

CONCEPCION COUNTERS DOWNTRENDS, STAYS OPTIMISTIC ON PH ECONOMY

[Manila, September 28, 2023] – Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion remains optimistic about the country's economy, this despite a slight reduction in business confidence and growth forecasts.

"I am very optimistic that this Christmas will be a very good one," he told reporters at the Pandesal Forum moderated by Wilson Lee Flores. "Inflation has gone down – maybe not to the level of a couple of years back – but it is moving down," he said. "A lot of MSMEs have recovered and are now cash-flow positive," he said.

Concepcion's statement is in reaction to several reports that point to a downtrend in the economy. A recent survey released by the BangkoSentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed business confidence fell 40.8 percent to 35.8 percent in the third quarter. The BSP,

however, attributed the decline in sales and demand for goods and services to weather-related disruptions and other seasonal factors, higher prices of raw materials and production costs, elevated inflation and interest rates, and peso depreciation. In addition, the growth outlook for the Philippines this year by both the Asian Development Bank and S&P Global Ratings have been adjusted to slightly lower than the government's 6 to 7 percent target.

"In business, we don't look at these things too close, you have to look at it at the end of the year to really see how things are," he said. "We should not look at one number and be discouraged," he said.

He reiterated this statement in another interview. "Inflation is caused by external factors and hopefully these things will turn around," he told host Dante Ang II on his show

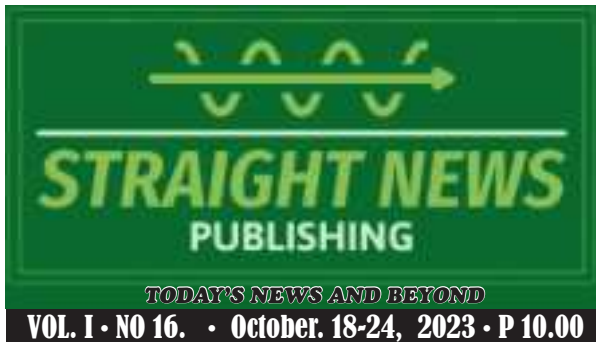
Business and Politics. Economists have attributed the rise in oil prices to the decision by oil-producing countries, more recently by Russia, to reduce supply in order to manage their own domestic issues. Slower growth in the US and Europe, as well as a recovering China, continue to affect the Philippines.

"Our economy will have its ups and downs. It's worldwide inflation. Yung pagtaas ng fuel, hindi atin lang [the price increases in fuel is not our problem alone]," he said. "There was a very bad period in inflation but now it's going down. We're not at the lowest level, we're somewhere in the middle, and most prices are gradually coming down. Some are still up because there are shortages but eventually inflation will temper down," he said, adding that prices for sugar, wheat and milk have come down.

Moreover, Concepcion said the government is being pro-active about the current situation. "Because of PSAC, it has made [private sector] work as a team with the government. Getting the best minds to work for the government for free is one the best things this government has done," said Concepcion, referring to the Private Sector Advisory Council, which was set up by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to give private sector guidance to help the government achieve its economic objectives.

"We have good people in government; but if you add the entrepreneurial drive and vision of these people [in PSAC], this is a big plus ... in helping the government push our economy forward."

He added that, with longer-term solutions now being initiated, the Philippines has better prospects in the long term.



Brownlee-led Gilas Pilipinas stuns China, 77-76, to

MANILA – Gilas Pilipinas bounced back from a 20-point deficit to stun host China, 77-76, and advance to the gold-medal round of the men's basketball in the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China on Wednesday night.

Justin Brownlee drilled in two straight triples that put the Philippines ahead with only 23 seconds left in the game after rallying back from a 26-46 hole.

Zhang Zhenlin had a chance to turn the game around but missed the potential game-winner at the buzzer, sparking a celebration of the Filipinos at mid-court before a stunned partisan crowd at the Hangzhou Olympic Center.

Brownlee hit 7-of-12 from the three-point area and finished with 33 points, including 17 in the fourth quarter.

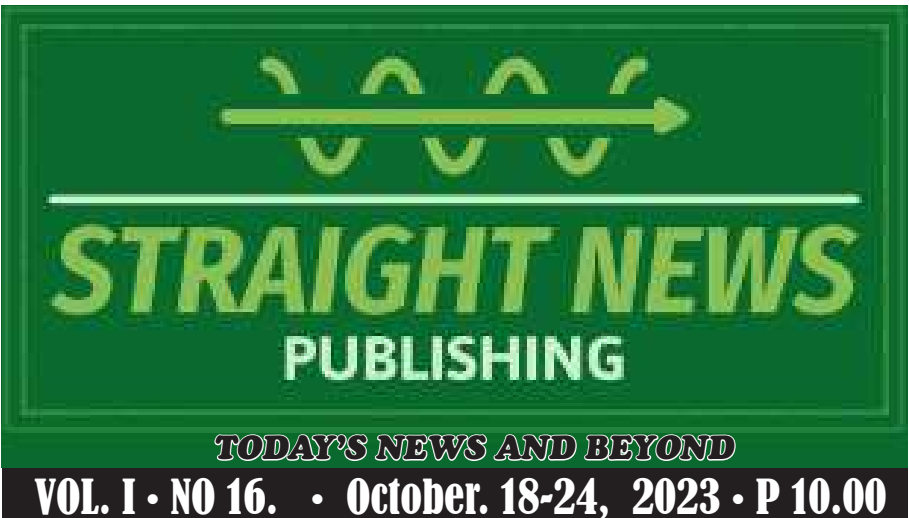
"This is the kind of player that he is. A very clutch player who makes big shots all the time. I'm very proud of him (Brownlee) and I'm very proud of our players," Gilas coach Tim Cone said.

With their come-from-behind win, the Philippines will have a rematch against Jordan for the gold medal on Friday night.

Jordan, which defeated Gilas Pilipinas, 87-62, in the preliminary round, routed Chinese Taipei, 90-71, in the other semifinal match.

The Philippines returned to the championship round for the first time since 1990 when an all-pro team under coach Robert Jaworski settled for a silver medal after a 90-74 loss to China.

Scottie Thompson contributed 13 points and eight rebounds and June Mar Fajardo and CJ Perez, eight points each for the Philippines while Kevin Alas came off the bench in the final 5 minutes to provide the much-needed 5 points. (PNA)



SCTEX toll feeshike starts Oct. 17

Regional CSO Summit 2023, ginanap sa unang pagkakataon sa DA-4A

Sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon ay ginanap sa Department of Agriculture IV- CALABARZON (DA-4A) ang Regional Civil Society Organization (CSO) Summit 2023 noong ika-25 hanggang ika-26 ng Setyembre sa Lipa City, Batangas.

Dumalo ang ilan sa mga pinuno at opisyal ng mga samahan ng magsasaka sa rehiyon sa nasabing summit na layuning maiparating ang kahalagahang maging akreditado sa CSO at mahikayat silang magpa-akredit ng kani-kanilang mga samahan.

Ang mga kwalipikadong magpaakredit sa CSO ay mga Organisasyong Sibiko, Kooperatiba o Federation of Cooperatives, Non-Government Organization (NGOs), People's Organizations (POs), Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs), Alliances/Network/Federation of NGOs/Pos, Non-profit Organizations (NPOs) o Foundations na



ang mga aktibidad ay may kinalaman sa agrikultura at pangingisda.

Ang akreditasyon ay magbibigay sa kanila ng akses at oportunidad na maging benepisaryo ng mga proyekto at programang ipinapatupad ng kagawaran.

Binigyang pagkakataon ang mga katuwang na ahensya ng kagawaran sa rehiyon upang ilahad at ipaliwanag ang mga pangunahing programa at serbisyon hatid nila para sa mga magsasaka gayundin ang mga kaukulang requirements sa pag-avail ng mga ito. Kabilang dito ang Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Department of Labor and

Employment (DOLE), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), at Landbank Lending Center-Batangas. Nagbahagi din ang mga representante mula naman sa mga dibisyon at banner programs ng DA-4A.

Sa pamamagitan

DIOKNO ENCOURAGES FILIPINOS TO INVEST IN SECOND TRANCHE OF RETAIL DOLLAR BONDS FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION



DTI QUEZON CONDUCTS THE ASSESSMENT, CONSULTATION, AND TRIAGE (A.C.T.) FOR FOOD MSMEs

Daan-daang Caviteño nakinabang sa pinagsamang inisyatiba ni Cayetano, DSWD



Tatlong daang barangay volunteer at ambulant vendor sa lalawigan ng Cavite ang nakatanggap ng tulong mula kay Senator Alan Peter Cayetano at Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) nitong Huwebes.

Namahagi ng tulong ang Bayanihan Caravan

Cont. on Page 7

Comelec: Show cause orders for early campaigning exceeds 6K



LTO gets driver's license cards, sets renewal schedule

PASSING ON CARD SME BANK A Thrift Bank

Lorencia Escalera, 67, a mother of six from Padre Garcia, Batangas, served as her children's strongest educator merely by virtue of her personality. A sixth of ten siblings, life was not easy for her. It was tough for their parents to complete their schooling, but they worked hard to guarantee that everyone has even basic education. Even though only two of them completed education, her siblings became successful business owners.

She says that their parents played an important role in her siblings' success. Despite being the only factory worker among her siblings, she was not discouraged; rather, her desire to one day own a business grew even stronger.

Lorencia's courage was tested when she had her own family. She faced greater responsibilities as a wife and a mother herself. Her husband is a farmer, and she knows

that it is insufficient to meet their needs, yet she chose to be a housewife. "I don't care what other people think; what matters to me is that I can focus on my children's growth."

Lorencia carefully managed her husband's earnings for their children's education and accompanied them as they chased their dreams, saying, "I know there is a right time for me to fulfill my dream, but at that time, I choose to guide my children."

When some of her children were about to finish school and had successfully raised them, Lorencia knew it was time to pursue her dream.

Lorencia joined CARD SME Bank, a thrift bank that provides financial and non-financial services to help its clients develop. She took out a loan to use as capital for her own sari-sari store.

Together with her husband, they worked hard to earn whatever they



Lorencia Escalera faced various challenges growing up. This enabled her to become more courageous, more so when she started a family of her own.

could. CARD SME Bank has been a huge help in her children's education, family needs, and her store, which is quite popular among Padre Garcia residents.

As a result, her family's life eventually improved; their children completed school and are now successful in their respective careers.

However, their family's courage was shaken when the eldest son

passed away. While it was a difficult time for the family, they decided that honoring their eldest son by pursuing their own dreams is the best way forward. "The most essential thing we can pass on to our children is courage," she concluded.

Lorencia believes that as they move forward in life, the CARD SME Bank will be there to help them achieve greater dreams with courage. PR

Israeli diplomat attacked in Beijing

JERUSALEM – An Israeli embassy official was attacked on Friday in Beijing, China, as Hamas called for a day of global "mobilization" against the Jewish people.

The attack did not occur inside the embassy compound and the diplomat was in stable condition after being evacuated to the hospital, according to the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

A motive for the attack was being probed.

Hamas has called for an "Al-Aqsa Flood Friday" on Oct. 13, with the terror organization seeking reinforcements from "our Palestinian people, the masses of the Arab and Islamic world, and free people worldwide" in its "declaration of mobilization."

Cont. on Page 7

27 NATURAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION TIPS THAT ARE EVIDENCE-BASED

24. Get rid of excess belly fat

Excessive abdominal fat, or visceral fat, is a uniquely harmful type of fat distribution that is linked to an increased risk of cardiometabolic diseases like type 2 diabetes and heart disease

For this reason, your waist size and waist-to-hip ratio may be much stronger markers of health than your weight.

Reducing refined carbs, eating more protein and fiber, and reducing stress (which can reduce cortisol, a stress hormone that triggers abdominal fat deposition) are all strategies that may help you get rid of belly fat

25. Avoid restrictive diets

Diets are generally ineffective and rarely work well long term. In fact, past dieting is one of the strongest predictors for future weight gain

This is because overly restrictive diets actually lower your metabolic rate, or the amount of calories you burn, making it more difficult to lose weight. At the same time, they also cause alterations to your hunger and satiety hormones, which make you hungrier and may cause strong food cravings for foods high in fat, calories, and sugar

All of this is a recipe for rebound weight gain, or “yo-yo” dieting.

Instead of dieting, try adopting a healthier lifestyle. Focus on nourishing your body instead of depriving it.

Weight loss should follow as you transition to whole, nutritious foods — which are naturally more filling while containing fewer calories than processed foods

26. Eat whole eggs

Despite the constant back and forth about eggs and health, it’s a myth that eggs are bad for you because of their cholesterol content. Studies show that they have minimal effect on blood cholesterol in the majority of people, and they’re a great source of protein and nutrients

Additionally, a review involving 263,938 people found that egg intake had no association with heart disease risk

27. Meditate

Stress has a negative effect on your health. It can affect your blood sugar levels, food choices, susceptibility to sickness, weight, fat distribution, and more. For this reason, it’s important to find healthy ways to manage your stress

Meditation is one such way, and it has some scientific evidence to support its use for stress management and improving health

In one study involving 48 people with high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, or both, researchers found that meditation helped lower LDL (bad) cholesterol and inflammation compared with the control group. Additionally, the participants in the meditation group reported improved mental and physical wellness

SCTEX...

MANILA — The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) has provisionally approved new toll fees for the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), beginning on Oct. 17.

In a statement Friday, the TRB said the provisionally approved toll fees had undergone "thorough and meticulous review".

"NLEX Corp. had to comply with all the procedures and require-

LTO...

MANILA — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) on Thursday said plastic cards for driver's licenses have been delivered to its offices and announced the schedule as to when the drivers should visit their local LTO office for replacement.

In a statement, LTO chief Assistant Secretary Vigor Mendoza II said the rollout schedule is for all drivers whose licenses expired from April 1 to Sept. 30 this year.

"Meron na po tayong sapat na bilang ng plastic cards to cover the printing of the driver's licenses (We already received a sufficient number of plastic cards to cover the printing of driver's licenses)," he said.

In a memorandum dated Oct. 5 and signed by Mendoza, drivers whose licenses expired on April 1 to 30, 2023, may have their licenses renewed from Oct. 6 to 31.

Those whose license expired in May are scheduled for license renewal for the entire month of November, licenses that expired in June are up for renewal in December, those that expired in July are to be renewed

2nd Infantry "Jungle Fighter" Division Commander Maj. Gen. Roberto S. Capulong lauded the wise decision of alias Benjie also brought with him a carbine, 3 magazines, and 15 live ammunition. In a statement,

ments, including the publication and posting of surety bond, before the Notice to Start Collection was issued on August 16, 2023. These provisional toll rate adjustments shall still be subject to further review by the TRB pursuant to its existing rules," the TRB said.

To mitigate the impact on motorists, the TRB has ordered the implementation of the provisionally approved toll fees

in three tranches over three years.

NLEX Corp. filed for toll rate adjustments in 2020 and 2022.

In its letter dated Oct. 6 this year, NLEX Corp. informed the TRB that it intended to start the collection of the first tranche on Oct. 17.

Motorists traveling between Tarlac City to Mabalacat with Class 1, 2, and 3 vehicles will pay an additional PHP25, PHP50,

in January 2024, licenses that expired in August are to be renewed in February, and those that expired in September are to be renewed in March.

"Failure of the driver to renew his/her driver's license beyond the prescribed schedule shall render the license expired," the memorandum read.

On June 24, 2024, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) - Cavite, in partnership with the Local Government Unit of Bacoor City, successfully launched the "Tindahan Mo, e-Level up mo! A Sari-sari Store Advancement Program" at the Main Square Mall as a prelude to the simultaneous start of the live online viewing on March 26, 2024. The event was attended by 785 sari-sari store owners from Districts 1(East) & 2(West) of Bacoor City. This program is part of the more extensive Sari-Sari Store Enterprise Program, a significant initiative aimed at empowering over one million sari-sari store owners across the Philippines.

He reiterated that driver's licenses that expired on April 1 onwards and have not been renewed due to the shortage of plastic cards are extended until their renewal schedule.

Those with paper licenses, he said, need only visit their LTO office and present the receipt of their payment for the issuance of their plastic driver's license.

He encouraged the public to follow the renewal schedule and emphasized that the renewal process would only take 15 minutes.

The program focuses on driving digital transformation, improving financial literacy, and

government's sincerity in pursuing peace talks and providing opportunities for former rebels to return to the fold of the law through the various Task Forces to the Local Communist Armed Conflict is bearing fruit. 2ID

From Page 1

Motorists traveling between Mabalacat and Tipo, Hermosa Bataan with Class 1 vehicles shall pay an additional PHP40, Class 2 PHP81, and Class 3 PHP121.

Those traveling end to end from Tipo Hermosa, Bataan to Tarlac City will pay an additional PHP65 for Class 1, PHP131 for Class 2, and PHP196 for Class 3. (PNA)

From Page 1

Meanwhile, the Department of Transportation said the delivery of pre-printed driver's license plastic cards is expected to be completed by first quarter of 2024.

About 1.2 million cards have been delivered so far by the supplier since July 25.

The LTO had been directed by Transportation Secretary Jaime J. Bautista to fast track delivery of the license cards after the temporary restraining order on the card manufacturer was recently lifted.

"We want to make sure that this issue of license cards is resolved immediately. The LTO must oversee that the delivery from the manufacturer is well within the timelines we have set," Bautista said.

The LTO received Thursday at least 150,000 more plastic cards from Banner Plastic, Inc.

The current production rate, according to the LTO, is at 25,000 to 27,000 cards daily.

A total of 700,000 cards have been distributed to LTO's regional offices. (PNA)

Israeli ...

The Qatar-based Khaled Mashal, who led Hamas from 2014-2017, called for Muslims to "take to the streets" on Friday in a global protest against Israel. "To all scholars who teach jihad," he said, "to all who teach and learn, this is a moment for the application [of jihad]."

Overnight Thursday, Israel urged more than 1 million Palestinians to evacuate the northern Gaza Strip, ahead of an anticipated ground offensive to destroy Hamas's terror capabilities.

IDF spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told reporters that the evacuation order was meant to limit Palestinian civilian casualties, as the war against Hamas entered its seventh day.

"We are fighting a terror group, not the Gazan population. We don't want to harm civilians, but we cannot live with Hamas-ISIS rule near our border," Hagari said Friday morning.

Comelec ...

MANILA — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) on Friday said it has so far issued more than 6,000 show cause orders against candidates in the upcoming Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (BSKE) allegedly involved in premature campaigning.

According to the Comelec Anti-Epal Taskforce, 6,463 show cause orders have already been issued stemming from complaints filed with the poll body ahead of the start of the campaign period on Oct. 19.

Of the number, 125 of 301 possible disqualification petitions have already been filed before the Comelec division following the Task Force verification process, as well as the reception of "unsatisfactory answers" from the concerned candidates.

These petitions will be raffled off to the divisions, summons will be served and followed by summary proceedings, the Comelec said.

The poll body earlier vowed to come up

From Page 8

"Hamas carried out one of the most horrific acts the world has ever seen, we are conducting an effort to evacuate residents to increase our freedom of movement to deepen the damage [to Hamas], to destroy it," he added.

Hagari said the military was still focusing its efforts on killing senior Hamas leaders, adding that the vast majority of the estimated 2,500 terrorists who perpetrated the Oct. 7 cross-border raid and massacre of 1,300 Israelis were already dead.

On Friday, US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin landed in Israel for meetings with his counterpart Yoav Gallant and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, among other top officials.

Austin said the visit was in part meant to show America's "ironclad" support for and commitment to standing side-by-side with Israel. (Tazpit Press Service)

From Page 1

with disqualification resolutions before the Oct. 30 polls.

Meanwhile, the Task Force Anti-Epal has issued 148 subpoenas to BSK bets with verified complaints and dropped 558 complaints due to a lack of factual basis.

BSK bet disqualified

The Comelec-Second division, meanwhile, disqualified a BSK candidate over his conviction in an administrative case in 2005.

In a statement, the poll body identified candidate as Ireneo Polinar Lapis, who is running for a barangay chief post in Barangay Pualas, Don Carlos, Bukidnon.

"For being removed from public office as a result of the Ombudsman's finding that (Lapis) is guilty in the administrative case against him, (Lapis) is disqualified from running for any elective public office," the Comelec Second Division resolution read.

Lapis was found guilty of dishonesty in re-



The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in Quezon conducted the Assessment, Consultation, and Triage (A.C.T.) for Food MSMEs last May 30-31, 2023, as part of the implementation of the OTOP Philippines Program.

The ACT Session is the first step of the program, wherein a team of experts gives a diagnostic evaluation of the various products in order to determine the assistance or intervention needed. It was followed by one-on-one consultations with the experts, who provided their recommendations and inputs for the improvement of packaging and labeling for OTOP NG MSMEs. An individualized MSME Strategy and Action Plan, which contains the deliverables, action items, assignments, timelines, task owners, and resource

From Page 1

allocation, was also identified.

For the two-day activity, fifteen (15) identified ONG MSMEs along with the key decision makers were able to gain basic information on product standardization with the help of the commissioned food expert, Engr. Menandro B. Ortego. He also pro-

vided assessments and recommendations for the improvement of products in terms of proper production processes. Artministree Advertising Agency provided brand and marketing insights, prototype directions, and product development instructions. This activity is the foundation for the creation of new

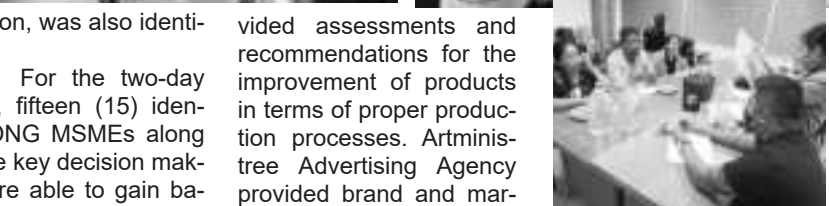
Strengthening Partnership: Jeollabuk-do delegation's visit to Cavite marks 18 years of collaboration. In a bid to strengthen international ties and foster educational cooperation, a delegation from the Jeollabuk-do Office of Education in Korea embarked on an official visit to the province of Cavite on October 2-6, 2023.

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) through the Provincial Information and Communications Technology Office greeted the delegation headed by Mr. Kim Jun Ho, Team Leader and Head of Computer Administration with Ms. Kim Mi Hye, Mr. Lim Jae Heon, Mr. Shim Jae Guk, Mr. Kim Hyun Seong, and Ms. Im Ja Yeon with warm hospitality at Bayleaf Hotel, City of Gen. Trias.

The visit held particular significance as it celebrated 18 years of a fruitful educational partnership. Over the years, this partnership has witnessed numerous exchanges of ideas, technology, and best practices in education particularly in information and communications technology.

The delegation paid a courtesy call to Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla. The meeting was marked by a candid exchange of ideas on educational policies, the challenges faced by both regions, and the shared commitment to fostering excellence in education.

Highlights of the visit was the inspection of computer laboratories of the 2023 Korean e-Learning Improvement Cooperation Program (KLIC) trainees. These state-of-the-art facilities underscore the commitment to equipping



label and packaging designs to be provided under the product development assistance of the OTOP Next Gen Program.PR



students with the skills needed for the digital age.

Another notable event included the Local Training for the KLIC Program, which took place at Tanza National Trade School. This training session followed the 12-day KLIC training that 20 ICT teachers from Cavite had undergone in South Korea from August 28 to September 8, 2023.

They also had the opportunity to observe ICT classes at the Cavite Computer Center Tanza Satellite Office and various public schools which include Dasmariñas East Integrated School, Juanito R. Remulla Senior High School, Tanza National Trade School, Malain Bago Integrated School and Pangil National High School. This firsthand experience allowed them to gain valuable insights into the teaching and learning process in the field of ICT, as well as witness the dedication of Filipino educators.

To date, a total of 269 teachers and educators from public elementary and secondary schools have benefited from Korean Learning Improvement Cooperation training program. The experience has enriched their teaching methods and enhanced the quality of ICT education. Likewise, the training has also provided 1,691 computer sets to different elementary and secondary schools in the province.

During the pandemic, the partnership continued through the online Korean Learning Improvement Cooperation (KLIC) training program wherein 83 public elementary and secondary teachers participated and granted a total of 53 Samsung tablets and 61 computers. – JDP

6 VOL. I • NO. 16

DENR, NESTLÉ PH TO HOLD EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION IN CAGAYAN DE ORO



DENR, Nestlé PH to hold Extended Producer Responsibility roundtable discussion in Cagayan De Oro

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Region 10 Regional Executive Director (RED) Henry A. Adornado announced Monday (October 2) that the Department will hold a one-day Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) dubbed as “Rethinking Plastics: EPR Paving the Way Towards Circularity” roundtable discussion tentatively scheduled on October 6 in Cagayan de Oro City.

RED Adornado said, the event was appreciated after its two successful runs in Manila and Cebu that were attended by over 300 participants. The event is also part of the department’s efforts to influence and encourage more obliged enterprises (OEs) to register their EPR programs with the DENR-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) to comply with the EPR Act of 2022. The activity will be held at the Mallberry Suites Business Hotel.

EPR Act of 2022 required obliged enterprises (OEs) to recover and divert 20% of their plastic footprint by the year. OEs are large enterprises with total assets of over PHP100-million and produce, manufacture, import, or put their brand label on plastics. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) are not required, but highly encouraged, to also register their EPR programs.

According to DENR Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs Jonas R. Leones, “Compliance and support among the private sector, especially OEs, is crucial to the effective implementation of the EPR Law. This is why the DENR has been holding webinars and workshops with various industry associations to spread awareness about the EPR law and its provisions, as well as the EPR registration process to help companies understand what EPR is and how they might undertake an EPR program.”

During the proper forum, participants will be provided guidance on the process of registration as well as the opportunities available for them to work together with the government to help in ensuring the successful implementation of the EPR Law.

Collective reports from the prior EPR roundtable discussion will be shared during the program, including the key takeaways and recommendations taken from the panel and roundtable discussions.

DENR Undersecretary for Finance, Information Systems and Climate Change Annaliza Rebutela-Teh; DENR Undersecretary Jonas R. Leones, CESO I; Mr. Jose Uy III, Senior Vice President and Head of Corporate Affairs, Nestlé Philippines; and Dr. Johannes Paul, Project Manager, GIZ-BIB

Office will lead the panel discussion focusing on the value of EPR on the country’s journey toward circularity.

To assist OEs, the DENR in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will set up EPR registry clinic after the program for creating and submitting their respective EPR programs.

Interested participants can register to join at <https://www.eco-business.com/>. You can also contact the DENR-EMB EPR Team through the EPR Hotline: +632 8539-4378, loc 186 and 135 or email epr@emb.gov.ph.

Since the DENR’s EPR campaign launch in August, there has been an increase in EPR submissions from 667 to 709 as of mid-September. DENR and other government partners in EPR implementation, business groups, and civil society organizations continue to proactively campaign for EPR support, recognizing that cleaning up plastic waste from the environment not only restores the planet but protects human health, livelihoods and food security.

The EPR education and registration drive organized by the DENR and Nestlé Philippines is supported by UNDP, GIZ, the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), and Eco-Business. RSCIG No. 09-270-2023

October 18-24, 2023

DOST and Odyssey Foundation's e-Nutribun Feeding Program Arrives in Cuenca



The partnership between the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batangas and Odyssey Foundation Inc. for the enhanced nutribun (e-Nutribun) feeding program has been relaunched, benefitting undernourished children in the Municipality of Cuenca, Batangas. The event took place at Cuenca’s Municipal Gymnasium on September 28.

This program marks a significant step forward in addressing child malnutrition in Cuenca, Batangas. Odyssey Foundation, Inc., the social responsibility arm of CDO Foodsphere, Inc., has collaborated with DOST-Batangas to implement this initiative, which has already served the municipalities of Laurel, Talisay, Tingloy, and San Nicolas since 2021. CDO Foodsphere, Inc. adopted the e-Nutribun technology developed by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of DOST (DOST-FNRI) for this program.

The feeding program is scheduled to run from October to December

this year, benefitting 100 ‘undernourished’ children in the Municipality of Cuenca, Batangas. Leading the initiative were Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit, DOST-CALABARZON’s Regional Director, Ms. Felina C. Malabanan, DOST-Batangas’ Provincial S&T Director, Ms. Patricia M. Magbana, Odyssey Foundation, Inc.’s Executive Director, Hon. Alexander M. Magpantay, Municipal Mayor of LGU-Cuenca, Ms. and Dr. Carolina Cuevas, Municipal Health Officer of LGU-Cuenca. An official Memorandum of Understanding was also signed to formalize the partnership. The distribution of e-Nutribun to the children beneficiaries was a highlight of the launch ceremony. DOST-Batangas also provided rice-mongo crunchies and complementary food blend to the beneficiaries.

The e-Nutribun is an improved version of the nutribun from the 1970s. Developed in response to the Department of Social Welfare and Development’s (DSWD) Memorandum Circular No. 12 Series of 2020, which out-

lines guidelines for implementing the Supplementary Feeding Program during emergencies, DOST-FNRI conducted research to reformulate bread to combat malnutrition. The enhanced version features a smoother texture and additional micronutrients, including iron and vitamin A. Each piece weighs between 160 and 165 grams, making it easier for children to handle and bite. Every serving contains 504 calories, 17.8 grams of protein, 6.08 milligrams of iron, and 244 micrograms of vitamin A. Each piece weighs between 160 and 165 grams.

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.

October 18-24, 2023

EDITORIAL: Swift, decisive action needed

Extreme weather events like heat waves, droughts and floods are getting worse in all the continents.

They are exceeding plants’ and animals’ tolerance thresholds, driving mass mortalities in species like trees and corals.

Climatologists say these weather extremes are occurring simultaneously, causing streaming impacts that are increasingly difficult to manage.

They add these extremes have exposed millions of people to acute food and water insecurity, especially in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, on Small Islands and in the Arctic.

Which points to urgent action as a requirement to deal with increasing risks.

Climate change authorities have suggested ambitious and accelerated action must be done to avoid mounting loss of life, biodiversity and infrastructure.

Such action is required to adapt to climate change, at the same time as making rapid, deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

Experts admit that progress on adaptation is uneven and there are increasing gaps between action taken and what is needed to deal with the increasing risks, with gaps largest among lower-income populations.

At home, the Philippines submitted its NDC to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in April 2021, pledging a projected reduction and avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions of 75 percent for the period 2020–2030, of which 2.71 percent is unconditional and 72.29 percent is conditional.

Simply put, an NDC is the Nationally Determined Contribution, a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts.

Each Party to the Paris Agreement is required to establish an NDC and update it every five years.

In 2009, the Philippine Congress passed the Climate Change Act creating the CCC or Climate Change Commission to develop policies and coordinate government programs on climate change

The CCC in turn developed the National Climate Change Action Plan that serves as a road map for all climate change programs in the Philippines.

In Paris in 2015, world leaders from 197 countries pledged to put people first and reduce their countries’ greenhouse gas emissions.

The Paris agreement aims to limit global warming to well below 2°C and ideally to 1.5°C.

If governments act swiftly on the promises they made in the Paris climate agreement, and implement the solutions now, there’s still hope of avoiding the worst consequences of climate change.



Editorial Office

CAVITE OFFICE : Blk. 5 Lot 69 Barcelona Ph. 2, Buhay Na Tubig, Imus, Cavite

Mobile No. ----- 09556586520 / 09164731260

TIN NO. ----- 237756418-000

Email ad: newsstraight172@gmail.com
soberanmavic@gmail.com

EDITORIAL BOARD

Publisher : Maria Victoria S. Soberano

Editor-In-chief : Dominador “RAEL” Soberano

Marketing Manager : Kristina Marres

Published Weekly by: STRAIGHT NEWS

VOL. I • NO. 16 3

BACOOR CITY'S 352ND FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Even the hot sunny weather can’t stop the marching bands from serenading Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco who attended Bacoor City’s 352nd founding anniversary celebration as part of the Calabarzon leg of the Philippine Experience Program (PEP) on Saturday (Sep 30) at the Bacoor Oval Track and Field Stadium.

In an inspiring address, Secretary Frasco underscored the city’s rich musical heritage and talent in the Bakood Festival, a grand parade featuring 47 marching bands from different parts of the country.

“Habang nakita ko po yong inyong mga marching bands, all 47 of whom have distinguished themselves in various musical notes that you played,

to the movements, and everything. I thought to myself that with every march that was taken, with every beat of the drum, with every note that has been played, and with every flag that has been raised, you are the reasons why we have the courage and the daring to say, world, love the Philippines.” Frasco said.

The festival was the second activity of the three-day tour of Calabarzon under the banner of the PEP.

Dubbed as the Marching Band Capital of the Philippines, the Bakood Festival is a tribute in honor of St. Michael The Archangel, the patron saint of Bacoor.

The PEP is one of the flagship projects of the Department of Tourism showcasing the cultural heritage and gastronomic offerings of the different regions in the Philippines. The Calabarzon leg is the second edition for this year following the success of the Davao leg last June

with members of the diplomatic corps. This edition of the PEP also invited members of the diplomatic corps, the media, tourism organizations, and other government offices.

Also present in the festivities are Agimat Partylist congresswoman Lani Mercado-Revilla, Bacoor City 2nd District Mayor Strike Revilla, Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista-Mendiola, Provincial Board Member Ram Revilla Bautista, Cavite 2nd District representative Bryan Revilla. (DOT)

200, and in multiples of US\$100 thereafter; a tenor of 5.5 years and a gross interest rate of 5.750% per annum, payable every quarter until its maturity in 2029; guaranteed final withholding tax on interest for RDBs by the Philippine government; and convenient payment channels through traditional and online platforms (i.e. over-the-counter subscription through authorized Selling Agents, Bonds.PH app, LANDBANK mobile banking app, Overseas Filipino Bank mobile banking app, and the Treasury’s Online Ordering Facility via www.treasury.gov.ph).

Apart from immersing Filipinos in the financial system, the RDB 2 allows investors to participate in the effort of nation building.

By investing in government bonds, Filipinos can help finance the government’s priority infrastructure projects and support the Philippine economy’s high-growth trajectory.

“With your investments, we manifest a better life for our families,

communities, and the nation at large,” Secretary Diokno said.

The government has been conducting financial literacy sessions since January to ensure the success of the RDB offerings. Secretary Diokno said that they have hosted these sessions with over 700 Overseas Filipinos across Europe, Japan, America, Canada, and the Middle East.

“These sessions aim to strengthen our overseas retail investor base and build awareness

for the Republic’s upcoming offering,” he said.

Prior to the RDB 2, the Philippines had already successfully launched its maiden Retail Onshore Dollar Bond and raised a total of US\$ 1.6 billion, which was almost four times the initial target of US\$ 400 million US dollars, according to the Finance Secretary.

The RDB 2 will be offered by the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) from September 27 to October 6, 2023, with the issue date scheduled on October 11, 2023. DOF.GOV



CONCEPCION ...

Among these are the proposals to integrate small farmers into the value chain of larger corporations, and to teach entrepreneurial skills to senior high school students.

“Sari-sari stores have been embraced as part of the value chain of large companies, and they are doing well. The same thing can happen in agriculture,” he said. Uplifting the agriculture sector, upskilling the workforce and teaching entrepreneurial skills to young people, Concepcion believes, can address issues on wage increases in a more sustainable way.

“Without jobs, not everybody will benefit from a wage increase. The priority is job generation,” he said. PR

FROM PAGE 1

Moving forward with modern agriculture



(left) Graduation of KSK-SAP Batch 260 in SM City Tanza and (right) graduation of Batch 254 in SM City Masinag

The SM group held graduation ceremonies in Tanza, Cavite, and Masinag, Antipolo, for Batches 260 and 254, respectively. The celebration commenced with harvest festivals in their demo farms as well as market tours with SM Markets to explore selling opportunities, and award ceremonies, where they received completion and TESDA NCII certificates.



SM Supermalls employees join the harvest festival in Tanza, Cavite.



KSK-SAP farmers in SM Supermarket in SM City Tanza

Farmers in Calabarzon complete modern agri training



KSK-SAP graduates from Calibuyo, Tanza, Cavite celebrate their training completion in a Harvest Festival with SM group and its partners.

The SM Foundation recently marked the graduation of farmers who completed a 14-week training program in modern agricultural methods.

The program, Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan on Sustainable Agriculture Program (KSK-SAP), aims to help marginalized farmers in the Philippines improve their farming practices and economic opportunities.

“Taylor Swift | The Eras Tour” Film In SM Cinema



Ladies and gentlemen, will you please stand because THE Taylor Swift’s “The Eras Tour” Film is coming to SM Cinema! We’re ~enchanted~ to announce that her highly-anticipated concert is set for a world premiere on the big screen and you can watch it starting October 13 (a Friday the 13th, wow!). Whether you’ve scored tickets to her upcoming shows in Singapore and Japan or luck wasn’t on your side, this cinematic cut that puts the spotlight on her 17-year career is a must-watch for solid Swifties. Here’s everything that will excite you about “Taylor Swift | The Eras Tour” Film in SM Cinema: It’s her film, it’s flawless, really somethin’—it’s 2 hours and 48 minutes of Tay Tay bliss! “Taylor Swift | The Eras Tour” film will cover her first few shows in Los Angeles where more than 500,000 fans were present. Directed by Sam Wrench who was also at the helm for “BTS: Permission To Dance” and “Billie Eilish Live At The 02,” you’ll be amazed by the show’s detailed stage

design and high-tech production. We’re pretty sure that the movie is going to be a hit much like her IRL concert!

The “Taylor Swift | The Eras Tour” film features tracks from all ten eras of Taylor. This means that you’ll be reminiscing the moments you’ve lived through along with her songs that have been with you. Bring some tissues, scream for whatever it’s worth, and sing “You Belong With Me,” “All Too Well,” “Blank Space,” “Anti-Hero,” and “Cruel Summer” once you’re inside SM Cinema! Make sure to memorize the fan chants. ;) Mark your calendars for the “Taylor Swift | The Eras Tour” film at SM Cinema on the following dates:

- October 13 - 15, 2023
- October 19 - 22, 2023
- October 26 - 29, 2023
- November 2 - 5, 2023

Tickets are now available via smcinema.com and the SM Cinema app. You can also host a private screening party for this once-in-a-lifetime concert film experience. For more details, follow SM Cinema on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

From Page 1

maríñas City sa ilalim ng programang Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) ng DSWD.

Dumalo sa pamamahagi ng tulong sa Cavite City sina Vice Mayor Raleigh Rusit at Councilor Angel Sarmiento.

“Maraming maraming salamat po sa tulong niyo sa Cavite City,” mensahe ni Rusit kay Cayetano.

Sa Dasmariñas

City naman, isinagawa ang pamamahagi ng tulong sa mga ambulant vendor kasama si Barangay Santo Cristo Kagawad Allan Estrada sa Bacoor City.

Kabilang sa mga benepisyaryo ay ang 44-anyos na si Mely Gonowon, na nagpahayag ng pasasalamat sa senador na aniya’y “madaling lapitan.”

“Yung nakuha

ko pong pera ay gagamitin ko pong pampuhunan sa aking maliit na tindahan,” pahayag niya.

Nakikipagtulungan si Cayetano sa iba’t ibang ahensya ng gobyerno at lokal na pamahalaan sa pamamagitan ng kanyang Bayanihan Caravan, bilang tuwang sa kanyang mga panukalang batas na nakatuon sa pagahon ng mahihirap na Pilipino at sektor sa bansa. PR

Taste and smell the Christmas at SM City Rosario



Christmas is truly here at SM City Rosario with the opening of Ka Estang’s Special puto bumbong. They serve authentic puto bumbong but leveled up from the traditional way of presenting the food. They now added leche flan and cheese as puto bumbong’s toppings for a more exciting and interesting puto bumbong! Take a taste of Ka Estang’s at the main entrance of SM City Rosario.

ONE TOWN, ONE PRODUCT at SM City Trece Martires

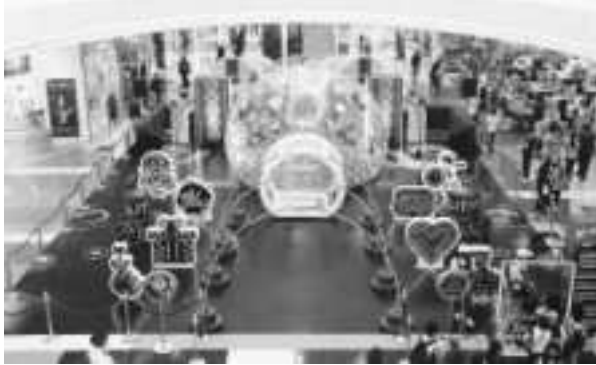


Support local products and entrepreneurs at the One Town, One Product bazaar at SM City Trece Martires. Check-out local delicacies and handmade items in the OTOP Event initiated by the Provincial Cooperative, Livelihood & Entrepreneurial Development Office (PCLEDO). Visit SM City Trece Martires, Event Center until October 20, 2023!



Save lives, donate blood! SM City Dasmariñas recently held a mobile blood donation in partnership with Philippine Red Cross at SM Dasmariñas Cinema 5. Mall and tenant employees participated in the said event, producing more than 60 successful donors. This simple act changes lives forever.

65th BUBBLE PLAY SPOT! A Level-up fun and exciting mall experience at SM City Dasmariñas



As SM Supermalls celebrate its 65th year anniversary, mall experience has amplified to creating a different level of fun for shoppers, families and friends. Snap that smile and capture those great moments with them at the ecstatic and astounding bubble play spot SM City Dasmariñas has set up for you! Come and experience that awSMe vibe at the event center, lower ground floor of SM City Dasmariñas.

For more details, please visit SM City Dasmariñas Facebook page.

COMELEC, PNP on alert for 2023 BSKE, Taal volcano activity



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – Authorities in the Calabarzon region are keeping a close watch on the conduct of the 2023 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections (BSKE) and the continuing activities of Taal Volcano as election day draws near.

Police Major Gerry Malipol said more than 9,000 personnel from the Philippine National Police Regional Office IV-A are ready to be deployed along with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine Coast Guard, Bureau of Fire Protection, and the Regional Maritime Unit to ensure safe and

fair elections.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) is also on alert on the activities of Taal Volcano, which may affect the conduct of elections in surrounding areas. Lawyer Gretchen Dolarte, Batangas provincial election officer, said the poll body is prepared to declare a ‘failure of election’ if incidents such as fire, flood, earthquakes, or similar events occur on election day.

“Our top priority is the preservation of life, so our election board is required to evacuate polling places if necessary. However, they must report

the situation to our election officers and secure all equipment and supplies. They must also inform the party representatives, citizen arms, and watchers about any transfer or suspension of voting,” she said.

In past barangay elections, the PNP recorded a minimal number of election-related incidents involving candidates and their supporters. Incidents included two cases in 2010, three in 2013, and two in 2018. “Despite these incidents, it is safe to assess that the BSKE in the region were generally peaceful. Nevertheless, we continue to monitor the presence of

potential private armed groups that may be involved in activities related to the election period,” Malipol said.

Under the Omnibus Election Code, an election may be postponed due to violence, terrorism, loss or destruction of election paraphernalia or records, force majeure, and other situations that would undermine the conduct of a free, orderly, and honest election.

Calabarzon comprising Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon has 15,660,770 registered voters for the October 2023 polls, making it the most vote-rich region in the country. (PB)

