



Laguna is now “Insurgency Free” CAMP CAPINPIN, Tanay, Rizal – Laguna became the second province of Region 4A to be declared as an area with Stable Internal Peace and Security or SIPS after the ceremonial signing of documents held at the Provincial Capitol on Thursday. The Memorandum of Agreement was signed by Gov Ramil Hernandez and BGen Arnulfo Marcelo B Burgos Jr, Commander of the AFP unit which has operational jurisdiction over CALABARZON, during the Provincial Peace and Order Council which was attended by the mayors and government agencies as well as military and police commanders operating in the province. Colonel Alex Rillera, Commander of 202nd Infantry Brigade, presented the parameters which need to be satisfied in order for a locality to be declared as free from insurgency. He stressed that “such declaration is a testament of Laguna’s peace-loving people’s desire to liberate themselves from the clutches of terrorism and instead harness their economic potentials by ensuring peace in their community.” Under the AFP’s phases of normalization, a province is given the SIPS status if no violent terroristic activity has been conducted by the NPAs for at least one year. Per the military, no atrocity has been recorded in Laguna for more than a year. Gov Hernandez emphasized that the rare distinction was attained “through the national and local government’s concerted effort” through which they “were able to provide lasting solutions to the issues which the NPAs are exploiting, thus, denying the terrorists the ability to recruit our people.” He expressed confidence that by being known as an insurgency free area, “businesses will further flourish and prosperity shall become a way of life in every corner of Laguna.” The ceremony’s highlight was the awarding of ± 584,000 to 12 former rebels representing the government’s firearms remuneration under the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program or E-CLIP. BGen Burgos said that the declaration and handover of grants are tangible proofs that the government is serious and sincere in its desire to finally attain national unity by ending local communist armed conflict. He added that “the quest for an inclusive peace is now on the doorstep of each Filipino” as manifested by the “unified stand of the Local Chief Executives in operationalizing PRRD’s Directive through the different Task Forces ELCAC at all levels of government.” He ended his statement by congratulating the people of Laguna and subsequently calling on the “few remaining NPA Terrorists to surrender and be part of the solution to help our country regain its glory so that our people may finally enjoy the peace, prosperity and development which every Filipino citizen truly deserve.” Laguna became the second province of CALABARZON and the fourth in the entire country to be declared as SIPS following Cavite on Dec 4, 2018, Romblon on Feb 21, 2019 and Marinduque on Mar 25, 2019. The handover of cheques for firearms remuneration was the second such undertaking in CALABARZON in less than a week after the Sept 20 event at Brgy Magsaysay of Infanta, Quezon wherein five former rebels received Php302,000 pesos. **BG / AT**

Angara files resolution to extend availability of 2019 budget

MANILA -- Senator Sonny Angara has filed a joint resolution extending the availability of the 2019 budget for maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) and capital outlays to Dec. 31, 2020.

Angara filed on Thursday Senate Joint Resolution No. 7, seeking to amend Section 65 of the general provisions of RA 11260 or the General Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2019, which provides that all appropriations shall be available for release and obligation until Dec. 31, 2019.

A copy of the joint resolution was released to media on Friday.

Angara, chair of the Senate committee on Finance, cited the delayed passage of the 2019 budget and the election ban for the May 2019 elections as reasons to extend the funds’ availability since several projects and programs for the delivery of basic services were not implemented.

“There are appropriations that have not been released and allotment issued that have not been obligated which shall automatically result [in] the reversion of the said un-

expended appropriations to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund of the much-needed MOOE and CO to fund priority projects, medical assistance program, aid, and relief activities as well as for the maintenance, construction/repair and rehabilitation of schools, roads, bridges, and other essential facilities of the national government,” Angara said in his resolution.

Its counterpart measure has already hurdled second reading at the House of Representatives this week. (PNA)

3 days before deadline, Comelec reminds public to register

MANILA – The Commission on Elections (Comelec) on Friday reminded the public that there are only three days remaining before the ongoing registration of voters ends on Sept. 30, 2019.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez assured that the Office of the Election Officer (OEO) in cities/municipalities are ready to accommodate those who would like to register as voters especially on Monday, the last day of registration.

“Tomorrow is the last Saturday of voter registration while the last day is on a Monday, so an influx of registrants is to be expected,” he said in a statement.

names are called shall no longer be allowed to file their application.

When an applicant’s name is called and he/she is present, his/her application will be processed and his/her biometric data will be captured. The process continues until all those listed shall have been processed.

Jimenez also advised members of the vulnerable sectors that there is a special lane provided for them.

“An Express Lane is provided for Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and Heavily Pregnant Applicants,” Jimenez said.

Applicants are asked to proceed to the OEO in their city or municipality, or any

satellite registration center in their locality, where they intend to vote, and present at least one valid ID.

Meanwhile, the Comelec official reported that they have so far received over 2.6 million applications since the registration started last month.

“As of Sept. 21, 2019, the running total of the number of applications processed nationwide stands at 2,645,446,” he added.

The registration period started on Aug. 1, 2019.

It accepts all types of applications such as for registration, transfer, change/corrections of entries, reactivation, inclusion, and reinstatement of names in the list of voters. (PNA)

DOJ summons Trillanes over kidnapping raps

MANILA – The Department of Justice (DOJ) has summoned former Senator Antonio Trillanes IV in connection with the kidnapping with serious illegal detention charges filed against him and four others last August by the Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG).

In a subpoena dated September 16, Assistant State Prosecutor Gino Paolo S. Santiago directed Trillanes to appear during the preliminary investigation on the case on October 11 at 2 p.m.

“You are hereby warned that failure on your part to comply with the subpoena shall be considered as a waiver of your right for the investigation to verify and confirm the allegations of your complaint and the case shall be considered submitted for resolution based on the evidence on record,” the subpoena read.

The PNP-CIDG complaint arose from the charges filed by Guillermina Barrido, also known as Guillermina Arcillas.

In her complaint, Barrido claimed she was kidnapped and detained from December 6 to 21, 2016 and placed in a convent to force her to sign a ready-made affidavit maligning President Rodrigo Duterte.

She claimed she was shuttled between the Convent of Canussian Sisters in Makati City to the Holy Spirit Convent in Quezon City for two weeks.