

Infected Meat from China seized in Subic port

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — A reefer van full of meat products suspected of being infected with the dreaded African Swine Fever (ASF) virus arrived here from China but was immediately seized by Port authorities recently, the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) announced today.

"It was immediately flagged by the quarantine officer from the Department of Agriculture, and then the Bureau of Customs confiscated the shipment," said SBMA Chairman Wilma T. Eisma, adding that the shipment was from Guangzhou, China, one of several countries tagged to have ASF virus infestations that could wreak havoc on the livestock industry.

Valued at some P600,000, the meat products contained in 2,385 packages listed as "food items" were consigned to a trading corporation based in Makati City.

Eisma said the confiscated meat will be immediately destroyed, as recommended by the Bureau of Quarantine Services, with the Bureau of Animal Industry disposing of it at the expense of the consignee.

She said the Port of Subic has been on the lookout for pork products after the government called for strict monitoring in all ports to prevent the entry into the country of pork products contaminated with ASF.

According to Jerome Martinez, manager of the SBMA Seaport Department, the Chinese meat products were shipped in refrigerated or reefer van aboard MV Hansa Altenburg, a container ship that arrived in Subic on May 27.

Martinez said the meat shipment had a dutiable value of P591,817.90. He added that the confiscated meat will be injected with chemicals and then buried underground.

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has declared ASF to be a highly-contagious hemorrhagic viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs.

Experts say that while ASF and classical swine fever (CSF) may have similar signs, the ASF virus is unrelated to the CSF virus.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last week ordered the recall and seizure of imported pork meat products from countries suspected to be affected by the ASF virus.

These are China, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Vietnam, Zambia, South Africa, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Mongolia, Moldova, and Belgium.

Last week, 69 of 103 container vans containing hazardous wastes were finally shipped out from here back to Canada after six years of heated public protests and debates. The rest of the 103 vans are either already dumped or missing. (Vic V. Vizcocho, Jr.)



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A refrigerated container van full of meat was seized by authorities here in the Subic Bay Freeport because China, the country of origin of the shipment, is among those tagged as affected by the dreaded African Swine Fever (ASF) virus. Only recently, the ship MV Bavaria (above) left the Subic Bay Freeport with the 69 container of 103 vans containing hazardous wastes from Canada that has been the subject of heated protests and debates in the country for the past 6 years. SubicBayNews photo by Vic V. Vizcocho, Jr.

Balanga Elementary School has new school building from SM Foundation

SM Foundation turned over this Friday a newly-built two-story, four-classroom school building to Balanga Elementary School (BES) in Bataan to be used by their Grade 6 learners starting SY 2019-2020.

Donated by SM Prime, through SM Foundation and in close coordination with the local government unit of Balanga, Bataan, this 93rd school building donation of SM comes with 200 armchairs (20 of which are for left-handed learners), 16 wall fans, eight blackboards, four teacher's desk sets, four wall clocks, and four toilets (PWD toilet at the ground floor). The donated school building also has a 10-faucet handwashing facility and a reading corner with books donated by SM Retail. SM Pampanga and the city government of Balanga both donated 10 computer units for the learners of BES.

Department of Education (DepEd) OIC-Schools Division Superintendent Carolina Violeta expressed her gratitude to SM for considering BES for this donation and said that SM Foundation's donation will not just create venues for learning experience to students, but will also foster better relationships among the learners, teachers, and communities.

BES Principal Amelia Inieto likewise thanked the Foundation for its support. "Tulong-tulong naming mamahalin at iingat ang inyong regalo sa Balanga Elementary School. As principal, I commit to make sure that this sanctuary will stand the test of time for the future generation of students," said Inieto.

Also present at the event were SM Foundation executives, led by executive director for Education Program Carmen Linda Atayde, and Juris Soliman, head of the School Building Team; SM Supermalls Regional Operations Manager Cesar Bondoc; SM Retail Senior Assistant Vice President for Corporate Communications Gilda Patricia Maquilan; city officials, led by Mayor Francis Anthony

see SM FOUNDATION, page 02



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Learning spaces of displaced Pam-panga Aeta students

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga -- The provincial government of Pampanga has allotted some PHP5 million for the construction of temporary learning spaces for earthquake victims in the province.

Dr. Leonardo Zapanta, Pampanga School Division Superintendent of the Department of Education (DepEd), said the provincial school board chaired by Governor Lilia Pineda has already approved the budget solely intended for the Aeta students in Porac and Floridablanca towns.

"The budget was already approved. Construction will be done as soon as possible. For the meantime, makeshift classrooms are being used to accommodate more than 700 students," said Zapanta in an interview at radio station RW 95.1 FM Monday.

Pineda said she asked the local government units (LGUs) of Porac and Floridablanca to coordinate with the provincial government to address the problems of the affected Aeta students.

"Education is one of our top priorities in the province. That's why, I'm asking the local officials of Porac and Floridablanca to work with the provincial government so as to expedite the relocation of our displaced Aeta students," she said.

Meanwhile, Pineda encouraged concerned LGUs to utilize the use of covered courts, convents, and multi-purpose halls as alternative learning spaces, while still waiting for the construction of the temporary learning spaces for the quake victims.

Last April 22, Porac and Floridablanca towns were among the areas adversely affected by the 6.1 magnitude quake that jolted Pampanga and the whole of Central Luzon.

Based on the assessment conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), two upland areas in these towns were placed under a "no habitation zone".

Noel Lacadin, chief of the geo-sciences division of MGB 3 (Central Luzon) here, earlier said Sitio Tagak, Barangay Nabuclod in Floridablanca town, and Barangay Dias in Porac town were placed under a "no habitation zone" due to their "high susceptibility" to landslides.

These areas are hosts to Aeta settlements and their ancestral lands. (PNA)

SM FOUNDATION.....from page 1

Garcia; and other officials and representatives.

In her speech, Atayde looked back to the program's growth from its inception in 2002. The program started providing communities with one-story, two-classroom school buildings, and the other equipment and facilities were just added over the years. She further asked the help of the local government officials and the school in informing the learners about the SM College Scholarship program which only began including Bataan in its program this year. She also called on to higher education learning institu-



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Siargao Island gets greener



PRISTINE. Siargao remains to be one of the top tourist spots in the Philippines. [Photo courtesy of Chell Ugay]

Siargao island in Surigao del Norte has been known for its pristine white beaches, marine life, rich mangrove forests, and world-class surfing spots.

With tourist arrivals expected to hit around half a million in 2019, the island's leaders have started the path to sustainability. In 2018, the municipality of Pilar passed an ordinance banning the use of single-use plastics – a pioneering move for the island whose biggest industry depends on its rich natural resources.

The island's power distributor, Siargao Electric Cooperative (SIARELCO), pushed the sustainability envelope even further. The island, which was rated one of the world's best in 2018 by prestigious travel magazine Condé Nast Traveler, is now mostly powered by clean and renewable energy.

"Siargao is one of the top tourist destinations. While we welcome more guests, local and foreign alike, we wanted to ensure that we continue to do our part in taking care of our island," SIARELCO General Manager Sergio C. Dagooc said.

SIARELCO's demand for power has almost tripled in only three years to an estimated 8 to 9 MW this year. Ma-

jority of the island's supply come from the Private Sector Assets and Liabilities Management (PSALM) which is powered by the Agus-Pulangi hydro power complex and the Mt. Apo geothermal power plants.

It recently added at least 1 MW from AboitizPower's Hedcor hydro power plant in Bukidnon, under the company's Cleanergy brand.

"After the ban on single-use plastics on the island last year led by our local government, we take pride in contributing our sustainability efforts for Siargao by adding more renewable energy to our energy supply mix," added Dagooc, an incoming party-list congressman representing the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (APEC).

SIARELCO entered into a renewable energy supply contract with AboitizPower subsidiary Hedcor for 1-MW. The energy will come from the company's recently completed hydropower plant in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

"We are excited to be a partner of SIARELCO in its efforts to make Siargao more sustainable. This partnership highlights the high value that both SIARELCO and AboitizPower place on sustainability, driven by our shared commitment to bettering the communities we serve," AboitizPower First Vice President for Energy Trading and Sales Juan Alejandro Aboitiz said.

Aboitiz said more and more distribution utilities and Open Access customers are seeing the opportunities brought by a push for sustainability. Responding to this need is AboitizPower's brand Cleanergy, coming from the company's vast portfolio of geothermal, hydro, and solar power plants located all over the country.

"With our portfolio and more than 50 years of experience in the energy sector, we are able to tailor fit solutions that will meet the demands of our customers," Aboitiz added.

Hedcor is a wholly owned subsidiary of AboitizPower that operates 21 run-of-river hydropower facilities across the country with a total installed capacity of 258 MW.



AROUND CENTRAL LUZON

New senior high school opens in Bulacan



NEW SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN BULACAN. The new and only stand-alone City of Malolos Senior High School formally opens on Monday in time for the start of classes. The two-storey building has eight classrooms and laboratories. (Photo by Manny Balbin)

CITY OF MALOLOS, Bulacan -- The first two-story stand-alone senior high school in this city was formally opened on Monday in time for the start of classes.

Outgoing Mayor Christian Natividad, together with (Mayor-elect) Vice Mayor Bebong Gatchalian, led the inauguration of the new City of Malolos Senior High School in Barangay Guinhawa here.

The school building has eight classrooms and laboratories for incoming senior high school students through the effort of the city government of Malolos.

"What we are doing is part of helping the national government in K to 12 program and hopefully, the problem in the number of classrooms will be reduced," Natividad said.

The outgoing city executive also encouraged students to continuously study because the city government is always ready to provide education assistance.

"I also thanked the teachers who give hope, happiness, and enthusiasm for the students, especially in this city. Thank you for their continued guidance,"

MGB to monitor loosening rocks atop Mt. Arayat



MOUNT ARAYAT. Mines and Geosciences Bureau Chief Geologist Noel Lacadin (right) discusses with Governor Lilia Pineda the status of the reported loosening of rocks on top of Mount Arayat in Pampanga. Looking on is Engineer Arthur Punsalan of Pampanga Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO).

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga -- Governor Lilia Pineda has asked the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (MGB-DENR) to closely monitor and conduct regular ground assessment on the reported loosening of rocks on top of Mt. Arayat which might cascade anytime.

Pineda, in her discussion with MGB-3 chief geologist Noel Lacadin, said the move aims to ensure the safety and protection of the residents of Purok 6 and 7 in Barangay San Juan Baño in Arayat town and Barangay Takwi in Magalang town, the two nearest areas where the rocks might go down.

"I want the residents to be safe from any disaster that is why, I want MGB to conduct regular ground assessment so that we could plan ahead and implement immediate measures before the occurrence of any disaster," the governor said Sunday.

he added.

Acting school principal Dervin Nicodemus said three out of four senior high school tracks will be offered at the new City of Malolos Senior High School.

"This will be composed of academic track, the track appeals to those who have set their minds towards a college education. Next is sports track, which was developed to equip senior high school students with sports-related and physical fitness and safety knowledge; and last is technical-vocational-livelihood (TVL) track, which calls out eligible students with subjects focused on job-ready skills," Nicodemus added.

The said senior high school building was funded by Department of Education (DepEd) through the support of Malolos City government.

Gatchalian, for his part, said the city government supports education not only in academic programs but also in sports and technical-vocational programs.

He also told the students to take care of the new school building, as it can truly serve its purpose as a learning facility. (PNA)

Lacadin said following the ground assessment they made, the rocks might fall via the active channels of Maeyagas, Takwi, Madalumdum, and Oliva creeks.

It can be recalled that the Arayat local government unit (LGU) led by Mayor Emmanuel 'Bon' Alejandrino has built a deflector -- a row of sandbags placed along the path to slow down the flow of water and rocks going to Purok 6 and 7 of Barangay San Juan Baño.

In an interview with Alejandrino, he said sandbagging is just a palliative measure and what is needed is an engineering intervention that would last long to avoid any untoward incidents in the future.

Meanwhile, the governor has instructed Alejandrino to conduct a pre-emptive evacuation and move the residents to an evacuation center built by the provincial government behind the town hall during the rainy season. (PNA)

BALITA SA WIKANG PINOY

AFP outreach activity sa Capas para sa mga Aeta



Pinangunahan ni Armed Forces of the Philippines 1st Civil Relations Group Deputy Commander Major Noel Tagao (kaliwa) ang pamamahagi ng libreng gamit pang-eskwela sa mga Aetaang mag-aaral ng Sitio Tarukan Elementary School ng Sta. Juliana, bayan ng Capas. (AFP 1st Civil Relations Group)

CAPAS, Tarlac-- May 150 Aeta mula sa Sitio Tarukan, barangay Sta. Juliana sa bayan ng Capas ang nakinabang sa Outreach Activity ng Armed Forces of the Philippines o AFP.

Nagkaroon ng libreng check-up at pamamahagi ng libreng gamot, school supplies at relief goods.

Ayon kay AFP 1st Civil Relations Group Deputy Commander Major Noel Tagao, ang aktibidad ay parte ng immersion phase ng Strategic Civil Military Operation ng kanilang Non-Commissioned Officer Course.

Napili aniya ang Sitio Tarukan dahil nais nilang mapaglingkurang ang komunidad katuwang ang iba pang ahensya ng pamahalaan.

Naniniwala ang mga kasundalohan na sa pamamagitan ng bayanihan ay kayang magtatag ng magandang kinabuhayan.

kasan para sa mga kabataan na magsisilbing pag-asa ng inang bayan.

Binigyang diin pa niya sa mga residente na ang gobyerno ay handang maglingkod at tumulong sa mamamayan na hindi tumitingin sa anyo, kasarian, tribo at katayuan sa buhay dahil lahat ay Pilipino na may isang bandila at lahang kinikilala.

Samantala, inihayag naman ng lider ng naturang komunidad na si Lito Diaz ang kanyang pasasalamat sa community assistance program ng pamahalaan.

Aniya, isang malaking bagay sa kanilang mga aeta na mapili upang tumanggap ng naturang serbisyo.

Dagdag pa niya, kanilang masasabi na bagkus napakalayo ng kanilang lugar ay hindi pa rin sila nakakalimutan ng gobyerno. (PIA 3)

100 E-Trike bigay sa Malolos ng DOE



Dumating na sa Malolos ang 100 Electric Tricycle o E-Trikes na ipinagkaloob ng Department of Energy. Ang mga ito ay idedestino sa Malolos City Tourism Office upang magamit sa pagbisita ng mga turista sa mga makasaysayan at pamanang lugar sa lungsod. (Shane F. Velasco/PIA 3)

LUNGSOD NG MALOLOS-- Dumating na sa Malolos ang 100 Electric Tricycle o E-Trike na ipinagkaloob ng Department of Energy.

Ayon kay outgoing Mayor Christian D. Natividad, ang nasabing mga E-Trike ay idedestino sa Malolos City Tourism Office upang magamit sa pagbisita ng mga turista sa mga makasaysayan at pamanang lugar sa lungsod. Bawat isa ay kayang makapaglulan ng hanggang anim na katao.

Kasalukuyang nakapara ang mga ito sa garahe ng Malolos Sports and Convention Center kung saan isa-isa itong isinasailalim sa pangkalahatang pagsusuri

o check-up.

Sinabi ni City Tourism Officer Direk Armando P. Sta. Ana na malaking tulong ito sa pagikot-ikot ng mga turista. Halimbawa, pagbaba sa patio ng simbahan ng Barasoain mula sa kanilang sinakyang bus, maaari nang sumakay sa E-Trike na maghahatid sa kanila sa Casa Real, Kamistisuhan District kung saan matatagpuan ang mga pamanang bahay na naging tanggapan ng mga ahensya noong Unang Republika, mga bahay ng mga Kadalagahan ng Malolos at ang Katedral-Basilika ng Malolos. (CLJD/SFV-PIA 3)

IN THE NAVY



ARABIAN SEA. Lt. Nicholas Yerkes, from Annapolis, Md., a landing signals officer aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), stands watch as an F/A-18F Super Hornet from the "Jolly Rogers" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 103 lands on the flight deck. The Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group 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. With Abraham Lincoln as the flagship, deployed strike group assets include staffs, ships and aircraft of Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 12, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 2, the guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 7. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jeff Sherman)



PEARL HARBOR. Members of the Outrigger Canoe Club escort the Virginia-class fast attack submarine USS Hawaii (SSN 776) as it arrives, June 6, 2019, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam after completing its latest deployment. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Daniel Hinton)



PHILIPPINE SEA. An F-35B Lightning II assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 265 (Reinforced) takes off from the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) during flight operations in the Philippine Sea, June 4, 2019. The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, the Marine Corps' only continuously forward-deployed MEU, provides a flexible and lethal force ready to perform a wide range of military operations as the premier crisis response force in the Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Brennan Priest)



PORTLAND, Ore.— The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Pinckney (DDG 91) passes beneath the Broadway Bridge as the ship transits toward Portland, Oregon for Portland Fleet Week. Portland Fleet Week is a time-honored celebration of the sea services and provides an opportunity for the citizens of Oregon to meet Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, as well as witness firsthand the latest capabilities of today's maritime services. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Marc Cuenca)



WalterMart and AboitizPower partnership



The WalterMart Group and AboitizPower renewed their partnership in a ceremonial contract signing held at Ascott Makati on May 31, 2019. With the contract extension, AboitizPower will deliver around 19 megawatts of power supply to 13 of WalterMart's 25 outlets in Luzon until 2021.

Community shopping leader WalterMart has renewed its contract with Aboitiz Power Corporation (AboitizPower) for the energy supply of its facilities in Luzon, further cementing the shopping chain's position as among the fastest growing players in the retail industry.

The WalterMart Group first tapped AboitizPower in 2017 to deliver 4.7 megawatts (MW) of power supply to four facilities and entered into its second contract with the company in 2018 to deliver another 5 MW to five more facilities. The two parties are now in their third contract, adding 9.1 MW of power supply to four more facilities in Luzon.

This contract extension will allow AboitizPower to deliver around 19 MW of electricity to 13 of WalterMart's 25 outlets all over Luzon until 2021.

WM Shopping Center Management, Inc. (WMSCMI) Chairman Abraham Uy said reliable power supply is necessary for them to be able to continue expanding.

"We have been partners with AboitizPower for more than two years now and we have seen their expertise and capacity to meet our requirements and help us deliver on our promise of convenient shopping for our valued customers every day," Uy added.

AboitizPower currently supplies energy to the following WalterMart facilities — Makati, Dasmariñas, Carmona, Tanauan, Balayan, Bel-Air Sta. Rosa, Sta.

Rosa, Makati 2, San Fernando, North EDSA, Sta. Maria, Ascott BGC, and WMall.

The chain currently has 29 community malls strategically located in Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, and Nueva Ecija.

For Sandro A. Aboitiz, AboitizPower First Vice President for Energy Trading and Sales, the renewed partnership is a testament to the quality product and excellent service that the company delivers to its customers.

"What we offer our customers is not just reliable and cost-efficient power supply. We also ensure that the quality of service remains consistent long after the contract has been signed. In support of WalterMart's desire to continue providing Filipino families a convenient shopping experience, AboitizPower promises to provide reliable, reasonable, and responsible power supply to most of their facilities in Luzon," Aboitiz said.

Aboitiz also highlighted the power of partnerships, saying that AboitizPower is committed to addressing all the power-related needs of its partners so that together, they become instruments to providing better solutions for the communities they serve.

With its portfolio of renewable energy and thermal power plants, AboitizPower, together with partners, currently has a net sellable capacity of 4,471 MW.



The W.Mall along Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay City is among the facilities that will benefit from AboitizPower's reliable, reasonably priced, and responsibly produced power supply.