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Vaccine passports to be issued; 'no option to choose vaccine' — DOH

Published January 15, 2021, 2:23 PM

by [Analou De Vera](#)

The government will issue “vaccine passports” to Filipinos who will be vaccinated against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Department of Health (DOH) said on Friday.



Health Assistant Secretary Maria Rosario S. Vergeire (PCOO / MANILA BULLETIN)

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in the previous na mga pag-uusap, magkakaroon po tayo ng data registry for all recipients [We will have a vaccine passport and as we have said during the previous meetings, we will have a data registry for all recipients],” said DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire in a press briefing.

Vergeire said that vaccinated individuals will be provided a QR code.

“This would be something of a unique identifier for a specific person who will receive the vaccine, and dito magkakaroon din po sila ng card na nagsasabi na sila ay nabakunahan [and here they will also have a card stating that they have been vaccinated], either with one dose or two doses—and this will serve as their certificate that they have been vaccinated,” she said.

Vergeire believes that vaccine passports will be widely implemented worldwide.

“I guess this will be part of the protocol to control the borders of each of these countries that we have around the world,” she said.

No option to choose what type of vaccine

The DOH, meanwhile, said that the public cannot choose what type of vaccine they want to receive once the government’s COVID-19 immunization program begins.

However, Vergeire assured the public that all vaccines that will be used in the country will be strictly evaluated by the Philippine health regulators to ensure its safety and effectiveness.

“Kailangan lang po natin intindihin na ang gobyerno po ay nagbibigay ng vaccination program na ito, hindi lang po sa bawat isang tao, kung hindi para protektahan ang buong Filipino population. That is the objective. So at this point, hindi po kami magbibigay ng option kung anong type ng bakuna ang pwedeng makuha ng isang tao [We need to understand that the government provides this vaccination program, not just to every single person but to protect the entire Filipino population. That is the objective. So at this point, we will not give an option on what type of vaccine a person can receive],” said Vergeire.

The DOH spokesperson said that an informed consent will be given first to an individual before he or she can be vaccinated.

“Ibibigay sa kanila dyan sa form na iyan kung anong type ng bakuna, kung ano po yung idudulot na benepisyo ng bakuna para sa kanila, and kung ano naman po ang pwedeng reaction ng isang tao doon sa bakuna [A form will be given to them indicating what type of

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take the vaccine]. And with that, they will decide if they will accept it or not,” she said.

“Ngayon pag sinabi nila na ‘hindi muna, hindi muna ako magpapabakuna, mag-aantay muna ako’ [Now, when they say ‘I will not get vaccinated (or) I’ll wait first’] —then they go to the bottom of the list of that sector,” she added.

Vergeire reiterated that all the vaccines that will be used in the government’s COVID-19 immunization program will be reviewed properly.

“Gusto lang ho namin kayo bigyan ng kasiguraduhan na ito pong lahat ng bakuna ay dadaan sa ating proseso [We just want to assure you that all these vaccines will go through our process] for regulation and all of these vaccines na magkakaroon ng [that will have an] EUA would be safe and effective for everybody,” she said.

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National, News

Defend Jobs launches 'Trabahotline'

January 15, 2021, 02:25 PM
by Leslie Ann Aquino

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status amid the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

The “Trabahotline” was launched 10 months after the imposition of quarantine measures across the country.

The labor group said the campaign encourages local and foreign-based Filipino workers to report issues of termination, retrenchment, floating status, aid issues and other work-related concerns being affected by the pandemic.

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[Mindanao, News, Provincial](#)

3 soldiers, 1 civilian dead in Lanao ambush

January 15, 2021, 02:27 PM

by Martin Sadongdong

Three soldiers who were on their way to market to buy food stocks for their comrades were shot dead by still unidentified gunmen in Lanao del Norte on Thursday. A civilian who was also passing by was also hit by a stray bullet and died.

The slain soldiers were identified as Private First Class Albert Soriano, Corporal Bryan Binayug, and Corporal Albert Saura, all members of the 4th Mechanized Infantry Battalion stationed at Tangclao detachment in Poona Piagapo town.

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[National, News](#)

Rattled by ear-splitting noise, Duterte mulls crackdown on noisy motorcycles

January 15, 2021, 02:30 PM

by Genalyn Kabiling

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ear-splitting noise.

The President has expressed dismay with noisy motorcycles after a loud sound of a passing vehicle interrupted his speech at the opening of the Skyway Stage 3 in Quezon City Thursday. “Walang hiya. Iyan ang ayaw ko. You know in Davao, wala ‘yan. Pinapara ko sa highway tapos sabi ko, ‘Tanggalin mo ‘yan’ (No shame. That’s what I don’t like. You know in Davao, that does not exist. I flag down the motorcycle along the highway and say, ‘Remove that’),” Duterte said about motorbikes with noisy exhaust system during the inauguration of the Metro Manila Skyway Stage 3 project.

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National, News

CHED vows more scholarship for indigenous communities

January 15, 2021, 02:31 PM
by Alexandria Dennise San Juan

More students can soon continue their education in college as the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) vowed to increase the number of scholarship beneficiaries in the Indigenous Peoples (IP) communities.

CHED Chairman J. Prospero de Vera III said more scholarships for students in the IP communities are possible with the continued funding support for the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education (UAQTE) law or Republic Act No. 10931 under the 2021 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

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Mindanao, News

3 soldiers, 1 civilian killed in Lanao del Norte ambush

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ILIGAN CITY – Three soldiers and a civilian were killed in an ambush perpetrated by a still unidentified group in Rapadan River, which is at the boundary of Poona Piagapo and Pantao Ragat, in Lanao del Norte on Thursday, January 14.

According to Western Mindanao Command (WesMinCom) Chief Lt. Gen. Corleto Vinluan, Jr., the three soldiers and a civilian were onboard a motorcycle, and were on their way to a public market at around 8:45 a.m. when they were waylaid by still unidentified assailants.

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[National, News](#)

DOLE assists small firms to increase compliance with safety, health norms

January 15, 2021, 02:37 PM
by Leslie Ann Aquino

Only 77 percent of the 72,000 establishments inspected last year were found compliant with occupational health and safety standards, the Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) said Friday.

Labor Undersecretary Benjo Santos Benavidez said this means that some 23 percent are non-compliant.

He said, however, that the compliance rate later increased to 92% after said establishments were given technical assistance by the Labor department.

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vaccination

January 15, 2021, 02:41 PM
by Jhon Aldrin Casinas

Mandaluyong City residents may now sign up online to avail of the free coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccine once it arrives.

The local government launched Thursday the online pre-registration of residents who are willing to get inoculated against COVID-19.

Residents who wish to reserve their slot for the free vaccination may register via <https://www.mandaluyong.gov.ph/vaccine/>.

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Quezon Rep. Suarez leads groundbreaking of Lucena City General Hospital to complement Quezon Medical Center

January 15, 2021, 02:45 PM
by Ben Rosario

Quezon Rep. David “Jayjay” Suarez is pushing for the decongestion of the lone government-run hospital in his province to strongly beef up its defenses against COVID-19 and other serious public health threats that may arise in future.

Suarez led Friday the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Lucena City General Hospital in Barangay Mayao, Lucena as he disclosed the implementation of several other public health projects in the province.

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Galvez tells senators Sinovac use 'not yet a done deal'; 'Think like parents when deciding on vaccines,' Binay urges

January 15, 2021, 02:46 PM
by Hannah Torregoza

Vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez on Friday clarified that the reported procurement of Chinese coronavirus vaccine Sinovac is not yet a done deal contrary to reports the government has already secured a supply contract with the drug manufacturer.

Galvez made the assurance after Senator Nancy Binay asked whether government funds have already been released to procure Sinovac vaccines, which have shown a lower efficacy rate.

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[National, News](#)

NBI set to arrest nine dismissed cops charged for Jolo shooting

January 15, 2021, 02:55 PM
by Jeffrey Damicog

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will be directed to hunt down and arrest the nine dismissed police who have been charged for the killing of four Army intelligence officers in Jolo, Sulu last year, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said on Friday, Jan. 15.

Guevarra made the assurance now that the Jolo Regional Trial Court (RTC) has issued arrest warrants against the nine accused as well as hold departure orders (HDO) that prevents them from leaving the country.

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Luzon, National, News

4 police officers, cohort nabbed in Subic shabu lab

January 15, 2021, 03:04 PM

by Chito Chavez

Four policemen and their cohort were arrested Friday by operatives of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) in a clandestine shabu laboratory at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales.

PDEA spokesperson Derrick Arnold Carreon identified the suspects as Police Lt. Reynato Basa Jr., Police Corporal Gino dela Cruz, Police Corporal Edesyr Victor Alipio, Police Corporal Godfrey Duclayan Parentela, and Jericho Dabu.

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News, Visayas

Cebu continues to be PH's wealthiest province

January 15, 2021, 03:06 PM

by Calvin Cordova

CEBU CITY—For the sixth straight year, the province of Cebu is the wealthiest province in the country.

According to the Commission on Audit's (COA) 2019 Annual Financial Report on local government units (LGUs), Cebu posted a total assets of P203.9 billion.

At far second was Batangas with P20.793 billion, followed by Rizal (P20.275 billion), Davao de Oro (P20.099 billion), Bukidnon (P18.294 billion), Surigao del Norte (P16.684 billion), Negros Occidental (P15.901 billion), Leyte (P13.54 billion), Palawan (P13.036 billion) and Iloilo (P13.034 billion).

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News, Visayas

Jail officer gunned down in Danao City

January 15, 2021, 03:07 PM

by Calvin Cordova

CEBU CITY—A jail officer was gunned down while outside his office in Barangay Dunggoan, Danao City, northern Cebu.

Police said Jail Officer 2 Reymond Roble Vasquez, 34, was on duty at the time he was killed around 10:30 p.m. Thursday.

Police said the victim was in his multicab when four motorcycles, each boarded by two men, arrived.

Without saying a word, the bonnet-wearing men on motorcycles riddled the jail officer with gun fire before speeding off.

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National, News

Most of co-passengers of COVID-infected traveler traced

January 15, 2021, 03:23 PM

by Analou De Vera

The DOH said it was already able to contact 92 percent of the co-passengers of the 29-year-old Filipino who tested positive for the new COVID-19 virus variant.

DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said that there were 159 passengers onboard Emirates flight EK 332 on January 7, excluding the male patient.

"Out of the 159, we were already able to coordinate with 146 of them. So, 92 percent po iyan [So, that's 92 percent]," said Vergeire.

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Number coding scheme remains lifted –MMDA

January 15, 2021, 03:30 PM

by Jel Santos

With the current transportation situation amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program (UVVRP) or number coding scheme is still suspended indefinitely.

This was according to newly-appointed Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Benhur Abalos Jr., who took his oath of office before Pres. Duterte in Malacañang on January 11, 2021.

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PH leads talks on new technologies in global forum on migration, development

January 15, 2021, 03:36 PM

by Roy Mabasa

Being a major labor exporting country, the Philippines will seek to sustain its contributions in the international movement on migration and development and push for further protection of all Filipino migrant workers in the 13th Summit of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) to be hosted by the United Arab Emirates from January 18-26, 2021.

Under this year's theme, "The Future of Human Mobility: Innovative Partnerships for Sustainable Development", the Team Philippines to be led by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) will chair the roundtable discussions on new technologies to empower migrants as well as on skilling migrants for employment.

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CHR condemns string of killings in PH

January 15, 2021, 03:49 PM

by Czarina Nicole Ong Ki

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has condemned the recent string of killings in the country.

The CHR noted the assassination of a lawyer in Bukidnon and a barangay captain in Davao Occidental; the shooting of a police officer in Cabuyao City, Laguna and three soldiers and one civilian in Lanao del Norte; and the killing of two newly freed prisoners in Quiapo, Manila. The victims were killed in broad daylight by still unidentified assailants.

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[National, News](#)

Solemn 'pagbibihis' of new Sto. Niño de Pandacan will be streamed online

January 15, 2021, 03:54 PM

by Leslie Ann Aquino

Witness the solemn "pagbibihis" or vesting of the new official image of the child Jesus of the Sto. Nino de Pandacan Parish on Saturday, Jan. 16.

The vesting will take place at 4 p.m. at the Manila Cathedral in Intramuros which will be livestreamed via the church's Facebook page.

The Manila Cathedral explained that the image was made of wood from the convent of the parish of Pandacan that was not destroyed by last year's fire.

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For Atienza, Cayetano allies are 'Ampalaya Boys'

January 15, 2021, 03:58 PM
by Ellson Quismorio

House Deputy Speaker Buhay party-list Rep. Lito Atienza has re-christened the Alan Peter Cayetano-led "BTS" coalition as "Ampalaya Boys."

Atienza, a staunch ally of incumbent Speaker Lord Allan Velasco, used the playful phrase in a statement Friday in which he criticized BTS for allegedly mishandling the House of Representatives' oversight function when Taguig-Pateros Rep. Cayetano was still head honcho of the chamber.

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Retired US FBI agent dies of COVID-19 in General Santos City

January 15, 2021, 04:04 PM
by Joseph Jubelag

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – An American national married to a Filipina from this city was among those who reportedly succumbed to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the local inter-agency task force against COVID-19 reported here on Thursday, January 14.

The local task force said the 50-year-old American was also a retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He died of pneumonia related to COVID-19.

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