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MANILA -- Local officials are urged to comply with President Rodrigo R. Duterte’s directives to intensify the campaign against illegal drugs, corruption, and terrorism.

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año reminded 74 governors and 1,538 city and municipal mayors who attended a meeting with the President in Manila on Tuesday that there are mechanisms already in place, particularly Emergency 911 and Hotline 8888, to combat illegal drugs, criminality, and corruption.

“At bilang pinuno ng inyong mga lokalidad, siguraduhin niyong agad na maaaksyunan ang mga reklamong natatanggap sa mga platapormang ito (As local leaders, make sure to take action on complaints received through these platforms),” he said.

“Use your influence to persuade your sangguniang panlalawigan, panlungsod at pambayan to enact ordinances to localize

national laws that address pressing concerns. And, as mandated by the Local Government Code, use your authority to ensure that these ordinances are implemented. Lastly, use your leadership to encourage your constituents to support your quest for change and good governance,” Año said.

Año urged local officials to comply with the President’s directives during his fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA).

“Sa SONA ng ating Pangulo, narinig na natin ang utos niya sa ating mga local government units na dapat ay tatlong araw lamang ang pagpoproseso ng permits (In the President’s SONA, he mentioned that LGUs should process permits only within three days). Let us all help fulfill the President’s promise to cut down red tape, regain investors’ trust, and fos-

ter a competitive business environment,” he said.

He also said the administration is in full swing in defeating the communist insurgency.

“The National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Insurgency is laying the foundation for this fight. The hard approach is being administered

by the military, police and other law enforcements. And as you support them in their operations, I urge you to take the lead in the soft approach through the conduct of localized peace talks, and the implementation of Enhanced-Comprehensive Local Integration Program,” he said. (PNA)

EU mobilizes •3-M humanitarian aid for PH

MANILA-- The European Union Delegation in Manila on Wednesday announced a total of •3 million in humanitarian assistance to communities affected by natural disasters and humanitarian crises in the Philippines.

At least •1 million was earmarked to consolidate disaster risk reduction and resilience-building initiatives in the country while the remaining •2 million was aimed to assist the most vulnerable people in Mindanao.

The Philippine funding is part of the total EU aid package worth •8.5 million for the region.

Of the package amount, •1.5 million will go to the victims of ongoing monsoons in India and Bangladesh. This support comes on top of •2 million allocated to support several regional disaster risk reduction initiatives in South and Southeast Asia and an additional •2 million, which will be dedicated to Nepal to improve both their national and local response capacities in the events of

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CSC to gov’t agencies: Provide PWD express lanes

MANILA – All government offices, especially those providing front-line services, are required to provide express lanes for persons with disabilities (PWDs), the Civil Service Commission (CSC) said on Wednesday.

During the press briefing, CSC chairperson Alicia dela Rosa-Bala made the remark as the nation observed the National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week from 17 to 23 July 2019.

CSC Memorandum Circular No. 20, s. 2017, signed by dela Rosa-Bala, orders all government agencies to “provide express lanes for PWDs or in the absence thereof, priority shall be given to PWDs in all the transactions therein.”

The circular is based on the provisions of Republic Act No. 10754, or An Act Expanding the Benefits and Privileges of Persons with Disability, and its implementing rules and regulations.

PWD-friendly exam administration

“The CSC has also made the Career Service Examination (CSE) more accessible to PWDs, as well as the elderly and pregnant women, as part of measures to promote equal employment opportunity in government,” the CSC chief said in a media interview.

Under CSC Resolution No. 1701159 issued 31 July 2017 and circularized through CSC Memorandum Circular No. 31, s. 2017 dated 6 October 2017, partially and totally blind examinees can take the examination using either the dictation or the Braille system, with the help of a suitable room examiner and proctor. Those with low vision will be assigned test materials with increased font size.

The deaf or hard of hearing will be guided by a room examiner and proctor with knowledge on sign language or by certified sign language interpreters.

The CSC said PWDs, pregnant women, and senior citizens examinees would be assigned to take the examination in a room located on the ground floor of the testing building for ease of movement.

The time limit for the examination shall be extended for one hour for the visually-impaired and the deaf or hard of hearing, thus, four hours and 10 minutes for the CSE Pen and Paper Test Professional Level, and three hours and 40 minutes for the Sub-professional Level.

However, the CSC noted that the time limit for other PWD examinees with both apparent and non-apparent disability, pregnant women, senior citizens, and the rest of individuals classified as regular examinees will remain at three hours and 10 minutes for the Professional Level, and two hours and 40 minutes for the Subprofessional Level. (PNA)

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and He will flee from you.” – James 4:7