



CAVITE HAILED AS 3RD PLACER IN THE 7TH REGIONAL COMPETITIVENESS SUMMIT: The province of Cavite was recognized as one of the top three finalists in the 7th Regional Competitiveness Summit held on October 24, 2019 at PICC in Pasay City. The award was given by the Department of Trade and Industry as they bestow recognition to highly competitive cities, municipalities and provinces who have exerted efforts to surpass its competitiveness in various fields of government service. In the most competitive provinces, all awardees came from CaLaBaRZon region, as Cavite bagged the 3rd place, while Rizal and Laguna got the 1st and 2nd place, respectively. On the other hand, the City of General Trias ranked first place in the Economic Dynamism Pillar of Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI). In the Government Efficiency Pillar, Cainta, Rizal reclaimed its top rank in the 1st-2nd class municipalities, while Taytay, Rizal and Silang, Cavite landed in the 2nd and 3rd places, respectively. (with reports from DTI)

Duterte's future foreign trips depend on doctor's advice: Palace

MANILA -- Future overseas travels of President Rodrigo Duterte will now depend on the advice of his doctor, Malacañang said on Tuesday.

Despite the speedy recovery of the 74-year-old Chief Executive from a recent minor motorcycle accident, he would still have a "continuing consultation" with his attending physician, Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said in a Palace press briefing.

"There will be a continuing consultation with his doctor," Panelo told Palace reporters.

Pressed on how Duterte's follow-up checkup will affect his future foreign trips,

Panelo said: "Depende siguro sa advice ng doctor (It depends on the advice of the doctor)."

Duterte, in a media interview on Monday, admitted that he is still experiencing pain in his lower back, after he fell off his parked motorcycle at the compound of the Presidential Security Group in Manila on October 16.

Duterte, after undergoing a magnetic resonance imaging and a medical consultation with his neurologist on Oct. 23, found that he has a muscle spasm, or a sudden, involuntary contraction of one or more muscles.

The President assured the public that his condition was not that "serious" to release

a medical bulletin on the real status of his health.

He was even expected to leave the country to participate in the 35th Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit in Thailand on November 2 to 4.

Panelo, however, could not confirm whether the President would attend the 2019 Asia-Pacific Economy Conference (Apec) in Chile later in November.

He said Duterte's doctor has the final say on the 74-year-old President's scheduled visit to Chile.

"Wala pa siyang (Duterte) sinasabi (He has yet to make a confirmation)," the Palace official said.

"Depende kasi 'yan

sa consultation niya sa doctor niya. Eh kung ayaw siyang pag-biyahe-in ng doctor, ng doctor niya, eh ba't naman siya magba-biyahe (It depends on his consultation with his doctor. If his doctor says he cannot travel, he would not travel)," he added.

It would take Duterte approximately over 20 hours to travel to Chile, should he decide to attend the Apec.

Panelo said Duterte's office would also consider the ongoing protests in Chile, following the move of Chilean President Sebastian Piñera to fire his whole Cabinet to form a new government.

"Anything will be taken into consideration relative to any foreign visit," he said.

Gov't may take over water concessionaires to address crisis

MANILA -- The government can take over the operations of water concessionaires should the looming water crisis gets declared as a national emergency, Malacañang said on Tuesday.

Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo made this comment after President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday said he could use "extraordinary powers of the presidency" to fast-track the construction of the New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam project to prevent another water crisis in Metro Manila.

Panelo said aside from pushing for the construction of the China-funded Kaliwa Dam, Duterte could also take over operations of water concessionaires.

"Yes, he said 'I will assume control' so that means it's government takeover to solve the crisis because he said 'If you cannot solve the crisis then I will do it for you,'" Panelo said.

"The provision of the Constitution is very clear, the President's primary duty as head of state of the government is to serve and to protect the people

so any situation arising that will endanger and peril the safety of the people then the President has to take over," he added.

Panelo was referring to Article 12, Section 17 of the Constitution which states that: "In times of national emergency, when the public interest so requires, the State may, during the emergency and under reasonable terms prescribed by it, temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately-owned public utility or business affected with public interest."

Asked when Duterte could possibly declare the water shortage as a national emergency, Panelo said: "Tingnan natin (Let's see) how the situation evolves or develops."

"Depende nga sa sitwasyon. Kung suddenly bukas wala na tayong tubig, bakit ka pa mag aantay ng isang week to decide (It will depend on the situation. If suddenly tomorrow we no longer have water, why do we have to wait for a week to decide?)," he added.

Meanwhile, he said the state regulator Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System

(MWSS) could also be held accountable if proven that they violated the law.

"If they have violated the law, they will be prosecuted," Panelo said.

"Kasi pati government institution hindi rin maka solve ng problema e di ibig sabihin kailangan baguhin mo rin yung nasa loob (If a government institution fails to solve a problem that means they need to replace the people inside the organization)," he added.

Earlier, Panelo warned that the President may resort to "drastic action" against water concessionaires if they fail to prevent the looming water crisis.

Panelo said if Manila Water and Maynilad fail to address the water supply shortage, the President could terminate their contracts.

Last March, the country experienced a water shortage due to the increase in population, demand of consumers, the early onslaught of the dry season, and critically low water levels at the Angat Dam.

Currently, some parts of Metro Manila continue to experience water interruptions. (PNA)

DPWH reactivates motorist assistance program for Undas

MANILA -- The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on Tuesday said it has reactivated its annual road assistance project for motorists during the nationwide observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

DPWH Secretary Mark Villar said the agency's "Lakbay Alalay" team will provide prompt and reliable assistance to motorists and travelers going to visit their departed loved ones, starting 7 a.m. on October 31 to noon of November 4.

"Lakbay Alalay" is an annual public service program of DPWH nationwide through the 16 regional and 183 district engineering offices to provide immediate assistance to motorists such as rescuing troubled vehicles, giving of directions especially to

visitors and applying first aid in emergency situations," Villar said in a statement.

He also instructed all Regional Directors and District Engineers to deploy composite teams on a round-the-clock shift at strategic locations more importantly along national highways leading to public and private cemeteries as well as columbaria and churches where people visit and commemorate memories of their dearly departed family members.

Earlier, Villar reminded DPWH field units to keep national roads safe by implementing various highway routine maintenance activities on carriageway and roadsides including the installation of informative/regulatory warning signs or traffic advisories.

Also, DPWH is in close coordination with other government entities such

as Land Transportation Office, Philippine National Police, and local government units for any required assistance.

Meanwhile, Villar asked Cavite Infrastructure Corporation (CIC) to facilitate the repair of Kaingin Road in Parañaque City to ease the traffic flow in this area.

"Kaingin Road is part of the C5 Extension road and intersects Multinational Avenue in Parañaque where warehouses and logistics hubs are located. Some 89,000 vehicles pass through this area 24/7 and out of that number 6,800 vehicles pass at peak time. High volume and high load vehicles, motor chemicals and weather changes have contributed to the deterioration of the road," said the DPWH chief during the inspection of the Road with the executives of CIC and the Parañaque City government.