

Easier Journeys Ahead: Shorter Travel to Silang Town and Tagaytay Just Around the Corner

Get ready to experience a game-changer in travel convenience as the new subsection of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) gears up to open its doors, paving the way for quicker access to Silang and Tagaytay!

Nestled in a strategic location near Metro Manila, the province of Cavite stands as an ideal destination for an effortless road trip and a rejuvenating weekend getaway. Renowned for its picturesque tourist spots and Instagram-worthy destinations, Cavite boasts two notable gems - the

breathtaking landscape in Tagaytay, and the rapidly growing array of coffee shops and farm-to-table restaurants of Silang town. Whether you seek scenic landscapes or immersive cultural experiences, Cavite holds the key to satisfying every discerning traveler's wanderlust.

Explore the charm of Cavite and embrace the joys of seamless travel, as the soon-to-open CALAX Silang (Aguinaldo) Interchange promises to redefine your Biyaheng South. Check out these spots that are located a few minutes away from the upcoming exit of CALAX!

CAFES AND RESTAURANTS

1. Cafe Agapita



(Photos from Café Agapita Facebook page)

Situated in the heart of Silang, Cavite, this famous family-ran cafe in town is known for its rich-tasting coffee drinks, home-baked bread, pastries, and cakes. The cafe's charming ambiance adds

to the allure, as it resides in a rustic two-story house adorned with glass windows, warm wood accents, and lush greens, creating a welcoming and soothing atmosphere for all who step through its doors.

2. Salakot Cafe



Conveniently situated along Aguinaldo Highway in Silang, near the boundary of Tagaytay proper, this delightful cafe-slash-restaurant offers a unique and authentic dining experience in a charming Kubo-style setting. Embracing its traditional theme, the es-

tablishment boasts an impressive menu featuring a wide array of Filipino delicacies, from beloved classics like Kare-Kare, Bulalo, Lechon, and Crispy Pata to delectable delights like grilled squid and buttered shrimp, fulfilling every Filipino's longing for familiar flavors.

WELLNESS AND STAYCATIONS

3. Ilog Maria Bee Farm



(Photos from Melo Villareal/outoftownblog.com)

Ilog Maria Bee Farm is a relaxing place in Silang, Cavite, where guests can visit to explore various beauty products and oils. It is named after the Blessed Virgin Mary, believed

to have brought many blessings and miracles to the farm. This bee farm is known for its natural and handmade beeswax products, which have nourishing and healing properties.

4. La VeryOI's Mountain View Garden



Amidst Tagaytay's renowned reputation for its perfect view of Taal volcano and picturesque mountain backdrop, La VeryOI Mountain View Garden, located in Brgy. San Francisco, Tagaytay, seizes this opportunity to offer a truly unique experience for tourists - a kawa bath with a view. This scenic location on the ridge provides

an exceptional vantage point, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the lush, forested slopes while enjoying the relaxing kawa bath experience. And for those seeking more than just an hour of relaxation, the spa also offers the option of an overnight stay, ensuring a truly memorable and rejuvenating getaway.

SHOPPING CENTER

3. Acienda Designer Outlet



Located in Silang, Cavite, Acienda proudly boasts being the Philippines' first true outlet mall. With a wide array of fashion brand units, visitors are sure to discover fantastic deals and steals. Branded and luxury goods are available at highly dis-

counted rates, making it a must-visit stop after a Biyaheng South adventure or before heading back home. Additionally, it's just a few minutes away from CALAX Silang (Aguinaldo) Interchange, offering convenient access for travelers returning to Metro Manila.

CALAX SILANG (AGUINALDO) INTERCHANGE



The upcoming exit of CALAX is now 91% completed and is targeted to be opened to motorists in September. Ongoing construction activities include the development of the toll plaza, concrete pouring for the main line and median barriers, as well as various finishing works. In the upcoming phases, the focus will be on the construction of toll facilities, including road lights, signages, and sound barriers. Additionally, preparations for the toll collection system are also underway. It is expected to cater to an additional 5,000 daily motorists, providing them with convenient access to these vibrant areas.

Looking ahead,

CALAX will further expand to a total of 45 kilometers by 2024 and will feature eight interchanges: Technopark, Laguna Boulevard, Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road, Silang East, Silang (Aguinaldo), Governor's Drive, Open Canal, and Kawit Interchange. It will connect to the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) in Kawit. Currently, its operational segments stretch from Mamlasan Rotunda up to Silang East Interchange.

Looking for your next adventure destination? Look no further! Join us on Facebook (fb.com/biyahengsouth) and TikTok (@biyahengsouth) for a virtual exploration of the stunning beauty of Cavit-PR



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House to focus on 'areas of concern' to stimulate economy



PRO CALABARZON Regional Director PBGen Carlito M Gaces joins the inauguration and blessing ceremony of the New Rosario Municipal Police Station located at Gen. Trias Drive, Brgy. Tejeros Convention, Rosario, Cavite this morning, August 10, 2023. The Chief of the Philippine National Police PGEN Benja-min C Acorda Jr. together with the Regional Director of PRO 4A, Municipal Government Officials of Rosario, led by Hon. Jose Voltaire V Ricafrente, Municipal Mayor and other stakeholders witnessed the symbolic turnover of key and Ribbon Cutting and Blessing of the new infrastructure. PRO4A



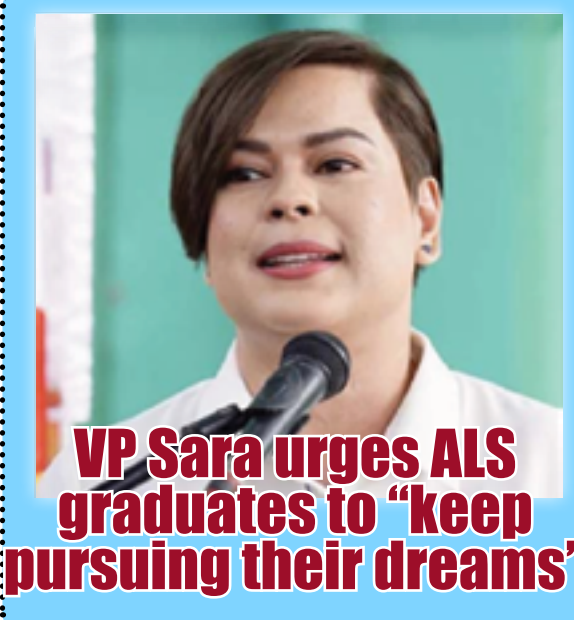
SMC: NMIA not a reclamation project



SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION
YOUR WORLD MADE BETTER



Cayetano, nanawagan sa mga ahensya ng gobyerno na aksyunan ang rice smuggling



VP Sara urges ALS graduates to "keep pursuing their dreams"

UN: SHADOW OF NUCLEAR WAR RE-EMERGES

DOF, DTI approve CREATE Act IRR amendment in response to VAT concerns of registered business enterprises

Diokno: PBBM admin to help Visayas achieve its full economic potential



EDITORIAL:

Ripples, yet again, in the West Philippine Sea, when China less than a week back was reported by the Philippine Coast Guard to have blocked its vessels for a resupply mission.

The PCG said its vessels were en route to Ayungin Shoal, when China blocked and fired water cannons against the mission the former said directly threatened the peace and stability in the region.

China's coast guard countered it was implementing necessary controls in accordance with the law to deter Philippine ships, which it accused of trespassing and carrying illegal building materials.

China claims sovereignty over almost the entire South China Sea, an assertion rejected internationally, while Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Taiwan and the Philippines have various claims to certain areas.

Immediately, the US Department of State said the People's Republic of China's firing of water cannons and employing unsafe blocking maneuvers against PCG vessels on Saturday "interfered with the Philippines' lawful exercise of high seas freedom of navigation and jeopardized the safety of the Philippine vessels and crew."

In a statement shared by the US Embassy in Manila via Twitter, the State Department reaffirmed its commitment with the Philippines and called on China to follow international

smc...

The New Manila International Airport (NMI) project, set to be the country's largest international airport with four runways, is being built not on reclaimed land, but on existing low-lying land that, historically, are vulnerable to heavy flooding and were converted to commercial fishponds.

San Miguel Corporation (SMC) president and CEO Ramon S. Ang said it is important to clarify the nature of its airport project amid recent discussions surrounding Manila Bay reclamation projects.

The construction of the airport project, covered by Republic Act 11506, does not involve creating new land from Manila Bay, Ang clarified.

Beyond words

rules and order because it has "no lawful claim" to the resource-rich region.

"The United States stands with our Philippine allies in the face of dangerous actions by the Coast Guard and maritime militia of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to obstruct an August 5 Philippine resupply mission to Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea," the statement read.

"Firing water cannons and employing unsafe blocking maneuvers, PRC ships interfered with the Philippines' lawful exercise of high seas freedom of navigation and jeopardized the safety of the Philippine vessels and crew," it added.

The US State Department wrote: "By impeding necessary provisions from reaching the Filipino service members stationed at Second Thomas Shoal, the PRC has also undertaken unwarranted interference in lawful Philippine maritime operations."

The US also expressed Washington's willingness to invoke its mutual defense commitments under Article IV of the 1951 US Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty in case of an "armed attack on Philippine public vessels, aircraft, and armed forces – including those of its Coast Guard in the South China Sea."

It called on China "to abide by the arbitral ruling (in 2016 that invalidated China's nine-dash line claim) as well as to respect the freedom of navigation – a right to which all states are entitled."

We hope to see more positive collaboration beyond words.

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Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benhur Abalos today urged provinces, cities, and municipalities to ensure the establishment and functionality of a Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk in every barangay to effectively address local VAW cases at the grassroots level.

In DILG Memo Circular 2023-104, Abalos said provincial, city, and municipal LGUs are

HOUSE...

MANILA – Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez on Friday vowed that the House of Representatives will focus on areas requiring intensified action to bring economic growth back on track.

Romualdez made this comment after the Philippine economic growth slowed down to 4.3 percent in the second quarter from the 6.4 percent expansion in the first quarter this year.

The country's economic team on Thursday said economic expansion was tempered by high commodity prices, the lagged effects of interest rate hikes, the contraction in government spending and slower global economic growth.

In a press statement, Romualdez noted that one evident pressing concern is the rising food inflation, which has been a significant driver of the economic slowdown, and addressing this is paramount to ensure that every Filipino has access to affordable, nutritious food while also stimulating the various agri-cultural sectors.

"We will focus on injecting funds into our agricultural sector, promoting modern farming techniques, and improving

expected to provide technical and financial assistance to barangays; develop and distribute information materials to raise public awareness on VAW and how to report incidents and seek help; and provide recognition and incentives to barangays with exemplary performance in addressing gender-based violence issues.

Meanwhile, the DILG Secretary said Barangays must enact or update an ordinance providing support for the establishment and sustained operations of VAW Desk; and designate a Barangay VAW Desk Officer trained in handling gender-sensitive cases, preferably a female Sangguniang Barangay Member or a female barangay tanod.

storage and distribution infrastructure. This will help increase yield and reduce post-harvest losses," he said.

He added that the House will work on optimizing supply chains and reducing logistical bottlenecks to ensure that food reaches consumers swiftly, reducing costs and wastage.

"The House supports initiatives to monitor and regulate the prices of essential commodities, ensuring that unscrupulous practices do not exploit Filipinos," he said.

Romualdez also said reviewing and, if necessary, adjusting import policies can help stabilize food prices.

"Strategic imports, when local supply is low, can prevent excessive price hikes," Romualdez said.

To counter the contraction in government spending, Romualdez pointed out that the House is primed to expedite budget approvals, ensuring swift program initiation by agencies; focus on infrastructure projects and empower local government units (LGUs) to kick-start local initiatives; strengthen Public-Private Partnerships that can amplify key projects' rollouts and reduce fiscal pressures;

Abalos urges LGUs to establish, operationalize VAW desks in barangays

He said the Barangay VAW Desk must be within or near the barangay hall or close to the office of the PB with necessary resources to assist victim-survivors, such as equipment and supplies for documenting cases and preserving evidence; communication equipment and first aid kit, among others.

Section 9 of Republic Act No. 9710 or Magna Carta of Women and Section 12 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations mandate all LGUs to establish VAW Desks in every barangay to assist VAW victims, respond to gender-based violence cases brought to the barangay and address other forms of abuse committed against women.

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and focus on sectors like tourism and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to ensure broad economic benefits from strategic spending.

He also agreed with the economic managers that the rapid release and utilization of the Quick Response Fund will aid communities hit by recent typhoons.

"We, in the House of Representatives, commend the unwavering efforts of our economic managers in navigating our nation towards recovery amidst challenging times.

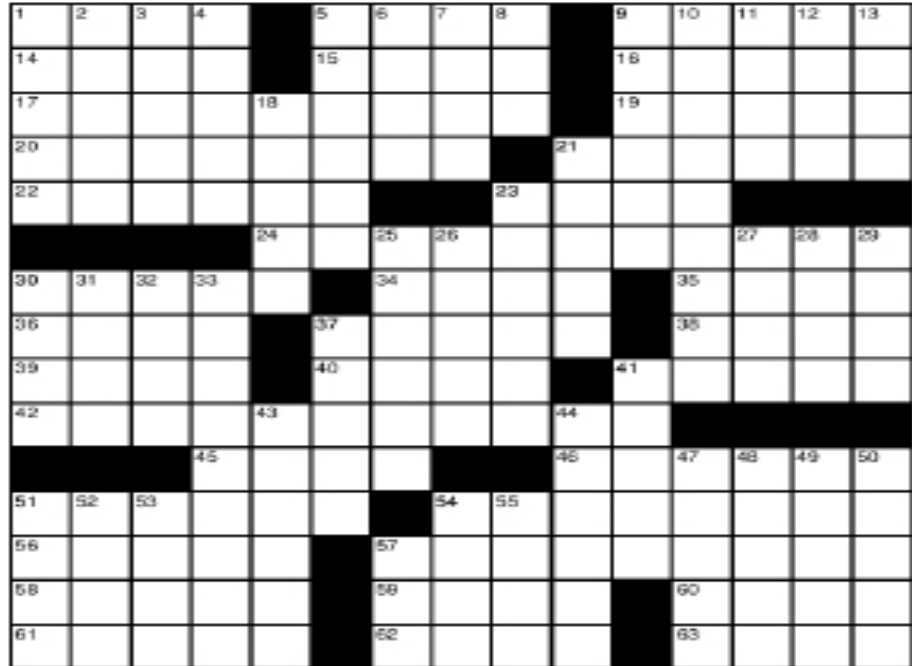
The House remains proactive in legislative initiatives, from bolstering employment and tourism to enhancing the investment climate and guaranteeing the continued education of our youth," Romualdez said.

"In unity with the Economic Team's strategies, we're poised to navigate challenges and sustain our growth trajectory. Together, with a shared vision and commitment, we are set on a path to propel the Philippines towards a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient future, where food security and economic stability are foundational pillars," he said. (PNA)

ACROSS

- 1 "Oh, woe!"
- 5 The first to fall, after the fall
- 9 She had a cat names Dinah
- 14 The wisw have it?
- 15 Subject of an aplogy from HAL-9000
- 16 What he says, goes
- 17 Stopped sleeping on the floor?
- 19 Catcher's position
- 20 Request to a barista
- 21 It might be Odd or happy
- 22 A hero might have it
- 23 Pal plant
- 24 Barber's instuction manual?
- 30 Album entry
- 34 The true face of Walter Mitty
- 35 Part of MIT
- 36 Neither all nor nothing
- 37 She and Nicole lived a Simple Life
- 38 Kind of values
- 39 Gets a bronze
- 40 Store sign
- 41 Evening news hr.
- 42 "Best of intentions" or Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde"?
- 45 Many unknown Johns and Janes
- 46 Surrounded by
- 51 Like a brand new trail
- 54 Prepare to end an engagement
- 56 Letter embellishment
- 57 Prestigious list of groundbreaking axioms?
- 58 Partner of Brahma and Vishnu
- 59 Stable parent
- 60 Are not casual?
- 61 Less green, perhaps
- 62 "I he Heat _____"
- 63 It may require stiches

Crossword Puzzles



DOWN

- 1 Some saxes
- 2 Blackmore's " _____ Doone"
- 3 Triton's daughter, a la Disney
- 4 _____bet (stays in the game)
- 5 Slow movement
- 6 Cake with a kick
- 7 Present opener?
- 8 Was in the forefront
- 9 Categorize
- 10 Flavor for a British jelly bean
- 11 "My turn to bat"
- 12 Part of a Barbecue bed
- 13 German duck
- 18 Disney flier
- 21 Paris bistros
- 23 Fiddling (with)
- 25 Giraffes' kin
- 26 A singing _____ Carpenter
- 27 Cognizant of
- 28 Automaker's amt.
- 29 Stem's _____ opposite
- 30 "Yo, Bub!"
- 31 Word with zero or happy
- 32 Present opener?
- 33 Take a Porsche out without paying, perhaps
- 37 Prepared to be shot
- 41 Melodic sounds
- 43 Beyond bounds
- 44 Mediterranean
- 47 sail
- 47 Neckwear for a dog or a dogface
- 48 "Beavis and Butt-head" spinoff
- 49 Gobsmacks
- 50 Part of a cog or a comb
- 51 "Back in the _____" Beatles
- 52 Soda available in grape, orange, and peach
- 53 Send sprawling
- 54 Spanish ladies: Abbr.
- 55 Drachma's replacement
- 57 PA location of a '79 scare V

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UN...

TOKYO – The shadow of nuclear war has re-emerged now that some countries are threatening to use nuclear weapons, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in his message commemorating the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

"The drums of nuclear war are beating once again. Mistrust and division are on the rise. The nuclear shadow that loomed over the Cold War has re-emerged. And some countries are recklessly rattling the nuclear saber once again, threatening to use these tools of annihilation," according to his address, read by Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, at a memorial event at Hiroshima Peace Memorial on Sunday.

Guterres also

urged all nations to completely reject the use of nuclear weapons. He said the elimination of nuclear weapons remains the UN's highest disarmament priority.

"The only way to eliminate the nuclear risk is to eliminate nuclear weapons," he said. "We will not rest until the nuclear shadow has been lifted once and for all."

The US Armed Forces carried out the first-ever atomic bombing in history, striking the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki toward the tail end of World War II.

The bombings were justified as a way to accelerate the capitulation of the Empire of Japan. These attacks are the sole instance of nuclear weapons ever being used in a military conflict in the history of humanity.

According to various estimates, the explosion of

ZUBIRI: SHUN CHINESE CONTRACTORS IN PUBLIC INFRA PROJECTS



MANILA – Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri has urged the government not to award big-ticket infra-structure projects funded with Filipino taxpayers' money to Chinese contractors and state-owned companies as their income would only be used to fund China's bullying tactics in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

"Bakit naman iyung mga buwis pa ng mga kababayan nating Pilipino ang gagamitin para ipambayad dito sa mga state-owned companies? Tapos 'yong income po niyan, babalik po sa Tsina, gagamitin ng Tsina pambayad doon sa kanilang navy at coast guard na nangha-harass po sa atin dito (Why would we use Filipino taxpayers' money to pay these state-owned companies? Then their income would go to China which uses them to pay their Navy and Coast Guard to harass us here). That is not right," Zubiri said in a radio interview on Thursday night.

He said infrastructure projects should be given instead to "friendly" countries like Japan and Korea which have been providing development aid to the Philippines under the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), respectively.

"Ibigay nalang po natin yan sa mga kapitbahay natin na mahal tayo, na kaibigan natin na tumutulong sa atin. Napakalaking foreign development aid ang ibinibigay ng Japan at South Korea dito sa Pilipinas (We might as well give these projects to our neighbors who love us, to our friends who are helping us. South Korea and Japan are providing

money to pay these state-owned companies? Then their income would go to China which uses them to pay their Navy and Coast Guard to harass us here). That is not right," Zubiri said in a radio interview on Thursday night.

He said infrastructure projects should be given instead to "friendly" countries like Japan and Korea which have been providing development aid to the Philippines under the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), respectively.

DOF, DTI...

Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual approved the amendment to the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Corporate Re-covery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) Act to resolve the value-added tax (VAT) issues raised by transitory registered business enterprises (RBEs).

"We welcome this amendment in support of our RBEs and in alignment with the national government's efforts to establish a more conducive investment climate in the country," said Secretary Diokno.

The amendment, specifically to Rule 18, Section 5 of the CREATE Act IRR, was made in response to the Office of the President's directive to review and address the VAT-related issues concerning both domestic market enterprises (DMEs) and registered export enterprises (REEs).

Transitory registered DMEs inside the economic or freeport zone availing of the 5% gross

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income tax (GIT) regime will now have the option to register as VAT taxpayers. This will enable VAT-registered DMEs covered by the transitory provisions of CREATE to either charge output VAT to domestic customers or receive a refund from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) for the input VAT directly attributable to their zero-rated sales.

Meanwhile, transitory REEs whose income tax-based incentives have expired may now continue to enjoy VAT zero-rating on their local purchases until the electronic sales reporting system under Section 237-A of the Tax Code, as amended, is fully operational or until the expiration of the ten-year transitory period, whichever comes earlier.

Before the approval of the CREATE IRR amendment, the technical working group (TWG) on VAT led consultations with investment promotion agencies and other relevant stakeholders. The TWG is composed of representatives from the Department of Finance, DTI, and BIR. DOF.GOV

lishment of partnership with other neighboring countries and our entry to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement.

According to available data, the value of Philippine exports to China stands at USD15.1 billion or PHP830.5 billion, comprising 16 percent of the country's total exports.

The value of imports, meanwhile, is pegged at USD48.9 billion or PHP2.7 trillion, or 33.8 percent of the total imports. This means that the Philippines has a trade imbalance of USD33.8 billion in favor of China.

The Senate President has been very vocal in condemning China's continued intrusion into Philippine territory, particularly the recent incident where Chinese Coast Guard vessels trailed, blocked and then trained water cannons at the Philippine Coast Guard on a supply run to BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin Shoal. (PNA)

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STRAIGHT NEWS

PUBLISHING

Diokno...

Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno highlighted the Visayan group of islands' vast economic potential in sustainable tourism, information technology and business process management (IT-BPM), and re-newable energy (RE) during the Philippine Economic Briefing (PEB) on August 11, 2023 at the Marco Polo Plaza Cebu.

Secretary Diokno pointed out that in 2022, Western Visayas posted the fastest growth of 9.3 percent among all regions in the country, while Central Visayas and Eastern Visayas both grew by 7.6 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively.

"Clearly, this part of the country is brimming with immense economic energy. The administration of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. recognizes this and is fully prepared to support its growth and development in the next five years," Secretary Diokno said in his keynote address.

The Philippines is currently prioritizing the implementation of 194 high-impact Infrastructure Flagship Projects (IFPs), 65 of which are located in Visayas with an indicative total cost of PHP 1.7 trillion.

Some of these projects include the Cebu Public Transport Modernization Project, the Metro Cebu Ex-pressway, the Panay-Guimaras-Negros Inter-Island Link Bridge, the Samar Pacific Coastal Road Project, and the New Dumaguete Airport Development Project. With the construction and enhancement of the Mac-tan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA)—the country's second largest airport—the city has become a major player in the field of sustainable tourism.

"More impressively, it is also the country's first solar-powered airport and bans single-use plastics among its concessionaires. This is in line with the Philippine government's clean energy transition and sets a precedent for other establishments to mainstream sustainability," Secretary Diokno elaborated.

Apart from tourism, Cebu also boasts of a thriving IT-BPM industry. The IT and Business Process Association of the

Philippines reported that the industry has the potential to generate up to 1.7 million jobs and US\$35.9 billion in business revenues.

Moreover, the Department of Energy (DOE) also recognized Western Visayas' capacity for RE supply and projects it to be the RE capital of the country.

"Supporting the growth of our industries requires establishing a competitive business environment and promoting human capital development," Secretary Diokno said.

To this end, the government will strengthen research and development (R&D), scale up technology adoption and commercialization, and promote an open and competitive market through the strategies outlined in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028.

Secretary Diokno noted that the landmark Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CRE-ATE) Law offers incentives for businesses setting up shop in rural areas and grants a 100-percent additional deduction on R&D expenses.

During the first panel discussion, Secretary Diokno said that with the Medium-Term Fiscal Framework (MTFF), the government aims to reduce the country's debt-to-GDP ratio from 62 percent to 50 percent by the end of the President's term. With this, he emphasized the importance of continuing the momentum of rapid infrastructure development, started by the previous administration, to be able to maintain infrastructure spending at 5 to 6 percent of GDP.

"For the last 50 years, we were only spending 2 percent of our GDP for infrastructure. That's why we suffer in comparison with our ASEAN neighbors," he said. For the Finance Secretary, a combination of stronger growth and increased revenues is key to achieving the MTFF's fiscal targets.

In light of this, Secretary Diokno explained that the Maharlika Investment Fund (MIF) will serve as an additional boost to finance infrastructure. Currently, around 55 percent of the 194 IFPs

will be funded through official development assistance (ODA); about 5 to 10 percent by national government (NG); and around 30 percent through public-private partnerships (PPPs).

He said that the MIF will free up fiscal space in the national budget for more social projects such as health centers and schools.

Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman gave an overview of the priority expenditures under the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 national budget. These include shovel-ready infrastructure projects, human capital development, sustainable agriculture and food security, climate change adaptation and mitigation, digital transformation, and regional development.

Meanwhile, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Undersecretary Joseph J. Capuno presented the Central Visayas Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2023-2028, which targets to achieve a gross regional domestic product (GRDP) growth rate of 6.8 to 8.5 percent and lower poverty incidence to 10.5 percent by 2028.

On financial inclusivity, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Deputy Governor Francisco G. Dakila, Jr. said that rural banks play a vital role in countryside development. To further support the rural banking system, the BSP introduced the Rural Bank Strengthening Program in 2022 to enhance the operations capacity, competitiveness, and capital base of rural banks.

From the private sector, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) Central Visayas Regional Governor Melanie C. Ng shared the business community's policy recommendations to boost productivity and competitiveness. Among these are improving connectivity, lowering the cost of water and energy, and streamlining bureaucratic processes.

She also underscored the importance of promoting ease of doing business and lowering the cost of doing business.

"When investors

come, they look at our competitive edge, they look at our advantages. When they leave, it's because we've lost our edge. So we have to work together to get it back—private sector and government," Ng said.

Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel M. Bonoan, Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Jaime J. Bautista, DOE Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Ivan John E. Uy, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center Executive Director Ma. Cynthia C. Hernandez, and Head of Cebu City Planning and Development Office Architect Joseph Michael P. Espina took part in the second panel to discuss the latest infrastructure programs, particularly in the Visayas region.

Architect Espina lauded the construction of the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX), which he said was the first PPP through local government units (LGUs).

As the regional hub of Central Visayas, the City plans to align with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)'s Metro Cebu Plan to develop an urban transport master plan for better connectivity.

Finally, the third panel discussed developments and emerging opportunities in key economic sectors. Panelists were Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Bienvenido E. Laguesma, Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Marlo L. Iringan, Department of Agriculture (DA) Assistant Secretary Genevieve E. Velicaria-Guevarra, and President of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Charles Kenneth Co.

Secretary Pascual elaborated on the role of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in economic growth, referring to it as the backbone and heart of the economy. The government will

support MSME growth by providing access to the market, technology, and financing.

CCCI President Co welcomed the PEB in Cebu as he acknowledged the need for strengthened public and private sector dialogue.

He cited the entry of Swedish furniture retailer IKEA to the Philippines, which opened its largest branch in the world in Pasay, as evidence of how the government's game-changing reforms have allowed investors to set up shop in the country. Economic liberalization measures such as the amended Foreign Investments Act, Retail Trade Liberalization Act, and Public Service Act widened the space for joint venture opportunities for

VP Sara...

MANILA - Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte on Thursday urged 5,196 graduates of the Department of Education's (DepEd) Alternative Learning System (GRDP) program to keep pursuing their dreams despite the challenges they face in life.

"Have the courage to pursue your dreams, even if they seem hard, unconventional, or impossible. Never let go of your dreams," Duterte said during the ALS graduation at the San Andres Sports Complex in Manila.

"Habang bumabyahe kayo sa buhay, lagi ninyong tatandaan — walang makakatalo sa kastuhan ninyo, sa puso ninyo na magtagumpay sa buhay (While going through life, always remember that no one can stop you in what you want, in what is in your heart to succeed in life)," she said, citing their perseverance and determination to finish basic education.

DepEd Manila successfully completed its implementation of the ALS program with the largest number of passers in the Accreditation and Equivalency Test and Presentation Portfolio Assessment

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enterprises employing cutting-edge technologies.

On tourism, Secretary Frasco identified English as a Second Language (ESL) to be one of Cebu's strongest products. Therefore, the government has instituted measures to support the growth of the industry. This entails the digitalization of requirements for those who wish to avail of the program.

The PEB in Cebu was jointly organized by the BSP and the DOF. It was attended by more than 600 members of the business and financial communities, industry associations, local government units, non-government organizations, academe, and media. DOF.GOV

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with 1,024 passers in Elementary and 4,172 passers in Junior High School.

Gloria Mendoza, 61, who was the oldest Junior High School ALS passer in attendance, thanked the Manila City government and the DepEd for providing opportunities for out-of-school youth and adult learners to develop basic and functional literacy skills, and to access equivalent pathways to complete basic education.

"Nakakatulong yung binigay ng gobyerno lalo na para sa ibang mahihirap na kagaya ko na hindi nakapagtapos at nakapag-aral. Ngayon hindi na ako nahihiya, kaya sobrang laking tulong ng ALS program (What the government provided helps, especially to poor individuals like me who was not able to study or finish school. Now, I am not ashamed anymore, that's why ALS program is really a big help)," Mendoza said.

Under the ALS program, students, which include out-of-school youths and adults, undergo modular education, assessment, face-to-face classes, and skills training to pursue their studies. (PNA)



Health tips on how to live well

18. Sneak your eats

A serving of vegetables doesn't have to be a side of green beans or a big salad. A tablespoon of tomato puree stirred into your pasta sauce, a handful of olives instead of crisps, or a bag of watercress whizzed into your pesto counts, too.

19. Get real on self-care

Self-care isn't just about long baths and facials to live well. It's about dealing with obstacles that are causing havoc with your health or happiness, whether that's learning to say 'no' or carving out more time for yourself. There's lots of super-inspiring self-care podcasts available right now — we're enjoying Self Care Club by Lauren Mishcon and Nicole Goodman; Happy Place by Fearne Cotton; and Feel Better, Live More by Dr Rangan Chatterjee.

20. Hit the water

Swimming in ponds, lakes, rivers or the open sea is even better than a dip in the local pool as you have to work against the waves or current. For a gentle introduction to outdoor swimming, try a lido, or find inspiration and all-important safety advice at outdoorswimmingsociety.com and wildswimming.co.uk.

21. Sit for attention

We know our standing posture is important for our bone, joint and muscle health, but did you know many of us need to tweak how we sit, too? The most important thing to know is that, when sitting on a chair for prolonged periods, your feet should be flat on the floor. There should be a small gap between the back of your knees and the seat, with your knees at or below hip level. If your legs are too short to reach the ground, a footrest is useful.

22. Achieve pudding perfection

An easy way to eat more fruit is to turn it into dessert. Roasted peaches, figs, plums, and apples make flavourful sweet treats that are packed with fibre and antioxidants. Serve with plain yogurt or half-fat crème fraîche to replace the double cream.

23. Diversify your diet

Enjoying a wider variety of plants to feed your gut microbes is a simple science-backed way to improve your health. The easiest way to do it is to mix up your existing diet. So, go for mixed coloured bags of peppers instead of your usual red; pick up tins of mixed beans to replace kidney beans; reach for the mixed frozen veg or stir-fry pack rather than one variety; and snack on mixed nuts instead of plain almonds.

to be cont. fo next issue

SMC...

and the National Mapping Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) from the 1990s.

Surrounded by the Meycauyan, Talipit and Maycapiz rivers, the low-lying land has been converted into fish ponds. This has, however, contributed to flooding in nearby towns, as the flow of the rivers out to Manila Bay had been impeded, and since the rivers themselves

had become shallow due to siltation and pollution.

Ang reiterated that the land redevelopment is being done with international experts and partners including global maritime services expert Royal Boskalis, to ensure that it follows the strictest international standards in environmental and social impacts mitigation.

As part of the

Need for effective flood control; aid distributed to typhoon victims in Luzon



Senator Win Gatchalian underscores the need for the government to undertake an effective flood control program that would shield communities from the damaging impact of climate change.

"Due to the adverse impact of climate change on our communities, the government needs to provide adequate flood control structures that would provide vulnerable areas with ample protection from the devastating impact of floods," says Gatchalian, who is visiting Pangasinan, Bataan, Pampanga, and Bulacan today to check on the devastation of the recent typhoons and to distribute P8.5 million worth of rice to typhoon victims in affected areas in Luzon.

Several towns and municipalities across Pangasinan, Bataan, Pampanga, and Bulacan have been declared under a state of calamity in the wake of typhoons Egay and Falcon. Specifically, P5.2 million worth of rice is distributed in Malolos, airport's development, SMC is also implementing a massive river cleanup and rehabilitation effort covering not just the nearby Marilao-Meycauyan-Obando river systems (MMORS), but other rivers throughout Bulacan, to help address the province's perennial flooding problem.

"Again, our goal with this massive project is to rejuvenate the inundated land and repurpose it into a more productive and transformative asset for Bulacan, the country and the Filipino people. The NMIA will not only provide a world-class facility, it will also serve as a catalyst for local and national

economic growth, opening doors to countless job opportunities and paving the way for a future-ready Philippines that is competitive on the global stage," Ang said.

"We will stay committed to ensuring that this development uplifts the lives of our kababayans and balances progress with responsibility," he concluded. PR

UN...

the atomic bomb dropped over Hiroshima in one day killed between 70,000 and 100,000 people.

By the end of 1945, the number of victims had increased to 140,000 due to those

Cayetano...

Nanawagan si Senador Alan Peter Cayetano sa mga ahensya ng gobyerno, partikular na ang Department of Justice (DOJ), na aksyunan at tuldukan na ang pagpupuslit ng bigas sa bansa kasunod ng malakas na babala ng Pangulo laban sa smugglers sa kanyang State of the Nation Address noong nakaraang buwan.

"Ginawa na ito (strong warning) ni Pangulong Marcos during the SONA. 'Di ba sinabi niya, 'Bilang na ang araw niyong mga smugglers,'" wika ni Cayetano sa isang media interview noong August 7.

Tinalakay ng independent senator ang issue sa konteksto ng West Philippine Sea, dahil aniya ang pagpalakas ng ekonomiya ng bansa ay magpapalakas din sa ating pakikipag-usap sa China.

"The point is that agriculture has a domino effect. Kung maayos natin yung domino, maayos natin ang agriculture, more people will have jobs in the country, hindi na kailangang mag-abroad, mas maraming taong magkakatrabaho, bababa ang presyo, lalaki ang kita.

Pero while may problema tayo sa agriculture, baligtad yung domino effect sa atin, one problem to another, to another," wika niya.

"So while we're dealing with the West Philippine Sea, while we're dealing with many, many problems, while we're recovering from the pandemic, ano ba ang nangyari?... 'Pag tumaas ang inflation at nagmahal ang bigas, I am concerned not only na magugutom ang tao, pero magkakaroon din ng political instability, magkakaroon din ng domino effect sa malnutrition,' dagdag niya.

Ayon kay Cayetano, isang salita lang ang kailangan para matugunan ang problema: Kailangang

"Ang mga pumasok sa farming ngayon 'di ba mga mayayaman? Y'ung mga nakikilala natin na may pera, may puhunan, sobrang na-in love sa farming. Pero ang mga anak ng farmers are taking all other courses except farming, except agriculture," wika niya.

"We should give the support to the farmers na hindi lang sila farmers, agri-biz na dapat talaga," dagdag niya. PR

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angang aniya ng gawin ang "lahat."

"So, number one, strong language (labans a smugglers), continue strong language and of course action by the DOJ," wika niya. Mahalaga rin aniya na malaman ng mga rice smuggler na seryoso ang gobyerno sa paghahabol sa kanila at pagdala sa kanila sa hustisiya.

Pangalawa, ayon kay Cayetano, dapat may "contingency plan" ang gobyerno kung patuloy na tumaas ang presyo ng bigas. "May listahan naman ang DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development). They're testing itong food stamps, 'di ba? Mayroon tayong 4Ps (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program)," aniya.

Pangatlo, dapat bigyan ng gobyerno ng sapat na suporta ang mga magsasaka. Ang isa sa mga pangunahing paraan, aniya, ay ang gawing moderno ang agrikultura sa bansa gamit ang teknolohiya.

Isinalaysay niya ang isang byahe niya sa China noong 2016 kung saan ipinakita sa kanya kung paano ginagamit ang mga programmable drone sa pag-spray ng mga pesticides sa mga sakahan.

"Kailangan talaga complete modernization. We need to completely change... we have to change the way we think about agriculture," wika ni Cayetano. Dagdag niya, dapat dagdagan ang budget sa irrigation at farm-to-market roads at pag-aralan ang mga alternatibo sa fertilizers.

Sinabi rin ni Cayetano na dapat suportahan ang mga magsasaka sa paglipat sa agribusiness para ma-engganyo ang kanilang mga anak at iba pang kabataan na pumasok sa industriya ng agrikultura.

"Ang mga pumasok sa farming ngayon 'di ba mga mayayaman? Y'ung mga nakikilala natin na may pera, may puhunan, sobrang na-in love sa farming. Pero ang mga anak ng farmers are taking all other courses except farming, except agriculture," wika niya.

"We should give the support to the farmers na hindi lang sila farmers, agri-biz na dapat talaga," dagdag niya. PR

SM CITY TANZA AND ROSARIO JOIN SIMULTANEOUS FIRE DRILL

SM employees and mall tenants participated recently in the nationwide fire drill on high density occupancies at SM City Tanza and Rosario. In partnership with the Bureau of Fire Protection, the drill aims to teach and to prepare employees the right procedures to evacuate, to use fire tools and equipment and to give first aid during fire incidences.



SM Emergency response team of SM City Rosario gave first aid to the fire drill casualty.



SM City Tanza employees were taught by BFP Tanza how to properly use fire extinguisher.

SM Supermalls continue to improve and to enhance its safety measures and processes for a more safe mall experience.



Data Blitz is the new computer and gadget store at SM City Dasmariñas that offers variety of choices for your technology needs. Visit its store at Cyberzone, second level of SM City Dasmariñas.

SPLASH OF COLORS RUNWAY FASHION SHOW AT SM CITY TRECE MARTIRES



Colors flooded at SM City Trece Martires as YKF Fashion and Events' Students showcased their glamorous walk, with their Splash of Colors Grand Recital! Creativity plus colors equals beauty and fun!

NACHOKING, NOW SERVING AT SM CITY MOLINO!



SM CITY MOLINO - Get your crunch on at the festive opening of Nacho King, where nacho dreams come true. Come and drop by at Nacho King, visit their store at SM City Molino located at the Second Level and choose your favorite bundles of Nacho chips and dreamy dips! Perfect to accompany you on your movie marathon this weekend, or on game nights with your friends and family. See you!

SAFE MALLING AT SM CITY BACOR



SM CITY BACOR - To better keep everyone safe, SM City Bacoor employees and security personnel gathered with Bacoor BFP to practice extinguishing fire during the 2nd SM Nationwide Fire Drill held simultaneously across SM Malls nationwide. This is part of SM's fire emergency preparedness training and participation in the National Disaster Resilience Month.



SM CENTER IMUS - Ready for some healthy and indulging Avocado Noided Treats? Come celebrate with us at Avocadoria Grand Opening where exclusive Promos and Freebies await! Available only on August 13, 2023, 12NN. See you, Avocadorians!



SM Cares Advocates for Creating Safe Spaces for Breastfeeding with Free to Feed Photo Campaign



The SM Cares Free to Feed photo contest invites photo enthusiasts and mothers to capture their breastfeeding moment anywhere within SM Supermalls.

This National Breastfeeding Awareness Month, SM Cares, the corporate social responsibility arm of SM Supermalls, proudly announces its ongoing campaign, "Free to Feed: Creating Safe Spaces for Breastfeeding," under the SM Cares Advocacy on Women and Breastfeeding.

To further celebrate and promote how communities can create a welcoming environment for breastfeeding even outside of our homes, SM Cares has launched the "Free to Feed" photography contest where photo enthusiasts and Super Moms are encouraged to capture beautiful moments of breastfeeding anywhere within SM mall and tenant areas. Entries are accepted until August 21, 2023, and the winners will be announced on August 28, 2023. Participants may send their entries through this link: www.bit.ly/FreeToFeedAtSM



80 SM malls nationwide provide a breastfeeding station as a safe space for mothers to continue nourishing their child.

A photo exhibit roadshow and forum will also take place across selected SM malls. The roadshow will be held throughout August at SM City Davao, SM City Pangasinana, SM City Dasmariñas, SM City Iloilo, and SM North EDSA, to serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of supporting mothers in their breastfeeding journey.



SM Mall Nurses conduct sensitivity training sessions for frontliners to help create a welcoming environment for breastfeeding mothers

PHILIPPINE RED CROSS AWARDS DIPLOMA OF SERVICES TO SM MALLS IN CAVITE



SM Supermalls have been a venue partner of Philippine Red Cross (PRC) for several years already and have continued partnership up to the present. Recently, Philippine Red Cross awarded corporate and individual partners at Trabesara Tagaytay Grand Pavilion for its Annual Blood Donor Recognition day.

Amongst SM Cavite Malls awardees were SM City Dasmariñas, Trece Martires, Rosario and SM Marketmall-Dasmariñas. In the photo, Ms. Editha Tayko (2nd from left), SM City Dasmariñas

feeding journey. As the World Health Organization focuses on promoting breastfeeding in the workplace, SM Supermalls provides accessible and safe spaces for nursing mothers through 80 breastfeeding stations available for customers and employees across SM malls nationwide.



Atty. Pearl Joan Turley, SM Supermalls Assistant Vice President and SM Cares Program Director for Women, shares: "SM Cares is fully committed to providing a nurturing and inclusive environment for all its patrons, and the "Free to Feed: Creating Safe Spaces for Breastfeeding" campaign is a testament to that

commitment. By promoting breastfeeding in the workplace and beyond, we strive to empower mothers and celebrate the natural bond between mother and child."

For more information, please visit <https://www.smsupermalls.com/smcares/> or follow SM Cares on <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialSM-Cares>

THE MEGS ARE BACK AT SM CINEMA!



SM CINEMA BACOR, DASMARIÑAS, MOLINO, ROSARIO, TANZA AND TRECE MARTIRES - Dive down to the deepest, uncharted waters and face your fear of the unknown as SM Cinema brings you Meg2 : The Trench starring Jason Statham and global action icon Wu Jing. Join them as they embark on an exploratory journey into the deepest part of the ocean. Get yourself ready for the thrill as our heroes try to outswim and outsmart the largest Apex Predator anyone has ever seen. Bite the chance to see a whole new school of Megalodons and have the best cinematic experience at SM Cinemas near you!

Brace the excitement with freshly popped popcorn and snacks at Snack Time and make yourself comfortable with the plush seats at SM Cinema. Let the crystal clear display on huge screens paired with the best cinema audio in the country take you to every scene to make your Meg 2 experience even more spectacular!

Meg2 : The Trench is now showing at SM Cinema so BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW! Visit www.smcinema.com or SM Cinema on social media to know more about great deals you can grab for the best movie experience.