

SMC bests other PH firms; jumps to 43rd in Forbes’ World’s Best Employers list--after ranking high in Time’s World’s Best Companies

San Miguel Corporation (SMC) climbed 131 spots up to number 43 on the annual World’s Best Employers list by Forbes Magazine and research firm Statista, emerging as the runaway leader among the few Filipino firms that made it to the global ranking.

SMC, led by President and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang, climbed to 43rd place this year from 174 in last year’s ranking, to become the only Philippine firm to make it to the top 50 of the world’s best.

Other Philippine companies that made it to the elite roster are Security Bank (54th), Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company or Metrobank (162nd), Ayala Corporation (186th), Alliance Global (283rd), Landbank (304th), LT Group (361st), and SM Investments (420th).

According to Forbes.com, rankings were determined through a survey conducted by market research firm Statista, which covered more than 170,000 employees who work for various multinational companies and institutions from over 50 countries worldwide.

“It’s a great honor to make it to this list of the world’s 700 best employers, along with some of the most recognized and most successful Philippine firms. This just goes to show that Filipinos can compete and run proudly with the very best in the world. It also shows that given the right training, motivation, support, and a sense of a higher purpose, the Filipino workforce is highly motivated, effective, dedicated, and therefore fulfilled in their work,” said Ang.

He added: “Specific to us in San Miguel, I

believe that our strong emphasis on business for nation-building, our core value of malasakit, coupled with our decisive and impactful actions related to greater sustainability, has really resonated with our employees. We have also always strived to provide our employees an environment where they can learn, realize their potential, build good relationships with colleagues, and feel they are part of not just a great heritage, but also of something bigger. We believe this has greatly contributed to whatever successes we’ve had over the years.”

This is the second time that SMC has ranked high in a global business survey this year. In September, it placed in the top 50% of Time Magazine’s list of the World’s Best Companies for 2023, ranking 347 overall, and making it to the top two of just six Filipino firms that made it to the list.

Ang said these favorable rankings signifies that San Miguel is still one of the companies that many Filipinos admire and want to work for.

This is especially relevant as the company aims to create new employment opportunities through its various major projects, including the New Manila International Airport (NMI)--said to be the single largest investment by a Filipino company, and in the Philippines by far.

Recently, it renewed a partnership with the Technical Educations and Skills Authority (TESDA), to expand a joint skills training partnership to train more workers for upcoming job opportunities at the NMI and



other major SMC projects nationwide.

Apart from competitive compensation and benefits, SMC has various programs to help employees hone their skills to advance in their careers and maintain their health and well-being.

The company also provides employees with opportunities to give back to the community through volunteerism for its various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Sustainability programs.

For the Forbes and Statista survey, companies were rated based on criteria including talent development, remote working options, parental leave benefits, diversity, work-life balance, and pride in the product or services that company offers.

Respondents were also asked if they would recommend their company to family and friends and also rate companies within their own industries and countries. PR

Cavite Water and Solid Waste Summit 2023



The Office of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (OPENRO) led by Ms. Anabelle L. Cayabyab organized the Cavite Water and Solid Waste Summit 2023 which was held on November 20-21, 2023 at Cavite State University International Convention Center in Indang.

This year’s theme, Cavite Ecological Network; Establishing a Consortium of Academic Institutions for an Open Data Bank is a step towards addressing the many concerns on environment and natural resources management through inter-disciplinary approach and data sharing.

The two-day summit focused on research, data banking and presentation of various on-going and completed studies on environment

and natural resources in Cavite. Among the speakers and presenters were: Dr. Rico C. Ancog, Dean of the School of Environmental Science and Management, University of the Philippines-Los Baños; Ms. Des’ree Lechuga, Provincial Focal Person of the Department of information and Communications Technology-Laguna; Ms. Nancy Bermas, Regional Project Manager of the GEF/UNDP/ASEAN IRBM Project, Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of east Asia (PEMSEA); and Engr. Christian Ron Cocson, Focal Person for Manila Bay, DENR-Environmental Management Bureau Region IV-A.

In support of the advocacy, the Consortium of Academic Institutions for Sustainable Development

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Senate OKs 2024 GAA, to convene with House for bicam



MANILA — The Senate on Tuesday approved House of Repre-

sentatives Bill 8980, or the PHP5.768 trillion 2024 General Appropriations Act (GAA), with 21 affirmative votes, zero negative, and one abstention.

This was after President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. certified the measure as urgent in a letter addressed to Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri “to address the need to maintain continuous government operations following the end of the current fiscal year to expedite the funding of various programs, projects, and activities for FY (Fiscal Year) 2024 and to ensure budgetary preparedness that will enable the government to effectively perform its constitutional mandate.”

DOH ensures steady water supply for hospitals as El Niño looms

A CSR PROJECT FOR DOT ACCREDITED COMMUNITY GUIDES IN CAVITE

Cayetano, nanawagan para sa ‘vision-oriented’ leadership sa hanay ng mga pulis, Christian leaders

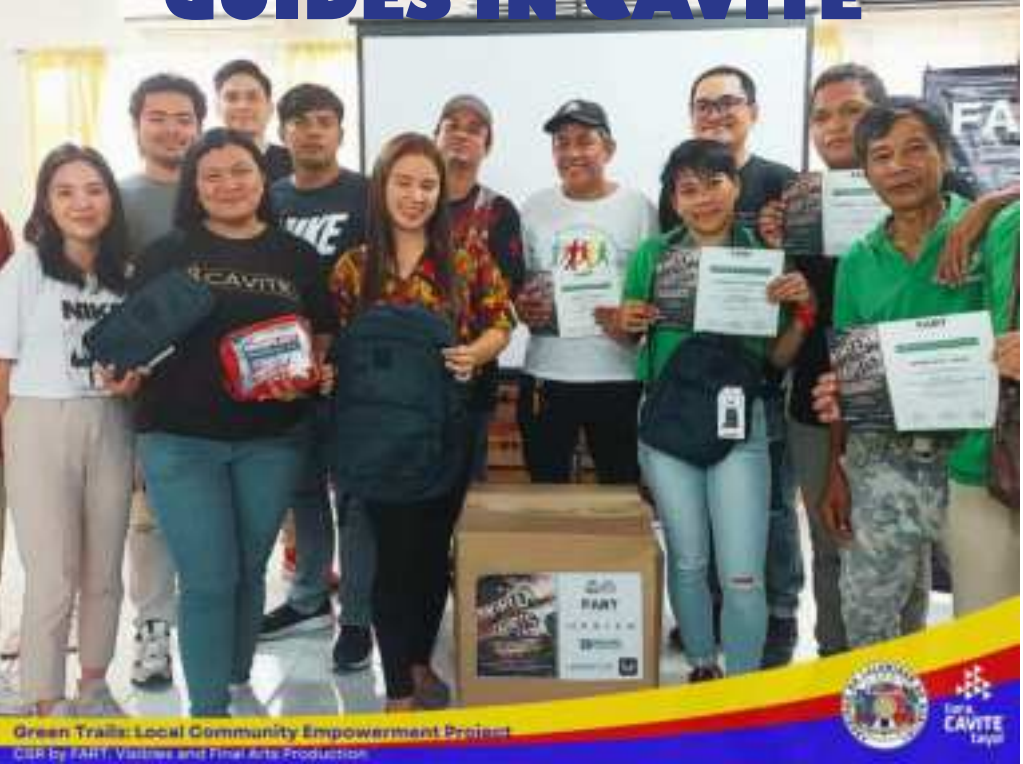


Hinikayat ni Senator Alan Peter Cayetano ang mga police officers at Christian leaders nitong Sabado na maging “vision-oriented” sa kanilang mga tungkulin at responsibilidad sa komunidad.

Sa kanyang talumpati sa 13th annual conference of the Bless our Cops Movement and Christians for Nation Building noong November 25,

SSS sets December 29 deadline for pickup of unclaimed UMID cards in branches

PAG-IBIG SETS RECORDS ANEW, RELEASES NEARLY P51B IN CASH LOANS



In its commitment to strengthen governance, partnerships and destination management, the Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial Tourism Officer in collaboration with FART: Visibles and Final Arts Production, Inc. conducted the Green Trails: Local Community Empowerment Project for the Community Tour Guides of Maragondon and Magallanes last November 24, 2023.

The team, which was headed by Mr. Dovie Mar Raquel, CEO of FART, was welcomed by Maragondon Municipal Tourism Officer Jocelyn Anico, thanking everyone for choosing their community guides to benefit from the CSR project.

Prior to the distribution of medical kits and a few trekking gears, Mr. Carlo Bermudez, copy strategist of IdeasXMachina, shared the different concepts of capturing good photos, as well as the importance of the real colors of nature, highlighting responsible guiding and photography. Selected DOT Accredited community tourist guides are now equipped with the basics of mobile photography and now have the proper kits to ensure the safety of the tourists.

Empowering Food Safety: DOST-CALABARZON facilitates FST Training of Trainers

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-CALABARZON conducted its Food Safety Team (FST) Training of Trainers at Monte Vista Resort, Calamba City, Laguna from 7-10 November.

Staff from the different Provincial Science and Technology Offices (PSTOs) of DOST-CALABARZON, Laguna State Polytechnic University (LSPU)-San Pablo City Campus, Southern Luzon State University (SLSU)-Lucena Campus, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-Rizal, and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)-Rizal has attended in order to further support, monitor, and enhance the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the region.

The 4-day training was spearheaded by the members of the DOST-CALABARZON Food Safety Unit (FSU), Ms. Diane Z. Ulan, Science Research Specialist II; Ms. Amiel G. Lacdan, Project Technical Assistant I; and Maria Ramiella E. Morales, Project Technical Assistant I.

On the first training day, Mr. Mhark Ellgine A. Libao, Science Research Special-



ist II, and Mr. John Maico M. Hernandez Science, Research Specialist I of PSTO-Batangas then presented a lecture on Basic Food Hygiene. Ms. Niña Sherylle S. Giron, Science Research Specialist II of PSTO-Rizal then conducted the workshop.

On the second day, Ms. Wilma G. del Rosario Science Research Specialist II of PSTO-Laguna, and Ms. Maria Teresa A. Pamplona, Science Research Specialist I of the DOST-CALABARZON Regional Office (RO) discussed Food Safety Hazards.

Meanwhile, Ms. Anna Marie Sante-Daigan, Science

Research Specialist II of PSTO-Cavite, and Mr. John Michael A. Florendo, Science Research Specialist II of PSTO-Quezon discussed Good Manufacturing Practices on the third day.

In the last session of the training, Ms. Marfil M. De Luna, Food Drug Regulation Officer III of the Center for Food Regulation and Research (CFRR)-Licensing Section, and Ms. Pia M. Flora Food-Drug Regulation Officer II of the CFRR-Registration Section of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) lent their expertise to the topics of FDA - License-to-Operate (LTO) and Certificate of Product

Registration (CPR) Application Process.

Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit, Regional Director and Engr. Francisco R. Barquilla III, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations of DOST-CALABARZON capped off the FST Training of Trainers with a Pledge of Commitment in Indang. This year’s theme, Cavite Ecological Network; Establishing a Consortium of Academic Institutions for an Open Data Bank is a step towards addressing the many concerns on environment and natural resources management through inter-disciplinary approach and data sharing.

In his sponsorship speech, Committee on Finance chairperson, Senator Sonny Angara, emphasized that the proposed 2024 GAA reflects the aspiration of the President of Bagong Pilipinas (New Philippines).

"In the new Philippines, Mr. President, we are strong and capable enough to defend our sovereignty and keep our citizens safe," Angara said.

"This is why, through the leadership of Senate President Migz Zubiri, we are adding to the already significant augmentations made to the budgets of our national defense agencies, such as the Department of National Defense and the different service branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines."

He also mentioned the inclusion of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, National Bureau of Investigation, and Philippine Coast Guard.

Angara noted the increase in the proposed budget allotted for the Marawi Compensation Board, as well as the realignment in the proposed budget of the Department of Agriculture to boost its various programs.

The proposed 2024 budget of the Department of Education was also augmented to build more school buildings, other programs, and scholarships for state universities and colleges.

Angara said the proposed budget for the implementation of the Tulong Trabaho Fund was increased and more slots were added for the Training for Work Scholarship Program for the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Additional funds were also pushed for the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation and Sustainable Livelihood Program of the Department of Social Welfare

and Development, as well as the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers Program and Government Internship Program under the Department of Labor and Employment.

To show the government's commitment to health care, proposed budgets for the Medical and Financial Assistance to Indigent and Financially-Incapacitated Patients and the Health Facilities Enhancement Program were increased, and additional funding support for the Lung Center of the Philippines.

Angara said augmentations for the Department of Health were maintained for nutrition programs and funds were set aside for the purchase of drugs, medicines, and vaccines.

He said funds for the Climate Change Commission and the implementation of the recently approved Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System Act were included.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources also got an additional budget to be used for building more marine stations, improving existing marine stations, and boosting the coordination with partner marine stations.

Emergency benefits and allowances for health care and non-health care workers were also considered.

The Senate also retained the additional budget for the Pabahay Para Sa Pamilyang Pilipino and Integrated Disaster Shelter Assistance Program of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development.

Additional budget for the Department of Information and Communications Technology was also provided to increase Internet connectivity in the country.

The construction of Offshore Wind Integration Port by the Energy

Regulatory Commission was also supported by the Senate, including funds for the Philippine Energy Research and Policy Institute, Nuclear Energy Program Implementing Organization, and Waste-to-Energy component of the Renewable Energy Development Program.

Funds were also provided for the departments of trade, science and technology, tourism, and foreign affairs for their various programs and activities.

Senators also sought to increase the national tax allotment for the local government units and the Local Government Support Fund.

"Allow me to reiterate that through the inputs and support of our colleagues in the Senate, we have come up with a proposal that still aligns with the broad goals of the Marcos administration towards transforming the Philippines into a more prosperous nation," Angara said.

Zubiri assigned Angara as chairperson of the Senate panel on the bicameral conference with counterparts in the House to align the disagreeing provisions of the 2024 GAA with Senators Pia Cayetano, Loren Legarda, Imee Marcos, Cynthia Villar, Ronald dela Rosa, Sherwin Gatchalian, Bong Go, Risa Hontiveros, Nancy Binay, Grace Poe, Mark Villar, Francis Tolentino, JV Ejercito, and Jinggoy Estrada.

According to the Senate Committee on Finance's budget calendar, the bicameral conference will be from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1.

The General Appropriations Bill's bicameral report, which should be signed by Dec. 6 and prepared and enrolled as a bill starting Dec. 7, will be sent to the Department of Budget and Management on Dec. 15 before it could be signed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Dec. 16. (PNA)

2023, itinanong ni Cayetano kung bakit ang Pilipinas, bilang pangunahing Christian country sa Southeast Asia, ay maituturing pa rin na corrupt na bansa.

Sinabi ni Cayetano na binigyan ng Diyos ang bawat isa ng "own will" upang tahakin ang mga landas na nais nilang sundan.

"There are two plans na nandiyan – isang plano na pagpalain tayo at bigyan tayo ng pag-asa at kinabukasan [at] isang plano to cheat, to steal, to destroy, and to kill," wika niya.

Bilang pagkumpara sa corruption, pinunto ni Cayetano na ang Christian mission ay hindi para sa sariling kapakinabangan bagkus ay ang mga ito ay dapat ibahagi sa komunidad.

"Kung ang corrupt [na tao] ay may commission, ang Christians [naman] ay may mission – community mission. We are not meant to be lone wolves," wika niya.

"With a vision, the Lord will give you provision. Ang kasama sa provision is human resources. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not meant for you and you alone or your family. It's meant for use for the body of Christ," dagdag niya.

Kinilala rin ni Cayetano na may pagkakataon na ang vision ay labis, katulad ng nangyari sa retirement policies ng bansa kung saan ang mga mambabatas ay gumawa ng rebisyon upang mas maging mabisa ang mga ito.

"Mayroong vision at provision dahil hindi isang bagsak magbigay ang Panginoon ng vision sa inyo, [that's why you need to] be open for revision," saad niya.

Sa pagtatapos ng kanyang talumpati, pinaalalahanan ni Cayetano ang mga pulis at Christian leaders sa kanilang mga sakripisyo at sinabing magtiwala sa mga plano ng Diyos, ang Supreme Commander ng mundo.

"Lahat ng hirap ay pinagdaraan ninyo because you know you need a training. Ganoon din ang Christian life – kailangan ni'yong daanan ang lahat ng hirap and trust the the divine Commander-in-Chief because alam Niya ang assignment niyo," wika niya. PR

SSS sets December 29 deadline for pickup of unclaimed UMID cards in branches

The Social Security System (SSS) has announced that members who applied for their Unified Multi-Purpose Identification (UMID) cards between August 2017 to December 2020 have only until December 29, 2023 to pick up their unclaimed cards.

After the deadline, the unclaimed cards, including those that the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) returned to SSS after two unsuccessful delivery attempts, will be disposed of based on SSS' retention policy.

To check the status of UMID card application, members are advised to log in to their My.SSS Portal account at www.sss.gov.ph, and click on "UMID/SSS ID Details" under the "MEMBER INFO" tab. If the transaction status is "Card Generated", members can claim the card at the SSS branch where the UMID application was filed.

SSS members are likewise advised to

keep their contact information updated so they will not miss important notifications from the SSS.

Since February 2023, SSS has stopped accepting applications for regular UMID cards, but is currently offering UMID ATM Pay Card exclusively to SSS members who either have existing UMID

cards or pending UMID card applications.

SSS has also recently announced its partnership with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to integrate the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) into their processes and services, which include the issuance of a similar ATM-enabled SSS card for initial applicants.PR

Cavite...

ment of Water Resources in Cavite composed of seventeen colleges and universities in the province were present and pledged their commitment officiated by Mr. Rodel Vincent Bae, OIC-Provincial Administrator for Internal Affairs.

During the course of discussions, issues as well as ideas were raised for clarification and consideration, all geared towards harmonizing actions toward water resources sustainability and improved solid waste management programs in the province. Posters of different studies were also on display at the venue of the summit

for viewing and ranking of the panel of judges. The entry from the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas for their study entitled Survey on Plastic Litter Along Imus River, Cavite, Philippines bagged the Best in Poster Award.

Among the esteemed guests who joined the program were Cavite State University President, Dr. Hernando Robles, Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs, Mr. Alvin S. Mojica, and 4th District Board Member Shernan S. Jar who all delivered messages of support and high hopes for the success of the environmental advocacies.- Eve Reyes

EDITORIAL: Improving quality of life

The latest Social Weather Stations survey gives us a snapshot of the current situation of Filipinos under the Marcos administration.

The survey, from Sept. 28 to Oct. 1, found that 30 percent of the respondents said their personal quality of life worsened in the past 12 months, 28 percent said it got better, while 41 percent said it remained the same.

Those who said their quality of life worsened in the past year increased from 22 percent in a similar survey last July.

The 30 percent obtained in the latest survey was the highest since the 31 percent obtained in June 2022—the last survey under the Duterte administration. The figure is also the highest so far under the Marcos administration.

If a third of all Filipinos feel that their quality of life has worsened over the past year, this should send alarm bells ringing in the various offices in the bureaucracy concerned with the delivery of basic social services to the people.

It should also pose as a challenge for the Marcos administration to assist them turn their lives for the better, whether through food security, jobs, and health services, among others.

At least three government agencies can play a key role in improving the quality of life of Filipinos.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development is the lead agency in assisting the poor and the disadvantaged sectors.

It provides relief assistance in the form of food and nonfood items to disaster-affected communities.

S&P affirms...

average among its peers due to the government's ongoing efforts to address infrastructure gaps and improvements in the business climate through regulatory and tax reforms, which will further support expansion in economic productivity.

"That's an accomplishment of the PBBM administration. In a

sea of downgrades, the international rating agencies continue to affirm their confidence in the Philippine economy's macro-economic fundamentals. We continue to pursue the Road to A under President Marcos, Jr.'s administration," Secretary Diokno said in a statement.

The government will continue to implement

It also implements the Cash-for-Work program which provides temporary employment in community efforts in disaster mitigation, preparedness, response or early recovery and rehabilitation initiatives to provide alternative source of income to families.

The agency's Supplementary Feeding Program provides food in addition to the regular meals to children currently enrolled in the day care centers.

The Agriculture Department, on the other hand, is tasked with expanding economic opportunities in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. It is responsible for generating employment for about a third of the country's labor force, thereby reducing poverty and inequality for three-fourths of the poor in the rural areas.

The DA envisions a food-secure and resilient Philippines with empowered and prosperous farmers and fishers.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority assists those with limited formal education to acquire technical and vocational training through its various programs administered by 57 accredited schools and 60 training centers.

It implements a pro-active matching process aimed at achieving the best job-skills fit for those who complete its training programs.

The government does not lack the resources to uplift the quality of life of one-third of the population who now find themselves in worse economic straits than before.

What is important is to exercise political will in fighting corruption that diverts public funds into private pockets and keeps the poor forever where they are.

accumulate fiscal resources to respond to the pandemic," the report stated.

With this, the credit rater underscored the importance of tax reforms in ensuring that public finances remain sustainable, while infrastructure and social needs are addressed.

S&P further stated that the Philippine government has so far achieved moderate success with its Comprehensive Tax Reform Program.

Meanwhile, the stable outlook stems from S&P's expectation of sustained economic recovery and declining fiscal deficits over the next two years.

S&P reports that the Philippines' strong economic recovery over the past two years will help lower the general government (GG) deficit estimated at 3.8 percent of GDP in 2023, from 4.4 percent in 2022.

The credit rater forecasts the GG deficit to average 2.7 percent of GDP over the next three years, and the net GG debt to gradually come down to about 41 percent by 2026 as fiscal consolidation takes hold.

Under the MTEF, the government aims to reduce the national government deficit-to-GDP ratio to 3.0 percent by 2028. Since the bulk of the GG operational balances are from the national government, the Department of Finance (DOF) is in the position that this is tantamount to further improvement in GG fiscal balances over the medium term.

The DOF further notes that the GG net operating balance was at 0.0 percent of GDP in 2022 when the national government deficit was at 7.3 percent of GDP. In the first three quarters of 2023, NG deficit-to-GDP ratio was further reduced to 5.7 percent, better than the full-year target of 6.1 percent.

The Philippines' reserves have also started to accumulate in 2023 due to a lower import bill and recovery in electronic exports from the Philippines, providing a strong external buffer. Reserves amount to US\$ 101.1 billion as of end-October 2023, which can cover seven to eight months of current account payments.

This level remains well above the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s Assessing Reserve Adequacy (ARA)

metric at 1.9 in 2023, remarkably higher than China's 0.7 as well as Malaysia and Indonesia both at 1.1.

Since the global financial crisis, the ratio of the country's gross international reserves relative to the IMF's ARA metric has been relatively higher than selected Asian and emerging market economies.

The country also has the lowest external debt-to-GDP ratio among the ASEAN-5 countries with available data.

As of end-Q2 2023, the Philippines' external debt-to-GDP ratio was only 28.5 percent, lower compared to Indonesia's almost 30 percent, Thailand's almost 40 percent, and Malaysia's more than 60 percent. This supports the view that the Philippines has a relatively strong external position as it is less vulnerable to adverse external shocks.

S&P also noted the country's continuing robust personal remittance inflows, which reached an all-time high of US\$ 36.1 billion in 2022. As of September 2023, cumulative inflows of US\$ 27.2 billion are up by 2.8 percent year-on-year.

The credit rating agency particularly highlighted that the country's solid household and corporate balance sheets, and sizable remittance inflows underpin the Phil-

ippine economy's positive medium-term trajectory.

The DOF also emphasizes the country's improving labor and employment conditions that are supporting private consumption.

The Philippines' unemployment rate is already lower than the pre-pandemic level at 4.5 percent in September 2023 while the underemployment rate decreased to 10.7 percent, the lowest since 2005.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) levels, on the other hand, are expected to remain stable in 2023 due to the government's implementation of recent reforms which allow foreign enterprises to invest in sectors such as telecommunications, power generation, renewable energy, and transportation.

These game-changing structural reforms include the CRE-ATE Act and amendments to the Public Service Act, Retail Trade Liberalization Act, and Foreign Investments Act as well as the revised implementing rules and regulations of the Renewable Energy Act.

The economic managers are closely monitoring the implementation of these reforms to help boost investments and realize the country's growth targets. DOF.GOV

Aika Okumura

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Join me as I celebrate my
7th Birthday Party

Place: Kanl Public Arts Center ALA

Party on October 14, 2023

Time: 1pm - 5pm

from Daddy & Mommy
Rael, Marivic & ate Michan

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DTI-Rizal, SM Foundation Empower Farmer-Beneficiaries Through Kabalikat Sa Kabuhayan on Sustainable Agriculture Program



On July 14, 2023, the Trinity Baptist Church in Cabading, Brgy. Inarawan, Antipolo City, became a hub of empowerment as SM Foundation in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-Rizal, conducted another successful training session under its program, Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan (KSK) on Sustainable Agriculture. The training session, which focused on “How to Start Your Own Business,” aimed to equip farmer-beneficiaries with the necessary knowledge and skills to become entrepreneurs.

The KSK program, organized by SM Foundation, is a comprehensive initiative designed to uplift the lives of farmer-beneficiaries by providing them with sustainable livelihood opportunities. As part of the program, a series of weekly training sessions are conducted to address various aspects of agriculture and entrepreneurship.

The resource speaker for the recent training session was Daryl Andres, Business Counselor of Negosyo Center Antipolo, representing the DTI-Rizal. BC Andres shared valuable insights and practical tips on how to establish successful enterprises, enabling participants to start and manage their own businesses effectively.

During the training, participants were exposed to essential topics such as the rewards and

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Enchanted Kingdom brings the biggest parol in the country



Enchanted Kingdom (EK), the first and only world class theme park in the Philippines, highlights the Filipino Christmas tradition through the launch of EK’s Giant Parol at the Agila Grounds last November 26, Sunday.

According to EK President and Chairman Mario Mamon, EK is committed to showcase the Filipino



risks of going into business, starting small enterprise guidelines, types of businesses according to ownership, and business registration. The interactive nature of the session allowed for fruitful discussions and encouraged participants to ask questions, enabling a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

Ms. Mharie Bilones, the program coordinator, expressed her enthusiasm for the success of the training session.

The training session received positive feedback from the farmer-beneficiaries, who expressed their gratitude to DTI-Rizal, and especially to SM Foundation for providing them with such valuable opportunities.



Christmas tradition of parols and local festive decorations to bring nostalgia during the holiday season. “We are very excited to share with you the biggest parol in the Philippines!” It is our aspiration to provide a destination where families can create their enchanted Christmas stories,” Mr. Mamon further explained.

EK tapped renowned lantern maker from Pam-panga, Eric Bondoc Quiwa, in the creation of the 22-foot parol installed at the Agila Grounds. This is the centerpiece of the theme park’s holiday events along with 100 parols around the park.

EK’s Chief Operating Officer (COO) Cynthia R. Mamon shared that the making of the biggest parol is a three-week labor of love: from conceptualization and design, up to framing, welding, partitioning, installing the electrical components, then lastly, finishing. It is illuminated by 1,700 LED lights and will have a daily show of lights every night at the park.

EK is also set to showcase their homegrown talents through their Christmas shows such as Christ-

Nov. 29-Dec. 05, 2023

Gatchalian files ‘Revised Magna Carta for Public School Teachers’



The ‘Revised Magna Carta for Public School Teachers’ (Senate Bill No. 2493) introduces substantial amendments to ensure that the rights and welfare of public school teachers are protected, respected, and realized.

These amendments include: the grant of calamity leave, educational benefits, and longevity pay; the circumstances and conditions on the grant of special hardship allowance; enrichment of the criteria for salaries; and the protection of teachers from out-of-pocket expenses, among others. The bill also proposes that salaries, benefits, and work conditions of probationary teachers shall be the same or not less favorable as those of an entry-level teacher.

To improve the working conditions of public school teachers, the proposed measure seeks to reduce the hours of classroom teaching from six to four. When the exigencies of the service require, teachers may render up to eight hours of service upon payment of additional compensation, which will be equivalent to the same rate as their regular remuneration plus at least 25% of their basic pay. The bill also prohibits teachers from being assigned non-teaching tasks, and provides for the temporary hiring of a substitute teacher when an in-

mas At The Kingdom (EK Story), Brooklyn Diaries: Oh Paskong Maligaya (OPM) and Eldar’s Christmas Parade featuring its storybook characters to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year.

The park is now open six times a week from Tuesday to Sunday, 11AM to 8PM. Starting December 18, the theme park will also open its gates everyday, from 11AM to 8PM with extended hours on selected special holidays until January 7, 2024.

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.

cumbent is on leave.

Gatchalian’s proposed measure also prohibits the termination of permanent teachers without just cause and due process. Permanent teachers who are unjustly dismissed shall be entitled to reinstatement and backwages. The bill also seeks to ensure confidentiality of disciplinary actions against teachers. It further seeks to institute a partnership between the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Public Attorney’s Office (PAO), which will extend legal services to teachers facing complaints and lawsuits in relation to their teaching duties and responsibilities.

When the proposed measure is enacted into law, the DepEd shall formulate and prepare a Code of Ethics for public school teachers. The bill further prohibits any form of discrimination and seeks to uphold gender equality.

“Nakasalalay sa ating mga guro ang tagumpay ng sektor ng edukasyon, ngunit patuloy nilang kinakaharap ang iba’t ibang mga hamon sa pagtupad ng kanilang tungkulin. Napapanahon nang amyendahan natin ang Magna Carta for Public School Teachers at gawin itong mas angkop sa pangangailangan ng ating mga guro,” said Gatchalian, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Basic Education.

Nov. 29-Dec. 05, 2023

POINT OF VIEW



Sometimes to understand a word’s meaning you need more than a definition; you need to see the word used in a sentence. At YourDictionary, we give you the tools to learn what a word means and how to use it correctly. With this sentence maker, simply type a word in the search bar and see a variety of sentences with that word used in its different ways. Our sentence generator can provide more context and relevance, ensuring you use a word the right way.



Ms. Windy Maca

CAVITE-LAGUNA EXPRESSWAY IS NOW OPEN!

Going to the South is not a hassle anymore. CALAX made it easy for the people to visit Cavite and Laguna. It’s an ongoing project that was started in 2019. It is signed as E3 of the Philippine Expressway network. You can pass the expressway for free as of the moment.

CALAX will use the Easytrip RFID. Easytrip RFID is the exclusive electronic toll collection system across MPTC tollways such as NLEX, CAVITEX, SCTEX, and NLEX Connector. Additionally, beginning 2023, Easytrip RFID’s can also be used on Autosweep RFID- only toll booths. There is no cash transaction, so make sure to enroll your autosweep RFID before using it in CALAX. No valid RFID, No entry at RFID lanes.

Now that CALAX Silang (Aguinaldo) interchange is open, it is more convenient to visit the South. People from other places don’t need to face the traffic anymore, hence, they can fully experience the fun and relaxation that they wanted. With CALAX, we can now experience the adventure that Silang can offer and it will be an ease to feel the breeze in Tagaytay.

Experience the South with CALAX!

S&P affirms PH rating at ‘BBB+ /A-2’ with stable outlook in view of the country’s sustained economic recovery and strong external position

S&P Global affirmed the Philippines’ ‘BBB+’ long-term and ‘A-2’ short-term sovereign credit ratings with stable outlook in view of the country’s sustained economic recovery and strong external position.

In its report dated November 28, 2023, S&P Global noted the Philippines’ above-average economic growth potential compared to its peers, which will be supported by stable macroeconomic fundamentals driven by the government’s sound macroeconomic policy and fiscal consolidation strategy through the country’s first-ever Medium-Term Fiscal Framework (MTFF).

The MTFF was crafted by the economic team led by Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno within the Marcos, Jr. administration’s first month in office.

“The Marcos, Jr. administration is committed to pursuing the path of fiscal consolidation and introducing sound policies and structural reforms to strengthen the country’s fiscal and economic position to maintain if not improve this favorable assessment,” Secretary Dio-

DOH...

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – Regional hospitals and other health facilities in the Calabarzon region are working to ensure a steady water and energy supply as El Niño reaches its peak.

Nurse Lancelot Villareal, Assistant Manager for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management for Health (DRRM-H) said the Department of Health (DOH) has advised hospitals and other health-care facilities to adopt measures to mitigate the effects of El Niño on the health sector.

Villareal affirmed that hospitals and other health facilities in the region are committed to provide consistent and ample water and energy supply to sustain vital service delivery.

“This is included in their respective DRRM-H plans which require them to prepare enough drinking and domestic-use water that can last for at least three (3) days,” Villareal said in a meeting with the region’s El Niño Team.

The Health Department continuously coordinates with water concessionaires, local government units, and local water service providers in prioritizing health facilities for early water reserve allocations.

“We also suggested to them to coordinate with their local water concessionaires and local BFP [Bureau of Fire Protection] that in times of low water supply, they will be prioritized in the provision of water supply,” she said.

The health official adds that hospitals must also initiate water management strategies on storing, reusing, and sourcing alternatives, reducing water loss, and

kno said.

S&P projects that the Philippines will achieve a moderate real gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 5.4 percent in 2023 considering the impact of external macroeconomic developments and a high base.

Such external factors include the projected slower world economic growth, particularly from

Nov. 29-Dec. 05, 2023

Pag-IBIG...

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securing water sources during emergencies.

“We are expecting that water and energy supply in our hospitals and Rural Health Units to last for at least three (3) days. This includes gasoline needed to keep their generators running.”

In 2017, the Health Department released its Administrative Order 2017-0010 to set the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water, including drinking water quality, water sampling methods, distribution of drinking water, evaluation, quality control for water laboratories and, Water Safety Plan and Drinking-water Quality Surveillance.

With the higher temperature and low water supply, the DOH said they are expecting a rise in infectious, dermatologic, food and waterborne, or systemic illnesses due to prolonged exposure to heat and unsafe access to bodies of water such as cholera, typhoid fever, Hepatitis A, Rotavirus, Parasitic shellfish poisoning, and dysentery.

Villareal warns, “Diarrhea is very common among these diseases. That is why we are also encouraging our facilities to be prepared to address these diseases, such as training their staff and procurement of medicines.”

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said the Calabarzon region may experience weather conditions ranging from dry to drought by the end of November, with the provinces of Batangas and Cavite experiencing drought conditions by December this year. (PB)

the Philippines’ largest trading partners—China and the US.

S&P also forecasts the country’s growth to increase to 5.9 percent in 2024, 6.2 percent in 2025, and 6.4 percent in 2026.

The credit rater expects that the Philippines’ economic growth will remain well above the

Pag-IBIG...

Pag-IBIG Fund disbursed P50.79 billion in cash loans in the last ten months, breaking its record for the highest amount of cash loans released for any January to October period. The amount released benefited 2,281,042 Pag-IBIG Fund members, also a record high.

From January to October, the amount of short-term loans released by the agency increased by 12 percent or P5.5 billion compared to the P45.29 billion released during the same period in 2022. The number of members assisted through the program also increased by 6 percent or 127,494 more than the 2,153,548 members from the previous year as more members utilized the agency’s online channel, the Virtual Pag-IBIG, to apply for cash loans.

During the period, 743,362 members filed their loans online, an increase of 266,281 borrowers or 56% percent year-on-year.

“We are happy to report that Pag-IBIG Fund continues to provide Filipino workers with assistance on their immediate financial needs through our cash loans. The record-high amount of loans we released, as well as the highest ever number of members aided through these loan program, show that our short-term loans are among the top choices of Filipino workers in gaining additional funds for their needs. All these are part of our efforts in heeding the call of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. to provide the best service to the Filipino people,” said Secretary Jose Rizalino L. Acuzar, who heads the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DH-SUD) and the 11-member Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees.

Pag-IBIG Fund’s Short-Term Loan Program includes the agency’s Multi-Purpose Loan (MPL) and Calamity Loan. Under the Pag-IBIG MPL, qualified members can borrow up to 80 percent of their total Pag-IBIG Regular Savings, which consists of their monthly contributions, their employer’s contributions, and accumulated dividends earned. The proceeds can

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be used to pay for tuition fees, medical expenses, minor home improvement, a family trip, or even serve as business capital. Borrowers may choose between a 24 or 36-month payment term, with the first payment deferred for two months. The Pag-IBIG Calamity Loan, on the other hand, is available to members residing or working in areas declared under a state of calamity. In the past years, the agency has returned more than 90 percent of its income, mostly derived from interest on loans, to members in the form of dividends.

Of the total amount of cash loans released by the agency, P48.32 billion were in the form of Pag-IBIG MPLs which helped 2,131,435 members, while P2.48 billion were in the form of Calamity Loans which in turn aided 149,607 members.

Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene C. Acosta, meanwhile, cited the reliability and ease of access in availing the Pag-IBIG’s Short-Term Loans as the main drivers for its strong growth. She further noted that with more members applying for loans using the Virtual Pag-IBIG, the amount of cash loans released by the agency in January to October from online applications surged to P16.65 billion, an increase of P6.51 billion or a 64% increase year-on-year.

“We at Pag-IBIG Fund recognize that each and every year, millions of our members rely on our Pag-IBIG MPL for their immediate financial needs. That is why we have made the application for our cash loans more accessible and easier for our members. Today, our members can easily and conveniently apply for these loans through many channels, which include their employers or at any of our more than 200 branches nationwide. Members may now also apply for a cash loan anytime, anywhere by using our online channels, the Virtual Pag-IBIG or the Virtual Pag-IBIG Mobile App. Our members can rest assured that our programs shall always be reliable, and that we shall continuously find ways to make their benefits accessible them,” Acosta said. (END)

Communities Empowerment: Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program Orientation



The Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (OPSWDO) organized a remarkable Orientation on the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, with an aim of improving the level of well-being and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty, on November 17, 2023, at the Capitol Building's Ceremonial Hall. Mr. Alvin Mojica, Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs, kicked off the event with an inspirational message, setting the tone for an informative session.

Mr. Jay O. Olaguir, Project Development Officer II, DSWD IV-A, delivered the keynote address, which navigated through the milestones of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, which is anchored in Republic Act 11310. Participants gained a thorough understanding of the program's framework, delving into the complexities of the Implementing Rules and Regulations that govern its implementation.

Mr. Olaguir further explained the Regional Memorandum Circular No. 001-s-2022, providing a comprehensive overview of updates on active households and the commendable progress of exit graduates in Cavite. Adding a personal touch

Isang market matching activity ang isinagawa ng Department of Agriculture IV- CALABARZON (DA-4A) Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) upang maiugnay ang tatlong Farmers Cooperative and Associations (FCAs) ng rehiyon sa potensyal na merkado sa bayan ng Rosario, Cavite noong ika-21 ng Nobyembre 2023.

Naging daan ang aktibidad upang maipresenta ng mga FCAs ang kanilang produkto at kalidad na ani at maiugnay sa mga mamimili at malaman ang kanilang mga pangangailangang produkto.

Nagbigay rin ng gabay ang naganap na pag-uusap para sa negosasyon sa pagitan ng mga FCAs at sa naimbitahang siyam na institutional buyers sa probin-



DPWH begins consultation with maritime stakeholders for Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge



Earlier this year, the Department of Public Works & Highways (DPWH) announced that construction of the Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge (BCIB) will begin in late 2023. This was confirmed by DPWH Secretary Manuel M. Bonoan who said that the groundbreaking ceremony would take place earlier than expected.

At the time, detailed engineering design was already at 70% and the DPWH planned to have the bridge project done before the end of President Ferdinand "Bong-Bong" Marcos Jr.'s term. With a goal like that, the DPWH's work is cut out for them.

Fast forward to the tail-end of 2023, the DPWH says it's stepping up its efforts in preparation for the civil work activities for the BCIB. In light of this, the government

agency has begun discussing anticipated issues and concerns with maritime agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

DPWH Unified Project Management Office - Roads Management Cluster 2 (Multilateral) Project Director Sharif Madsmo H. Hasim led a meeting last November 22 that focused on maritime navigation and traffic concerns. This was done in order to reduce potential impacts and risks caused by the upcoming major construction works across Manila Bay.

The DPWH intends to come up with viable ways to successfully implement this project with the least disturbance and inconvenience to the maritime affairs in the area during the construction phase. Since the major infrastructure will be along Manila Bay, plenty of maritime ships travel to and

from within the bay.

The interagency coordination meeting was participated by representatives from the Philippine Navy (PN); Philippine Coast Guard (PCG); Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA); Philippine Ports Authority (PPA); Department of Finance (DOF); Bureau of Customs (BOC); Authority of Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB); Corregidor Foundation, Inc. (CFI); and Local Government Units of Cavite and Bataan. Also present was TY Lin International Inc. in a joint venture with Pyungwha Engineering & Consulting Co. which serves as the project's detailed engineering design consultant.

During the meeting, DPWH Project Director Hasim said that the interagency coordination meeting tackled the processes of securing government permits and

clearances for the expected marine vessels, government duties and taxes, navigational studies, vessel routing, maritime traffic management, and other concerns.

As for the civil works construction itself, the DPWH has now stated that the project is set to start by 2024. It will be divided into 7 contract packages with the construction to begin in the two on-land packages. This will consist of Package 1 which is the 5 km Bataan Land Approach and Package 2 which is the 1.35 km Cavite Land Approach.

Packages 3 and 4 are Marine Viaducts in the North and South with a total length of 20.65 km. Meanwhile, Packages 5 and 6 are the North Channel and South Channel Bridges with a length of 2.15 and 3.15 km, respectively. Last but not least is the 7th Package which involves project-wide ancillary works.

Once completed, the major bridge project will significantly reduce travel time from Bataan to Cavite (and vice versa) from 5 hours to just around 30 minutes. The Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge will start in Barangay Alas-asin in Mariveles town, Bataan, crossing Manila Bay, and end in Naic, Cavite. (autoindustriya.com)

Tatlong FCAs sa CALABARZON, naiugnay ng DA-4A sa siyam na institutional buyers sa Cavite



sya. Layon rin nitong makapagtatag ng pangmatagalang relasyon at ugnayan sa mga dumalo bilang suporta rin sa mga magsasaka.

Nagkaroon ng pagkakataon ang Magallanes-Samahan ng Magsasaka ng Kay- Apas at Medina (MagSaMaKAME) Agriculture Cooperative, Pacheco Agrarian Reform Cooperative, at Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative na maipaliwanag ang mga datos ng kanilang mga produktong bigas, itlog at gulay na maaari nilang mai-sulap.

Ayon kay AMAD chief, Editha Salvosa, mahalagang hakbang ang dayalogo upang makakilala at magkaroon ng koneksyon ang mga suppliers at buyers at makabuo ng magandang ugnayan.

Dumalo ang representante ng mga institutional buyers na Hayakawa Elec-

tronics, Santechnologies Inc., Semitec Electronics, Glory Philippines Inc., Sejin Nawoo Inc., HRD Singapore PTE, Leader Electronics Inc., Phil Bobbin Corp., at MEC Electronics.

Pagbabahagi naman ni Bernadette Carandang ng MagSaMaKAME, malaki ang impact sa kanila ng ganitong aktibidad dahil nahahasa din ang kanilang pagiging agri-preneur.

Ang aktibidad ay naging posible sa pakikipagtulungan ng Cavite Economic Zone sa pamamagitan ni Zone Administrator Atty. Norma Tañang na inirepresenta ng Supervising Officer nito na si G. Lyndone Dela Cruz.

From foes to friends: charming café brings



At first glance, the Balai Café in Baras, Rizal is like any charming eatery offering breakfast, short orders, and brewed specialty coffee.

This mini-eatery tucked in one of the breathtaking spots in Barangay Pinugay, Sitio Galaxy boasts of al fresco dining and provides patrons natural scenery. Guests can even interact with small animals that freely roam around the premises.

But for the Friends for the Reliable Steadfast – a group of former communist rebels under the care of the Philippine Army's 80th Infantry Battalion – each meal they serve is a testament that second chances are possible, if one seeks it.

One of the café's employees, Christine was compelled to join the rebel group as a young college student living in a struggling housing project. Fearing that pursuing higher education would only burden her already financially strained family, she abandoned her loved ones and the life she once knew to join their cause.

In an interview with PIA Calabarzon, Christine mentioned that the Balai Café helped her realize her dream of becoming a singer. (Photo by Shimie Tacino/PIA-4A)

"I was still studying then. I thought that I wouldn't be able to help my family anymore because I couldn't finish my education due to our difficult circumstances," she said.

In the few months she was part of the New People's Army, Christine experienced extreme hunger, sleepless nights, skin diseases, and even saw some of her closest friends die right before her eyes.

Christine later sought a way out and eventually found solace with the government forces. Traveling by foot, she and her peers hiked along the endless mountain ranges until she found a way to reach the Philippine Army. She was sent to the 80th Infantry Battalion – a unit of the Army's 2nd Infantry "Jungle Fighter" Division – where she underwent months of debriefing. Once she was deemed ready to rejoin society, she was employed by Balai Café where she found a new dream: to become a singer.

"When I first started working here in March 2022, I saw a couple carrying a baby getting food for their breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The next day, I asked them what they were carrying," Commandador recalled.

"They told me that they were former rebels who surrendered to the authorities. They (then) taught us how to handle former rebels and how to encourage more surrenderers."

With a dream to give the former rebels a more meaningful reason to reintegrate into society, Commandador later enlisted the help of government partners such as the local government units of Baras and Tanay to launch a livelihood program.

"I saw an opportunity to create a means for them to feel a sense of ownership and belonging, and to find their reason for surrendering," he said.

Since its establishment on July 22, 2022, the Balai Cafe has provided security, stability, and a source of income for the former rebels.

With the help of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the



hope to former rebels



Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Friends of the Reliable Steadfast learned the needed skills in managing a small business from accounting, management, and food handling, as well as registering their venture.

"After its first anniversary, we expanded the Balai Cafe from a small parcel of land, which

now has comfort rooms, even a playground," Commandador added.

Launched by the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC), the E-CLIP or Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration program helps former rebels and their families to start anew through various gov-

ernment benefits. On top of financial and livelihood assistance, former rebels also receive medical aid from the Department of Health (DOH), among others.

Despite his physical abilities, Eric enthusiastically works at the Balai Cafe as their manager. He said that unity and connection amongst one another are treasured by the personnel of Balai Cafe. (Photo by Shimie Tacino/PIA-4A)

Eric, another former rebel, now manages the Balai Café despite having a speaking disability. His cheerful personality and friendly smile make him a warm presence at the café.

"Most of us here have experienced differ-

ent trauma. But at Balai Café, we show unity and connection amongst one another," he said.

For the Friends of the Reliable Steadfast, the Balai Café is not just a means of making a living but a sanctuary that signifies stability and a new life away from the chaos of rebellion.

While regular customers may view the eatery simply as another restaurant find in Baras, for Eric, Christine, and the other employees, the Balai Café is their safe haven. It is their home, where they wake up to every day with hope, serving coffee as warm as the newfound peace and stability they have finally achieved. (PB/PIA-4A)

Captured

They say photographs preserve lifelong memories. These captured moments remind us of the people and places that have become a part of us, eventually becoming a priceless treasure that we keep for as long as we can.

Flordeliza Taña, a 53-year-old native of Davao City, likes capturing all kinds of images. As a result, when she met her photographer spouse, her career path was altered. She quit her job as an office secretary and started a business in photography.

She was hesitant at first, but she has grown to love her new journey with the help of her husband. She was able to do what she enjoyed while earning a living and provide for their two kids.

In 2001, they rented a tiny stall in Agdao to enable them to keep operating their business. However, in 2013, the industry's competition tightened even further, making it difficult for them to attract customers. The rental space was subsequently lost as a result of this.

Starting over was difficult for them. Fortunately, they found a cheaper stall for rent along San Pedro Street and were approved of a loan from CARD Bank, a



Flordeliza Taña from Davao City captures other people's memories through her photography skills.

microfinance-oriented rural bank. They used the loan to acquire a computer and printer. Additionally, the institution approved an educational loan for their children to support them in college. They graduated and are now employed in their different fields.

"My proudest moment as a mother is that I have been able to send my kids to college, and as a bonus, we are currently renovating our home," Flordeliza said.

Currently, they are now the official photographers for nine different schools in Davao City. They still cater photography services for wedding

and baptism not only in their hometown, but also in Tagum City and General Santos City.

Years from now, she hopes to continue capturing special moments for their customers in a space they can call their own. "With the continued support of our trusted CARD Bank, we believe that we will soon expand our business."

More than a bank client

Flordeliza is also an active client who participates in the various activities that CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI) launches. During the pan-

demic, when CARD MRI introduced its "Ugnayan at Kwentuhan" program to keep clients and their families productive despite the community lockdowns, Flordeliza encouraged her co-clients to join the different activities.

Their center, Waling-Waling, was hailed as the grand winner for the "Sikat Ang Center Ko" where they performed a speech choir. They also tried their luck in the Sine-Maya 2022 Community Short Film Fest where they bagged major and minor awards, including the 2nd Best Film and the Founder's Excellence Award. But for Flordeliza, one award stood out.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think about fulfilling one of my dreams, especially at my age now. CARD MRI has taught me to continue dreaming because there will always be an opportunity for it to come true," Flordeliza said in a speech after accepting the Best Actress Award.

Aptly titled "Ngiti sa likod ng mga lente," the short film she directed and starred in captured her personal story of her journey as a photographer.

"At CARD MRI, we are encouraged to discover our endless potentials as individuals. We must always grab the chance whenever we can," Flordeliza concluded.