



PGC PROVIDES BASIC MEDICAL SERVICES TO CITY OF DASMARIÑAS RESIDENTS: Five hundred residents of Brgy. San Antonio de Padua I in the City of Dasmariñas received free basic medical services during the provincial government's medical and dental mission conducted on August 9, 2019. OPG-Extension Office in cooperation with the Provincial Health Office and Philippine Dental Association-Cavite Chapter spearheaded the health outreach event with the assistance of barangay health workers and nutrition scholars and some provincial government employees. Barangay Captain Carter P. Manzano expressed his gratitude to Gov. Jonvic Remulla and to the mission team for providing health assistance to his constituents.---PICAD

Super Response Team to receive corruption, red tape complaints

MANILA -- A Super Response Team, composed of representatives from the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC), the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), and the 8888 hotline has been formed to receive reports on corruption and red tape.

PACC Commissioner Greco Belgica bared on Wednesday said that after holding a coordination meeting last July 30, the team agreed to enter into a framework for operational partnership, within which it will establish collaborative efforts to prevent corruption.

"The problem before is that when we report 8888, when they begin to submit the tickets to the agencies concerned and people concerned, there are agencies that do not respond," Belgica said in a Palace briefing.

"So with ARTA, the agencies and people

that (do) not respond will be investigated and if evidence warrant, cases will be filed against them," he added.

Belgica said that during the team's second coordination meeting last August 8, the PACC required the Land Transportation Office, Social Security System, Bureau of Internal Revenue, and Land Registration Authority to present the reason for the mounting complaints filed against them, such as problematic transactions and choke points.

The PACC also asked the agencies, which President Rodrigo R. Duterte mentioned in his fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA), to provide solutions and actions to remedy the grievances.

Meanwhile, Belgica said that the PACC has also formed an ad hoc committee called

Project USIG, which will conduct a lifestyle check on alleged corrupt government personnel and file charges against them.

"It was concluded that there are still a lot to adjust and improve and everyone is still in the process of developing a better and more efficient way of addressing complaints appropriately," Belgica said.

"This will not, however, bar my office to conduct investigation should they fail to comply with the directive of the President to ensure the efficient delivery of government services to the people," he added.

In Project USIG, the PACC will work with the National Bureau of Investigation, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the National Intelligence Coordination Agency, and the Anti-Money Laundering Council. (PNA)

PCG lauds PRRD for signing law establishing Coast Guard Hospital

MANILA—The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on Wednesday thanked President Rodrigo Duterte's signing of Republic Act (RA) 11372 that would establish and construct a hospital for PCG personnel, dependents, and retired uniformed personnel.

PCG spokesperson, Capt. Armando Balilo said since the PCG's transfer from the Armed Forces of the Philippines to the Department of Transportation (DOTr) in 1998, PCG personnel and their dependents are no longer covered by hospitals

under the AFP nationwide such as the V. Luna General Hospital in Dili-man, Quezon City.

"So, this is a big development for us kasi imbis na iniisip mo pa yung problema ng wala kang hospitalization, na nakaka-affect sa pagtra-trabaho mo, eto, plantsado na. Wala ng magiging problema. Mahimbing ka na matulog kahit ma-assign ka sa Marawi, southern Philippines, sa West Philippine Sea (This is a big development for us because instead of thinking of problems about lack of hospitalization,

which affects your performance on duty, it is now ironed out. There will be no more problems. You will sleep deeply even when you get assigned to Marawi, southern Philippines, West Philippine Sea)," Balilo said.

He added that those rescued by the PCG in maritime accidents will also benefit from the establishment of a PCG hospital.

PCG commandant Admiral Elson Hermogino also gave a message of thanks to the President for signing the landmark act that supplements the

capabilities of the PCG in protecting the country's maritime borders.

"In behalf of all the members, retirees and dependents of PCG personnel, we are beyond grateful to the government, especially to President Duterte, for the grants given to PCG in the furtherance of our missions in protecting the Philippines' maritime jurisdiction and in saving lives and properties at sea," Hermogino said.

Balilo also thanked former Malabon City Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval II for initiating the project, DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade, and Senator Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito for their support.

On March 30, 1998, former president Fidel V. Ramos ordered the transfer of the PCG from the Department of National Defense to the Office of the President to rationalize Philippine maritime administration.

Less than a month later, the PCG was transferred to the Department of Transportation and Communications under Executive Order NO. 477. (PNA)

Manila North Cemetery buries unclaimed skulls, bones

MANILA -- The local government of Manila on Wednesday reported that the Manila North Cemetery (MNC) administration has buried about 200 skulls and bones found scattered inside the cemetery.

In a statement, the local government said the mass graving on Tuesday was done after Manila Health Department chief Dr. Arnold Pangan, through a memorandum, said they can no longer trace the owners of the collected skulls and

bones.

"Natagpuan lang ang mga bungo at buto na nakakalat at tinapon kung saan saan, sa ibabaw ng apartment, bubong at mga gilid gilid ng mga bahay (The skulls and bones were found scattered and dumped everywhere, on top of the apartments, roofs, and sides of the houses in the cemetery)," MNC director Yayay Castañeda said.

Castañeda added that the previous MNC administration gave no

explanation as to why the skulls and bones were scattered.

Rev. Fr. Artemio Fabros of parish priest San Jose de Mangagawa de Manuguit led the blessing and mass entombment of the collected parts of human skeletons.

"Ito ay paraan ng pagbibigay ng respeto at dignidad sa mga yumaong mahal natin sa buhay (This is a way to give respect and dignity to our departed loved ones)," Castañeda said. (PNA)

Duterte signs Murang Kuryente Act

MANILA -- Consumers can expect lower electricity rates after President Rodrigo Duterte signed the "Murang Kuryente Act."

The new law (Republic Act 11371) which was signed by Duterte on August 8, allows government to allocate a portion of the net national government share from the Malampaya natural gas project for the payment of the stranded contract costs and stranded debts.

It recognizes the need to "protect public interest by ensuring the provision of reliable, secure, and affordable supply of electric power to consumers."

"Towards this end, the State shall implement policies and programs to ensure transparent and reasonable prices of electricity to consumers by minimizing the universal charges for stranded contract costs and stranded debts," the law read.

Under the law, PHP208 billion of the proceeds of the net national government share from the

Malampaya fund shall be utilized for the payment of stranded contract costs and stranded debts transferred to and assumed by the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (PSALM).

It also notes that any remaining and future proceeds of the net national government share from the Malampaya fund over and above the amount indicated shall finance energy resource development and exploitation programs.

The Department of Budget and Management shall ensure the timely release of the amounts allocated and appropriated to the PSALM in accordance with its debt and independent power producer payment schedule.

Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, sponsor of the measure and chair of the Senate committee on energy, lauded the signing of the law stressing that it would ease the burden of Filipino consumers in paying their electricity bills. (PNA)