



Hot air balloon fests set in Pampanga in April

MANILA -- Two hot air balloon festivals will be held in Pampanga next month, bringing once again the spotlight to the province as the Philippines' prime sports aviation events hub.

The Lubao International Hot-Air Balloon and Music Festival, to be held on April 5-7, will be followed by the Front Row Hot Air Balloon Festival on April 12-14.

During the press conference in Taguig on Thursday, Front Row Hot Air Balloon Festival organizers vowed a "bigger, bolder, busier, and better" hot air balloon fair.

"What we will have is a tethered balloon festival. The balloon will fly 50 feet to 70 feet and it will be pulled down and we have 15 balloons that will do that," said Wilfredo Placino, vice chairman and president of Global Gateway Development Corp.

Noel Castro, event consultant, also assured that safety and security for the riders are top priorities in this activity.

"In our experience, tethered flights are safe because they are anchored to the chase cars and we have two or three ropes to prevent them from flying away. This is not the first time that we will do this," he told reporters.

This year, 15 regular-shaped and see **HOT AIR**, page 02



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL HOT AIR BALLOON FIESTA

The two hot air balloon festivals will bring once again #Pampanga as the Philippines' prime sports aviation events hub. The Lubao International Hot-Air Balloon and Music Festival on April 5-7, and the Front Row Hot Air Balloon Festival on April 12-14.

USS Blue Ridge Arrives in Manila



U.S. 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) transits in the South China Sea in 2014. (Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Phillip Pavlovich)

Manila, March 13, 2019 — U.S. 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) and embarked 7th Fleet staff arrived in Manila today for the ship's first port visit to the Philippines since 2016.

The Blue Ridge and 7th Fleet team have longstanding ties with the Philippines and this port visit offers opportunities to reconnect after several years away. The crew will continue the tradition of participating in community service and cultural exchange events ashore, including multiple 7th Fleet band engagements and community relations events.

"Our nations are longstanding allies and our navies have worked together for generations," said Vice Adm. Phillip Sawyer, commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet. "Our visit to Manila strengthens the bonds between our navies and our shared commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific."

Blue Ridge commanding officer Capt. Eric Anduze will meet with Philippine Navy officials and distinguished visitors for a tour of the flagship to explain the ship's mission and goals.

"We are very proud to be back in Manila after a long absence," Anduze said. "The Philippines has been an ally of our country for many years, and being able to show our appreciation for that friendship is something we always look forward to. Continuing to foster and

maintain our deep relationships here is paramount to what we do in 7th Fleet."

During the visit, 7th Fleet and Blue Ridge sailors will spend time with local veterans, sharing stories and camaraderie with each other at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. Representatives from both the U.S. and Philippine navies will participate in staff talks aboard the ship, expanding interoperability between the two forces and providing a venue for professional exchanges.

Many Filipino-American sailors will have a chance to reconnect with their heritage during the port visit. One of these sailors, Seaman Charmaine Dalusung, will see the country she was born in for the first time since she was a child.

"I am very excited to come back to my first home," said Dalusung. "It's been a very long time since I've seen the friends and family I grew up with, so I'm extremely grateful to the Navy for giving me the opportunity to reconnect with my roots and culture."

The Blue Ridge recently completed a nearly two-year extended dry-dock selected restricted availability period and numerous certifications, to ensure she remains ready to provide security in the Indo-Pacific region. The Blue Ridge serves under Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 7, Task Force 76, the Navy's only forward-deployed amphibious force.

Humanitarian Projects in Support of Exercise Balikatan 19

Manila, March 15, 2019 — Multinational forces began humanitarian and civic assistance projects as part of exercise Balikatan 2019 on March 12.

Philippine, U.S., and Australian forces attended ground-breaking ceremonies for the renovation of three elementary schools in Orani, Bataan Province; Pangil, Laguna Province; and San Juan, Batangas Province as well as a health clinic in Mondaca, Tarlac Province.

Construction projects, health engagements, and community relations events will take place to improve local infrastructure, teach lifesaving medical skills, and strengthen ties between Philippine communities and Philippine, U.S. and Australian military forces.

The events are a preparatory part of this year's Exercise Balikatan, which officially takes place from April 1 to 12.

Balikatan is an exercise between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States, and also involves participation from Australia. Balikatan is a Tagalog phrase for "shoulder-to-shoulder," which characterizes the spirit of the exercise and represents the partnership between the U.S. and the Philippines.

During Balikatan 2019, U.S. and Philippine forces will conduct amphibious operations, live-fire training, urban opera-

tions, aviation operations, and counterterrorism response. All events will take place in Luzon, Palawan, and Mindoro.

This will be the first Exercise Balikatan to incorporate the USS Wasp paired with the United States Marines Corps' F-35B Lightning II aircraft. Together they represent an increase in military capability committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific. Participating in Balikatan demonstrates their ability to forward deploy in support of an ally should a crisis or natural disaster occur.

Balikatan 2019 will also bring together ASEAN members for an International Observers Program. The program aims to promote greater defense cooperation with ASEAN and other key allies and partners, show multinational coordination where the observers can mutually exchange meaningful ideas and best practices, and showcase the joint and combined air, sea, and ground operation of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and U.S. Armed Forces.

This year's Balikatan focuses on maritime security and amphibious capabilities, as well as multinational interoperability through military exchanges. Exercises like Balikatan strengthen international partnerships and the participating militaries' abilities to rapidly respond to crises throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

RJG WELCOMES ARREST OF GUNMAN IN SUBIC BUSINESSMAN'S KILLING

Senator Richard J. Gordon welcomed as a good break in the case, the arrest last week in Sto. Tomas, Batangas of the suspect in the murder of Subic businessman Dominic Lim Sytin.

"This shows that the police are doing their job. It is a good break in the case," he said.

The Philippine National Police announced in a press conference Monday morning the arrest last week of Edgardo Luib, the suspected gunman in the killing of Sytin outside the Lighthouse Hotel in Subic in November last year. Sytin's bodyguard Efren Espartero was also wounded.

Luib tagged Sytin's younger brother Dennis as the alleged mastermind of the killing. Police said that based on Luib's extrajudicial confession, the murder was motivated by the rivalry among corporate siblings.

"But the police should study all an-

gles and determine the real motive behind the killing. What motivated the killer. It was an extra-judicial confession. To be admissible, it must be voluntary; made with the assistance of a competent and independent counsel; express; and in writing," Gordon said.

The police said two .45 bullets and nine cartridges recovered from the crime scene matched with Sytin's .45 Norinco pistol that was confiscated from the suspect. Also confiscated from Luib were a .30 carbine, .40 pistol and a "large sachet" of marijuana. His fingerprints standard also matched from the latent prints lifted from side mirror from Yamaha Mio motorcycle used in the shooting.

Sytin was the founder and chief executive officer of United Auctioneers Inc., an auctioneer of used trucks and heavy equipment in Subic. He also owned ACEA Subic Bay Resort.

Hanjin workers protest amid tight security

SUBIC, Zambales -- For the fifth day, some 100 workers of the financially troubled Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction-Philippines or Hanjin continued to stage a protest rally at the Korean shipbuilding company's facility here Tuesday.

The workers said they have been barred by Hanjin's management from entering the firm's premises for refusing to sign the voluntary retrenchment program offered to them.

The protest has prompted authorities led by soldiers and policemen to secure a Hanjin gate where the workers have been picketing since Friday last week.

About seven military men and six police personnel were seen guarding Hanjin's facility since Monday morning.

The group Samahan ng mga Manggagawa ng Hanjin (Samahan) said they have been told by the soldiers to keep their protest peaceful.

"We will not sign the retrenchment program because we want to keep our jobs. Hanjin, as a principal company, is legally responsible for its workers if its subcontracting companies shut down," a worker said.

According to Virgilio Rodrigo, general secretary of Samahan, they have been locked out of the shipyard since Friday.

The protesting workers continued to hold banners demanding the company to give them their jobs back.

Rodrigo said 15 more subcontracting companies of Hanjin have issued notices of closure effective March 31.

He said the workers were given the promise that they would receive their salary for March and their separation pay.

Hanjin had earlier declared bankruptcy because it owed Philippine banks some USD400 million, and lenders in South Korea. USD900 million.

The Korean company filed a financial rehabilitation plan before the Olongapo City Regional Trial Court Branch 72.

Early this year, the court granted its petition for receivership and placed the South Korean shipbuilding firm under corporate rehabilitation.

Its liquidity problem had forced it to lay off more than 7,000 workers last December. (PNA)

HOT AIR.....from page 01

five special-shaped balloons will be floating in the skies of Pampanga. The tethered balloon flight in the morning and afternoon would be priced at PHP500 per person.

The week-long event is expected to gather some 70,000 people.

But aside from flying via hot air balloons, the organizers are also preparing musical performances by such popular artists as Ely Buendia, Kamikazee, Slapshock, Hale, and Unique Salonga. (PNA)



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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that an **EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF DECEASED PERSON WITH DEED OF RENUNCIATION-AND QUITCLAIM** was made and executed by the lawful heirs and successors of the deceased **RUBEN SANTIAGO, SR. and NATIVIDAD L. SANTIAGO**, who died intestate on OCTOBER 10 and AUGUST 24, 2001 RESPECTIVELY in San Fernando City, Pampanga, Philippines as per Doc No 46, Page No. 11 Book No X Series of 2019 in the notarial registry of Atty. Juanito C. Atienza.

All interested parties, creditors, and persons having money claims against the decedent are hereby required to file their claims with the court appointed executor of their estate.



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AboitizPower posts 6% income growth to P21.7 billion in 2018

For 2018, AboitizPower recorded a net income of P21.7 billion, 6% higher than the P20.4 billion recorded in the previous year.

Non-recurring losses of P2.1 billion were recognized, without which, core net income for 2018 was P23.8 billion, 2% higher YoY (year-on-year). AboitizPower recorded consolidated earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) of P51.5 billion for 2018, 8% higher compared to the P47.7 billion recorded in 2017.

"We were able to sustain our growth with the entry of new capacities from our baseload power plant in Pagbilao, as well as our hydro plant in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon and our efforts to continuously improve the availability and reliability of our generation assets," Emmanuel V. Rubio, AboitizPower Chief Operating Officer, said.

Generation and Retail Electricity Supply

AboitizPower's generation and retail electricity supply business recorded a consolidated EBITDA of P43 billion in 2018, 8% higher than the P39.7 billion recorded in the previous year. Performance was primarily driven by the fresh contributions from Pagbilao Energy Corporation (PEC) and Hedcor Bukidnon, Inc.

Capacity sold during the year was flat YoY, from 3,167 megawatts (MW) in 2017 to 3,152 MW in 2018.

"With our increased economic stake in the GN-Power Mariveles and Dinginin projects, we are confident that we will surpass our target of 4,000 MW net attributable capacity by 2020. These growth opportunities are all driven by our commitment to balance the needs of our customers in terms of the reliability, cost-efficiency, and environmental sustainability of the country's power supply," Rubio said.

Distribution

For 2018, AboitizPower's distribution business recorded consolidated EBITDA of P8.2 billion, 6% higher than the P7.8 billion recorded in 2017. The company saw energy sales increase to 5,540 gigawatt-hours (GWh), which was 5% higher than the 5,288 GWh recorded in 2017. This was the result of increased consumption levels across all customer segments.

"Our distribution business also continues to expand as we deliver world-class service to our close to one million customers within our growing franchise areas and emerging economic zones," Rubio said.

About AboitizPower

AboitizPower is the holding company for the Aboitiz Group's investments in power generation, distribution, and retail electricity services. It advances business and communities by providing reliable and ample power supply at a reasonable and competitive price, and with the least adverse effects on the environment and host communities.

The company is one of the largest power producers in the Philippines with a balanced portfolio of assets located across the country. It is a major producer of Clean-energy, its brand for clean and renewable energy with several hydroelectric, geothermal and solar power generation facilities. It also has thermal power plants in its generation portfolio to support the baseload and peak energy demands of the country.

The company also owns distribution utilities that operate in high-growth areas in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, including the second and third largest private utilities in the country.

Pangasinan town entry to Guinness World Record

BAYAMBANG, Pangasinan -- A 51-meter-tall Saint Vincent Ferrer statue situated at Barangay Bani here, which will be an entry to the Guinness World Record for tallest structure made of bamboo, will be finished and inaugurated on April 5 this year.

Mary Clare Judith Phyllis Jose-Quimbao, wife of Mayor Cesar Quimbao, said the blessing and inauguration ceremony is in time with the 400th founding anniversary of the St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Church here, and the 600th year death anniversary of Saint Vincent Ferrer.

Jose-Quimbao, the brains behind the project, said they initially thought of flying thousands of sky lanterns on that day. However, they shelved the idea for environmental reasons.

She recalled that she came out with the idea of constructing the tallest St. Vincent Ferrer statue while discussing with Mayor Quimbao, fiesta hermano mayor Henry Fernandez and some companions, on what activity to hold on that historical day.

"I was browsing the internet and saw a statue of St. Vincent Ferrer. And I

thought it fits well as my husband Cesar is a devotee of Saint Vincent Ferrer. There were many instances of little miracles in his life because of the saint. Also, we got married at the St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Church. Also, I am a devotee of Saint Vincent and Mama Mary," she said in an interview Tuesday.

"It will be a historical milestone for the Bayambanguenos which the present and next generations will see. We bought the land, the project is privately funded by the Kasama Ka Foundation, no fund from the local government was used," Jose-Quimbao added.

Architect Gerry Suratos, the project manager, said the prayer park where the statue is being constructed measures 21,000 square meters (2.1 hectares).

Based on the masterplan, it will have five meters wide pathways for persons with disability (PWDs) that will pass through the 15 Stations of the Cross. It will have a chapel, three Events Place, and a parking space that can accommodate 120 cars.

"The project was conceptualized on November 2017. The project plan was finalized on March 2018. We mobilized on April 2018. Mayor Quimbao told me, Gerry i've been working with projects na halos miracle na naptos (completed miraculously). I don't know if you can finish this project on time. I assured him we can do it with the help of the people ... and prayers," Suratos said.

Suratos said he assured the mayor they can finish

ILOCOS SUR OFFICIAL COMMENDS PRC

An Ilocos Sur board member has lauded the Philippine Red Cross, headed by its chairman, Senator Richard J. Gordon, for always being there to provide assistance to the whole province, especially during disasters.

Board Member Efren Rafanan represented Ilocos Sur Governor Chavit Singson during the distribution of P10,000-household assistance to some 501 families affected by typhoon Ompong in the most vulnerable barangays in the municipalities of Cabugao and Sinait.

"Only the Red Cross can do this. Not even the local government can give P10,000 to each beneficiary. Laging nandiyan ang Red Cross tuwing sinasalanta tayo ng bagyo dito. Kaya talagang kailangan nating tumulong sa Red Cross," he said.

The distribution of the livelihood assistance, held at the Cabugao Sports Complex, was attended by different officials of both the provincial and municipal governments.

The PRC implemented the six-months early recovery program in partnership with the Spanish Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross and the Italian Red Cross.

The PRC has come to Ilocos Sur's assistance in the wake of the ravaging of typhoons such as Lando, Ineng, Mario, Pedring, and Peping, among others. The assistance provided included distributing relief goods, both food and non-food items; assisting in evacuation centers; and mobilizing WASAR teams and ambulances, and others.

6 PRC Water Tankers deployed to Rizal Hospital

Senator Richard J. Gordon, chairman of the Philippine Red Cross, has ordered the deployment of six of the humanitarian organization's water tankers to the Rizal Medical Center to help ensure an available supply of potable water in the 300-bed hospital.

"At the request of Health Sec. Duque, we provided water tankers at Rizal Medical Center. This should help the patients who are vulnerable due to lack of potable and clean water in the hospital. This, like our responses to the measles outbreak and fire incidents, is part of the humanitarian services that the Philippine Red Cross delivers. And we will continue to ensure that hospitals will have sufficient water supply," he said.

The PRC, on Tuesday, deployed four units of 10,000-liter and two units of 12,000-liter water tankers. As of 8:30 pm, it has already provided 118,000 liters of water and filled up the hospital's 38,000 gallon water tank.

Gordon assured that the PRC will help provide clean and potable water to the thousands of families affected by the water shortage in Metro Manila but hospitals must be prioritized.

The water levels in the major dams supplying water to Metro Manila and nearby areas have dropped to below normal high water levels due to the effects of the El Nino phenomenon. Less rainfall is expected in the coming months.

Manila Water, the concessionaire for the east zone, has been implementing water interruptions in several areas to ensure that the water supply can last until June. It covers the cities of Mandaluyong, Pasig, San Juan, Taguig, and Marikina; the municipality of Pateros; parts of Makati, Manila, and Quezon City; and the towns of Angono, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, Cardona, Jalajala, Morong, Pililia, Rodriguez, Tanay, Taytay, Teresa, San Mateo and Antipolo in the province of Rizal.



The 51-meter high Saint Vincent Ferrer statue made of bamboos being constructed at barangay Bani in Bayambang, Pangasinan is near completion. This will be inaugurated on Apr. 5, 2019, in time for the 400th founding anniversary of the St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Church in Bayambang and the 600th year death anniversary of Saint Vincent Ferrer. (Photos by Liwayway Yparraquierre)

the project in less than a year if they do it through digitalized image.

"We employed 3D (three-dimensional) scan and 3D image making use of polygon. All of the locations of the image or statue are polygons, so we don't need a sculptor. If a sculptor would do the statue, it will take three to five years," he said.

Accordingly, the height of the St. Vincent Ferrer statue is 51 meters from the base up to the statue's tip. The image itself is 42 meters high from the feet.

For the materials, 60 tons of engineered bamboo were bought from China; while 600 tons of steel were used. The foundation is 7.5 meters deep, and they used 768.99 cubic meters of 6,000 PSI cement.

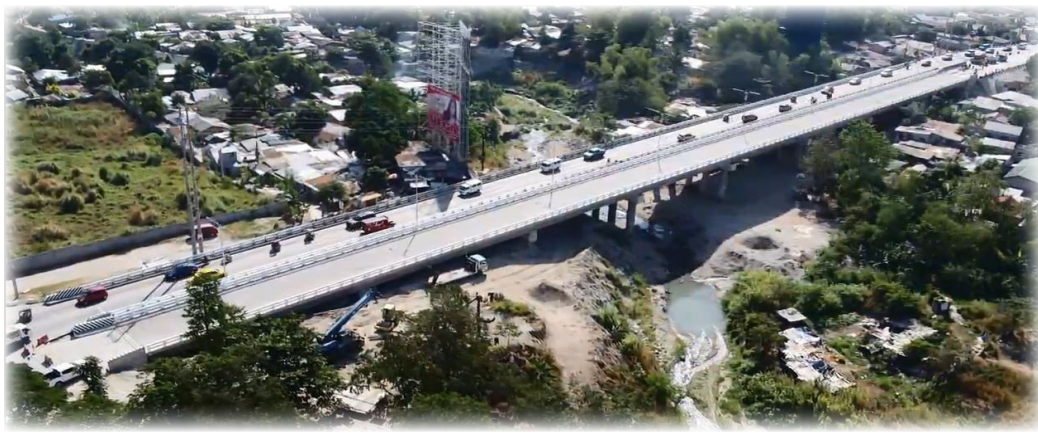
"Its core is super structure, it can withstand even a signal number eight typhoon," Suratos said.

"The reason why we used polygons is because the materials are panels of bamboos (bamboo panel), like the flooring. It's all flat surfaces and not curved. There are 5,000 polygons (triangles, irregular shapes) for the whole statue. The biggest challenge is the head because of the hair of St. Vincent, which is curly. The head alone has about 700 polygons," he added.

The St. Vincent Ferrer statue facing the east will be illuminated with lights. It can be seen even from the neighboring towns of Bautista, Alcala and Basista. (PNA)

AROUND CENTRAL LUZON

Newly-widened' Angeles City Friendship Bridge now open



The newly-widened and more secured Friendship Bridge in Angeles City located in barangay Anonas along the Friendship Circumferential Road West. (DPWH Region 3)

ANGELES CITY -- Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Mark Villar led Tuesday the inauguration of the newly-widened and more secured Friendship Bridge in Angeles City.

Located in barangay Anonas along the Friendship Circumferential Road West, DPWH opened the structure to motorists immediately after the two-week waterproof curing of the concrete pavement.

"The widening of the Friendship Bridge is vital to better accommodate commuters and motorists doing business in the bustling cities of San Fernando and Angeles, in Clark Freeport Zone and in Porac town," Villar said.

Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar (middle) leads the inauguration of the newly-widened and more secured Friendship Bridge in Angeles City. (DPWH Region 3)

les City. (DPWH Region 3)

"This is the solution to the bottle neck traffic situation caused by the existing bridge and the load section before and after the bridge had been widened," he added.

The project consisted of construction of additional two lanes and road widening as well as maintenance works such as repainting using anti-corrosion paint on metal structures and repair of cracks on the Friendship Bridge.

"We constructed the new bridge and approach with a total net length of 618 meters, and an additional bridge with a length of 240.8 linear meters, two lanes Reinforced Concrete Deck Girderon Bored Pile foundation and approaches," DPWH Regional Director Roseller Tolentino disclosed. (PIA 3)

DTI's Shared Service Facility in NEUST



Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology President Feliciano Jacoba (center) and Department of Trade and Industry Regional Director Judith P. Angeles (2nd from right) lead the inauguration of a Printing and Labelling Shared Service Facility housed at the Research and Training Extension Office. (DTI Region 3)

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga--Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) opened a Shared Service Facility (SSF) inside Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology (NEUST) Sumacab Campus.

"We provided P2.5 million worth of modern printing and labeling equipment to NEUST as SSF cooperator to provide micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the area, especially those in the dairy and fruit processing industry in Nueva Ecija with attractive and durable labeling for their products," DTI Regional

Director Judith P. Angeles said.

The equipment consists of an offset printer for printing labels for fruit juices, sacheted or bottled products and a corrugated carton box flexo printing machine. The brand new equipment are housed at the Research and Training Extension Office.

"Region 3 has one of the highest number of SSF projects in the country. SSF aims to help MSMEs get access to more modern equipment to improve their production and lessen cost," Angeles added. (PIA 3)

AFP, PNP outreach benefit 500 families in San Jose town

SAN JOSE, Tarlac -- About 500 families from barangay Maamot and Sula in San Jose town benefitted from the Joint Outreach Activity of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police.

Services provided include medical and dental check-up, free haircut, free appliance repair, feeding, and distribution of medicines, used clothes and toys.

702nd Brigade Commander Brigadier General Henry Robinson said reaching out and helping the populace is one of the priorities of the Philippine Army.

"You (residents) are the highlight of this outreach activity so that you will

have the basic social services that you need and deserve," he emphasized.

"Your security forces are reaching to serve as your companion towards a better life in your respective communities," Robinson added.

"Together with other government agencies, we will continue to provide basic social services to remote areas within our area of operation," he furthered.

The activity also featured a puppet show and theater play presentation depicting partnership and unity with the government towards an insurgency-free and peaceful community. (PIA 3)

BALITA SA WIKANG PINOY

Kontra Tigdas Bakuna sa 66,718 bata



Pinangunahan ni Dra. Jocelyn Gomez, pinuno ng Provincial Health Office, ang pagbabakuna sa mga bata kontra tigdas sa bayan ng Pulilan. (Pulilan PIO)

LUNGSOD NG MALOLOS -- Umabot na sa 66,718 bata may edad anim na buwan hanggang limang taon ang nabakunahan sa Bulacan kontra tigdas.

Ayon kay Provincial Health Office o PHO Head Jocelyn Gomez, ito'y katumbas ng 63 porsyento ng target ng Department of Health na 106,415 para sa lalawigan.

Bukod sa bakuna, nagpamahagi rin ang PHO ng mga Bitamina A at patuloy ang kanilang isinasagawang monitoring sa mga high risk na mga lugar at referral ng mga may pinaghihinalaang kaso ng tigdas sa mga

health facilities.

Base sa tala ng Provincial Epidemiology Surveillance Unit o PESU, nagtala ang lalawigan ng 286 na pinaghihinalaang kaso ng tigdas mula Enero 1 hanggang Pebrero 2 o katumbas ng 3,985 porsyentong pagtaas kumpara sa pito lamang sa parehong panahon noong nakaraang taon.

Nakasaad din sa datos ng PESU na anim na ang namatay at isa rito ay kumpirmado na base sa resulta ng laboratory test. (PIA 3)

Regional Solo Parents' Gen. Assembly

LUNGSOD NG SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga -- Nagsagawa ng Regional Solo Parents' General Assembly ang Department of Social Welfare and Development o DSWD upang talakayin ang mga isyu at polisiyang nakaaapekto sa kanila.

Ayon kay DSWD Assistant Regional Director for Operations Venus Rebulde, layunin ng nasabing pagpupulong na patuloy na itaguyod ang mga karapatan at kapaanan ng mga solo parents.

Aniya, alinsunod sa Republic Act 8972 o Solo Parents Act of the Philippines, responsibilidad ng Estado na itaguyod ang pamilya bilang pundasyon ng bansa, palakasin ang pagkakaisa nito at tiyakin ang kabuuang pag-unlad nito, kaya tinipon nila ang mga ito upang makita ang progreso ng kanilang mga organisasyon at magplano ng mga programa at proyekto.

Hinikayat naman ni DSWD Solo Parent Focal Person Rosario Cebricus ang mga solo parents na magparehistro sa kanilang mga komunidad dahil magbibigay daan ang kanilang bilang sa pag-amyenda ng RA 8972.

Samantala, iniulat naman ni Central Luzon Regional Federation of Solo Parents o CLRFSP Outgoing President Rebecca Peñaranda ang kanilang mga nagawa patungkol sa malawakang orientasyon ng RA 8972 sa buong rehiyon.

Aniya, kahit na nagsimula sila na iilan lamang ang mga miyembro at walang pondo, patuloy nilang pinaunlad ang kanilang

ang grupo sa pamamagitan ng kanilang dedikasyon at determinasyon.

Ibinahagi naman ng mga kinatawan mula sa San Miguel, Bulacan ang kanilang mga kasanayan gaya ng pagparehistro at profiling ng mga solo parents, pagbibigay ng mga pagpagsasanay, programang pangkabuhayan, promosyon sa kalusugan at pakikipagsosyo sa pamahalaang bayan na nagbigay daan para sa pagkakaroon ng karagdagang benepisyo tulad ng mga diskwento.

Bilang pangwakas, hinirang ng CLRFSP ang kanilang mga bagong opisyal kung saan si Teresita Pineda ang nahalal na Pangulo at si Mary Jane Delgado ang Pangalawang Pangulo.

Si Roselle Mendoza naman ang napiling Kalihim, Delia Taruc bilang Ingat-Yaman, Jerome Gonzales bilang Auditor, Zenaida Caalim bilang Public Relations Officer, Maritess Dalindin at Janet Cruz bilang Business Managers, at Rebecca Peñaranda, Cristine Ponce, at Evelyn Cabanes bilang Mga Tagapayo.

Tinukoy rin ang mga Provincial Coordinators na sina Deolito Castro para sa Aurora, Carolina Damaso para sa Bataan, Rosalie Javier at Feni Evangelista para sa Bulacan, Melvin Del Rosario at Marcos Mendoza para sa Nueva Ecija, Angel Jose at Freddie Santos para sa Pampanga, at Elizabeth Perolina para sa Tarlac. (PIA 3)

Bagong medical diagnostic van ng Kapitolyo ng Tarlac

LUNGSOD NG TARLAC -- Tumanggap ng isang bagong diagnostic van ang Pamahalaang Panlalawigan upang makapaghatid ng mas mataas na antas na serbisyong medikal sa mga Tarlakenyo.

Ayon kay Gobernador Susan Yap, ito ay nagkakahalaga ng P8.3 milyon na mula sa kanyang kaibigan na si Abby Watabe.

Ito aniya ay karagdagang oportunidad upang mailapit sa mga karatig bayan o pook ang serbisyong medikal at maaksyunan agad ang mga pangangailangan ng pangkalusugan ng mga mamamayan.

Ang na-



Tumanggap ng isang bagong diagnostic van ang Pamahalaang Panlalawigan upang makapaghatid ng mas mataas na antas ng serbisyong medikal sa mga Tarlakenyo. Ito ay may kumpletong kagamitan para sa ultrasound, x-ray, electrocardiogram at laboratory services. (Gerry G. Gomez)

turang van ay may kumpletong kagamitan para sa ultrasound, x-ray, electrocardiogram at laboratory services.

Pahayag pa ni Yap, sa pamamagitan nito ay patuloy ang pagsisiguro na ang bawat Tarlakenyo ay may access sa pan-

gangalaga ng kalusugan.

Kasabay nito, nagkaloob din ang Kapitolyo ng P2 milyon sa Philippine Red Cross-Tarlac Chapter bilang bahagi ng pagtugon sa blood donation program. (PIA 3)

IN THE NAVY



PHILIPPINE SEA. The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS McCambell (DDG 85), Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Milius (DDG 69), Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville (CG 62), and the amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48) maneuver while operating in the Philippine Sea. U.S. Navy warships train together to increase the tactical proficiency, lethality, and interoperability of participating units in an Era of Great Power Competition. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Alexandra Seeley)



PACIFIC OCEAN. F/A-18E Super Hornets from Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 136 fly in formation during a photo exercise over California. VFA-136 is an operational U.S. Navy strike fighter squadron based at Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif., and is attached to Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 1. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Shannon Renfro)



MAJURO, Republic of the Marshall Islands (March 12, 2019) Lt. Sam Lieber interacts with students at Assumption School in Majuro, Marshall Islands during a Pacific Partnership 2019 host nation engagement, March 12, 2019. Pacific Partnership, now in its 14th iteration, is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Each year, the mission team works collectively with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase stability and security in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships in the Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Chanel Turner)



BOSTON (March 11, 2019) Seaman Jaida Williams, assigned to USS Constitution, climbs the mizzenmast shroud during weekly sail training. Constitution's crew members conduct weekly training to learn and retain sailing information. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Casey Scoular)



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SM Continues to be PWD-friendly



Consistently, SM Olongapo conducts Seminar on Handling Persons with Special Needs in support to SM Cares Program on Persons with Disabilities and to the various government programs on PWDs. As the mall progresses, the aim to protect and treat persons with special needs also flourish.

In a seminar conducted recently, SM Olongapo invited speakers from the different special education schools; Minerva Vergara from Old Cabalan Integrated School-SPED Coordinator, Millette Sarmiento from Gordon Heights-SPED Coordinator and Veronica Galicia from Old Cabalan Integrated School-SPED Coordinator to talk about topics on How to Communicate with persons with Visual Impairment, Interacting with People with Disabilities, and How to Handle Customer with Hearing Impairment respectively.

Mr. Gonzalo Pascua, Jr. Head of City Social Welfare and Development Office, Ma. Eleanor Francisco of Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office and Regional and Federation President for Visual Group Andrew Perez, Nette Mortel, PR Manager of SM Olongapo and Rafael John Escalante, Building Administration Officer of SM Olongapo were also present in the seminar. Similarly, tenants, employees, and front liners were the target audience of the orientation and training.

"Masayang-masaya po kami sa pag-

kakataong ito dahil ang SM ay nagbubukas ng malaking pagkakataon para sa katulad namin upang ma-access ng mabuti ang lugar na ito(mall) at natutuwa po kami dahil pinapahalagahan ng SM ang mga kagaya naming may kapansanan. Sana po ay magpatuloy pa ang programang ito dahil napakalaking tulong sa aming mga PWDs," said Andrew Perez, regional and federation president, visual group.

"SM Cares promotes a barrier-free and disability inclusive environment. The SM Cares Program on PWDs have instituted key programs to address the needs of customers with special needs, which earned its reputation for being the most PWD-friendly establishment across the country. Facilities have dedicated areas for parking and proper embarkation and disembarkation for PWDs, special restrooms, ramps, some have braille signs, designed areas for PWDs in cinemas, as well as utilities with accessible height like pay phones and wash room sinks." – SM CARES

Some of the Program's notable initiatives which were held in partnership with some PWD organizations include the annual Angels Walk for Autism, Happy Walk for Down Syndrome, Special Movie Screening for the Blind and Deaf, White Cane Day for the Blind, Disaster Resilience Conference for PWDs and Senior Citizens, and special concerts for the benefit of the Filipino PWD.