



# SBMA to outsource Contract of Service personnel

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — In compliance with national government directive, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) will outsource the services rendered by a significant chunk of its Contract of Service (COS) personnel starting February 2019.

According to lawyer Ramon Agregado, SBMA Senior Deputy Administrator for Support Services, a total of 307 personnel maintained by the agency under COS scheme will be absorbed by outsourcing companies that will provide janitorial, ground maintenance, building security and housing security services to the SBMA.

Agregado announced this on Friday (Dec. 28) during a general assembly at the SBMA Gym wherein agency officials discussed outsourcing and position reclassification procedures with concerned personnel. This was after the affected personnel were first notified in writing in April 2018.

The affected workers, he said, are security, janitorial, and ground main-  
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Cruise ship World Dream visits Subic Bay in day 2 of 2019 with thousands of tourists. SubicBayNews photo by Vic V. Vizcocho, Jr.

## DENR, upland farmers partner in grassland reforestation in Zambales

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) partnered with a group of upland farmers in bringing back trees in a portion of grassland ecosystem in Zambales.

Malatapi Community Livelihood Center Incorporated (MCLCI) in Candelaria town, a people's organization and beneficiary of the DENR's Community-Based Forest Management Program (CBFMP), uses a cost-efficient way and enhanced the establishment of second-growth forest.

"MCLCI has managed to reforest a total of 60-hectare grassland portion of their CBFMP area without planting any seedlings or additional cost from us but through Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR)," DENR Assistant Regional Director

Arthur Salazar said.

"What the upland farmers did is to find surviving tree species or seedlings including wildlings in the grassland area, then, they uprooted the grass around the tree, combined with grass pressing by foot to clear the surrounding of the tree species from weeds. This method of forest restoration is technically called as ANR," he explained.

ANR is a cost-efficient technology of rehabilitating degraded forest land and shrub vegetation by taking advantage of trees already growing in the area, and by protecting and nurturing it.

"They have protected the tree species from grass fire and grazing by estab-

**see DENR, page 2**



DENR partnered with a group of upland farmers in bringing back trees in a portion of grassland ecosystem in Zambales. Malatapi Community Livelihood Center, Incorporated in Candelaria town, a people's organization and beneficiary of the DENR's Community-Based Forest Management Program, uses a cost-efficient way and enhanced the establishment of second-growth forest. (DENR Region 3)

## AboitizPower to energize one of Philippines' leading economic zone

Science Park of the Philippines, Inc. (SPPI), one of the country's leading industrial estate developers, has partnered with AboitizPower for the energy needs of its newest project, the Light Industry & Science Park (LISP) IV, a 212-hectare park situated in Malvar, Batangas.

LISP IV is part of a mixed-use development called Malvar Cybergreen, which includes commercial, institutional, and residential components. It retains about 35% of its original landscape to preserve its natural ecosystem that enhances the environmental quality of the park. It has numerous advantages including the ability to withstand the worst-recorded flooding in the area in a hundred years.

"With our goal to make LISP IV another world-class and sustainable industrial estate similar to our other developments, we saw the need for a partner who shares our commitment to quality, innovation, and sustainability," said SPPI President Richard Albert I. Osmond.

Jaime Jose Y. Aboitiz, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Of-

ficer of AboitizPower Distribution Business Group, said that "this new partnership underscores AboitizPower and SPPI's efforts to provide Filipinos and foreign partners with excellent business support and services that are adherent to global standards. Economic zones, through their products and services, are major drivers of our economy. They provide thousands of Filipinos with gainful employment. We are happy to support these zones and their locators through reliable, dependable and efficient power, so they can continue to contribute to the growth of the economy, our people, and the country."

AboitizPower, through its distribution utility, Malvar Enerzone Corporation, will manage the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of the power distribution of LISP IV for 25 years.

LISP IV will have two 50-megawatt transformers to ensure that its locators, most of which are export manufacturing and industrial companies, will have

**see AboitizPower, page 2**



A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS A SUSTAINABLE PARTNER. Science Park of the Philippines, Inc. (SPPI) partners with AboitizPower to energize its 212-hectare Light Industry & Science Park (LISP) IV in Malvar, Batangas.

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SBMA to outsource.....from page 01

tenance personnel whose positions have been recommended for outsourcing by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) as early as September 2013.

“This is a requirement of the government—of the DBM. We are simply complying with the requirement,” Agregado explained.

“Please bear in mind that we are doing our best in order for you to keep your jobs,” he assured workers.

At the same time, Agregado said the SBMA would retain a total of 655 COS workers until June 2019, but possibly until December 31, 2020, the new deadline set under a joint circular from DBM, Civil Service Commission (CSC) and Commission on Audit (COA).

He said the SBMA hopes to hire the remaining qualified personnel for plantilla positions once the agency’s proposed restructuring plan gets approved by the DBM.

In the meantime, the SBMA has begun reclassifying COS positions and salary grades so that these workers may eventually fit into the new organizational structure, assuming they obtain the requisite eligibility, Agregado added.

The outsourcing and position reclassification procedures, SBMA officials said, actually serve as safety nets to avert financial ruin for workers affected by the order to end contractualization in government service.

SBMA Deputy Administrator for Administration Ruel John Kabigting noted that the SBMA had previously been called out at the House of Representatives for employing some of the most number of COS workers among government agencies.

He added that other free ports like Clark and Bataan had since outsourced their personnel accordingly.

Kabigting recalled that under Joint Circular No. 1 issued on June 15, 2017 by the CSC, COA and DBM, government agencies were allowed to renew contracts of service or job orders only until Dec. 31, 2018.

He said that while another joint circular dated Nov. 9, 2018 extended the deadline for compliance to Dec. 31, 2020, the DBM had directed the SBMA in a September 2013 memorandum to refrain from hiring personnel under contract of service and instead fill up its regular plantilla positions “to have semblance of continuity in service.”

He added that in 2015, the Office of the President likewise required the SBMA to reduce its manpower complement from contract of service to 3% per annum.

Finally in October 2016, the DBM directed the SBMA that “as a matter of policy, the janitorial and security services shall be outsourced, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, auditing and other applicable laws, rules and regulations,” Kabigting said.

From there, the outsourcing scheme was approved by the SBMA Board of Directors on April 12, 2018 and underwent the processes of notification, bidding and endorsement until the contract was awarded to winning service providers early this month.

According to the SBMA Human Resources Management Department (HRMD), the outsourcing scheme will provide job security in the private sector to the affected workers, as well as holiday pay, 13th month pay, overtime pay, and benefits from Social Security System, Pag-Ibig and Philhealth that they don’t otherwise enjoy as COS workers of the government

AboitizPower.....from page 01

reliable and good quality power supply. AboitizPower has been in the power distribution business for 80 years now. It operates the second and third biggest distribution utilities in the country – Visayan Electric Co., which serves the Metro Cebu area and Davao Light and Power Co., which serves Davao City and its surrounding areas. It also operates Cotabato Light and Power Co.

AboitizPower’s EnerZone Group has also been the trusted power distribution partner of various Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)-registered economic zones in Mactan, Balamban, Subic and Lipa, ensuring reliable and dependable power supply for locators.



The Service Agreement Signing Ceremony between Science Park of the Philippines, Inc. (SPPI) and AboitizPower was led by (from left to right): Bienvenido Jose T. Alora (SPPI Vice President for Industrial Engineering), Richard Albert I. Osmond (SPPI President and Chief Operating Officer), Jaime Jose Y. Aboitiz (AboitizPower Distribution Business Group Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer), Dante T. Pollescas (AboitizPower EnerZone Group Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer), and Ma. Chona Y. Tiu (AboitizPower Distribution Business Group First Vice President and Chief Financial Officer).

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LEGAL NOTICE

Republic of the Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
Third Judicial Region  
Olongapo City

Office of the Clerk of Court  
& Ex-Oficio Sheriff

ZAMBALES RURAL BANK,  
INC. (formerly Rural Bank of  
Castillejos, (Z) Inc.),

Mortgagee,

--versus--

EJF Case No. 2018-0-29  
Extra-Judicial foreclosure of  
real estate mortgage under  
Act 3135 as amended By Act  
4118

SPS. SMARTH E. ADOLFO and JYRLYN  
J. ADOLFO as Atty-in-fact of SPS.  
SANTO D. ADOLFO and FLODELIZA E.  
ADOLFO,

Mortgagor/s.

X-----X

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE**

Upon application of extra-judicial foreclosure for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee, ZAMBALES RURAL BANK, INC. (formerly Rural Bank of Castillejos, (Z) Inc., with office address at No. 6-20th St., East Bajac-Bajac, Olongapo City herein represented by CRISTINA D. JIMENEZ, VP for Operations, against **SPS. SMARTH E. ADOLFO and JYRLYN J. ADOLFO** as Atty-in-fact of **SPS. SANTOS D. ADOLFO and FLODELIZA E. ADOLFO** with address at Nagsabong, Linasin, San Marcelino, Zambales, to satisfy the mortgagor indebtedness which as of October 15, 2018, amounts to **THREE HUNDRED THIRTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY EIGHT & 11/100 (Php313,598.11) Pesos**, Philippine Currency, exclusive of penalties, attorney’s fees, and other charges, all secured by the said mortgage and in compliance thereto, undersigned Sheriff announces that on **February 7, 2019** at 10:00 o’clock in the morning or soon thereafter, in front of the Municipal Circuit Trial Court, San Marcelino, Zambales, she will “sell at public auction to the highest bidder and for cash, Philippine Currency, the following mortgaged property, including all improvements existing thereon, particularly described as follows:

**Original Certificate of Title No. EP-0-503 under Tax Declaration Nos. 009-0799 and 009-0652**

Cadastral Lot No. 2238-C  
Csd-03-002057 (OLT)

Assessor’s Lot No. 068  
Block No. 07  
Location: Linasin, San Marcelino, Zambales  
Classification: Riceland Unirr.  
Area: FOUR THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY SIX (4,866) square meters  
Boundaries:  
North: Lot 035                      South: Lot 041 & Lot 040  
East: Lot 039 & 069                West: Lot 067

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on February 13, 2019, without further notice.

Prospective bidders may investigate for themselves the papers and documents appurtenant to the herein above-described property including encumbrances thereon if any there be.

Olongapo City, January 4, 2019

JENIFFER G. DECANO  
Sheriff IV  
RTC-OCC  
Olongapo City & Zambales

Copy furnished:  
Ms. Cristina D. Jimenez  
Sps. Smarth E. Adolfo and Jyrlyn J. Adolfo  
Sps. Santos D. Adolfo and Flordeliza E. Adolfo

Warning:  
It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Sale on or before the date of sale, under penalty of law. \*Rule 39, Sec. 15.

Republic of the Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
Third Judicial Region  
BRANCH 75  
Olongapo City

RE: CANCELLATION OF THE  
RECORD OF BIRTH OF  
YSABELLA MARTIN BAGASIN  
WITH THE OFFICE OF THE  
CITY REGISTRAR OF  
OLONGAPO CITY, ZAMBALES  
X-----X

SPOUSES RANDY P. BAGASIN  
and DESIREE MARTIN – BAGASIN  
and ARLINE SAN ANDRES - PARAISO,  
Petitioner,

-versus-

SP PROC. NO. 2018-0-49

OFFICE OF THE CITY REGISTRAR  
OF OLONGAPO CITY, ZAMBALES, ETAL.,

Respondents.

X-----X

**ORDER**

A verified petition was filed by **Spouses Randy P. Bagasin and Desiree Martin-Bagasin and Arline San Andres-Paraiso**, through counsel, praying that after due notice and hearing, an order be issued directing the Office of the City Registrar of Olongapo City, Zambales to **CANCEL** the registration of birth of minor **YSABELLA MARTIN BAGASIN** under Registry No. 2015-5507 in the Register of Births of the Office of the City Registrar of Olongapo City, Zambales.

Said petition being sufficient in form and substance is set for hearing on **February 19, 2019 at 8:30 o’clock in the morning** and all persons interested may appear and show cause why said petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in any newspaper of general circulation in the City of Olongapo and in the Province of Zambales once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks prior to the date of hearing.

**SO ORDERED.**

**Olongapo City, this 9th day of November, 2018.**

RAYMOND C. VIRAY  
Judge

DENR.....from page 01

lishing fire lines or fire breaks to make sure its survival. They have also constructed look-out tower for regular monitoring against any forest disturbance,” he said.

In a statement, DENR Regional Executive Director Paquito Moreno Jr said ANR is a technology being promoted by the Association of South East Asian Nation- Republic of Korea Forest Cooperation Organization (AfoCO) to fast track the restoration of degraded forest lands and watershed with less cost to the government.

“This AfoCO project in Zambales is only one of the demonstrations of ANR technology. It is also being applied in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Singapore to improve the ASEAN region’s forest,” he said.

The four-year project, which was started in 2016, has provided MCLCI with various skills training on ANR application, forest development, landscape restoration, and vulnerability assessment.

Recently, 16 international delegates from Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Korea have visited the ANR area of MCLCI to observe the successful implementation of the technology, exchanged best practices and experiences in forest restoration.

MCLCI is composed of 35 members and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission since 1997, managing more than 1,400 hectares of forestland under the CBFMP. (CLJD-PIA 3)

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## AROUND CENTRAL LUZON

### Abucay-based Coop first 'Suking Tindahan' recipient in Bataan



DTI Provincial Director Nelin Cabahug (6th from right) leads the conferment of the Suking Tindahan Seal to Koop Merkado of Abucay Multi-Purpose Cooperative, becoming the first recipient in Bataan. (Mar Jay S. Delas Alas/PIA 3)

BALANGA CITY -- Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) conferred its Suking Tindahan Seal to Koop Merkado of Abucay Multi-Purpose Cooperative (AMPC), becoming the first recipient in Bataan.

DTI Provincial Director Nelin Cabahug said the program aims to promote local sari-sari stores, wholesalers, and cooperatives that sell basic and prime commodities within or lower their suggested retail prices.

"This is the first Suking Tindahan in Bataan and we are glad that we are awarding it to a cooperative," Cabahug said.

AMPC Chairperson Antonio Tengonciang vowed to strengthen partnership with DTI in protecting the welfare of consumers and complying with the trade fair laws.

He also pledged that Koop Merkado will carry at least 50 percent of the basic necessities and prime commodities under the jurisdiction of DTI.

"We hope we continue our partnership with DTI so we could help not just our members but also those who are in need," Tengonciang furthered. (PIA 3)

### 30 Negosyo Centers set-up by DTI in 2018

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga--Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) opened a total of 30 Negosyo Centers in Central Luzon this 2018.

Nueva Ecija has the most with eight followed by Zambales with seven, Tarlac-five, Pampanga-four, Bulacan-three, Bataan-two, and Aurora-one.

"We have already established a total of 94 Negosyo Centers from 2015-2018. That is about 72 percent of the 130 cities and municipalities in the region," DTI Regional Director Judith P. Angeles disclosed.

These were established through the support of local government units and different stakeholders who are members of the Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Development Council.

In total, Nueva Ecija has established the most number of Negosyo Centers with 20, followed by Pampanga and Tarlac with 15 each.

Zambales and Bulacan have 14 Negosyo Centers each while Bataan has 9 and Aurora has 7.

Establishment of Negosyo Centers is pursuant to Republic Act 10644 otherwise known as the Go Negosyo Act, which aims to strengthen inclusive growth in the countryside by enhancing the MSME Development Council.

"The goal is to establish a Negosyo Center in each city and municipality that will provide business advisory, business development, business information services and capacity building programs to potential and existing MSMEs," Angeles explained. (PIA 3)

### Mariveles is most child-friendly LGU in Bataan

BALANGA CITY -- Provincial Council on the Welfare of Children (PCWC) recognized Mariveles as having the Most Functional Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) among the municipalities and city in Bataan.

In his message during the awarding ceremony, Mayor Ace Jello Concepcion said the key to sustaining the child-friendly status is to provide inclusive support to families which will ultimately benefit children, and forge partnerships with developmental organizations.

"The secret to an effective program for the children underlies in the willingness of barangay officials to participate and involve their constituents," Concepcion added.

Moreover, PCWC recognized Batangas II and Baseco in Mariveles and Santa Lucia in Samal as Most Outstanding LCPC-Barangay level.

Chaired by Governor Albert S. Garcia, PCWC also recognized all 12 municipal and city governments for making the province a safe place for children which resulted in Bataan being conferred



Mariveles Mayor Ace Jello Concepcion delivers inspirational message as the Municipality of Mariveles was cited to have the Most Functional Local Council for the Protection of Children during the Provincial/City/Municipal Councils for the Protection of Children Summit. (Mar Jay S. Delas Alas/PIA 3)

## BALITA SA WIKANG PINOY

### Konstruksyon ng ikalawang viaduct ng Plaridel Bypass



Ibinabaon na ng kontratistang Hapon ang mga pundasyon para sa pangalawang Viaduct ng Plaridel Arterial Road Bypass. Oras na makumpleto ang proyekto sa 2020, ang pangalawang viaduct ay para na sa mga sasakyang patungo sa NLEX Balagtas Exit at ang naunang viaduct ay para sa mga papuntang San Rafael. (Shane F. Velasco)

SAN RAFAEL, Bulacan, -- Sinimulan na ng kontratistang Hapon ang pagbabaon ng mga pundasyon para sa pangalawang viaduct ng Plaridel Arterial Road Bypass.

Ito ay kasing haba rin ng unang viaduct na naitayo at ngayoy nadadanan na sa habang 1.2 km. Tumatawid ito sa ilog Angat na siyang nag-uugnay sa Bustos at San Rafael.

Sinabi ni Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar na sa pagsisimula ng pagtatayo ng pangalawang viaduct, ginastos na ang P4.3 bilyon panibagong Official Development Assistance ng Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Matatandaan na noong Abril 30,

2018, kasunod ng pagpapasinaya sa bahagi ng Plaridel Arterial Road Bypass sa San Rafael, isinagawa rin ang Ground-breaking Ceremony para sa pagpapalapad nitong 24 kmbagong daan kung saan bahagi ang pangalawang viaduct.

Gagawing tig-dalawang linya ang magkabilang direksyon ng Plaridel Arterial Road Bypass mula sa kasalukuyang salubungan.

Oras na matapos sa 2020, ito ay magiging daan lamang ng mga papuntang Balagtas Exit ng North Luzon Expressway habang ang naunang viaduct ay para na lamang sa mga sasakyang papuntang San Rafael. (PIA 3)

### DFA Consular Office sa Malolos

LUNGSOD NG MALOLOS) -- Magbubukas na sa Enero ang Consular Office ng Department of Foreign Affairs o DFA sa lungsod ng Malolos.

Ayon kay Mayor Christian D. Natividad, isang panibagong oportunidad ito sa mga Bulakenyo na makapag-apply ng pasaporte o makapag-renew nang hindi na kailangan pang lumuwas sa Metro Manila o sumadya sa Pampanga.

Dagdag pa ni Natividad na ang pagkakapwesto ng DFA Consular Office sa 3rd floor ng Malolos City Central Transport Terminal ay bahagi ng kanyang agenda na simulang tipunin ang mga tanggapan ng mga pamahalaang nasyonal sa sampung ektaryang government center ng lungsod.

Bukod sa naturang terminal, dito din matatagpuan ang Malolos Sports and Convention Center at ang katapos lamang na bagong Malolos City Hall.

Lumipat na rin sa lupang ito ang Department of Education (DepEd) Division of Malolos, City Police Station at ang bagong pasinayang Malolos City Senior Citizen's Center.

Ayon kay Officer-In-Charge Jun Ilagan, magsisimula silang tumanggap ng appointment sa Enero 18.

Bukod sa pagkuha o pag-renew ng passport, bukas din ito sa mga mamamayan na nais humingi ng tulong kung sakaling may problema sa mga kaanak na nasa ibang bansa. (CLJD/SFV-PIA 3)

### Pinarangalan ang mga pinakamalinis na barangay sa Bulacan

LUNGSOD NG MALOLOS -- Kinilala ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Bulacan ang mga pinakamalinis na mga barangay sa lalawigan sa pamamagitan ng parangal at pagkakaloob ng insentibo.

Sa ginanap na 2018 Gawad Parangal para sa Kapaligiran at Kaayusan ng Kapaligiran o KKK sa Barangay, tumanggap ng tig-P20,000 ang mga pamahalaang barangay na nanalo sa unang pwesto bilang pinakamalilinis.

Pinakamarami rito ay mula sa ikatlong distrito ng Bulacan kung saan kabilang ang barangay Bigte sa Norzagaray.

Tinanghal ding pinakamalilinis ang mga barangay ng Basuit, Bubulong Malaki, Makapilapil, Matimbubong, Pulong Tamo at Upig sa bayan ng San Ildefonso.

Pinakamalilinis naman sa bayan ng San Miguel ang mga barangay ng Sta. Rita Matanda, San Agustin, Partida, Biclat, Batasan Matanda, Batasan Bata, Pinambaran at ang Sapang habang nanalo rin ang barangay Caingin sa bayan ng San Rafael.

Sa tanging distrito ng lungsod ng San Jose Del Monte, tanging ang barangay Kaypian ang tinanghal na pinakamalilinis habang matatagpuan sa bayan ng Marilao ang limang pinakamalilinis na mga barangay ng Tabing Ilog. Sta. Rosa II, Lias, Abangan Sur at Saog sa ikaapat na distrito.

Sa unang distrito, pinakamalilinis na barangay ang Iba sa Hagonoy. Ang barangay naman ng Poblacion sa Pandi na nasa pusod ng lalawigan, ang pinakamalilinis sa ikalawang distrito ng Bulacan.

May 182 mula sa kabuuang 569 barangay sa lalawigan ang lumahok sa KKK upang maipakita ang kani-kanilang

mga reporma at proyektong pangkaayusan at pangkalinisan.

Ayon kay Gobernador Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado, pinasimulan niya ang KKK noong taong 2014 upang kilalanin ang mga pagsisikap ng mga pamahalaang barangay sa buong lalawigan para sa pangangalaga ng kapaligiran at pagpapalaganap ng kaayusan.

Inilahad naman ni Provincial Administrator Boy Payongayong na nagtakda ng pamantayan ang Pamahalaang Panlalawigan upang ganap na mapili kung saan-saang barangay ang karapat-dapat na matanghal na pinakamalilinis. Hinati sa tig-50 porsiyento ang pamantayan.

Sa unang 50 porsiyento, 20 porsiyento ang para sa maayos na pagkolekta ng basura sang-ayon sa Republic Act 9003 o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001. Tig-15 porsiyento para sa malinis at walang amoy na mga kanal at ilog; at sa malinis, maaliwalas at walang sagabal na mga kalsada at eskinita.

Samantalang ang ikalawang 50 porsiyento ay nakatutok sa kaayusan kung saan 15 porsiyento para sa walang masakit sa matang mga karatula, streamers, election posters o mga patalastas na tapos na pero ayaw pang baklasin. May 15 porsiyento rin kung maraming puno na nakatanim at gumaganang gulayan sa barangay habang 20 porsiyento kung malinis ang mga barangay halls at matinong pagtatago ng mga dokumento para sa operasyon ng pamahalaang barangay. (PIA 3)



## IN THE NAVY

### Chung-Hoon seizes drugs in Gulf of Aden



GULF OF ADEN. The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) seized 11,000 pounds of illicit drugs aboard a stateless vessel while conducting maritime security operations in the international waters of the Gulf of Aden. Chung-Hoon is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points. (U.S. Navy)



GULF OF ADEN. The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) seized 11,000 pounds of illicit drugs aboard a stateless vessel while conducting maritime security operations in the international waters of the Gulf of Aden. Chung-Hoon is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points. (U.S. Navy)



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**By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Logan C. Kellums, Carrier Strike Group 3, Public Affairs**

GULF OF ADEN (NNS) -- The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) interdicted a shipment of narcotics aboard a stateless vessel while conducting maritime security operations in the international waters of the Gulf of Aden, Dec. 27.

Chung-Hoon's visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team seized over 11,000 pounds of hashish while conducting a flag verification boarding.

"We have been conducting maritime security operations along suspected maritime smuggling routes in order to interdict illicit shipments into Yemen and Somalia," said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Brent Jackson, commanding officer of Chung-Hoon. "It's critical in an effort to curb the ongoing shipments of illicit weapons and narcotics. I am grateful that Chung-Hoon was able to play a small part in an ongoing effort to deter and limit these illicit shipments of contraband."

The vessel was determined to be stateless following a flag verification boarding, conducted in accordance with customary international law. The vessel and its crew were allowed to depart once the narcotics were seized.

Chung-Hoon is one of the many

ships currently conducting maritime security operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet. Maritime security operations as conducted by the U.S. Navy entail routine patrols to determine pattern of life in the maritime as well as enhance mariner-to-mariner relations. The relationships built as a result allow the U.S. Navy to disrupt the transport of illicit cargo that often funds terrorism and unlawful activities, and also reassures law-abiding mariners in the region.

5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points.

The U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations encompasses nearly 2.5 million square miles of water area and includes the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean. The region is comprised of 20 countries and includes three critical choke points at the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal and the Strait of Bab-al-Mandeb at the southern tip of Yemen.



# Subic Bay News

FORMER PUBLICATION OF THE U.S. NAVAL BASE, SUBIC BAY, PHILIPPINES

SINCE 1994

Vol 11 No 49 Dec. 30 - Jan. 05, 2018 www.subicbaynews.com Php 15.00

## Generally peaceful New Year revelry in Central Luzon

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga -- New Year celebration in Central Luzon was generally peaceful with zero crime incident, the Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3) has reported.

Chief Supt. Joel Coronel, PRO3 regional director, on Wednesday said that there was no reported case of indiscriminate firing and stray bullet incidents from the police and military, as well as from the civilian sector in the region during the period of December 16 to January 1.

"This is due to deployment of about 6,000 police personnel region-wide that started before Christmas," Coronel said.

Likewise, he said the number of firecracker incidents has tremendously decreased this year compared to 2018 New Year celebration.

From December 16 to January 1 this year, he said there were 94 victims of firecracker-related incidents in seven

provinces and two cities in Central Luzon, as compared to 367 victims in 2017.

"The heightened alert and deployment of our policemen have made Central Luzon generally peaceful in welcoming the New Year," he said.

Meanwhile, as a result of the 26 operations conducted by the police in the region, Coronel said 16 persons were arrested for violation of Republic Act 7183 (An act Regulating the Sale, Manufacture, Distribution and Use of Firecrackers and other Pyrotechnic Devices) and Executive Order No. 28 (Providing for the Regulation and Control of the Use of Firecrackers and other Pyrotechnic devices).

"I commend the entire Central Luzon police force for a job well done, putting aside their personal convenience and comfort in exchange for a peaceful, safe and injury-free holiday celebration," he added. (PNA)

## 547K visited Pangasinan's Hundred Islands in 2018



Tourists' first travel-goal this 2019 is Hundred Islands National Park in Alaminos City Pangasinan. (Photo courtesy of Mayor Arthur Celeste's official Facebook page)

ALAMINOS CITY, Pangasinan -- A total of 547,412 tourists visited the famous Hundred Islands National Park (HINP) here from January 1 to December 31 last year, resulting in PHP43.19 million in income for the city.

In an interview Thursday, City Tourism Officer Miguel Sison admitted that the tourist arrivals in 2018 declined by 2.6 percent compared to the recorded tourist arrivals of 561,909 in 2017.

"The decline was caused by the weather disturbances, not just in the province, but all over the country, wherein during those times, we needed to close the islands from tourists, especially during typhoons, or if the gale warning was up," Sison said.

Pangasinan was hit by several typhoons that caused flooding last year starting July, while the HINP was only accessible through boats from the Lucap Wharf at the city proper.

"We were only able to pick-up again last December. We are glad we still

exceeded last year's income amounting to PHP41.05 million," Sison said.

The city began implementing discounts to bona fide Pangasinenses last December 8 and will continue until the last week of May this year to encourage local tourism.

"The HINP's income would have been higher if there was no promotion," he added.

Sison further said the HINP has had a "good start" this year, as some 3,564 tourists visited the islands on January 1 and some 2,847 tourists on January 2, while a cruise ship is set to arrive this January.

"We hope to add more staff in preparation for the Holy Week and the summer season, which is the peak season at HINP," he said.

Meanwhile, another hotel will be constructed at the Lucap Wharf this year to accommodate more tourists who would stay overnight. (PNA)

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