

## Gov. Jonvic Remulla recognizes Cavite Publishers



By Joy V. Estrellado

"You are the last dying breed of media practitioners in the newspaper industry," started Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla last Wednesday, November 20, 2019. The members, officers, and board of directors of the newly established Cavite Association of Publishers and Editors, Inc. (CAPE) were warmly welcomed by the good governor himself.

CAPE was initially established a couple of months ago. Its mission is to establish unity and good leadership among legitimate publishers and editors in the province of Cavite. There are many projects waiting, all for the welfare of media practitioners and the community. This November 20, at 10 o'clock in the morning, they have been officially recognized by the governor himself as they take their oath of office. The event was held at the office of the governor in the provincial capitol, Trece Martires City. "I wonder how you make amends meet, with the internet and the social networking websites being rampant in this modern era. Nevertheless, I don't want you to write news in favor of me. I want you to write what is fair,

what is balanced, and what is true." He added.

Those who were present were: CAPE President, Webster Ace Paginag; Vice President, Irene Gascon; Secretary, Heidelita Paginag; Treasurer, Milagros Bagaporo; and Public Relations Officer, Joy Estrellado. Among the members of the board who took oath were: Jerry Ancheta, Rosemae Geduriagao, Sonny Anarna, Florendo Cacactin, Engr. Aurelo Bautista, and Andro Amores. Among the active members who were there compose of: Bayani Zoleta, Zerryvi Octavio, Jacquilou Lirio, Don Russel Nava, Joey Mariscotes, Larry Magtibay, Nestor Mose, and Gretchel Lumas.

"I would like to thank the governor for gracing our oath taking. I would specially like to thank all the members of CAPE who are present here. I am inspired with what the governor said as I see hopeful faces among our peers. We have many projects coming up, and I am glad that the governor is with us all throughout the way," stated President Ace Paginag.

After the oath taking, CAPE members conducted its first meeting to discuss its plans and projects. Congratulations, CAPE Inc.

## PRRD mulls more incentives for Pinoy medalists in SEA Games

**MANILA** -- President Rodrigo R. Duterte is considering giving additional incentives to Filipino athletes who will win medals in the 30th Southeast Asian Games on top of the cash bonanza provided by law, Senator Christopher "Bong" Go said on Wednesday.

Go, Duterte's former aide, said he made the suggestion to give Filipino athletes additional incentives to "encourage" them to compete well amid controversies hounding the biennial multi-sport meet.

"I suggested to him na bigyan ng awards and incentives ang athletes natin nang maengganyo namang lumaban (to give our athletes additional awards and incentives to encourage them to fight) despite the controversies. I-boost

natin ang kanilang morale para manalo tayo (Let's boost their morale so that we have a better chance of winning)," Go said.

Go said the President has not mentioned the amount for the SEA Games medalists but at the same time expressed confidence that he would make good on his plan.

Go said the President is also considering giving the Order of Lapu-Lapu awards to winning athletes.

The Lapu-Lapu award is conferred on individuals who have significant contributions to the administration's advocacies.

"I cannot speak on behalf of the President, pero nabanggit niya sa akin na bibigyan niya ng Lapu-Lapu award ang mga mananal

(but he mentioned wanting to give the winners a Lapu-Lapu award)," Go said.

In a meet-and-greet with the President in Malacañang on October 16, recent gold medalists Carlos Yulo (gymnastics), Ernest Obiena (pole vault), and Nesthy Petecio (boxing) received PHP1 million each while silver medalist Eumir Marcial (boxing) and bronze medalist Diaz (weightlifting) received PHP500,000 each.

The rewards were given in addition to what the five athletes received under the National Athletes and Coaches Benefits and Incentives Act (Republic Act No. 10699).

Meanwhile, Go expressed hope that the Philippine Team would have an excellent performance and make it to the top three due to

hometown advantage.

"Sixth place tayo noong nakaraang (We finished sixth place during the previous) Southeast Asian Games. Sana po ay magiging top three naman tayo (I hope we make it to the top three), with hometown crowd," Go said.

On Monday, Go said he would seek a probe into the alleged ill-prepared hosting of the SEA Games amid complaints from both local and foreign athletes over problems with accommodation, food, transport, facilities, among others.

Go said would seek an inquiry into the matter after the SEA Games.

"There is a right time for everything. Huwag tayong magtuturan ngayon (Let's stop the blame game for now). But after the

## CA affirms admin liability of ex-DBM chief Abad over DAP mess

**MANILA** -- The Court of Appeals (CA) on Wednesday upheld its decision finding former Budget Secretary Florencio Abad administratively liable for simple misconduct in the implementation of the PHP72-billion Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) of the previous administration.

In a four-page resolution dated Nov. 25, Associate Justice Zenaida Galapate-Laguilles of the CA's Former Special Fourteenth Division said Abad failed to raise new arguments that would warrant the reversal of its February 27 decision which upheld the findings of the Ombudsman that the former budget secretary should be held accountable for simple misconduct.

Associate Justices Mario V. Lopez and Gabriel T. Robeniol concurred.

Since Abad is no longer in public service and may not be suspended anymore, the penalty was converted to a fine equivalent to his three-month salary.

"After a review of the grounds relied upon by the petitioner, this Court finds no compelling reason to amend our decision as the issues raised have already been resolved and covered extensively in the assailed resolution," the CA said.

The CA reiterated its February decision that the former budget secretary intruded on the powers of Congress by effectively modifying the provisions on savings in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2012 when he issued

National Budget Circular No. 541, which consolidate savings or unutilized balances and withdraw unobligated balances of agencies with low levels of obligations.

NBC 541 provided the principal bases for the withdrawal of unobligated allotments which were declared as savings and used to fund programs, activities and projects under the DAP.

"Thus, Abad may not successfully evade liability by invoking good faith. While Abad's desire to fast track public spending and push economic growth is laudable and the implementation of the DAP, in fact undeniably yielded positive results that enhance economic welfare of the country his defenses cannot override the clear mandate of the law," the CA explained.

"As responsible public officer, Abad ought to have been well aware that he has no authority to overrule the requirements of established rules and the fundamental law of the land," it added.

In 2014, the SC declared DAP unconstitutional, specifically on the withdrawal of unobligated allotments from the implementing agencies; the declaration of the withdrawn unobligated allotments and unreleased appropriations as savings prior to the end of the fiscal year without complying with the statutory definition of savings contained in the GAA; and the cross-border transfers of the savings of the executive branch to augment the appropriations of other offices outside of it. (PNA)

## 2 'couriers' linked to P2.5-B drug haul nabbed in Las Piñas raid

**MANILA** -- Authorities on Wednesday seized some PHP115.6 million worth of suspected shabu in Las Piñas City and arrested two alleged couriers linked to the Chinese national earlier arrested in a separate anti-drug operation.

Brig. Gen. Nolasco Bathan, Southern Police District (SPD) director, identified the two suspects as Joel and Merwin Bustamante, both residents of Malabon City.

The two were arrested in a follow-up raid conducted by the operatives of Las Piñas City Police Station and PNP Drug Enforcement Group at a parking lot in C5 Extension in Barangay Manuyo around 11:30 a.m.

The raid yielded 17 plastic packs containing suspected shabu. The suspects and the pieces of evidence are now under the custody of the PNP-Drug Enforcement Group.

Bathan said arrested suspects are the courier of Liu Chao, the Chinese national who was arrested earlier by the same operatives in Makati City Tuesday night.

games, papanagutin natin ang dapat na managot (those who should be held accountable will be held accountable)," Go said in a privilege speech.

Duterte himself is eyeing an investigation on allegations of corruption hounding SEA Games after being "displeased" by what he has been hearing about the even which will run from November 30 to December 11, Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said.

Panelo said the probe will cover Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Phisgoc) Foundation Inc. chairman, House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano and the controversial PHP50-million cauldron. (PNA)