DOSTRUCK.

Meanwhile, the agency has also installed a new vacuum freeze drying facility for the

tem, and special areas for wheelchairs making them PWD-friendly, according to Tugade.

housing units.

The relocation site will include basic utilities, such as water, electricity, and drainage. Roads, embankment protection, and community facilities will also be developed.

The construction of the relocation site will start in the first quarter of 2022, while the flood

Calabarzon Food Solutions Hub (CFOSH), which is also stationed in Magallanes, Cavite, de la Peña said.

Only nations with five or more unsolved cases are included in the latest index, which this year covers 12 countries.

The Philippines joins war-torn states and authoritarian regimes on the list, which is topped by Somalia this year with 25 unsolved cases.

The list largely remained unchanged from last year. After Somalia, next in descending order based on the number of deaths are Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, and Afghanistan.

At sixth place is

Tugade said 120 light rail vehicles or 30 train sets coming from Spain and Mexico are scheduled

control infrastructure will follow in the second quarter.

A 2017 preparatory survey of the project estimated that 877 households would be affected by the project, with

46% or 404 households considered vulnerable. Such households were those that were either landless or were led by solo parents, elderly, or minors.

These households are entitled to special skills training programs,

Mexico, while on the eighth to 12th spot are Brazil, Pakistan, Russia, Bangladesh, and India.

CPJ noted that one had been held for account in almost 81 percent of the media killings worldwide in the last 10 years.

In a statement accompanying the report, CPJ deputy editorial director Jennifer Dunham said the rankings reflected how "conflict, political instability, and weak judicial mechanisms perpetuate a cycle of violence against journalists."

for delivery until June 2022. It will be used for the existing system and the LRT-1 Cavite Extension.

which will be developed by DPWH through the guidance of partner agencies. The program will be implemented between four months before and a year after the relocation.

The flood control infrastructure will complement the recently constructed retarding basins in Barangay Ambu and Buhay na Tubig in Imus. All of these projects were funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

(DOST... from page 1)

Secretary Fortunato de la Peña said the two are working to develop tissue culture growth chamber for coffee seedlings.

Together with the National Coffee Research, Development, and Extension Center, they developed a tissue culture growth chamber to produce disease-free seedlings in even shorter periods of time.

"Through the growth chamber innovation, tissue-cultured embryos are subjected to a tightly controlled environment, thus decreasing the chance of plant contamination and mortality rate. With its promising appeal to the market, the technology is foreseen to open more opportunities for the government and private organizations to put up income-generating tis-

sue culture laboratories," he said. He added that this technology facility will have a significant impact on the coffee and macapuno industry.

De la Peña also reported that DOST-Calabarzon and CvSU recently launched the DOSTRUCK or DOST Technology in the Region for the Upscaling of Community Knowledge.

DOSTRUCK is a food safety compliant and mobile food processing hub currently stationed in Magallanes, Cavite.

The DOST-Metals Industry Research and Development Center (MIRDC) fabricated and tested the mobile hub, he said.

CvSU has been a partner of DOST-Calabarzon in the premiere operation of the

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
DASMARINAS CITY, CAVITE

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE
CORPORATION (NHMFC),
Petitioner/Mortgagee,

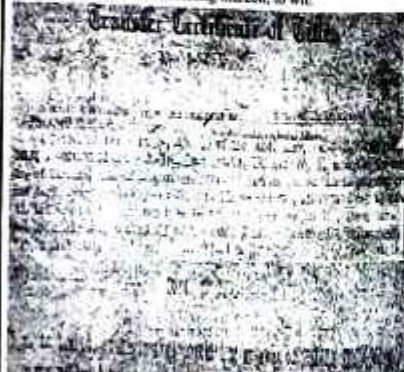
File No. PC-DC-0197-21
EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE
OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE
UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED
BY ACT 4118

- versus -
MA. ELENA V. VENUS, married to
MERC ARTHUR S. VENUS,

Respondents/Mortgagees.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by petitioner/mortgagee, NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION (NHMFC), a government owned and controlled corporation created under P.D. No. 1267, with postal address at 104 Amoroso St., Legaspi Village, Makati City against respondents/mortgagees, MA. ELENA V. VENUS, married to MERC ARTHUR S. VENUS with postal address at Solar Homes Lot 14 Bk. 13 Brgy. Lantao, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and 3rd St., Sto. Niño, Parañaque City and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of May 31, 2021 amounts to FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY THREE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY ONE PESOS & 06/100 (Php463,831.06), exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **December 2, 2021** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in the Court Room of Branch 90, Regional Trial Court, Ground Floor, Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Buro II, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite to the highest bidder and for CASH or CERTIFIED CHECK, in Philippine Currency, the following described real property together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to-wit:



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

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

In the event the publication auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **December 9, 2021** at the same time and place without further notice.

25 October 2021, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite.

(Sgd.) **RODRIGO C. ESTOGERO, JR.**
Sheriff IV

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MARCELA L. BAYBAY**
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

Copy furnished:

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE
CORPORATION (NHMFC)
104 Amoroso St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

MA. ELENA V. VENUS,
married to MERC ARTHUR S. VENUS
Solar Homes Lot 14 Bk. 13 Brgy. Lantao, Dasmariñas City,
Cavite and
3rd St., Sto. Niño, Parañaque City.

Notice posted at:

1. The Bulletin Board of Regional Trial Court, Dasmariñas City, Cavite
2. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Hall
3. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Post Office
4. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Public Market

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : November 1, 8 & 15, 2021

Raffle Date of Judicial Notice: 21 October 2021.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
DASMARINAS CITY, CAVITE

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE
CORPORATION (NHMFC),
Petitioner/Mortgagee,

File No. PC-DC-0220-21
EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE
OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE
UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED
BY ACT 4118

- versus -
CHARLIE KUY, JR.,

Respondent/Mortgagee.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by petitioner/mortgagee, NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION (NHMFC), a government owned and controlled corporation created under P.D. No. 1267, with postal address at 104 Amoroso St., Legaspi Village, Makati City against respondent/mortgagee, CHARLIE KUY, JR. with postal address at Caruso Homes Lot 47 Bk. 10 Bk. Salawag, Dasmariñas, Cavite and 107 Acero St., Tagaytay Malabon, M.M. and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of AUGUST 31, 2021 amounts to FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY NINE PESOS & 31/100 (Php557,999.31), exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **December 7, 2021** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in the Court Room of Branch 90, Regional Trial Court, Ground Floor, Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Buro II, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite to the highest bidder and for CASH or CERTIFIED CHECK, in Philippine Currency, the following described real property together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to-wit:

Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-405322

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in the Mun. of Dasmariñas Prov. of Cavite bounded and described as follows:

A parcel of land (Lot 47 Bk. 10 of the cons.-subd. plan, Pes-042106-007077, being a portion of the cons. of lots 1 & 2, Pes-042106-007023, LRC Rec. No. 1, situated in the Brgy. Salawag, Mun. of Dasmariñas, Prov. of Cavite. Bounded on the SW, along line 1-2 by lot 48, Bk. 10; on the NW, along line 2-3 by lot 49 Bk. 10; on the NE, along line 3-4 by Alley 4; & on the SE, along line 4-1 by lot 45, Bk. 10, all of the cons.-subd. plan. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being N. 64 deg. 48'W. 572.43 m. fr. Mon. 164, Imus Est. thence N. 30 deg. 15'W. 3.75 m. to pt. 2; thence N. 59 deg. 45'E. 9.33 m. to pt. 3; thence S. 30 deg. 15'E. 3.75 m. to pt. 4; thence S. 59 deg. 45'W. 9.33 m. to pt. of beginning, containing an area of THIRTY FIVE (35) SQ. METERS. All pts. referred to are indicated on the plan & are true; date of orig. survey, July 27, 1905-June 11, 1908 & that of the cons.-subd. survey, May 11-Aug. 23, 1992 & was approved on Dec. 3, 1992.

is registered in accordance with the provisions of the Property Registration Decree in the name of

CHARLIE KUY, JR., single, of legal age, Filipino.

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

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

In the event the publication auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **December 14, 2021** at the same time and place without further notice.

25 October 2021, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite.

(Sgd.) **ARLEN P. BARCELON**
Sheriff IV

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MARCELA L. BAYBAY**
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

Copy furnished:

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE
CORPORATION (NHMFC)
104 Amoroso St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

CHARLIE KUY, JR.
Caruso Homes Lot 47 Bk. 10 Bk. Salawag Dasmariñas, Cavite and
107 Acero St., Tagaytay Malabon, M.M.

Notice posted at:

1. The Bulletin Board of Regional Trial Court, Dasmariñas City, Cavite
2. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Hall
3. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Post Office
4. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Public Market

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates : November 1, 8 & 15, 2021

Raffle Date of Judicial Notice: 21 October 2021.

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT
OF ESTATE WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the deceased **ALFONSO D. ESTORES** who died intestate on September 24, 1998 at Divine Grace Hospital and Maternity Center, Rosario, Cavite, consisting of a certain parcel of land without improvement erected thereon, containing an area of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY TWO SQUARE METERS AND FIFTY SQUARE DECIMETER (132.50) located in Barangay Ligang, Rosario, Cavite, embraced by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-143838 of the Register of Deeds for the Province of Cavite has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his heirs; further, they do hereby ABSOLUTELY SELL, CONVEY AND TRANSFER all their rights, interests, and participation over their respective share in favor of **DANICA LYNNE V. BARRON**, her heirs and assigns, for and in consideration of the sum of SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php 600,000.00) on October 1, 2021 in Tanza, Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Jason Almond P. De Guzman and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 4; Page No. 1; Book No. XVII, Series of 2021.

(Sgd.) Heirs/Vendors

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA

Dates : October 18, 25 and November 1, 2021

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF ADJUDICATION

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **SFS. BENJAMIN CABANIT ORDINARIO** and **ANITA DADALE ORDINARIO** who both died intestate on July 21, 2007 and on September 12, 2020, respectively, both at Dasmariñas, Cavite, consisting of a parcel of land including improvements existing therein, situated at Bk. 15 Lot 4, San Isidro Labrador II, Dasmariñas City, Cavite, containing an area of One Hundred (100 sq.m.) square meters, embraced and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. T-140400 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite has been self-adjudicated by their sole heir **ROSEMARIE DADALE ORDINARIO** on October 5, 2021 at Dasmariñas City, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Karen T. Hermosa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 396; Page No. 80; Book No. 139; Series of 2021.

(Sgd.) Affiant

Publication : PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA

Dates : October 18, 25 and November 1, 2021

COVID-19 tempers appetite for infra projects

The COVID-19 noted that alongside pandemic tempered last year's record gross private sector appetite for domestic product (GDP) big-ticket infrastructure contraction of 9.6 percent, in the Philippines last the value of private year, even as transport sector-led infrastructure and "new normal" like transactions fell to 33 health-care projects percent to \$2.4 billion. remained lucrative "The lower investment ventures, transaction value in the Asian Infrastructure 2020 was driven by Investment Bank (AIIB) subdued investments said. in transport in 2020, at In the Asian \$1.1 billion (compared Infrastructure Finance with \$3.4 billion in 2021 report released 2019), indicating that the on the sidelines of its stringent lockdown, one recently concluded of the longest in Asia, has annual meeting, the significantly affected the Beijing-based AIIB sector," the AIIB said.

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the deceased **RANDY OCAMPO SAPUNGAN** who died intestate on September 8, 2021 in the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, consisting of parcels of land, specifically described as follows:

a. Transfer Certificate of Title No. **857-2614072851** containing an area of **EIGHTY EIGHT (88)** square meters, more or less, located at Block 27 Lot 26 Lion Homes, Brgy. Santiago, Gen. Trias, Cavite registered at the Registry of Deeds of Cavite;

b. Transfer Certificate of Title No. **T-1192984** containing an area of **FIFTY (50)** square meters, more or less, located at Block 11 Lot 4 Ragata Classics, Anabu II B, Imus City, Cavite registered at the Registry of Deeds of Cavite

has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his heirs with Waiver of Rights in favor of **NERIZA L. SAPUNGAN** on October 10, 2021 in the City of Imus, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Angelita P. Ramos and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 8, Page No. 3; Book No. XIX, Series of 2021.

(Sgd.) Affiants

Publication: PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates: October 18, 25 and November 1, 2021

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **CATERINE RIVERA CHUA** who died intestate on October 31, 2020 in the City of Imus, Cavite, consisting of a parcel of land measuring 127 sq. m., located in the City of Imus, Cavite, and evidenced by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-1338763 of the Register of Deeds, Trece Martines City, Cavite has been self-adjudicated by her sole heir **CARMENCITA D. RIVERA** on October 15, 2021 at the City of Imus, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Romulo F. Manuel and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 725; Page No. 145; Book No. XIII, Series of 2021.

(Sgd.) Affiant

Publication: PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates: October 18, 25 and November 1, 2021

Semirara income up 244% on high prices, demand for coal

Semirara Mining and chief operating and Power Corp. officer Maria Cristina (SMPC) logged a triple-digit growth was its January-September mainly attributable to net income this year, the 38-percent rise in hitting P10.3 billion average selling prices from just P3 billion and 51-percent upturn previously. in sales volume of

The integrated coal. "We expect electricity generation our coal segment company said nine-to continue to do month earnings for this well for the rest of year also surpassed the the year because of full-year prepandemic elevated coal prices net income of P9.7 and sustained strong billion. demand from China,"

SMPC president Gotianun said.

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **ROGELIO TAGALOG MAGBANUA and SUNANA LAGUDA MAGBANUA**, who both died intestate on August 19, 2019 at City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, his last known address at the time of his death is at Blk. C-17, Lot 1, Brgy. Luvaminda II, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and on May 5, 2021 at Silang Cavite, her address at the time of her death is at Blk. C-17, Lot 1, Brgy. Luvaminda II, Dasmariñas City, Cavite, respectively, consisting of a two (2) real properties:

a. a parcel of land including improvements therein located at Blk. 49, Lot 4, Calabash St. South Square Village, Pasong Kawayan 2, General Trias, Cavite containing an area of Forty Seven (47 sq.m.) square meters embraced and covered by Transfer Title Certificate (TCT) No. T-1098334 by the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite; and

b. a parcel of land including improvements erected therein located at Blk. 19, Lot 8, Camella Springsville, Molino, Bacoor, Cavite embraced and covered with TCT No. T-305045 containing an area of Ninety Six (96 sq.m.) square meters by the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite

has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and between their heirs in pro indiviso equal shares on October 18, 2021 at Dasmariñas City, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Karen T. Hermosa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 37; Page No. 8; Book No. 140; Series of 2021.

(Sgd.) Both Affiants/Heirs

Publication: PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates: November 1, 8 & 15, 2021

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **ROBINA M. MORRIS** who died intestate on March 27, 2021 in Dasmariñas City, Cavite, whose residence address at the time of death is Blk. 10, Lot 14, Brgy. Sta. Fe Extension 1, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, consisting of a property located at Blk. 10, lot 14 Brgy. Sta. Fe Extension 1, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite containing an area of Ninety Eight (98 sq.m.) square meters, embraced and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. T-1220885 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among her heirs with waiver of rights, interest, and participation in the said property and that the same be shared equally among **DANILO A. MORRIS, GAY M. MORRIS, and RUTHYLITA M. MORRIS** on October 6, 2021 at Dasmariñas City, Cavite before Notary Public Atty. Karen T. Hermosa and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 421; Page No. 66; Book No. 139, Series of 2021

(Sgd.) Heirs/Transferees and Heirs/Transferees

Publication: PERLAS NG SILANGAN BALITA
Dates: November 1, 8 & 15, 2021

Bank loans grew for 2nd straight month in Sept

Loans activity at and month of growth the country's largest since the eight straight banks grew for the months of loan contraction that began in September, lending in December 2020 as credence to the central both borrowers and bank's assertion that lenders shied away from credit due to pandemic-related uncertainties.

by the coronavirus The central bank pandemic. said the observed in-

In a statement, crease in outstanding the Bangko Sentral loans of universal and ng Pilipinas (BSP) commercial banks "reflects the modest recovery in banks' overall lending attitudes along with improved economic prospects owing to the gradual lifting of pandemic containment measures."

Outstanding loans This was faster to residents, net of than the 1.3-percent banks' short term expansion in August, placements with the and marked the sec- BSP, grew by 3.2 per-

cent in September from Meanwhile, consumer loans to residents 2 percent in the previous month, driven by fell at a slower rate of a recovery in loans for 7.8 percent in September production activities. ber from an 8.4-percent decline in August due for production activities to the lower contraction year-on-year in credit card, motor vehicle and from 3.1 percent in salary-based general purpose loans.

At the same time, loans for real estate activities (7.2 percent); outstanding loans to non-residents declined at a slower rate of 12 percent from a decrease of 16.6 percent in August. "Together with the national government's fiscal and health mea-

However, the decline in outstanding hand on the BSP's loans to other sectors monetary policy levers such as agriculture, should continue to help forestry and fishing boost domestic demand (-11.9 percent); activities of households as the agency said.

"Looking ahead, the BSP will continue to provide the appropriate monetary policy support to allow economic recovery to gain more traction, in line with the BSP's price increase in outstanding and financial stability mandates," it added.

Public transport capacity raised to 70% starting Nov. 4

A gradual increase in passenger capacities in railways and all forms of road-based public transport in Metro Manila will be implemented starting Nov. 4, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) announced last Oct. 29.

The DOTr said the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) approved last Oct. 28 the proposed initial expansion in capacity to 70 percent from the current 50 percent.

The one-month pilot implementation of the buildup will be adjusted until public utility vehicles (PUVs)

reach their full capacity. The DOTr—which earlier pushed for a return to 100-percent capacity, a proposal also backed by transport groups—said it would issue a memorandum to execute the IATF approval, which also authorized the department to later expand the program to other areas and other PUVs. Even with the new policy, however, the DOTr reiterated that health and safety protocols would still be strictly implemented inside PUVs.

its rapid analysis of the link between COVID-19 cases and public transportation and a review of related literature in support of the proposal.

It cited scientific studies in Vietnam and China and a report by the British Medical Journal to argue that “public transport capacity has no significant correlation with the number of COVID-19 cases.”

The DOTr said it suggested the capacity increase in response to the high demand for public transport following the easing of quarantine restrictions and the reopening of more business

establishments.

Mark Steven Pastor, assistant secretary for road transport and infrastructure, said the IATF approval would be a big help to PUV drivers.

“This is a welcome development considering the burden on our PUV drivers and operators of implementing the limited passenger capacity rule, which was aggravated by recent fuel price hikes,” Pastor said.

Several transport groups earlier backed the DOTr proposal, but stressed that the capacity limit was just one of the issues faced by distressed transport

workers.

In the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman in Quezon City, jeepney driver and UP Transport Group spokesperson Nolan Grulla said many of them were still off the road due to the impending phaseout of old jeepney units.

Since June last year, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board has been slowly reopening routes for roadworthy PUVs with a valid and existing certificate of public convenience or have applied for an extension of its validity.

However, only drivers and operators who have consolidated

their fleets for the government-mandated modernization program were tapped for the Libreng Sakay and PUV service contracting program.

For drivers like him who could not afford the P1.6 million to 2.4 million in loan to buy modern jeepneys, they have to deal with a low turnout of passengers due to route changes and the 50-percent capacity limit on public transportation.

Grulla said drivers in six jeepney routes in UP were earning only P81 each trip due to the 50-percent capacity cap that allowed them to accommodate only nine passengers.

UK think tank: PH most vulnerable to COVID-19 shocks

UK-based Oxford Economics has ranked the Philippines as the most vulnerable to pandemic-induced shocks, reflecting a

least vulnerability—topped among the 42 advanced and emerging markets covered by the think tank's October 2021 scorecard.

The least vulnerable included the United Arab Emirates, Canada, Norway, Chile, and Finland; the Philippines' on the flip side, the COVID-19 vulnerability score—at about six on a scale where zero meant the

in the bottom rung, Oxford Economics' Oct. 28 report showed.

An economy's overall vulnerability to COVID-19 was measured by Oxford Economics across the health infrastructure (including hospital beds and doctor density), economic structure, health policy (like vaccination rate, testing, contact tracing as well as lock-

down stringency), and epidemiology (daily cases and deaths).

In a range of one (with a high vaccination rate) to 10 (with a low vaccination rate), the Philippines scored eight.

Oxford Economics said the scores of the Philippines, Pakistan, and Egypt posted the “biggest deterioration” compared to a similar scoring in January.

Comelec sets guidelines for local absentee voting

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has set the guidelines for the local absentee voting

and party-list groups, according to Comelec Resolution No. 10725 signed on Oct. 27.

Government employees, uniformed personnel, and members of the media should file their applications as absentee voters on or before March 7. Actual voting for this group will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 27 to 29.

Warning up on counterfeit money after CIDG seizes P100K in fake bills in Cebu

The Philippine money was intended the CIDG headed crimes they commit. receive fake money. that they should National Police (PNP) to be circulated for by PMGen Albert He also reminded "I would reiterate contact the police has warned against the 2022 elections — Ignatius Ferro for the the people that the advice of the BPS immediately if they the proliferation to be used for vote- successful operation the holiday season to the public to be have been victims of fake peso bills buying schemes. that led to the arrest is approaching, wary of fake money of counterfeit money after its Criminal According to of two people behind and they should and familiarize or have received it Investigation and Eleazar, ordinary the proliferation of think twice about themselves with the so that action can be Detection Group people would be on fake peso bills in accepting money security features of taken immediately to (CIDG) was able to the losing end of Cebu," Eleazar said from candidates who genuine peso bills to arrest the perpetrator. seize P100,000-worth these schemes as in a statement. will buy their votes. avoid spreading fake PNP revealed of counterfeit money they would be lured. Eleazar said he Eleazar advised banknotes," Eleazar that the police from two suspects in into voting for a would ensure that Eleazar advised people to be wary said. operation started Cebu City. particular candidate these criminals of the bills that they The use of after CIDG got tips PNP chief Gen. while the money regret what they did are receiving, while counterfeit money in that the counterfeit Guillermo Eleazar given to them is as most of the time it urging them to report any transaction could bills are being said last Oct. 29 that actually fake. is ordinary citizens to police officers lead to imprisonment, readied for the they believe that the "I commend that suffer from the if they happen to be warned, adding election season.

USAID earmarks \$82.4M in grants to PH

The United States growth in Asia, in Southeast Asia (E4S- ing with employers in technology) infra- USAID said the Agency for Interna- support of the United EA). the six Asean coun- structure, promoting five-year ESP proj- tional Development States' vision of a Besides the Phil- tries to design locally cybersecurity aware- ect "will promote the (USAID) will extend free, open, secure ippines, E4SEA will led interventions to ness, and bolstering country's key energy to the Philippines at and prosperous Indo- cover Cambodia, In- hire, promote and re- ICT protections." sector priorities and least \$82.4 million in Pacific region." donesia, Laos, Thai- tain women; develop- ing vocational edu- mate resilient cities mitigation goals." grants during the next Four projects were in USAID's "increase job oppor- tunities for women pipeline for the Phil- ippines, including the \$33.4-million better access and connectiv- ity; \$15-million cli- mate resilient cities; and \$34-million ener- gy secure Philippines flagship projects. pursue energy indus- try careers, and help The Philippines was also included develop solutions to address gender-based constraints to talent recruitment." E4SEA was also ICT (information and communications project, it added. it said. At the conclusion of the two-day Indo-Pacific Business Forum, which was hosted virtually in India on Oct. 28 and Oct. 29, the US aid arm announced financing totaling \$236 million "to expand economic

Vaccine czar to LGUs: Rush use of 38M doses

With the arrival of more COVID-19 vaccines, the National Task Force Against COVID-19 (NTF) urged last Oct. 29 local governments across the country to be "creative and flexible" in speeding up their vaccination drives and go house-to-house to give the jabs if they have to.

NTF chief implementer Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. said that as of Oct. 28, the country had 38 million doses of various brands of vaccines ready for distribution.

He said 8 million were in national warehouses and 30 million in regional storage facilities. They have a shelf life of six months, he said.

"We look forward to seeing each and every LGU (local government unit) in the country hit-

ting their daily jab targets in the days ahead, as we collectively work toward reaching and sustaining the 1.5 million jab rate that we hope to achieve within this quarter," Galvez said Oct. 28 night as he received 976,950 doses of Pfizer vaccine procured by the government.

He said he expected that by November the government would have reduced its storage inventory to "at least 20 million doses."

In a statement last Oct. 29, the NTF directed LGUs to conduct house-to-house vaccinations in their localities "to ramp up their daily vaccination rates."

Galvez acknowledged several problems hampering the faster deployment of the vac-

cines, particularly to places outside Metro Manila.

One reason for the slow pace of distribution of the shots was that some localities are unable to commit to a specific number of jabs within the limited period of the vaccines' viability and efficacy as they did not have the necessary cold storage facilities, he said.

Highly sensitive vaccines brands, such as Pfizer, Moderna, and Gamaleya's Sputnik V, require subzero temperature storage.

"Most of our municipalities don't have some sort of stable electricity in their areas. And considering that these vaccines need a storage with stable power supply, the problem is that we will have to

plan these just-in-time deliveries," Galvez said, referring to the process of distributing a specific number of vaccines that could only be administered immediately.

There was also a high rate of vaccine hesitance in areas that were considered low-risk for COVID-19, he said.

"Those factors make certain municipalities lack the confidence to handle these vaccines," Galvez said.

The independent pandemic monitor Octa Research group said the challenge for the government now was how to avoid wasting the shots.

"Now that the struggle has moved from supply to logistics, how do we optimize deployment [of vaccines] in the provinces," Octa fellow and University of the

Philippines professor Ranjit Rye said.

"We need to have a significant portion of our population beyond NCR (National Capital Region) vaccinated ... but not every region is as endowed as NCR in terms of facilities and technical manpower to deploy vaccines," he said.

Rye said the government needed to scale up its information drive to reduce the resistance from some Filipinos to the vaccine.

A Sept. 11 to Sept. 16 OCTA survey showed that among those who refused to get jabbed, 65 percent cited uncertainty over the safety of the shots as the main reason.

The survey said 77 percent of people in Metro Manila and 78 percent in the rest of Lu-

zon outside the capital cited their refusal to be vaccinated for the same reason. In Mindanao, it was 73 percent. Only the Visayas registered a low rate of 33 percent.

"A lot of people are hesitant and it's largely an issue of lack of information. A lot of people in the provinces still have vaccine hesitancy largely because they are not informed," Rye said.

Andrew Morris, Unicef chief field officer for Mindanao, said "refusal and hesitancy are really major concerns" in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

As of Oct. 18, only 6.63 percent of the people in the BARMM have been fully vaccinated, the lowest number nationwide.

Fuel price hikes may push up Oct inflation

The central bank expects the increase in the average prices of basic goods and services in the country to accelerate to 4.5 to 5.3 percent in October due largely to the steady increase in the cost of petroleum on the international market.

In a statement, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Benjamin Diokno also said that "higher Meralco

electricity rates, increased fish and fruits prices, and the peso depreciation will provide additional upside pressures."

At the same time, however, these elements could be partially offset by the steady decline in rice and meat prices,

reflecting the continued arrival of pork imports since the government lowered tariffs to combat the prolonged

effects of the African swine fever that began in 2019.

The October forecast range of the central bank is biased upward compared to the September inflation rate of 4.8 percent, which surpassed on the downside, as many market watchers were expecting the consumer price index for that month to breach 5 percent.

"Moving forward, the

BSP will continue to closely monitor emerging price developments to help ensure that its primary mandate of price stability conducive to balanced and sustainable economic growth is achieved," Diokno said.

The Philippine Statistics Authority is scheduled to release the official inflation rate for October on Nov. 5, Friday.

The other week, the

central bank reiterated that domestic inflation remained "manageable" and, as such, domestic interest rates would likely remain at historic lows as part of the regulator's efforts to jumpstart growth that has been ravaged by the coronavirus pandemic.

The central bank also said the risks to the inflation outlook shifted towards the upside for the rest of 2021 but

remained "broadly balanced" for 2022 and 2023.

"Upside risks could emanate from pressures on international commodity prices amid improving global demand and lingering supply-chain bottlenecks, as well as the potential effects of weather disturbances and a possible prolonged recovery from the ASF outbreak," it said.

PH debt hits new high of P11.92T

Additional sourced debt further rose on August also added domestic and foreign month-on-month on the P76.82 billion to the borrowings plus a weaker back of a net issuance of national government's peso further hiked the treasury bills and bonds, external obligations.

national government's or a bigger volume of The government tried to minimize these outstanding debt to a government securities foreign exchange risks new high of P11.92 sold in September than by borrowing the trillion in September. those that matured, bulk of its financing

The latest Bureau of A net of P167.45 billion in IOUs were requirements from the Treasury (BTr) data added to the domestic the local debt market, last Oct. 29 showed end- debt pile last month, which continued to ooze September outstanding with cash despite the prolonged COVID-19 obligations climbed 2.4 Treasury data showed. pandemic.

percent from P11.64 The external debt stock, meanwhile, rose jumped 27.2 percent 3.1 percent month-on-month and 20.4 percent from P9.37 trillion a year-on-year to P3.53 trillion at the end of the first nine months.

Domestic debt, which accounted for 70.4 percent of the total, On top of the net inched up 2 percent of P43.99 billion in month-on-month and foreign loans, which grew 30.3 percent year-took effect last month, on-year to P8.39 trillion the peso's depreciation as of September. to 50.879:\$1 in end-

In a statement, the Treasury said locally against the US dollar

market. Since the debt stock grew faster than the economy during the first half, debt-to-gross domestic product (GDP) stood at 60.4 percent as of end-June—above the 60-percent threshold, which debt watchers considered as a manageable level among emerging markets.

On August also added P76.82 billion to the national government's external obligations. The government tried to minimize these foreign exchange risks by borrowing the bulk of its financing requirements from the local debt market, which continued to ooze with cash despite the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the debt stock grew faster than the economy during the first half, debt-to-gross domestic product (GDP) stood at 60.4 percent as of end-June—above the 60-percent threshold, which debt watchers considered as a manageable level among emerging markets.



Philex 9-mo profit jumped 116% to P1.87B

The steady increase in gold and copper prices boded well for the country's biggest gold producer, Philex Mining Corp., as it reported a core net income of P1.87 billion at end-September, a 116-percent surge.

The firm also attributed its 9-month performance to sustained metal output, efficient deployment of operating costs and expenses and favorable foreign exchange

rate also allowed Philex to record revenues of P7.74 billion at end-Sept., up 22 percent. The issuance of Executive Order No. 79, which lifted the suspension on the approval of new mining deals, is also expected to renew investors' interest in Philex's Singalan Project. This is considered one of three major projects that would make the country a major copper producer in the world.

While it produced a slightly lower gold output of 14,270 ounces, it was able to bring its copper output to 6.54 million pounds. The upward trend in metal prices and the favorable exchange

Outflow of 'hot money' smaller in September than in 2020

More short term investments left than entered Philippine financial markets in September, reversing gains in August, but still representing a substantial improvement over net outflows in the same period in

2020 at the height of the pandemic. In a statement, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said that portfolio funds registered with the agency yielded net outflows of \$24 million in September, the sum of \$1.21

billion gross outflows and \$1.19 billion gross inflows for the period.

This was a reversal from the net inflows of \$12 million recorded in August 2021. The outflow, however, was an improvement of 95 percent compared to the

net outflows of \$493.6 million in September 2020.

These funds refer to: Inward foreign investments in local stocks Peso-denominated government securities Peso time deposits

with banks with minimum tenors of 90 days Other peso debt instruments Unit investment trust funds Other portfolio investments like exchange traded funds and Philippine deposits

tary receipts. The BSP said the \$1.19 billion registered investments for September 2021 reflected a 47.3-percent or \$381-million increase compared to the \$807 million recorded in August 2021.