



# NUTRITION STATUS OF EVACUEES IN CAVITE, A MAIN PRIORITY OF THE HEALTH OFFICE

**BATANGAS CITY-** Two weeks after Taal Volcano's eruption, most residents who were housed in temporary shelters have gone home beginning Sunday, Jan. 26 when the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology lowered the volcano's Alert Level 3 from Level 4.

"This serves as a notice for the lowering of Taal Volcano's status from Alert Level 4 or hazardous eruption imminent to Alert Level 3, decreased tendency towards hazardous eruption," Phivolcs said in a press briefing. *Turn topage 3*

## A BATTLE TO WIN, A BAY TO SAVE: CONG. PIDI SPEAKS DURING THE BATTLE FOR MANILA BAY, 2ND MANILA BAY TASK FORCE PRINCIPALS' MEETING AND CONFERENCE

Cong. Pidi Barzaga, Chairperson of the House Committee on Natural Resources, delivered an inspirational message during the 2nd Manila Bay Task Force Principal's Meeting and Conference held at Diamond Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila recently.

. This key gathering of concerned national and local

agencies was graced with the presence of Chief Justice Diosdado Peralta, Usec. Epimaco V. Densing III of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Sec. Roy Cimatu of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Sec. Bernadette Romulo-Puyat of Department of Tourism (DOT), Mayor Francisco Domagoso, and executives of

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and Maynilad.

In his message, Cong. Pidi ingeniously likened the present Manila Bay Clean-Up Program with the 1898 Battle of Manila Bay, the first major battle of the Spanish-American War.

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## CAVITE NGAYON

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## SENATE CORNER



## Rotary International honors Bong Go with Golden Wheel Award

For his dedication and passion for public service, Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" Go was given the Golden Wheel Award by the Rotary International District 3780 during a ceremony held on Saturday, January 25, at Novotel Hotel in Quezon City.

Rotary International—a global humanitarian organization which aims "to advance goodwill and peace around the world"—confers the Golden Wheel Awards to outstanding individuals who best exemplify the Rotarian spirit of "Service Above Self" and the guiding principles of the Four-Way Test.

As the main awardee, Go delivered a speech during the event, saying that he has always been reluctant to receive awards because he is only doing his job as a public servant.

"Sa totoo lang, ayaw kong tumanggap ng award kasi ginagawa ko lang naman ang trabaho ko bilang public servant," he said while expressing his gratitude to the

organization for the award he has received.

Go, who served as aide to President Rodrigo Duterte for more than twenty years when the latter was still Davao City mayor, also recounted how the past few years has changed his life.

"From being a relatively unknown individual serving a city mayor, I was thrust into a position of serving the country's most powerful leader and our beloved nation," he said, adding that he now has greater responsibilities to fulfill as Senator of the republic.

"I am not just the bridge that connects the Filipino people to the President. As a duly elected Senator, I also now serve as their voice in the Senate," he said.

Go then shared with the audience his plans and accomplishments during his first year as a lawmaker, including the progress of some of his priority measures in the upper house of the 18th Congress.

"Isa po sa mga

## NEWS UPDATE



PhilHealth President/ CEO  
BGen. Ricardo C. Morales

## PhilHealth extends special privileges during catastrophic situations

IN the light of on-going crisis situation resulting from the recent eruption of Taal volcano in Talisay, Batangas, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) is extending certain privileges to ensure continued provision of responsive health care benefits to members at all times especially during fortuitous events where help is needed the most.

Pursuant to its Circular 34, s. 2013, claims of non-accredited health care facilities on behalf of members or their beneficiaries shall be covered, provided that the concerned facilities are duly licensed or certified by the Department of Health. The same also extends to services by non-accredited health care professionals but are holders of valid license issued by the Professional Regulations Commission.

Also covered are claims for medical treatments done as an outpatient or inpatient relative to both direct and indirect effects of a fortuitous event within improvised or satellite facilities, as well as for patients being transferred from or managed by health care personnel from accredited facilities in evacuation areas or improvised health care facilities.

The circular also extends special privileges such as exemption from the 45 days annual benefit limit and the policy on 'single period of confinement' where patients can avail of full coverage even if their series of confinements have intervals of less than 90 days.

During such fortuitous events, admissions of less than 24 hours shall also be paid while filing period of claims is extended from 60 days to 120 days from discharge of the patient. Also granted under the policy include extension of deadlines in the payment of premium contributions, reimbursement for both referring and receiving health care facilities, priority in the processing of claims, extension of deadline for submission of health care facility reports, extension of accreditation of providers as applicable, among others.

"We recognize that uninterrupted availability and access to health care are crucial during calamities, that is why we assure our affected Kababayans of their PhilHealth benefits, as well as our partner hospitals and even those not yet accredited with us that their services will be reimbursed," Ricardo C. Morales, PhilHealth President and CEO said, adding that these privileges are granted only in areas declared under state of calamity or emergency.

For more details on the mechanics of these privileges, PhilHealth encourages members and facilities to call 02 8441-7442 or visit the nearest PhilHealth office. (END)



duty to help them or else we will be setting them up for a future of failure and poverty," he added.

Citing the country's vulnerability to natural disasters as manifested by the recent eruption of Taal volcano and the series of earthquakes that hit Mindanao late last year, Go also shared his proposed bills which seek to reinforce the country's disaster preparedness, management and mitigation efforts.

"I have filed Senate Bill 205 or the 'Disaster Resilience Act of 2019' which would expand the creation of Department of Disaster Resilience or DDR," he said.

The senator stated that he envisions the proposed

"I believe it is our

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# Revilla pushes a measure banning bullying in workplaces

Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla is pushing for an early passage of a measure prohibiting bullying in all establishments and offices, whether in government or in private.

Revilla filed Senate Bill 1217, to be known as "Anti-Office Bullying Act of 2019," which seeks to require all government and non-government offices and establishments to adopt policies to

prevent and address the acts of bullying in places of work.

The senator noted that while Congress has already banned bullying in schools, it has yet to enact a similar law covering private and government offices.

"These kinds of acts hamper peace and tranquility in a professional environment and disrupt the delivery of services to the public," Revilla said.

Republic Act No. 10627 of 2013, or "An Act Requiring all Elementary and Secondary Schools to Adopt Policies to Prevent and Address the Acts of Bullying in their Institutions," defined bullying as "any severe or repeated use ... of a written, verbal or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at another... that has the effect of actually causing or



Sen.Ramon "Bong" Revilla

placing the person in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm or damage to his/her property."

Acts of bullying include actual physical harm, foul language, name-calling, harassment on the internet, commenting negatively on one's looks, clothes or body, spreading rumors, preventing access to the workplace and abusive behavior.

In pushing for his proposal, Revilla said bullying not only affects the physical, mental and emotional health but could also cause long-term career problems to a person.

"Bullying in the workplace is often ignored and overlooked by both employers and co-employees, but its consequences are not only on the victim's emotional health but on his productivity and morale," he explained.

Under the bill, all government and non-government offices, and business establishments, shall adopt policies to address bullying in their respective institutions.

The policies should include prohibition on abusive

behavior, slanderous statements or accusations, cyber-bullying, and similar acts; and clear procedures and strategies to report and penalize such acts.

If signed into law, the offices shall formulate and submit to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) their anti-bullying policies.

The DOLE and the CSC shall prescribe administrative sanctions for non-compliance with the measure. In addition, erring non-government offices and business establishments may also suffer the penalty of suspension of their permits to operate.

"This bill seeks to achieve a more peaceful and harmonious professional environment towards a more productive economy," Revilla said.

Once passed into law, the measure tasked the Department of Labor and Employment and the Civil Service Commission to prescribe the appropriate sanctions for noncompliance with the provisions of this Act.

## A BATTLE TO WIN...from p1



CONG. PIDI BARZAGA

Cong. Pidi said:

"Like the Americans, we should win the battle for Manila Bay. We can succeed but it is not going to be instant. There is no bloodshed, no ammunition needed in this battle but like in a real war it will take long and will be hard but its victory will surely be sweet."

phased how water firms should target a complete and centralized sewerage system for better wastewater management. Cong. Pidi also urged concerned local executives to establish their own sanitary landfills to address the mere transfer of garbage from one province to another as in the case of Montalban, Rizal. Resetlement of informal-settler families should also be mechanized through onsite relocations and the National Housing Authority (NHA) should start their assessment and inventory as early as now for an adequate funding in 2021.

Cong. Pidi wrapped his message with a challenge to join hands in solving the problem of Manila Bay. It is nearly a year since the declaration of the official start of Manila Bay Rehabilitation on January 27, 2019 but a lot has still to be accomplished. As Cong. Pidi underscored, no government can survive alone hence, all sectors and ordinary citizens should unite towards this pursuit. In unity, this battle for Manila Bay can surely be won!

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## Spread unconditional love through legal adoption-DSWD

In observance of the Adoption Consciousness Week, (Feb. 1-9) this year, the Department of Social Welfare & Development (DSWD) calls on the public, specially adoptive parents to spread unconditional love through legal adoption.

In line with the same theme, "Pagmamahal Palaganapin, Legal na Pag-aampon Ating Gawin!", the DSWD will lead Adoption Consciousness Celebration with the aim of promoting legal adoption as an expression of unconditional love and support to abandoned, neglected, and surrendered children.

The DSWD encourages families to undergo legal adoption in order to protect the welfare of adopted children. The legal adoption process will also ensure the safety, security, and best interest of the adoptive children.

The celebration will kick off with a motorcade from Quirino Grandstand to Quezon City Memorial Circle on February 1. It will be



followed by a gathering of adoptive families and a media forum at Quezon City Experience Hall with DSWD officials, representatives from the Judiciary and the Department of Justice (DOJ), and adoptive parents.

Updates on the implementation of Republic Act No. 11222 or the "Simulated Birth Rectification Act," warnings on the birth simulation and social media pages facilitating illegal adoption, and information on pending laws related to legal adoption are the main topics that will

be discussed during the media forum.

The DSWD, with members of the Association of Child Caring Agencies of the Philippines (ACCAP) will also open Adoption Help Desks on selected malls and churches around the country on February 8 and 9.

The DSWD is also inviting the public to join the celebration and promote the legal adoption advocacy in social media through the hashtags, "#adoptionislove" and "#legaladoption" this February. (DSWD/PIA-NCR)

"If passed into law, this will require every city, province and municipality to construct evacuation centers that will be equipped with basic necessities, such as emergency kits and medicine," he said, adding that it is high time for the government to take a proactive approach to disaster resilience.

"Wakasan na natin ang kultura na kikilos lamang kapag nariyan na ang problema. Huwag na nating hintayin na magkaroon pa ng isang mapanirang sakuna bago natin tugunan ang pangangailangan nating ito," he added.

In congruence with the government's fight against corruption, illegal drugs and criminality, Go also mentioned his move to file a bill which seeks to re-impose capital punishment for certain heinous crimes involving dangerous drugs and plunder.

"This law will not only serve as an effective deterrent against would be criminals; it will also establish that the Philippines is committed to building a better future for the majority of good, productive and law-abiding citizens,"

he said.

Go then assured the audience that he and the President will continue to serve the welfare and interest of the people and the generations of Filipinos to come.

"Gusto naming hindi na maging problema ang pagpapagamot ng mga mahihirap. Gusto naming labanan ang droga, korapsyon at kriminalidad. Gusto naming mabigyan ng magandang kinabukasan ang susunod na henerasyon," he said.

Amidst various criticisms thrown at them, the senator also reiterated that he will continue to stay behind the President, saying "Gagawin namin ang lahat para sa ikabubuti ng bawat Pilipino. Kung ang mga sakripisyo at mga ipinaglalaban naming ito ang maging dahilan ng pagbagsak ng ating Pangulo, babagsak din po ako kasama niya."

"Kailanman hindi-ing-hindi ko iwan ang ating Pangulong Duterte, he added. Go also vowed not to waste any opportunity to do good, particularly to those

who really need help.

"Meron lang akong gustong sabihin, English po nakasulat sa aking speech pero tatagalugin ko po ito. Minsan lang tayo dadaan sa mundong ito kung ano pong kabutihan o tulong ang ibibigay natin sa ating kapwa tao gawin na natin ngayon dahil hindi na po tayag babalik sa mundong ito," he said.

Ending his speech, Go said that while he never expected to become a senator, he will continue to use the opportunity given to him to be of service to the people.

"Sa mga fellow servants ko sa gobyerno, yung mga governors dito, 'Gov' rin po ang tawag sa inyo para na rin po kayong mga public servants. Alam n'yo noon kapag nakikita ko ang Rotary governors, nainggit po ako sabi ko sana maging governor din ako," he said.

"Ako naman po hindi ko akalaing magiging senador ako, kami ni Pangulong Duterte patuloy po kaming magse-serbisyo sa Filipino dahil para sa amin ang serbisyo sa tao ay serbisyo sa Diyos," he ended.



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