

## SHIP WITH CANADIAN WASTE HAS LEFT THE COUNTRY – Vic V. Vizcocho, Jr.

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — ALL the garbage brouhaha for the past six years has finally resulted to the return of 69 container vans containing “hazardous” wastes to Canada.

“After mounting several creative protest actions... and sending not a few letters and petitions to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his predecessor since 2014, we are finally reaping the hard-earned fruits of our people’s persistent fight for environmental justice,” said Aileen Lucero, national coordinator of the EcoWaste Coalition.

A total of 103 container vans of waste from Canada were discovered in the Port of Manila between 2013-2014, and moved here for storage while the government was in a quandary on what to do with it. However, in 2015, the contents of 26 were covertly dumped in a landfill in Capas, Tarlac.

Eight (8) container vans have not been accounted for, prompting EcoWaste Coalition to file a Freedom of Information request to the Bureau of Customs (BoC) “to shed light on this matter of public interest.” BoC has yet to respond.

The containers were loaded through the night on MV Bavaria which left the Subic Bay Freeport around 7 AM today.

With the public outrage over the dumping of wastes by other countries on Philippines soil boiling over, President Rodrigo Duterte earlier threatened to “go to war” with Canada if the latter refuses to take back its garbage by May 15, 2019. Canada ignored Duterte’s deadline, however, and no war was declared, although he did recall the country’s diplomats in Canada.

Local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) groups, aside from EcoWaste Coalition, including Greenpeace Philippines, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, BAN Toxics, and the Global Break Free from Plastic Movement, attribute the “victory” to the “concerted effort of the people.”

It can be recalled that the late Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, herself, was at the forefront of the fight against the dumping of foreign wastes on Philippines soil.

She raised a howl in 2015 when the government started to dispose the Canadian waste in Tarlac, effectively preventing the dumping of the contents of the remaining container vans there.



Vol. 12 No. 18 May 26 - June 01, 2019 www.subicbaynews.com Php 15.00



The ship MV Bavaria powers off the Subic Bay Freeport around 7 AM today with the 69 container vans containing hazardous wastes from Canada that has been the subject of heated protests and debates in the country for the past 6 years. Subic-BayNews photo by Vic V. Vizcocho, Jr.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chair & Administrator Wilma T. Eisma says she is relieved that the waste has finally left the Subic Bay Freeport.

An advocate of “safe & clean environment,” Eisma said she would not allow any more similar waste shipments to be stored in the Freeport under her administration.

“My Seaport team is monitoring that all these 69 containers are going up there on the ship which will leave for Canada early in the morning,” Eisma assured the media last night.

Recently, more waste shipments to the Philippines have been discovered, particularly in Mindanao, coming from China, South Korea and Australia.

The government has yet to punish or penalize the people behind the waste imports, as NGOs renew their call for the Philippines to ratify the Basel Convention Ban Amendment that prohibits the transboundary movement of wastes among countries for final disposal.

“Canada’s waste shipment to the Philippines has put in the spotlight how developed countries are exploiting weak national regulations and loopholes in in-

(Right photo) Local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) groups, aside from EcoWaste Coalition, including Greenpeace Philippines, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, BAN Toxics, and the Global Break Free from Plastic Movement, attribute the “victory” to the “concerted effort of the people.” SubicBayNews photo by Iya G. Oliva

ternational conventions in order to dump waste process in poor countries,” said Lea Guerrero, country director, Greenpeace Southeast Asia – Philippines, in a statement, “Imposing a ban to close the doors our doors to all waste shipments and ratifying the Basel Ban Amendment will send a strong message that the Philippines is not a dumping ground.” (VVV)



## Volunteer cleanups boost Subic Freeport tourism



Various stakeholder groups participate in the clean-up along the Boardwalk Park in the Subic Bay Freeport in preparation for the Ironman 70.3 triathlon on June 2.

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — Hundreds of volunteers from the various community organizations, schools and government agencies converged here on Sunday to clean up the beach along the popular Boardwalk Park here in preparation for the Century Tuna Ironman 70.3 Subic Bay triathlon event here on June 2.

The volunteers from the Philippine Coast Guard-Subic, its auxiliary PCGA 111th Squadron, the Philippine National Police, Ramon Magsaysay University in Subic, Zambales, and local schools Aura College and Gordon College, scoured the coast for trash, and bagged them for sorting and eventual disposal.

But this was nothing extraordinary, said SBMA Chairman and Administrator Wilma T. Eisma, who takes pride in a strong culture of volunteerism among stakeholders of the Subic Bay Freeport.

“This Freeport may have its natural attractions to thank for being a major tourist destination in the country today, but it is the culture of volunteerism

here that keeps the local tourism industry moving forward,” Eisma said.

“Without the cooperation and support of the Subic Bay area community, the SBMA would not be able to make Subic the top tourist destination in Central Luzon for the last six years,” she added. “Volunteers help keep Subic tourism alive.”

The initiative of stakeholders that include SBMA employees, Freeport business locators, socio-civic organizations, residents, and even visitors to volunteer in clean-up activities here is a result of Eisma’s call for “malasakit” or concern for the common good.

This summer, as Subic prepared to host a mix of sports, entertainment and religious events, volunteer groups led by various SBMA departments buckled down to work to keep beaches, river banks and vacant lots clean and pleasing to the eye.

Today, members of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Subic Station, see Volunteer clean ups, page 02



# U.S., Philippines, and Indonesia Enhance Counterterrorism Capabilities



General Santos City, May 30, 2019 — Prosecutors, law enforcement officials, and legal experts from the United States, Philippines, and Indonesia came together from May 22 to 23 for a workshop on effective investigations and prosecutions of terrorism cases. The U.S. Embassy in the Philippines, through the U.S. Department of Justice (U.S. DOJ) Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and Training (OPDAT), partnered with the Philippine Department of Justice to train 52 participants from the three countries.

The workshop was an opportunity for counterterrorism officials to share best practices and develop professional networks. Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines John Law told workshop participants, “I hope this is only the beginning of a lasting relationship and cooperation among our three countries in combatting terrorism. Your work will make a difference in global efforts to combat terrorism.”

The workshop introduced participants to a wide range of tools for investigating terrorism, such as digital forensics techniques and cyber investigations, identifying common types of explosives, pre- and post-blast crime scene investigation, and coordination between law enforcement and prosecutors in terrorism cases.

Philippine Police Major Ariel Philip Pontillas said, “The workshop established a good working relationship between the Philippine National Police

and prosecutors in our fight against terrorism.”

During the workshop, Commissioner Felizardo Serapio, Jr. of the Philippine National Police Commission shared the Philippines’ perspective on terrorist threats. Acting Prosecutor General of the Philippine Department of Justice Richard Anthony Fadullon presented on investigating and prosecuting terrorism cases, including rules of criminal procedure, cybercrime warrants, and successfully using evidence in prosecutions. Anita Dewayani, prosecutor at the Indonesian Directorate of Terrorism and Transnational Crimes, discussed Indonesia’s experiences prosecuting terrorism cases.

Visiting experts from the United States also delivered presentations. U.S. DOJ National Security Division Counterterrorism Section prosecutor Mary Fitcher discussed international perspectives on prosecuting terrorism cases, and U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations expert John Kowatch spoke about types of explosive devices commonly encountered in the region. Director of the U.S. DOJ Cybercrime Laboratory Ovie Carroll discussed online investigations of terrorism cases, including on social media platforms.

Retired Regional Prosecutor for Philippines Region IX Peter Medalle, who presented on best practices in prosecuting terrorism cases, was recognized for his successful prosecution of terrorism cases in his region.

# DepEd Balik-Eskwela Public Assistance Command Center



**Department of Education OIC-Regional Director Nicolas Capulong explains the functions of the activated Oplan Balik-Eskwela Public Assistance Command Center. (Carmela Jane F. Villar/PIA 3)**

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga, May 23 (PIA) -- Department of Education (DepEd) has activated its Oplan Balik-Eskwela Public Assistance Command Center (OBE-PACC) as classes open this June.

“Generally, this center will receive, process, and respond to simple queries, in-

formation requests, and complaints from the general public, including those forwarded by our schools divisions,” DepEd OIC-Regional Director Nicolas Capulong said.

“It will also assist in the dissemination and clarification of DepEd policies, pro-

grams, projects, and processes particularly those relevant to the opening of classes and correctly identify and coordinate with the concerned DepEd offices on complex concerns that will require the specific appropriate action,” he added.

All concerns received will be monitored, documented and submitted through reports with appropriate actions taken.

OBE-PACC may be reached through (045) 598 8580 to 89, region3@deped.gov.phor Facebook page-Department of Education Regional Office III. (CLJD/CJFV-PIA 3)

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# Central Luzon marks National Flag Day

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga -- Officials and residents in Central Luzon showed their patriotism in various ways as they joined the entire country in celebrating National Flag Day.

Leaders, as well as ordinary folks in the region, demonstrated their nationalism as they paid respect to the Philippine flag.

In Nueva Ecija, personnel of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP)- Nueva Ecija, headed by Col. Roberto Miranda, joined SM City Cabanatuan's officials, employees and other participants in a flag ceremony at the mall's ground on Tuesday.

Radio stations DZXO-am and DWVG-fm, on the other hand, played the national anthem Lupang Hinirang at exactly 8 a.m.

A group called Kalinga sa Kalikasan ng Puncan and Novo Ecijano Mountaineers, meanwhile, raised a flag at the summit of the famous Mt. 387 in Barangay Puncan, in the province's northernmost town of Carranglan.

In Pampanga, the conduct of simultaneous flag-raising ceremonies and recital of "Pagpupugay" was held throughout the province.

One of the highlights in the provincial celebration is the ceremonial distribution of small flags led by the provincial and city officials, members of the academe, and employees.

Mayor Edwin Santiago of the City of San Fernando, said the Philippine flag symbolizes freedom, peace, and unity, which are being applied in the city in a bid to become a progressive place to live in.

In Bulacan, the commemoration of the National Flag Day was observed Monday with the provincial leaders asking Bulakenyos to always give respect to the Philippine flag.

First District Rep. Jose Antonio Jonathan R. Sy-Alvarado, in his message during the celebration held in front of

the provincial capitol building in Malolos City, cited the importance of looking back at history to honor the beauty of the present.

"This day is a glimpse, gratitude to our heroes and to those who really love our country. Our flag is full of sweat, full of blood, hard work and death, and is inspired by the lives and affection of our heroes," the lawmaker said.

Governor Wilhelmino M. Sy-Alvarado, in his speech which was read by Provincial Administrator Eugenio Payongayong, said that the flag is the most famous and sacred symbol of the country's independence that our ancestors have fought for.

"Our flag reflects not only the independence but also our souls as people enclosed in love for the people and the desire to achieve his well-being. The unique symbol of the people can also be regarded as the day of survival of the people detained in the fire of rebellion," the outgoing governor and vice governor-elect said.

Meanwhile, Vice Governor and governor-elect Daniel R. Fernando highlighted the role of Bulakenyos in the past revolution that resulted in the inclusion of Bulacan as one of the sun's rays in the national flag.

"The successful history calls us today to disperse our differences and instead bind with respect, concern, and love to every Filipino brother," the governor-elect said.

The three Bulacan leaders were joined by other local officials in the flag-raising ceremony and wreath-laying before the bust of Gat Marcelo H. Del Pilar.

Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, and Pampanga were among the eight provinces that led the uprising against Spanish colonizers. These provinces are represented among the eight rays of the sun in the Philippine flag. (PNA)

## VOLUNTEER CLEAN UPS.....from page 1

Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA) 111th Squadron, and the Subic Bay Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SBMPC), conduct monthly coastal clean-up along Malawaan Park and Boardwalk area.

"PCGA is mandated to support and assist the community in the protection of the marine environment and its resources, so we are happy to volunteer in cleaning our beach areas, especially in Subic Bay," said Commander Eduardo Mabita Jr., director of the PCGA division in Subic.

Other groups such as Toyota Avanza Pilipinas (Olongapo Chapter), Lions Club of Olongapo, Gordon College and Aura College, the Police Regional Maritime Unit (Subic) are among the regular participants of the beach clean-ups along the Boardwalk Park here.

The Boardwalk Area is a favorite place for outdoor concerts, and will be the venue for several beach and water sports events in the upcoming Southeast Asian Games that Subic will host on November 30 to December 10.

Jem Camba, manager of the SBMA Tourism Department, noted that with 1.7 million guest arrivals last year, the Subic Bay Freeport continues to hold its position as the best tourist destination in Central Luzon based on the Department of Tourism's 2018 report.

"With the help of our Subic Bay stakeholders, we are able to provide excellent customer service and create worthy and enjoyable events, and thus make Subic Bay a perfect getaway destination," Camba also said.





## AROUND CENTRAL LUZON

## DepEd Bataan reminds public schools on 'No Collection Policy'



Department of Education Bataan OIC-Assistant Schools Division Superintendent Roland Fronda reminds anew heads of public elementary and secondary schools in the province of the agency's no collection policy. (Mar Jay S. Delas Alas/PIA 3)

BALANGA CITY -- Department of Education (DepEd) Bataan reminded anew heads of public elementary and secondary schools in the province of the agency's 'No Collection Policy'.

"We are on strict compliance with our no collection policy. Students are not required to pay any amount to teachers or principals," DepEd Bataan OIC-Assistant Schools Division Superintendent Roland Fronda said.

There are cases where Parents-Teachers Associations (PTAs) are deputizing teachers to collect such amount from its students.

"Our Regional Director is also not tolerating agreements made by PTAs and teachers to collect such collection or payments from our students," Fronda furthered.

Also, non-payment of volun-

tary contribution shall not prohibit the student to enroll or transfer to a public school.

He said parents or students should report it immediately to them should there be cases like these in their school.

"Please report to us those who would collect payments or whatever it is that is due to our pupils or students as the Regional Director will file administrative charges immediately after these teachers or principals are reported to us," he said.

DepEd Bataan Schools Division Office is located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Balanga City. The office may be reached through email [bataan.deped@deped.gov.ph](mailto:bataan.deped@deped.gov.ph) or Facebook via [www.facebook.com/DepEdBataan](https://www.facebook.com/DepEdBataan). (PIA 3)

## Philippine Government Media's China Tour



Song Mingchang, former Vice Minister of China's National Radio and Television Administration (Bhenhor Tecson/PCOO OSEC-Media)

BEIJING, China, May 26 (PIA) -- A total of 30 media delegates from the Philippines currently enjoy the benefits of the One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI) through People to People Exchange under the China 30 Media Program.

Speaking to the participants, National Radio and Television Administration (NRTA) Former Vice Minister Song Mingchang disclosed that there are five types of connectivity that was agreed upon during the first BRI Forum last year namely policy, facilities, funds, trade and people to people.

"People to people exchange can be directly correlated to mutual culture understanding. You have come to Beijing in such tight schedule to see and learn China's culture and also bring some quick essential part of Philippine culture. This is very concrete example of BRI connectivity," Song added.

NRTA is carrying out its own mission of bringing closer cooperation to other countries including the Philippines through enhancing exchange with media colleagues. This is its contribution to the BRI initiative.

The 2019 Seminar for Media Reporters of the Philippines covers extensive topics such as the Development to date and the International Cooperation and Exchange of China's Radio and Television Industry, Introduction of China's National Condition, Current Progress and Reflections of Media Convergence in China and Abroad, Trade and Culture Exchanges between PH-China, Learning on How to Tell China Stories Well as well as participation in the Dialogue on Asian Internet Audio-Visual Broadcasting Policy and Release of Cooperation Results with more than 20 communication experts around the world sharing their countries experiences on content creation, strategies for development and cyber regulation.

Participants in the two-week seminar include officials and information officers from the Presidential Communication Operations Office and its attached agencies namely Radio-Television Malacanang, Philippine News Agency, People's Television Network, Bureau of Communication Service and Philippine Information Agency. (PIA 3)

## BALITA SA WIKANG PINOY

## \$2.75B pautang para sa Malolos-Clark Railway



**ADB approves its biggest loan for construction of PNR Clark Phase 2, first segment of PNR Calamba**

LUNGSOD NG MALOLOS-- Inaprubahan na ng Asian Development Bank o ADB ang 2.75 bilyong dolyar na pautang para sa konstruksyon ng 53 kilometrong Malolos-Clark Railway.

Bahagi ito ng Phase 2 ng North-South Commuter Railway o NSCR na kilala din sa tawag na Philippine National Railways o PNR Clark.

Ayon kay Transportation Assistant Secretary Goddes Hope Libiran, ito na ang pinakamalaking pautang ng ADB na ipinagkaloob para sa Pilipinas.

Dagdag pa ni Libiran na ang Phase 2 ng NSCR ang magiging kauna-unahang airport-railway link ng Pilipinas dahil magkakaroon ito ng istasyon sa ilalim mismo ng Clark International Airport o CRK Terminal 2, na ngayo'y 60 porsyento na ang naitatayo.

Mula sa Malolos, magkakaroon din ng mga istasyon sa Calumpit, Apalit, San Fernando at Clark Freeport Zone.

Bukod dito, kasama sa naturang loan package ng ADB ang 1.9 kilometrong pakaliwang viaduct ng NSCR mula sa Solis papuntang LRT 1 sa may Blumentritt, Manila.

Kaugnay nito, nauna nang naaprubahan ng Japan International Cooperation Agency noong 2018 ang 2 bilyong dolyar na Official Development Assistance para pondohan ang ipapasadyang mga bagol ng tren na patatakbuhan para sa Phase 2 ng NSCR.

Idinesenyo ito upang makapagluan ng 350 libong pasahero araw-araw at kayang maisakay hanggang isang milyong pasahero araw-araw pagsapit ng 2025.

Sa ngayon, ipinalinis na ang masukal na dating riles ng PNR sa bahagi ng Malolos, kung saan kapwa magsisimula ang Phase 2 papuntang Clark at ang Phase 1 na paluwasa sa Tutuban at Blumentritt. Gigibain na rin ang mga nabulok nang mga poste na itinayo ng noo'y konstrastita sa dating North Rail Project. (PIA 3)

## Pagpapanatili ng mga dating istasyon ng tren, tiniyak ng DOTr



Makikita sa larawan ang rendisyon ng arkitekto ng magiging bagong istasyon ng tren ng itinatayong North-South Commuter Railway sa lungsod ng Meycauayan. Ito ang bubuhay sa dating ruta ng Philippine National Railways. Itatabi ito sa dating istasyon, na naitayo noon pang 1892. (Shane F. Velasco/PIA 3)

LUNGSOD NG MALOLOS-- Walang mangyayaring gibaan o lipatan ng mga matatandang istraktura ng dating mga istasyon ng tren ng Philippine National Railways o PNR.

Iyan ang tiniyak ni Transportation Undersecretary for Railways Timothy John Batan sa ginawang pirmahan ng kontrata para sa paglalatatag ng riles mula Bocaue hanggang Tutuban at papuntang Blumentritt sa ilalim ng North-South Commuter Railway Project.

Kabilang sa mga nananatiling nakatayo pa ang istraktura ay ang mga istasyon ng Meycauayan, Balagtas, Guiguinto at Malolos.

Inilahad ni Batan na sa katunayan sa Meycauayan ay mananatiling nakatayo sa kinalalagan nito ngayon ang lumang istasyon at itatayo naman sa tabi nito mismo ang bagong istasyon na mas malaki at mas mataas.

Mauna ding isasailaim sa rehabilitasyon, restorasyon at preserbasyon

ang istasyon sa Meycauayan dahil may tiyak nang pondo ito.

Ayon kay Mayor Henry Villarica, may halagang mula P8-10 milyon ang inilaan na ng pamahalaang lungsod para sa pagpapreserba ng nasabing istasyon. May nakalaan din mula sa Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority na halagang P2 milyon para rito.

Samantala, inilahad ni Bulacan Provincial History, Arts & Culture and Tourism Office Head Eliseo Dela Cruz na isinusulong nila na maideklara bilang Importanteng Yamang Pamana at Kultura ng National Museum of the Philippines ang mga naturang istasyon sa lalawigan.

Ayon sa National Historical Commission of the Philippines, taong 1892 nang matapos ang konstruksyon ng mga istasyon ng PNR, na noo'y tinatawag na Manila-Dagupan Ferrocarril. (CPIA 3)



## IN THE NAVY

### USS Ronald Reagan Begins Underway Operations in Indo-Pacific



**YOKOSUKA, Japan.** Operations Specialist 2nd Class Christian Furtney, from Kenosha, Wis., stands lookout watch aboard the Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) as the ship departs Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka for underway operations. Ronald Reagan provides a combat-ready force, which protects and defends the collective maritime interests of the U.S. and its allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tyra M. Campbell.)

**By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Codie L. Soule, Commander Task Force 70, Public Affairs**

YOKOSUKA, Japan (NNS) -- The forward-deployed aircraft-carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), along with supporting Commander Task Force 70 units, began underway operations in the Indo-Pacific May 20.

Ronald Reagan and CTF 70 units routinely operate in the Indo-Pacific to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region. For over 70 years, U.S. Pacific Fleet forces have been present and ready to respond in the Western Pacific to any contingency on behalf of friends, partners and allies.

"Forward presence truly matters. For more than seventy years, our forces have been present and ready to respond immediately on behalf of our friends and allies," said Rear Adm. Karl Thomas, CTF 70. "The continued presence of Ronald Reagan and all our forward-deployed forces in the Indo-Pacific region, at sea where it matters most, promote security and stability which in turn drive peace and prosperity to benefit all regional countries."

Throughout the year, CTF 70's forward-deployed forces participate in cooperative deployments, multi-lateral exercises and unit level training to ensure the security and stability of the Indo-Pacific. Forward-deployed forces act as force multipliers for the Navy, which are able to generate the same presence in a matter

of days with a forward-deployed ship that would take weeks to achieve from a U.S. based ship.

"Reagan Sailors worked hard to complete the most successful maintenance period the ship has ever seen," said Capt. Pat Hannifin, Ronald Reagan's Commanding Officer. "Reagan returns to the sea more lethal than ever, visibly renewing U.S. commitment to international norms in a free and open Indo-Pacific. We value our allies and partners in the region and are excited to support them again with our air wing and strike group from the sea."

Ronald Reagan recently completed an extensive maintenance period which repaired and upgraded ship's systems increasing the ship's warfighting capabilities. As the only forward-deployed aircraft carrier, the ongoing presence of Ronald Reagan demonstrates the continued long-term U.S. investment in the Indo-Pacific. Ronald Reagan, forward-deployed to the Indo-Pacific from San Diego in the fall of 2015, replaced the aircraft carrier USS George Washington (CVN 73).

CTF 70 is a credible, forward-deployed force whose operations in the region preserve peace and prevent conflict throughout the Indo-Pacific. Ronald Reagan is America's forward-deployed aircraft carrier providing combat-ready force projection to support and defend the collective maritime interests of the U.S. and its allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific.



**YOKOSUKA, Japan.** Sailors stand watch on the bridge as the Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) departs Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka for underway operations. Ronald Reagan operates in the Indo-Pacific to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region. Ronald Reagan provides a combat-ready force, which protects and defends the collective maritime interests of the U.S. and its allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jason Tarleton.)



**YOKOSUKA, Japan.** Operations Specialist 2nd Class Christian Furtney, from Kenosha, Wis., stands lookout watch aboard the Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) as the ship departs Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka for underway operations. Ronald Reagan provides a combat-ready force, which protects and defends the collective maritime interests of the U.S. and its allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Tyra M. Campbell.)



### Farmers hold harvest, cooking festival in Bataan



**BOUNTIFUL HARVEST.** Farmers harvest variety of vegetables and other crops which they raised in a demonstration farm in Barangay Tuyo, Balanga City, Bataan on Thursday (May 30, 2019). They underwent a 12-week training under the Kabalik sa Kabuhayan Farmers' Training Program. (Photo by Ernie Esconde)

BALANGA CITY, Bataan -- A total of 118 farmers in this province capped off their 12-week training under the SM Foundation's "Kabalik sa Kabuhayan" farmers' training program, with a harvest and cooking festival on Thursday.

Farmer leader Arthur Olivera said this is to showcase the vegetable and other crops they raised on a one-hectare demonstration farm in Barangay Tuyo, this city, where the festival was also held.

Olivera said among the vegetables and fruits they planted in March were finger chili, bottle gourd (upo), eggplant, okra, tomato, kangkong, squash, ampalaya, honeydew, melon, and watermelon.

"SM Foundation, with the help of Harbest Agribusiness Corporation, provided the vegetable seeds. We, the farmers studied for three months the proper techniques on farming and we will apply this in our own farms," he said.

Olivera belongs to five groups of 118 farmers under the "Kaanib Program of Balanga City" and attended the "Kabalik sa Kabuhayan" training program, which teaches seed culture and propagation, irrigation and fertilizer application, effective backyard planting and small-

scale farming techniques for fruits and vegetables with the cultivation of high yielding vegetables.

He said they also held the cooking festival to taste the crops they planted and harvested. Prepared were pakbet, bola-bola, kare-kareng gulay, adobong gata and chicken with tanglad sa buho.

"The Kabalik sa Kabuhayan is a big help to our farmers for them to have a big production of vegetables and different variety of crops. From the start of planting up to selling, our partner SM Foundation will help us," City Agriculturist Nerissa Mateo said.

Mateo said that SM Foundation shelled out considerable amount for the project like farm inputs and the training program.

She said the city government wanted the farmers to practice what they learned, not only for a day but for their entire farming career.

"The program is a big success. From zero income, the farmers have bountiful harvest and now they are selling those yields," Mateo said.

She also advised the farmers to embrace the program cascaded by the city government for their welfare. (PNA)

### Construction of vital NLEx-SCTEx Interchange begins in Angeles City

ANGELES CITY -- The construction of the Abacan Highway (NLEX-SCTEX Connecting Road) that is seen to ease traffic situation in this city will commence soon.

City Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan, together with some local officials, led the groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday for the formal start of the construction of the vital road development here.

The PHP236-million NLEX-SCTEX Connecting Road will be constructed along the Abacan Riverbank to be funded by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Convergence Program under the 2019 Roads Leveraging Linkages of Industry and Trade (ROLL-IT) program.

Pamintuan said the road devel-

opment will be divided into three stages that include the construction of the connecting road from the Angeles-Magalang Bridge to the Abacan Loop and Balibago Area.

"The project is eyed to decongest the traffic situation at the Pandan-Pulung Maragul-Magalang Area as it will connect the East (Pulung Maragul) and West (Anunas-Friendship) portions of the city via Abacan Riverbank," he said.

He said the highway will also feature promenades of modern design, biking and jogging lanes.

"Aside from identifying our river's history, we are also recognizing its potential as a viable road network that will connect the east and west portions of the city," he added. (PNA)



**NLEX-SCTEX LINK.** Angeles City Mayor Edgardo Pamintuan (center), together with other officials, leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the formal start of construction of the Abacan Highway (NLEX-SCTEX Connecting Road) on Wednesday (May 29, 2019). The road network is seen to decongest the traffic situation in the city. (Photo courtesy of the Angeles City government)