

DOST-Cavite Conducts Project Visit and Monitoring at Ma-Ma's Hope Haven, a Successful CBP Beneficiary

By Esther Joy V. Salazar

The Department of Science and Technology in Cavite (DOST-Cavite) visited Ma-Ma's Hope Haven of Norway, Inc. (MMHHNI) in General Trias City, Cavite, to assess the progress of the CBP-assisted project.

Led by Ms. Anna Marie S. Daigan, and assisted by Mr. Reniel Jan L. Alvarado and Engr. Maiden Kieth Rodriguez, the DOST-Cavite team had a warm welcome from Ms. Daisylyn Driz, MMHHNI's Project Head. The visit focused on the evaluation of the status of the MMHHNI's new solar power generating system in the PortaSHIP, an Aquatecture System for tilapia production. This solar power generating system was provided by DOST under its Grants-in-Aid – Community-Based Project (GIA-CBP) and has been running successfully for almost two months. The said solar power system not

The collaboration between DOST CAVITE and MMHHNI showcased the value of their combined efforts, which both learn more about one another and hear from varied perspectives. As a result, Ms. Daisylyn Driz expressed her appreciation to DOST. To quote "We're really grateful for DOST-Cavite's support. The solar power setup has not only boosted our energy efficiency but has also played a key role in the success of our PortaSHIP

Aquatecture System, benefiting the community we served."

The partnership between MMHHNI and DOST-Cavite is a great example of how collaboration and simple innovations can make a big difference in our communities. As they continue working together, this partnership is the best example of positive change for sustainable economic development



only provides a clean and reliable source of power but also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and contributes to sustainable environments



Successful Entrepreneurs, Top Business Leaders Mentor MSMEs at Go Negosyo's First Entrepreneur Event for 2024

Some of the country's top business executives and founders of successful businesses showed up to mentor MSMEs at Go Negosyo's first salvo for 2024, the 3M on Wheels free entrepreneurship mentoring event at the TriNoma Mall in Quezon City last January 20, 2024.

Joey Concepcion, founder of Go Negosyo and also chairman and CEO of RFM Corporation, welcomed the contingent of mentors and led the one-on-one mentoring of active and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Volunteering to coach the MSMEs were some of the biggest names in Philippine business and the founders of successful businesses. They included George Barcelon of

the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), Bernie Liu of Pen-shoppe, PCCI-NCR's Tess Ngan Tian of Lots'a Pizza, prolific restaurateur Ricky Dee, Wildflour's Ana de Ocampo, AstraZeneca's Lotis Ramin, Richie Cuna of Fiorgelato, The Manila Times's Blanca Mercado, Ovation Productions's Renen and Cel de Guia, Eric Teng of Resto.ph, Myrna Yao of RichPrime Global, Richard Sanz of Bibingkinitan, Chris Lim of Phil. Franchise Association, Rhoda Caliwara of PALSCON, and Marife Zamora of Filipina CEO Circle.

"The success of this first 3M on Wheels free entrepreneurship mentoring event gave us more reason to intensify our campaign to reach as



many MSMEs nationwide this year, especially considering the bright prospects for our country's economy," said Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte opened the event, and in her speech reassured the entrepre-

neurs in attendance that "building businesses is number one in our city's agenda." She emphasized the city's efforts in ease-of-doing-business, saying it makes entrepreneurship accessible in the city. Coupled with mentoring and access to capital, Belmonte said this is key to business success. Atty.



SMB, Magnolia near sweep of PBA semis

MANILA – San Miguel Beer and Magnolia moved to within one win from sweeping their respective PBA Commissioner's Cup semifinals series after pulling away late from their opponents at the SM Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay on Friday.

The Beermen first got their 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series with a 106-96 win against Barangay Ginebra.

Unlike in Game 1 where they somehow got lucky in the end, the Beermen made sure this time that they would close out the Gin Kings on their terms.

With the game tied 83-all with 7:56 remaining, SMB gained some momentum midway through the fourth quarter to take control of the game, although Ginebra kept the game close.

The Beermen broke away in the final 1:24 of the game, finishing

the match with a 7-1 run.

Bennie Boatwright fired 38 points on 13-of-25 shooting, including 6-of-11 from the three-point area, with 9 rebounds and 2 assists for SMB.

June Mar Fajardo and CJ Perez each chipped in 17 points, with Fajardo also grabbing 14 rebounds, 6 blocks, and 3 steals with 1 assist.

Jamie Malonzo's explosive game of 27 points on 9-for-15 shooting, including 6-of-8 from deep, with 8 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals, and 1 block came up short as Ginebra now looks at a 0-2 deficit in the series.

Tony Bishop added 25 points, 9 rebounds, 1 assist, and 1 steal.

In the nightcap, the Hotshots prevailed anew over the Phoenix Fuel Masters after another tight contest, this time with an 82-78 Game 2 win.

The Hotshots fought back from 5 points down with 4:13 left as they went on a 10-0 run capped by a long three from Paul Lee for an 81-76 lead with 55 seconds to go.

Johnathan Williams tried to keep the Fuel Masters in the game as he converted a layup that cut the lead down to three, 81-78, with 8.8 seconds remaining, but Mark Barroca's split from the line with 2.4 seconds to go sealed the win for the Hotshots.

Tyler Bey led Magnolia with 25 points on 8-of-15 shooting -- including the go-ahead basket with 1:23 left -- 12 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 blocks, and 1 steal.

Jio Jalalon added 17 points, 6 rebounds, and 3 assists.

Williams fired 27 points, 16 rebounds, 5 assists, 2 blocks, and 1 steal, while Jason Perkins added 17 points, 13 rebounds, and 4 assists for Phoenix.

Both the Beermen and the Hotshots can sweep their series on Sunday night back at the MOA Arena. (PNA)

Cont. on Page 3



MTRCB Junkies SMNI's Appeals

Solon wants lotto games suspended while systems being probed

House approves all LEDAC, SONA bills

MAS MATAAS NA ONION PRODUCTION SA MAGALLANES, ISINUSULONG NG DA



Ibinida ng mga magsasaka sa bayan ng Magallanes ang kanilang mga aning sibuyas sa harvest festival na pinangunahan ng Office of the Municipal Agriculturist noong Ika-18 ng Enero. Katuwang ang Department of Agriculture at ng Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, layon nitong nitong hikayatin ang mga lokal na magsasaka na magtanim ng sibuyas bilang tugon sa mataas na pangangailangan nito sa merkado. Ayon sa DA Calabarzon, alinsunod ito sa direktiba ni Regional Director Milo delos Reyes na palakasin ang produksyon ng sibuyas sa rehiyon sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay suporta sa mga lugar kung saan angkop ang pagtatanim ng sibuyas. | via DA-Calabarzon



Natanggap na ng pamahalaang lungsod ng Imus ang bagong ICT Equipment mula sa Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). Kabilang ang mga ibinigay ng ahensya ang 10 unit ng computer, kabilang ang desk-

top accessories gaya ng headset, mini speaker, Wi-Fi adapter, at webcam, gayon din ang projector, CCTV camera package, printer, at barcode scanner. Sa social media naman ipinaabot ni Mayor Alex Advincula ang pasasalamat ng mga Imusehong mag-aaral sa bagong ICT equipment mula sa ahensya. | via Alex Advincula

Gatchalian backs gradual return to old school calendar

DTI-Laguna Conducts Onsite Motor Vehicle PETC Inspection and Monitoring in Calamba City, Laguna

Constitutional crisis slowly happening – Zubiri



POINT OF VIEW
MEDICAL ADVISE

The Upper Respiratory Infection affecting China at present is quite serious. The virus causing it is very potent and is resistant to existing antibiotics.

The prevention method now is to keep your throat moist, do not let your throat dry up. Thus do not hold your thirst because once your membrane in your throat is dried, the virus will invade into your body within 10 mins. Drink 50-80cc warm water, 30-50cc for kids, according to age. Everytime you feel your throat is dry, do not wait, keep water in hand. Do not drink plenty at one time as it does not help; instead, continue to keep throat moist. Till end of March, do not go to crowded places, wear mask as needed especially in train or public transportation.

- Avoid fried or spicy food and load up vitamin C.
- The symptoms/ description are:
1. Repeated high fever.
 2. Prolonged coughing after fever.
 3. Children are more prone.
 4. Adults usually feel uneasy, headache and mainly respiratory related illness.
- This illness is highly contagious.

From Humble Beginnings to Entrepreneurial Triumph



Delia A. Cerdeño, 56, from Paco, Manila, an entrepreneurial force, proved that it's never too late to redefine success.

Delia A. Cerdeño's story is a powerful tale of resilience, determination, and the magic of chasing dreams. As a mother of two, she proves that it's never too late to find business success. Her journey is a mix of tough times and victories. Before diving into entrepreneurship in 2006, Delia spent 27 years working at a major corporation in the Philippines. Limited earnings pushed her to seek a more fulfilling and comfortable life. Starting small with just PHP 4,000,

she set up a stall near a convenience store in Pandacan Market in Manila, selling slippers inspired by her childhood struggles without proper footwear. Life threw challenges at Delia, but she stood strong. Her commitment to providing her kids with opportunities she missed fueled her journey. When the pandemic hit, she turned it into an opportunity. Adapting to change, her business not only survived but thrived. Delia saved enough to buy her own car.

DILG, LGUs team up needed to fix water, waste problems

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benhur Abalos on Friday afternoon pushed for active collaboration between local government units (LGUs) and national government agencies in tackling the growing problem of waste management and water security. Abalos made the call during his speech at the Waste and Water Summit at the SMX Convention Center which was initiated by the DENR in partnership with the DILG. The summit was aimed at strengthening linkages and cooperation between the DENR, DILG, LGUs and other stakeholders at the local level among others. "Ang collaboration dito ay napakahalaga."

In 2019, she became a client of CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO). With a PHP 3,000 loan, she moved on to Quick SME Loans (QSL), securing PHP 50,000 to PHP 200,000 loans to fund her business. These funds helped her expand with three more stalls in the market.

Delia's journey is a success story. Now owning a three-hectare farm, a house in Bicol, a family car, and a business truck, she runs six market stalls and a home grocery store. She also employs three permanent staff and eight contractual staff, each assigned to their respective stalls.

Her kids graduated in Engineering and Information Technology. Delia's journey lights the way for those in the entrepreneurial seas. Her advice to other entrepreneurs' stresses savings, smart money management, and unyielding optimism. "With passion, resilience, and relentless pursuit of dreams, challenges can lead to unprecedented success," Delia shares, hoping her story inspires others.

DENR, LGUs team up needed to fix water, waste problems

ga. Pag-usapan natin ang problema. This is why this summit is very important," Abalos said. He continued: "Huwag kayong mahiya sa amin. Sabihin ninyo sa amin kung ano ang problem sa lugar ninyo, at gagawa tayo ng plano ng sabay-sabay kasama ang DENR".

Abalos specifically urged LGUs to seek help from the DILG and DENR to better address issues on waste management and water problems in their locality saying he understands that "not all LGUs are created equal." "Let us look at reality – what is really happening on the ground. Not all LGUs are equal. Hindi po lahat ay mayaman."

The DILG Secretary further explained that the DENR will establish the standard for cleanliness for each locality, while the DILG will diligently monitor and grant monetary incentives to LGUs who practice full compliance.

"I'll work with the DENR on this, we'll go to the grassroots."

According to reports, 61,000 metric tons of garbage are produced on a daily basis, 20% of which comes from the National Capital Region, and contributes to the 20 to 22 million metric tons of solid waste produced annually.

He also took note of the lack of access to sanitary landfills, to which only 1,107 out of 1,634 LGUs nationwide have access to the facilities.

"More or less, 500 LGUs do not have access to sanitary landfills. Ang tanong, saan nila tinatapon ang basura? My guess is as good as yours, kung saan saan na lang itinatapon."

He also urged local leaders in attendance to use the privilege of their position to make a lasting difference and gear towards innovation to combat quandaries on waste management and water security. Dilg.gov

House...

MANILA – Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez on Friday said the House of Representatives already approved all the measures prioritized by the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) and by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in his State of the Nation Address (SONA) in July 2023.

In a press briefing, the Speaker pointed out that the 2023 LEDAC bills that were supposed to be passed by Congress last December have been passed by the House in September, while the SONA priorities that are supposed to be passed before the next SONA this July has been approved by the House in December, or three months and six months in advance, respectively.

"Kumbaga, wala kaming back subjects, hinihintay na lang natin 'yung mga kaibigan natin sa Senado kung kailan nila tatapusin, (We have no back subjects, so to speak. We are just waiting for our friends in the Senate on when they can finish them)," Romualdez said.

He said that instead of carping on other matters like the People's Initiative and Resolution of Both Houses No. 6, senators should just do their part for the people and focus their efforts on their legislative work on the LEDAC and SONA measures.

"Let's focus on our work, get down to work, buckle down, there's just 24 of you. Get your act together, focus on your work. And stop hitting on Congress and maintain parliamentary courtesy," Romualdez said.

He also reiterated

ed his and his chamber's continued support to the President, saying the House "is working hard towards realizing the common legislative agenda of the executive and legislative branches."

As of Sept. 27, 2023, he said the House has approved all 20 of LEDAC's priority measures, 10 of which were passed on third reading as early as 2022.

These are the Internet Transactions Act, Public-Private Partnership Act, Ease of Paying Taxes, New Philippine Passport, Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, HEART Act, Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines, NCST Program Act, Valuation Reform, and Waste Treatment Technology Act.

Five of the 20 LEDAC bills have been enacted into law, while three - New Philippine Passport Act, Salt Industry Development Act, and Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers - would soon be sent to the President for his signature.

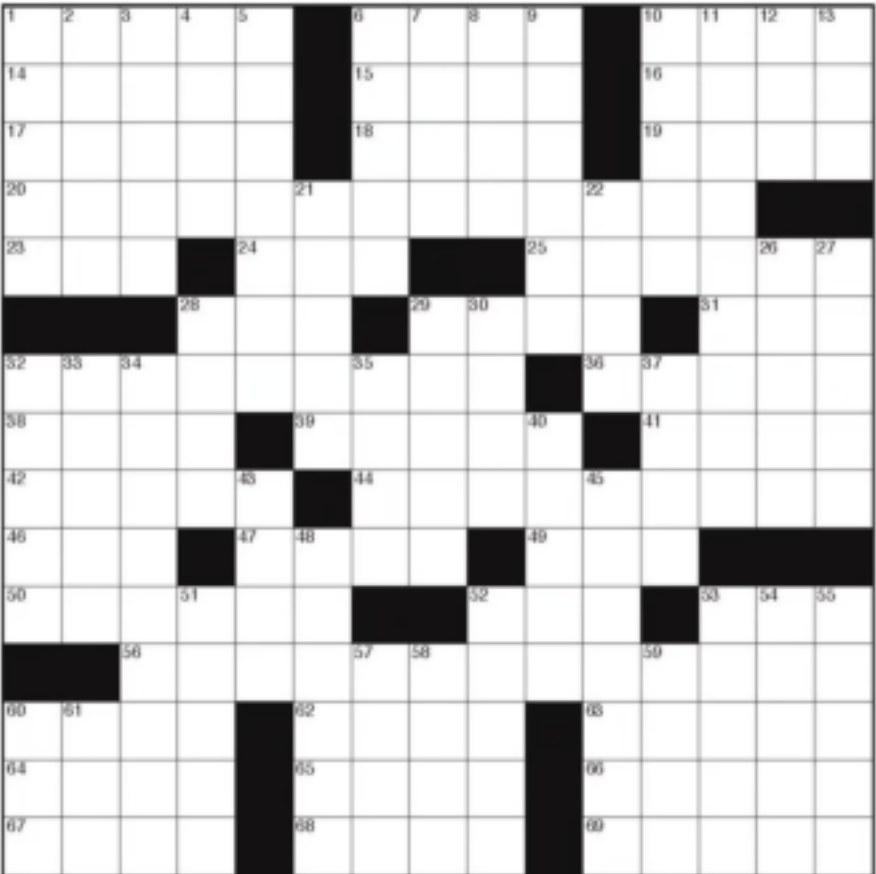
Meanwhile, the proposed amendments to the Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act are being finalized by the bicameral conference committee.

The rest of the LEDAC measures approved by the House have been sent to the Senate for action, Romualdez said.

"And out of the 57 LEDAC common legislative agenda measures, all have been approved by the House of Representatives except three. The latest that was approved was the Philippine Self-Reliant Defense Posture Program Act, which was passed on third reading last January 24," he said. (PNA)



Crossword Puzzles



- ACROSS**
- 1 Nautical greetings
 - 6 Creature encountered by 9-Down
 - 10 Dancer Kelly
 - 14 Sarcastic animated teenager
 - 15 Small green citrus
 - 16 Small
 - 17 Deactivate
 - 18 'A Visit from the Goon Squad' author Jennifer
 - 19 When doubled, first name of actress Fan
 - 20 Genre typified by many in this puzzle's clues
 - 23 Monogrammatic group for Scout's dad and an Eoin Colfer character
 - 24 Family in 'Succession'
 - 25 London landmark an Aussie might tell you to visit
 - 28 Fork over
 - 29 Lip
 - 31 ___ dos, tres
 - 32 Young Jane Yung author Zevin
 - 36 Actor Elba
 - 38 1995 Bennett portrayal Jennifer
 - 39 Beer hall
 - 41 "Today" in Turin
 - 42 Folklore character Tom
 - 44 Bookish fundraiser
 - 46 Astronaut Jamison
 - 47 Dethrone
 - 49 It can be poison
 - 50 Items frequently published in Catapult
 - 52 Flight data
 - 53 Ancestor to the DVD player
 - 56 Nobel Prize-winning author of 'Never Let Me Go'
 - 60 It can flow or tangle
 - 62 They can be liberal
 - 63 Frank ___ Wright
 - 64 Cookie clues 13 times in 2021
 - 65 Pale beer
 - 66 Choice word?
 - 67 Smea's job title
 - 68 River of the dead
 - 69 Italian kingdom
- DOWN**
- 1 Actress Uzo
 - 2 'Go Ahead in the Rain' author Abdurraqib
 - 3 Spoken exams
 - 4 Scots word for earth that's an English soundalike
 - 5 Helen DeWitt's 'The Last ___'
 - 6 Reflective poem
 - 7 Notable costume elements often worn by Nicole Kidman
 - 8 Character played by Michael on 'The Wire'
 - 9 Skywalker's mentor
 - 10 Duffel stashed for emergencies
 - 11 Scottish setting in 'The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie'
 - 12 ___ sequitur
 - 13 Work unit
 - 21 Contradictory last name for poet Alfred
 - 22 Mariah Carey album 'The Emancipation of'

SM CITY BACOR, CAVITE - Want fun, exciting surprises that never go out of style? We GOTCHA! Visit the SilverWorks store at the Lower Ground Level of SM City Bacoor and grab the jewels you need for Valentines. New designs await you!



Volleyball - Crossword Puzzle

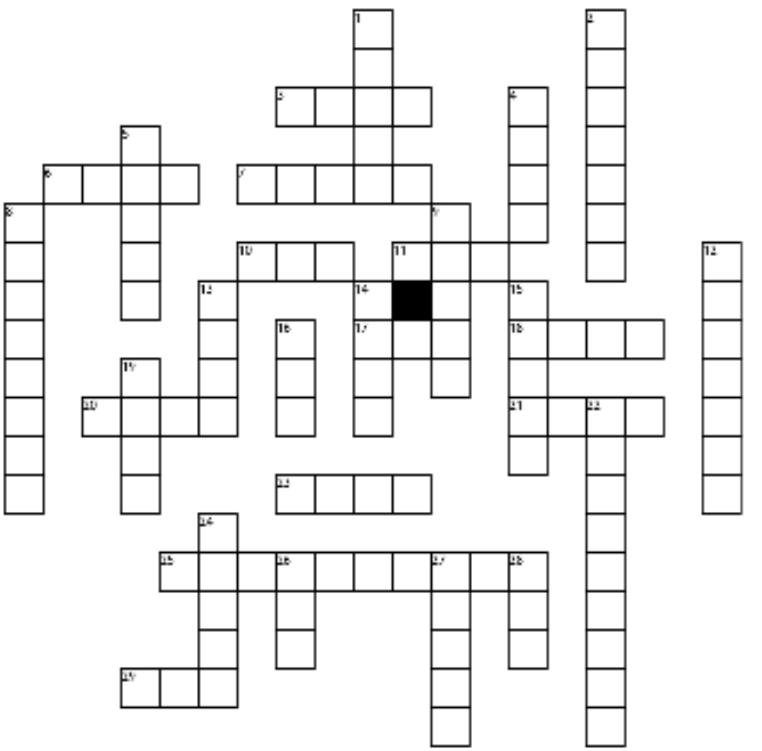
Across

2. Was designed to be an alternative to the game of basketball.
3. A ball landing on the ___ line is considered "in".
7. If the game goes all the way up to 5 sets, how much points is needed to win?
9. In order to start the game after the whistle blows the ball has to be ___.
10. A player playing the ball is at fault when they ___ the net.
11. Main responsibility is to set up the ball for players; the play maker.
12. Where was volleyball invented?
15. The amount of time you must serve within before the referee's blows the whistle.
16. Maximum number of contact a team can have with the ball.

Down

1. Who invented volleyball?
4. Two ways of serving are underhand serve and ___ serve.
5. What was volleyball initially named as?
6. The ___ team to win 25 points with a two point lead wins the set.
8. The players at the front court are used for offensive play while the back court is used for ___ play.
13. Number of positions.
14. A fault, where as for example, scooping, lifting, or carrying. (Two words)

Missing Links



- Across**
3. mouse, door, honey
 6. sour, malibu, goats
 7. perfect, movie, art
 10. apple, bang, brother
 11. afternoon, pod, time
 17. stone, bracket, old
 18. past, saver, zone
 20. bone, come, end
 21. drink, forward, meat
 23. dry, soft, horn
 25. figures, triangle, question
 29. apple, chart, crust
- Down**
1. freeze, size, picture
 2. colours, performance, personality
 4. fight, code, bird
 5. future, house, life
 8. storm, fish, summer
 9. sugar, aeroplane, cut
 12. take, remote, cruise
 13. club, worm, shop
 14. wooded, river, mountain
 15. free, guide, hair
 16. slick, pulling, olive
 19. first, wedding, cinema
 22. take, gain, point
 24. collar, snow, noise
 26. hot, tree, time
 27. high, tennis, house
 28. battery, side, cost



Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), the concessionaire for the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) and Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), once again takes the spotlight, securing two of the country's prestigious recognitions in the realm of Public Relations and Communications—the Anvil and Quill Awards.

During the 20th Philippine Quill Awarding Ceremony on January 23, 2024, held at Marriott Grand Ballroom, Pasay City, MPT South's 2022 Calendar titled 'Homegrown Heroes' earned the Quill Award of Merit. This

corporate calendar showcased the heroism of both internal employees and external individuals during the pandemic.

In addition, MPT South secured the Silver Anvil for its viral '#Eggstrasafe' road safety digital campaign, under the category of PR Program - Best Use of Social Media, during the 59th Anvil Awards Gabi ng Parangal on January 31, 2024, hosted at the same venue. The campaign strategically addressed overspeeding violations, a significant contributor to road-related fatalities and injuries. Another Silver Anvil was awarded to the toll road

company for its 2023 Calendar titled "Better Ways" under the PR Tools- Publication. This visual and informative journey celebrates the company's unwavering commitment to sustainability, emphasizing People, Planet, and Progress.

Mr. Raul L. Ignacio, President and General Manager of MPT South, expressed his pride in these accomplishments, stating, "We are immensely proud of the achievements of our communication programs, a testament to our dedication to excellence. It reinforces our commitment to being more than just toll

roads; we are here for the people—our motorists, for the planet, and, of course, for progress. This recognition inspires us to continually elevate our campaigns for the greater good."

In 2023, the International Association of Business Communication (IABC) received 815 entries for the Quill Award, while the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) received XXX entries for Anvil.

Over the years, MPT South has earned several Anvil Awards, including a Silver Anvil for Drayberks (2019), a social advocacy promoting road safety; Silver Anvil

for Sights of South (2020), a corporate calendar promoting tourism in MPT South's toll road network; Silver Anvil for the Silang East Interchange Opening PR Campaign (2021); and Silver Anvil for the Bayani Ka Activity Book (2022), a road safety comic-inspired book. Notably, for 2023, Silver Anvils for the #Eggstrasafe and the Better Ways 2023 Calendar. In the Quill Awards, MPT South earned the Award of Merit for Drayberks (2022), a hybrid road safety education campaign; Award of Excellence for Biyaheng South (2022), a digital tourism marketing campaign; and Award of Merit for the 2022 Calen-

dar titled 'Homegrown Heroes'.

MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the infrastructure arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC). Aside from the CALAX and CAVITEX network of toll roads, MPTC's domestic portfolio includes the concessions for the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the NLEX Connector Road, the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

For further information and media concerns, please get in touch with corpcomm@mpt-south.com

Solon...

MANILA – There should be no lotto draws if the whole lotto games system of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) will be looked into, Senator Imee Marcos said Friday.

The Senate Committee Games and Amusement resumed on Thursday its inquiry, which was presided by Senator Raffy Tulfo to determine and maintain the integrity of the PCSO lotto games, as well as to look into the status of its prize fund being remitted to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

"I'm very happy that they're finally investigating it," Marcos said, recalling that she filed January last year a resolution seeking to probe the systems of the PCSO and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation.

"Hangga't hindi naipapaliwanag itong mga pangyayaring ito, itigil muna yang bola. Itigil muna yung e-lotto at yung

mga ginagawa nila. Wala ng naniniwala eh at naaawa naman ako sa mga pumupustang mahihirap (Until these events are not explained, stop the draw. Stop the e-lotto and their system. No one believes anymore and I pity the poor bettors)," she added. During the inquiry, Tulfo asked the Cyber-crime Investigation and Coordinating Center of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT-CICC) to study and look into the lotto games.

Drex Lagguig of the DICT-CICC agreed, assuring that they can help through various digital forensic procedures and suggested that a negotiated audit engagement with the PCSO must be prepared.

"The DICT-CICC can also help provide the standards on secure gaming systems para next time po kapag sinabi ni BIR na pakita niyo lahat ng mga

resibo namin (so that next time if the BIR asks for their receipts), the BIR can easily audit the correct earnings for the country," Lagguig told the panel.

PCSO general manager Mel Robles also agreed and assured that they are open to suggestions.

"We welcome that po kasi para sa kapanganatan din namin dahil kulang din naman kami ng expertise diyan eh (for our peace of mind because we also lack the expertise on that)," Robles said.

The investigation, Lagguig said, might take six months which results will also be submitted to the Senate panel.

The PCSO serves as the principal government agency for raising and providing funds for health programs, medical assistance and services, and charities.

One of its key programs is the Medical Access Program, which is

designed to augment the medical needs of Filipinos nationwide, particularly hospital confinement, chemotherapy, dialysis, and post-transplant medicines.

The program is funded by revenues from PCSO games nationwide. 268K indigents get P1.8-B medical aid in 2023

The PCSO, meanwhile, said it has released over PHP1.8 billion in medical assistance to a total of 268,538 eligible indigent beneficiaries nationwide last year under the MAP.

Among the beneficiaries were 31,485 individuals from the National Capital Region who received a total of PHP420 million, and 62,052 individuals from Northern and Central Luzon who were given PHP448 million.

In the Southern Tagalog and Bicol Region, about PHP371 million were released to 72,647 indigents.

In the Visayas, the PCSO under the MAP also assisted 54,209 individuals who were provided with PHP322 million in medical aid, while 48,145 individuals in Mindanao benefited from PHP283 million.



Anvil and Quill Award



EDITORIAL:

Let's not waste time

What exactly does sustainable deployment of our workers overseas mean?

It means when we deploy workers in one particular line of work, such as nurses, to other countries, it should not result in the shortage of these workers here.

That's the problem we experienced when other countries opened their doors to our doctors and scientists starting as far back as the 1960s, leading to what had been described as "brain drain."

That's what happened when the Middle East countries began to recruit our engineers and skilled construction workers to build their infrastructure.

It's a problem the government, through the Department of Migrant Workers, wants to address as soon as possible.

According to the agency, they want to implement a policy of sustainable deployment of our OFWs so we both benefit.

The DMW wants the deployment of our OFWs to various countries to be a beneficial two-way exchange or a win-win situation for both sides.

Germany, for instance, has expressed interest in hiring not only nurses but also other skilled workers and those in the hospitality industry.

The Philippines and Germany have signed a joint declaration of interest based on what's called the 10-year-old Triple Win Program, which primarily involved recruitment of Filipino nurses to

work in that European country.

This is government-to-government recruitment of nurses was agreed upon ten years ago.

The Philippines and Germany are now exploring opportunities for the recruitment of other skilled Filipino workers that could also be a win-win situation for both parties.

The German government wants to hire electrical engineers, electricians and workers in the hospitality sector, such as hotels and other facilities catering to travel and tourism.

President Marcos Jr. has declared the countries that have expressed interest in hiring Filipino workers, such as nurses, should also be part of the solution of the so-called "brain drain" problem by assisting us in the education and training of our nurses and other professionals.

Other countries, including Canada and Austria, have expressed interest in hiring Filipino nurses to fill the requirements of their own health and medical systems.

Negotiations with these countries are ongoing to address the shortage not only of nurses here but also of teaching staff for the nursing profession.

The agreements are also expected to result in recipient countries providing scholarships for nursing students and assisting in upgrading hospital facilities, training facilities, and faculty development in the Philippines.

If this is what's called sustainable deployment, we're all for it.

Mentor MSMEs...

torship business of Kettle Korn; Denise Caranto, who founded the snacks business Konu, and Marjorie Barcelona, who grew her lemonade business into franchising.

A special part of the program was a short talk by entrepreneur and

content creator Isabel Magalona Go, who founded her business But First Coffee during the pandemic. She shared how small entrepreneurs can use readily available social media tools to promote and market their products and services, and how she

FROM PAGE 8

was able to grow her business with only Php6,000 in seed capital.

3M on Wheels is a program of the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (Go Negosyo). In addition to free one-on-one coaching for active and aspiring entrepreneurs, financing and market solutions are also made available to them at the event.

3M On Wheels promotes the three M's for successful entrepreneurship, namely Mentorship, Money, and Market. All three form the foundation of Go Negosyo's mission to promote entrepreneurship among Filipinos. The event was inspired by the growing number of Filipinos turning to entrepreneurship and fills the learning gap in the entrepreneurial journey of active and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Gatchalian...

Senator Win Gatchalian supports the Department of Education's (DepEd) moves to revert to the old school calendar, which starts from June and ends in March or April.

Gatchalian has been calling for a gradual return to the old school calendar. For the senator, reverting to the old school calendar will allow learners to bond with their families during summers, where family gatherings are usually held. He further explained that, as elections take place in May, scheduling summer breaks for April and May will give way for more seamless poll preparations.

Results of a Pulse Asia survey conducted from June 19 to 23, 2023 revealed that 80% of Filipinos favor the return of the summer break to April and May.

Last year, Gatchalian filed Proposed

Senate Resolution No. 672, which sought an inquiry on the determination of the school year opening. In a hearing conducted on August 23 last year, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services (PAGASA) pointed out that while the current school calendar coincides with fewer days of extreme rainfall and less cancellation of classes due to tropical cyclones, there are also more school days with extremely hot temperature. The PAGASA also pointed out that the average temperature in the Philippines already rose by 0.75 percent.

The DepEd has been conducting consultations with stakeholders, including teachers' groups, schools, parents, and student leaders. Teachers' Dignity Coalition (TDC) Chairperson Benjo Basas cited an agreement with

the DepEd to end School Year 2023-2024 earlier. The end of the current school year (SY) was originally set for June 14, but the TDC said there's an agreement to end it earlier.

DepEd Deputy Spokesperson Francis Cesar Bringas, on the other hand, was quoted in news reports saying that the department eyes a July school opening for SY 2024-2025, and a June opening by June 2025-2026. Consultations between DepEd and stakeholders, however, continue as they head towards the finalizing stage of the policy.

"Mahalaga ang pagsasagawa ng maayos na konsultasyon sa lahat ng stakeholder lalo na't pabor ang karamihan sa ating mga kababayan na ibalik sa buwan ng Hunyo ang simula ng pasukan," said Gatchalian, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Basic Education.

FROM PAGE 1

from inappropriate content, more so on Television where viewers of all ages have unadulterated access. Grounded in the principles of due process and fairness, our resolve to enforce accountability in media content regulation is resolute," MTRCB Chairperson Lara Sotto said.

The Board, in exercising its adjudicative authority, also found the respondents' assertions unconvincing and lacking persuasiveness.

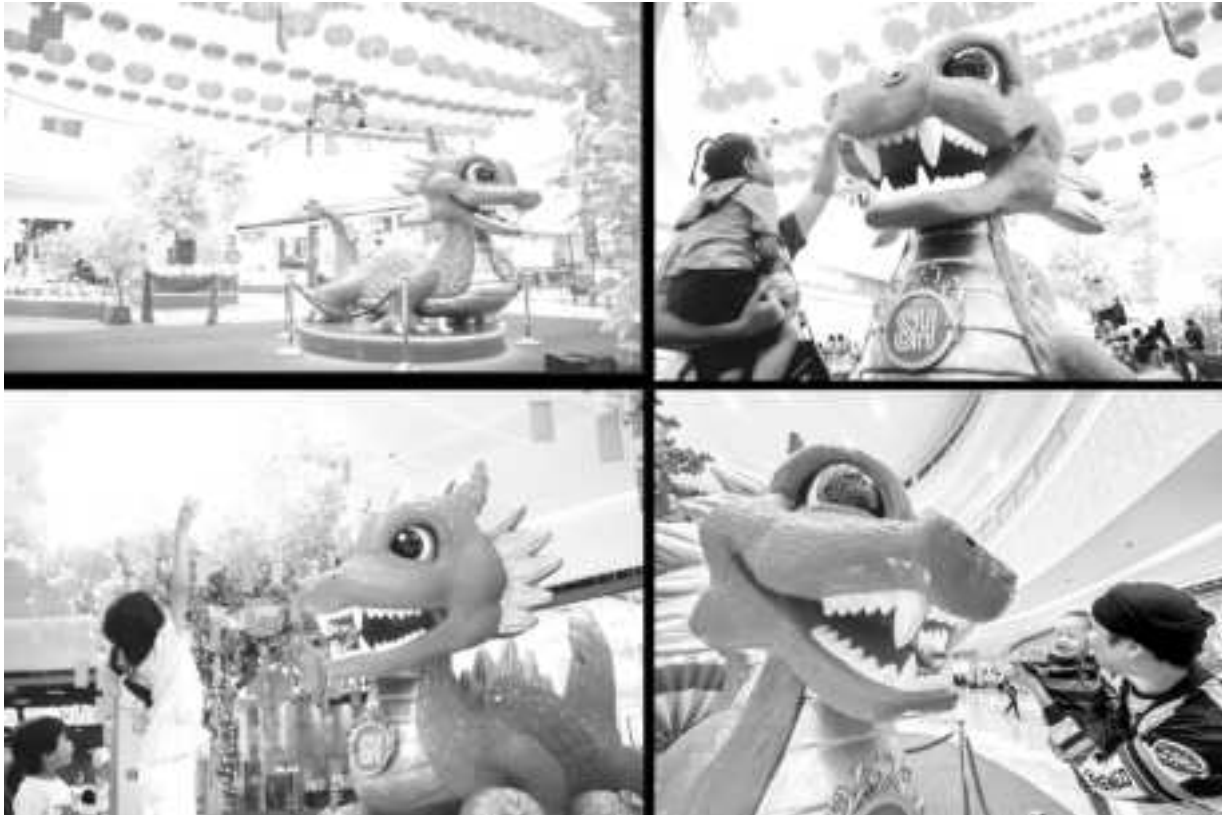
Consequently, the MTRCB extended the suspension to 28 days, including the initial 14-day preventive suspension.

On Jan. 11, the respondents submitted MRs. However, after a meticulous scrutiny of the matters raised in the respective motions, the MTRCB concluded that they merely reiterated points already raised in the position papers submitted earlier. As such, the MTRCB has decided to deny both MRs. (PNA)

4 VOL. I • NO. 31

STRAIGHT NEWS
PUBLISHED

SM CITY BACCOOR, SM CITY MOLINO, AND SM CENTER IMUS WELCOMES THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON



SM CITY BACCOOR, SM CITY MOLINO, AND SM CENTER IMUS, CAVITE - SM City Bacoor, SM City Molino, and SM Center Imus are ushering in the Chinese New Year with a captivating celebration, embracing the Year of the Dragon with a dazzling display at their event centers. Shoppers are treated to a spectacular scene featuring a breathing dragon and a grand prosperity tree, symbolizing good fortune and abundance. SM City Bacoor stands out with its golden prosperity tree, adding an extra touch of lavishness to the festivities. The vibrant atmosphere and intricate decorations create a joyous ambiance, providing a delightful experience for visitors as they immerse themselves in the spirit of the Lunar New Year at these SM malls in Cavite.

ARGYLLE ARRIVES AT SM CINEMA



Embark on an exhilarating cinematic journey as SM Cinema invites you to witness the pulse-pounding spy thriller, “Argylle.” Starring Henry Cavill, Sam Rockwell, and Bryce Dallas Howard, and hollywood’s biggest stars such as Dua Lipa, Samuel Jackson,Brayn Cranston, Ariana DeBose and John Cena. Experience espionage, suspense, and unexpected twists as you settle into the plush, comfortable seats at SM Cinema, where cutting-edge technology ensures an immersive and visually stunning viewing experience. Dive in and follow the high-stakes adventures of the world’s greatest spies as they navigate a web of danger and deception. Don’t miss your chance to be part of the ultimate cinematic thrill this February. Buy Your Tickets Now!

Jan, 31-Feb. 06, 2024

GET LUCKY WITH ACE HARDWARE – SM CITY BACCOOR!



SM CITY BACCOOR, CAVITE - Luck is on your side at ACE Fortune Finds Sale! From Feb 3-7, get up to 40% OFF + 10% OFF with min. spend of P2K w/ ACE Rewards. Enjoy great offers for up to 40% OFF on selected items, 10% OFF using Ace Rewards Card with min. P2,000 spend. For inquiries, reservation or request for quotations, you may reach Ace Hardware at 0917-8246152 / 0998-5914368 also on viber / 0998-5384021, or Email Opns.ACE.Bac@smretail.com. Visit Ace Hardware at the Lower Ground Level of SM City Bacoor today!

DTI-Laguna Awards Livelihood Packages to Former Rebels thru the PPG Program

Santa Rosa City — The Department of Trade and Industry – Laguna Provincial Office (DTI-Laguna), in partnership with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the City Government Unit of Santa Rosa, conducted the awarding of livelihood packages to former rebels as part of the Pangkabuhayan sa Pagbangan at Ginhawa (PPG) Program Implementation held at the Covered Court of Berkeley Heights Sub-division, Brgy. Pulong Sta. Cruz, Santa Rosa City, Laguna, on January 31, 2024.

Through the help of DTI and other government units, the PPG Program primarily provides small businesses a source on how to start their own businesses. This program seeks to ensure the economic growth and help the beneficiaries to start again from the scratch. Provision of entrepreneurial training is also included in the package, covering topics on entrepreneurial mindsetting, consumer education, business registration, and simplified action planning.

The following officials graced the event and showed support to this initiative: Laguna Trade and Industry Director Christian Ted Tungohan, DTI-4A Assistant Regional Director Revelyn Cortez, Vice Governor Karen Agapay (Province of Laguna), Hon. Danzel Rafter Y. Fernandez (Board Member, First District of Laguna), Col. Ronald Jess S. Alcludia (Commanding Officer, Task Force Army), Police Senior Master Sergeant Rex Mendoza, Pat Christopher Retutal (Santa Rosa City PNP), Nelson Barlaio (DILG representative), Hon. Josel Bondoc (Brgy. Councilor of Pulong Sta. Cruz, Santa Rosa City, Laguna), and Jonathan A. Irinco (President, Sun Logistic Workers Union Independent). The program started with preliminaries and opening remarks afterwards. Then, the above-mentioned officials delivered their individual messages of support to a total of 40 participants who were present on the said activity (NJAtayde, DTI-Laguna).

Jan, 31-Feb. 06, 2024

Unlocking Love’s celebrates Luck in Love this February

Love is in the air, and SM Supermalls is turning February into a magical journey like no other! Experience the convergence of Chinese New Year and Valentine’s Day at Luck in Love– a spectacular blend of traditions, festivities, and romantic moments that will sweep you off your feet with activities happening from February 1 to 29, 2024.

Luck in Love Feast
Indulge in the magic of togetherness as SM malls host the Luck in Love Feast. This event will bring people together over special food and dining deals because what better way to celebrate the Love Month and Chinese New Year than over a delicious meal?

Luck in Love Fair
SM malls will be transformed into a sea of red and lucky charms, creating a unique atmosphere that you won’t want to miss. From traditional trinkets to modern interpretations, discover the perfect token for your special someone in these bazaars.
Spot Love at the Lucky Dragon
Capture Instagrammable and TikTok-worthy moments with



SM’s enchanting dragon installations adorned with hearts. It’s the perfect backdrop to share your love story with the world.
As February also marks the Chinese New Year, welcome prosperity and success at SM with these special activities:
Lucky Forecast
Explore the mysteries of the future with our “Lucky Forecast” showcasing Chinese zodiac predictions. Uncover what the

stars have in store for your love life as you step into the year of the Dragon.
Lucky Dance
Be mesmerized by the vibrant Lion and Dragon Dancers parading through the mall, bringing good luck and positive energy to all. Join in the festivities and dance your way into a prosperous year ahead.
Fireworks Display
Prepare to be dazzled by a fireworks

Jan, 31-Feb. 06, 2024

Fortune: SM celebrates Luck in Love this February

display in select SM malls, lighting up the night sky and adding an extra touch of enchantment to your celebrations.
Free Feng Shui Consultation
Curious about what the future holds? Participate in a free Feng Shui consultation in select malls. Register via the SM Malls Online app to unlock insights into the energy flow of your space and make positive changes for the year ahead.
But of course, what’s February without some Valentine’s Day festivities? SM Supermalls will be sprinkling the love dust all over with these activities:

Love Thrills
Embark on a variety of bonding activities tailored for every couple. From movie dates and ice skating to Game Park and Sky Ranch adventures, find the perfect thrill to elevate your love story.
Love Playlist
Let the mall resonate with the sweet melodies of love. Enjoy couple serenades and performances that will fill the air with romance, turning your shopping experience into a musical love affair.
Pets-in-Love



Even our furry friends deserve a chance at love! Super Pets Club members can participate in a Twinning Costume Contest, pet blessings, and more. Share the love with your pets and celebrate their unique charm.
February at SM Supermalls is not just a month but an experience, a journey through love, luck, and laughter. See

what’s in store for you this month and unlock the fortune of love together and make this February one to remember. Gather your loved ones and don’t miss the “Luck in Love” festivities at your favorite SM mall!
Stay in the loop about all things SM. Visit www.smsupermalls.com or follow @SMSupermalls on social media.

Successful Medical Mission in Pasong Camachile II, General Trias City

On January 24, 2024, the Provincial government conducted a successful medical mission in Pasong Camachile II, Gen. Trias City. A total of 484 patients benefited from the medical services rendered by Dr. Alyson D. Tomelden and Roselle Frances Avey C. Flores of GEAMH, alongside the Gen. Trias City RHU team

composed of Dr. Mark Luigi B. Sison, Ailene M. Ching, Cherry L. Aspuria, and Dr. Yves M. Talosig.
Health essentials, such as maintenance medicine, multivitamins, supplements, and mosquito repellent lotion, were generously distributed to enhance community well-being. Additional services were also provided during the event, such as Pneumococcal/flu vaccination, and haircut, sponsored by the local government.
The resounding success of the mission was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Barangay Chairman Jowie S. Carampot, local government officials, barangay health workers, and the Provincial government team, signifying their commitment to prioritizing the health and welfare of constituents.- Romelyn P. Dones



Zubiri...

MANILA – Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri said Friday that a constitutional crisis he warned about is slowly happening.
“We have warned about a possible constitutional crisis and tried to avoid it. But unfortunately, it seems that this is slowly happening,” Zubiri said in a statement on Friday.
House Speaker Martin Romualdez sent a letter to the Senate expressing its commitment to support Resolution of Both Houses No. 6 (RBH 6), filed by Zubiri seeking to form a subcommittee under the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendments and start the discussions on the proposal to amend three

economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution.
Zubiri and Romualdez had a series of talks with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., where it was agreed that the RBH 6 will be approved by the Senate and adopted by the House of Representatives.
Romualdez’s letter further states that he is in full support of an “alternative people’s initiative,” which Zubiri denied was part of the discussion.
“We believe that any legitimate people’s initiative must be genuinely led by the people. The

Senate still maintains that this people’s initiative, in its current form and how the signatures are being collected, is flawed and unconstitutional,” Zubiri said.
Still hoping that a constitutional crisis “will be averted soon,” Zubiri assured that the Senate will remain vigilant by carefully studying the options available and maintain bicameralism in the legislative branch.
He said Romualdez’s letter “will have our reply on Monday.” (PNA)
Solon wants lotto games suspended



FROM PAGE 1