

## Museums proposed for inclusion in 'tourism circuits'

THE Department of Tourism (DoT) is proposing to include museums in "tourism circuits" that it is seeking to promote in a bid to attract more visitor traffic.

Tourism Secretary Maria Esperanza Christina G. Frasco offered the DoT's assistance to the National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) in the marketing and promotion of museums, as well as the establishment of tourism circuits that include museums.

Tourism circuits are clusters of visitor attractions.

"All of your efforts deserve to be highlighted and the general public needs to really know about all the activities, because giving the general public access to all of these worthwhile endeavors would also benefit both the museum and the public in general, in that we are able to provide mainstream access to all that

the museums have to offer," Ms. Frasco said during the third quarter Board of Trustees meeting of the NMP in Manila on Wednesday.

Ms. Frasco said that the DoT supports the projects of the NMP.

The NMP is an arm of the Department of Education.

Ms. Frasco said that the NMP can boost marketing and promotion of its

museums under its management by reaching out to local government units (LGUs), part of an ongoing DoT initiative to seek out relatively unpromoted attractions.

"I hope to have a similar effort done for the National Museum because I will be very interested to explore how we can assist in increasing engagement for its endeavors," Ms. Frasco said.

The NMP's board of trustees consists of the Tourism Secretary, the Education Secretary, the Tourism Committee Chair of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Chairperson of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the Director-General of the National Museum, and eight representatives of the private sector in the National Museum Board. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

# Gov't seeks bidders for Davao depot contracts for city's bus system

THE GOVERNMENT has started soliciting bids for the design and construction contract for two depots of the Davao High Priority Bus System Project.

The deadline for the submission of bids for the Sasa Depot and the Sto. Nino Depot is Aug. 8, according to a bid bulletin from the Procurement Service office of the Department of Budget and Management, the procuring agent of the Transportation department.

The project, which is funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), is ex-

pected to improve public transport infrastructure and services in Davao City.

Open competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with the ADB's "Single-Stage: One-Envelope bidding procedure," according to the Procurement Service. It is open to all bidders from eligible countries.

According to the ADB, this project has five depots located in Buhangin, Calinan, Sasa, Sto. Nino, and Toril.

The project also includes the development of three public transport terminals, a driving school, and improvement of bus routes.

The bus system will have 29 routes across a network of 672 kilometers, operating on over 580 kilometers of road, and traversing the entirety of Davao City.

The service will employ a combination of diesel and electric buses.

The project is expected to commence operations in August 2023.

The Transportation department said last year that the civil works component of the project will cost P19.71 billion, while the bus fleet, both diesel and electric, will cost P21.17 billion. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

## ADB finds learning crisis worse for females, poor in Asia-Pacific

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) said school closures during the pandemic worsened student progression and future livelihoods, particularly for poor students and girls, in the Asia-Pacific region.

"School closures are winding down after over two years but their damage could be long lasting. Closures worsened a learning crisis that existed before the pandemic. In 2019, 57% of children in middle- and low-income countries couldn't read a simple text by age 10, and the World Bank projects that number has since jumped to 70%," said Milan Thomas, an economist from the ADB.

Basically, "students learned less than they would have had schools stayed physically open," he added during an ADB webinar on Thursday. "The measured losses in learning are several months' worth of schooling, even in the most advanced economies."

The ADB said that projected losses are 28% higher for girls than for boys and 47% higher for the poorest students compared to the richest students.

"Poor students and girls were especially hard hit by school closures, and that's because those two groups had less access to remote instruction during the pandemic, as well as a greater tendency to be pulled out of school in response to economic hardship," Mr. Thomas said.

He also said that there were over 250 million out of school youth before the pandemic, a problem which was further exacerbated by the crisis.

"There are no official estimates of the current number but we know that number has increased, and unfortunately substantially so in some countries," Mr. Thomas said.

"In developing Asia, the projected losses are equivalent to about half a year of learning-adjusted schooling, and this foregone learning will hurt student's ability to earn income as adults," he added.

The lost lifetime earnings of these students were conservatively projected at \$3.2 trillion or 13% of developing Asia's gross domestic product in 2020.

The Philippines was among the last countries to reopen schools physically after a global coronavirus pandemic was declared in 2020.

Estimates by the National Economic and Development Authority indicate that a year of school closures cost about P10.8 trillion in productivity and wage losses over the next 40 years.

Nonetheless, the ADB's impact evaluations have shown "that interventions have been able to mitigate learning losses in some developing country contexts."

For a recovery strategy, ADB proposed periodic student assessments and continuous teacher training.

"A key first step after schools safely reopen is to test students to determine how much knowledge was lost or forgone and at what level to restart instruction, after which attention should focus on regularly tracking the progress of learning," according to an accompanying ADB report.

More concrete measures involve consolidating the curriculum, extending instruction time, and targeting instruction to customized smaller groups within a classroom.

"Teaching based on the student's level, with the help of teaching assistants, tutors, or education technology (edtech), is crucial for learning recovery, as it has proven effective in improving learning outcomes," the ADB report added.

However, this is an uphill battle as only 25% of countries surveyed by the United Nations Children's Fund had a solid learning recovery plan.

"That lack of planning will make it harder to close the gap for developing countries," Mr. Thomas said.

Recently, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. ordered the Department of Education to allow blended learning in some areas of the country, rejecting the agency's plan to return to full face-to-face classes starting November. — **Diego Gabriel C. Robles**

# Senate resolution seeks review of parts of 1987 Constitution impeding growth

A SENATOR has filed a resolution proposing to direct the Senate Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes Committee to conduct a review of the 1987 Constitution, particularly of provisions deemed detrimental to economic growth.

"The 1987 Constitution provides for economic provisions that impede our economic growth because of its restrictions on foreign equity in the exploration, development, and utilization of natural resources, public utilities, build-operate-transfer projects, operation of deep-sea commercial vessels... (as well as) foreigners owning land, equity in mass media and the practice of professions," Senator Robinhood Ferdinand C. Padilla said in Senate Resolution 6.

"These constitutional prohibitions put our country at a disadvantage in competing with neighboring countries in terms of the growing global marketplace of opportunities, unequal access to free trade agreements, and lack of access to foreign capital; hence, there is a compelling need to reform the economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution by removing restrictive provisions that disrupt our sustained economic progress," he added.

Mr. Padilla said economic growth has been "largely centralized" in the capital city and neighboring regions, and called for a study on federalism that devolves policy-making to governments closer to each Filipino.

Federal government, he added, will decentralize immense government power and

address political and economic inequality, ensure fair access to goods and services, and correct the uneven distribution of government resources.

Meanwhile, a shift to a parliamentary system may provide political stability that would prevent unconstitutional decisions such as coups or "mob rule."

In a separate resolution, the senator also urged President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. to resume bilateral talks with China on cooperation in oil and gas development in the South China Sea.

In Senate Resolution 9, he said the Philippines requires a long-term strategy to resolve its oil dependency on foreign suppliers, which has proved detrimental after oil prices rose sharply with the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Mr. Padilla said the new administration has the opportunity to resume bilateral talks with China without abandoning sovereign rights over disputed territory.

"In view of the gains attained from the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) where the GRP (Philippines) and PRC (China) cooperated on the terms provided therein on the gas and oil development in the West Philippine Sea, the new administration can further explore these common interests of cooperation to resolve the country's oil dependency from foreign countries," he added in the resolution.

The previous government terminated oil and gas exploration agreements between the Philippines and China after the failure of attempts to resolve their differences.

"The President had spoken," former Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. said, referring to former President Rodrigo R. Duterte. "I carried out his instructions to the letter: Oil and gas discussions are terminated completely."

"Nothing is pending; everything is over," he added. "Three years on and we have not achieved our objective of developing oil and gas resources so critical for the Philippines — but not at the price of sovereignty; not even a particle of it."

The South China Sea is subject to overlapping territorial claims involving China, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. Each year, trillions of dollars of trade flow through the sea, which is also rich in fish and gas.

Mr. Marcos has said Mr. Duterte's non-confrontational stance with China was "the right way." He has also said he will pursue an independent foreign policy.

Mr. Padilla also filed Senate Bill 229 which seeks to suspend excise taxes on unleaded premium gas, regular gas and diesel, to address the effects of rising oil prices.

If passed, the measure, which seeks to amend Section 148 of the National Internal Revenue Code, will automatically suspend the excise tax for these products once the Mean of Platts Singapore quote on benchmark Dubai crude tops \$80 per barrel for three months. — **Alyssa Nicole O. Tan**



Republika ng Pilipinas  
**LUNGSOD NG MAKATI**  
SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI

### PRESENT:

Councilor	HON. VIRGILIO V. HILARIO, JR. – Temporary Presiding Officer
Councilor	HON. DENNIS B. ALMARIO
Councilor	HON. MARIA DOLORES M. ARAYON
Councilor	HON. MARTIN JOHN PIO Q. ARENAS
Councilor	HON. JOEL M. ARIONES
Councilor	HON. SHIRLEY C. ASPILLAGA
Councilor	HON. BENEDICT B. BANIQUED
Councilor	HON. ARNOLD J. CRUZ
Councilor	HON. LUIS S. JAVIER, JR.
Councilor	HON. EDRALYN M. MARQUEZ
Councilor	HON. CARMINA C. ORTEGA
Councilor	HON. ARMANDO P. PADILLA
Councilor	HON. KRISTINA T. SAROSA
Councilor	HON. JOSE C. VILLENA, IV
Councilor	HON. ANNA ALCINA M. YABUT
SK President	HON. RODOLFO C. SAN PEDRO, JR.

### N.B.

Vice Mayor	HON. MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO – Acting City Mayor
Councilor	HON. RENE ANDREI Q. SAGUISAG, JR. – Vacation Leave
LnB President	HON. MARIBEL F. VITALES – Official Business

### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Secretary to the Sanggunian	ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES
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Upon motion of Hon. M.J.P.Q. Arenas, duly seconded, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati unanimously approved City Ordinance No. 2022-A-010 on third and final reading.

### CITY ORDINANCE NO. 2022-A-010

Authors: Hon. A.P. Padilla, Hon. D.B. Almario, Hon. B.B. Baniqued, Hon. V.V. Hilario, Jr., and Hon. R.A.Q. Saguisag, Jr.

Co-Authors: Hon. M.D.M. Arayon, Hon. M.J.P.Q. Arenas, Hon. J.M. Ariones, Hon. A.J. Cruz, Hon. L.S. Javier, Jr., Hon. E.M. Marquez, Hon. C.C. Ortega, Hon. K.T. Sarosa, Hon. J.C. Villena, IV, Hon. A.A.M. Yabut, Hon. M.F. Vitales and Hon. R.C. San Pedro, Jr.

### AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR C.Y. 2022 OF BARANGAY URDANETA TO BE IN CONFORMITY WITH EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS.

**WHEREAS**, Section 333 (a) of R.A. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that the Sangguniang Panlungsod shall have the power to review barangay ordinances which relate to barangay budgets for the purpose of ensuring that the provisions of the aforementioned law are complied with;

**WHEREAS**, the Sangguniang Barangay of Urdaneta, by virtue of Barangay Appropriation Ordinance No. 001 Series of 2022, approved its Annual Budget for C.Y. 2022, a copy of such barangay ordinance, including its supporting documents, is hereto attached and made an integral part hereof as **Annex "A"**;

**WHEREAS**, the Honorable Members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati extensively reviewed the abovementioned document, including its attachments;

**WHEREAS**, after careful perusal of available documents, it was ruled upon by the Members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati that the proposed Annual Budget for C.Y. 2022 of Barangay Urdaneta is compliant with the minimum requirements as prescribed by existing laws, rules and regulations; hence, this Ordinance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, AS IT IS HEREBY ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWERS VESTED IN IT BY LAW, IN SESSION ASSEMBLED, that:**

**Section 1.** The Annual Budget for C.Y. 2022 of Barangay Urdaneta is hereby declared to be in conformity with existing laws, rules and regulations.

**Section 2.** The *Certification* issued by the Budget Department dated 14 July 2022, which attests that the Annual Budget for C.Y. 2022 of Barangay Urdaneta substantially complies with the provisions of pertinent laws, rules and regulations, is hereby adopted *in toto*, a copy of such *Certification* is hereto attached and made an integral part hereof as **Annex "B"**;

**Section 3.** The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby deemed separable. If any provision hereof should be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 4.** All ordinances, resolutions and executive orders which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 5.** Let copies of this Ordinance be furnished to the Office of the Mayor, Office of the City Administrator, Law Department, Budget Department, Accounting Department, Urban Development Department, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Makati City, Liga ng mga Barangay, Sangguniang Barangay of Urdaneta and other departments, offices, and agencies concerned for their information, guidance and reference.

**Section 6.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

**ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA**, in its Regular Session held on 20 July 2022.

Certified true and correct by:

**ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES**  
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod

Attested by:

**HON. VIRGILIO V. HILARIO, JR.**  
Temporary Presiding Officer  
Member, Sangguniang Panlungsod

Approved by:  
  
**HON. MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO**  
Acting City Mayor