

## DPWH: Remedios Street repair will take more than a month

SUMASAILALIM na sa soil test at tinatapos na ang plans & design para sa agarang pag-sasaayos ng nasirang bahagi ng Remedios Street sa Maynila sanhi ng overweight capacity ng isang 14-wheeler truck na dumaan doon noong nakaraang bu-

wan. Ayon kay Dir. Ador Canlas ng DPWH-NCR, nakaantabay na ang funding request pagkatapos ng resulta ng soil test at matanggap ang plans & design in two weeks time. The repair will take more than a month, ayon pa kay Canlas.

Pahayag naman ni DPWH Sec. Mark Villar: The agency is drawing up a plan to rebuild the damaged section to a higher standard. Matatandaan na ang 14-wheeler truck na karga ay 42-tons ay pinadaan doon sa Remedios Street ng isang

enforcer noong madaling araw ng Hunyo 16 dahil ang Roas Blvd. ay sinarhan para sa isang marathon event. Ang kalyeng nasira at lumubog kasama ang truck ay meron weight capacity na 20-tons lamang, ayon sa report. (DQF)

## P1.4-M kush marijuana nasabat sa NAIA

HALOS nasa isang kilo ng high grade kush marijuana na nakatago sa mga bags ng tortilla chips ang nasamsam ng Customs and anti-narcotics operatives sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport Central Mail Exchange Center noong Hulyo 1. Timbog si Jake Ryan Soriano, 23 y.o. nang pumunta ito sa Central Mail para i-claim ang parsela na naglalaman ng nasabing illegal na droga, ayon kay NAIA customs district collector Mimel Talusan. Dagdag pa ni Talusan, the contraband

weighed 874.2 grams and valued around P1.4 million. This was shipped from Illinois,

USA by APC Postal Logistics. Ang marijuana ay nadiskubre nang du-

maan ang parcela sa x-ray screening at inspection ng sniffing dogs. (DTF)

## Bello hopeful PRRD will sign security of tenure bill into law

MANILA -- The Department of Labor and Employment on Thursday expressed hope that President Rodrigo Duterte will sign the Security of Tenure Bill (SOT) soon. Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III reported that the Presidential Legislative Liaison Of-

fice (PLLO) told him that the proposed measure, which seeks to prohibit all illegal employment schemes and subcontracting of Filipino workers, was enrolled on June 21 and may be signed into law by the President anytime soon. "We are anticipating the signing of the SOT Bill, which is landmark legislation under

the Duterte administration," Bello said in a statement. "Ensuring the workers' security of tenure is among the priorities of our President and we are hopeful that the President will soon sign the bill into law to enhance the enjoyment of their constitutional rights to job security," he added.

## PH won't speculate on China missile test: Esperon

MANILA -- National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said on Wednesday that the Philippine government will not speculate on the repercussions in the Philippine-China relations if the alleged Chinese missile launch in the South China Sea is validated. "It's a serious matter but we will not speculate on what would be the result," Esperon said in an interview with reporters in Makati City. "We will not speculate. Baka ang implication niyan hindi sa atin, baka sa (The implication of that might not be for us but for the) US.

So why don't they come out with the report and bring it out in the open with all the facts," he added. Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. also issued the Department of Foreign Affairs' (DFA) position on the issue. "The DFA relies only on official military intelligence; we despise civilian sources; we work hand in glove with the armed forces because war is conduct of diplomacy by other means as diplomacy can be the conduct of war with a measure of finesse," he said on his official Twitter account on Thursday. In an earlier briefing, US Ambassador to

## Imee wants review of national poverty reduction programs

MANILA -- Senator Imee Marcos is seeking a congressional inquiry into the national poverty situation by reviewing poverty data and assessing existing poverty programs. According to a statement on Thursday, Marcos filed a resolution to probe into the government's poverty programs along with other poverty-alleviating measures. Marcos noted that the lives of the country's poor have "remained stagnant" despite the implementation of poverty programs such as the Pantawid

Pamilyang Pilipino Program and the billions of pesos that fund them. "Why is it that the Philippines has a high growth rate among ASEAN countries but we have lagged behind our neighbors like Indonesia and Vietnam in terms of poverty reduction," Marcos said. "If we can bring Mindanao out of poverty, we will have reduced the number of poor in the entire Philippines by 40 percent," she added. Marcos said the government must have a systematic way of

measuring poverty reduction. Apart from the congressional inquiry, Marcos also filed three priority bills that seek to amend the country's tax laws to make them more responsive to the challenge of poverty reduction. Marcos sought to expand the list of goods and services that should be exempted from value-added taxation (VAT), earmark VAT proceeds to assure food security for the poor, and correct the amount of actual funding for local government units. (PNA)

## 3 aliens with fake travel docs intercepted at NAIA

MANILA -- Bureau of Immigration (BI) officers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) intercepted two Palestinians and a Senegalese who attempted to leave the country with spurious travel documents. In an advisory Thursday, BI port operations division chief Grifon Medina identified the foreigners as Yousef Hilles and Nour Muamar from Palestine and Senegalese Fallou Thiam who were stopped on June 28 and 29, respectively, after presenting a fake passport and visa. He said the Palestinian couple was intercepted while attempting to board a flight to Malaysia. They were found using bogus Unit-

ed Arab Emirates passports with spurious Philippine immigration arrival and departure stamps. The BI official added that the Senegalese passenger reportedly attempted to leave for Toronto with a counterfeit Canadian visa sticker on his passport. "This should serve as a warning to foreigners not to use the Philippines as a jump off point to other countries. You cannot elude the watchful eyes of immigration officers in our ports," Medina said in a statement. "Our personnel are highly skilled in detecting fraud, and we have the technology to instantly verify the authenticity of documents presented," he added.

## Gov't on 'right track' in crafting renewable energy portfolio

MANILA -- Senator Sherwin Gatchalian on Thursday said the Department of Energy (DOE) has put itself "right on track" in its energy direction by crafting a new program that seeks to build a renewable energy (RE) portfolio of 2,000 megawatts (MW) in 10 years. Gatchalian, chair of the Senate committee on energy, lauded the DOE's initiative to collaborate with the National Renewable Energy Board (NREB) in boosting the use of renewable energy in the country. "Growing the renewable energy sector is a crucial factor for the Philippines to achieve energy security by 2040," he said. "Hopefully, through the new DOE and NREB proposal to build a renewable energy portfolio of 2,000 megawatts by offering a green energy tariff, we will be able to grow the share of renewables in our energy mix," he added. The senator recalled that during his panel's recent hearing on energy security, the DOE said the share of renewables in the country's energy mix is projected to drop to 17 percent in 2040 from 36 percent in 2017 under its business as usual scenario. He stressed the need to conduct a careful study on the program, especially when it comes to the implementation of the green energy tariff rate, taking into consideration the declining costs of RE technologies. "Will this new tariff require a subsidy and if so, how much will the rate effect on consumers be? These are some of the things that the DOE need to thoroughly study before they push through with the plan," he said. Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi said the department will make a green energy tariff rate that will be auctioned among investors and developers of the RE program.