

LANDBANK PRESENTS ACTION PLAN TO INTENSIFY LENDING TO AGRI SECTOR

MANILA -- The Land Bank of the Philippines (Landbank) has presented an action plan to intensify lending to the agriculture sector to President Rodrigo Duterte, Malacañang said on Tuesday.

Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said this action plan was presented during the Cabinet meeting on Monday (August 5) night.

"The Land Bank of the Philippines' President and CEO Cecilia C. Borromeo, together with Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez, imparted the Landbank's Action Plan to intensify lending to the agriculture sector," Panelo said in a statement.

In Duterte's fourth state of the nation address (SONA) on July 22, Duterte directed Landbank officials to submit to him an action plan that details how the bank will increase lending to the agriculture sector.

Data from Landbank showed that loans which support the agriculture and fisheries sector amounted to PHP177.32 billion while loans that support the national government's priority programs, including infrastructure projects, reached PHP524.86 billion.

Borromeo earlier said with Mindanao being the country's food basket, it will definitely receive greater focus in the bank's bid to increase lending to the agriculture sector.

Aside from the Landbank action plan, Panelo bared that the President wanted the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to work with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to study the impact of amending Memorandum Circular No. 28 was also discussed during the Cabinet meeting.

The circular allows farmers to use their Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) as an instrument to obtain loans with restrictions such as being a member of an agrarian reform beneficiary organization, which impedes the

farmer's loan transactions.

Meanwhile, Panelo said Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Caesar Dulay and Deputy Commissioner Arnel Guballa shared updates on the Tax Collection on Philippine Off-shore Gaming Operations (POGO).

"Through an inter-agency task force composed of the BIR, DOJ (Department of Justice), Bureau of Immigration, National Intelligence Coordinating Agency and Department of Labor

and Employment, the government was able to issue tax identification numbers to foreign workers, and as a result collect taxes from them," Panelo said.

"The Department of Finance estimated that PHP2 billion monthly revenues shall be collected from POGOs," he added.

Finally, Education Secretary Leonor Briones discussed her department's Last Mile Schools Program wherein schools from geographically isolated and dis-

advantaged areas shall be reached by them to improve and provide needs of every learner.

The program involves the building, repair, and construction of classrooms with potable water and electricity, distribution of textbooks and manuals, employment of teachers, and feeding students, among others.

"Last mile schools will ensure that no one will be left behind and that education is truly accessible," Panelo said. (PNA)

LGUs urged to be more people-oriented in clearing roads

MANILA -- Senator Francis Tolentino on Tuesday reminded local government units (LGUs) to take a more people-oriented approach in their clearing operations of public roads.

Tolentino, who chairs the Senate committee on local government, said LGUs must consider the people's welfare, especially that of affected vendors while heeding President Rodrigo Duterte's directive to reclaim public spaces used privately to decongest the traffic gridlock in the metropolis.

"Importante na malinis natin ang mga sidewalk. Malaki ang tulong nito sa pag luwag ng daloy ng trapiko, pero may maayos na lugar na ba tayong natukoy, kung saan ilalagay ang mga vendor na aalisin natin sa

lugar? (It is important to clear the sidewalks. This is a huge help in decongesting the flow of traffic, but have we identified places for affected vendors to transfer to?)," Tolentino said during his panel's hearing.

"Dapat siguraduhin din natin na may maayos silang malilipatan, hindi dapat maapektuhan ang kabuhayan nila, otherwise babalik lang din sila sa mga sidewalk (We need to ensure that they have a place to transfer to, their livelihood should not be affected, otherwise they will just go back to the sidewalks)," he added.

On July 29, 2019, Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año, through Memorandum Circular 2019-121, gave the mayors 60 days "to

exercise their powers essential to reclaim public roads which are being used for private ends, and in the process rid them of illegal structures and constructions."

The DILG's memo circular complies with the directive of President Rodrigo Duterte for the department to ensure that LGUs will rid public roads of obstructions to ease traffic congestions.

Tolentino also proposed a possible solution to ease the traffic problem, citing Republic Act 11201 giving the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development the power to "open roads of subdivisions to the public when the general welfare requires it upon consultation with stakeholders." (PNA)

Pacquiao urges Senate panel to prioritize death penalty

MANILA – Senator Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao on Tuesday urged the Senate committee on justice and human rights to prioritize the hearings on the bill seeking to reimpose the death penalty for drug-related crimes.

In a privilege speech, Pacquiao highlighted that criminal organizations and their cohorts can no longer be directly deterred by the administration's present campaign against illegal drugs nor can they be reformed even though they are already inside detention facilities.

Pacquiao said it is high time for the state to "step up its game" and put these criminals "to death through judicial sanction."

"This death penalty is self-defense of the state to protect its people against the destruction of lives and properties brought by drug-related crimes that undermine the Filipinos' faith in the government's ability to maintain peace and order in the country and affect our economic development and prosperity," he said.

"The state based on the right to protect as an act of self-defense has the right to take the life of an individual," he added.

Pacquiao said despite government efforts to dismantle shabu laboratories within the country, Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, has been the fastest-growing shabu market

in the world.

The senator noted that in the Philippines alone, billions worth of shabu has been confiscated in line with the government's campaign illegal drugs.

"Despite efforts of eradicating our country of this poison, the first quarter of 2019 has the all-time high record of shabu that was seized by authorities," he said.

"It is alarming to note that most of the supplies of shabu in the Philippines are being facilitated by transnational drug syndicates," he added.

He said international criminal organizations and drug cartels have become more aggressive, describing drug-trafficking in the country as "well-organized."

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PATAS AT MAKATARUNGANG PAHAYAGAN

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Prayer for Healing

JESUS, may Your pure and healthy blood circulate in my ailing organism, and may Your pure and healthy body transform my weak body, and may a healthy and vigorous life throb within me, if it is truly Your holy will. Amen.

O BLOOD AND WATER WHICH FLOWED OUT FROM THE HEART OF JESUS AS A FOUNTAIN OF MERCY FOR US, I TRUST IN YOU!



Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy on us and on the whole world. Amen.

3 O’CLOCK PRAYER

"You died Jesus, but the source of life flowed out for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fountain of Life immeasurable Divine Mercy, cover the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us."

"O Blood and Water which flowed out from the heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in you!"

"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One have mercy on us and on the whole world." (3x) Amen.

Jesus, King of Mercy, I trust in you!

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