

NLEX Road Warriors and CAVITEX Braves Goes South for Basketball Camp



Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), the concessionaire for the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), and its C5 Link Segment, extends its support to the young athletes within its communities by organizing a two-leg basketball camp in collaboration with NLEX Road Warriors (NRW) and CAVITEX Braves, the professional basketball team owned by NLEX Corporation.



The basketball clinics were held at Cittadini School Gymnasium in San Pedro, Laguna last June 10 in partnership with La Marea Homeowners Association, and in General Trias Sports Complex last June 17, in partnership with the City Government of General Trias through the initiative of Honorable Mayor Luis "Jon Jon" Ferrer and Board Member Maurito "Morit" Sison. Through the clinics, aspiring young athletes aged 7-15 from the communities had an opportunity to enhance their skills and learn from NRW and Cavite Braves players and NRW basketball clinic coach, Coach Ford Arao.

During the said clinic, campers were divided into teams and embarked on an immersive journey at the basketball camp. They had a rewarding experience, participating in a wide range of dynamic drills and exercises that honed their fundamental basketball skills. From mastering dribbling and passing techniques to improving their defense, rebounding, and shooting abilities, the camp provided a comprehensive learning platform for the young athletes.

"We at MPT South recognize the importance of sport in promoting physical fitness and character-building for our youth. Hence, in partnership with NLEX Road Warriors and Cavite Braves, the clinic aspires to provide an enjoyable environment where these kids can learn basketball skills and develop character to help empower them on and off-court" said MPT South Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management, Arlette Capistrano.

Aside from the



basketball clinic itself, participants of the basketball camp had a chance to listen and learn from inspirational talks of NRW and CAVITEX Braves basketball players. Friendly games were also conducted between the aspiring athletes for them to have a full experience.

The successful basketball clinics organized received commendation from its LGU partners, highlighting the positive impact on the community's youth.

"We extend our sincerest gratitude to MPT South for their outstanding efforts in organizing this basketball clinic. The impact of this initiative on the children in our community cannot be overstated.

By providing them with this opportunity to enhance their skills, particularly in fostering camaraderie, MPT South is playing a vital role in helping these young individuals build a solid foundation for their sports aspirations," said General Trias Mayor Luis "Jon Jon" Ferrer.

"It is through initiatives like these that we witness the power of collaboration and the positive impact it can have on the lives of our young athletes. MPT South's dedication to creating opportunities for our community's youth is truly commendable," said General Trias Board Member Maurito "Morit" Sison.

NLEX Corporation and MPT South are both Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) subsidiaries, the infrastructure and toll road development arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC). Aside from CALAX, CAVITEX, and C5 Link, MPTC also holds the concession for the NLEX (North Luzon Expressway), NLEX Connector Road, SCTEX (Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway), and CCLEX (Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway) in Cebu.

For inquiries about this press release please email us at: corpcomm@mptsouth.com



CMDI celebrates love and accomplishment on its founding anniversary



Bukas, para sa lahat.

The CARD-MRI Development Institute (CMDI), Inc., the education arm of the CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institution, celebrated its 23rd founding anniversary with the theme "Educating the Minds, Connecting Hearts in Pursuing Greater Heights" in Brgy. Tranca, Bay, Laguna on February 14, 2023.

Coinciding with the celebration of the love day, CMDI commemorates the message of empowerment by shaping competent and responsible individuals through quality education which will eventually help them uplift their quality of life.

"For 23 years, CMDI remains committed to our call of ending extreme poverty in the country by facilitating learning on development to our students, staff, and socioeconomically challenged individuals," said CMDI Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Edzel A. Ramos. Dr. Ramos also urges its community of workforce to embrace within their hearts the initiatives and values of the learning institute and share unparalleled energy in providing better opportunities to Filipino families.

CMDI President Dr. Flordeliza L. Sarmiento also reminisced about the humble beginning of CMDI having a dream for socioeconomically challenged families. "When CMDI opened as a training center in 2000, it opened boundless opportunities for many individuals to improve their quality of life. With its principle of empowering communities through education, CMDI continues to grow and is

now gradually recognized as a respected development institute in the country."

Celebration and highlights During the celebration, CMDI looked back on the institution's educational initiatives and success in the academe, workshops and training, scholarship program, and other activities that created an impact on the lives of its students, learners, and the nanays. The two decades of serving the local communities across the country through learning and development led to the growth of thousands of individuals, which also ended the cycle of poverty within their families.

CMDI also celebrated the people behind the success of the learning institute. An awarding ceremony was held for their outstanding resource persons, faculty members, and trainers.

Moreover, CMDI also facilitated its first alumni induction ceremony. CARD MRI Founder and Chair Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip is grateful to the first set of alumni officers as they will serve as companions and partners to advocate the importance of education and preserve the institute's values and culture.

Dr. Alip also emphasized the power of education, "Education is the most powerful tool to end the cycle of poverty. By providing the best learning experience for Filipinos, we will be able to lift the Filipinos out of poverty and make them economically sustainable."

He also added that CMDI is a gift of love

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New Judgin De Lima indictment sets hearing July 7

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Revoke Cebu PacificAir franchise, Solon urges Congress



Call for full implementation of EVOSS amid red tape

OUTSTANDING CLASS C MUNICIPAL POLICE STATION IGINAWAD SA LUISIANA LAGUNA

Concepcion: Transforming Agriculture will be PBBM's Legacy

Go Negosyo founder and Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) Lead for Jobs Joey Concepcion strongly supports President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s decision to remain as Agricultural Secretary until the required structural reforms are instituted to make the country's agriculture sector more efficient and competitive.

President Marcos made the remark in a recent event with the Department of Agriculture (DA).



"Staying as the lead for agriculture is a smart decision from the President. He can quickly make reforms and ensure that all systems are in place to help the country's farmers just like what his father did during his term," Concepcion said.

"Having met the President several times to discuss Go Negosyo's Kapatid Angat Lahat Agri Program KALAP, I know



Photo shows during the PRO4A Kicks Off 28th Police Community Relations Month with the theme, "Serbisyonag Nagkakaisa para sa Ligtas at Maunlad na Pamayanan" with Guest of Honor and Speaker ATTY. LEONORA G. BARTOLOME, Regional Director, NAPOLCOM 4A, PRO CALABARZON Regional Director PBGen Carlito M. Gaces and other officials of PNP REGION 4A.

Attention, shoppers! Are you ready for #AweSM deals and BIG savings? Look no further 'coz it's officially SALE Season here at SM City San Pablo! Our 3-day sale is in full swing, offering incredible discounts of up to 70% OFF on all your favorite items from July 14, 15, and 16! Plus, every purchase gives you a chance to WIN a Brand New Suzuki Avenir Motorcycle! Don't wait, come and shop till you drop! #SM3DaySale #EverythingHereAtSM

EDITORIAL: Peace in Muslim Mindanao

After the fighting has stopped, what is there to do in Muslim Mindanao?

With the comprehensive peace agreement between the national government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front having led to the establishment of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), the task now is to find ways to ensure lasting peace and promote sustainable development.

Restoring peace and order in Muslim Mindanao is a priority of the Philippine National Police.

This was underscored by PNP Chief Gen. Benjamin Acorda Jr. recently when he gave assurances in a recent gathering of BARMM leaders called the LGU Fellowship Program on Social Cohesion and Resilience that the institution will “continue to work hand-in-hand with LGUs, civil society organizations, and communities to break down barriers, build bridges of understanding and pave the way for peace and progress.”

The meeting, organized by Project CIRCLE (Communities of Inclusion and Resilience through Collaborative Local Engagements) brought together a pioneering batch of leaders from different towns in Basilan, Lanao del Sur, and Maguindanao del Sur to discuss innovative polices, programs and plans to counter violent extremism and consolidate gains already achieved in promoting social harmony, sustainability and resilience in BARMM.

The message delivered by the country's top cop before the gathering of BARMM leaders is timely and appropriate as the PNP will be taking a lead role along with the military in maintaining peace and order in the region after decades of armed conflict.

In fact, the PNP has already started the screening of applicants consisting of former members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front who want to join the police force.

Some 700 applicants from the MILF and 300 from the MNLF will soon undergo a battery of tests to determine if they are physically and mentally fit to become police officers.

At least 7,145 MILF and MNLF members passed the qualifying examination to enter the police force last year.

The BARMM leadership has endorsed 1,000 since the quota of the PNP for this year's recruitment is only 400.

Once hired by the PNP, the former rebels have to obtain a bachelor's degree within 15 years for their appointment status in the PNP to become permanent. Successful applicants will be assigned in the BARMM.

The integration of former Muslim rebels into the PNP is part and parcel of the peace agreements between the government and the MNLF/MILF.

The former rebels-turned peacekeepers can help facilitate dialogue between the regional government and the communities they serve, and thus help maintain law and order in Mindanao which has been a hotbed of armed rebellion since the 1970s.

PH, WORLD BANK...

Effectiveness and Competencies Enhancement Project (TEACEP).

The TEACEP aims to improve equitable access to quality teaching in Kindergarten to Grade 6 (K-6) in project-supported areas, namely Regions IX

(Zamboanga Peninsula), XII (SOCCSKSARGEN) and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Finally, budgetary support amounting to US\$750 million under the Philippines First Sustain-

able Recovery Development Policy Loan (DPL) will support the country's policy reforms aimed at boosting environmental protection and climate resilience.

The loan agreements were signed using a digital signing platform (DocuSign) in support of the WB's shift to simplify and streamline its business processes through digital technology. The WB will be using e-signatures as the default modality for the signing of its financing agreements beginning July 1, 2023.

The WB-International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) is the Philippines' third largest official development assistance (ODA) partner. DOF.GOV

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De Lima ...

MANILA – The remaining criminal charge against former senator Leila De Lima has been raffled to a new Muntinlupa regional trial court (RTC) judge following motions for inhibition filed by the accused before the last magistrate who heard the case.

In an order dated June 29, the new judge in the case, RTC Branch 204 Judge Abraham Joseph B. Alcantara sets the next hearing for the case on July 7.

The case was previously assigned to the Muntinlupa RTC Branch 256 but the judge there,

Romeo Buenaventura, voluntarily inhibited himself upon the motion of the accused in the case namely: former Bureau of Corrections chief Jesus B. Bucayu and De Lima's erstwhile bodyguards Ronnie Dayan and Joenel Sanchez. Buenaventura's recusal in the case was sought by the accused after the magistrate turned down De Lima's temporary release on bail.

The remaining case is where accused De Lima, 63, allegedly tolerated drug trade in the New Bilibid Prison while she was secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ).

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Revoke...

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY: A lawmaker filed House Resolution No. 1101 urging Congress to revoke the franchise of Cebu Pacific Air due to unsatisfactory services and numerous complaints by travelers.

Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, of Cagayan de Oro City, filed the resolution citing numerous complaints from passengers regarding frequent flight cancellations and delays, unreliable customer service, and impolite ground personnel.

During a senate inquiry, Rodriguez cited passenger the sad experiences about the Cebu Pacific Air's disappointing customer services in both domestic and international flights.

A passenger re-

counted that they were made to sleep in Narita airport in Japan without food and accommodation when the Cebu Pacific Air flight from Tokyo to Manila was delayed on June 5, 2023.

Rodriguez also mentioned the case of the Waga and Hembrador families who were booked on a flight from Cagayan de Oro to Manila last May 25, 2023 at around 6:00 AM, only to be cancelled without explanation forcing them to rebook their flights at their own expense.

Aside from hearing complaints from the passengers, the lawmaker also recalled the three hour delayed flight of his wife who took a Cebu Pacific flight from Cebu to Cagayan de Oro City.

A financial report

Two other cases in other Muntinlupa RTC salas were already dismissed after key witnesses recanted their testimonies against De Lima who insists she is being politically persecuted.

Another of De Lima's co-accused in the remaining case, Jose Adrian “Jad” De Vera, figured in the news the past week after he was apprehended while returning to the National Bureau of Investigation detention facility after an alleged unauthorized trip. Separate charges for that incident against De Vera and the guards have been initiated before the DOJ. (PNA)

From Page 1

about the airline's revenue on overbooking, cancellations, refunds and changing flights of checked in passengers disclosed a whooping P 1.70 billion, Rodriguez said.

In filing the resolution to revoke the Cebu Pacific Air franchise, Rodriguez reminded the august body that a franchise is a privilege granted by the State through its legislative body and shall be subject to amendment, alteration, or repeal by Congress when the common good requires.

Cebu Pacific Air's long history of repeated unsatisfactory services prompted the Mindanao lawmaker to seek suspension of the franchise granted to the company by virtue of Republic Act 7151 signed in August 1991.

Milisya yields with firearm in Quezon

CAMP CAPIN-PIN, Rizal - A Milisyang Bayan member surrenders with firearm in General Nakar, Quezon on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. Joint forces of the 80th Infantry “Steadfast” Battalion, General Nakar PNP, and Quezon PNP at Sitio Marabot in Brgy. Lumutan facilitated the surrender of alias Malagmat, an MB member and a courier of KLG Narciso from the Sub-Regional Military Area 4A of the Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee. Alias Malag-

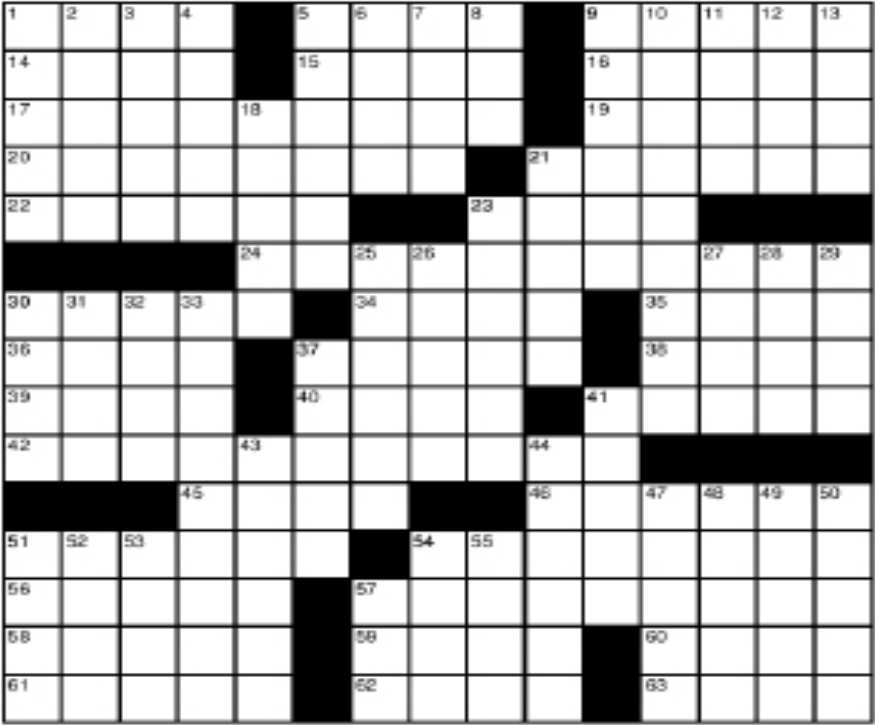
mat yielded one M16 assault rifle and one long magazine loaded with 23 rounds of live ammunition. “These continuous surrenders across Quezon are a testament to the success of the collaboration between the Army, PNP, and the LGUs together with our key stakeholders in empowering communities to be insurgency-resilient. With this, we urge the remaining rebels to return to the government's side and let us work together to bring peace and development in Quezon,” 2nd



ACROSS

- “Oh, woe!”
- The first to fall, after the fall
- She had a cat names Dinah
- The wisw have it?
- Subject of an apology from HAL-9000
- What he says, goes
- Stopped sleeping on the floor?
- Catcher's position
- Request to a barista
- It might be Odd or happy
- A hero might have it
- Pai plant
- Barber's instuction manual?
- Album entry
- The true face of Walter Mitty
- Part of MIT
- Neither all nor nothing
- She and Nicole lived a Simple Life
- Kind of values
- Gets a bronze
- Store sign
- Evening news hr.
- “Best of intentions” or Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde”?
- Many unknown Johns and Janes
- Surrounded by
- Like a brand new trail
- Prepare to end an engagement
- Letter embellishment
- Prestigious list of groundbreaking axioms?
- Partner of Brahma and Vishnu
- Stable parent
- Are not casual?
- Less green, perhaps
- “I he Heat _____”
- It may require stiches

Crossword Puzzles



DOWN

- Some saxes
- Blackmore's “_____ Doone”
- Triton's daughter, a la Disney
- _____ bet (stays in the game)
- Slow movement
- Cake with a kick
- Present opener?
- Was in the forefront
- Categorize
- Flavor for a British jelly bean
- “My turn to bat”
- Part of a Barbecue bed
- German duck
- Disney flier
- Paris bistros
- Fiddling (with)
- Giraffes' kin
- A singing Carpenter
- Cognizant of
- Automaker's amt.
- Stem's opposite
- “Yo, Bub!”
- Word with zero or happy
- Present opener?
- Take a Porsche out without paying, perhaps
- Prepared to be shot
- Melodic subjects
- Beyond bounds
- Mediterranean
- sail
- Neckwear for a dog or a dogface
- “Beavis and Butt-head” spinoff
- Gobsmacks
- Part of a cog or a comb
- “Back in the _____” Beatles
- Soda available in grape, orange, and peach
- Send sprawling
- Spanish ladies: Abbr.
- Drachma's replacement
- PA location of a '79 scare



cmdi...

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destined to be found here on the very day of love.

CARD MRI Managing Director Aristeo A. Dequito expressed his gratitude to all staff and faculty for their dedication and endless contribution to achieving the central goal of CARD MRI to end poverty in the Philippines. “The entire CARD MRI acknowledges CMDI for serving as our educational arm. I believe that you are worthy to be celebrated along with world's heart day as you mold everyone to have a courageous heart to rise above the poverty line.”

CMDI is a member institution of CARD MRI that aims to create

competent and dedicated people who empower and uplift socially and economically challenged families across the country. CMDI offers senior high school, TESDA, and college courses, trainings to equip CARD MRI staff and partners, and other capacity-building programs to CARD clients and the communities. As of December 2022, CMDI had 1,132 CMDI scholars and 3,350 students enrolled in its senior high school, college, and TechVoc programs both in Bay and Tagum City Campuses.

To learn more about CMDI and its services, visit its Facebook page @cmdiofficial.

Concepcion ...

and technologies, thereby achieving economies of scale, and allow the development of downstream industries, such as food processing, due to adequate and reliable supply of raw materials,” he added.

Other countries that have implemented farm clustering, such as China, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, all enjoyed higher yields.

In his opinion piece for the Manila Times, Adriano battled for the immediate and proper implementation of the law condoning the debt of defaulting agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARB).

“The challenge now is to formulate implementing rules and reg-

From Page 3

ulations that will facilitate awarding of individual land titles. This means the process should not be burdensome for the ARBs,” Adriano said in his column.

He also called for the implementation of a higher land retention ceiling, currently at 5 hectares for a couple tilling the land and 3 hectares for an individual cultivator.

“The proposal of the FEF is to raise it to at least 24 hectares in accordance with the ceiling provided for the homesteaders program of the past. If adopted, this will promote the rise of Filipino middle-class farmers or ‘family-operated farms,’ he said. PR

OUTSTANDING CLASS C MUNICIPAL POLICE STATION IGINAWAD SA LUISIANA LAGUNA



LUISIANA, LAGUNA – Ngayong araw ika- 3, ng Hinyo 2023 na 7: 30 ng umaga ginanap ang Tradisyunal na Flag Raising activity kasabay ang pagdiriwang ng ika-28th Police Community Relations Month Kick-Off and awarding ceremony sa Laguna Police Provincial Office sa pamumuno ni PCOL HAROLD DEPOSITAR, bagong tinalagang Officer-In-Charge.bilang Proviclial Director ng Laguna.

Ang Luisiana Municipal Police Station sa pamumuno ni PMAJ GLENN CUEVAS, Chief of Police ay nagpapasalamat sa taos pusong suporta ng komunidad sa bayan ng Luisiana, at kay Mayor Jomapher Alvarez .Dahil sa napanatili ang Kapayapaan at Kaayusan ng mahal nitong bayan. (KEVIN PAMATMAT)

Higit lang kanilang Best Practice “Barangay at Pulisya, Magkaagapay” na kung saan nagbigay daan para sa matibay na pagtitiwala ng komunidad para sa Laguna Police Provincial Office sa pamumuno ni PCOL HAROLD DEPOSITAR, bagong tinalagang Officer-In-Charge.bilang Proviclial Director ng Laguna.

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AQUAFLASK MAKES ARMY'S AND CARATS UNITE!

An AweSM K-Pop night at SM City Tanza

Annyeonghaseyo! K-Pop nation shouted it loud as SM City Tanza brought an aweSM night of fun with songs and dances by BTS and SEVENTEEN!

The event was filled with the Army's 'dynamite' explosion of excitement while the Carats made it so 'Hot Hot Hot'. The Army's and Carats went to the event in costumes and brought K-Pop weapons that carry a youthful and vibrant vibe to the mall.

Nonetheless, what made the event so amusing and remarkable was the vast art installation of BTS x SEVENTEEN logo amassed using 1,400 AquaFlask thermal bottles. K-Pop generation compliments AquaFlask's advanced and innovative design and technology that makes it top 1 thermal bottle in the Philippines.



Grandparents support K-Pop fandom of their GenZ granddaughter and took a photo with her at BTS AquaFlask art installation.



Army's and Carats in their K-Pop outfit posed at the SVT AquaFlask Installation at SM City Tanza during the BTS x Seventeen K-Pop night.



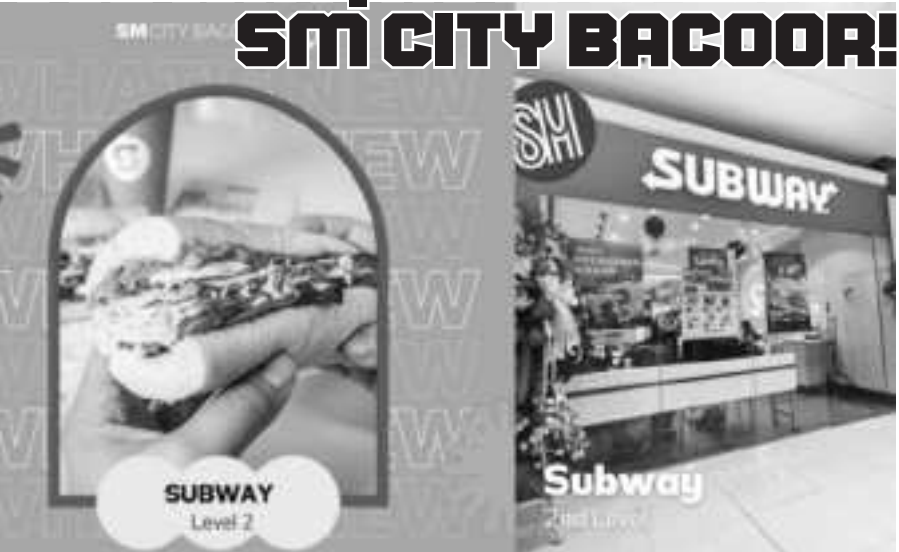
"Cheers for more K-Pop nights at SM Supermalls" –Army's and Carats while holding the AquaFlask Thermal Bottles during a K-Pop night at SM City Tanza.

Quickly SM City Rosario is now open!



Try out now their delicious and refreshing drinks. Located at Lower Level so you can easily drop by and grab your favorite drink anytime.

SUBWAY, NOW OPEN AT SM CITY BACOR!



SM CITY BACOR, CAVITE – If you're craving for the best wraps and sandwiches, then you know the best way to go. Subway® is now open at SM City Bacor to serve you the best sandwiches, wraps, salads and drinks in town! Celebrate freshness because there's no perfect way to ease your cravings but to order your favorite delightful Subway® Footlong Favorites or add some spice to your day with the Spicy Buffalo Chicken. Head now to the 2nd level of SM City Bacor and choose from the mouth-watering menu Subway® offers. See you!

Call for ...

Senator Win Gatchalian has renewed calls on the Department of Energy (DOE) to fully implement the Energy Virtual One-Stop Shop (EVOSS) system to make it easier for prospective investors to develop renewable energy (RE) projects.

Gatchalian's call followed a World Wide Fund (WWF) report that said red tape continues to hinder the development of the RE industry in the country.

"We pushed to institutionalize EVOSS precisely for the purpose of expediting the permitting process of generation projects that would help diversify our energy

source and enhance the country's energy supply," Gatchalian, who currently serves as vice chair of the Senate Committee on Energy, said.

Since the law was enacted in March 2019, government agencies are still in the process of complying with the law. Not all permitting processes have been integrated into the system and as such are non-compliant with the EVOSS time frames.

Authored by Gatchalian, the EVOSS law or Republic Act 11234 otherwise known as An Act Establishing The Energy Virtual One-Shop For The Purpose Of Stream-

lining The Permitting Process Of Power Generation Projects, is expected to accelerate investments in the energy sector.

According to Gatchalian, EVOSS could sufficiently address concerns on a simplified permitting process, eliminate red tape in the energy sector, and promote a more conducive business environment that is hoped to attract more energy developers.

"Kailangang mai-patupad nang maayos ang mga probisyon ng batas dahil ito ang magsisiguro na magkakaroon ang bansa ng sapat na suplay ng enerhiya sa panahong kailangan natin ito," he said

The lawmaker further said government efforts to sustain economic growth require the creation of the appropriate conditions to attract private investments. "The essence of the law is to remove unnecessary permits and create a supportive and responsive environment that would attract investments into the country's energy sector. Thus, the energy department should ensure all the provisions of the law are implemented right away," he added.



100 ways to Improve Mental Health

- 1.Value your presence and uniqueness.
- 2.Eat on a consistent schedule – even if you don't feel hungry put something in your body for nutrients.
- 3.Exercise.
- 4.Create routines.
- 5.Be open and honest with your care team.
- 6.Create a care plan.
- 7.Create a Hope Box. HOPE stands for Hold On Pain Ends.
- 8.Stay hydrated.
- 9.Stay current with your wellness check-ups.
- 10.Practice self-compassion. Be kind to yourself.
- 11.Avoid tobacco products and alcohol (especially if you're taking medication).
- 12.Have uplifting and nurturing people around you. Identify at least three lines of support.
- 13.Volunteer.
- 14.Set daily affirmations.
- 15.Set daily SMART goals.
- 16.Treat yourself with respect and love.
- 17.Focus on the here and now.
- 18.Give yourself grace.
- 19.Learn to forgive yourself – especially for hurts and trauma that were done to you. You are not to blame for the actions of others.
- 20.Work through forgiving those who have hurt you if that hurt is keeping your from moving forward.
- 21.Incorporate meditation into your daily routine.
- 22.Practice mindfulness.
- 23.Get adequate sleep.
- 24.Limit access to people and things that cause you stress.
- 25.Practice yoga.
- 26.Limit (or eliminate) your caffeine intake – especially if you have anxiety.
- 27.Try something new – a new restaurant, hobby, local attraction, etc.
- 28.Do a puzzle.
- 29.Watch a funny YouTube video.

to be cont. fo next issue

PH: WORLD BANK SIGN LOAN AGREEMENTS TO SUPPORT ECON RECOVERY, AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, AND SUSTAINABILITY

Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno and World Bank (WB) Country Director for the Philippines Ndiame Diop signed four (4) loan agreements amounting to US\$1.14 billion on June 26, 2023 at the Department of Finance (DOF) office in Manila to finance various government initiatives aimed at accelerating economic recovery,

strengthening climate resilience, improving the quality of education, and developing the agriculture and fisheries sectors. US\$276 million will support projects of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), specifically the Mindanao Inclusive Agriculture Development Project (MIADP) and the

Philippine Fisheries and Coastal Resiliency (Fish-CoRe) Project.

The MIADP aims to sustainably increase the agricultural productivity, resiliency, and accessibility to markets and services of organized farmers and fisherfolks in selected ancestral domains and for selected value chains in Mindanao.

Meanwhile, Fish-

CoRe aims to improve fisheries management, enhance the value of fisheries production, and elevate incomes in selected coastal communities.

To improve the quality of education, a US\$110 million loan agreement was signed for the Department of Education's (DepEd) Teacher

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Concepcion ...

that he cares for the farmers, and he is passionate to transform the industry. Given the right time, this will be his legacy," he added.

Concepcion said he is also highly supportive of the President's program of encouraging farm clustering as an important component of his administration's agricultural modernization thrust in his recent pronouncement during his meeting with South Cotabato farmers.

Concepcion underscored the importance of farm clustering to boost productivity, ensure food security and increase the income of farmers.

Farm clustering was among those recommended by Go Negosyo's Kapatid Ang Lahat Program (KALAP) Agri Pro-

gram and think tank group Foundation for Economic Freedom (FEF) during their meeting with Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) officials, led by Secretary Conrado Estrela III.

"For the period 2001-2021, the annual average contribution of agriculture to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is just 0.3 % while industry and the service sectors contributed 1.4 percent 3.1 percent, respectively. This is not acceptable since the asset base of agriculture in terms on land use is huge compared to that of industry and service," said Concepcion.

"Philippine agriculture needs scale. We need clustering to achieve it. For this to become a reality, titling of land needs

to be cleaned up," he added. Through clustering, Concepcion said farming would be attractive to big companies because they only want to lease agriculture lands and not purchase them

Farm clustering would also serve as the best complement to the reforms and programs being initiated President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., as concurrent Department of Agriculture Secretary, to enhance food security, boost the agriculture sector and uplift the lives of farmers.

"It is different if the President himself is at the helm of the Agriculture Department. Also, he has good people implementing his vision for the country, like Agrarian Reform Sec-

From Page 1

retary Estrella and other government agencies," Concepcion said.

"KALAP and the private sector, composed of big brothers in the agri sector, including Dr. Fermin Adriano of FEF, are always here to offer our expertise to help the President attain his vision," he added.

Through farm clustering, it would be easier for the government to provide assistance to farmers, such as loans and farm machinery, because it would deal with groups rather than individual tillers, FEF representative Dr. Fermin Adriano explained during the meeting with DAR.

"The process will pave way for the use of modern farm machinery

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the vibrant LGBTQIA community.

We invite everyone to join us for an unforgettable celebration of diversity and equality on July 2, 2023, at the Spaceport Grounds of Enchanted Kingdom, the "Magic of EKquality" promises to be an evening filled with star-studded performances and captivating entertainment.

The concert will feature an impressive lineup of talented artists, including the upcoming IWant TCS, DRAG & ME's actors Precious Paula Nicole (Drag Race PH winner), Lance Carr, Amy Nobles, JC Alcantara, and Andrea Brillantes. Joining them on stage are Vivaious dance crew, Tanya Jose Evans, Loura Mercy, Tiffany, Lady Gagita and Anton Diva, all set to bring their energy and charisma to captivate the audience.

In the spirit of inclusivity, we invite all park guests to participate in the SaGAYlahan segment, which allows individuals to showcase their creativity and individuality through their best PRIDE outfits. Attendees who arrive in their most fabulous pride

costumes will have the opportunity to register for the SaGAYlahan segment and take part in the catwalk, competing for the highly coveted title of "Sagaylahan Queen." Participants will also have a chance to win cash prizes, making this segment an exhilarating experience for all.

To further enhance the celebration, we are thrilled to announce the "Magic of EKquality" EK Online Store promo (EKOS). Starting from June 28 to July 2, guests can avail of a special discounted price of only P935 for one Regular Day Pass. Additionally, the first 2,000 guests to avail of the promo will receive a FREE Magnolia ice cream scoop, which can be claimed at Amazon Grill or Diggers, adding a sweet touch to the festive atmosphere.

The event aims to inspire not only the LGBTQIA community but also individuals from all walks of life to embrace diversity, equality and inclusivity. By coming together and celebrating our differences, we can build a stronger, more accepting society. PR

SM Cares champions disaster resilience among senior citizens, PWDs with return of Emergency Preparedness Forum 2023

SM Cares continues to empower senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs) to become more resilient in the face of disasters with the return of the organization's annual Emergency Preparedness Forum, in partnership with Office of Civil Defense, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), and the UP Resilience Institute.

In celebration of National Disaster Resilience Month, this year's forum is set to be held the entire month of July in eight different locations, starting on July 5, 2023, Wednesday, at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall in Pasay City. Subsequent locations include SM City Tuguegarao, SM City San Pablo, SM Center Lemery, SM City Consolacion, SM Center Ormoc, SM Lanang Premier, SM City Consolacion, SM Center Ormoc, SM Lanang Pre-



mier, and SM City Bacolod. The Emergency Preparedness Forum was designed with the goal of helping vulnerable sectors like senior citizens and PWDs become better prepared for unforeseen events. The event will include lectures from emergency preparedness and disaster resilience experts like PHIVOLCS Supervising Science Research Specialist Mr. Jeffrey Perez, PAGASA Officer-In-Charge



SM Cares champions disaster resilience among senior citizens, PWDs with return of Emergency Preparedness Forum 2023

Dr. Esperanza O. Cayanan, and University of the Philippines Resilience Institute (UPRI) Executive Director Dr. Mahar Lagmay.

Meanwhile, essential and practical survival tips tailored to the needs of senior citizens and PWDs will also be shared by rescue and survival expert, Dr. Ted Esguerra. "SM Cares believes that emergency preparedness should be inclusive. Senior citizens and PWDs are the sectors that are most vulnerable and at risk during natural disasters, and we want them to be equipped and ready for whatever may come," said SM Supermalls Senior Vice President Engr. Bien C. Mateo. "The Emergency Preparedness Forum this year will be introduced to new locations with the goal of building more resilient communities."

SM Cares' Emergency Preparedness Forum has shown consistent success and growth since it first began. In 2022, SM Cares recorded a total of 1,983 forum participants across 4 sessions. The initiative also shows SM Cares' support of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly "SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being", "SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities", and "SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities".

SM Cares is the corporate social responsibility arm of SM Supermalls, supporting initiatives focused on communities and the environment. Its advocacies include Programs for the Environment, Persons with Disabilities, Women & Breastfeeding Mothers, Children & Youth, Senior Citizens, and the SM Bike-friendly initiative.

To learn more about these programs, visit www.smsupermalls.com/smcars.

DTI CAVITE HOLDS A PROVINCE-WIDE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT 11900 OR THE VAPORIZED NICOTINE AND NON-NICOTINE PRODUCTS REGULATION ACT



In the light of the implementation of Republic Act 11900 or the "Vaporized Nicotine and Non-nicotine Products Regulation Act" which took effect on August 12, 2022 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) in full effect on December 28, 2022, the DTI-Cavite has conducted a province-wide virtual conference dubbed as "Be Informed, Be Aware, Be Prepared - Cavite Vape Industry Readiness on the Implementation of RA 11900" last April 20, 2023.

This initiative provided support and assistance to the United Cavite Vape Shop Owners, a group of vape shop owners, importers and manufacturers, by equipping them with enough knowledge about RA 11900 to ensure full compliance to all the requirements of the law. Conference topic discussions started with the salient features of RA 11900 tackled by DTI 4A Adjudication Officer Atty. Belynjohn T. Delos Reyes, followed by orientation on DAO 22-06 S. 2022 or the The New Technical Regulation Concerning

the Mandatory Product Certification of VN&NNP discussed by the Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS). DTI Cavite also invited the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Revenue District 54A, East Cavite who talked about the RR No. 14-2022, Rules and Regulations Implementing the Provisions of RA 11900, Relative to the Importation, Manufacturing, Sale, Packaging, Distribution, Use, and Communication of VN&NNP and NTP. The Department of Health (DOH) Region 4A provided an audio-video presentation on DOH AO 2022-0046 or the Guidelines on Graphic Health Warnings for VN&NNP and NTP Pursuant to RA 11900 and RA 10643 or "Graphic Health Warnings Law" & DOH AO 2022-0047 or the First (1st) Set of Graphic Health Warning Templates for VN&NNP and NTP Pursuant to RA 11900 and 10643.

On the last part of the webinar, DTI Cavite provided an overview of the online DTI Business Name registration process. PR



REFURBISHING HEALTH CENTERS, REFUELING CARE FOR COMMUNITIES

Not just one but two highly destructive typhoons had hit the Brgy. Canlalay in Biñan, Laguna over the past years. Following the onslaught of Ondoy, the humble community was also devastated by the severe tropical storm Paeng.

But amidst it all, Brgy. Canlalay Health Station, the heart of health-



Health workers hope to provide better primary healthcare services amidst the upgrades at Brgy. Canlalay Health Station



Before and after: SMFI and UNIQLO Philippines upgrade the Brgy. Canlalay Health Station

care in Canlalay, stood firm. Local health workers came together and utilized whatever resources they had to fulfill their responsibility of providing the first line of medical care in the community. This dedication, meanwhile, didn't go unnoticed.

The UNIQLO Philippines and SM group, through SM Foundation and SM City Sta. Rosa, collaborated to support the refurbishment and revitalization of the health center. Dedication that

fecting its safety and functionality.

According to midwife Jossie Zapata, additional problems arose during the onslaught of Paeng: "Ang kahoy po na sumusuporta sa aming mga bintana ay may anay na. Ang pinto ay hindi na rin po nakakabit sa hamba kaya't ginagawan na lang namin ng paraan para maisara. Ganoon rin ang aming mga file cabinets-gawa ng kalumaan ay hindi na namin halos magamit o maisara. Wala rin po kaming lagayan ng cards mga baby at mga buntis."

To fill the other gaps, the community worked together to build a makeshift delivery bed: "Nagkaroon rin po ng pagkakataon na wala kaming delivery bed kaya't nagpagawa po ako ng improvised na kama sa aking kapitbahay, para kahit paano ay may mahihigaan ang mga pasyente naming buntis," she added.

As Brgy. Canla-



Brgy. Canlalay Health Station midwife Jossie Zapata smiles as she uses the new delivery bed.



Brgy. Canlalay Health Station's door and window before the renovation

lay Health Station continues to rebuild and fortify its healthcare systems, SM and UNIQLO Philippines helped refuel their capacity to provide better service to the community.

Through the collaboration, the center underwent physical repairs—from roofing to walls and flooring. The termite-infested doors and windows were aptly replaced with glass doors and treated wood. The center was fitted with a breastfeeding station to provide comfort and privacy to breastfeeding mothers. The refurbishment efforts went beyond mere structural improvements. The health center was equipped with a delivery bed, medical equipment, a refrigerator for vaccines, and televisions for health programs. More energy-efficient lights and appliances as well as steel cabinets, chairs, and tables were placed to support the center's operation.

The Original Filipino blend Yogurt is now officially open at SM City Dasmariñas



The first ever SM branch of Chimmy, the original Filipino blend yogurt recently open at SM City Dasmariñas. Joining the opening were the Chimmy executives and SM City Dasmariñas mall management. Visit its store at the 2nd level near Cinema and enjoy the Euphoria experience.