

Manyakis timbog sa MRT-3

Hindi nakapalag ang isang manyakis nang pagtulungan itong mahuli ng ilang concerned citizens sa pagmolestiya sa isang dalagang pasa-hero ng MRT nitong Agosto 19.

Ayon sa imbesti-gasyon, naramdaman ng 19 y.o. na dalagang mag-aaral (di pinanga-lanan) na meron kumikiskis sa kanyang

katawan habang nasa loob siya ng sisksikang bagon ng train. Nag-type ng mensahe sa kanyang cellphone ang dalaga at kunwaring ip-inapakita sa kanyang mga katabing pasahe-ro ang kahalayang gina-gawa ng manyakis na pasahero. At nakita ang maselang ari ng many-akis, kaya lahat ay ta-himik muna, at nang makarating ang train sa

Ortigas Station ay kinubkob nila ang manyakis. Sa tulong ng security guards ng station ay naaresto ang manyakis na ki-nilalang si Reinhard Brian Oliver, 30 y..o. isang mensahero ng manpower agency.

Kakasuhan si Oli-ver ng unjust vexation ayon sa itinakda ng RA 11313 or Safe Spaces Act.

PH urges for 'universal acceptance' of UNCLOS

MANILA -- Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. on Thursday urged for the universal acceptance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and its value in preserv-ing peace and stability in the region.

"The only cure for the uncertainty that gnaws at our sense of security -- and invites us to prepare for war to find its opposite in peace -- is the univer-sal acceptance of inter-national law. Not in place of the national self-interest but to serve it better," Locsin said in a speech during the 7th Biennial Conference of

the Asian Society of In-ternational Law in Ma-nila.

The UNCLOS, the foundation of the histor-ic ruling on the South China Sea filed before the Permanent Court of Arbitration, is ratified by 168 parties.

Despite the near-universal acceptance of this "constitution for the oceans", Locsin said the world's "most imminent and poten-tially the most disas-trous dangers" today still pertain to marine and maritime affairs -- the Persian Gulf and the South China Sea.

Locsin pointed this out as he scored some states for going against

the principle of pacta sunt servanda (agree-ments must be kept) in international law.

Aside from the 168 parties that fully accepted the pact, 14 UN member-states have only signed the convention but did not ratify. Meanwhile, the United States only signed the agreement but had not ratified it.

"If only we respec-ted pacta sunt servan-da in our obligations un-der UNCLOS, there would be less animosity with its greater likelihood of conflict. If only the great-est power on earth led by the example of subscri-bing to UNCLOS, it would be a safer world," he said. (PNA)

PNP to deploy cops near casinos

MANILA -- The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Wednesday said it will deploy police officers near hotels and casinos in wake of the surge in gambling-related kidnapping cases in the country.

"This is part of our effort to address the prob-lem of rising number of casino-related kidnap-pings wherein almost all of the victims are Chi-nese and almost all of the perpetrators are also Chinese," PNP Anti-Kidnapping Group (AKG) spokesperson, Lt. Col. Elmer Cereno said.

Since 2017, the PNP AKG recorded 53 cases of casino-related kidnappings and arrested 119 Chinese kidnappers while there were 57 victims of the kidnapping and almost all of them are Chi-nese.

Cereno said the AKG satellite office will be set up in a strategic area in the southern part of Metro Manila where most of the hotels and casinos with a history of gambling-related kidnappings oc-curred since 2017.

"We will be deploying two of our teams in the satellite office. They would be tasked to immedi-

ately respond to all reports of kidnappings in the casinos," Cereno said.

Aside from a putting satellite office, Cereno said they will also deploy intelligence operatives in all casinos.

"The deployment of intelligence operatives is part of our pro-active measures to address this problem," Cereno said.

He said the victims are being lured by Chi-nese loan sharks to come to the Philippines for rest and recreation.

The victims would be allowed to borrow mon-ey that would be used to play in the casinos, Cer-eno said.

Once the victims failed to pay the money when they would lose in the casinos, they would be detained and tortured. The video of the torture would be sent to the relatives of the victims to force them to pay, Cereno said.

Casino junket operators, mostly Chinese nation-als, through their agents, will also look for their com-patriots abroad, as part of their efforts to target them for their illegal schemes, he added. (PNA)

PNP says release of 11K inmates poses no threat

MANILA -- The Phil-ippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday said the impending re-lease of some 11,000 inmates from prison does not pose any se-curity threat, particular-ly, on the communities which they will soon be part of.

"After having served their time in the (correc-tion facilities), we be-lieve that they will not be a threat to security. But if they will commit any crime again, we will definitely enforce the law and arrest them. Whoever commits a crime shall be held lia-ble under the law, whether they are from the corrections or ordi-nary citizens," PNP spokesperson, Brig. Gen. Bernard Banac told reporters.

Banac made the statement in response to reports that 11,000 inmates will walk out of prison soon due to the revised rules on their Good Conduct Time Al-lowance (GCTA) under Republic Act 10592, which effectively short-ens their jail term due to good behavior.

"That is the purpose of the law. During the time that they are at the Bureau of Corrections, we hope that they will be reformed as part of our criminal justice system. We believe that after serving their time (in prison), they will re-pent and start a new life after they have served their punishment," Ba-nac stressed.

Banac said through the community, the gov-ernment will be able to somehow monitor the former inmates, partic-ularly when they get in-volved in illegal activi-ties again.

On Wednesday, the Department of Justice (DOJ) clarified issues following the imple-mentation of a recent Supreme Court (SC) decision, which effec-tively shortened the prison terms of convict-ed persons deprived of liberty (PDLs)--through more liberal rules in computing GCTA.

This came in wake of reports that convict-ed rapist, former Ca-lauan, Laguna mayor Antonio Sanchez, is among those who will be entitled to an earlier release from prison

under the new GCTA rules set by the SC rul-ing.

In January 1999, the High Court affirmed a lower court's ruling, which found Sanchez guilty for the 1993 rape-slay of University of the Philippines (UP) Los Baños student Eileen Sarmenta and the kill-ing of her boyfriend, Al-lan Gomez.

In August of the same year, the High Court also meted a double life term for Sanchez for a different case. This means that Sanchez will have to spend a total of 360 years in detention for all these cases.

In its June 25 ruling, the High Court declared invalid Section 4, Rule 1 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 10592 amending por-tions of the Revised Pe-nal Code.

The said IRR pro-vided for the prospec-tive application of the GCTA of prisoners for: good conduct, study, teaching, and mentor-ing service, and loyalty.

As a consequence, all prisoners -- regard-less of whether already

serving his/her sen-tence or undergoing preventive imprison-ment -- may qualify for the reduction of their sentence pursuant to the time allowances under Republic Act 10592.

It also allowed ad-ditional deduction of 15 days for each month of study, teaching, or mentoring service, and expanded the special time allowance for loy-alty and made it appli-cable even during pre-ventive imprisonment.

The IRR was jointly issued by former Jus-tice Secretary de Lima and former Interior Sec-retary Mar Roxas.

However, Section 4, Rule 1 of the IRR direct-ed the prospective ap-plication of the GCTA, time allowance for study, teaching, and mentoring; and special time allowance for loy-alty to prisoners.

The said provision in the IRR was struck down by the SC, which stressed that it ran counter to Article 22 of the Revised Penal Code -- which entitles an accused to the ret-roactive effect of laws affecting them. (PNA)

You're better off in jail, Go tells Sanchez

MANILA — Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go on Thursday said convicted rapist and murderer former Calauan, Laguna may-or Antonio Sanchez is better off in jail.

"Mr. Sanchez, 'wag ka nang mangarap na makalaya pa. Ipagpat-uloy mo na lang pagba-yaran ang mga kasalanan mo dyan sa loob, kaysa lumabas ka, baka umikli pa ang iyong buhay (Mr. Sanchez, stop dream-ing of being freed. Just continue to serve your time in prison instead of being released which might cut your life

short)," Go said when asked to comment on the possible Sanchez's early release from jail.

In 1995, Sanchez was convicted for the rape and murder of Mary Eileen Sarmenta and the killing of her boyfriend Allan Gomez, both University of the Philippines Los Baños students, for which Sanchez received sev-en counts of reclusion perpetua (or 40 years imprisonment).

In 2013, the periods for good conduct time al-lowances (GCTA) were increased by virtue of the Republic Act (RA) 10592 signed by then president

Benigno Aquino III.

The amendment al-lowed for the expanded application of GCTA and resulted in the possible consideration of earlier release for prisoners, in-cluding Sanchez.

Go said there is a need to study the case of Sanchez and that there should be no guarantee that he will be released.

He echoed state-ments of Justice Sec-retary Menardo Gue-varra and Bureau of Corrections head Nicanor Faeldon that there should be a strict evaluation of cases of inmates in the applica-tion of GCTA.