Trump rejects climate change role in CA wildfires

Sacramento – President Donald Trump on Monday asserted that climate change is not playing a role in the catastrophic wildfires overtaking forests across the west, rebuffing an official briefing him who pleaded for the President to listen to the science.

“I don’t think science knows, actually,” Trump said at a Monday briefing with officials in McClellan Park, California, with a laugh.

He told Wade Crowfoot, secretary of California’s Natural Resources Agency: “It’ll start getting cooler. You just watch.”

Crowfoot had warned the President of the dangers of ignoring the science and putting “our head in the sand and thinking that it’s all about vegetation management.”

Climate experts tell CNN due to human-caused climate change, temperature extremes are climbing higher and the vegetation is drier, which affects the fire behavior.

Trump was also directly confronted by the state’s Democratic governor, Gavin Newsom, who has been adamant about climate change’s role in the wildfires, bluntly telling the President: “Climate change is real.”

“We obviously feel very strongly,” Newsom said.

Trump disputes CDC chief on masks, vaccine timeline

Washington — Openly contradicting the government’s top health experts, President Donald Trump predicted Wednesday that a safe and effective vaccine against the coronavirus could be ready as early as next month — and in mass distribution soon after, undermining the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and calling him “confused” in projecting a longer time frame.

Trump also disagreed with Dr. Robert Redfield about the effectiveness of protective masks — which the president recommends but almost never wears — and said he’d telephoned Redfield to tell him so.

Earlier in the day, the CDC sent all 50 states a “playbook” for distribution of a vaccine to all Americans free of cost when one is proven safe and effective — which is not yet the case.

Redfield told a congressional hearing that health care workers, first responders and others at high risk would get the vaccine first, perhaps in January or even late this year, but it was unlikely to be available more broadly, again assuming approval, before late spring or summer.

After Trump’s comments, (See COVID, Page 6)

44 nabbed for jobless claims fraud

Los Angeles — Police have arrested 44 people in Beverly Hills responsible for identity theft and EDD fraud totaling over $2.5 million, said the Beverly Hills Police Department.

Police added that a total of 129 fraudulent California unemployment benefits debit cards have been recovered, and over $289,000 in U.S. currency have been located on the suspects or within their cars.

(See FRAUD, Page 8)

UN rights chief to PH: Stop policies that lead to killing

Manila — The Duterte administration must “revoke the policies” that have led to the rising spate of deaths here in the Philippines, the UN’s High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) said Tuesday at the opening of the 45th Human Rights Council session in Geneva.

High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet made this remark as she expressed concerns about President Rodrigo Duterte’s intention to reinstate the death penalty.

In her statement, Bachelet specifically mentioned both the drug war as well as the recently passed Anti-Terror Bill “with many problematic provisions,” which rights groups feared was being used to justify the arbitrary arrests and killings of human rights defenders and activists.

“There is clearly an urgent need to revoke these policies that continue to result in killings and other human rights violations, to bring to justice the perpetrators, and to halt the use of rhetoric inciting violence against people who use or sell drugs,” Bachelet said.

Bachelet said she was “openly contradicting the government’s top health experts, President Donald Trump predicted Wednesday that a safe and effective vaccine against the coronavirus could be ready as early as next month — and in mass distribution soon after, undermining the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and calling him “confused” in projecting a longer time frame.

Trump also disagreed with Dr. Robert Redfield about the effectiveness of protective masks — which the president recommends but almost never wears — and said he’d telephoned Redfield to tell him so.

Earlier in the day, the CDC sent all 50 states a “playbook” for distribution of a vaccine to all Americans free of cost when one is proven safe and effective — which is not yet the case.

Redfield told a congressional hearing that health care workers, first responders and others at high risk would get the vaccine first, perhaps in January or even late this year, but it was unlikely to be available more broadly, again assuming approval, before late spring or summer.

After Trump’s comments, (See COVID, Page 6)

UN rights chief to PH: Stop policies that lead to killing

Manila — The Duterte administration must “revoke the policies” that have led to the rising spate of deaths here in the Philippines, the UN’s High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) said Tuesday at the opening of the 45th Human Rights Council session in Geneva.

High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet made this remark as she expressed concerns about President Rodrigo Duterte’s intention to reinstate the death penalty.

In her statement, Bachelet specifically mentioned both the drug war as well as the recently passed Anti-Terror Bill “with many problematic provisions,” which rights groups feared was being used to justify the arbitrary arrests and killings of human rights defenders and activists.

“There is clearly an urgent need to revoke these policies that continue to result in killings and other human rights violations, to bring to justice the perpetrators, and to halt the use of rhetoric inciting violence against people who use or sell drugs,” Bachelet said.

Bachelet said she was “openly contradicting the government’s top health experts, President Donald Trump predicted Wednesday that a safe and effective vaccine against the coronavirus could be ready as early as next month — and in mass distribution soon after, undermining the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and calling him “confused” in projecting a longer time frame.

Trump also disagreed with Dr. Robert Redfield about the effectiveness of protective masks — which the president recommends but almost never wears — and said he’d telephoned Redfield to tell him so.

Earlier in the day, the CDC sent all 50 states a “playbook” for distribution of a vaccine to all Americans free of cost when one is proven safe and effective — which is not yet the case.

Redfield told a congressional hearing that health care workers, first responders and others at high risk would get the vaccine first, perhaps in January or even late this year, but it was unlikely to be available more broadly, again assuming approval, before late spring or summer.

After Trump’s comments, (See COVID, Page 6)
Buying or selling a home?
Let me help you.

Buying or selling a property is one of the most important decisions you will make in your life.

Let me guide you in the complex process of a real estate transaction.

VAL G. ABELGAS REALTOR
DRE # 01316485
NRDS # 187519507
(562) 469-8030
valabelgas@aol.com

FOR BUYING, SELLING OR INVESTING, CALL ME TODAY!

5207 Rosemead Blvd.
Pico Rivera, CA 90660
Office: (562) 948-4553
Fax: (562) 948-2806

The highest compliment I can receive is the referral of friends and family. Thank you for your trust.
THE WILDFIRES that have choked California’s skies with smoke in recent weeks — littering cities with ash, wreaking havoc on regional air quality and transforming the sun into an ominous red orb — have now stretched their sooty tendrils to Europe, partially obscuring the Tilikum Crossing Bridge, Saturday, Sept. 18.

Smoke from wildfires partially obscures the Tilikum Crossing Bridge, Saturday, Sept. 18.

Smoke from West Coast fires reach East, Europe

The Jet Stream and carried across the United States, according to the National Weather Service.

There is enough smoke to partially shroud the sun in parts of the East Coast, forecasters said.

“Satellite images this morning show smoke aloft moving over much of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic,” the weather service’s Baltimore-Washington office tweeted Tuesday morning. “This smoke is obscuring the sun, and will keep temperatures a few degrees cooler today than what would be observed if the smoke was not present.”

**NJ attorney charged with PPP loan fraud**

NEWARK, N.J. — A Bergen County, New Jersey, attorney was arrested today and charged with fraudulently obtaining approximately $9 million in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito and Acting Assistant Attorney General Brian C. Rabbitt of the Justice Department’s Criminal Division, announced.

Jae H. Choi, 48, of Cliffside Park, New Jersey, is charged by complaint with three counts of bank fraud and one count of money laundering. He is expected to make his initial appearance by videoconference today before U.S. Magistrate Judge James B. Clark III.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

Choi allegedly submitted three fraudulent PPP loan applications to three different lenders on behalf of three different businesses that purportedly provided educational services. The complaint also alleges that Choi fabricated the existence of hundreds of employees, manipulated bank and tax records, and falsified a driver’s license on the applications.

Choi allegedly falsely represented to the lenders that the companies controlled by him had hundreds of employees and paid over $3 million in monthly wages. Based on Choi’s alleged misrepresentations, each lender funded each of the three businesses with an approximately $3 million PPP loan. As a result, the complaint alleges that Choi received a total of nearly $9 million in federal COVID-19 emergency relief funds meant for distressed small businesses.

Choi allegedly used the fraudulently obtained PPP loan proceeds to pay for numerous personal expenses, including to buy, among other things, a nearly $1 million home in Cresskill, New Jersey, to fund approximately $30,000 in remodeling and other improvements, and to invest millions more in the stock market through an account held in the name of his spouse.

“We’ve had terrible leadership on this issue, quite frankly,” the co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation said. “And science should never be politicized. Science is about getting at the truth. Science is what moves society forward.”

She added that the government has also effectively “neutered” the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), which was “set up originally to give sound medical advice,” rendering it unable to do its job, hence compounding the COVID-19 response.

There are currently more than 6.5 million confirmed COVID-19 cases in the U.S., which outpaces other developing countries like India (4.9 million cases), Brazil (4.3 million cases), and Russia (1 million cases). The lockdowns accompanying the pandemic have resulted in an economic recession, with millions of Americans losing jobs. Nearly 1 in 5 Americans are still worried about losing their job in the next 12 months.

“Consider vaccine coverage, which is a good proxy measure for how health systems are functioning,” the report stated.

“Our data partner, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), found that in 2020, coverage is dropping to levels last seen in the 1990s. In other words, we’ve been set back about 25 years in about 25 weeks.”

**Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates**

Bill Gates described the Trump administration’s response to the coronavirus crisis as “shocking” and “unbelievable” that the United States “would be among the worst in the world.”

“You know, this has been a mismanaged situation every step of the way,” the Microsoft co-founder and billionaire said in an interview with STAT News. “It’s shocking. It’s unbelievable — the fact that we would be among the worst in the world.”

Gates added that the variety of missteps by the U.S. government, from testing to issuing guidance to new hires, were baffling.

“The administration’s now hired this Stanford guy who has no background at all just because he agrees with their conspiracy theories,” Gates said of Dr. Scott Atlas, the President’s new coronavirus advisor.

Melinda Gates, in a separate interview with Axios, concurred with her husband’s opinion.

“We’ve had terrible leadership on this issue, quite frankly,” the co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation said. “And science should never be politicized. Science is about getting at the truth. Science is what moves society forward.”

The administration’s now hired this Stanford guy who has no background at all just because he agrees with their conspiracy theories,” Gates said of Dr. Scott Atlas, the President’s new coronavirus advisor.

Melinda Gates, in a separate interview with Axios, concurred with her husband’s opinion.

“We’ve had terrible leadership on this issue, quite frankly,” the co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation said. “And science should never be politicized. Science is about getting at the truth. Science is what moves society forward.”

She added that the government has also effectively “neutered” the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), which was “set up originally to give sound medical advice,” rendering it unable to do its job, hence compounding the COVID-19 response.

There are currently more than 6.5 million confirmed COVID-19 cases in the U.S., which outpaces other developing countries like India (4.9 million cases), Brazil (4.3 million cases), and Russia (1 million cases). The lockdowns accompanying the pandemic have resulted in an economic recession, with millions of Americans losing jobs. Nearly 1 in 5 Americans are still worried about losing their job in the next 12 months.

“Consider vaccine coverage, which is a good proxy measure for how health systems are functioning,” the report stated.

“Our data partner, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), found that in 2020, coverage is dropping to levels last seen in the 1990s. In other words, we’ve been set back about 25 years in about 25 weeks.”

**Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates**

Foundation said. “And science should never be politicized. Science is about getting at the truth. Science is what moves society forward.”

She added that the government has also effectively “neutered” the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), which was “set up originally to give sound medical advice,” rendering it unable to do its job, hence compounding the COVID-19 response.

There are currently more than 6.5 million confirmed COVID-19 cases in the U.S., which outpaces other developing countries like India (4.9 million cases), Brazil (4.3 million cases), and Russia (1 million cases). The lockdowns accompanying the pandemic have resulted in an economic recession, with millions of Americans losing jobs. Nearly 1 in 5 Americans are still worried about losing their job in the next 12 months.

“Consider vaccine coverage, which is a good proxy measure for how health systems are functioning,” the report stated.

“Our data partner, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), found that in 2020, coverage is dropping to levels last seen in the 1990s. In other words, we’ve been set back about 25 years in about 25 weeks.”

**Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates**

Foundation said. “And science should never be politicized. Science is about getting at the truth. Science is what moves society forward.”

She added that the government has also effectively “neutered” the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), which was “set up originally to give sound medical advice,” rendering it unable to do its job, hence compounding the COVID-19 response.

There are currently more than 6.5 million confirmed COVID-19 cases in the U.S., which outpaces other developing countries like India (4.9 million cases), Brazil (4.3 million cases), and Russia (1 million cases). The lockdowns accompanying the pandemic have resulted in an economic recession, with millions of Americans losing jobs. Nearly 1 in 5 Americans are still worried about losing their job in the next 12 months.

“Consider vaccine coverage, which is a good proxy measure for how health systems are functioning,” the report stated.

“Our data partner, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), found that in 2020, coverage is dropping to levels last seen in the 1990s. In other words, we’ve been set back about 25 years in about 25 weeks.”
PHILIPPINE POST

September 18, 2020

Page 4

Pax Sinica: Xi’s New World Order

ON FEBRUARY 22, 2017, Chinese president Xi Jinping vowed for the first time that China was ready to lead in shaping the “new world order” and safeguarding international security. Xi’s “new world order” which was dubbed the “Two Guides” policy. Immediately, this puts him in stark contrast to U.S. President Donald Trump’s “America First” policy.

Since taking over the presidency after the death of his father in 2012, Xi’s “Chinese Dream” of reviving Imperial China that has maintained its position as the world’s top economic power for more than a century got underway. The “Great Ming” was the last imperial dynasty of China ruled by the Manchus. During the Ming dynasty, the Chinese tributary system was institutionalized to advantage the great political power of China at the time. The seven maritime expeditions of Admiral Zheng He’s fleet of 624 ships (which had sailed 70,000 nautical miles and visited 300 ports) was led by Zhong He projected the imperial power of the Ming dynasty across Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. In 1523 the government ordered the building of a fleet of all its voyaging vessels. The greatest navy in history, which once had 3,500 ships, was down to 193 (by 2019 only 296, was gone). For the next five centuries, China never stepped back into the sea. Xi’s China naval strategy

In 1982, Admiral Liu Huaqing, then commander-in-chief of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy and the main architect of China’s modern naval strategy, said that it would be necessary for China to control the First and Second Islands Chains by 2016 and 2020. The First Island Chain runs from Japan all the way to the Vietnam by way of Taiwan, Philipines, Borneo, and Malaysia. The PLA Navy has to balance US domination over the Western Pacific and the Indian Ocean in 2040. Currently, China has seven nuclear-powered submarines. The PLA Navy has 26 submarines including 14 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines that have capability to put 100 Trident II D-5 missiles out a medium-size nation with 100 Trident II D-5 missiles.

Indeed, the only thing that’s stopping China from making it an imperialist ambitions is America’s Trident II D-5 missiles. China thus has the potential to launch a range of 4,000 nautical miles in each Ohio-class submarine for a total of 264 missiles.

It is interesting to note that during the summit meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Barack Obama in California June 2013, Xi told the media that the and Obama were meeting to “chart the future of China-US relations and draw a blueprint for this relationship.” Then he added: “The vast Pacific Ocean has enough space for two football fields. China and United States.” But Xi had

the world remains hopelessly divided into nation-states. With the U.S. retreating from its global responsibilities, China is ready to pick up the slack.

Modernity and its enemies

By Randy David

INTHOSE crucial days in mid-December last year when the first cases of the novel coronavirus began appearing in Wuhan, China — perhaps unable to be taken seriously by the hospital authorities required them to immediately report the matter to the local Communist Party bureau while keeping the information in the strictest confidence. Wuhan, in the south, is the capital of the province of Hubei. The city is home to one of the first doctors to notice the strange pneumonia among his patients (and by 2020, we know it was COVID-19) took it upon himself to report the matter to the local authorities in the presence of two doctors at the Wuhan Medical School in 2019. For his brave action, he was put under surveillance by the local Public Security Bureau officials for 21 days, and then put under house arrest. He was put under house arrest. He was under surveillance by the local authorities, and was able to contact his lawyers for the first time on February 6, 2020. He was able to contact his lawyers for the first time on February 6, 2020.

I was quite surprised when this information came out in Wuhan, China — perhaps unable to be taken seriously by the hospital authorities required them to immediately report the matter to the local Communist Party bureau while keeping the information in the strictest confidence. Wuhan, in the south, is the capital of the province of Hubei. The city is home to one of the first doctors to notice the strange pneumonia among his patients (and by 2020, we know it was COVID-19) took it upon himself to report the matter to the local authorities in the presence of two doctors at the Wuhan Medical School in 2019. He was put under surveillance by the local Public Security Bureau officials for 21 days, and then put under house arrest. He was able to contact his lawyers for the first time on February 6, 2020.

I was quite surprised when this information came out in Wuhan, China — perhaps unable to be taken seriously by the hospital authorities required them to immediately report the matter to the local Communist Party bureau while keeping the information in the strictest confidence. Wuhan, in the south, is the capital of the province of Hubei. The city is home to one of the first doctors to notice the strange pneumonia among his patients (and by 2020, we know it was COVID-19) took it upon himself to report the matter to the local authorities in the presence of two doctors at the Wuhan Medical School in 2019. He was put under surveillance by the local Public Security Bureau officials for 21 days, and then put under house arrest. He was able to contact his lawyers for the first time on February 6, 2020.

I was quite surprised when this information came out in Wuhan, China — perhaps unable to be taken seriously by the hospital authorities required them to immediately report the matter to the local Communist Party bureau while keeping the information in the strictest confidence. Wuhan, in the south, is the capital of the province of Hubei. The city is home to one of the first doctors to notice the strange pneumonia among his patients (and by 2020, we know it was COVID-19) took it upon himself to report the matter to the local authorities in the presence of two doctors at the Wuhan Medical School in 2019. He was put under surveillance by the local Public Security Bureau officials for 21 days, and then put under house arrest. He was able to contact his lawyers for the first time on February 6, 2020.

I was quite surprised when this information came out in Wuhan, China — perhaps unable to be taken seriously by the hospital authorities required them to immediately report the matter to the local Communist Party bureau while keeping the information in the strictest confidence. Wuhan, in the south, is the capital of the province of Hubei. The city is home to one of the first doctors to notice the strange pneumonia among his patients (and by 2020, we know it was COVID-19) took it upon himself to report the matter to the local authorities in the presence of two doctors at the Wuhan Medical School in 2019. He was put under surveillance by the local Public Security Bureau officials for 21 days, and then put under house arrest. He was able to contact his lawyers for the first time on February 6, 2020.

I was quite surprised when this information came out in Wuhan, China — perhaps unable to be taken seriously by the hospital authorities required them to immediately report the matter to the local Communist Party bureau while keeping the information in the strictest confidence. Wuhan, in the south, is the capital of the province of Hubei. The city is home to one of the first doctors to notice the strange pneumonia among his patients (and by 2020, we know it was COVID-19) took it upon himself to report the matter to the local authorities in the presence of two doctors at the Wuhan Medical School in 2019. He was put under surveillance by the local Public Security Bureau officials for 21 days, and then put under house arrest. He was able to contact his lawyers for the first time on February 6, 2020.

I was quite surprised when this information came out in Wuhan, China — perhaps unable to be taken seriously by the hospital authorities required them to immediately report the matter to the local Communist Party bureau while keeping the information in the strictest confidence. Wuhan, in the south, is the capital of the province of Hubei. The city is home to one of the first doctors to notice the strange pneumonia among his patients (and by 2020, we know it was COVID-19) took it upon himself to report the matter to the local authorities in the presence of two doctors at the Wuhan Medical School in 2019. He was put under surveillance by the local Public Security Bureau officials for 21 days, and then put under house arrest. He was able to contact his lawyers for the first time on February 6, 2020.

I was quite surprised when this information came out in Wuhan, China — perhaps unable to be taken seriously by the hospital authorities required them to immediately report the matter to the local Communist Party bureau while keeping the information in the strictest confidence. Wuhan, in the south, is the capital of the province of Hubei. The city is home to one of the first doctors to notice the strange pneumonia among his patients (and by 2020, we know it was COVID-19) took it upon himself to report the matter to the local authorities in the presence of two doctors at the Wuhan Medical School in 2019. He was put under surveillance by the local Public Security Bureau officials for 21 days, and then put under house arrest. He was able to contact his lawyers for the first time on February 6, 2020.

I was quite surprised when this information came out in Wuhan, China — perhaps unable to be taken seriously by the hospital authorities required them to immediately report the matter to the local Communist Party bureau while keeping the information in the strictest confidence. Wuhan, in the south, is the capital of the province of Hubei. The city is home to one of the first doctors to notice the strange pneumonia among his patients (and by 2020, we know it was COVID-19) took it upon himself to report the matter to the local authorities in the presence of two doctors at the Wuhan Medical School in 2019. He was put under surveillance by the local Public Security Bureau officials for 21 days, and then put under house arrest. He was able to contact his lawyers for the first time on February 6, 2020.

I was quite surprised when this information came out in Wuhan, China — perhaps unable to be taken seriously by the hospital authorities required them to immediately report the matter to the local Communist Party bureau while keeping the information in the strictest confidence. Wuhan, in the south, is the capital of the province of Hubei. The city is home to one of the first doctors to notice the strange pneumonia among his patients (and by 2020, we know it was COVID-19) took it upon himself to report the matter to the local authorities in the presence of two doctors at the Wuhan Medical School in 2019. He was put under surveillance by the local Public Security Bureau officials for 21 days, and then put under house arrest. He was able to contact his lawyers for the first time on February 6, 2020.

I was quite surprised when this information came out in Wuhan, China — perhaps unable to be taken seriously by the hospital authorities required them to immediately report the matter to the local Communist Party bureau while keeping the information in the strictest confidence. Wuhan, in the south, is the capital of the province of Hubei. The city is home to one of the first doctors to notice the strange pneumonia among his patients (and by 2020, we know it was COVID-19) took it upon himself to report the matter to the local authorities in the presence of two doctors at the Wuhan Medical School in 2019. He was put under surveillance by the local Public Security Bureau officials for 21 days, and then put under house arrest. He was able to contact his lawyers for the first time on February 6, 2020.
The economic consequences of dictatorship
By Tony La Vina/Manila Standard

ONE OF THE MANY myths peddled by Marcos apologists and martial law fanatics is that the Marcos dictatorial rule brought about a booming economy and the country was enjoying its halcyon days contrary to what economic experts tell us. They also claim that the declaration of martial law was a historical necessity, a matter of survival for the nation.

In his essay entitled “The political economy under martial law” which is now part of the compilation of writings Not On Our Watch by former members of the League of Editors for a Democratic Society (LEADS), Calixto V. Chikiamco, former editor in chief of The Locsin at La Salle, and a member of the Samahang DZEKTRANGGAN KABUHAN (SDDK)-La Salle Chapter during his activist days, dispelled one of the persistent fallacies about the declaration of martial law, that it was declared to stamp out Communist rebellion.

For him, martial law was not a historical accident but merely a logical extension of a politico-economic system based on rent-seeking elite in order to monopolize the economic system and to stifle any resistance from the State. It represented the response of a faction of the rent-seeking elite to the grave political and economic crisis into which the country was plunged after the presidential elections of 1972.

Under a compliant Central Bank, which was not institutionally independent from the Executive at that time, Marcos printed money. The inevitable result after the election was rampant inflation and another foreign exchange crisis. The resulting economic crisis produced tremendous hardship.

Monopolies, which dominated the economy, simply passed on the costs of the crisis to the consumers. The Filipino consumer, who only recently learned of the hardship of the working class, nationwide, was told to expect only higher prices. Unemployment and inflation reached more than 20 percent.

In the Philippines, the 1970s became known as the era of “debt-driven growth.” Marcos stylecrony capitalism became the dominant feature of the economy. The internal dynamics of a rent-seeking system, where control of the State produced enormous economic privilege, led him to that decision.

Martial law eliminated political and expanded the monopolistic privileges of its faction, Chikiamco wrote.

According to him, the “law of motion” then of the country’s rent-seeking system lead to the imposition of martial law.

The imposition of martial law did not just “fall from the skies,” according to him. It represented the logical development of the historical forces that had birthed and shaped the country’s rent-seeking system.

Our other interesting aspect of the Marcos rule is presented by Victor Manurang in his essay “Marcos’s Legacy to the Nation” where he recounts his experiences as a long-time executive of Ayala Corporation, one of the preeminent conglomerates in the country then and now.

Well researched and documented treatises have been published on how the regime and its allies concentrated control of the Philippine’s major export products, such as sugar and coconut, in their own hands then manipulated the prices of those commodities to levels that encouraged other countries to produce them (or their substitutes) more efficiently, and eventually displace us in the world markets, leading to the irreparable collapse of entire Philippine industries, he wrote.

Manurang worked with the Ayala Group for a long time, initially at corporate planning at Ayala Corporation and later at corporate planning and project management. He learned a lot about business management, but also sniffs about corporate survival and opportunism in the crisis atmosphere of martial law.

According to him executive lunchroom talk included how members of the owning family sought to protect themselves as they realized that Marcos and his cronies were grabbing Philippine business groups left and right. They brought in very influential strategic partners as stockholders.

The strategy must have worked because neither of the Ayala flagships was threatened during the Marcos regime. Some after Marcos was ousted in 1986, President Corazon Aquino sequenced the television (See DICTATORSHIP, Page 7)

It’s been 6 months since Covid changed our lives completely
By Zachary B. Wolf/ CNN

SIX MONTHS ago when it really hit that Covid was going to upset everything.

Here’s what we wrote back in March.

‘Thought coronavirus was no big deal if you thought it was going to go away, wake up. Your life is about to change.’

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, issued a disturbing warning during a White House briefing Tuesday: “Americans, you need to change the way they live their lives. Right now.

‘Would you like the country to realize that as a nation, we can’t be doing the kinds of things we were doing a few months ago. It doesn’t matter if you’re in a state that has no cases or one case,’ Fauci said.

We really had no idea – and no way to imagine – how much things would change. Back then, China was coping to very few deaths. There were just a few hundred known cases in the US.

Stay-at-home orders hadn’t yet started; restaurants were still open everywhere, people were going to school and to work every day. Americans everywhere needed to go back to normal life for a couple of weeks? Remember when we thought it would be for a couple of weeks?

In another six months, we’ll have lived through an election and an inauguration. We don’t yet know whether things will be back to like anything normal for most Americans by then.

In the past few days, we’ve learned that President Donald Trump was knowingly misleading everyone about the severity of the virus to maintain power. We’ll be studying the failure of government leadership that allowed so much death for a long time, maybe for the rest of the history of this country.

Nightmares become normal. Not in nightmares would we have thought six months ago that nearly 1 billion people would have died from Covid worldwide or that nearly 200,000 of them would be Americans.

And another 200 million Americans could be dead by the end of the year.

Nor did we imagine that the US economy would be teetering, even after a bipartisan agreement to spend trillions on relief. Or that 30 million people would be out of work.

(See COVID, Page 16)
COVID: Trump disputes health officials

(From Page 1)

CDC officials said Wednesday night that the director had thought he was answering a question about when vaccination of all Americans might be completed. Redfield, masked at times in a Senate hearing room, also spoke emphatically of the importance of wearing protective masks to stop the pandemic, which has killed nearly 200,000 Americans.

He floated the possibility that a vaccine might be 70% effective in inducing immunity, and said: “I might even go so far as to say that this face mask is more guaranteed to protect me against COVID than this face mask is more guaranteed to protect me against COVID than...”

Trump would have none of that from CDC director Redfield.

“Vaccine is much more effective than the mask,” he declared.

As for vaccinating Americans, Trump said Wednesday, “We think we can start sometime in October.” One of his recently added advisers, Dr. Scott Atlas, said a 300 million doses could be available by the end of March.

Trump made the prediction even though the vaccine is still being tested in human subjects, and some health experts have said they believe a safe and highly effective vaccine is seven months away, if not much longer.

CDC sent a planning document on Wednesday to U.S. states, territories and some big cities. Adding to logistical complications, vaccines likely will have to be given in two doses spaced weeks apart and will have to be refrigerated.

Redfield said states are not ready to deal with the demand for such a distribution and some $6 billion in new funding would be needed to get the nation prepared. Unwaved, Trump said, “We’re ready to move, and I think it will be full distribution.”

Redfield said any vaccine available in November or December would be in “very limited supply,” and reserved for first responders and people most vulnerable to COVID-19. The shots would be broadly available until the spring or summer 2021, he estimated.

The entire vaccine enterprise faces continued public skepticism. Only about half of Americans said they’d get vaccinated in an Associated Press-NORC poll taken in May. Since then, questions have only mounted about whether the government is trying to rush treatments and vaccines to help Trump’s reelection chances.

Redfield said the CDC and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Department announced Wednesday that political appointee Michael Caputo would take a leave of absence to “focus on his health and the well-being of his family.” The news followed revelations that Caputo had tried to gain editorial control over the CDC’s scientific publications on COVID-19, which he contended were hurting the Trump administration.

Redfield said the “scientific integrity” of his agency’s reports “has never been compromised and it will not be compromised under my watch.” He also rejected questions about whether the CDC’s timeline for states to be ready for a vaccine by Nov. 1 was overly motivated.

“The worst thing that could happen is if we have a vaccine delivered and its still not ready to distribute,” Redfield told Senate lawmakers. “There was absolutely no political motivations about it.”

Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the committee’s top Democrat, expressed concern with the political interference from HHS that damaged public trust in the government’s health information.

“The Trump administration needs to leave the science to the scientists immediately,” Murray said.

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden said while campaigning that he trusts what scientists say about a potential vaccine. “I believe in science.”

Biden has said he would take a vaccine tomorrow if it were available but he would want to “see what the scientists said first” as for the rollout of the vaccine campaign. Redfield said his agency will be working with state health officials to implement the preparations in coming days.

MODERNITY: Its enemies

(From Page 4)

In this July 12, 2019 photo, former Ombudsman Conchita Carpio joins Del Rosario, Morales in ICC rap vs China.

Carpio joins Del Rosario, Morales in ICC rap vs China

PHILIPPINE POST

MANILA — Retired Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio will be joining former Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario and former Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales in their complaint against China before the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Del Rosario confirmed this latest development after a virtual forum organized by Stratbase ADR Institute on Wednesday.

The former DFA chief said they will be submitting additional information to the ICC within the week.

“Justice Carpio’s unparalleled wisdom and expertise in the South China Sea issues stand as a welcome boost in confidence in the case and will surely bolster our chances in the ICC,” Carpio-Morales said.

According to Del Rosario, they demonstrated in their response to the ICC that the alleged crimes of Chinese President Xi Jinping and other Chinese officials occurred in Philippine territorial seas, particularly the coast of Luzon.

Del Rosario stressed that Beijing’s navigation and artificial island-building in Subi Reef is within the territorial seas of the Philippines, which is under the jurisdiction of the municipality of Calayan in Palawan province.

China’s blockade of the territorial sea of Scarborough or Panatag Shoal of also affected the livelihoods Filipino fishermen living along the coast of Luzon.

The complaint also pointed out that hundreds of Chinese militia vessels located circling Pag-asa Island’s vicinity from 2018 to 2019 were meant to harass Filipinos living on the island. Pag-asa Island is one of the largest features of the Spratly Islands.

The ramming of Filipino fishing boat Gem near Recto Bank last year also falls within ICC jurisdiction, since the Chinese crime was committed against a Philippines-flagged vessel, Del Rosario added.

Del Rosario and Morales also added executives of state-owned telecommunications firm China Communications Construction Company, which is also involved in the Sangley airport project, as its subsidiaries took part in the activities in the West Philippine Sea.

This former ombudsman said they are pursuing the case to demand accountability from China for the environmental damage suffered by Besigye’s seizure of land and waters, as well as near- permanent destruction of marine environment in the area.

While the Duterte administration has failed to confront China’s crimes against Filipinos, we are currently helpless in seeking ways to speak and act against the criminal clowns that are a part of the China government,” Morales said.

Russia seeks to stop Biden from winning - FBI chief

WASHINGTON -- Russia is seeking to influence the U.S. election to keep Democrat Joe Biden from winning, the FBI chief told lawmakers Thursday.

 Moscow is carrying out efforts “to sow discord in the U.S. primarily to discredit Vice President Biden and what the Russians see as an anti-Russian establishment,” Wray told lawmakers during a House Homeland Security Committee hearing on threats to the nation.

Russia continues to try to influence our elections, primarily through social media and influence operations, FBI Director Christopher Wray warned Thursday. Moscow is carrying out efforts “to sow discord in the U.S. primarily to discredit Vice President Biden and what the Russians see as an anti-Russian establishment,” Wray told lawmakers during a House Homeland Security Committee hearing on threats to the nation.

Wray said Russia “continues to try to influence our elections, primarily through social media and influence operations, FBI Director Christopher Wray warned Thursday. Moscow is carrying out efforts “to sow discord in the U.S. primarily to discredit Vice President Biden and what the Russians see as an anti-Russian establishment,” Wray told lawmakers during a House Homeland Security Committee hearing on threats to the nation.

MODERNITY: Its enemies

In sociology, the term used is “functional differentiation.” As societies evolve and become more complex, they develop differentiated social institutions. Functional differentiation increasingly takes precedence over traditional forms of differentiation like segmentation and stratification. What we call modernity is none other than the primacy of functional differentiation.

Today, we are in the midst of an era when some of the most fundamental social functions—science, education, mass media, the economy, art, and, to some extent, law and religion—are carried out by a number of specialized institutions, or “nation-states.” Nations are probably the last expressions of segmented differentiation, the way families, clans, and ethnic loyalties were in more traditional societies. The world remains divided into nation-states.

We see this in the way governments of the world—most powerful countries instrumentalize their scientific communities and economic organizations by subjecting them to the necessities of state power, as well as the dangers game they are playing.

We must all beware.
Hontiveros says gov’t lost P1B in overprices PPE sets

MANILA – Senator Risa Hontiveros on Wednesday flagged the government’s purchase of five million personal protective equipment (PPE) sets, mostly from Chinese firms, which she said were allegedly overpriced by at least P1 billion.

In a statement, Hontiveros said seven government procurement sets were awarded to China-based companies by the Department of Budget and Management Procurement Service (PS-DBM) from April to May this year.

She criticized the procurement of foreign companies instead of local ones. “To make matters worse, in a procurement process we analyzed, it appears that the PPE prices were overpriced by at least P200 per unit or P1 billion in total,” the senator said.

She said that the Philippine General Hospital had estimated that PPE sets range from P1,200-P1,500. The price of the PPE based on the PS-DBM range from P1,700-P2,000, she pointed out.

“Priced at 1,700 each, the cheapest PPE sets the DBM procured from April to May were sourced from Philippine-based firm Hafid N’ Erasmus Corporation, according to the senator.

But she lamented that only 30,000 sets were identified from the said company while more PPE sets from foreign firms were bought.

She said one million sets for P1,908 per unit and an additional 250,000 sets for P2,060 each were procured from Xuzhou; 588,000 sets for P1979.56 per unit from China; 200,000 sets for P1923 per unit from Shanghai Puheng; some 42,000 sets for P1,980.50 per unit and an additional 800,000 sets for P1,923 per unit were bought from Wen Hua; and 28,000 sets for P1,900 per unit from Pacific Field.

“Crucially, the one billion pesos could have also been allocated to increase the salaries of our health workers,” she added.

She also questioned why Chinese-based companies were supposedly prioritized in the procurement of PPE sets.

She said that of the five million PPE sets, almost three million were sourced from Chinese companies, including Xuzhou Const. Machinery Group, Wen Hua Dev’l Industrial Co., Ltd., Chubao Company Ltd., Pacific Field (Hong Kong) Ltd., and Shanghai Puheng Medical Equipment Co., Ltd.

“Time when local companies are struggling, this is a big insult to them that foreign companies are being awarded supply contracts by the government,” she said in Filipino.

The senator said she was not opposing the use of foreign companies for medical supplies but could come up with more efficient government measures.

Sen. Risa Hontiveros

WILDFIRES: Trump says climate change

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Justice Department said on Wednesday it has charged five Chinese residents and two Malaysian businessmen with hacking crimes to profit from computer intrusions targeting videogame companies in the United States.

U.S. officials stopped short of alleging the hackers were working on behalf of Beijing, but in a statement Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen expressed exasperation with Chinese authorities, saying they were – at the very least – turning a blind eye to cyber-espionage.

“Without compromising the integrity of any ongoing legal process, suffice to say that the company has never engaged in any illegal activity,” it said, adding that it was cooperating with authorities.

A solitary firefighter surveys the Bobcat Fire at the Los Angeles National Forest.

A solitary firefighter surveys the Bobcat Fire at the Los Angeles National Forest.

A solitary firefighter surveys the Bobcat Fire at the Los Angeles National Forest.

A solitary firefighter surveys the Bobcat Fire at the Los Angeles National Forest.


US charges seven in Chinese hacking effort

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Justice Department said on Wednesday it has charged five Chinese residents and two Malaysian businessmen with hacking crimes to profit from computer intrusions targeting videogame companies in the United States.

U.S. officials stopped short of alleging the hackers were working on behalf of Beijing, but in a statement Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen expressed exasperation with Chinese authorities, saying they were – at the very least – turning a blind eye to cyber-espionage.

“Without compromising the integrity of any ongoing legal process, suffice to say that the company has never engaged in any illegal activity,” it said, adding that it was cooperating with authorities.

A solitary firefighter surveys the Bobcat Fire at the Los Angeles National Forest.

A solitary firefighter surveys the Bobcat Fire at the Los Angeles National Forest.

A solitary firefighter surveys the Bobcat Fire at the Los Angeles National Forest.

A solitary firefighter surveys the Bobcat Fire at the Los Angeles National Forest.


US charges seven in Chinese hacking effort

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Justice Department said on Wednesday it has charged five Chinese residents and two Malaysian businessmen with hacking crimes to profit from computer intrusions targeting videogame companies in the United States.

U.S. officials stopped short of alleging the hackers were working on behalf of Beijing, but in a statement Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen expressed exasperation with Chinese authorities, saying they were – at the very least – turning a blind eye to cyber-espionage.

“Without compromising the integrity of any ongoing legal process, suffice to say that the company has never engaged in any illegal activity,” it said, adding that it was cooperating with authorities.

A solitary firefighter surveys the Bobcat Fire at the Los Angeles National Forest.

A solitary firefighter surveys the Bobcat Fire at the Los Angeles National Forest.

A solitary firefighter surveys the Bobcat Fire at the Los Angeles National Forest.

A solitary firefighter surveys the Bobcat Fire at the Los Angeles National Forest.


US charges seven in Chinese hacking effort

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Justice Department said on Wednesday it has charged five Chinese residents and two Malaysian businessmen with hacking crimes to profit from computer intrusions targeting videogame companies in the United States.

U.S. officials stopped short of alleging the hackers were working on behalf of Beijing, but in a statement Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen expressed exasperation with Chinese authorities, saying they were – at the very least – turning a blind eye to cyber-espionage.

“Without compromising the integrity of any ongoing legal process, suffice to say that the company has never engaged in any illegal activity,” it said, adding that it was cooperating with authorities.
US scientists raise La Nina alert

MANILA — US climate scientists have raised the La Niña alert, bringing hope of rains coming to replenish the stock in Angat Dam and saving Metro Manila from a water crisis.

La Niña is a weather phenomenon that causes very dry conditions in the eastern Pacific — the western coast of the Americas — but very wet conditions in the west, including the areas around the Philippines.

It is rainy season in the Philippines, but there has been little rain in recent weeks and the hot weather has been drying up Angat Dam in Bulacan province, which supplies water to the capital and nearby provinces.

On Monday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geological and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) reported that the water level in the dam fell below 180 msl in September, and has been dropping every day for the last three months.

PAGASA also said that the two climate centers placed the probability of La Niña developing fully at 60 percent in the following three months. That means heavy rains may start coming in September, though PAGASA has been reporting only low pressure and monsoon effects in recent days.

Metro supply steady

When the water level at Angat falls below the rule curve, the first to get its supply reduced is the 218-megawatt Angat hydropower plant.

Next to go is the water supply for irrigating farms in the region. For September, the National Water Resources Board has set the supply for use of the two Metro Manila water distributors — Maynilad Water Services Inc. and Manila Water Co. Inc. —at normal flow of 46 cubic meters per second.

Sevillo David Jr., the water board’s executive director, said Metro Manila’s water supply was being kept steady even if the water level at Angat had fallen below operating level as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 outbreak.

DIAZ: Xi’s dream of New World Order

domination, which uses debt as a tool of control. Or, is it a new global development platform to propel its much-heralded “win-win” diplomacy?

Indeed, China’s “win-win” diplomacy is the result of its “soft power” approach to winning friends. In 1990, Harvard University scholar Joseph S. Nye Jr. coined “soft power” that is meant for a country to get other countries to “want what it wants.” Nye emphasized that a “country’s perceived legitimacy, attractiveness of ideology and culture, and societal norms play an important role in shaping international politics.” Xi has used “soft power” to pursue his “Chinese Dream” and he’s been extraordinarily successful in achieving it.

But there is a flaw in the calculus. While it might look like a “win-win” scenario, a lot of countries that fell for China’s “soft power” enticements will end up indebted to China. Unable to repay their debt, China would then foreclose the collateral. Take for instance the Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka that was financed by China. Unable to repay the financing, Sri Lanka defaulted and subsequently gave a 99-year lease to China, evidently the result of debt-trap diplomacy.

It is not the only one who fell into China’s “debt-trap diplomacy.” A recent report said that at least 16 countries are vulnerable to China’s economic coercion, including Kenya, Pakistan, Zambia, Djibouti, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, Tonga, Micronesia, Vanuatu, and the Philippines.

Another project that would soon follow the fate of Sri Lanka is Kenya. If Kenya fails to begin repayment of a $2.3 billion loan for Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC), China would seize the Kilindini Harbor, the biggest port in East Africa, which was the collateral for the Chinese loan. The massive construction loan was the result of Kenya participating in OBOR. But the problem was that the feasibility studies were performed by China, which might have estimated high revenue to be able to service the loan. This led to fears of Kenya’s inability to repay the loan, which would trigger the seizure of the collateral. Should there be any disputes with the Chinese bank, it would be handled through an arbitration process in China, not in Kenyan courts.

Economic war

Last February 28, Elon Musk of Tesla and SpaceX fame predicted that the Chinese economy will eventually surpass the U.S. by at least two-fold, which would up the ante between the two nations’ massive militaries. “The foundation of war is economics,” Musk said.

With the U.S. retreating from its global responsibilities, China is ready to pick up the slack. No need to go to war. After all the U.S. is retreating. As Sun Tzu said in his Art of War, “The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.” And by the looks of it, China is winning the war with its economic power, not military power.

At the end of the day, Xi Jinping’s dream of Pax Sinica, a New World Order would soon come to fruition. What’s Donald Trump or whoever his successor is going to do about it?
There are now 272,934 cases of the COVID-19 virus, after 3,550 new infections were recorded, the Department of Health (DOH) said Wednesday.

The latest data of the DOH as of Sept. 16 showed that of the total number of cases, 60,344 are considered active cases. Of the active cases, 87.7 percent are mild cases, 8.4 percent are asymptomatic cases, 2.7 percent are critical cases, and 1.2 percent are severe cases.

Metro Manila still has the most number of new cases with 1,459, followed by Cebu with 271, Cavite with 196, and Bulacan and Laguna both having 172 cases. The DOH also reported 524 new COVID-19 survivors and 69 new fatalities, bringing the total to 207,858 and 4,732, respectively.

In some areas, the agency’s COVID-19 Action Team Department “for their failure to act and gross neglect of duties relative to the cases pending in their department.” However, no charges were recommended against both Duque and Del Rosario by the task force led by the Department of Justice.

“Perhaps the Ombudsman would have a better perspective of the anomalies,” Sotto went on. Duque, who serves as PhilHealth board’s ex-officio chairman, has since dismissed the Senate committee’s findings as “baseless.”

The health chief said he was implicated with the IRM fund distribution when he “was not even part of the deliberation and did not sign the said resolution that authorized it. But Sotto had stressed that Duque’s own admission that he had no knowledge of the allegedly anomalous distribution of IRM funds only proves that he had been negligent as PhilHealth board chair.

The report, which examined the documents relating to the drug war, found “a troubling lack of due process protections, and the use of language calling for ‘negation’ and ‘neutralization’ of drug suspects.”

While Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra rejected the OHCHR’s concerns, he promised to undertake an internal investigation into some 5,655 drug raids conducted under “Oplan Tokhang” in 2016.

The OHCHR Bachelet said, was still seeking details from the Philippine government regarding its promised internal police investigation.

Anyone with information about this crime trend is asked to call the Beverly Hills Police Department at 310-285-2125.
She was able to get a visa to take Sciences and got her master’s in nursing homes and assisted living attended to 99 patients in various Health Plan of California and older brother, Xerxes, died in an Intensive Care Unit of Hospital after being infected by an elderly patient in a nursing home Covid-19 last Sept. 5 at the Hoag Chito Parazo, succumbed to practitioner and only daughter of is gone.

LOS ANGELES -- The Los Angeles Community College District, the largest in the nation, will remain online-only for the rest of the academic year amid the region’s ongoing coronavirus public health crisis, the system’s chancellor has announced.

There will be a few exceptions for classes that support the “essential infrastructure workforce,” such as those training respiratory therapists, certified nurse assistants and electricians, among others.

“We remain in a declared public health emergency at the national, state and local level, and, given the current health orders, safety protocols and restrictions, our best health experts agree that we are still far from full recovery without a vaccine or responsive therapeutics,” Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez said in a letter to faculty and staff Friday night.

Rodriguez’s announcement follows a similar one by the California State University system, as colleges across California and the nation grapple with COVID-19 outbreaks on campuses and in nearby communities.

LOS ANGELES -- Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti on Sunday pushed back on President Donald Trump’s frequent characterization of wildfires, like those currently ravaging the West Coast, as simply a forest management issue.

“It was very clear that years of drought, as we’re seeing, whether it’s too much water and too much rain in parts of our country right now, or too little,” Garcetti told CNN’s Jake Tapper on “State of the Union.” “This is climate change and this is an administration that’s put its head in the sand.”

Slamming the administration as hosting “the last vestiges of the flat Earth society of this generation,” Garcetti called for “real action.”

“We need to reduce the carbon emissions that we have, and we need to make sure we can manage that water,” he added. “This is not about just forest management or raking. Anybody who lives here in California is insulted by that, quite frankly, and (Trump) keeps perpetrating this.”

Garcetti’s comments come a day after the White House announced Trump will visit California Monday. The President mentioned the wildfires during a speech at a rally Saturday night -- after weeks of remaining largely silent on the historically devastating fires that have killed over 200 people and burned more than 3 million acres in California -- but did not speak on the climate crisis, an omission that is often a point of contention among his critics.

Trump told rallygoers in Tustin, California -- Another Filipino front liner in the fight against the coronavirus is gone.

Nueva V. Parazo, a nurse practitioner and only daughter of retired Manila Bulletin reporter Chito Parazo, succumbed to Covid-19 last Sept. 5 at the Hoag Hospital after being infected by an elderly patient in a nursing home in Orange County. She spent 32 days in the Intensive Care Unit of Hoag Hospital. She was 45.

Parazo was born on Oct. 28, 1975 in the Philippines. Her older brother, Xerxes, died in an accident in 1984 at the age of 9.

She worked for CareMore Health Plan of California and attended to 99 patients in various nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout Orange County. Parazo graduated with a nursing degree cum laude from the Philippine College of Health Sciences and got her masters degree from the same school. She was able to get a visa to take

The selected Mabuhay Community Heroes will be awarded with a $50 gift card plus an additional $50 deposit towards their Mabuhay Credit Union account! The first three months are listed below:

- October - Health Care workers; Caregivers
- November - Agriculture & Food Production; Energy & Gas; Water & Telecom
- December - Community Volunteer; Child/ Senior care

For more information please contact us at philippinepost@aol.com.

LA mayor refutes Trump’s response to CA wildfires

Garcetti called for "real action.

“We need to reduce the carbon emissions that we have, and we need to make sure we can manage that water,” he added. “This is not about just forest management or raking. Anybody who lives here in California is insulted by that, quite frankly, and (Trump) keeps perpetrating this.”

Garcetti’s comments come a day after the White House announced Trump will visit California Monday. The President mentioned the wildfires during a speech at a rally Saturday night -- after weeks of remaining largely silent on the historically devastating fires that have killed over 200 people and burned more than 3 million acres in California -- but did not speak on the climate crisis, an omission that is often a point of contention among his critics.

Trump told rallygoers in Tustin, California -- Another Filipino front liner in the fight against the coronavirus is gone.

Nueva V. Parazo, a nurse practitioner and only daughter of retired Manila Bulletin reporter Chito Parazo, succumbed to Covid-19 last Sept. 5 at the Hoag Hospital after being infected by an elderly patient in a nursing home in Orange County. She spent 32 days in the Intensive Care Unit of Hoag Hospital. She was 45.

Parazo was born on Oct. 28, 1975 in the Philippines. Her older brother, Xerxes, died in an accident in 1984 at the age of 9.

She worked for CareMore Health Plan of California and attended to 99 patients in various nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout Orange County. Parazo graduated with a nursing degree cum laude from the Philippine College of Health Sciences and got her masters degree from the same school. She was able to get a visa to take

The selected Mabuhay Community Heroes will be awarded with a $50 gift card plus an additional $50 deposit towards their Mabuhay Credit Union account! The first three months are listed below:

- October - Health Care workers; Caregivers
- November - Agriculture & Food Production; Energy & Gas; Water & Telecom
- December - Community Volunteer; Child/ Senior care

For more information please contact us at philippinepost@aol.com.

LA mayor refutes Trump’s response to CA wildfires

Garcetti called for "real action.

“We need to reduce the carbon emissions that we have, and we need to make sure we can manage that water," he added. "This is not about just forest management or raking. Anybody who lives here in California is insulted by that, quite frankly, and (Trump) keeps perpetrating this."
The health crisis has forced states to consider how to conduct elections in a time when people are advised to stay home.

"We have to start thinking of how to make this work safely and efficiently," Padilla said.

Padilla has said that people should vote early, by mail and drop off ballots.

"There will be plenty of options to choose from, if they haven't asked for one, and soon receive a mail-in ballot even if they are comfortable with it, and know they will still vote in person if they need or want to," Padilla said.

"That’s a great start, but in California 30% of voters is still a large number. We want to make sure those who are not familiar with this way of voting are comfortable with it, and know they still can vote in person if they need to or want to," Padilla said.

Voters should vote by mail and vote early, Padilla urged, and they should take advantage of tools that improve the transparency of security such as ballot tracking (Where’s My Ballot?)

Dr. Nemesio Francisco, a Filipino American professor and expert on Muslim issues, that blocked people from several predominantly Muslim countries in the West Coast, according to the DFA.

No Filipino have so far been reported affected in recent forest fires across the US.

"Acts of lawlessness and violence directed against police officers are unacceptable, outrageous and entirely counterproductive to the pursuit of greater peace and justice in America -- as are the actions of those who cheer such on," didn’t say in a statement.

Biden called the shooting "tragic and unacceptable." "Acts of lawlessness and violence directed against police officers are unacceptable, outrageous and entirely counterproductive to the pursuit of greater peace and justice in America -- as are the actions of those who cheer such on," didn’t say in a statement.

"This is just a somber reminder that this is a dangerous job, and actions and words have consequences. Our job does not get any easier because people do not like law enforcement," Villanueva said. "It pisses me off. It dismays me at the same time."

"There is no place in our society for the violence that we saw," Garci said. He described county deputies as guardians of the law, and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden condemned the shooting.

"When we find that person, we’ve got to get much faster with our courts, and we’ve got to get much tougher with our sentences, or it’s just going to come out very, very strongly," Trump tweeted.

"It pisses me off. It dismays me at the same time."

"There is no place in our society for the violence that we saw," Garci said. He described county deputies as guardians of the law, and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden condemned the shooting.

"When we find that person, we’ve got to get much faster with our courts, and we’ve got to get much tougher with our sentences, or it’s just going to come out very, very strongly," Trump tweeted.

"It pisses me off. It dismays me at the same time."

"There is no place in our society for the violence that we saw," Garci said. He described county deputies as guardians of the law, and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden condemned the shooting.

"When we find that person, we’ve got to get much faster with our courts, and we’ve got to get much tougher with our sentences, or it’s just going to come out very, very strongly," Trump tweeted.

"It pisses me off. It dismays me at the same time."

"There is no place in our society for the violence that we saw," Garci said. He described county deputies as guardians of the law, and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden condemned the shooting.

"When we find that person, we’ve got to get much faster with our courts, and we’ve got to get much tougher with our sentences, or it’s just going to come out very, very strongly," Trump tweeted.

"It pisses me off. It dismays me at the same time."

"There is no place in our society for the violence that we saw," Garci said. He described county deputies as guardians of the law, and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden condemned the shooting.

"When we find that person, we’ve got to get much faster with our courts, and we’ve got to get much tougher with our sentences, or it’s just going to come out very, very strongly," Trump tweeted.

"It pisses me off. It dismays me at the same time."

"There is no place in our society for the violence that we saw," Garci said. He described county deputies as guardians of the law, and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden condemned the shooting.

"When we find that person, we’ve got to get much faster with our courts, and we’ve got to get much tougher with our sentences, or it’s just going to come out very, very strongly," Trump tweeted.

"It pisses me off. It dismays me at the same time."

"There is no place in our society for the violence that we saw," Garci said. He described county deputies as guardians of the law, and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden condemned the shooting.

"When we find that person, we’ve got to get much faster with our courts, and we’ve got to get much tougher with our sentences, or it’s just going to come out very, very strongly," Trump tweeted.

"It pisses me off. It dismays me at the same time."

"There is no place in our society for the violence that we saw," Garci said. He described county deputies as guardians of the law, and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden condemned the shooting.

"When we find that person, we’ve got to get much faster with our courts, and we’ve got to get much tougher with our sentences, or it’s just going to come out very, very strongly," Trump tweeted.

"It pisses me off. It dismays me at the same time."

"There is no place in our society for the violence that we saw," Garci said. He described county deputies as guardians of the law, and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden condemned the shooting.

"When we find that person, we’ve got to get much faster with our courts, and we’ve got to get much tougher with our sentences, or it’s just going to come out very, very strongly," Trump tweeted.

"It pisses me off. It dismays me at the same time."

"There is no place in our society for the violence that we saw," Garci said. He described county deputies as guardians of the law, and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden condemned the shooting.

"When we find that person, we’ve got to get much faster with our courts, and we’ve got to get much tougher with our sentences, or it’s just going to come out very, very strongly," Trump tweeted.

"It pisses me off. It dismays me at the same time."

"There is no place in our society for the violence that we saw," Garci said. He described county deputies as guardians of the law, and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden condemned the shooting.

"When we find that person, we’ve got to get much faster with our courts, and we’ve got to get much tougher with our sentences, or it’s just going to come out very, very strongly," Trump tweeted.

"It pisses me off. It dismays me at the same time."

"There is no place in our society for the violence that we saw," Garci said. He described county deputies as guardians of the law, and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden condemned the shooting.

"When we find that person, we’ve got to get much faster with our courts, and we’ve got to get much tougher with our sentences, or it’s just going to come out very, very strongly," Trump tweeted.

"It pisses me off. It dismays me at the same time."

"There is no place in our society for the violence that we saw," Garci said. He described county deputies as guardians of the law, and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden condemned the shooting.
Chinese military calls US biggest threat to world peace

BEIJING — China’s Defense Ministry on Sunday blasted a critical U.S. report on the country’s military ambitions, saying it is the U.S. instead that poses the biggest threat to the international order and world peace.

The comments follow the Sept. 2 release of the annual Defense Department report to Congress on Chinese military developments and goals that it said would have “serious implications for U.S. national security” and the stability of the international rules-based order.

Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Wu Qian called the report a “wanton distortion” of China’s aims and military modernization efforts and the People’s Liberation Army and China’s 1.4 billion people.

“Many scholars and experts have shown that it is the U.S. that is the fomentor of regional unrest, the violator of the international order and the destroyer of world peace,” he said.

U.S.-China relations, in Iraq, Syria, Libya, and other countries over the past two decades have resulted in the deaths of more than 800,000 people, the Chinese’s Commerce Ministry said.

In this in 2015 file photo, Chinese President Xi Jinping is displayed on a screen as Type 99A2 Chinese battle tanks take part in a parade commemorating the 70th anniversary of Japan’s surrender during World War II held in front of Tiananmen Gate in Beijing, China, on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2015. Xi Jinping on Saturday took office as the leader of the world’s second-largest economy, where he has already blocked the appointment of judges to the WTO’s appellate body, preventing it from convening the minimum number required to hear cases.

The WTO panel was aware it was stepping into hot water. It noted that it had only come into existence in 1995, and that not only China but also not China’s retaliation, which Washington has not challenged at the WTO.

“The panel is very much aware of the wider context in which the WTO operates, which is one reflecting a range of unprecedented global trade turbulence,” it said.

The panel recommended the United States to “endeavor to come into conformity with its obligations,” but also encouraged the two sides to work to resolve the overall dispute.

“Time is available for the parties to bring their dispute to an end through interaction and cooperation, and to evolve and further consider opportunities for mutually agreed and satisfactory solutions,” it said.

During a two-year trade war with Beijing, Trump threatened tariffs on nearly all Chinese imports — more than $500 billion — before the two countries signed a “Phase 1” trade deal in January.

Pressure on Moscow as more labs confirm Navalny poisoned

BERLIN — Two European laboratories have corroborated German findings that Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was poisoned with a Novichok nerve agent, Berlin said on Monday, prompting French President Emmanuel Macron to demand Vladimir Putin shed light on the “attempted murder.”

Hitting back at doubts raised by Russia about the German investigation, Chancellor Angela Merkel’s spokesman Steffen Seibert said Germany had asked France and Sweden “for an independent review of the German evidence on the basis of new samples from Mr. Navalny”, who is receiving treatment in Berlin.

“The results of this review at specialized laboratories in France and Sweden are now available and confirm the German evidence,” he said.

Putin fired back that the claims remained “unsubstantiated accusations based on nothing against the Russian side.”

Pressure on Moscow as more labs confirm Navalny poisoned

BERLIN — Two European laboratories have corroborated German findings that Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was poisoned with a Novichok nerve agent, Berlin said on Monday, prompting French President Emmanuel Macron to demand Vladimir Putin shed light on the “attempted murder.”

Hitting back at doubts raised by Russia about the German investigation, Chancellor Angela Merkel’s spokesman Steffen Seibert said Germany had asked France and Sweden “for an independent review of the German evidence on the basis of new samples from Mr. Navalny”, who is receiving treatment in Berlin.

“The results of this review at specialized laboratories in France and Sweden are now available and confirm the German evidence,” he said.

Putin fired back that the claims remained “unsubstantiated accusations based on nothing against the Russian side.”

In this 2015 file photo, Chinese President Xi Jinping is displayed on a screen as Type 99A2 Chinese battle tanks take part in a parade commemorating the 70th anniversary of Japan’s surrender during World War II held in front of Tiananmen Gate in Beijing, China, on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2015. Xi Jinping on Saturday took office as the leader of the world’s second-largest economy, where he has already blocked the appointment of judges to the WTO’s appellate body, preventing it from convening the minimum number required to hear cases.

The WTO panel was aware it was stepping into hot water. It noted that it had only come into existence in 1995, and that not only China but also...
Adjusting to a new school year in uncertain times

By Kaiser Permanente

Aging adolescents with direct exposure to the pandemic — for example, those who lose a loved one or whose family is struggling with the disease, food shortages, or other derinations — may be at most risk for depression, anxiety, addiction, or other emotional issues. The good news is that young people are remarkably resilient, especially when they are given support and protection in uncertain situations.

However, we need to remain aware that right now they are affected by a lot of disruption. My wife and I have 2 sons. The older one is heading to college far from home where he will need to manage staying safe — wearing a mask and maintaining physical distance — on his own. And our younger son is facing more online schooling, which brings its own challenges.

Reed: There has also been a real increase in social needs as a result of the economic downturn, and many more families are now worried about food security and housing stability. And when it comes to emotional well-being, schools are the number one provider of mental health services for children, so uncertain plans for this school year may leave another gap for our most vulnerable students. To help close that and other possible gaps, we have created the Planning for the Next Normal at School Playbook, a guide for education leaders to support the physical and emotional health of students, teachers, and school staff.

What can parents do to help their children prepare for the coming school year?

Reed: With the current surge in COVID-19 cases, many districts are beginning or have begun the school year remotely. As parents and families members supporting our kids, I suggest you try to do your best to understand your school district’s plans and share your hopes, fears, and concerns with trusted staff so you can work together to address them. If you know that your district’s plan will not work for your child, it’s important that they hear it.

Also, set realistic expectations for yourself and your children — remember this is a marathon, not a sprint. Make plans for various contingencies, and identify family, friends, and other people who can support you and your family if you need help. And go easy on yourself and your kids. It’s okay not to be okay!

What can parents do to support their children’s mental health?

Mordecai: Children will carry the effects of trauma with them as they return to learning, and they will be additionally affected by whatever new experiences come.

Don Mordecai

make up the new normal in their schooling. It’s very important that both families and educators pay close attention to the emotions of children, so children to help them cope during this unprecedented time of change and disruption.

It’s important to let your children know that they can share their feelings with you. The more you normalize a child’s feelings, the more resilient your child will be when the feelings come. Children often take their emotional cues from important adults like parents and teachers, so it is important that adults manage their own emotions well, listen to children’s concerns, speak kindly, and reassure them. That said, if your children witness you experiencing hard feelings, that is okay — just be honest with them and assure them that together, you will get through this. Let them know at times like this, feelings like anger or sadness are natural.

If you’re looking for additional support, discuss your concerns with your pediatrician so that you can create a care plan that meets your child’s individual needs.

How to care for older people in pandemic

DURING this pandemic, I’ve heard a lot about my grandma — Nanay, to me. That’s a Tagalog word for mother.

Her name is Felisa Mercere. She’s a Filippino American immigrant. She’s 92. Since March, she’s been living in isolation from most of our family in Southern California. Her relatives have been wary of visiting. What if they had COVID-19 and infected her?

3,000 miles away in Washington, D.C., where I live, I wondered: Is she feeling safe? Is she happy? Or ... is she lonely? How do we make sure the older people in our lives — parents, grandparents, neighbors, relatives, friends — are doing OK in the pandemic?

I turned to three experts for advice.

1. How do I make sure the older person is comfortable and safe with their pandemic living arrangement?

I ask this question because I’ve been thinking a lot about Nanay’s situation.

Since I was a little girl, Nanay lived with my aunt Tita Pinky. Tita Pinky’s house is the center of family activity. Relatives would come and go around. And Nanay loved it.

Then the pandemic came along. Tita Pinky is a doctor — and she started leading her hospital’s COVID-19 response.

Suddenly we were all afraid that Tita Pinky might catch the coronavirus and inadvertently infect Nanay. So we decided it would be safer if she moved in with my uncle, Tito Ovid. But Nanay didn’t want to move.

“There’s no space for me here,” she said. “I want to go away because of my flowers,” she says.

We made her move anyway. Was it the right idea for our elderly to move Nanay? Silvia Perel-Levin is with the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse at the U.N. I asked her what she thought.

“I have said we have moved my grandmother instead of saying my grandmother chose to move herself. So I could say that the first mistake was to make a decision for her,” she says.

Oh no, I thought. Did we really not consider Nanay’s feelings?

Pere-Levin says it’s a common way that younger people deal with older people. We figure they’re old, they’re vulnerable — and they may not be thinking clearly.

“Just think if it were you, would you like somebody to do this to you?” she asks.

But then I did a little investigating and found out — to my relief — that we had given Nanay a choice. My uncle asked her: Do you want the flowers or do you want to protect your health?

“And I agree with them because I’m already afraid,” says Nanay.

In the end it was a good idea. In July Tita Pinky and three other family members got sick with COVID-19. With Nanay at Tito Ovid’s house, Tita Pinky could recover at her home without worrying about infecting.

Takeaway: Ask older people what they want.

2. If we encourage changes in an older person’s life, how do we know they’re happy about it? In March, Nanay moved in with my uncle, Tito Ovid. He got an extra bedroom, a swimming (See ELDERLY, Page 15)

We're just a click away. Visit us at www.philpostblog.wordpress.com

covid19.ca.gov

How to care for older people in pandemic

By Malaka Gharib/NPR

1. How do I make sure the older person is comfortable and safe with their pandemic living arrangement?

I ask this question because I’ve been thinking a lot about Nanay’s situation.

Since I was a little girl, Nanay lived with my aunt Tita Pinky. Tita Pinky’s house is the center of family activity. Relatives would come and go around. And Nanay loved it.

Then the pandemic came along. Tita Pinky is a doctor — and she started leading her hospital’s COVID-19 response.

Suddenly we were all afraid that Tita Pinky might catch the coronavirus and inadvertently infect Nanay. So we decided it would be safer if she moved in with my uncle, Tito Ovid. But Nanay didn’t want to move.

“There’s no space for me here,” she said. “I want to go away because of my flowers,” she says.

We made her move anyway. Was it the right idea for our elderly to move Nanay? Silvia Perel-Levin is with the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse at the U.N. I asked her what she thought.

“I have said we have moved my grandmother instead of saying my grandmother chose to move herself. So I could say that the first mistake was to make a decision for her,” she says.

Oh no, I thought. Did we really not consider Nanay’s feelings?

Pere-Levin says it’s a common way that younger people deal with older people. We figure they’re old, they’re vulnerable — and they may not be thinking clearly.

“Just think if it were you, would you like somebody to do this to you?” she asks.

But then I did a little investigating and found out — to my relief — that we had given Nanay a choice. My uncle asked her: Do you want the flowers or do you want to protect your health?

“And I agree with them because I’m already afraid,” says Nanay.

In the end it was a good idea. In July Tita Pinky and three other family members got sick with COVID-19. With Nanay at Tito Ovid’s house, Tita Pinky could recover at her home without worrying about infecting.

Takeaway: Ask older people what they want.
MANILA — Foreign direct investments (FDI) recovered for the second consecutive month in June as investors welcomed the government’s recovery plan for business, although such a trend may be temporary in the face of recession.

FDI posted a net inflow of ₱481 million on the first month of economic reopening in June, up 7.1% year-on-year, data released by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) on Tuesday showed. A net inflow indicates more job-generating investments entered the country versus those that left.

The latter reading was preceded by a 39.1% annual growth in May, further tempering the FDI slump in the first half to 18.3% year-on-year to ₱3 billion.

This positive development was driven by the gradual reopening of advanced economies with investment interest in the Philippines, industry sources said in a statement.

But Nicholas Antonio Mapa, senior economist at ING Bank in Manila, was not so optimistic.

“The growth in June is indeed a welcome development but I am not sure if this trend can continue or that a possible rebound can bring year-to-date growth back into expansion territory,” Mapa said in an email.

“The bounce in June may be linked to a one-off investment by a big conglomerate but subsequent big ticket investments may not be numerous in this economic environment,” he added.

BSP itself is expected tepid investor sentiment this year. In May, the central bank slashed its FDI forecast to $4.1 billion in net inflows by year-end, down from the original $8.1 billion, and set for a third straight year of decline under the Duterte administration.

Last year, FDI net inflows reached $7.68 billion, down 23.1% year-on-year from $9.9 billion in 2018. In 2017, FDI peaked at $10.26 billion, figures showed.

Breaking down the June figures, equity capital placements, or new FDIs, jumped 137.6% annually to $185 million while investments withdrawn fell 74.9% on-year to $12 million, yielding net placements of $173 million.

Majority of fresh FDIs during the month came from Japan, the United Kingdom and the US. These new inflows were mainly invested in companies engaged in manufacturing, human health and social work, financial and insurance, and real estate, the BSP reported.

From January to June, equity placements surged 16.6% to $1 billion, with investors from Japan, the Netherlands, Singapore and the US being the top contributors during the period.

On the other hand, intercompany borrowings, or money that went between foreign headquarters and their local affiliates here, sagged 28.8% to $229 million in June.

For the entire first half, this segment dropped 39.8% to $1.65 billion, accounting for the bulk of FDI.

Meanwhile, reinvested earnings were 19.4% lower in June than year-ago levels to $80 million. From January to June, this kind of inflows sank a faster 21.7% to $433 million.

With travel limited, plane cafes take off in Thailand cities

BANGKOK, Thailand — With millions around the world stuck at home due to the pandemic, “plane cafes” in Thailand are offering customers the chance to pretend they are in the sky — and the idea seems to have taken off.

On a board retired commercial airplane in the coastal city of Pattaya, coffee drinkers make themselves comfy on first-class-style seats and pose for photos by the overhead lockers.

Boarding passes in hand, some passengers even opt for a tour of the cockpit.

“With this cafe I can sit in first class and also mess around in the cockpit pretending to be the captain of the plane,” 26-year-old Tipudha Faksaithong told AFP.

“It’s a lot of fun!”

Chalisa Chuensranoi, 25, said her visit was as good as any trip she had taken before the pandemic, which shuttered Thailand’s borders.

“Sitting right here in the first-class section... really gives me the feeling of actually being on a plane, cruising through the air,” she said.

In another cafe at the headquarters of national carrier Thai Airways in Bangkok, hungry diners appear even to have missed plane food as they gobble up spaghetti carbonara and Thai-style beef served on plastic trays by cabin crew.

But for Intrawut Simapichet, 38, who came to the cafe with his wife and baby, the experience is about more than a meal.

“Normally I’m a person who travels very often, and when we are forced to stay at home... it’s kind of depressing,” he said as fellow passengers posed with a fake airplane door.

“(The cafe) relieves what’s missing.”

Thailand was the first country outside China to detect a coronavirus case, but it has since registered a low toll, with about 3,400 infections and 58 deaths.

Travel restrictions have nevertheless eroded the tourism-reliant economy, while Thais have founded themselves with investments that staved off the economic downturn due to quarantine requirements in other countries.

The government is currently mulling travel bubbles with select countries that also have low tolls.

Refrain from borrowing from China, Recto urges

MANILA — Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto has urged Malacanang to refrain from borrowing from China, citing its reclamation activities in the West Philippine Sea.

In filing Senate Resolution 512, Recto called on the executive department to avoid increasing the country’s “debt exposure” to China, “with the end view of promoting transparency, safeguarding debt sustainability, and preserving and protecting national interest.”

“I filed another resolution urging the executive department to refrain from increasing the country’s debt exposure to China. Aside from that, I think that we should not be incurring more debts from China as well,” Recto told CNN Philippines in an interview on Tuesday.

Thailand, home to the world’s largest fleet of fishing vessels, is considering a ban. They are usually packed with illegal catches, and China’s presence is a thorn in the West Philippine Sea.

However, it was not immediately clear if the Chinese fleet has left or that a possible rebound can spell a welcome development but I am not so optimistic.

In next year’s budget, we should not be incurring more debts from China as well,” Recto told CNN Philippines in an interview on Tuesday. "Because of the pandemic in China. Aside from that, I think that we should not be incurring more debts from China as well," Recto said in an interview on Tuesday.

Thailand was the first country outside China to detect a coronavirus case, but it has since registered a low toll, with about 3,400 infections and 58 deaths.

Travel restrictions have nevertheless eroded the tourism-reliant economy, while Thais have founded themselves with investments that staved off the economic downturn due to quarantine requirements in other countries.

The government is currently mulling travel bubbles with select countries that also have low tolls.

Refrain from borrowing from China, Recto urges

MANILA — Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto has urged Malacanang to refrain from borrowing from China, citing its reclamation activities in the West Philippine Sea.

In filing Senate Resolution 512, Recto called on the executive department to avoid increasing the country’s “debt exposure” to China, “with the end view of promoting transparency, safeguarding debt sustainability, and preserving and protecting national interest.”

“I filed another resolution urging the executive department to refrain from increasing the country’s debt exposure to China. Aside from that, I think that we should not be incurring more debts from China as well,” Recto told CNN Philippines in an interview on Tuesday. "Because of the pandemic in China. Aside from that, I think that we should not be incurring more debts from China as well," Recto said in an interview on Tuesday.

Thailand was the first country outside China to detect a coronavirus case, but it has since registered a low toll, with about 3,400 infections and 58 deaths.

Travel restrictions have nevertheless eroded the tourism-reliant economy, while Thais have founded themselves with investments that staved off the economic downturn due to quarantine requirements in other countries.

The government is currently mulling travel bubbles with select countries that also have low tolls.

Refrain from borrowing from China, Recto urges

MANILA — Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto has urged Malacanang to refrain from borrowing from China, citing its reclamation activities in the West Philippine Sea.

In filing Senate Resolution 512, Recto called on the executive department to avoid increasing the country’s “debt exposure” to China, “with the end view of promoting transparency, safeguarding debt sustainability, and preserving and protecting national interest.”

“I filed another resolution urging the executive department to refrain from increasing the country’s debt exposure to China. Aside from that, I think that we should not be incurring more debts from China as well,” Recto told CNN Philippines in an interview on Tuesday. "Because of the pandemic in China. Aside from that, I think that we should not be incurring more debts from China as well," Recto said in an interview on Tuesday.

Thailand was the first country outside China to detect a coronavirus case, but it has since registered a low toll, with about 3,400 infections and 58 deaths.

Travel restrictions have nevertheless eroded the tourism-reliant economy, while Thais have founded themselves with investments that staved off the economic downturn due to quarantine requirements in other countries.

The government is currently mulling travel bubbles with select countries that also have low tolls.
UK think tank sees negative 8.2% growth for PH

MANILA – UK-based think tank Oxford Economics has further downgraded its 2020 growth projection for the Philippines to a negative 8.2 percent, no thanks to weak consumer spending and project delays due to restrictions amid a prolonged quarantine.

In a separate report, Oxford Economics assistant economist Makoto Tsuchiya said the projection, faster than a GDP slide from the previous forecast of a 6.9 percent drop “not only reflects the major contraction in the first half, but also the trends in high frequency data that point towards a loss buoyant recovery.”

GDP declined by an average of 9 percent during the first two quarters, such that the government expects the economy to shrink by 4.5-6.6 percent this year. “We see private consumption contracting this year on high unemployment, depressed remittances and pessimistic consumer sentiment,” Tsuchiya said.

“Private investment is also expected to plunge this year given the uncertainty and delays to projects while infrastructure investments are impeded by social distancing measures,” Tsuchiya said.

On the positive side, government spending and net exports should support growth, Tsuchiya added.

Oxford Economics projected the Philippines’ GDP to rebound with a 10.3 percent growth in 2021.

In a separate report, Oxford Economics head of India and Southeast Asia economics Priyanka Kishore placed the Philippines at 11th place among 14 Asia-Pacific countries in its recovery scorecard, just behind cellular dwellers Hong Kong, Indonesia and India, whose respective economic rebound would likely lag behind in the region.

Across metrics covering economic and health vulnerability, lockdown stringency, macro policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as success in containing the virus, the Philippines scored negative 0.12, as it mainly performed among the worst in health indicators such as number of critical care beds and medical doctors per population.

In a separate scorecard, the Philippines landed the highest in Oxford Economics’ recovery scorecard with 0.43.

ELDERLY: How to care for them

(From Page 13)

“... pool and a nice, big garden. But I wondered. Was Nanay happy there？”

Perel-Levin says if you want to know, all you have to do is ask.

Well, I do. I say, “Nanay, how are you?” And I’ll usually get an “I’m OK.”

But what Perel-Levin wants me to do is dig a little deeper— listen. So instead of switching topics after her response, I wait a beat to see if she’d say anything else.

Nanay says that everyone’s been doing well. Tito Ovid and his wife prepare food for her. Her other children come and visit her. She feels, she says, “like a princess.”

I breathed a sigh of relief. Well, that’s better than the “nothing” or another beat, and then ...

…”Nanay said something else...”

“... You know, Malaka, to tell you the truth, sometimes I cry alone because I long for my room, I long for my flowers, I long for my heart. And what I wanted to say: “Gramma, I know you’re doing well. I’m happy for you. But what are you missing?”

And then I’d realize that COVID-19 was the main reason why she was missing those things. She’d never mentioned her longing for her room, for her flowers that she could grow at home, for the stories she’d tell us.

Carers: “Nanay says that everyone’s doing well. And I want to know next was how to help.”

Takeaway: Dig deeper to find out what the person is really feeling.

5. How do I help an older person who is coming up with solutions themselves?

Takeaway: Think of how much Filipinos enjoy their family parties, she says, at least the ones she goes to. “I don’t want to just sit around and wait for my meals and look at the sky,” she says. “If I do that, I will die.”

She sprang into action. She asked Tito Ovid to get her some flowers that she could grow in his house. She asked my mom to buy her word search puzzles and books. (“Those word search books saved my life!” says Nanay.) And she started scrapbooking again, making photo albums for the family.

Takeaway: See if the older person can come up with solutions to their problems.

4. Any other special needs to consider?

Takeaway: Acknowledge the hard work of the caretakers — and listen. So instead of switching topics after her response, I wait a beat to see if she’d say anything else.

And don’t forget prayer, adds the author of Finishing Up: On Self-Care.

“Nanay says that everyone’s doing well. And I want to know next was how to help.”

Takeaway: Acknowledge the hard work of the caretakers — and listen. So instead of switching topics after her response, I wait a beat to see if she’d say anything else.

And don’t forget prayer, adds the author of Finishing Up: On Self-Care.

Caretakers: “We’re just a click away.”

Please visit us at www.philpostblog.wordpress.com

Taisan, 0.32; Singapore, 0.19; South Korea, 0.18; Vietnam, 0.11; Japan, 0.07; Australia and Malaysia, both 0.05; and China, 0.02.

Besides the Philippines, four other countries also recorded negative scores: Thailand (minus 0.02); Hong Kong (minus 0.21); Indonesia (minus 0.26); and India (minus 0.67).

RECTO: Refrain from borrowing from China

(From Page 14)

President Rodrigo Duterte. Recto said: “Don’t. Like I said, it’s a pivot to China. Do you believe in independent foreign policy?”

“Why should we reward contractors who reclaimed parts of the West Philippine Sea? We will allow them to do what, reclaim Manila Bay? We will allow them now to put up an airport facility in Manila Bay? Not to mention you already have the Chinese who own a certain percentage of our transmission corporation?”

And now, we are allowing them to enter into telecom?” he also said.

We’re just a click away. Please visit us at www.philpostblog.wordpress.com

Your one stop shop for anything PH related

One person can make a huge difference. Stop. Back home. Slow. The spread.
Adebayo’s block helps Heat beat Celtics in G7

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida — Jimmy Butler thought the game was for Miami with 3-pointer late in regulation.

He put the Heat ahead again in overtime — and then Bam Adebayo finished it off with the biggest block of his career.

Butler’s three-point play with 12 seconds left put Miami up for good, Adebayo blocked Jayson Tatum’s dunk attempt in the final seconds and the Heat rallied time and again to beat the Boston Celtics 117-114 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals on Tuesday night.

Kemba Walker’s basket with 23.2 seconds left in overtime put Boston up by one, but Butler muscled his way to the rim for a score getting fouled by Tatum. The Celtics went to Tatum on the ensuing possession, only to watch Butler pull up and hit a 3-pointer.

And the Heat — down 13 in the first quarter, down 14 in the fourth — struck first, ending Boston’s seven-game streak of Game 1 wins.

Tatum scored 30 points for the Celtics, Marcus Smart had 26 points, Walker had 19 and Jaylen Brown added 17. Goran Dragic had 29 points, Jay Crowder scored 22, Jimmy Butler scored 20 and Adebayo had 19 for the Heat.

Miami’s Tyler Herro was one assist shy of a triple-double — finishing with 12 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists.

Boston led 85-71 early in the fourth and kept the lead for almost all of the final period — until Butler connected on a 3-pointer from the right corner with 22 seconds left for a 106-105 Miami edge.

The Celtics tied it before the clock even started again. Derrick Jones Jr. was called for an away-from-the-play foul while Miami inbounded the inbounds pass, a call where the Heat argued to no avail that he got shot instead.

Tatum went to the line, tied the game with the free throw, and Boston all of a sudden went from needing a score to being able to run out the clock.

Miami wanted a traveling call when Tatum got the ball with about 7 seconds left. His 3-pointer was short, and to overtime they went.

Boston started fast by running out a 24-11 lead, only to see Miami slow the Celts down by going to plenty of zone and using their size through stops to allow their offense to start coming back. The Heat scored 37 points in a 10-minute span of the second quarter — and the teams went into halftime knotted at 55.

The biggest Heat lead of the second half came early in the third, 61-56, after Butler got a short hook to fall.

But then Boston rolled going on.

The Celtics outscored the Heat 27-10 over the final 8:17 of the third quarter, Smart scoring 10 in that stretch to match the entire Miami output by himself, and the Heat led 83-71 going into the fourth. Miami shot 6 for 22 in the first quarter to get into trouble, then 6 for 20 in the third to get into a bigger mess.

Miami wanted a traveling call when Tatum got the ball with about 7 seconds left. His 3-pointer was short, and to overtime they went.

Boston started fast by running out a 24-11 lead, only to see Miami slow the Celts down by going to plenty of zone and using their size through stops to allow their offense to start coming back. The Heat scored 37 points in a 10-minute span of the second quarter — and the teams went into halftime knotted at 55.

The biggest Heat lead of the second half came early in the third, 61-56, after Butler got a short hook to fall.

But then Boston rolled going on.

The Celtics outscored the Heat 27-10 over the final 8:17 of the third quarter, Smart scoring 10 in that stretch to match the entire Miami output by himself, and the Heat led 83-71 going into the fourth. Miami shot 6 for 22 in the first quarter to get into trouble, then 6 for 20 in the third to get into a bigger mess.

The biggest Heat lead of the second half came early in the third, 61-56, after Butler got a short hook to fall.

But then Boston rolled going on.

The Celtics outscored the Heat 27-10 over the final 8:17 of the third quarter, Smart scoring 10 in that stretch to match the entire Miami output by himself, and the Heat led 83-71 going into the fourth. Miami shot 6 for 22 in the first quarter to get into trouble, then 6 for 20 in the third to get into a bigger mess.

The biggest Heat lead of the second half came early in the third, 61-56, after Butler got a short hook to fall.