PH. Sollor ink free trade deal private sector partners. "The signing of

Philippines and South Korea have signed a free trade agreement (FTA) on the sidelines of the 43rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and Related Summits in Jakarta. Indonesia. President Fer-

dinand R. Marcos Jr. and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol witnessed the signing of the FTA between Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual and South Korean Trade Minister Ahn Duk Geun on the occasion of the 24th ASEAN-Korea Summit on Thursday.

Marcos said the trade agreement would further enhance the vibrant relationship and Philippines and South Korea, expressing optimism that it would go beyond the government-to-government partnership to

the FTA is certainly a very big step in that regard. It can only be a successful arrangement for both our countries. I look forward to the expansion of the trade agreement between your country and mine," he told

"When I look at the involvement of Korea and the Philippines, I can say that the relationship between our two countries remains vibrant. And I think it is accelerating ... I would like to take this opportunity to deepen further

that relationship." and South Korea began their negotiations for the partnership between the FTA in June 2019 and concluded them in October 2021. They were supposed to sign the agreement in June 2022.

some "legal scrubbing" on the concluded chapter texts of the FTA, including the Trade in Goods. Trade Remedies, Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation. Rules of Origin. Competition, and Chapters under Legal and Institutional Issues.

The Economic and Technical Coopera-The Philippines tion Chapter and Market Access for Goods were the remaining issues they had to resolve to end the FTA talks.

The newly signed FTA is expected to remove tariffs on most products However, they had to do from the two countries,

opening the door to rapid growth in bilateral trade. Yoon said he is eager to elevate the strategic partnership between the Philippines and South Korea. "And in this re-

gard, I believe that the Korea-Philippines Free Trade Agreement signed later today will set another important milestone in our bilateral relations." he told

Pascual, meanwhile, said the FTA serves as a "clear demonstration of the intent to elevate the current bilateral relations with South Korea to a stronger strate-

Cont. on Page 4

Urban, peri-urban agriculture ng DA-4A, suportado ng RAFC-4A



miyembro ng Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (RAFC) IV-A and dalawang resolusyong magtatatag at magpapalawig ng implementasyon ng National Urban and Peri-urban Ariculture Program (NUPAP), sa naganap na AFC Benchmarking and Consultative susi ng pagkamit ng food Workshop Cum Exposi- security, inirerekomenda tory Tour on UPA sites in ng pamunuan sa pangu-CALABARZON, noong nguna ni RAFC Chairper- ue Crops Development RAFC sa lokal at pan-

ang binubuo ng mga ki- para sa Farmers' Cooper- Bureau of Plant Industry ng NUPAP.

natawan ng pribadong sektor ng agrikultura at ang ang pagtatag ng comisa sa mga katuwang ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) sa pagpapaunlad ng industriya ng pagsasaka sa rehivon

Bilang pagkilala ng lupon sa papel ng programa bilang isa sa mga Agosto 29-30, 2023, sa son Flordeliza Maleon, Program ang pagsasagawa ng Ang RAFC ay malawakang oryentasyon Bb. Niña Rosales mula sa

munity gardens sa rehiy-

Ito ay matapos na maibahagi sa RAFC ang estado at implementasyon ng NUPAP sa rehivon: at and sistema at benepisyo ng pagsasagawa ng Community and Urban Gardening na ipiresenta ni DA-4A Field Operations Division Chief at High Val-Coordinator Engr. Redelliza Gruezo at

atives, and Associations at Los Baños National Crop Research, Development, and Production Support

> Bumisita din ang RAFC-4A sa Adoress Farm kung saan direkta nilang nasaksikhan ang mga pamamaraan at pamamahala sa pagsasagawa

> Inaasahan na patuloy na makikipagpulong ang pamunuan ng lalawigang pamahalaan ng rehiyon upang maisakatuparan ang layunin

CIC Prepares for Girder



FROM 10PM TO 4AM ON THE FOLLOWING DATES: MANILA BOUND - SEPTEMBER 15 to 19, 2023 CAVITE BOUND - SEPTEMBER 19 to 25, 2023

> Counterflow lane will be activated during girder launch.



frastructure Corporation (CIC), the concessionaire of the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), is set to commence the girder launching activity for the CAVITEX C5 Link Segment 2 R1 Interchange. Scheduled from

September 15 to September 25. 2023. between 10 PM to 4 AM. CIC will implement counterflow schemes at the Parañaque Toll Plaza. The scheme will be in effect from September 15 to 19, 2023, for Manila-bound traffic, and from September 19 to 25, 2023, for Cavite-bound traffic. To alleviate congestion during the activity, CIC will activate counterflow lanes as needed.

CIC President and General Manager, Mr. Raul L. Ignacio, emphasized, "CAVITEX C5 Link Segment 2 once completed by the first quarter of 2024 will help cut travel time to Sucat Road from CAVITEX (Coastal Road) and vice versa by 10 minutes, making daily commutes more efficient and seamless for our motor-

The R-1 Intermeter segment (Segment comm@mptsouth.com

2x3 lane expressway set to connect CAVITEX R1 to C5 Road in Taguig. Once CAVITEX C5 Link is fully completed, it is anticipated to serve over 50.000 vehicles per day, significantly reducing travel times to and from Makati and Taguig from Parañaque City, Las Piñas City, and Cavite Province, ultimately easing traffic congestion within Metro Manila.

CIC is a sub-

of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) - the leading moinfrastructure and solutions provider in the Philippines. It is the toll road development arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC). Aside from CAVITEX and CAVI-TEX C5 Link, MPTC also holds concession rights for the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway (SC-TEX), the NLEX Connector Road, and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in

about this press release change is a vital 1.9-kilo- please email us at: corp-



PUBLISHING

TODAY'S NEWS AND BEYOND

VOL. I · NO. 11 · September 13-19, 2023 · P 10.00

Globe welcomes new verifi-

cation guidelines from NTC to improve SIM registration PAGE 4

PRO CALABARZON hosted the 3rd Quarter Regional Management and Coor-

dinating Committee Meeting held at PRO 4A Multi-Purpose Hall, Camp BGen

Vicente P Lim, Calamba City. Regional Director PBGen Carlito M Gaces spear-

headed the said event which was participated by the Regional Directors from the

NAPOLCOM 4A, Bureau of Fire and Protection 4A, Bureau of Jail Management

and Penology 4A, Department of the Interior and Local Government 4A and Di-

rector from the National Police College. PRO4A



Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world class theme park in the Philippines, is inviting guests for its 28th anniversary celebration this October with the theme Be The Magic! Be Enchanted! The years. We are very excited year-long celebration plac- to capture these enchantes the spotlight on recre- ing stories from our past ating enchanting stories and present quests, and

from the past and creating new magical experiences

for every guest. "Enchanted Kingdom remains to be part of our guests' personal milestones throughout its 28

rate Planning. Mamon shared that due to popular demand, Enchanted Kingdom will bring back the

experiences with the fu ture generation," said Nico

Mamon, 28th Anniversary

Celebration Wizard and the Head of Organization

Development and Corpo-

Sky Wizardry Fireworks Competition after its last spectacle eight years ago. "Apart from entertaining and dazzling the guests. Enchanted Kingdom has collaborated with Filiping fireworks manufacturers to showcase their products and creativity. As a proud Filipino company. we highlight local artistry with pyrotechnics and music, enchanting Filipinos for the past 28 years," Mamon emphasized.

> Enchanted King-Cont. on Page 7



VOL. <u>I · NO. 11</u>

27 NATURAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION TIPS THAT ARE **EVIDENCE-BASED**

4. Don't fear coffee

Despite some controversy over it, coffee is loaded with health benefits.

It's rich in antioxidants, and some studies have linked coffee intake to longevity and a reduced risk of type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, and numerous other illnesses

The most beneficial intake amount appears to be 3-4 cups per day, although pregnant people should limit or avoid it completely because it has been linked to low birth weight

However, it's best to consume coffee and any caffeine-based items in moderation. Excessive caffeine intake may lead to health issues like insomnia and heart palpitations. To enjoy coffee in a safe and healthy way, keep your intake to less than 4 cups per day and avoid high-calorie, high-sugar additives like sweetened creamer.

5. Eat fatty fish

Fish is a great source of high-quality protein and healthy fat. This is particularly true of fatty fish, such as salmon, which is loaded with anti-inflammatory omega-3 fatty acids and various other nutrients.

Studies show that people who eat fish regularly have a lower risk for several conditions. including heart disease, dementia, and inflammatory bowel disease.

6. Get enough sleep

The importance of getting enough quality sleep cannot be overstated.

Poor sleep can drive insulin resistance, can disrupt your appetite hormones, and reduce your physical and mental performance.

What's more, poor sleep is one of the strongest individual risk factors for weight gain and obesity. People who do not get enough sleep tend to make food choices that are higher in fat. sugar, and calories, potentially leading to unwanted weight gain.

7. Feed your gut bacteria

The bacteria in your gut, collectively called the gut microbiota, are incredibly important for overall health

A disruption in gut bacteria is linked to some chronic diseases. including obesity and a myriad of digestive problems

Good ways to improve gut health include eating fermented foods like yogurt and sauerkraut, taking probiotic supplements — when indicated and eating plenty of fiber. Notably, fiber serves as a prebiotic, or a food source for your gut bacteria.

8. Stay hydrated

Hydration is an important and often overlooked marker of health. Staying hydrated helps ensure that your body is functioning optimally and that your blood volume is sufficient.

Drinking water is the best way to stay hydrated, as it's free of calories, sugar, and additives. Although there's no set amount that everyone needs per day, aim to drink enough so that your thirst is adequately quenched.

to be cont. for next issue

Laguna — The Laguna

Department of Trade and

Industry (DTI-Laguna),

Ted Tungohan and Busi-

ness Development Di-

> September 13-19, 2023 DTI LAGUNA, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMEN PARTNER FOR STRENGTHENED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



Ezra Del Mundo, participated in the 2nd Quarterly Joint Meeting of Municipal an initiative of Megaworand City Local Laguna ld Lifestyle Malls and the Economic Development Department of Tourism to and Investment Promotions Offices (LEDIPOs) help support our country's and Business Permit and economic development Licensing Offices (BPLOs) and to help our micro. small, and medium enterof Laguna held at the Conference Room, Governor's prises build brand awareness, generate new leads, Office, Provincial Capitol boost market reach, and Compound, Santa Cruz, meet with partners. Laguna, on May 16, 2023.

Tungohan then In the said joint urged the support of BPLO meeting, Tungohan disand LEDIPO designates in cussed the upcoming mar-Laguna by way of helpketing events of DTI-Laguna tied up with the ing DTI-Laguna and the Provincial Government of Provincial Government of Laguna in identifying best Laguna and Megaworld Lifestyle Malls to be in held in three premier malls of their town to be exhibited Megaworld Lifestyle Malls, and showcased in the said namely, Eastwood City in marketing events. More Quezon City, McKinley Hill so, Tungohan took the opportunity to express his in Taguig City, and Newport Mall in Pasay City appreciation to everyone for the timely submission this coming May 26 to 31, of data in Cities and Mu-2023, June 22 to 25, 2023, nicipalities Competitiveand July 12 to 15, 2023. ness Index online portal respectively. This staged, and he hopes that more relevant event is under the umbrella project called Laguna local government

"Tara, Pasyal Na" which is units will be included in

awardees this year. He also mentioned that DTI-Laguna, thru the Negosyo Centers in different cities and municipalities, will provide assistance in the conduct of information dissemination to micro, small and medium enterprises in their respective areas on the importance of applying/ registering their intellectual properties

DTI-Laguna wishes that they can work hand in hand with the local government units in boostof the best products in ing economic development and promoting/facilitating viable investments in the province (DTI-Lagu-

Santa Laguna — The Laguna Provincial Office of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI-Laguna), represented by their Officer-in-Charge Christian Ted Tungohan and Business Development Di-

vision OIC Chief Abigail Ezra Del Mundo, participated in the 2nd Quarterly Joint Meeting of Municipal and City Local Laguna Economic Development and Investment Promotions Offices (LEDIPOs) and Business Permit and Licensing Offices (BPLOs) of Laguna held at the Conference Room, Governor's Office Provincial Capitol Compound, Santa Cruz, Laguna, on May 16, 2023.

In the said joint

meeting, Tungohan discussed the upcoming marketing events of DTI-Laguna tied up with the Provincial Government of Laguna and Megaworld Lifestyle Malls to be in held in three premier malls of Megaworld Lifestyle Malls, namely, Eastwood City in Quezon City, McKinley Hill in Taguig City, and Newport Mall in Pasay City this coming May 26 to 31, 2023, June 22 to 25, 2023, and July 12 to 15, 2023, respectively.

from page 4

Crismundo/PNA)

Banana exports from Vietnam to Korea will be at zero-tariff by 2024. In 2018, former DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez said exports to South Korea eating up the Philippines' market share.

In return, the Philippines will lift the tarcurrently at 5 percent, as soon as the FTA takes effect. The country will also parts, with tariff currently up to 30 percent

If the DFA will determine the trade pact

September 13-19, 2023-----



PAKIL, LAGU-NA-Natupad na noon ay pangarap lamang subalit ngayon araw ay pinasinayaan ang dekalidad na pasilidadang bagong Bahay Pamahalaan na matatagpuan sa crossing ng Barangay Tavera ng

Ang bagong Bahay-Pamahalaan ay tunay na naglalarawan sa bayan dahil sa simbolismo ng Disenyo nito. Ang gusaling ito ay binubuo ng dalawang Sections na kumakatawan sa dalawang

Ang left section ay may anim na vertical lines na kumakatawan sa anim na Barangay ng Kanlurang Pakil habang ang right section ay may anim na vertical lines na kumakatawan naman sa pitong Barangay ng Silangang Pakil!

STRAIGHT NEWS

Ang Tanggapan ng Alkalde (Mayor's Office) ang nag-iisang Tanggapan na nasa pagitan ng dalawang Sections na ito na nagpapakita ng matinding Responsibilidad nito na magbigay ng inklusibo, napapanahon, pantay at epektibong pamamahala at pagseserbisyo sa Kanluran at Silangang Pakil.

Ana modernona disenyo nito ang sumisimbolo sa pagyakap ng mga mamamayan ng Pakil sa Modernong uri pag-uugali. Ang gusaling luran at Silangang Pakil) Architect Mark Angelo Bo-

nita ng Barangay Kabulu-

sanng ng bayan ito

dumalo sa pagbubukas ng pasilidad si Quezon City Councilor Alfred Vargas bilang panauhing pangdangal, habang nagbigay naman ng video messages si Sen.Lito Lapid at iba pa mga Mayor ng Laguna. Dumalo din sa pagbubung pag-iisip, paggawa at kas si Mayor Rellosa ng Famv. Mayor Elmor Vita Mayor Romy Amorado ng



bayan ng Majayjay .Mga Kawani ng pamahalaan, Vice Mayor Vipops Martinez.at buong miyembro ng Sanguniterritoryo ng bayan (Kan- ito ay disenyo naman ni ng Nagcarlan, Mayor, an bayan at mga Barangay Officials.(KEVIN PAMAT-

COLLABORATION IN AGRI AND MSME DEVELOPMENT [JAKARTA, September 02, 2023] — In- during the ASEAN BIS, in support of th

creased collaboration beand governments across the ASEAN region is at the center of the ongoing ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (BIS) as Indonesian President Joko Widodo formally opened the event last September 1, 2023 at the Merdeka Presidential Palace in Ja-

karta Indonesia. Arsjad Rasjid, chairman of the summit's host, the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), said that it is ready to strengthen private sector-government synergy to promote economic growth. "The ASF-AN-BAC has provided policy recommendations from each ASEAN country to be considered as a strategy to realize ASEAN as the epicentrum of growth," he

ASEAN-BAC Philippines, led by its

BAC's emphasis on innotween the private sector vation and greater inclusivity towards its vision of ASFAN centrality.

that there will be greater

Concepcion said

collaboration in agriculture and MSME development as initiatives which are patterned after the Philippines's Kapatid Angat Lahat sa Agri Program (KALAP) are set to have parallel implementations across the region with the signing of several MOUs with almost all of the ASE-AN member-states This follows the successful completion of Phase 2 of the regional mentorship program, ASEAN Mentorship for Entrepreneurs Network (AMEN), which is also a Philippine program started during its chairmanship in 2017.

"Judging from the conversations we've had with the other delegates, there is really a lot of comchairman Joey Concep- plementary technologies cion,is hosting collabora- and skills that the ASEtive meetings and events AN countries can share perity for all countries in the region. The private sec tor-led ASFAN Business

Advisory Council (ASE-AN-BAC) has provided guidance and feedback to boost the region's efforts toward economic integra tion.PR

Concepcion said that there will be greater collaboration in agriculture and MSMF development as initiatives which are patterned after the Philippines's Kapatid Angat Lahat sa Agri Program (KALAP) are set to have parallel implementations across the region with the signing of several MOUs with almost all of the ASF

INCREASED PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN ASEAN. Indonesian President Joko Widodo joins the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) at the opening ceremonies of the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit at the Merdeka Presidential Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia last September 1. ASE-AN-BAC chair Arsjad Rasjid and Philippines chair Joey Concepcion emphasized the importance of strengthening private sector-government synergy to promote economic growth in ASEAN. The ASEAN-BAC Philippines is leading efforts for agriculture and MSME development.

via platforms like KALAP He added that this pri- the governments in the and AMEN, especially in vate sector cooperation region. "Working togethareas of agriculture and is further amplified when er, especially through our

Enchanted ...

MSEs," said Concepcion. private sector works with agriculture and MSEs, will AN member-states.

from page 1

dom will also introduce its very own storybook characters with the launch of its grand parade. Apart from the iconic Eldar the Wizard, Princess Victoria and Princess Madeline, meet and greet these lovable characters this October as part of the Enchanted Kingdom story for guests of all ages to enjoy.

Enchanted Kingdom invites everyone to be part of this magical experience this October. Stay tuned for more enchanting news and events in the upcoming weeks.

For more information about this celebration and other upcoming events, visit https://www.enchantedkingdom.ph/ and EK's official social media accounts @enchantedkingdom.ph for Facebook and Tiktok, and @ek_philippines for Twitter and Instagram. PR

from Vietnam to Korea will be at zero-tariff by 2024. In 2018, former DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez said other countries were trying to increase their banana

exports to South Korea eating up the Philippines' market share Philippine ba-

nanas' share in the South Korean market was more than 85 percent.

Gepty said the Philippines remains the largest supplier of bananas to Korea, but market share already declined to between 70 to 80 percent. He said Vietnam's market share of bananas in South Korea remains small at around 2 to 3 percent but it is increasing.

"(So) before

why it's (the latest FTA is) important for our banana producers," he added.

Aside from Vietare also competing with those from Ecuador Columbia, and Peru, which Korea has given free mar-

On the other hand, processed pineapples from the Philippines will enjoy zero tariff within seven years once the FTA with South enters into force. Tariff for processed pineapples is currently at 36 percent.

In return, the Philippines will lift the tariff for Korean vehicles, currently at 5 percent, as soon as Vietnam's market share the FTA takes effect. The into force," Rodolfo add- currence.

Banana exports increases, we need to country will also scrap the ed. (With reports from Kris maintain the comparative tariff for auto parts, with advantage here. This is tariff currently up to 30 percent

> Rodolfo told reporters that the Departnam, Philippine bananas ment of Foreign Affairs other countries were trying (DFA) will determine if the to increase their banana FTA will be a treaty or an executive agreement.

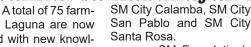
"Whether treaty or executive agreement, we will transmit this to (the) Office of the Pres- iff for Korean vehicles. ident for ratification." he

If the DFA will determine the trade pact scrap the tariff for auto as a treaty, the Philippines-ROK FTA will need to get the Senate's concurrence.

"Assuming it's an as a treaty, the Philipexecutive agreement, by pines-ROK FTA will need January 2024, it will enter to get the Senate's con-

ers from Laguna are now San Pablo and SM City equipped with new knowledge and skills about farming after they have completed the 14-week training of SM Foundation Inc.'s Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan (KSK) Farmers' **Training Program**

The KSK Farmers Training Program on Sustainable Agriculture recently culminated the activity with a bountiful harvest festival and graduation ceremony held at SM Supermarket.



Program aims to upgrade the agricultural knowledge of small-scale farmers in order to produce quality, safe, high-value, and high-yielding fruits and vegetables while teaching them to become self-sufficient. With this program, SM is also giving opportunity for farmers to create market-linkages through





During the harvest and SM Markets tour of Batch 251 farmers from Brgy Banlic Calamba City, Laguna

SM Foundation's Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan Batch 252 of farmer trainees during the harvest of

their high-value organic crops in Brgy San Lucas 1, San Pablo Laguna



During the graduation rites of Batch 253-farmers from Brgy Tagapo, Sta Rosa held at SM City Santa

HYDRATE IN STYLE WITH AQUAFLASK AT SM CENTER IMUS!



SM CENTER IMUS, CAVITE - Feel the benefits of hydration with AquaFlask! Staying properly hydrated while traveling helps you keep your cool, boost your mood and keep your energy up! So go and get yours now at Aqua-Flask - SM Center Imus and stay hydrated wherever

Meet this SM partner who is now giving opportunities to handicraft makers in the countryside presented our Buri Hambers of This was the first





to be done to supply prod-

ucts to SM Hotels. It is to

showcase the excellence

ing one of SM's suppliers

for many years, we were

referred by buyers of bas-

kets to Conrad Manila.

From there, we presented

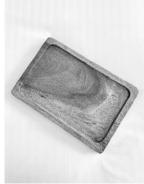
our production capacity." It

was a decision that paved

the way for more success

She shared "Be-

of their handicrafts.



Kea International owner Eloisa Bautista-Flores' iourney with Conrad Manila started by consistently doing good

Conrad Manila is one of the hotels under SM Hotels and Conven-

Backed by years of experience in supplying handicrafts in the hotel industry, Bautista-Flores not only for Kea Internaunderstood what needed

communities in the coun-Established in

2010, Kea creates handmade products including it grew to about 1,000 a baskets, storages, gift boxes furniture woodcrafts, and other home accessories "I supply Conrad

Manila with leather-made quest amenities. This includes holders of notepads, TV remotes, and directories. These are being produced in our main warehouse in Batangas. We have in-house production that creates 100% nandmade accessories. Everything is hand-sewn, hand-wrapped by skilled box makers in our province," Bautista-Flores further shared.

Going beyond guest amenities. Kea also supplies Conrad Manila's kitchen with pantry trays and wood boards. "For woodcraft like boards and travs, we have satellite factories in Tarlac where these are being

produced," she shared. Her products' presence at Conrad Manila also led to better and brighter things for her company: "While I was supplying Conrad Manila, I met one of the executives and he asked me to tional but for the handicraft approach SM Store. We in what they do.

per Set. This was the first item we sold to SM Store."

Bautista-Flores further shared that from usually selling 100 sets, year. In her journey with SM, she shared that there were a lot of learnings along the way

"One thing I admire about SM is that they truly treasure the partnership, and I am proud to be one of their suppliers. They are with me every step of the way. I am just amazed at how systematic their operations are attending to thousands of suppliers. Being in the handicraft industry where low-income workers are thousands, orders from SM have brought good livelihood to the countryside," she said.

For ta-Flores, the growth of her company is also the growth of the people who work with her.

Just this year. Conrad Manila was named a verified luxury hotel by Forbes Travel Guide 2023 Star Awards, the world-renowned authority on excellence in hospitality, and amid the elegance at Conrad Manila are beautifully made handicrafts created by workers who take pride

September 13-19, 2023

EDITORYAL: Minimum wage hike

an ally in Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri.

That's because he is pushing for the passage of Senate Bill 2002, which calls for a national minimum wage hike of P150 for all private sector workers, including those in the agricultural industry, by December this year.

There's another senator. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., who is seeking a P12,00 increase in the : minimum wage, this time for those working in government. This should also put him in the good graces : of those sweating it out in frontline public agencies.

That's all well and good, except that there's a big obstacle in the double-barreled move in the upper chamber of Congress to give workers in both the private and public sectors a reprieve from galloping :

The problem is this: A wage hike bill is not among the priority measures of Congress.

But Zubiri believes the Senate should take up the cudgels for the working class, even if the Leg- : islative-Executive Development Advisory Council: (Ledac) is similarly not inclined to support a wage hike bill.

Zubiri justifies his move to speed up the passage of a wage hike bill in clear terms: "The cost \$\cdot\$ of living has increased all over the country and they need that decent wage so they can have a decent ! life.

And more: "We need it. Our countrymen are really struggling.

That may sound like music to the ears of : our labor force, but Zubiri's exuberant endorsement 2 of a legislated wage hike by the end of this year may : not be shared at all by his fellow lawmakers in the House of Representatives.

Zubiri appears undeterred, however, and even vowed to appeal to no less than President Marcos Jr. himself to consider his proposal.

The Senate honcho would also have to deal with existing law that created the regional wage boards with tripartite representation – labor, employers and government – where they consider the stand of every member of the committee before making a decision, which, as experience shows, is lopsided in : favor of employers.

And then there's the persistent lobbying • from employers' groups every time there's a clamor from workers for a bigger wage increase: "We cannot afford it" and "We shall be forced to close shop if wages are adjusted upward at this time."

The Employers Confederation of the Philippines wants lawmakers to consult with economic 4 managers first before passing the measure and to consider the situation of workers in less formal types of employment.

Zubiri believes the Senate wage hike bill it is poised to approve by December this year "will be a ? great Christmas gift for the Filipino people for 2024."

We really hope so, as fair and decent wages is a crucial factor in driving sustainable growth. but will the employers think so as well?

STRAIGHT NEWS

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DOF: Gov't actively mitigating inflationary pressures to protect consumers, retailers, and farmers

to 5.3 percent in August 2023 from the 4.7 percent sufficient at lower prices recorded in the previous and greater competition is month. This brings the promoted in the rice indusyear-to-date inflation rate to 6.6 percent, higher than the Development Budget Coordination Committee to the increase in housing (DBCC) assumption of 5.0 to 6.0 percent for full year serving services, as well

"The government is resolute in its commitprotect our consumers, retailers, and farmers. While we are seeing a slight uptick our inflation rate as- has been undertaking sumption of 5 to 6 percent

The main contributors to the August headline inflation are Food and non-alcoholic beverages, contributing 3.1 percentage points (ppt) to the 5.3 livery trucks; and timely percent headline inflation; modation services (0.7 ppt); and Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (0.5 ppt).

August 2023 rose to 8.2 its targeted cash transfer percent from the 6.3 percent recorded in the previous month and the 6.5 for qualified public utility percent in August of last

In terms of food commodities, rice and vegetables contributed largely to headline inflation following recent typhoons during the Habagat sea-

"To manage up ward pressures in the price of rice, the imposition of price control on rice through Executive Order No. 39 serves as a shortterm measure against non-competitive practices by market players. Price controls. when carefully calibrated and closely implemented, are effective in the near term," Secretary Diokno said.

The government will implement measures to mitigate the concerns timely and relevant manof rice retailers and farm- ner," Secretary Diokno ers and at the same time said. DOF.GOV

The country's adopt a comprehensive headline inflation rate rose approach to ensure that the rice supply remains

food items rose mainly due rentals, food and beverage as passenger transport services due to the recent oil price hikes, attributed ment to mitigate the im- to ongoing Organization of pact of inflation and help the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC+) sup-The government

measures to mitigate nonfor full year 2023 remains food inflation by tackling doable," Finance Secre- energy and water demand tary Benjamin E. Diokno management measures; supply management measures; managing cost of electricity; careful review of hike petitions; monitoring of the imposition of tioned date. Three testing pass-through fees for deand continued monitoring Restaurants and accom- of non-food inflation indi-

> To help protect the vulnerable sectors, the government will fo-Food inflation for cus on the completion of (TCT) program, as well as its fuel subsidy program vehicle (PUV) drivers and operators. Meanwhile, the government shall also expedite the roll-out of the fuel discount program for the agriculture and fisheries sector, wherein more than 312,000 farmers and

fisherfolk shall benefit. The Inter-agency Committee on Inflation and Market Outlook (IAC-IMO) remains on top of monitoring the developments in food and nonfood inflation. It will also closely monitor the implementation of EO 39 to help ensure that the short-term measure will be effective. "The IAC-IMO

continues to help the national government identify and implement various measures that will mitigate inflationary pressures in a

Inflation for non-

ANTIPOLO CITY, (DOST)-Science Education Institute (SEI), in coordination with DOST-Rizal, administered the nationwide Junior Level Science Scholarship (JLSS) examination held in the Graduate Studies-College of Engineering Building, University of Rizal (UR-S)-Antipolo Campus in San Roque, Antipolo City,

Rizal last August 27. A total of two hundred nine (209) examinees out of two hundred sixteen (216) applicants were able to take the exam on the abovemenrooms were utilized by the Rizal Province Team and were used for two batches of examinations; one for the morning and another in the afternoon. Thirty-six (36) examinees were allocated to take the test at each testing room, which lasted for about two hours and thirty minutes per ses-

Mr. Fernando E. Ablaza, Provincial S&T Director of DOST Rizal, visited the examination site to monitor the situation.

Qualifiers for the 2023 JLSS Examination are expected to get the benefits of subsidized tuition and school fees, monthly stipends, and other school-related allowances Potential qualifiers will be notified through their registered email address if they meet the cutoff scores. They are also advised to check DOST-SEI's website: https://sei. dost.gov.ph and other national newspapers and tabloids for the announcement of the scholarship qualifiers, sometime in November 2023.

The Junior Lev-Science Scholarship (JLSS) Program aims to provide scholarships that will finance the education of talented and deserving students in their third year of college who are pursu-

DOST-SEI, DOST-Rizal conduct 2023 JLSS Examination in Antipolo

 $\sim\sim\sim\sim\sim\sim$ VOL. I \cdot NO. 11 $\,$ $\,$ $\,$

Rizal - The Department of the areas of science and Science and Technology technology (S&T) and ensure a steady, adequate supply of qualified S&T human resources who can steer the country towards A total of two

> hundred nine (209) examinees out of two hundred sixteen (216) applicants were able to take the exam on the abovemen tioned date. Three testing rooms were utilized by the Rizal Province Team and were used for two batches of examinations; one for the morning and another in the afternoon. Thirty-six (36) examinees were allocated to take the test at each testing room, which lasted for about two hours and thirty minutes per ses-

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"The Philippines" engagement with South South Korea's financial Korea is built on trade support for development through market access, projects in the Philippines, economic cooperation, and investments through learning about the South collaboration in target- Korean experience in ed sectors, such as crit- terms of energy source ical minerals and supply

visioned to help promote Korean government for the Philippines as a strong its continued support for market for smart and the defense and security in goods, while enhancsustainable investments, measures of the Philipensure its major economic gains with enhanced South China Sea issues technical cooperation of market access to South and the modernization of the deal. Korea, and yield strategic the Armed Forces of the investments in priority sec- Philippines. tors and industries.

valued trade and invest- edged that South Koreans nearly 98 percent preferment partner of the Philip- remain the top tourists in

fourth in terms of total bi- is keen on expanding oplateral trade, valued at portunities for overseas USD15.45 billion, and Filipino workers through sixth in total approved its "employment permit that are exported to South investments, valued at system." USD90.62 million. Continued support

pressed his interest in the South Korea is the counsupply chain of critical ma- try's third bilateral FTA. terials, allowing the Philip-

Mobile

Globe welcomed the re-

protection remains its top

priority. Globe asserts that

the effective implemen-

tation of the SIM Regis-

and law enforcement

the acceptance of an ani-

requirements of the SIM

of improvement to help

cess into question.

At the recent

As customer

leader

lease of new guidelines a proper identification sys-

by the National Telecom- tem for all citizens such

munications Commission as the national ID This

(NTC) to improve the ID is needed to avoid using

verification in the SIM reg- various types of govern-

tration Act requires close tions with the government

collaboration and consul- on improvements in the

tation among key industry rollout of the National ID,

Senate hearing, a concern of SIM owners is a wel-

was raised with regard to come initiative. Even as

mal photo in lieu of a real guidelines, fresh invest-

person's ID. This placed ments must be made to

the quality of verification in deploy a more sophisticat-

the SIM registration pro- ed identification solution.

has fully complied with the to ensure we implement a

Registration Act resulting es the unique and com-

in the registration of 54M plex requirements of the

SIMs, there remain areas SIM Registration law.

Even as Globe cal solutions will take time

stakeholders, regulators and law enforcement.

Globe ...

istration process.

power plant.

Marcos thanked Yoon for saying he looks forward to development.

He also extended pines, especially on the

In terms of tour-South Korea is a ism, Marcos acknowlthe Philippines.

In 2022, it ranked Yoon said South Korea

PH's 3rd bilateral FTA

The The

The first is having

ment-issued IDs that may

be tampered with or com-

promised. This is an im-

portant area that must be

pursued vigorously. We re-

new our call for consulta-

guidelines released by the

NTC to verify the identity

Globe will comply with the

Looking at various techni-

solution that truly address-

avert online fraud and plementation of the SIM ment to enhance our SIM

Second recent

with Japan under the Philippines-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (RCFP). (PJEPA) in 2006 and with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in

2016.

More liberalized trade

In an online briefing with trade reporters ant products of interest Friday, DTI Undersecre-The FTA is en- his gratitude to the South tary Ceferino Rodolfo said the FTA with South Korea mainly focused on tradeing investments would be under the economic and

> DTI Assistant Secretary Allan Gepty, during the same briefing, said the FTA provides ential market access for Philippine goods entering the South Korean market. This means Philippine exporters pay lower or no tariffs on their products

Gepty said this new- is higher than the 88 per-Yoon also ex- ly-signed trade pact with cent preferential market access for the Philippines to South Korea under the country ASEAN-Korea FTA and pines to shift to a nuclear sealed its first trade deal the 96.4 percent under the

online fraud and scams.

Effective law enforcement

and intelligence that can

keep up with tech-based

criminal activities must

also be in place if we are

to achieve a scam-free

Philippines. Another issue

is citizens sell their rea-

istered SIMs and act as

istration was implemented

last year, telcos only had

suers possess." said Attv.

Froilan Castelo. Gener-

al Counsel of the Globe

"We are currently

Group.

Third, the im- working with the govern-

"When SIM reg-

STRAIGHT NEWS

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

Which sectors are the big winners?

Rodolfo said the DTI was able to negotiate some of the most importfor the country —bananas and tropical fruits

Under the FTA. South Korea agreed to gradually remove the tariff on Philippine bananas, the country's dominant export to Korea, within five years once the trade deal comes into force

"When it comes to market access, very clearly, our goal was to correct the tariff disadvantage of a major Philippine export to Korea." the senior trade official said

Without the FTA, Philippine banana exports enter the Korean market at a 30 percent tariff. This is a disadvantage for the Philippines since

Vietnam's banana exports to South Korea enjoy a 6 percent tariff rate through a bilateral FTA that has been in place since 2015. Cont. on Page 2

Government...

Senator Win national budget for 2024. Gatchalian said the govwith a strategic catch-up plan that would enable government agencies to spend their budget allocations faster in order to pump prime the economy.

Gatchalian made the call noting that the country's slower 4.3% economic growth in the second quarter of the year was brought in part by the government's underspending. Government spending contracted by 7.1% in the second quarter of 2023 from a year

"It's forgivable the headwinds were coming from the outside such as a slowdown in the Ukraine invasion. But nents of our GDP growth, government spending is something that we can control. However, we're not spending fast enough and it affected our growth," he bewailed.

"We are talking about increasing the budget by 9% but we cannot faster because it's affecteven spend as quickly as ing the entire economy," possible and it affected our growth," Gatchalian tary. told members of the executive branch's economic took note of the delay in team during a Development Budget Coordination ernment is supposed to Committee (DBCC) brief- make, including payments ing at the Senate on the for state universities and

fuel subsidy...

In a statement on

Under Joint Mem-

PHP3 billion approved by

the Department of Budget

he distributed as fuel

orandum Circular 2, bene-

ficiaries of the program in-

vouchers

the subsidy.

Gatchalian also ernment should come up questioned the govern-

ment's plan to catch up on its spending to help propel the domestic economy to grow by at least 6.6% in the second half of the year so that full-vear GDP expansion could reach the 6% target

"This catch-up plan, are these hard commitments by implementing agencies or just loose conversation? Because if it's a written document I would like to see that written document " Gatchalian said In response.

Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman replied that the budget department has already issued a circular directing all governthe growth of China or ment agencies to submit by September 15 this year looking at the compo- their respective catch-up plans to address bottlenecks and reach their respective financial targets for the year.

"Submit to us the document so we can push them to spend faster. We want to push the different agencies to implement he told the Budget Secre-

Gatchalian also payments that the govproposed P5.768 trillion colleges.

from page

Registration Act is only the registration platform, and first step towards deterring we hope to get access to data with which we can verify documents submissions, including photo IDs," added Castelo.

> "Moving forward. we are optimistic that with the recent post-validation guidelines from the NTC, we will be able to weed out those who submitted fake credentials to register. deactivate their SIMs. and report them to law enforcers for investigation." Castelo said.

15 days to design its SIM registration platform fol-Globe called on SIM users to submit only lowing the release of the IRR. Our capability for ID verified infor mation and IDs in registering their validation is also limited by the lack of access to a da-SIMs as fraudulent subtabase where we may vermissions are penalized under the SIM Registraify submissions. For facial tion Act. Individuals who or optical character recognition to work efficientprovide false information and accurately, there or fake IDs may face prisshould be a database of on time of six months to facial biometrics and IDs 2 years, and a P300,000 that only government isfine.

> For more information on SIM registration, visit https://new. globe.com.ph/simreg.

To learn more about Globe, visit www. globe.com.ph.

from page 1

MANILA - More Express, mini and regular than 1.36 million public buses, shuttle services, utility drivers and opera- taxis, tourist transport tors nationwide will soon services, school transport receive a one-time fuel services, ride-hailing sersubsidy worth between vices, delivery services, PHP1,000 and PHP10,000 and tricycles. amid rising oil prices.

The Land Transportation Franchising and Friday, the Department of Regulatory Board will Transportation (DOTr) said distribute PHP10,000 to the subsidy, amounting to modern jeepney and modern UV express drivers and operators, while other and Management, would modes of transport will receive PHP6.500. Tricvcle drivers

DOTr Sec. Jaime and operators will receive Bautista has ordered for PHP1,000 from the Dethe immediate release of partment of the Interior and Local Government. while delivery service riders will receive PHP1,200 from the Department of Include drivers of traditional formation and Communiand modern jeepneys, UV cations Technology. (PNA) STRAIGHT NEWS THE NUN 2 IS ARRIVING SEPT 6, 2023 | 12:01 AM GATE OPENS AT 11:30 PM



ness and get ready to con- other murder mystery and fess your sins on Septem- face again the strong, terber 6 because The Nun 2 rorizing demon nun – Valis arriving at SM Cinema! Uncover the greatest se-

Pray for forgive- gets entangled on yet an-

Catch The Nun 2

every terrifying scene with the best cinematic experience from SM Cinema's huge and crystal-clear screen display and laser projector. You won't be able to unhear the chilling screams with SM Cinema's digital surround cret as Sister Irene (por- in IMAX for a larger-than- sound. Pair these with deals you can grab for the trayed by Taissa Farmiga) life horror adventure that Snack Time's best snacks best movie experience



LATE SCREENING

and aromatic popcorn for will you on the edge of your seat. Immerse your- a more enjoyable horror movie date night. self and be haunted by

Valak is invading your late nights and midnights too! If you're looking for night terrors, the late and midnight screening is for you. Visit www.smcinema.com or @SMCinema on social media to to know more about the participating branches and great



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COMING SOON AT TOM'S

WORLD – SM CITY BACOOR

n seats ur

a FUN breathtaking interaction game from the newest Dark Mars Virtual Ride with multiple VR, 5D and 7D films to choose from. Avail the launching promo packages designed for single and group riders

Visit Tom's World at 2nd Level SM City Bacoon for more details.



For some families, weavfrom her own family.

Mayalyn was employed as a storekeeper. The birth of her first child led her to re-assess her career, ultimately resigning from her was a turning point for the BPO industry, but the Bank, she was able to acshe turned to weaving.

an association assisted ing is more than just a by a government agencraft, it is an important tra- cy, which supplies madition that intricately holds terials and grants funds one generation to another. to produce handicrafts. Forty-two-year-old busi- While their earnings were nesswoman Mayalyn T. dis-tributed equitably with-Dagoh from Baguio City in the association, the learned how to weave challenge of maintaining her own business persist-Post-college, ed, leading her to seek financial assistance from CARD Bank. Becoming

CARD Bank client in 2009 job. She briefly dabbled in Mayalyn. Through CARD demands of her role drove cess loan products to buy her to seek a means of liv- the raw materials vital to ing closer to home. Thus, her business. With other financial and non-finanher business, she joined and microinsurance from ented rural bank.

Weaving is a family traition passed on to Baguio City-based businesswoman, Mayalyn T. Dagoh. Despite the many challenges she faced, she persisted After establishing cial products like savings with the support of CARD Bank, a microfinance-ori-

CARD Bank, she even persuaded her relatives to also become clients of the institution.

> At the onset of the pandemic in 2020, Mayalyn faced a financial crisis as her business funds de-pleted to meet their daily needs. CARD Bank once again provided a lifeline, enabling her to revi-talize her business. Employing digital platforms like Facebook, she navigated the restrictions and kept her business thriving through online

Post-pandemic, her business witnessed significant growth. Her handicrafts became a sta- dedication serves as inspiple at major tourist spots ration for others as well.

Reflecting on her journey, Mayalyn said, "I promised myself to strive hard for my child, and that commitment has been my driving force that brought me where I am todav. also urge people to understand their priorities. With a clear goal in mind, they can surmount all challenges that may come their way." Indeed. Mayalyn's

in Baguio City. Despite the

stiff competition, Mayalyn

thrived due to her loyal

customer base. She is

now able to comfortably

provide for her child, the

testament of her tenaci-ty

and hard work.