

Traffic rerouting for 4th SONA set

MANILA -- The Quezon City Police District (QCPD) on Thursday announced road closure and rerouting of traffic on the roads leading to the House of Representatives (HOR) complex in Quezon City during the fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA) of President Rodrigo R. Duterte on July 22.

QCPD Director, Brig. Gen. Joselito T Esquivel Jr. advised motorists to take alternate routes as heavy traffic is expected particularly on roads leading to and from the Batasang Pambansa area where the President is set to deliver his SONA 2019 on Monday.

The public is advised to take following alternate routes:

By 12:01 a.m. of July 22, 2019, the entire stretch of Commonwealth Avenue (north and southbound) from Quezon Memorial Circle (QMC)/Philcoa to Fairview (Fairview Center Mall) will be cleared and illegally parked vehicles will be towed. Commonwealth Ave. northbound shall be partially closed from Home Depot to Sandiganbayan U-turn slot. Southbound lanes of Commonwealth will remain open while the eastbound of IBP starting Filinvest 1 up to Sinagtala will be closed for traffic to give way for pro-administration groups and demonstrators.

At 6 a.m., motorists coming from QMC to Fairview shall take zipper lane at the island breaker in front of Home Depot U turn-slot and take inner lanes. The end and exit point of the zipper lane are at the island breaker of Sandiganbayan U-turn slot. Motorists coming from Fairview to QMC shall traverse the usual southbound route.

At 2:30 p.m., light

vehicles from QMC to Fairview may take North Ave., turn right to Mindanao Ave., turn right to Old Sauyo Road, turn left to Chestnut St., turn right to Dahlia St., turn left to Fairlane St. then exit to Commonwealth Ave. to destination. Heavy vehicles should take Commonwealth Avenue.

All light vehicles from Fairview to QMC may turn right to Fairlane St., turn right to Dahlia St., turn left to Chestnut St., turn right to Old Sauyo Road, turn right to Mindanao Ave., take U-turn at corner Quirino Highway to Mindanao Ave., left turn North Ave. to QMC to destination. Heavy vehicles should take Commonwealth Avenue.

They may also take a right turn to Regalado Avenue, right turn to Old Sauyo Road, turn right to Mindanao Ave. take U-turn at Quirino Highway to Mindanao Ave. (Southbound) left turn North Ave to QMC to destination. For vehicles along QMC, they may take a right turn to North Ave., right turn to Mindanao Ave., right turn to Old Sauyo Road or Quirino Highway to destination.

At 4 p.m., the entire stretch of IBP Road may lockdown for traffic. If IBP Road is totally lockdown, all light vehicles will take an alternate route from QMC to Filinvest 1 & 2, Brgy Bagong Silangan and some inner portions of Brgy. Batasan Hills shall take zipper lane at the island breaker in front of Home Depot U-turn slot and take inner lanes.

The end of the zipper lane is at the breaker of Sandiganbayan U-turn slot, then right turn on Litex Payatas Road, right turn on Abris St., right turn on bougainvillea St., right turn to Lower Jasmin St., right turn to Ilang-Ilang St., left turn to Santan St., left to Sampa-

guita St., left turn to Violago Road and meters away right turn and enter the gate 3 of Filinvest 2, to Brgy. Bagong Silangan and follow Violago Road.

Meanwhile, to Filinvest 1 motorists, they should have an agreement with Filinvest 2 to pass by their subdivision to reach the Batasan-San Mateo Road then enter Kagawad St., right turn to resolution St., right turn to Senatorial St., right turn to Sinagtala St., left turn to Masbate or Catabato St., left turn to Filinvest 1 Road and enter gate of Filinvest 1 subdivision.

Light vehicles going to Filinvest 2, San Mateo, Rizal, and Marikina City may take an alternate route from Commonwealth-Sandigan, turn right on Sinagtala St., turn right on Senatorial St., turn left on Resolution St., left turn on Kagawad Road then right turn on Batasan San Mateo Road.

After the SONA, by 6 p.m., only westbound lane of IBP Road leading to Sandiganbayan underpass/tunnel shall be opened for VIPs exiting from Southgate HOR going to Commonwealth Ave. However, the westbound lane from Litex to HOR Southgate will remain closed until further notice.

"We are appealing for the understanding and patience of those who will be affected by the heavy traffic on Monday. The rerouting advisory may help motorists to find or take alternative routes. It would also be best advised for those who have no much important transaction to just stay home, if possible until after the SONA," Esquivel said.

He said a simulation exercise (SIMEX) for hostage-taking and bomb explosion were also conducted last Tuesday at IBP Road, Brgy. Batasan.

As part of the security preparations, on Wednesday the QCPD has initiated a dialogue, led by National Capital Region Police Office head, Maj. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar and Esquivel, with leaders of cause-oriented groups and other stakeholders at the Quezon City Sports Club on E. Rodriguez Sr. Boulevard aimed at threshing out specific concerns including traffic rerouting schemes for a peaceful and orderly SONA.

Around 9,000 personnel will be deployed coming from the various government agencies including QCPD, Joint Task Force-National Capital Region of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Department of Public Order and Safety of the Quezon City Local Government Unit, Bureau of Fire Protection, and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. (PNA)



RECOGNIZING CAVITEÑO YOUNG ACHIEVERS: Governor Jonvic C. Remulla recognized 5 Caviteño young achievers for their outstanding accomplishments in various fields of study which brought pride and honor to the province during the provincial government's flag-raising ceremony on July 15, 2019 at the Provincial Gymnasium in Trece Martires City. The awardees include Maria Aubreanna Beatriz B. Salazar and Juliana Mari V. Legaspi of Tagaytay City Science National School who bagged the gold medal for their study on Hypoglycemic Activity of Robusta Coffee (Coffea Canephora Pierre Ex. A. Froehner) Silverskin Ethanolic Extract on Alloxan- Induced Type 1 Diabetes in Swiss Webster Mice (Mus Musculus L) in the International Science and Invention Fair 2019 in Bali, Indonesia on June 21-25, 2019. Daniel Jan D.J. Cortez from De La Salle College of Saint Benilde also won the Best Paper Award for his research entitled Investigating the Indirect Effect of Autonomy in the Relationship of Micromanagement and Creativity during the 9th Annual International Research Exchange and Faculty Development Conference on April 22-23, 2019 at Moscow, Russia. Meanwhile, Jardine Dave V. Ambrocio and Julius Matthew P. Lim, students of Saint Francis of Assisi College won a silver medal in the Math Without Borders (MWB) Winter Round held on February 2, 2019 at Makati Hope Christian School and bronze medal in the 2019 Singapore and Asian Schools Math Olympiad (SASMO 2019) on April 6, 2019 at Amore Academy- Trece Martires City. Governor Remulla congratulated the students for their excellent performance and encouraged them to use the achievement as inspiration for the coming school years. -- (PICAD)

MMDA anti-jaywalking unit ops halted over 'fake receipt racket'

MANILA -- The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) on Wednesday suspended the operations of its own Anti-Jaywalking Unit (AJU) following its discovery of a scheme perpetrated by three personnel from the unit.

In a press briefing at the MMDA office in Makati City, MMDA General Manager Jose Arturo "Jojo" Garcia said Joanna Eclarinal, AJU deputy for operations, was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly issuing falsified receipts to violators settling their offenses.

Meanwhile, Eclarinal's cohorts, Jonathan Natividad and Frederick Arucan, remain at large.

All three suspects are facing falsification and syndicated estafa charges.

"Tinatanong namin pang-ilang beses na 'to ginawa, lagi niya sinasabi first time. Pero kahapon, sa harap ng piskal, sinabi niya first-time, first time sa booklet na 'yon. So just imagine booklet ang pinapagawang fake (We asked her how many times they have done this, she always said it was her first. But yesterday, in front of a prosecutor, she said it was her first time using that booklet)," Garcia said, citing results from Eclarinal's interview with the MMDA legal division.

He emphasized the suspects may have collected a large amount of money in their scheme based on the average number of jaywalking tickets issued by the AJU and on the period the scheme has been running.

"Just imagine ang average namin 90 to 100 hundred a day ang apprehension. Isipin niyo ilan ang hindi pinasok diyan sa PHP500? Sa sampu na lang that's PHP5,000 a day. We're talking about PHP150,000 a month. Ilang piraso ang isang booklet? One hundred (Just imagine our average jaywalking apprehension is 90 to 100 a day. Think of how many PHP500

were not paid through the proper channels. Ten tickets, that's PHP5,000 a day. We're talking about PHP150,000 a month. How many receipts in one booklet? One hundred)," Garcia said.

The MMDA official said there might be a syndicate within the AJU and explained that the suspects were receiving payments for jaywalking tickets in their office at the seventh floor instead of the MMDA's treasurer and afterward issue a falsified receipt.

"We think na hindi lang ito isang tao, na sindikato. What they're doing is nag-fake sila ng resibo for PHP500, ang jaywalking natin is PHP500 ang penalty. Ang ginagawa nila, nagpapabayad sila sa taas, nag-i-issue sila ng resibo na peke (We think it's not only one person but a syndicate. What they're doing is they falsified a receipt for PHP500, which is the fine for jaywalking. They ask for payment in their office above and they issue a fake receipt)," Garcia said.

The MMDA invited the national Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to investigate the extent of corruption in the AJU and to gather facts that would enable them to establish policies meant to avoid similar occurrences from happening in the future.

"Talagang ni-request natin sila para makita natin ano ba talaga, hanggang saang level 'yung ganitong klase ng corruption. And then also, we can do policy para maiwasan yung mga ganito (We requested the NBI's help to see what this really is, up to what level the corruption reaches. And then also, we can formulate policies to prevent these things from happening)."

Following the closure of the AJU office, its 48 workers including AJU chief Salvador Galang, were put on floating status and temporarily housed at the MMDA arena pending investigation by officials from the NBI.