



Duterte OKs add'l P5B budget for quarantine expenses of returning OFWs

PAGE 13

VOL. XXX NO. 22

Saturday-Friday | May 29 - June 4, 2021

THE LEADING SOURCE OF NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR FELLOW FILIPINO-AMERICANS

FIL-AMS SEEK GARCETTI'S HELP OVER NEW LAX RULE

LA mayor opens West Gates at LAX's Bradley Int'l Terminal

By ABNER GALINO

A group of Filipino Americans has written a letter to Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to intervene in a recent decision of the Los Angeles World Airport (LAWA) to relegate Philippine Air Lines planes to the new Midfield Satellite Concourse (MSC) which

would be inconvenient "given the number of elderly passengers that the Filipino flag carrier serves."

In a letter, Justice for Filipino American Veterans (JFAV) National Los Angeles coordinator Art Garcia, said LAX "may have people movers (flat escalators) and will have terminal transfer vehicles (i.e. golf carts), but



LA Mayor Eric Garcetti

neither will be convenient given the number of elderly Filipino passengers that PAL carries."

Garcia said the new policy would reportedly give "additional twenty-minute walk by tunnel from the main concourse of Tom Bradley."

In a recently posted online alert, PAL issued the following: "Effective June 1, 2021, PAL

will be forced, over our protest, to move our flights departing and arriving at Los Angeles to the new Midfield Satellite Concourse (MSC) of the Tom Bradley International Terminal (TBIT) at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

The MSC gates are in a separate concourse that is connected to the main TBIT area by an

FIL-AMS >> 3



LCP Deputy Directors, from left: Medical Services Dep. Dir. Dr. Sullian Naval; Hospital Support Services Dep. Dir. Dr. Victoria Idolor, Executive Dir. Dr. Vincent Balanag Jr. and Nursing Services Dep. Dir. Mrs. Elvira Baura.

Lung Center of the Philippines' Dr. Vincent Balanag Jr. : COPING with the COVID CRISIS

By MARISSE G. ABELGAS

WHEN Vincent Balanag Jr. was appointed Executive Director of the Lung Center of the Philippines by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on December 19, 2016, little did he imagine that his new position would, four years later,

thrust him into the center of a global pandemic that would affect --and ultimately kill -- thousands of his countrymen and millions more all over the world.

Despite successive government-ordered lockdowns to curb infection and transmission among the 25 million residents of

Metropolitan Manila and several outlying provinces, the deadly virus called Covid-19 surged endlessly, ravaging densely-populated communities particularly those with multi-generational families living under one roof.

The 61-year-old doctor

LUNG >> 5

Duterte signs law dividing Maguindanao into 2 provinces

MANILA (Mabuhay) — President Rodrigo Duterte has signed into law a bill seeking to divide Maguindanao, part of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), into two provinces.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque made this announcement in a Palace press briefing on Thursday.

Under the new law, the two new provinces

will be called Maguindanao del Norte and Maguindanao del Sur.

The Palace has yet to release an official copy of the new law.

Meanwhile, Roque assured that Duterte listens to all concerns on the proposal to extend the transition period in the BARMM until 2025.

He made this assurance even as the Pres-

ident himself has expressed support of the initiative for the transition.

Roque said Duterte is aware that there are also some who oppose the Bangsamoro Transition Authority's (BTA) request to extend the transition period.

However, he noted that it will be up to Congress to act on measures seeking to extend the transition period in the BARMM.

Roque encouraged those

who supported or opposed to the extension of the transition period to relay their concerns to both the Senate and House of Representatives.

The BARMM, an expanded autonomous region created upon the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) in January 2019, is the outcome of the decades-long peace negotiation between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Currently, the BARMM is

under transition.

During the transition period, the interim Bangsamoro government will identify the new structural framework of the BARMM, taking into consideration the existing structure, budget, and other relevant features of the now-defunct Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The region's BTA will run the affairs of the ARMM until the new set of regular officials is elected in 2022. (MNS)

TOP STORIES

Global News

- Duterte institutionalizes system to harmonize humanitarian aid 8
- Robredo camp slams Roque's misleading vaccine ad claims 9
- Filipinos prefer to connect via Facebook over SMS, voice calls — survey 9
- More House members by 2022: Duterte OKs creation of more districts in Bulacan, Caloocan 9
- Duterte to run for VP? President 'leaves it to God', says spokesman 12
- 10 million Filipinos complete National ID registration step 2 12
- DICT says two more years needed to provide free wifi to all barangays, elementary schools 12
- House panel junks impeachment complaint vs. Leonen 12
- CHR to probe cop's killing of teenager with special needs 9

Sections

- BUSINESS. Abalos backs increasing capacity of businesses in NCR in June 13
- ENTERTAINMENT. Marjorie Barretto on her sisters Claudine, Gretchen: 'I won't wish ill of them' 18
- HEALTH & FAMILY. Duque: COVID-19 test results from self-swab possibly 'questionable' 14
- FEATURE. Leyte mother counts on BP2 benefits to sustain kids 16

Fil-Am among 8 California shooting fatalities — DFA

MANILA (Mabuhay) — One of the eight fatalities in the mass shooting at a rail yard in San Jose, California in the United States is of Filipino descent, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) confirmed Thursday.

"There are eight fatalities in the shooting in California. The Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco is confirming reports that at least one of them is of Filipino descent," the agency said in a text message.



The DFA said the consulate is now coordinating with authorities to get more information, citing its readiness to extend any assistance if needed.

Local reports identified the shooter as Samuel Cassidy, a maintenance worker at the Valley Transport Authority (VTA) and the co-worker of the victims.

On Wednesday morning (local time), Cassidy opened fire at the VTA Light Rail Yard, which also wounded one person.

Local authorities confirmed that the lone shooter died, with preliminary investigation showed he committed suicide after the shooting rampage. (MNS)

Pacific Palisades brush fire



FIREFIGHTERS work to put out a two-acre brush fire that broke out in Pacific Palisades on Monday at about 6 p.m. along Pacific Coast Highway near the Temescal Canyon Road. The flames were seen eating a big portion of the brush on the bluff. Within an hour, firefighters had surrounded the area while helicopters were attacked the flames from above. Photos by ABNER GALINO