

MPT DRIVEHUB BOOMS FROM RECENT PROMO: "THE RESPONSE WAS AMAZING," SAYS MPTC PRESIDENT



MPT DriveHub AVP for Business Development, Gines Barot NLEX VP for Communication and Stakeholder Management, Donna Marcelo MPT South AVP for Communication and Stakeholder Management, Maria TeresaCapistrano Easytrip President, Jack Coson Grand Prize Winner Representative, Bob Florendo Catamora Grand Prize Winner, Consuelo Siscar MPTC CEO and Group President, Rodrigo Franco NLEX President, Luigi Bautista MPT South President and General Manager, Raul Ignacio NLEX AVP for Customer Experience and Marketing, Grace Ayento Covenant Car Company President and CEO, Atty. Alberto Arcilla.

MANILA, Philippines--The Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC; operator of CCLEX, CAVITEX, CALAX, NLEX, NLEX Connector, and SCTEX) and MPT Mobility have concluded their Download, Drive, and Win! promo as of the end of January 2023. A massive uptick in downloads as a result of the promo has expanded their user base past targets, allowing the MPT DriveHub app to integrate seamlessly into the driving experience of the Philippine metropolitan.

"We're very

pleased that people responded well to our promo," says Rodrigo E. Franco, President and CEO of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation. "The point of Download, Drive, and Win was to show our appreciation for our customers, and to reward them in a manner befitting the season, and I personally think we got our message across, especially given the hesitation we initially anticipated."

On February 14, two lucky winners each took home a brand-new MG ZS crossover SUV from the Morris Garages

showroom in Greenhills, while ten other winners will get to claim a cash prize of Php 100,000 each later this month. In addition to making the features of MPT DriveHub instantly available, the car prizes have been installed with Easytrip RFIDs.

The awarding ceremony was attended by executives from MPTC, as well as Atty. Alberto B. Arcilla, the President and CEO of The Covenant Car Company, Inc., the official distributor of MG in the Philippines. "It is our distinct honor to be a part of this initiative with MPTC,

knowing that the winners will soon embark on their best journeys yet behind the wheel of their brand-new MG ZS, and with the MPT DriveHub as their travel companion," says Arcilla.

MPT DriveHub was launched on March 1, 2022, coinciding with the opening of the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX). The app presents itself as the ultimate driving partner for planning, managing, and ultimately, learning to enjoy the journey again. Its features accommodate both short and long drives, such



Covenant Car Company President and CEO, Atty. Alberto Arcilla President Grand Prize Winner Representative, Bob Florendo Catamora Grand Prize Winner, Consuelo Siscar MPTC CEO and Group President, Rodrigo Franco.

as quick runs between cities or road trips provinces apart. With its real-time RFID balance check and reloading, toll fee computation, traffic advisory and emergency roadside assistance features, the app sets up each user for the smoothest possible drive every time.

MPT DriveHub can be used to reload

the RFID for all MPTC expressways: CCLEX, NLEX, SCTEX, NLEX Connector, CALAX, CAVITEX and CAVITEX C5 Link.

Find out more about MPT DriveHub through their website and official Facebook page. You can easily download the application through Apple Store and Google Play. PR

Team Giannis wins NBA All-Stars behind Tatum's record game



MANILA – Jayson Tatum broke the all-time single-game record for most points made in an NBA All-Star Game as he lifted Team Giannis to a 184-175 win against Team LeBron in the 2023 edition of the league's midseason classic on Monday (Philippine Time) at the Vivint Arena in Salt Lake City.

Tatum took over when his team's skipper, Giannis Antetokounmpo, left the game only 20 seconds into it with a wrist injury, dropping 55 points, resetting the all-

time record six years after Anthony Davis dropped the previous high of 52.

The bulk of Tatum's eruption came in the third quarter when he scored 27 of Team Giannis' 59 points in the said period, which also set an all-time single-player record for a single quarter.

Come the fourth quarter, though, Team LeBron crawled back to the game and cut the lead down to just six, 181-175.

However, Dame Lillard proved that his three-point shootout win on Sunday (Philippine Time) was not a fluke as he drained the game-clinching three-pointer for Team Giannis, which actually needed only 182 points to

win.

Tatum, who was later named the Most Valuable Player of the All-Star Game, also had 10 rebounds, six assists, one steal, and one block while going 22-of-31 from the field including 10-of-18 on threes.

Donovan Mitchell added 40 points on 15-of-25 field goals, four rebounds, 10 assists and three steals in his first game at the Utah Jazz's home court as an All-Star since he was traded to Cleveland.

Lillard put up 26 points, three rebounds, four assists and three steals, while first-time All-Star Lauri Markkanen, the unofficial host of the event

being Utah's new main man, chipped in 13 points and seven rebounds.

Jaylen Brown made 35 points, 14 rebounds, five assists and two steals, while Joel Embiid and Kyrie Irving each added 32 markers with the latter also dishing out 15 dimes for the double-double for Team LeBron.

The skippers, Antetokounmpo and LeBron James, had minimal scoring contributions.

Antetokounmpo scored the first basket of the game, a dunk, but he subbed himself out after hurting his wrist in the process and never returned.

James, on the other hand, only made 13 points in 14 and a half minutes of play. (PNA)



PBBM: Stronger economy 'only a matter of time'



INTENSIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATION OF LTO CALABARSON



Photo shows on the continuous monitoring conducted by the Regional Law Enforcement Team using handheld device (E-TOP), some drivers were apprehended for the violations of Republic Act No. 4136 (The Land Transportation and Traffic Code of the Philippines) along Brgy. Lamot, Calauan and Bay Laguna. (KEVIN PAMATMAT/SHEKINAH PAMATMAT)

TESDA Regional Office ng IV-A sa Calabarzon, itatayo sa Laguna

Diokno challenges local chief executives to strengthen local fiscal responsibility and sustainability

DA-PRDP subproject na mango processing facility sa Tanauan, bukas na



Sinimulan na ang operasyon ng isang mango processing facility sa Brgy. Janopol Oriental, Tanauan City, Batangas na bahagi ng proyektong Tanauan City Mango Trading and Processing Enterprise ng DA-PRDP at Magsasakang Tanaueno Agricultural Marketing Cooperative (MTAMC).

May lawak ito na 90-metro kwadrado kung saan gagamitin ang mga makinaryang mula rin sa proyekto tulad ng pulper finisher, steam jacketed kettle, refractometer, autoclave sterilizer, storage freezer, cooler, atbp. Matapos i-package ang mga produkto, ibabayahe naman ang mga ito sa merkado gamit ang isang truck na mula rin sa proyekto.

Sa tulong ng mga

ito, umaasa ang samahan na lalo pang madadagdagan ang kanilang kita dahil mapapataas nila ang halaga ng kanilang produkto. Sa unang taon ng operasyon, nilalayon ng MTAMC na makabenta ng Php 1,579,200.00.

Sa ngalan ni PRDP 4A Project Director Engr. Marcos Aves, Sr. at DA-4A Regional Executive Director Milo Delos Reyes, binati ni PRDP 4A Deputy Project Director Engr. Redelliza Gruezo ang MTAMC at lokal na pamahalaan ng Tanauan sa matagumpay na pagsisi-mula ng proyekto na bunga ng kanilang pakikipagtulungan sa PRDP 4A. Aniya, patuloy na susuporta ang PRDP 4A sa samahan upang mas mapaunlad at mapatagil pa ang operasyon ng kanilang mango processing facility. PR

Solon prefers ex-CJ Puno's 'hybrid' setup in con-con bill



POINT OF VIEW

100 HEALTH AND FITNESS TIPS

31. Take a walk.
- Walking is a calming activity that helps you stay healthy without requiring any equipment. Regular 30-minute walks can help control hypertension and slow the progress of osteoporosis. Take regular walks throughout the week to stay on track!

32. Brush your teeth and floss.
- Your dentist will be happy about this one, but so will your heart! Periodontitis, or inflammation of the gums, is considered a significant risk factor for cardiovascular disease. People who rarely brush their teeth have a significantly higher chance of having a cardiovascular event. There's a reason your dentist tells you to brush twice a day!

33. Follow your passion and do the things you love.
- People who live their lives with purpose and believe their lives have meaning or purpose report higher life satisfaction and psychological well-being. Find the things you are passionate about and pursue them, it's worth the effort.

34. Have more intimate time with your partner.
- Most people would say they see why this would boost their happiness, however, (safe) sex can also be good for your health! Benefits include reduced blood pressure, better immune function and a lower risk of heart attack.

35. Eat more spicy foods.
- Hot peppers contain capsaicin, and the hotter the pepper the more capsaicin it contains (of course, be safe while eating hot peppers). Capsaicin has a number of health benefits, such reducing inflammation, pain relief, congestion relief, improved intestinal health, cardioprotection and increased fat burning.

36. Shop the perimeter.
Healthier foods like fruits, vegetables and meats aren't generally found in the aisles of the grocery store. Try to fill your cart with items found around the perimeter of the store and avoid the aisles as much as possible.

37. Put on your gym clothes.
- It sounds silly, but just committing to putting on your workout clothes can be enough to convince yourself to head to the gym. You don't HAVE to workout once you have your gym clothes on, but you're far more likely to.

38. Watch less TV.
- It's tough to admit, but TV watching is a sedentary activity. Can you challenge yourself to replace some of your TV watching with a more active hobby?

39. Meditate. Try to meditate for at least five minutes a day.
- Close your eyes and bring your attention to one thing (like your breath) for a period of time. When your mind starts to wander (and it will!) just let that go and return to your breath. The J offers meditation classes and yoga classes with meditative qualities as part of our Group Exercise schedule.

Diokno ...

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno called on local public officials to strengthen their role in nation building during the 2023 League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) General Assembly at the Manila Hotel on February 22, 2023 with the theme "Strengthening Municipal Capabilities Around Autonomy and Fostering Resiliency".

"As frontline service providers, the performance of local chief executives and legislators spells the difference between regional development and regional decay," said Secretary Diokno.

In pursuit of increased local autonomy and resiliency among municipalities, Secretary Diokno called for greater synergy between the local and national governments in key areas of cooperation.

For one, local governments must make use of the additional intergovernmental grant as a result of the Supreme Court ruling on the Mandanas-Garcia case to lead their municipalities towards fiscal responsibility and sustainability. According to Secretary Diokno, this can be done through improved resource mobilization, better allocation of public resources, and good governance.

"Operationalizing this Supreme Court ruling is a welcome opportunity to optimize the shared responsibility between local and national governments," Secretary Diokno added.

Public-private partnership (PPP) projects may also be explored to support bigger projects.

In support of LGUs' autonomy in enter-

ing and implementing local PPP projects, Secretary Diokno mentioned that the proposed Public-Private Partnership Act, which has been approved by the House of Representatives on third reading on December 12, 2022, will enable local governments to develop fully as self-reliant communities.

Secretary Diokno also urged local authorities to improve real property tax (RPT) collection, which he argued is one of the most progressive sources of revenues.

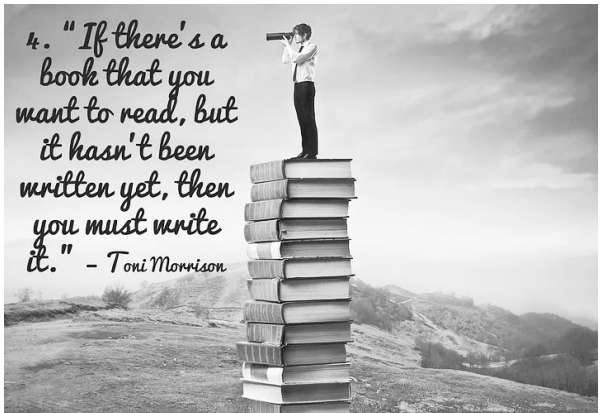
"In order to improve RPT collection, local authorities should periodically update land valuations," Secretary Diokno said.

He expressed support for the passage of the Real Property Valuation and Assessment Reform Bill that will promote the development of a just, equitable, and efficient real property valuation and assessment system.

Local governments must also actively undertake reforms that enhance the ease of doing business at the local level to bring in more investments in their respective communities.

Furthermore, Secretary Diokno challenged LGUs to pursue digitalization for better local public service delivery and transparency in transactions.

Finally, he urged LGUs to take up sustainability and climate adaptation projects to address climate change, which disproportionately affects the most marginalized groups. Secretary Diokno said that doing so will also reduce inequality in the country. DOF.GOV



Solon ...

MANILA – Cavite Representative Elpidio Barzaga Jr. on Thursday urged that the constitutional convention (con-con) to be composed of a combination of delegates elected by the public and experts who are appointed and vetted by Malacañang and Congress.

The Cavite solon took the idea from the earlier proposal of former Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno suggesting for a "hybrid" con-con with delegates not exclusively limited to those elected by the public.

Barzaga proposed to the House Committee on Constitutional amendments to initially anchor its substitute bill on Charter change on this "hybrid model" of con-con espoused by the retired chief magistrate.

"While acknowledging that electing delegates to a Con-con remains the best mode to amend the Constitution, Puno does not want Congress to take the traditional route where all the delegates are directly elected by the people," he said.

Earlier, Puno proposed that the House Committee on Constitutional amendments chaired by Rep. Rufus Rodriguez adopt a hybrid set-up "given the seeming deterioration of our political processes," stressing that "there is the lurking danger that the elected delegates to a constitutional convention will just be proxies of political dynasties and economic oligarchs."

"I will be proposing an amendment during the committee deliberation of the consolidated bills and if not approved in the committee level, I am reserving my right to propose such amendment during the plenary discussions (on the Con-con) bill," Barzaga said in a letter he sent to Rodriguez on Wednesday.

The retired magistrate, who led a consultative committee in 2018 tasked to craft a proposed federal constitution, suggested that under the hybrid model, the con-con will be a combination of delegates jointly elected

by the public and experts appointed and vetted by Malacañang and Congress.

"As we have heard in the course of the public hearings in Congress, there is an apprehension by some resource persons that in a Constitutional convention, the delegates, in most instances, will be backed by politicians and the delegates would just be considered as alter-ego and in the words of former Chief Justice Reynato Puno, 'proxies of proxies or factotums of political dynasties and economic oligarchs,'" Barzaga said.

Practically, the senior lawmaker from Cavite is proposing that the con-con be composed of 51 delegates with three delegates elected per region and 40 delegates to be appointed by a committee composed of the President, the Vice President, the Chief Justice, the Senate President and the Speaker "who shall elect among themselves the one who shall be the chairman of the committee on appointments."

"The appointees shall be of good moral character with known probity and considered as experts in their respective fields particularly in health, agriculture, transportation, information technology, disaster resilience, economics, foreign investments, environment, labor, infrastructure, and law; and such other experts in other fields as may be determined by the committee on appointments and the various sectors in our community should be properly represented by at least one appointee for every sector namely: indigenous people, senior citizens, persons with disability, solo parents, LGBTQIA+, women, youth and other sectors which the appointing authority may consider necessary," said Barzaga's proposed amendment.

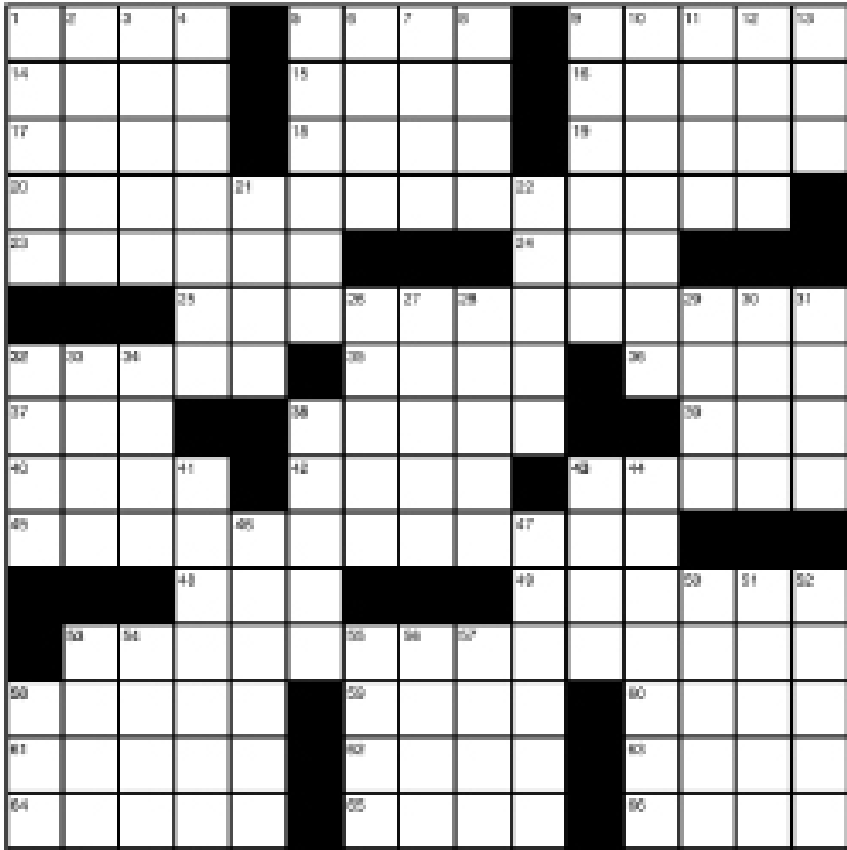
According to Barzaga, there will be no violation of the Constitution with the use of the hybrid setup.

Article 17, Sec cont. on page 3

ACROSS

- 1 He may cross the line
- 5 Literary Finn
- 9 Divide
- 14 Desire
- 15 Eye with desire
- 16 Desire
- 17 Make mad
- 18 "Kaboom!"
- 19 Loosen up
- 20 CON
- 23 Affirm at the altar
- 24 Liza Doolittle's dwelling
- 25 CON
- 32 Drilled
- 35 Domain of Eos
- 36 Put to flight
- 37 Hollywood Gardner
- 38 Stan's comedic pal
- 39 Former fort near Salinas
- 40 "99 Luftballons" singer
- 42 Freshman, typically
- 43 Dates with a Dr., perhaps
- 45 CON
- 48 Word with go or by
- 49 Recited in rhyme, perhaps
- 53 CON
- 58 Tartan garment
- 59 "Night Sins" author Tami
- 60 SASE, typically
- 61 Dancer's support
- 62 Fit
- 63 "Dollhouse" heroine
- 64 Jerk
- 65 Mexican sauce
- 66 Eye affliction

Crossword Puzzles



Restart, Refocus, Regrow



SM CITY BAC- COOR, CAVITE - March madness begins with ACE 3.3 SALE! ACE Rewards members get extra 10% OFF from March 3-5 only! Can't get enough for your home improvements? Worry no more! You can spend less with up to 40% OFF on selected items and extra 10% OFF for a minimum spend of P2,000 using ACE Rewards only! See you at ACE Hardware SM City Bacoor.

MYTH UNICORN FAIRY FANTASY MAGICAL PERFECT LEGEND-ARY MYSTICAL RAINBOW BEAUTIFUL WILD

L B M Y S T E R I O U S M
O E C Z P G M A G I C A L
G A Y P E R F E C T R S G
B S M Y T H U X J S C P H
E T T A L E S L E Q S Q D A U
A Q D A J T U N I C O R N
U R A I N B O W R F T K Y
T F M Y S T I C A L G L S
I Z O N R K O B I I F E W
F E L E G E N D A R Y Y I
U V F A N T A S Y X V F L
L F A I R Y T L E D D H D

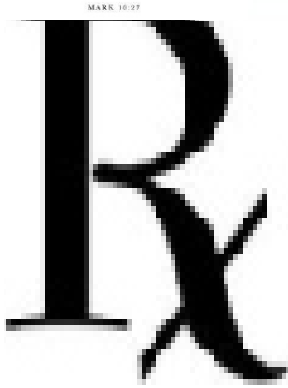
PERFECT LEGENDARY MYSTICAL RAINBOW BEAUTIFUL WILD SPARKLE MYSTEROUS BEAST REAL TALES

DOWN

- 1 Sends to stores
- 2 Jazz Chick
- 3 Rich Little's trade
- 4 Place for a glasses case
- 5 Rub elbows
- 6 Unpleasant-sounding citrus
- 7 They may have their own tartan
- 8 1996 VP candidate
- 9 Cut corners
- 10 Factory configurations
- 11 "Mission: Impossible" composer Schiffrin
- 12 "Meatbals" director Reitman
- 13 Popular cowboy nickmane
- 21 Was laid low by a high?
- 22 Broadcasting pioneer Arledge
- 26 Jung contemporary
- 27 Yarns
- 28 "Dallas" family name
- 29 "Breakfast for Dinner" eatery
- 30 _____ cloud (home for comets)
- 31 Assents
- 32 "Kaboom!"
- 33 Out's partner
- 34 Punjabi princess
- 38 SNL alum, Cheri
- 41 Surreptitious romances
- 43 Love personified
- 44 Jazz-men Ellis and Russell
- 46 Tyoe of bicycle
- 47 High point
- 50 Color lightly
- 51 Like wool sweaters, for some
- 52 Daphnis's love
- 53 Response to a rake
- 54 Legal opening?
- 55 Imitation
- 56 Bindlestiff
- 57 Eden event
- 58 NOVA network

SUDOKU

		1	6	2	5					9	2			8	7
		8			4					6		4	7		2
5	6			3			1	9		3		5	2		9
7			5	4	9			1		7	1			5	2
		6	2		7	9									
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		4				3				2		8	3		7
		7	1		4	2				5	4			2	3



LET GOD

The mind is its own place and in itself can make heaven of hell or a hell of heaven.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE for some finally to let go and let God? Perhaps the following scenario: you are close to death, have lost everything, dont know where to turn, and are ready for death, so you let go and let God. I think most of us have to

be at that point to be ready to let go. Until then we are finding time to worry about the crazy meaningless things that occupy our lives.

When the moment comes that you truly let go, you will find an inner peace beyond anything you have ever experienced. At that point you will be healed.

Stop for one moment as you read this and just sense turning everything over to a higher authority, a higher form of consciousness or wisdom, or whatever tou may call it. Sense wgat doing so immediately does for you. That gift is always if you can bring yourself to let go.

Soulution of the Week

*You cannot control anything but your thoughts.
So why not let go of trying to control what isn't yours
to control to begin with*

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Mariposa MPC receives technology production

Mariposa Multipurpose Cooperative (MPC) in Balete, Batangas received a training on dishwashing liquid production from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - Batangas as a technology support intervention in their pursuit to venture to this kind of business, held at the co-operative's multipurpose hall, Brgy. Magapi, Balete, Batangas, last February 16.

Since its inception, the cooperative has been involved in the retail sale of rice and agricultural supplies, with their farmer members as their main clients. However, this business of the cooperative was put on hold as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic and the Taal Volcano eruption.

By: John Maico M. Hernandez

As a recovery mechanism, the cooperative developed business plans to stay afloat in these challenging times. Part of this plan is the venture into dishwashing liquid production, which they consider to have good market potential given the prevailing household demand.

The dishwashing liquid production technology used during the training was developed by the Industrial Technology Development Institute of DOST (DOST-ITDI). Resource speakers were Mr. Jan Rotsen Kyle A. Delos Santos and Mr. Eduardo A. Lanto, both from the Pharmaceutical Section of the Chemicals and Energy Division of DOST-ITDI.

The training covered discussion on the

technical components of dishwashing liquid, including their chemical properties, surfactants, processing technologies, testing, and packaging. Prior to technology demonstration, ingredients and materials, tools and equipment needed, functions of ingredients, and procedures were discussed to participants. Right after the discussion, participants executed the step-by-step procedures with the guidance of the resource speakers. Mixture of surfactants was carried out in an assured and safe manner through observing good manufacturing practices which include the use of personal protective equipment. The pH of the products was tested before packaging to ensure its safety to consumers.

Packaged products were then set aside to allow clearing of solutions. Members of Mariposa MPC thanked DOST-Batangas and DOST-ITDI for making the training possible. According to Ms. Ceriza Nitro, this training was advantageous in realizing their plan of establishing a dishwashing

Aug. 30-Sept. 05, 2023

Training on dishwashing liquid



liquid production enterprise. She also mentioned that they are in high hopes that this would impact not only their members but would also contribute to their community's economic development.

Note to editors: DOST-CALABARZON is one of the regional offices of the Department of Science and Technology and is located at Jamboree Road, Brgy. Timugan, Los Baños, Laguna. For more information, you may visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/dostcalabarzon or website www.region4a.dost.gov.ph. You may also reach us at parcu@ro4a.dost.gov.ph.

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Restart, Refocus, Regrow

As a well-known tourist destination, Baguio City is a home to entrepreneurs who make a living out of selling pasalubong to tourists. One of those locals is Liza Pitass from Benguet.

It was not her intention to sell pasalubong; it just so happened that when she returned home from abroad, her mother and youngest sibling both had a pasalubong shop, so she was enticed to try this business as well. She handled the business through the help of her husband. She sells Baguio products including peanut brittle and strawberry jam. They also sell brooms, and vegetables.

She was initially focused on pasalubong,



but when she noticed that no customers were coming in, she decided to include vegetables as an attraction for them as well. However, it was the wrong season for her to sell vegetables because nothing was sold at that time. As a result, their products spoiled, causing her losses. That was year 2014-2015 but that challenges cannot make her give up easily.

In this situation, she considered obtaining a loan from CARD Bank. She also has a high level

of trust in this institution because her mother has been a CARD Bank customer for a long time. She borrowed PHP50,000 from CARD Bank and used it to restart her business again.

When La Preza opened in 2016, their income began to increase. It became a tourist attraction because some famous television actors used to film a drama there, which is how the Pasalubong Center became well-known.

She was able to expand her area in 2017 through the help of her family. To complete the capital requirement of PHP100,000 for her business expansion, she borrowed PHP50,000 from CARD Bank. During the pandemic, CARD Bank again provided her access to financial services during the COVID-19 pandemic so she can recover from the grave impact of the global health crisis.

"Just take every chance that you get. A success is not an easy journey, learn to walk your way to the top," Pitass concluded. PR



Liza Pitass consolidates products of other entrepreneurs in her store to sell to tourists going back to their homes from a vacation spent in Baguio City.



Cavite Governor Jonvic C. Remulla together with Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs Alvin Mojica welcomed the students and faculty members of University for Administration and Finances of Ludwigsburg, Germany and De La Salle - College of Saint Benilde, School of

Diplomacy and Governance in a learning visit conducted at the Provincial Capitol Building, Trece Martires City on February 22, 2023.

The learning visit aimed to understand the dynamics, processes, issues, challenges and opportunities of local governance in the Philippines within

the current context of COVID-19 pandemic recovery phase.

During the visit, Gov. Remulla and PA Alvin Mojica, shared a glimpse of Cavite by discussing its historical background, demographics and socio-economic profile. Likewise, local governance in the province was tackled during the dialogue. (JDP)



Aug. 30-Sept. 05, 2023

EDITORIAL:

Who's afraid of floods?

The residents especially in low-lying areas, who have to contend with rising floodwaters, evacuation to higher ground, vulnerability to leptospirosis and other potentially deadly diseases from wading in contaminated waters, and miserable, disrupted lives from the recurring disaster almost year-round.

But believe it or not, it does appear the politicians are the ones who really like floods, because they are given the opportunity to secure multi-million peso projects for flood control that ultimately lead to never-ending floods because the funds ultimately end up in private pockets.

Indeed, how many flood control projects have really worked, particularly in Central Luzon and parts of the National Capital Region, two areas where floods continue to wreak havoc on the lives mainly of ordinary people for many decades now.

Now here comes another 50-year drainage masterplan drawn up for the metropolis by the Metro Manila Development Authority

(MMDA) that was recently approved by the World Bank, which will provide a loan for its implementation.

"Our current drainage systems are no longer designed to accommodate such a huge volume of water in Metro Manila," according to the MMDA.

The master plan, we're told, part of the Metro Manila Flood Management Project, would remain "relevant and efficient" as it would last for 50 years.

The Department of Public Works and Highways will take part in the construction of the system.

Will this work? We really don't know, until after the project is completed half-a-century from now.

Our immediate concern, however, is the here and now.

Next year's proposed national budget contains P225 billion for flood control.

You would probably think this is a small amount to spend for flood control throughout the country, but Sen. Francis Escudero doesn't think so.

In fact, he considers the amount "too big" for "tubig."

The lawmaker believes the amount is larger than what is being recommended for building new classrooms, hospitals, irrigation systems, and railway constructions.

He pointed out that flood control even beat the railway budget by over a P100 billion.

The railway budget is only P153 billion and irrigation is at P31 billion.

And flood control is bigger than the entire agriculture budget, which will be allocated P181 billion in 2024.

Escudero is bothered and bewildered no end how the executive branch can justify the need to spend more for flood control compared to planting for food security.

We are as flummoxed as he is, and can somebody in the DWPH explain to all and sundry why P225 billion for flood control for one year isn't throwing good money after bad?

from page 4

ty-list Representatives Jude Acidre and Yedda Marie Romualdez authored House Bill 1593 or the Church Nullity Act of 2022 that they filed on July 7 last year.

"On behalf of Tingog Party-list, I'd like to thank the committee for its favorable action on House Bill 1593. This is a significant development that provides hope for an efficient and more affordable procedure to remedy the situation of couples trapped in an irreparable relationship," Acidre said.

The bill has been endorsed to a technical working group (TWG) tasked to consolidate all eight related measures

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TESDA Regional Office ng IV-A sa Calabarzon, itatayo sa Laguna

Binisita ni Vice Governor Atty.Karen Agapay angTESDA Director General Atty. Danilo P. Cruz, at sa pagpupulong kasama sina Deputy Director General for Administration and Finance Josefino I. Torres, Deputy Director General for Legal and Legislative Affairs, Partnerships and Linkages Tonisito Machiavelli C. Umali at TESDA IV-A Director Toni June A. Tamayo.

Naging prayoridad ang pagkakaroon ng Regional Office ng TESDA sa Calabarzon upang mas

mapalakas at mailapit pa sa mga tao ang mga programa at serbisyo nito.

Kung kaya upang maging ganap ang katuparan na magkaroon sa Laguna, ng mga Regional/Provincial Offices ang Department of Foreign Affairs(DFA) sa SM San Pablo, Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) sa Metro Central Mall sa Santa Cruz, at ang pinaka latest na Department of Migrant Workers(DMW) para sa mga OFWs. Nakatakdang itayo sa Los Baños, habang sakahilingan ni VG Agapay ang tanggapan ng Regional office ng TESDA.

Pinaglaanan ito ng mahabang proseso ni VG Agapay upang higait na pakinabangan ng ating mga mamamayan.

Dahil hindi na sila umano magtutungo ng kalakang Maynila at karatig lalawigan upang doon mag-sanay sa TESDA, kumuha ng passports sa DFA, mag-asikaso ng kanolang papeles ,kumuha ng mga dokumento ang mga OFW sa DMW .At mag renew ng kanilang mga dokumento.(KEVIN PAMATMAT/SHEKINAH JOY PAMATMAT)

and craft a substitute bill. Acidre said if the bill becomes law, a declaration of nullity (of marriage) decreed by the Church will hold as much weight and have the same effect as a civil annulment.

He added that the measure removes the burden of undergoing the civil annulment process such that Catholics who have sought annulment in the Church should not anymore be "long oppressed by the darkness of doubt" over whether their marriages, already declared null and void, should also be recognized as such by the State.

HB 1593 proposes that a marriage duly and legally solemnized by a priest, imam, rabbi, or presiding elder of an established church or religion in the Philippines which is subsequently annulled, dissolved or declared a nullity in a final judgment or decree in accordance with the canons and precepts of the church or religious sect, shall have the same effect as a decree of annulment, dissolution or declaration of nullity issued by a competent court.

"A marriage solemnized by the Church therefore should have not only canonical but civil effects as well. Priests, pastors, imams and rabbis who solemnize marriage must have the authority to solemnize granted by the State," the bill's explanatory note read.

The authors said the proposed measure was an offshoot of Pope Francis' position to simplify the procedures for annulling marriages in the Catholic Church.

"If a marriage can be legitimately contracted under the laws of the Church, then it follows that under the same laws, such marriage can also be nullified or annulled," they said, noting Pope Francis' issuance of "Mitis Iudex Dominus Iesus," which streamlined the process of the declaration of nullity of marriage.

"The Family Code of the Philippines recognizes as valid a marriage solemnized under the laws of the Church. If marriages so solemnized are recognized by the State, it is only proper that the very church that solemnized the marriage should also have the power to rule that attendant infirmity that rendered a marriage null and its effects binding on the State. This is also the same to all other established churches and religions," the authors explained.

Under Section 3 of the bill, "the status of children of marriages subject to a decree of annulment or declaration of nullity by the church or religious sect shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order No. 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines."

In case the grounds for the church annulment or declaration of nullity are not similar to any of the grounds provided in the Family Code, their common children born or conceived before the issuance of the decree of annulment or declaration of nullity shall be considered legitimate, according to the bill.

Without prejudice to the conditions set forth by the church or religious sect, the measure also proposes that either of the former spouses may marry again after complying with the requirements provided under Section 5 and Article 52 of the Family Code, otherwise the subsequent marriage shall be null and void.

To secure a marriage license, the spouse involved must present a true certified copy of the decree of annulment or declaration of nullity issued by the church or religious sect and registered with the appropriate civil registry.

They added that under Presidential Decree No. 1083, the State recognizes divorce under the Code of Muslim Personal Laws of the Philippines, which is based on Sharia, or Islamic law.

"Under the principle of equality before the law, if a Muslim divorce is recognized, there can be no serious objections towards the recognition of the civil effects of a marriage by an established and duly recognized religious denomination," they added. (PNA)

MANILA – The House Committee on Population and Family Relations on Thursday approved a bill seeking civil

TINGOG Par-

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Join the paw-ty at the SM Super Pets Club

Gain exclusive perks and rewards, access to Paw Parks, and be part of a bigger furever paw-mily at SM Supermalls!



Photo caption as SM Supermalls president Steven Tan with Chloe and Super Pets Club project lead Hannah Carinna Sy with her buddy Katsu.

Heads up, fur moms and dads!

SM Supermalls just launched the biggest pet community in town, the SM Super Pets Club, at the SM Aura Premier's Paw Park.

"Filipinos are known to be the best fur parents and we don't treat them just like pets, but as part of our own families. As everyone is welcome here at SM, including our furry friends, we've made a program that gives them the best benefits when entering our malls. So, register now and join our club!" shared SM Supermalls SVP for Marketing Jonjon San Agustin.

By joining the community, you get special access to super perks, exclusive rewards, and amazing experiences for you and your fur babies.

Access the Paw Park conveniently

You can now create up to 5 Pet IDs per owner which will provide access to over 50 Paw Parks in SM Malls nationwide. The ID also provides the mall with information on each dog's latest vaccine so that your fur baby is guaranteed a safe and clean environment at SM's parks.

Get your hands-on exclusive deals and treats

From an SM Super Pet welcome gift and exclusive e-vouchers, to the grandest rewards and discounts from partner tenants, members can get their hands on these super perks. Plus, you can

reserve the Paw Park exclusively at any SM Mall for 1 hour on your dog's birthday celebration! How cool is that?

Have a go-to community for pets

Members of the SM Super Pets Club will be given access to a microsite filled with pet-related activities, events, and promos happening at SM. The microsite will have a community feature where you can chat with others about your pets. Talk about a supportive community, right?

To join the SM Super Pets Club, register

your fur baby using the QR codes at the SM Paw Park or at the counters in various SM stores. Just input all your pet's details including their vaccination status, and voila! You can download your Pet ID and claim your welcome gift.

The Pet IDs will only be valid only for one year from your pets' anti-rabies vax date, so be sure to get them vaccinated annually.

Visit www.smsupermalls.com and follow @smsupermalls on all social media platforms for news and updates on exciting deals and promos.

Let's get this paw-ty started by joining the SM Super Pets Club!



Solon...

tion 3 of the Constitution states that "Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of all its members, call a Constitutional convention, or by a majority vote of all its members, submit to the electorate the question of calling such a convention."

Barzaga contended that this constitutional provision does not

specify how delegates to a constitutional convention should be chosen, noting in past conventions, "the legislation calling for the convention specified how the delegates would be chosen."

"In 1971, under an earlier Constitution, Republic Act No. 6132 provided that delegates

to a Constitutional convention would be elected by the national legislative district in a special election. The 48 members of the Constitutional Commission which drafted the 1987 Constitution were not elected by the people and were appointed by the President at that time, (by then) Cory (Corazon) Aquino," he said. (PNA)

from page 3

Diokno: Abolition of one-stop shop center to enhance bureaucratic efficiency, reduce administrative expenses

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno welcomed the issuance of Administrative Order (AO) No. 4, directing the abolition of the One-Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center (OSS Center) and transferring its assets, liabilities, and obligations to the Department of Finance (DOF).

"The operations of the OSS Center, which had

been plagued by corruption allegations over the years and had been defunct since 2016, is now rightfully under the Bureau of Internal Revenue [BIR] and the Bureau of Customs [BOC]. This will streamline revenue operations and reduce administrative expenses," Secretary Diokno said of the issuance.

Under AO No. 4, the processing and issuance of tax credits and duty drawbacks shall now be done by the BIR and the BOC.

The OSS Center was originally created on February 7, 1992 through AO No. 266, s. 1992 to simplify and streamline the processing of tax credits and duty drawbacks.

Tax credits are credits against taxes and/or duties equal to those actually paid or would have been paid to evidence which tax credit certificate (TCC) shall be issued by the Secretary of Finance or their duly authorized representative.

Meanwhile, duty drawback refers to the refund or credit of duties, and may include internal revenue taxes actually paid for importation, in whole or in part.

In 1994, the OSS Center was made a permanent unit of the DOF. However, some OSS Center officials and employees have been found to have committed several tax credit scams involving billions of pesos over the years.

"It is also important to note that the OSS Center has not processed and issued any tax credit certificates since 2016. It is not practical for the government to provide for its budget every year since it does not perform its functions anymore," Secretary Diokno added.

In 2022, Secretary Diokno recommended to the President the abolition of the OSS Center for purposes of institutional strengthening and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the delivery of public services.

Earlier in the day, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Alfredo Pascual, who

2 SPL members surrender, 21 CPP-NPA-NDF supporters withdraw support in Quezon

CAMP CAPIN-PIN, Rizal - Two members of the Sangay sa Partido sa Lokalidad have surrendered to the government troops, while a total of 21 CPP-NPA-NDF supporters have withdrawn their support to the communist group across the municipalities of San Andres, San Francisco, and Mulanay, Quezon on Tuesday, February 14, 2023.

The San Andres Municipal Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict headed by Hon. Mayor Ralph Edward B. Lim, San Francisco MTF-ELCAC Hon. Mayor Romulo D. Edaño Sr., and Mulanay MTF-ELCAC headed by Hon. Mayor Aristotle L. Aguirre, with assistance from the 85th Infantry Battalion, Quezon PNP, San Andres PNP, San Francisco

PNP, and Mulanay PNP, facilitated the surrender of two members of Sangay sa Partido sa Lokalidad and the withdrawal of support of 21 CPP-NPA-NDF supporters across 8 barangays in the said municipalities. "Our localized peace efforts, we are implementing with the ELCAC Task Forces and key partners to help our communities achieve long-term peace and socio-economic development. As we remain relentless in our peace and development efforts, we urge the surviving CPP-NPA-NDF members to return to the law so they may take advantage of government initiatives to start again with their families." 2nd Infantry "Jungle Fighter" Division Commander Maj. Gen. Roberto S. Capulong said in a statement. 2ID

PBBM...

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said he believes it is "only a matter of time" before ordinary Filipinos start feeling the effects of economic growth in the country.

"Kaunting panahon na lang ay madadama na natin ang magagandang epekto nito sa ating ekonomiya at sa kabuhayan ng ating mga kabayan (It's only a matter of time before we feel its good effects on our economy and the livelihood of our countrymen)," he said in his official Facebook page.

Marcos made this remark as he welcomed a report showing that investments registered with the Board of Investments (BOI) reached more than PHP414 billion in the first 40 days of 2023.

This amount accounts for more than 40 percent of the PHP1 trillion investment target for the year.

Earlier in the day, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Alfredo Pascual, who

chairs the BOI, revised the bureau's investment approval targets from PHP1 trillion to PHP1.5 trillion this year.

"Given the strong investment approvals for January, as well as the robust pipeline of investment leads, including those generated (through) Presidential visits, I have increased the 2023 investment registration target of BOI from PHP1 trillion to PHP1.5 trillion," Pascual said in a BOI statement Thursday.

On Monday, Marcos called on key government agencies to intensify efforts to uplift the people's economic condition, saying that their hard work would go to "waste" if it is not felt by ordinary Filipinos.

Although there are "many plans" to boost the economy's growth, he said these gains would only matter if it trickles down to the people, especially the poor.

"Sabihin na natin gumanda nang husto ang ekonomiya ng Pilipinas, hindi naman bumababa

DOST-LAGUNA NAGSAGAWA NG PAGSASANAY SA INVENTORY CONTROL PARA SA BENEPISYARYONG MSME



Upang mapalakas at suportahan ang mga Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME), nagsagawa ang Provincial Office ng Department of Science and Technology sa Laguna (DOST-Laguna) ng isang Pagsasanay sa Inventory Control o pag-iimbentaryo noong Pebrero 17, 2023.

Bahagi ito ng serye ng capability development webinars na inorganisa ng ahensya para sa kanilang mga benepisaryong MSME sa ilalim ng mga programang Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) at Grants-in-Aid Community Based Projects (GIA-

CBP) para sa unang semestre ng taon.

Layon ng aktibidad na ito na maunawaan at malaman ng mga lumahok na MSME ang mga mahahalagang benepisyo ng pag-iimplementa ng mas maayos na inventory control at pag-digitize sa pamamahala ng imbensaryo at suplay sa kanilang negosyo.

Binigyang-diin ni Dr. Philip Ermita, Associate Professor of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) na siyang nagsilbing tagapagsalita, ang kahalagahan ng innovation o makabagong ideya sa inventory management ng maliliit na

(Covid-19) health crisis, saying the country is on track to reach the "upper-middle income" status by 2024.

He expressed confidence that the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 would help his administration transform the Philippines into a "prosperous, more inclusive, and resilient" nation.

The Philippines posted a 7.6 percent full-year growth in 2022, the highest in 46 years or since the country recorded an 8.8 percent growth in 1976. (PNA)

mga Negosyo na maaaring magresulta sa mas mabisa at cost-effective na mga kasanayan sa pagnenegosyo. Makatutulong ito para maging mas produktibo at tumaas ang kanilang kita.

Hinihikok naman ang mga suliraning madalas na kinakaharap pagdating sa pamamahala ng imbensaryo ng mga MSME, at kasabay nito ay nagbahagi rin ng mga posibleng solusyon. Kasama sa mga nabanggit niyang solusyon ang digitization o paggamit ng mga inventory software at artificial intelligence upang mapadali at mapaganda ang kanilang management system mula sa pagproposos, pamamahala, hanggang sa pagmomonitor ng kanilang mga produkto.

Binahagi rin ng tagapagsalita ang mga pamamaraan upang mas mapabuti ang proseso ng inventory management ng mga MSME at kung ano ang mga dapat nilang isaalang-alang. Aniya mahalagan na kayang tukuyin at sukatin ang kanilang Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) para sa mabilisang paggawa ng mga desisyon sa kanilang negosyo.

Nagpasalamat naman ang DOST-Laguna

sa suporta ni Prof. Ermita na inanyayahan pa ang mga kasamahan niyang eksperto mula sa PUP na magsponsor ng apat na iba pang sesyon ng pagsasanay para pa rin sa mga MSME.

Hinihikok naman ang mga assisted MSME ng kanilang opisina na daluhan ang lahat ng libreng webinar na isasagawa nila hanggang Hunyo. Ilaanunsiyo nila ang schedule sa kanilang official Facebook page sa <https://www.facebook.com/dostlaguna>.

Pangunahing adhikain ng DOST-Laguna ang patuloy na magtaguyod ng mga aktibidad para sa pagpapalakas ng kapasidad ng kanilang mga benepisaryong MSME. (Impormasyon mula sa: <https://region4a.dost.gov.ph/news/1501-dost-laguna-holds-inventory-control-training-for-msmes>.)

Note to editors: DOST-CALABARZON is one of the regional offices of the Department of Science and Technology and is located at Jamboree Road, Brgy. Timugan, Los Baños, Laguna. For more information, you may visit us on Facebook at [facebook.com/dostcalabarzon](https://www.facebook.com/dostcalabarzon) or website www.region4a.dost.gov.ph. You may also reach us at parcu@r04a.dost.gov.ph. **PR**