

ISSN: 2545-9449

NORTH SOUTH JOURNAL

PATAS AT MAKATARUNGANG PAHAYAGAN
YOUR NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

Taon 10 Blg. 28 HUNYO 24-30, 2019 P10.00

NEW MRT-3 RAILS FROM JAPAN TO ARRIVE BY Q3 2019

MANILA -- The Department of Transportation (DOTr) on Friday said the new rails from Japan are expected to arrive in the Philippines within the third quarter of this year amid the ongoing rehabilitation of the Metro Rail Transit-3 (MRT-3).
Over 50 percent of the rails are ready for shipment from Japan, and are expected to arrive in the Philippines in the third quarter of this year (July-August 2019), DOTr said in a statement.

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Upon arrival at the Port of Manila, the Nippon Steel-made rails will be delivered and prepared for installation at the tracks' laydown yard near the Parañaque Integrated Transport Exchange.

The DOTr said it expects the MRT-3 trains to be running smoothly with the repair of its wheel lathe machine last March and the upcoming replacement of all its mainline tracks.

"With the repair of MRT-3's wheel lathe machine last March and the upcoming replacement of all of

ing replacement of all of MRT-3's mainline tracks, MRT-3s will be running smoother and with less vibration. The station is one of the first series of any mechanical and electrical equipment, and is one of the causes of MRT-3's breakdowns in the past," the DOTr's statement read.

The DOTr's Factory Acceptance Test team headed by MRT Director for Operations Michael Capati, accompanied by Asian Development Bank rail expert Peter Raesside and TES Philippines chairman Kiyoshi Morita, visited Japanese steel firm Nippon Steel in Fukuoka, Japan last Thursday to inspect the new rails that will be installed on the MRT tracks.

The consortium of Sumitomo, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and TES Philippines (Sumitomo-MHI-TESP) said earlier parts of the light rail vehicles for the railway system will arrive in July while tracks and signaling components are set to be delivered in August.

Sumitomo-MHI-TESP

will undertake the overhaul of all 72 light rail vehicles of the MRT-3, replace all mainline tracks, rehabilitate power and overhead catenary systems, upgrade the signaling system, communications and CCTV systems, and repair all of MRT-3's escalators and elevators, among other system repairs and improvements.

The MRT rehabilitation project is seen to increase the number of operating trains from 15 to 20 at peak hours, double the train operating speed from 30 to 60 kilometers per hour, reduce

by half the headway or waiting time from 7-10 minutes to just 3.5 minutes and increase train capacity from an average of 300,000 passengers per day to 650,000 passengers daily.

The project is expected to last for 43 months with rehabilitation works slated for completion within the first 26 months.

The Sumitomo-MHI-TESP took over the maintenance and rehabilitation of the MRT-3 last May from the MRT Maintenance Transition Team of the DOTr. (PNA)

NBI, PSG nab 9 in Manila drug bust

MANILA -- The National Bureau of Investigation Task Force Against Illegal Drugs (TFAID), in coordination with the Presidential Security Group (PSG), arrested nine people engaged in the sale and distribution of shabu near Malacañang complex.

In an advisory on Friday, the suspects were identified as Rolando C. Laya a.k.a. Laya, the group's leader; Bryan Jason Batrina a.k.a. Ian; Melvin Santiago; Freddie Nacion Jr.; Esperanza Pido; Joan Garcia; Ronnie Gonzales Law; Sulpicio Reyes Cassiler Jr.; and Leonardo dela Cruz Asa.

Acting on information provided by the PSG, a buy-bust operation was conducted on June 6, resulting in the arrest of Laya, Batrina, and Santiago who subsequently tested positive for shabu use.

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QCPD orders probe on killing of intel cop

MANILA -- The Quezon City Police District (QCPD) has formed a task group to probe the killing of a police officer who is a member of the Philippine National Police-Intelligence Group (PNP-IG).

"I ordered for the immediate creation of a Special Investigation Task Group (SITG) to look into all the possible angles and establish the motive behind the shooting to death of Sergeant (Fernando) Diamson. Like what we have vowed, we will leave no stone unturned in finding the perpetrators and with this, we believe that we will be able to quickly catch the suspects," said QCPD Director, Brigadier General Joselito Esquivel Jr., in a statement.

Around 8:50 a.m. Friday, Diamson, who was on board his motorcycle, was gunned down by two unidentified motorcycle-riding men wearing black helmets in front of Illustrata Residences located along Boni Serrano near corner Benitez St., in Barangay Bagong Lipunan Crame.

The suspects immediately fled towards San Juan City.

The victim's colleague, Senior Master Sergeant Ernesto Buenviaje, 46, who witnessed the incident, reported the incident to the Cubao Police Station (PS 7).

Cursory examination conducted by the Scene of Crime Office (SOCO) disclosed that the victim sustained gunshot wounds in different parts of his body.

The case was turned over to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit for proper disposition. (PNA)

NBI Assistant Director for Intelligence Service Eric Distor said the surveillance operations were conducted by the joint teams to identify cohorts in the trade. Warrants were later obtained for the arrest of the other suspects Nacion, Pido, and Garcia in Barangay. 662 in Paco, Manila.

The NBI also arrested Lao, Cassiler, and Asa in a follow-up operation in Barangay 831, also in Paco.

Nearly five grams of shabu and a firearm were recovered.

The nine suspects were charged with violations of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 (Republic Act 9165).

A separate charge of violating the Comprehensive Law on Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act were also filed against Lao. (PNA)

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