

Aeta Tribes Watch "Tell Me Your Dreams" in Day 1 of Subic Filmfest

Aetas from the Kanawan Tribe of Morong, and Pastolan Tribe of Hermosa, both in Bataan province, came to see the movie "Tell Me Your Dreams," starring Aiko Melendez, a movie based on the real life story of a school teacher's dedication and sacrifices to bring education to the Aetas in a remote area in Tarlac province.

Now on its second year, the Subic Bay International Film Festival (SBIFF) will run thru Sunday at Harbor Point Ayala Mall Cinema 4 from 9AM to 1:30PM to complete the screening of 5 films in competition for various awards and recognitions.

Awards night will be on Sunday at Harbor Point Ayala Mall's Riverwalk, with Superstar Nora Aunor leading the guests list, along with other big names in Philippine Cinema.

Screening admission is free on a first come, first served basis. (VVV)

HK Authorities acted with disrespect, exhibited lack of good judgement in the manner they treated another RP official - Gordon

Senator Richard J. Gordon yesterday said Hong Kong authorities acted with disrespect and exhibited lack of good judgment in the manner they treated former Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, who was detained for hours at the Hong Kong airport for undisclosed reasons.

Gordon pointed out that with Del Rosario's pronouncements, too, on the abandonment of our fishermen by Chinese crewmen, such action cannot be interpreted as no less than intimidation if not outright harassment of a law abiding and internationally respected personality as the former DFA chief.

"Hong Kong authorities acted with disrespect and exhibited lack of good judgment. The maintenance of good and friendly relations, bilateral or multilateral, state to state, people to people, is a main objective of every government," he said.

The senator pointed out that this is the second time in one month that a Filipino official had been detained for hours at the Hong Kong airport. Last May 21, former Ombudsman Morales experienced the same when she and her family visited Hong Kong. Although Morales was eventually allowed to enter Hong Kong, she decided not to push through with the trip.

Del Rosario and Morales sued Xi before the ICC for crimes against humanity over Beijing's activities in the South China Sea.

"The relevant ranking Chinese officials should take heed that we cannot change geography, that the Philippines and China are close neighbors. And have had a long history of friendly relations that should not be imperiled by mindless action such as in the del Rosario and Carpio-Morales treatment by HK authorities and the West Philippine Sea," Gordon said.



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On Day 1 of the 3-day 2nd Subic Bay International Film Festival, Aetas from the Kanawan Tribe of Morong, and Pastolan Tribe of Hermosa, both in Bataan province, came to see the movie "Tell Me Your Dreams," starring Aiko Melendez, a movie based on the real life story of a school teacher's dedication and sacrifices to bring education to Aeta children in a remote area in Tarlac province. Four other movies will be shown, namely "Kids of War," "1957," "Jesusa," and "Rendezvous." A 6th film was earlier included but eventually disqualified for failure to comply with cinema requirements. SubicBayNews photo by Vic V. Vizcocho, Jr.

Chairman's Cup Regatta Culminating Event 2019 Celebrating PH Maritime Heritage and Breeding Tomorrow's Sailors Today



SUBIC BAY FREEPORT— The Subic Sailing Club (SSC) celebrated another successful sailing season in a grand event organized by both Chairman of SSC, Mr. Jun AVECILLA and Congressman Ricky Sandoval which was held at The Lighthouse Marina Resort, Subic Bay Freeport Zone on April 30, 2019.

The inaugural Chairman's Cup Regatta (CCR) provides a platform that enhances the standards of regattas to foster camaraderie among sailors and showcase the natural prowess of Filipinos as sailors and seafarers.

The event commends the leadership of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) who have been playing an important

role in helping transform Subic Bay as one of the premier yachting destinations and become a global sports tourism playground for Grand Prix keelboats in Asia, with Atty. Wilma Eisma currently holding the position of Chairperson and Administrator of SBMA.

The event aims to popularize sailing by infusing fun and more mainstream activities and lure people to witness the amazing skills of our Filipino sailors. Besides the more serious yacht racing, the week-long event also includes free sailing lessons, free windsurfing lessons, a stand-up paddleboard fun race, flyboarding exhibition, lifeguard saving demo, beach volleyball, and car displays.

The SSC believes that Filipinos are

mariners in nature, that we are an archipelago, a maritime nation. The SSC wishes to inspire our coastal community to connect with our maritime roots and appreciate our waters as a channel of transport and for sailing as its mode. Its thrust is continue breeding the next generation of Filipino sailors that will carry on our legacy as a maritime nation.

Chairman's Cup Regatta

The Chairman's Cup Regatta was composed of eight classes. There are three classes on the keelboat division: IRC, Cruising and the FarEast 28R Classes. The FE28 had a total of seven boats composed of 6 crew or less per

see Chairman's Cup Regatta, page 02



Dive Sites of Subic Bay (Scuba Tech Philippines)



Event aims to popularize sailing by infusing fun and more mainstream activities

LEGAL NOTICE

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 73
OLONGAPO CITY

IN RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF
MIKAELLA EDODOLLON EDJAN

SP. PROC. NO. 2019-0-11FC

SPOUSES ISABEL EDJAN DUNNAM
AND IVAN L. DUNNAM,
PETITIONERS,
X-----X

ORDER OF HEARING

The verified Petition for adoption filed by petitioners spouses Isabel Edjan Dunnam and Ivan L. Dunnam through Atty. Ericson Chang Aguila prayed that after due notice, publication and trial on the merits, a judgment be rendered granting the present petition for adoption and declaring herein petitioners Isabel Edjan Dunnam and Ivan L. Dunnam for all legal intents and purposes as the adoptive parents of the minor and that said minor shall thereafter be known as Mikaella Edjan Dunnam.

The Petition in essence alleged as follows:

Petitioner Isabel Dunnam is of legal age, a dual Filipino and American citizens, married to her co-petitioner, Ivan L. Dunnam and resident of 1663 A – Payapa Street, Balic Balic Sta. Rita, Olongapo City. Petitioner Ivan L. Dunnam is of legal age, an American national, married to his co-petitioner and is a resident of the same address. Petitioners as married couple are willing and desirous to adopt jointly minor child Mikaella Edodollon Edjan. The minor is the illegitimate child of Ronnie Elpuz Edjan, the brother of petitioner Isabel. Minor’s mother is Marife Laoyan Edodollon. Minor’s parents have been living together as common law husband and wife and without the benefit of marriage and that the minor was conceived out of wedlock and during this common law relation. The parents of the minor have both given their respective consent and conformity for their minor child to be jointly adopted by the petitioners bearing in mind that this petition will redound to the best interest and paramount welfare of said child. The minor has also given her consent and conformity to be adopted by herein petitioners. Petitioners have always been very fond of said minor child and have always treated the minor as their own child. The petitioners have developed parental love and concern over the minor sought to be adopted. The petitioners have all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications to adopt said minor child. Petitioners are physically, mental and psychologically fit and qualified to adopt the said minor. The minor child is physically, mentally and emotionally fit and qualified to be adopted. Petitioners are also financially qualified to support and adopt the minor child. As proof of their legal capacity to adopt, herein petitioners have stated under oath before the Embassy of the United States of America in the City of Manila, Philippines that they have all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications outlined in R.A. No. 8522 to adopt said minor. Petitioner’s children namely Christopher Lee Dunnam and Trexy Joyce Dunnam have executed their respective sworn statements wherein they gave their consent for their parents to adopt the said minor. The adoption of said minor will redound to her best interest and paramount welfare in the event that this petition be granted.

It appearing to be sufficient in form and substance, the Petition is hereby set for hearing on SEPTEMBER 24, 2019 at 8:30 in the morning to be conducted at Branch 73 of the Regional Trial Court, Olongapo City located at the Hall of Justice, 23rd St., West Bajac-Bajac, Olongapo City at which date and time and place, the petitioner shall appear and prove their petition.

All persons interested in the petition are enjoined to appear and to show cause why, if any, the petition should not be granted.

Pursuant to Sec. 12 (5), of A.M. No. 02-6-02-SC, the Court Social Worker is hereby directed to make a Case Study on the adoptee and his biological parents as well as on the adopters and to submit the Child Study Report and Home Study Report (5) days before the date of the hearing directly to the court as the same are strictly confidential.

Let this Order be published, at the expense of the Petitioners, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Zambales before the scheduled hearing and the same be posted in two (2) public places in the province of Zambales.

Let copy of this Order and petition be furnished the copy the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), the Office of the City Prosecutor of Olongapo City, the Regional Office of the Social Welfare and Development Office at the City of San Fernando, Pampanga and to the Court Social Worker of the Regional Trial Court, Olongapo City.

SO ORDERED.

June 6, 2019 in Olongapo City.

GEMMA THERESA B. HILARIO-LOGRONIO
Assisting Judge

CHAIRMAN'S CUP REGATTA.....from page 1

boat with a maximum weight limit of 425kgs. This is the most competitive class in this division. The Philippine Sailing Association team composed of our SEA Games athletes has two teams headed by Asia’s match racing champion Ridgely Balladares and Asian Sailing Federation Keel Boat Cup champion Emerson Villena. Another team representing the Philippines is from Subic Sailing with Olympian sailor Maria Vidoeira. There were also international teams participating from Hong Kong (Alain Choi), Japan (Yukie Ikawa), China (Ren Feli) and Taipei (Richard Lin).

For the Dinghy division, there are three classes: Optimist, Streaker and Oz Goose. The Oz Goose is the largest fleet in the Dinghy Class with a total of 8 boats. This boat is also the latest addition to the Dinghy Class through the support of the Philippine Gaming Corporation, Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Home Boatbuilders Yacht Club headed by Roy Espiritu together with the Oz Goose designer, Michael Storer who also participated in the race.

For this year and for the first time, SSC has included windsurfing in the regatta with two classes: RS: X and RS: One. The athletes participating in this regatta are mostly athletes representing the Philippine team for the upcoming SEA Games. These athletes will continue to train in Subic Bay throughout the year. “We look forward to working with the Philippine Windsurfing Association in bringing more interest in the sport in Subic Bay,” said Mr. Zed AVECILLA, Executive Director of Subic Sailing Club.

There are a total of 30 boats and 12 windsurfers competing in the regatta from April 25-30. “We hope to increase the number of boats joining this regatta by getting more international participants. This year we had a participant from the inaugural Hong Kong to Puerto Galera Race which was Rampage II. We hope to get more foreign participants next year especially those joining the famous Rolex China Sea Race that will finish at Subic Bay on Easter, a week before the 2nd Chairman’s Cup Regatta,” Zed AVECILLA added.

Moulding Young Sailors

The Subic Sailing Club (SSC) has partnered with the Philippine Sailing Association (PSA) and the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians (IYFR) to form a school that will teach people how to sail in Subic Bay either as a sport, hobby, or means of livelihood.

“The Philippines has retained its reputation of producing strong seafarers around the globe, with numbers almost amounting to a fifth of the world’s maritime workers,” says Jun AVECILLA. “Sailing enhances creativity, independence, communication, and teamwork, among other skills, to brace them for the challenges of life. What better way to mould the potential of the next generation than to instill these characteristics with proper coaching and guidance.”

The sport of sailing is growing exponentially. In the past several months, private companies, organizations, government agencies, and even individuals have come together to support one of the biggest campaigns in the sport of sailing in the Philippines. We have companies and individuals who have shared their expertise and services in helping the club fulfill its goal to promote the sport particularly here in Subic Bay.

The Subic Sailing Club had enjoyed and shared a month-long festivity of spreading the love for sailing. SSC started the month with the summer clinic program in partnership with the Olongapo City Sports & Youth Development. “We’ve had more than 40 kids who were all eager to learn how to sail. Five years ago, when the club first introduced sailing in Olongapo, there were only four (4) students who enrolled in the sport,” said Marcus AVECILLA, SSC Head of Operations. Currently SSC offers Basic Sailing Course programs to individual and private companies from dinghies to larger keelboats.

Maritime Heritage and Underwater Treasures

The move to promote Philippine maritime heritage was rooted in the government’s Maritime and Archipelagic Nation Awareness Month (Mana Mo) campaign that was launched in Malacañang in September 2017 through Presidential Proclamation 316 which Subic Sailing Club was part of the working committee behind it.

“The Maritime Forum hopes to provide a venue to discuss matters related to our oceans and maritime affairs,” said Zed AVECILLA. Besides learning from the speakers, the forum also enabled exchange of ideas. “The forum was in partnership with the National Coast Watch Council Secretariat of the Office of the President,” he added.

One interesting topics discussed in the Maritime Forum was the updated National Marine Policy which was launched during the National Marine Summit to be held this September. It was presented by Jesse Pascasio, Director for Strategic Planning and Communications at the National Coast Watch Council Secretariat. “The National Marine Summit is a partnership between government and all marine stakeholders of the country, like environmentalists, scientists, academics and other members and associations of the maritime industry to promote awareness of the NMP,” says Pascasio. “The agenda also focuses on the Maritime Industry Development Plan, which tackles core issues of the maritime industry to create key solutions and effectively open new opportunities. It will not only present the updated National Marine Policy (NMP) of the Philippines but also its Coastal Development and Tourism Agenda as well. Pascasio added.

All Throughout history Subic Bay has been known to be a strategic location for the Chinese and the South Pacific Region on naval commerce and as military installations from Spain, Great Britain, Japan, and the United States.

“Subic Bay has one of the highest concentrations of historic ship, aircraft and vehicle wrecks within sports-diving range in the world” according to Andy Davis, Scuba Tech Philippines.

Bobby Orillaneda, Museum Researcher at the National Museum of the Philippines, presented images of several underwater and historical artifacts that represent the cultural heritage of the Filipino people including those found 10 nautical miles off the shores in Sta. Cruz, Zambales in March 2001. Sunken treasures such as coins, urns, cooking woks, and porcelain were dated coming from 1488 to 1505 C.E.

On tracing the migration of our ancestors, it had been found that there existed a well-developed boatbuilding industry stemming from the pre-colonial days according to Art Valdez, Founder of Kaya ng Pinoy Foundation, a very influential advocate of Maritime Culture in the Philippines through his Balangay Voyage Expedition. “The SSC aims to promote the rich maritime heritage of the Philippines through our sailing events and programs,” said Zed AVECILLA.

Final Awards Ceremony

On the last day of the regatta, April 30, an awarding ceremony was held at the Lighthouse beachfront that was made into a Sailing Village for the week-long event.

The overall winner of this year’s Regatta for IRC Class is Team Misty Mountain with skipper George Hackett, for the Cruising Class is team Selma with skipper Peter Capotosto, for the FarEast28R Class is Team PSA Standard Insurance with skipper Emerson Villena.

The event was capped off by live stage performances from the M1 Freedom Party. Performers that were there included Tropical Depression, along with other local bands and DJs like Migo, Carla Espiritu, and the like.

Improving International Relations

It is through sailing that we are able to build stronger ties with our foreign neighbors long before the Spanish had come. “The Balangay, that may soon be declared as the National Boat of the Philippines, serves as a symbol of unity to the peoples of Southeast Asia,” said Mr. Valdez.

Sailing and channeling through different waters



Director Jesse Pascasio of the National Coast Watch Council Secretariat of the Office of the President



China Cup International Regatta Organizer represented by Jaime Xiong gives and receives token to and from Subic Sailing Club Chairman Mr. Jun AVECILLA and Congressman Ricky Sand

have been means to connect us to other nations in the South Pacific and the rest of the world. The China Cup International Regatta organizing Committee and the Subic Sailing Club, in its hope to strengthen international ties, continue to participate in reciprocal sailing events and activities to develop sailing between the two countries.

The event was presented by the Subic Sailing Club in partnership with the Philippine Sailing Association, Lighthouse Marina Resort and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, in cooperation with Standard Insurance, Watercraft Ventures Corporation, and Subic Bay Yacht Club.

The event is supported by the following government agencies: National Coast Watch Council Secretariat, Department of Tourism, Philippine Coast Guard, PNP Maritime Group, Department of Transportation, Philippine Retirement Authority, PAGCOR and Philippine Sports Commission.

The event is supported by the following organizations: Rotary Club of Subic Bay, International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians, Subic Bay Freeport Chamber of Commerce, Subic Bay, Hotels, Attractions, and Tourism Stakeholders Visitors Board, Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary, Philippine Inter-Island Sailing Federation, Philippine Windsurfing Association, Puerto Galera Yacht Club, Taal Lake Yacht Club, Subic Bay Yacht Club and Punta Fuego Yacht Club.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that an **EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE** was made and executed by the sole heirs of the deceased **Dianna Jean M. Dait, who died on May 17, 2019 at Brgy. Consuelo Sur, San Marcelino, Zambales, Philippines 2207** as per Doc no 523, Page No.106 Book No CLVIII Series of 2019 in the notarial registry of Atty. Michael G. Fabunan.

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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AROUND CENTRAL LUZON

PH-Japan relations grow stronger

CLARK FREEPORT, Pampanga —The relationship between the Philippines and Japan proved to be growing stronger and deeper with the two countries agreeing on further cooperation.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said the 8th High Level Meeting of the Philippines-Japan Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development and Economic Cooperation held Tuesday at the Marriott Clark Hotel here was extensive and fruitful as both countries favored to maintain close coordination in resolving pending issues and revisiting certain procedures in order to fast-track the big-ticket projects of the Duterte administration.

“Our discussions covered broad areas of Philippines-Japan sectoral cooperation including regional development, information and communications technology, energy, environment, public safety, disaster prevention, and peace building initiatives in Mindanao. Both sides also discussed the strategy for future cooperation and considering the Philippines will soon graduate to upper middle-income country status by end of this year or in 2020,” Dominguez said.

He said the two countries will also work towards signing a supplemental loan for the ongoing Davao City Bypass Construction Project within this year and three more loan accords for the New Mactan Bridge Construction Project in Cebu, the second phase of the Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project, and second tranche for the first phase of the Metro Manila Subway Project.

Also, he said a review progress of the Philippines Railway Project that will be rolled out in cooperation with Japan was tackled to accelerate implementation and to address all the challenges.

Meanwhile, Dominguez said the conduct of feasibility studies by JICA for the Dalton Pass East Alignment alternative road project and circumferential road 3 missing link project will be done later this year.

“Japan affirmed its commitment to provide additional assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the most affected areas in Marawi City,” he added.

The event was highlighted by the signing of a loan agreement amounting to USD202.02 million for the Road Network Development Project (RNDP) in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao.

The agreement was signed by Secre-

tary Dominguez on behalf of the Philippines and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Senior Vice President Yasushi Tanaka on behalf of the Japanese government.

The project involves the construction and improvement of some 176.6 kilometers (km) of access roads that include 19.8 km of the Marawi Ring Road and 23 km of the Marawi Trans-Central Road.

The Japanese government is known to be the largest donor for the rehabilitation of war-torn Marawi City.

“We thank Dr. Hiroto Izumi, Special Adviser to Prime Minister Abe, for his keen interest in seeing the speedy completion of the cooperation projects. We are looking forward for the 9th meeting of this committee which is scheduled on October this year,” Dominguez said.

The eighth session of the high-level joint committee since it was first convened in March 2017 was part of the Duterte administration’s efforts to fast-track the rollout of its 75 big-ticket projects under the President’s signature initiative “Build, Build, Build”.

Dominguez said nine other loan agreements with Japan were signed between October 2016 and January 2019 with a combined amount of JPY398.82 billion (about USD3.63 billion or PHP189.92 billion).

These are intended for the following projects: Maritime Safety Capability Improvement Project for the Philippine Coast Guard (Phase II); Harnessing Agribusiness Opportunities through Robust and Vibrant Entrepreneurship Supportive of Peaceful Transformation (HARVEST); Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project; Arterial Road Bypass Project (Phase III) in Bulacan; New Bohol Airport Construction and Sustainable Environment Protection Project (II); Metro Rail Transit Line 3 Rehabilitation Project; Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (Phase IV); North-South Commuter Railway Extension Project (1st tranche of loan); and Metro Manila Subway Project (Phase I), which is the single biggest venture under the “Build, Build, Build” program.

Likewise, Japan remains to be the No. 1 provider of Official Development Assistance (ODA) loans totaling USD6.13 billion (47.51 percent share of the total ODA loan), and the No. 5 provider of ODA grants amounting to USD106.76 M (4.45 percent share of the total ODA grants) as of December 2018, according to the latest data generated by NEDA last April 25. (PNA)

Bataan fishermen want Recto Bank row settled



The fishing village of Sisiman in Mariveles, Bataan. (Contributed photo)

MARIVELES, Bataan -- Members of a big group of fishermen here on Tuesday expressed their desire for the Recto Bank row to be settled peacefully but asked that the affected 22 fishermen and the boat owner be provided with the appropriate assistance.

Dalisay Cruz, president of the Sisiman Fishing Association, said there was nothing wrong with President Rodrigo Duterte saying what happened was a small maritime incident that should not be blown out of proportion as every problem has a solution.

The ill-fated boat, F/B Gimber 1, sank on the night of June 9 after being hit by a Chinese vessel at Recto Bank in the West Philippine Sea. Vietnamese fishermen later rescued the boat’s 22 crew members.

“Tama po kayo Mr. President, hindi natin kailangan makipaglaban. Ang lahat ng problema may solusyon kung makukuhang sa mahinahon, magandang usapan (You are right, Mr. President. There is no need to fight. All problems have solution if there would be a calm and sincere dialogue),” she said.

The association in Barangay Sisiman here, which Cruz heads, is composed of more than 50 big fishing boats and 700 fishermen.

Cruz said dialogue is the best solution before anyone contemplates on war as the Philippines is no match to the military power of the Chinese government.

“At kahit meron tayong gamit pangdigma, pinaka the best na solusyon – pag-usapan muna bago pumunta sa tinatawag na digmaan. Mr. President, saludo ako sa mga sinasabi ninyo (Even though we have armaments, still the best solution is to talk first before we go to what they call as war. Mr. President, I salute you for what you are saying),” she said.

But as a boat owner, Cruz appealed to President Duterte to help the affected fishermen including in the repair of the damaged fishing vessel.

“Ipagawa ang kanilang panghanapbuhay nang hindi naman sila sumala sa oras dahil alam natin kung paano ang buhay ng isang mangingisda na doon sila humuhugot ng pampaaral, pagkain ng pamilya (Repair the fishermen’s source of livelihood because we know the life of a fisherman, that is where they source funds for their children’s education and food for the family),” she said.

Norbing Gaga-a, 63, also a fishing boat owner, said the damaged fishing boat should be immediately repaired so that the crews can continue earning a living.

“Talagang ganoon lang. Barko nagbabanggaan, eroplano man saka tren. Humingi na lang ng tulong. Kapag nagawa ang bangka, makakapaghanapbuhay ulit (Things like that happen. Ships collide, even airplanes and trains. Just ask for help. Once the boat was repaired, they can go fishing again),” he said. (PNA)

Japanese gov’t support to Build Build Build



Bases Conversion and Development Authority President Vivencio Dizon recognizes the support of the Japanese government to the Build Build Build infrastructure program of the Duterte administration. (Cherie Joyce V. Flores)

CLARK FREEPORT ZONE, Pampanga -- Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) recognized the support of the Japanese government to the Build Build Build infrastructure program of the Duterte administration.

“This is one of the legacies that President Duterte will be leaving behind, the beginnings of the New Clark City and we have the Japanese government to thank a lot because they really have been supportive from the very beginning,” BCDA President Vivencio Dizon told reporters at the conclusion of the 8th High Level Meeting of the Philippines-Japan Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development and Economic Cooperation held in Clark.

“Based on the discussions in the meeting, there will be more support coming to us. In fact, there’s a joint venture between the BCDA and Japan Overseas International Network for transport and urban development,” he added.

Talking about Clark which is one of

the centerpiece of the administration’s infrastructure program, Dizon mentioned that it was turned over to the Philippine government in 1991 and it has taken more than three decades for the area to really develop.

“I think we usually forget that in Luzon where close of 60 percent of Filipinos reside there is only one metropolis, that is Metro Manila,” he stressed.

“Past governments have been unable to develop regions and areas outside of Metro Manila as new centers of growth and that is why we included the development of Clark and Subic because their strategic nature becomes really the centerpiece not just of the Build Build Build but also future developments later on,” he stated.

“With these, we really need a new metropolis to not just address the congestion of Metro Manila but also to spread growth outside,” Dizon furthered. (PIA 3)

NEDA eyes big ticket infra projects



National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia (left) and Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III (middle) lead the Philippine delegation during the 8th High Level Meeting of the Philippines-Japan Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development and Economic Cooperation held in Clark. Dr. Hiroto Izumi (right), Special Adviser to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, led the Japanese delegation during the meeting. (Carmela Jane F. Villar/PIA 3)

CLARK FREEPORT ZONE, Pampanga-- National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) is now prioritizing more costly infrastructure projects under the Build-Build-Build program to level up the country’s economic status.

“Big infrastructure projects like Metro Manila Subway and North-South Commuter Railway are aimed to be finished before the Philippines reaches the upper middle-income status by the end of 2019 or in 2020,” NEDA Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia told reporters at the conclusion of the 8th High Level Meeting of the Phil-

ippines-Japan Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development and Economic Cooperation held in Clark.

Should the Philippines achieve the target of increasing its present economic status by the end of the year or in 2020, it will no longer be qualified for the Japanese Special Terms for Economic Partnership Funding.

At present, there are 12 NEDA board-confirmed projects amounting to P1.6 trillion by the Japanese Government through the Japan International Cooperation Agency. (PIA 3)

2nd Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay in Bataan

SAMAL, Bataan -- Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) launched its second Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay (NSB) in Bataan located in Palili, Samal town.

DTI Assistant Regional Director Zorina Aldana said the program aims to reach the grassroots and provide assistance to existing and potential entrepreneurs.

“We are here because we want the public to realize that the government is not that difficult to reach and we are coming closer to you here to provide you your needs,” Aldana told the residents.

Together with partner government agencies, DTI discussed their services related to business development to about 120 participating residents of the

barangay.

Agencies present include Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Science and Technology, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

NSB is being conducted by DTI to barangays nationwide in municipalities belonging to the 4th-6th income class. Samal is the only town in the province that falls under this classification.

Prior to this, the first one was launched in barangay Gugo and another is scheduled in barangay Imelda on July 2. (PIA 3)

IN THE NAVY

American, Japanese Navies Sail Together in Philippine Sea

By Commander Task Force 70 Public Affairs



PHILIPPINE SEA. — The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54) steams in formation with Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) destroyer JS Ariake (DD 109), left, and JMSDF destroyer JS Asahi. Curtis Wilbur is forward-deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Taylor DiMartino)

PHILIPPINE SEA - Arleigh-Burke guided missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54) and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) ships Ariake and Asahi conducted operations together in the Philippine Sea, May 29.

At sea, Curtis Wilbur, Ariake, and Asahi conducted communication checks, tactical maneuvering drills, and an anti-submarine warfare exercise designed to address common maritime security priorities and enhance interoperability.

"Sailing and operating together is vital to maintaining the communication and cooperation that a strong alliance depends upon," said Cmdr. Zachary King, Curtis Wilbur's commanding officer. "These operations allow both our forces to learn from one another, build confidence in our

abilities to quickly integrate and operate at sea and further strengthen this critical partnership."

The cooperative deployment follows Pacific Vanguard, the first of its kind quadrilateral exercise between Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, and U.S. Naval forces May. 23-27. PACVAN focused on improving the capabilities of participating countries to respond together to crisis and contingencies in the region.

The U.S. Navy regularly flies, sails, and operates with allies and partners, both bilaterally and multilaterally to promote security and stability throughout the region. Curtis Wilbur is forward deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

USS Wasp arrives in Sydney, Australia



Sydney, Australia – The forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) and the embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) arrived in Sydney, Australia, for a scheduled port visit June 18.

Along with the Wasp, USS Green Bay (LPD 20) and USS Ashland (LSD 48), two other ships in the Wasp Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), are also in Australia prior to Talisman Sabre 2019. The Green Bay and Ashland are currently visiting Brisbane, Australia.

"This visit gives the Wasp ARG a fantastic opportunity to explore Australia, while also learning about one of our country's strongest partners, who share our values and commitment to peace and security," said Capt. Jim McGovern, commander, Amphibious Squadron Eleven. "In both Sydney and Brisbane, our Sailors and Marine will be able to have a short respite from our forward-deployed and busy operational schedule to enjoy these beautiful cities."

The Wasp ARG and 31st MEU team is a flexible, self-sustained crisis response force, capable of conducting operations

USS Green Bay, USS Ashland arrive in Brisbane, Australia

Brisbane, Australia – The forward-deployed San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock USS Green Bay (LPD 20), Whidbey Island-class amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48), and the embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) arrived in Brisbane, Australia, for a scheduled port visit June, 18.

"It's great to be back in Brisbane. The crew is ecstatic to have this opportunity to come back to Australia again after having visited Cairns this past November and Brisbane in June of 2017," said Capt. Thomas E. Shultz, commanding officer of Green Bay. "We really appreciate the warm welcome we receive when we visit, and we're looking forward to a little rest and relaxation, enjoying everything Brisbane has to offer."

The Wasp Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 31st MEU team is a flexible, self-sustained crisis response force, capable of conducting operations from combat missions, to humanitarian aid and disaster relief. They are the premier crisis response force in the Indo-Pacific region.

"Australia and the United States have a deep friendship, and the United

from combat missions, to humanitarian aid and disaster relief. They are the premier crisis response force in the Indo-Pacific region.

"It is an absolute privilege for the Marines and Sailors of the 31st MEU to receive such a warm and hospitable welcome to Australia and the beautiful city of Sydney," said Col. Robert Brodie, 31st MEU commanding officer. "We genuinely look forward to meeting new friends, building positive relationships and enjoying our shared vision of peace and prosperity with our Australian allies."

During the port visit, Sailors and Marines will participate in various community service events, intramural sports competitions, including volleyball and soccer, tours of the area, and the ship will host a distinguished visitor reception.

"Australia is one of the benchmark countries for U.S. Sailors and Marines to visit during their careers, and both the crew of Wasp and the 31st MEU are excited and well-deserving of the opportunity to experience this beautiful country," said Capt. Christopher Herr, Wasp commanding officer. "Our two nations value stability and peace, both at home and globally, and having the opportunity to be ambassadors in this respect is a great honor. Given our historic alliance and friendship with Australia, this visit will give our Sailors and Marines an even greater appreciation for their legacy of service with honor, which generations of Australian and American service members can relate to, and continue to build upon."

Wasp is the flagship of the Wasp ARG and, with the embarked 31st MEU, is currently deployed in the U.S. 7th Fleet Area of Operations. (-USN-DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY COMMANDER, AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON 11)

States Marine Corps and Navy have a long history visiting and training in Australia," said Lt. Col. Christopher Johnson, Combat Logistics Battalion 31 commanding officer. "I have only known Australians to be wonderful ambassadors of their country while aboard, and I hope the Marines and Sailors visiting Brisbane sustain our mutual feelings of kinship and friendship. Thank you for hosting us and welcoming us to your beautiful country."

Green Bay and Ashland are forward deployed from Sasebo, Japan, in Brisbane prior to Exercise Talisman Sabre 2019.

"Fortunately, our schedule has afforded the crew an opportunity to spend a few days in Brisbane. The crew is excited to participate in the many opportunities to explore Australia," said Cmdr. Patrick German, commanding officer of Ashland. "The city of Brisbane is beautiful and the people are fantastic. We are looking forward to a great port visit."

Wasp is the flagship of the Wasp ARG and, with the embarked 31st MEU, is currently deployed in the U.S. 7th Fleet Area of Operations.



Bright future seen for PH power industry



A Brighter Mindanao. AboitizPower Chief Operating Officer Emmanuel V. Rubio talks about Mindanao power outlook during the 5th Davao Investment Conference on June 20, 2019 in Davao City.

The Chief Operating Officer of one of the country's largest electric power companies has cited the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) as having significantly driven the cost of power down, while increasing the country's capacity and improving services to customers.

Emmanuel V. Rubio, who is also the incoming President and Chief Executive Officer of Aboitiz Power Corporation, said that based on data, EPIRA has succeeded in improving the power sector for the benefit of consumers.

Rubio was a keynote speaker today (June 20, 2019) at the Davao Investment Conference (ICON) in Davao City.

"(The) Philippines may still have one of the most expensive power rates in Asia. That may be true for now, but the data show that prices in the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) has a downward trajectory," Rubio said.

Average WESM prices in 2010 was around Php6.43 / kwh going down to Php3.28 / kwh in 2018.

"It is important to take into consideration that the power industry in other ASEAN countries is subsidized, hence the substantial difference between the electricity prices of countries with and without subsidies," he said.

"Are prices still high? Perhaps. But it is continuously decreasing. In fact, from 2011 to 2016, only government charges have increased while charges controlled by the private sector have sustained a downward trajectory."

Data have shown that primarily because of EPIRA, private investments in the power sector led to the growth in energy capacity by almost 60% from 13,380 MW in 2011 to 21,423 MW in 2016. The industry expects to generate 5,000 MW more by 2020.

Rubio said that while news always highlight instances when WESM prices are high, it fails to note that in 2018, more than 95% of the time, prices in the spot market have been way below Php5 and in some instances the prices went negative.

He said that in order for EPIRA to fully realize its potential, the government and other sector must encourage an atmosphere of true competition.

"We learn from situations like this that the country's power sector is not without any challenges. But what we fail to realize and appreciate is how far we have come because of EPIRA," he said.

"EPIRA is working. And only when

there is strong support both from the government and private sector can it realize its full potential and achieve its ultimate goal of making electricity sustainable and accessible to all Filipinos."

Competition among players, better services, and better technologies in the power plant will definitely result in more efficient production and more value to customers."

EPIRA, he added, was also the reason Mindanao enjoys a surplus of energy supply today, showing a stark difference from the eight-hour power outages the island experienced only around four years ago.

"EPIRA is working and only when there is strong support both from the government and private sector can it realize its full potential and achieve its ultimate goal of making electricity sustainable and accessible to all Filipinos," said Rubio.

Rubio also expressed excitement over the full implementation of the WESM in Mindanao, something that has long faced challenges but which he believes will open up a world of possibilities for big customers as well as for power generators.

He said AboitizPower is in the best position to take advantage of WESM and serve the customers best, especially with the company's portfolio of baseload, hydro, and peaking power plants in Mindanao that give them the flexibility to tailor-fit solutions depending on their customers' needs.

With more companies entering the power sector, developing new technologies to create more capacities, Rubio said it is without a doubt that the future looks bright for the industry and, most importantly, for consumers.

But he also stressed that there has to be a level playing field, as well as an effective and efficient regulatory environment.

Over the last eight decades, AboitizPower has been providing reliable and cost-effective power to customers in Mindanao, reinforcing the company's readiness to continue serving the island as more opportunities arise.

The company's power generation facilities on the island have a total capacity of around 635 MW and currently deliver power to more than 20 electric cooperatives and distribution utilities.

To date, AboitizPower has a net sellable capacity of 4,471 MW from its renewable and thermal power plants. Together with partners, it has around 1,200 MW of net sellable capacity from its Cleanenergy portfolio of hydro, geothermal, and solar power plants all over the country.

NSED Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill



SM City Olongapo Downtown employees, agencies, affiliates together with the customers joined the Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill conducted today to educate them on how to properly handle and respond when earthquake strikes. It can be recalled that the recent 6.1 earthquake which struck Zambales and Pampanga had a great impact to everyone because of the vast damage it caused to the provinces.