



**GOVERNOR REMULLA BRINGS GOOD NEWS TO CAVITE CITY RESIDENTS:** Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla brought hope and inspiration to the locals of Cavite City not only with the news on information technology innovations but with other developments happening in the province during another leg of Ugnayan sa Barangay held at Ladislao Diwa Elementary School on November 11, 2019. The governor underscored the value of internet connectivity in economic growth and development and the provincial government's undertaking on free wifi access all over Cavite. Six thousand citizens, together with their local chief executive, Mayor Bernardo "Totie" Paredes showed appreciation to the governor for reaching out and initiating programs beneficial to the people. The locals also received packs of rice in exchange of plastic bottles as part of the advocacy on waste management and environmental consciousness. Also present during the Ugnayan were Vice Governor Jolo Revilla, 1st District Board Members Rommel Enriquez and Davey Christian Chua, Cavite City ABC President Apple Paredes and the councilors of Cavite City . --(PICAD)

## Lawmaker hits youth group's vandalism of Manila underpass

**MANILA** – A lawmaker at the House of Representatives on Wednesday slammed the vandalism by a youth group responsible for defacing the walls of the Lagusnilad underpass in Manila in protest of the prevailing Martial Law in Mindanao.

ACT-CIS Rep. Niña Taduran said vandalism is still a crime and perpetrators deserve to be punished regardless of the reason of the group Panday Sining, the cultural arm of Anakbayan.

Taduran argued that while she supports freedom of expression and free discourse regarding critical issues, these actions should be carried out within the bounds of the law.

"Kaya nga mayroon tayong mga batas para maging maayos ang ating pamumuhay at hindi tayo mauwi sa anarkiya (That's why laws exist to ensure that our lives would be better and prevent anarchy)," Taduran said.

"If they claim that they

merely wanted to attract attention to their cause of opposing martial law in Mindanao, they could have done that without committing vandalism," Taduran

added.

The lawmaker suggested that the group could just perform, either through singing, dancing or poetry, to express their

## Heart, kidney diseases leading cause of inmate deaths

**MANILA** -- Prison officials on Wednesday said heart ailments, stroke and chronic kidney diseases remain the top cause of death among prisoners.

Speaking to newsmen at the sidelines of a public health forum in Makati City, New Bilibid Prison (NBP) Hospital chief Henry Fabro said a shortage of doctors assigned to the prisoners worsens the problems at the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa City.

"We cannot confirm the exact number of TB –tuberculosis– patients who died, but right now the number one cause of death as of now is myocardial infraction which is atake sa puso, varied naman yung causes, nandyan yung stroke, may mga chron-

ic kidney diseases, 'yan 'yung mga chronic na nag-a-undergo ng dialysis, as you all know when you're undergoing dialysis, the endpoint should be, dapat sana mata-transplant, (that is heart attacks, there are varied causes including strokes and chronic kidney disease. By chronic it means those who undergo dialysis which have the endpoint of needing a transplant)," Fabro said.

Servicing 19,000 persons deprived of liberty (PDLs), Fabro said there are only five doctors at the NBP Hospital, who are a part of 13 members of the Bureau of Corrections' (Bucor) medical staff nationwide and who are assisted by around 40 nurs-

es. cause and attract attention.

The group made a public apology for the inconvenience, saying the "purpose

es.

He said they conveyed this concern to BuCor Director General Gerald Bantag and to the DOH.

"In the maximum security, we have at least 18,000 PDLs, and we only have four doctors, five doctors in the hospital, to think the hospital is not that well equipped to manage those kinds of problems, kaya nakahingi kami ng tulungan ni Director General, firstly sa DOH, na bigyan kami ng additional doctors or tulungan kami to acquire equipment for the hospitals (That is why we are asking the Department of Health to help us with additional doctors or to help acquire equipment for the hospital)," he said.

of our protest art isn't to spite the citizens of Manila but to sound the alarm of the public against these injustices." (PNA)

The ill-equipped hospital has set the NBP at a critical rate in terms of deaths of PDLs throughout the years.

Meanwhile, in jails operated by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) under the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the ratio of full-time physicians compared to the detainee population is worse.

Those detained at the BJMP jails are PDLs with pending cases before the courts.

Senior Inspector Paul Borlongan, BJMP Medical Inspector, said in all jails operating nationwide, the PDL population of more than 136,000 suffers a low of 300 to 800 PDL deaths a year.

## Completion of 38 flagship projects targeted in 2022: BCDA

**MANILA** -- Around 38 of the 100 flagship infrastructure projects are targeted to be completed by the end of President Rodrigo Duterte's term in 2022, the head of Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) said on Wednesday.

"In the list of 100 [infrastructure projects], this is our estimation, give or take, this is what we believed we can achieve: 38 out of the 100, roughly 40 percent," BCDA president and CEO Vivencio Dizon said in a weekly Palace economic briefing.

Dizon, who concurrently serves as Presidential Adviser for Flagship Programs and Projects, said 22 out of 100 key infrastructure projects were "partially operational or substantially completed," while the remaining 40 percent would be completed "beyond 2020."

Of the 100 big-ticket infrastructure projects, 35 are underway, 32 will commence

construction in the next six to eight months, 21 are in the advanced stages of government approval, and the remaining 12 are in advanced stages of feasibility study, Dizon said.

Dizon said roughly PHP4.3 trillion, or half of the PHP9 trillion that will be earmarked for the infrastructure program, will be spent for the implementation of the flagship projects.

Last Tuesday, Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon claimed the Duterte administration's ambitious "Build, Build, Build" program is a "dismal failure."

At the press conference, Dizon debunked the senator's claim, emphasizing the current administration has so far completed several infrastructure projects.

Among the completed projects are North Luzon Expressway Harbor Link Segment 10, Davao del Norte's Governor Miranda Bridge, Laguna

Lake Highway, Isabela's Pigalo Bridge, Tarlac–Pangasinan–La Union Expressway-Pozorrubio, Bohol-Panglao International Airport, Cagayan de Oro Passenger Terminal, Communications Navigations System/Air Traffic Management, and New Clark City Phase 1A, Dizon noted.

"There is a lot of activity in construction, and in particular, a lot of activity in public sector construction, meaning, in government construction or government projects," he said.

"So I just want to emphasize the point: Is 'Build, Build, Build' a failure? Absolutely not. And the number speaks for themselves. Construction is up. Public spending on infrastructure is up. And this has led to a faster economic growth," Dizon added.

**Numbers don't lie**  
Contrary to Drilon's allegation that only nine of the "Build, Build, Build" projects have started construction, Dizon said it was the previous Aquino government which showed "dismal" performance in boosting the infrastructure sector.

Dizon noted that from 2016 to 2018, the Duterte administration has already spent nearly PHP1 trillion, compared to PHP380 billion spent by its predecessor.

"The state of infrastructure when the President took over was dismal. I mean, we easily forget," he said.

"When the President launched 'Build, Build, Build,' through the economic team way back in late 2016, the plan to spend more on infrastructure has been happening. And as they say, numbers do not lie," Dizon added.

**Spend more, disburse faster**

Despite its accomplishments in improving the infrastructure sector in the country, the government is not

yet satisfied with its performance, as it is convinced it can "do more," Dizon admitted.

Dizon said Duterte has already directed his economic team to "revisit" the roster of initial flagship projects, in an effort to hasten the implementation of the "Build, Build, Build" program.

"We wanna be able to spend more, we wanna be able to disburse faster, we wanna be able to spend faster. While we've already achieved a lot, we're not contented, we're not satisfied. We want to do even more," he said.

"What we wanted to do was look at the list, revisit it. Why? Because it's the halfway term of the President and we want to be able to do more and we want to be able to fast-track and even speed up the infrastructure program in the second half of the term of the President," he added.

**'Impossible' to finish 100 projects in 6 years**

To clarify issues hounding the key infrastructure projects being pushed by the current administration, Dizon clarified that there was no promise to finish the completion of all the 100 key infrastructure projects under Duterte's watch.

Dizon said it was "impossible" to finish all the infrastructure projects within six years.

"We wanted to rationalize because you know, infrastructure projects are not easy to do. They require a lot of planning. They require long and very tedious feasibility studies, detailed planning. And it takes time," he said. "'Build, Build, build' never promised that we would complete all these infrastructure projects in five or six years -- that's impossible. Impossible iyon (That's impossible). Nobody promised that. But what we promised is number one, we will start," Dizon added. (PNA)