

DOST Region III conducts benchmarking of Smart Agriculture Technology at Bukidamara Agri Farm

DOST-Quezon facilitated the benchmarking visit on SMART Agriculture Technologies in Quezon Province, with DOST-Region III led by Regional Director Dr. Julius Caesar V. Sicat. The focus of this visit was to showcase the implementation of the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) at Bukidamara Agri Farm, which took place on April 24, 2024.

Dr. Sicat was formally introduced to Mr. Michael S. Caballes, the visionary owner of Bukidamara Agri Farm. The objective of the visit is to observe and understand how innovative agricultural technologies, particularly the automated



greenhouse system, are revolutionizing farming practices. The overarching goal was to glean insights into the adoption and effectiveness of these technologies in enhancing the production of high-quality Japanese musk melon and other prized melon varieties.

Bukidamara Agri Farm, a beneficiary of the DOST SETUP program, with a project titled "Adoption of Automated Greenhouse System for the Japanese Musk Melon and Other High-Value Melon Varieties of Bukidamara Agri Farm". This project harnesses SMART

agriculture technologies, with a focus on automated irrigation and fertigation management within the greenhouse environment. The objectives of the project are to elevate the quality and yield of Japanese musk melon but also to diversify production with five additional high-value

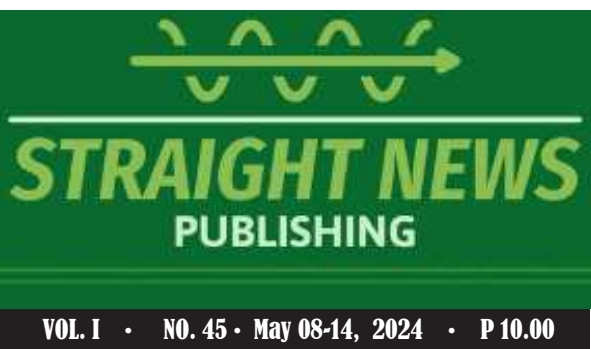
Pinasisigla ng PeekUp ang merkado na may 1,000 naaprubahang kasosyo sa LUNGSOD NG PASIG - Sa isang kapana-panabik na anunsyo na ginawa ngayong araw, ibinunyag ng PeekUp, isang bagong ride-hailing service sa bansa, na naaprubahan na nila ang 1,000 driver partners na may karagdang 6,000 na kasalukuyang sumasailalim sa proseso ng pag-apruba. Ang mga mahahalagang update na ito ay inihayag ng walang iba kundi ang CEO ng PeekUp na si David Almarinez sa isang espesyal na press conference na ginanap para sa mga miyembro ng media sa Megatrade Hall. Naglalayong baguhin ang industriya ng transportasyon, ang PeekUp ay hindi lamang tumutoun sa pagpapalawak ng base ng pagmamaneho nito kundi pati na rin sa pag-secure ng malakas na sumusunod na gumagamit. Binigyang-diin ng CEO na si David Almarinez na ang kumpanya ay nag-aalok ng maraming promosyon upang maakit at mapanatili ang parehong mga driver at pasahero. Sa gitna ng milestone na tagumpay na ito, ang PeekUp ay naglabas ng isang hanay ng mga kaakit-akit na promo na naglalayong kapwa sa mga driver at pasahero. Ang mga kasosyo sa pagmamaneho ay maaaring umasa sa pag-



prima ng mga bonus, na sumisimbolo sa pangako ng PeekUp na tiyakin ang kanilang kagalingan, na nagbibigay-daan sa kanila na magbigay ng nangungunang serbisyo sa mga pasahero. Bukod pa rito, ang mga pasahero ay pinangakuan ng mga discount voucher at referral bonus, na nagpapayaman sa kanilang karanasan sa paglalakbay at katapatan sa platform. Sa isang mata sa mabilis na pagpapalawak, ang PeekUp ay nagtakda ng isang ambisyonong layunin na maabot ang 1 milyong user sa loob ng taon ng kalendaryo. Binigyang-diin ni Almarinez na bukod sa mga layunin sa negosyo, ang PeekUp ay nakatuon

din sa pagtataguyod ng mga kultural na halaga ng mga Pilipino, partikular ang kanilang reputasyon sa pagiging mapagpatuloy at matulungin. "Higit pa sa mga layunin ng negosyo, ang PeekUp ay nakatuon sa pagpapaunlad ng mga halaga ng mabuting pakikitungo at init ng mga Pilipino," sinabi niya sa mga mamamahayag sa isang press conference. Nagdagdag ng glitz at glamour sa launch event ang mga kilalang celebrity-endorser na sina Ara Mina at Paulo Avelino, na nagpasaya sa okasyon sa kanilang presensya. Ang kanilang suporta ay higit na binibigyang-diin ang lumalaking kahalagahan ng PeekUp at ang atensyon na ib-

inibigay nito sa loob ng industriya. Sabik na inasahan ng merkado ang patuloy na paglago at mga makabagong estratehiya ng PeekUp habang nagsusumikap silang muling hubugin ang landscape ng transportasyon habang pinapaunlad ang mga pagpapahalagang Pilipino sa mabuting pakikitungo at pangangalaga. Habang binibigyang daan ng PeekUp ang mga makabagong solusyon sa transportasyon at ang pagdiriwang ng kulturang Pilipino, ang mga tagamasid sa industriya at mga mamimili ay sabik na naghihintay sa mga nagbubukas na mga kabanata ng magandang paglalakbay na ito. (Nelson Dimapilis)



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melon varieties while substantially increasing overall production capacity. Beyond the immediate exchange of knowledge, the benchmarking activity served as a catalyst for collaboration, fostering partnerships and paving the way for the potential commercialization and widespread adoption of innovative agricultural technologies. Its ripple effects extended beyond Quezon Province, offering insights that could catalyze similar advancements

Informal sector workers told to form associations

CALAMBA CITY (PIA) – The Department of Labor and Employment, through the Quezon Provincial Office, met with various workers from the informal economy and stressed the importance of organizing respective groups and associations. DOLE Quezon Provincial Head Edwin Hernandez highlighted the importance of organizing associations as an added worker protection. "Organizing workers associations is not just about strength in numbers, but about empowering individuals to advocate for their rights and address the unique issues faced by workers in the informal sectors," Hernandez told attendees. Paula Mae Dionco from DOLE QPO noted that registering enhances credibility and grants access to benefits, protections, and opportunities, ultimately improving the lives of informal sector workers. "Registering your worker's association not only enhances credibility but also opens doors to various benefits, protections, and opportunities that can significantly improve the lives of informal sector workers," she said. The workshop

in agriculture across the CALABARZON region and beyond. 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.

GSIS COLLECTION THRU BAYAD HITS P113-M



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Namahagi ng e-bike ang pamahalaang lungsod ng Cavite para sa 12 drug cleared barangay noong Martes, Abril 30. Personal na pinangunahan ni Mayor Denver Chua ang pamamahagi ng e-bikes para sa Barangay 9,11,20,21, 33, 38M, 40, 45A, 46, 50, 55, at 61M. Sa isang Facebook post, ipinahayag ni Chua ang pag-asa ng pamahalaang lungsod na makakatulong ang mga bagong E-BIKE upang mapanatili ang katahimikan at kaayusan sa bawat barangay at maging magandang halimbawa upang tuluyan nang silang maging drug-cleared city. | via Denver Chua

Calabarzon records highest number of colorum vehicles in April - LTO

Tatlong Drug Personalities Arestado, 394K halaga ng Shabu kumpiskado sa Drug Buy-bust Operation ng Pulis Cabuyao

Tagkawayan at Bacoor LGUs, kinilala ang DA-PRDP Scale-Up

World Malaria Day: Cavite's commitment to sustained Malaria-free status



The Province of Cavite, led by Governor Juanito Victor "Jonvic" C. Remulla Jr., signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Land Registration Authority. The MOA will support the Province's tax collection efforts and facilitate as well land registration transactions in the Register of Deeds in the Province. It is the first of its kind, fostering partnership, cooperation and data-sharing. The MOA is in line with the Bagong Pilipinas vision of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. and the directive of Secretary Jesus Crispin C. Remulla to pursue genuine and excellent public service by establishing partnerships with national government agencies and local government units to undertake programs and activities that will enhance the delivery of public service to the Filipino people.

SM CITY BACOOOR, CAVITE - Ready, set, SHOP! The hottest summer sale is here coz' SM City Bacoor 3-Day Sale is back offering jaw-dropping discounts from May 17 to 19 with up to 70% off on your favorite brands and must-have items! And that's not all – make a purchase and you could drive home a brand new Suzuki Dzire GL MT! Don't miss this chance to score big and win big!



7 Health Tips Every Woman Should Take to Heart

Many women fall into the habit of taking care of others' health and wellness needs before they take care of their own.

But the fact is that you're actually in a better position to provide care for the people most important to you when you make your own healthcare a top priority.

No matter what your age or overall health status is, these 7 health tips can help you increase your chances of better health throughout your life:

1.) Stop smoking. Doing so will greatly reduce your chances of developing lung and heart disease.

2.) Stay on top of your annual wellness checks*. This habit can increase the chances of early detection of disease or chronic conditions, which in turn increases your chances of doing something about any health problems you develop.

3.) Don't skimp on sleep. Besides fighting the signs of aging, regular sleep promotes mental alertness and helps keep your stress levels in check.

4.) Avoid the sun during 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. When you do have to be outside, wear a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a SPF of 30 or higher.

5.) See your doctor every year. Even if you are feeling fine, regular wellness checks and health screenings can increase your chances of early detection of problems.

6.) Make physical activity* an important part of your life. Even if you only have time for 20 minutes of exercise a day, a lifelong habit of regular activity benefits your healthy heart and helps you stay on top of your weight and your stress levels.

7.) Make good nutrition a priority. Avoid crash diets or overindulgence in favor of a realistic diet that fea-tures plenty of fruits and vegetables.

MORE ABOUT NUTRITION:

Regardless of a woman's age, nutrition experts generally recommend a diet that is focused on fruits, vegetables, fiber and protein. Your physician can direct you to appropriate resources- such as choose-myplate.gov - to help you tailor a diet that best supports lifelong health.

Women of childbearing age also need foods with folic acid (like leafy green vegetables, beans, and citrus fruits) to help prevent birth defects.

For women who have gone through menopause, it's recommended that you increase your intake of foods with calcium and Vitamin D (such as seafood, fruit, low-fat dairy, and egg yolks) in order to pre-vent bone disease.

CONT. ON NEXT ISSUE



Enchanted Kingdom unveils the most MAGICAL Mother's Day Celebration for all Queens

Enchanted Kingdom (EK), the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, will bring the most magical Mother's Day Celebration on May 12, Sunday.

Enjoy enchanting activities, exclusive offers, and freebies perfect for all the queen mothers and the whole family.

Witness "An Enchanting Mother's Day

Concert" featuring the mother-daughter tandem Pinky and Karel Marquez at 6 p.m. at the Spaceport Grounds to cap off this special day with music and entertainment. They will be accompanied by the Women of Song and Music Making Company as they serenade the audience and pay tribute to all mothers through a series of spectacular perfor-

AGASA warns of dangerous heat index in 30 areas

MANILA – The Philippine Atmospheric, Geo-physical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) warned of dangerous heat index levels in 30 areas across the country on Saturday.

Based on the weather bureau's forecast, the following areas may have a heat index ranging from 42°C to 47°C:

NAIA Pasay City, Metro Manila – 42°C
Sinait, Ilocos Sur – 42°C
Laoag City, Ilocos Norte – 45°C
Dagupan City, Pangasinan – 47°C
MMSU, Batac, Ilocos Norte – 43°C
Bacnotan, La Union – 44°C
Aparri, Cagayan – 46°C
Tuguegarao City, Cagayan – 43°C
ISU Echague, Isabela – 42°C
Iba, Zambales – 44°C
Casiguran, Aurora – 42°C
Cubi Pt. Subic Bay Olongapo City – 42°C
Ambulong, Tanauan, Batangas – 42°C
Infanta, Quezon – 42°C
San Jose, Occidental Mindoro – 42°C
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan – 44°C
Aborlan, Palawan – 43°C
Cuyo, Palawan – 42°C
Virac (Synop), Catanduanes – 44°C
Masbate City, Masbate – 42°C
CBSUA-Pili, Camarines Sur – 44°C
Roxas City Capiz – 42°C
Dumangas, Iloilo – 43°C
La Granja, La Carlota, Negros Occidental – 42°C
Catarman, Northern Samar – 43°C
Borongan, Eastern Samar – 42°C
Guiuan, Eastern Samar – 42°C
Zamboanga City, Zamboanga del Sur – 42°C
Cotabato City, Maguindanao – 42°C
Butuan City, Agusan del Norte – 43°C

PAGASA said heat index is what the tempera-ture feels like to the human body when relative humidity is combined with the air temperature.

The weather bureau advised the public to limit the time spent outdoors, especially at noon, and drink plenty of water.

People going outdoors are reminded to use umbrellas, or wear hats and sleeved clothing.

PAGASA said the Davao Region and Sarangani will experience cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms due to the easterlies.

Metro Manila and the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunderstorms.

The whole archipelago will have light to moderate winds and slight to moderate seas. (PNA)

mances to remember.

"Here at Enchanted Kingdom, we appreciate and salute these wonderful women who make our lives magical through their unconditional love, care and support for their families. Hopefully through this experience, we would also be able to make Mother's Day more enchanting," said EK's Chief Operating Officer (COO), Dr. Cynthia R. Mamon.

Guests can also make the most out of the whole month of May with EK's Ilaw ng Tahanan - A Magical Mother's Day Promo in collaboration with Firefly Electronic and Lighting Corporation (FELCO). Avail this limited-time offering for Php 1200 to get

a regular day pass and a seat at the "An Enchanting Mother's Day Concert" on May 12. This exclusive EK online store promo also includes one (1) Firefly e-gift card worth PhP 200 (with minimum purchase) and a chance to win a Smart Wifi Portable Air Conditioner upon the activation of your FELCO Store account and subscription to their mailing list. Promo runs from May 4 to 30, 2024.

For more information and updates regarding these events and promos, 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.

Aboitiz Power to add 1,000+ MW of RE for PH energy transition

The generation portfolio of Aboitiz Power Corporation (AboitizPower) is becoming more balanced and diverse, especially with over a thousand megawatts (MW) of new renewable energy (RE) capacity in various stages of development, said Aboitiz Renewables Inc. President Jimmy Villaroman.

"Our initial expansion phase focuses on developing mostly solar and wind plants with up to 1,200 MW capacity. Currently, we are on track for 176 MW of RE projects to come online by the first half of 2024, with construction ongoing for an additional 218 MW," the executive told fellow industry players during the Philippine Electric Power Industry Forum 2024.

"The second phase of AboitizPower's expansion will see an additional capacity of around 1,700 MW of solar and wind power," he added.

Aligned with the Philippine government's target of a 35% RE share in the nation's energy mix

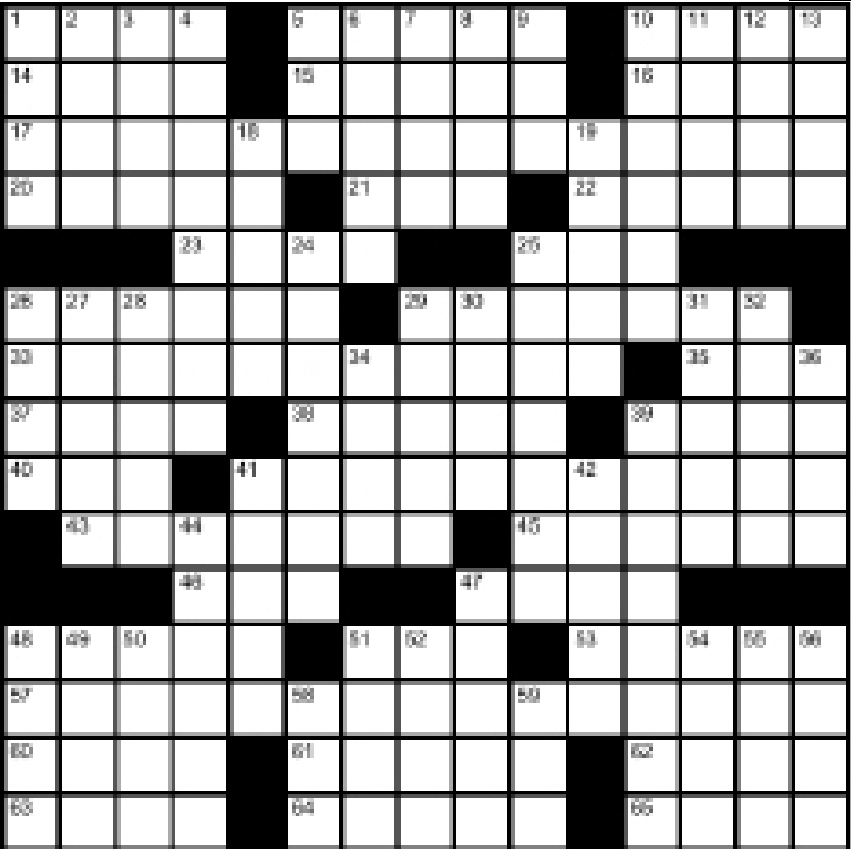
by 2030 and 50% by 2040, AboitizPower had indicated its goal to build 3,700 MW of new RE capacity en route to 4,600 MW by 2030. This includes projects in solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, and battery energy storage systems.

Peak electricity demand is projected to increase by 6.6% annually until 2040. Expanding a stable supply of power will support existing and future investments, powering the realization of economic growth targets ranging from 6-7% for 2024, 6.5-7.5% for 2025, and 6.5-8% for 2026 to 2028.

"Unlike some developed nations, our transition in the Philippines, as in the rest of Asia and the Pacific, must be gradual and intelligent. It has to be well-planned; uniquely suited to each country. The solutions we devise must be tailor-fit to address our problems and opportunities. It cannot happen overnight and might take years, if not decades, to realize. But we believe it is

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Crossword Puzzles



ACROSS

- Tibia
- Respond by changing
- Mold
- Yield
- The original "101"
- Beach banquet
- Result
- Pickle portion
- Treacherous curve
- Gives the boot to
- Hardy heroine
- Give a single star, perhaps.
- Miss Vanners' metier
- Twitchy
- Water quality evaluation?
- Fidel's friends
- Type of Tennis or bowling
- She Played Gia on Full House
- James of Rollerball
- Suffix with lex-or-morph-
- Succinct Sahara summary?
- Former Senator D'Amano
- Edmonton Skaters

- Gore and Sharpton
- Eso Beso balladeer
- When Macbeth kills Duncan
- American Uncle
- Mutual of
- Midmorning fruit disg?
- Rapids rider
- Like some verbs, abbrev.
- Kind of Garden
- T-men, generally
- Mercantile establishment
- Squid sprays.

Aboitiz...

possible," Villaroman said.

"We advocate a balanced approach, growing renewable energy and investing in traditional sources that make the most sense while complementing it with energy storage for stability. While the Philippines strives toward a sustainable future powered by more RE sources, its near-to mid-term energy security calls for leveraging existing, conventional baseload plants," he further explained.

Recently, AboitizPower, through its subsidiary, Therna NatGas Power, entered into an investment agreement with Meralco PowerGen Corporation to acquire a 40% stake in Chromite Gas Holdings, marking its entry into the liquefied natural gas (LNG) space. Chromite Gas plans to acquire an interest in two gas-fired power plants and an LNG import and regasification terminal.

Under the Clean En-

ergy Scenario of the Philippine Energy Plan, it was forecasted that 26% of gross generation will be from LNG by 2040, serving as a natural complement to variable RE due to its ability to cycle more quickly when solar or wind power is unavailable.

"Collaboration across sectors is essential for a well-rounded transformation. This calls for work from power generators, electricity distribution companies, and our grid operator," Villaroman said. "We as an industry must continue building additional capacity, constantly upgrade our transmission system to ensure this supply gets to where it is needed, and reinforce our distribution networks so homes and businesses have the energy they need."

Villaroman also recognized the role of the public sector in regulation and policy, particularly in fulfilling the vision of the Electric Power Industry



DOWN

- Sec 30 down
- Give a hand
- Like some hands
- Denial
- Member of the colonial army?
- Saharan fruits
- Fruity refreshments
- Bowler's targets
- Children's chase game
- Show off and show often
- Avignon eyes
- Rave's partner
- Rumple
- Last name in Vacuums
- Treatments for a cow or a celeb
- Sunday speeches
- Ideal example
- Fit
- Golden Globe category
- Wheel of fortune buy
- Buying binge
- With I down govt. students.
- Meeting maestro
- Eyeglass Holders?
- You'd like to make them meet
- Squid snack
- Kind of acid
- Big name in cameras
- Swoons
- Decorative resin
- Incantation initiation
- Alpine porch
- Clump of curls
- Reorder
- Retro do
- Very prolife auth?
- Wield a machere
- Says "who"?
- Towel label
- Iron or bronze, e.g.

FROM PAGE 2

Reform Act or EPIRA and the Renewable Energy Act.

"The introduction of the Renewable Energy Act and the Green Energy Auction Program have spurred the development of clean energy sources, fostering a more diverse and secure energy mix," he said, while also commending Open Access Policy, amendments to the Public Service Act, and allowing total foreign ownership in RE for championing greater consumer choice, competition, and investment attractiveness.

"While we recognize that this transformation presents significant challenges, we are firm in our resolve to play a responsible role in this shift," Villaroman said. "We are exploring ways to diversify our operations, invest in sustainability initiatives, and collaborate with various partners to find win-win solutions that ensure a smooth transition."

SUDOKU

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



OVERWHELM

Take your life in your own hands, and what happens? a terrible things: no on to blame.

WHEN YOU ARE FEELING OVERWHELMED, stop and ask yourself why you are feeling that way. Who created

the situation that you find overwhelming? If it was someone asking for your help, why didn't you say no? If you feel overwhelmed because of all the things you have undertaken, when will you realize that you have needs too?

Becoming angry or resenting your family, co-workers, and the world in genereal will not solve anything. Only you can change things by accepting your humanity and asking for what you need. Remember that saying no to others is saying yes to you.

No matter what you learned growing up, there is no reason to feel guilty about caring for yourself you will find much more peace with thre world and the people in it. Instead of blamming them for your troubles, you will realize you aere problem and you are also the solution.

Soulution of the Week

Become more aware of your needs.
Ask for the help you require, and say
no when you need no

Working Hand-in-Hand

In life, everything is possible to those who have the courage to take risks and the perseverance to fight all life's challenges.

Meet Susan Pascua, a 47-year-old entrepreneur who, together with her family, has turned a small sari-sari store into a thriving business specializing in making home-made chicken pastil, a local delicacy in Cotabato Province.

Susan's family has deep roots in public service, with her husband and eldest son serving as police officers in Parang, Cotabato City. Two other children are following in their father's footsteps, pursuing degrees in Criminology. Meanwhile, the younger siblings are still in high school and elementary level.

Beforehand, the Pascua family started with a small sari-sari store, initially selling household items. Susan's vision for growth led her to introduce pastil, a popular rice dish in the Muslim community. With a small starting capital, Susan bought one kilo of rice and chicken to start her pastil business.

As the desire to expand the business grew, Susan became a client of CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO), and started with a modest loan of PHP 2,000 which was sufficient as a capital for the family business.

Over time, Susan's loans reached up to PHP 150,000, which she used for business and family needs. The financial assistance she received not only boosted the business but also supported their children's education through educational loans. She expressed gratitude, affirming her commitment to CARD, Inc. until her children finish their school.

From a small sari-sari store, Susan now offers a variety of cooked foods, with pastil wrapped in banana leaves emerging as a customer favorite. The addition of home-made chicken pastil paste and chili sauce have further diversified their product offerings.



Working hand-in-hand with her family, Susan Y. Pascua, a 47-year-old mompreneur from Cotabato City, made a living through her pastil business with just a modest capital of Php2,000 pesos.

The Pascua family embodies teamwork, with each member contributing to the business's success. Susan imparts her knowledge of pastil preparation and business operations to her children. The business operates almost seven days a week from 5:00 am to 9:00 pm. The store is considered as the steppingstone of the family's brighter future.

Aside from courage, dedication, and perseverance, the Paglambog Project, facilitated by CARD, Inc., has been instrumental in the Pascua family's journey. The project enabled them to establish and grow their business, support their children's education, and improve their overall quality of life.

Looking ahead, Susan envisions renovating their home, expanding

their living room into a mini-restaurant, responding to customer requests. Plans also include acquiring a car for both family and business use, marking the continuous growth of their entrepreneurial venture.

Her message for other microfinance clients resonates loud and clear, "Utilize loans wisely, invest in your business, and watch opportunities unfold. Through dedication, hard work, and strategic use of financial resources, dreams can turn into reality."

Susan Pascua and her family prove the transformative impact of microfinance, proving that with the right support, determination, and a clear vision, anyone can turn a small business into a thriving family business.

SM City Santa Rosa unveils largest SM solar photovoltaic (PV) system, leading SM Supermalls in sustainability. Key figures championed a greener future at the April 29 press launch including SM Supermalls' President Steven Tan (3rd from left, front), Santa Rosa City Mayor Arlene Arcillas (2nd from left, front), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Environmental Management Bureau Director Jacqueline Caanacan (2nd from right, front) and Chief of Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-Hazardous Waste Management Section Geri Geronimo Sañez (2nd from right, back), Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Utilization Management Bureau Assistant Director Lana Rose Manaligod (3rd from right, front) and Division Chief for Renewable Energy Management Bureau (REMB) Engr. Ferdinand Binondo (3rd from right, back), Meralco's Head for Enterprise - Commercial and Conglomerates Bernice Gretchel Garcia-Rama (third from left, back), and Buskowitz President James Buskowitz (right, front).



ment of Energy (DOE) Energy Utilization Management Bureau Assistant Director Lana Rose Manaligod (3rd from right, front) and Division Chief for Renewable Energy Management Bureau (REMB) Engr. Ferdinand Binondo (3rd from right, back), Meralco's Head for Enterprise - Commercial and Conglomerates Bernice Gretchel Garcia-Rama (third from left, back), and Buskowitz President James Buskowitz (right, front).



DTI Rizal participates in Talim Island Bamboo Project 3-day workshop kick-off



Philippine Bamboo Foundation Inc., headed by Mr. Edgardo Manda, with the support of the local government unit of Binangonan, led the three-day bamboo production workshop on April 3, 2024, at Brgy. Gu-

lod, Binangonan, Rizal, as part of the Talim Island Bamboo Project initiated by Congressman Jack Duavit. Forty residents from the island barangays of Binangonan and Cardona, Rizal, benefited from the workshop.

May 08-14, 2024

SM CITY MOLINO, CAVITE - Get up to 50% OFF on everyday home essentials at SM Home's HOME SALE! Thousands of items will be on sale from May 1 to June 2! From linen, kitchenware, tableware, furniture, decor, to storage, we've got great deals in store for you! We've Got It All For Your Home at #SM-Home! Shop SM anytime, anywhere with SM Store's Personal Shopper, In-store! Visit The SM Store Bacoor's page for more information.

May 08-14, 2024

EDITORIAL: Addressing deforestation

DEFORESTATION, a nagging problem in many countries including the Philippines, has been for years a headache for many governments.

Imagine one football field of forest gone every second, if we must believe forest experts. That's 5,350 square meters.

Since 2016, 28 million hectares of forest have been cut down every year on average, according to guardians of the world's forests.

From 2001 to 2018, a forest area larger than India was lost worldwide (3,610,000 square kilometers). The loss is equivalent to a 9 percent reduction in global tree cover since 2000.

The main drivers for the loss of forests are production of timber and the clearing of land for cattle, soy, and palm oil production, and other globally traded commodities, according to Frances Seymour of the World Resources Institute.

Due to massive deforestation, about 50 to 100 species of animals are being lost each day. This leads to the extinction of animals and plants on a massive scale. The animals not only lose their habitat and protective cover, but they are also pushed to extinction.

We are glad the Philippine government has implemented various programs and policies to promote reforestation, sustainable forest management, and biodiversity conservation. One such program is the National Greening Program, which aims to plant 1.5 billion trees across 1.5 million hectares of land by 2028.

As in other Southeast Asian countries, deforestation in the Philippines is a major environmental issue. Over the course of the 20th century, the forest cover of the country dropped from 70 percent down to 20 percent.

Over the decade since 2010, the net loss in forests globally was 4.7 million hectares per year. The Rome-headquartered UN Food and Agriculture Organization, has estimated that 10 million hectares of forest were cut down each year.

Deforestation in the Philippines, among severely deforested nations, has several negative effects on the environment. It leads to water contamination as the lack of tree roots causes soil to wash off into water supply systems and deprives the soil of essential nutrients needed for new vegetation to grow.

Estimates place forest cover in the Philippines in the year 1900 at 21 million hectares, covering 70 percent of the total land area.

Between 2000 and 2005, the rate of forest change decreased by 20.2 percent to 1.98 percent per annum. In total, between 1990 and 2005, the Philippines lost 32.3 percent of its forest cover, or around 3,412,000 hectares, according to official figures.

Direct causes of deforestation are agricultural expansion, wood extraction (e.g., logging or wood harvest for domestic fuel or charcoal), and infrastructure expansion such as road building and urbanization. Rarely is there a single direct cause for deforestation.

We are happy the government has added to its National Greening Program laws and policies to protect its forests, like Forest Management Bureau's Community-Based Forest Management Program, which aims to involve local communities in forest management and conservation efforts.

The program successfully reduced deforestation rates in some areas and promoted sustainable forest management practices.

Editorial Office

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GSIS...

State pension fund Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has already collected P113 million in loan payments after over 10 months of implementation of its partnership with Bayad (former Bayad Center).

"Maraming salamat sa suporta ng aming miyembro at pensiyonado. We have so far collected P113.33 million for 17,720 transactions with Bayad. Ito ay patunay na maginhawa, mabilis at ligtas ang transactions sa Bayad," President and General Manager Rolando Ledesma Macasaet said.

GSIS's collections include P36.06 million for 5,144 consoloan accounts; P26.26 million for 2,018 GSIS Financial Assistance Loan accounts; P16.05 million for 2,396 Multipurpose Loan accounts; and P12.95 million for 3,395 emergency loan accounts, among others.

"Kaagapay kayo ng GSIS sa pangangalaga ng ating pondo sa pamamagitan ng pagpapabuti ng aming collection efficiency," Macasaet added.

To date, GSIS has accredited 3,003 Bayad outlets to accept payments for loans in advance; that are underpaid, delayed or unpaid; or in-default or unpaid for more than six months.

Loan balances payable through Bayad include Enhanced Salary Loan; Emergency Loan Assistance; Summer One Month Salary Loan; eCard Cash Advance; Enhanced Consolidated Loan; Emergency Loan Program; Study Now, Pay Later Loan; Fly PAL, Pay Later Loan; Educational Assistance Loan; Stock Purchase Loan; Regular Policy Loan; Optional Policy Loan; GSIS Financial Assistance Loan; Program for Restructuring

and Repayment of Debts; Multi-Purpose Loan; Computer Loan; and other upcoming GSIS loans.

To settle loans through Bayad, members only need to present the SMS notifications received from GSIS, or loan balances reflected in the electronic GSIS Member Online (eGSISMO) or in the GSIS Touch mobile app. Subsequently, they need to fill out a Bayad form for their full name, business partner (BP) number, and loan type, among others.

Loan borrowers who pay through any of Bayad's payment collection sites will receive a text message to confirm receipt of their payment. They may also check their loan payment records via eGSISMO or GSIS Touch. GSIS will also email a copy of their official receipt.

Loan payments from members are also now accepted through the online apps of Union Bank

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of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines.

"Simula Mayo, magdadagdag pa tayo ng around 10,000 over-the-counter payment outlets at online payment channels mula sa iba't ibang external payment service providers. Tatanggapin na rin ang monthly rentals payments sa mga nag-avail ng Lease with Option to Buy at loan payments mula sa mga inactive members. Patuloy po naming ilalapit ang aming serbisyo sa inyo," Macasaet said.

For inquiries, members may visit the GSIS website (www.gsis.gov.ph) or GSIS Facebook page (@gsis.ph), email gsiscare@gsis.gov.ph, or call the GSIS Contact Center at 8847-4747 (if in Metro Manila), 1-800-8-847-4747 (for Globe and TM subscribers), or 1-800-10-847-4747 (for Smart, Sun, and Talk 'N' Text subscribers).

CSC secures ADB support for digitalization program

MANILA – The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has secured a commitment from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide technical assistance to its digital transformation (DX) strategy.

"ADB's support marks the beginning of a new chapter in our digital journey in the CSC," Chairperson Karlo Nograles said in a news release on Wednesday.

"This technical assistance is crafted to enhance our institution's comprehension and capabilities in navigating the digital landscape to ensure that our services remain responsive and user-centric," he added.

He underscored the importance of this partnership in advancing the Commission's digital agenda.

The technical support for Information Technology Research and Advisory Services to advance CSC's digital maturity is set to be delivered by Ernst & Young (EY) LLP (India).

EY's assistance will focus on several key areas, including digital capacity and information and communications technology (ICT) resource as-

essment, development of an enterprise-level digital strategy, creation of a governance framework for the DX process, and tailored capacity enhancement programs for CSC personnel.

To be implemented within two and a half years, the project will also involve designing a change management program and assessing the impact of ICT systems on people and processes through the conduct of user-readiness assessments and change adoption workshops.

Nograles expressed the agency's gratitude to ADB and EY for their technical assistance.

"Given the ambitious nature of our digitalization goals, we recognize the need to seek guidance from seasoned experts. We express our anticipation for a fruitful collaboration with EY India as our resource persons and consultants. Their expertise and insights will contribute undoubtedly to our DX transformation journey," he said.

According to the CSC, the commitment was sealed during Kick-Off Meeting for the ADB Technical Assistance (Supporting the Digital Transformation of the Civil Service)

last April 8 at the agency's Central Office in Quezon City.

Nograles, Commissioner Aileen Lourdes Lizada, ADB Country Director for the Philippines Pavit Ramachandran and ADB Principal Management Specialist for eGovernance Seok Yong Yoon led the meeting.

Also present were EY LLP Project Management Specialist Debarchana Bhattacharya, EY Philippines Technology Consulting Leader Lee Carlo Abadia, and EY Global Leader for People

FOUR DAY WORK-WEEK IPAPATUPAD NG LGU IMUS

Magpapatupad na ng four-day work week ang pamahalaang lungsod ng Imus sa gitna ng tumataas na temperatura simula Lunes, Mayo 6 hanggang Hulyo 31, 2024.

Alinsunod sa Executive Order No. 027 na nilagdaan ni Mayor Alex Advincula, magpapatupad ang mga tanggapan ng lokal na pamahalaan ng 8:00 am hanggang 7:00 pm work schedule mula Lunes hanggang Huwebes.

Patuloy naman ang regular na operasyon



Consulting Shalinder Bakshi, EY Philippines Enterprise Architecture Expert Norbin Astero, Change Management Expert Pauline Laurenz Go, and EY India Capacity Building Expert Bhaskar Goel, and other CSC officials. (PNA)

Kampo Heneral Paciano Rizal – Arestado ang dalawa na drug personalities sa anti-illegal drug buy-bust operation ng Pulis Cabuyao noong Abril 25, 2024.

Kinilala ni Police Colonel GAUVIN MEL Y UNOS, Acting Provincial Director, Laguna PPO ang mga suspek na sina al- yas Amy nakatala na HVI (High value individual) al- yas Arlyn LSI (Street Level individual) at si alyas Nee- ka pawang mga residente ng Calamba, Laguna.

Sa ulat ni PLT- COL JOHN ERIC B AN- TONIO, hepe ng Cabuyao Component City Police Station nagkasa ang kanil- ang mga operatiba ng drugs buy-bust operation Abril 25, 2024 dakong 9:22 ng umaga sa Brgy. Sala, Cabuyao City, La- guna na nag resulta sa pagkakaaresto ng mga suspek matapos magben- ta ng hinihinalang shabu sa nagpanggap na police poseur buyer kapalit ang marked money.

Nakumpiska sa mga suspek ang mga pira-

Tagkawayan at Bacoor LGUs, kinilala ang DA-PRDP Scale-Up

Sa pagbubukas ng mas pinalakas na ber- syon ng Department of Ag- riculture – Philippine Rural Development Project (DA- PRDP), ang DA-PRDP Scale-Up, ilan sa mga lokal na pamahalaan sa Calabarzon ang nagpakita ng interes na magmung- kah ng mga proyektong pang-agrikultura at isdaan tulad na lamang ng bayan ng Tagkawayan sa Que- zon at Bacoor sa Cavite.

Layunin ng DA-PRDP Scale-Up na paunlarin ang sektor ng agrikultura at isdaan sa pamamagitan ng pagpon- do ng mga proyektong magsasaayos, magpapa- bilis, at magpapalawak ng daloy at bentahan ng mga produktong agrikultural at isda sa komunidad. Upa- ng makasabay ang sektor sa modernong panahon at mapanatili ang pag-un- lad nito, mas pinagtibay at pinalawak ang proseso sa DA-PRDP Scale-Up gamit ang mga makaba- gong tools at mas malalim na pagtingin sa iba’t-ibang

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so ng plastic sachet na na- glalaman ng hinihinalang shabu na may tinatayang timbang na 58 gramo na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang PHP394,000.00, isang (1) pirasong weigh- ing scale, isang (1) unit Samsung cellphone color brown, isang (1) pirasong sling bag, isang (1) pira- song sun glasses color red, isang (1) pirasong five-hundred-peso bill PHP500.00 at isang (1) unit ng Huawei cellular phone color blue.

kasalukuy- ang nasa kustodiya ng Cabuyao CCPS ang mga arestadong suspek na na- haharap sa mga kasong paglabag sa RA 9165 o “Comprehensive Dange- rous Drug Act of 2002”.

Sa pahayag ni PCOL UNOS “Magsilbing babala sana ito sa mga kababayan natin na patu- loy sa pagtangkilik sa iligal na droga, katuwang ng kapulisan ang komunidad sa laban na ito kaya mas nagiging matagumpay ang kampanya laban sa iligal na droga.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

aspeto ng agrikultura at isdaan tulad ng climate change at clustering at consolidation.

Upang magaba- yan ang mga lokal na pamahalaan sa pagsulong ng kanilang mga ninanais na proyekto, nagsagawa ang DA-PRDP Region- al Project Coordination Office Calabarzon (DA- PRDP 4A) ng mga pag- pupulong kasama ang mga LGUs upang ipakila- la ang DA-PRDP Scale- Up at ang mga proseso at pamantayan nito. Ilan sa mga tinalakay ay ang proseso ng pagpapalano (I-PLAN), mga proyektong pang-negosyo (I-REAP), mga proyektong pang-im- prastraktura (I-BUILD), social and environmental safeguards, geomapping and governance, at mon- itoring and evaluation. Pinag-usapan rin kung anu-anong mga potensyal na proyekto ang maaaring imungkahi ng mga LGU sa DA-PRDP Scale-Up.

Batay sa pag- pupulong, isang slaugh- terhouse ang potensyal na maging proyekto sa

Heads up, senior citizens! Cayetano wants to provide wellness hubs for you nationwide

To show appre- ciation and love for senior citizens, Senator Alan Pter Cayetano is seeking the passage of a law that will provide holistic spaces for the well-being of our lo- los and lolas nationwide.

He wants to in- stitutionalize this facility in every city and municipality through Senate Bill No. 69 or the Center for the Elder- ly in All Cities and Munici- palities Act.

In this measure, Cayetano seeks the es- tablishment of wellness hubs across the country equipped with basic health services and recreational facilities appropriate for the elderly.

These include

Voter registrants for 2025 polls top 2.4M - Comelec

MANILA – Over 2.4 million Filipinos have already submitted applica- tions as registered voters for the May 2025 midterm polls.

Latest data from the Commission on Elec- tions (Comelec) showed there are now 2,473,922

Bacoor. Samantala, nais namang imungkahi ng Tagkawayan LGU ang mga sumusunod, ice plant, cold storage, fish processing facility, at rice complex. Anila, patuloy nilang pag-aaralan ang kanilang mga pinaplanong proyekto upang masigu- rado ang tuloy-tuloy na benepisyo ng mga ito sa mamamayan kung saka- ling mapondohan sa ilalim ng DA-PRDP Scale-Up.

Patuloy na nagsasagawa ang DA-PRDP 4A ng mga naturang oryentasyon sa mga lokal na pamahalaan upang mas marami pang proye- kyo ang mailatag at mais- agawa sa rehiyon.

Para sa mga interesadong LGUs o farmers cooperatives and associations, bumisita la- mang sa opisina ng DA- PRDP 4A sa Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office Calabarzon, Lipa Agricultural Research and Experiment Station sa Brgy. Maraouy, Lipa City, Batangas o magpadala ng e-mail sa prdrprco4a@gmail.com. **PR**

adequate space for indoor activities and open spaces and garden areas for out- door activities. Qualified staff such as doctor, nurse, and at least two barangay health workers are also envisioned to render ser- vices on three rotations in these hubs.

Cayetano said this wellness hub is a way for the country to look af- ter the elderly and at the same time acknowledge that they still have an im- portant role in our lives.

“Ang kultura, pa- nanamit, music, pagsay- aw, ay nagbabago. Pero sa ating kultura, nagbaba- go ba ang magandang ugali, y’ung pagrespeto sa matatanda?” the indepen-

dent senator said. “Malaki ang role ng senior citizens na hu- bugin ang ating bukas. Sana po ‘wag niyong maliitin at ipagkait ang kanilang role as seniors na gumabay, magbigay pang- aral, yakapin, at disiplin- hin ang ating kabataan,” he added.

Citing the suc- cess of Taguig’s Center for Wellness Hub for Seniors – the first in the country – he said he envisions this facility to be replicated na- tionwide.

“Ito pong Tagu- ig Center for the Elderly, mayroon po iyang water pool therapy para sa mga na-stroke, sauna, activity area para sa mga gustong

“Each Filipino now values the impor- tance of voting more than ever,” Laudiangco said.

Of the number, Region 4-A (Calabarzon) still has the most num- ber of applicants with 454,313; followed by the National Capital Region with 367,869; and Region 3 (Central Luzon) with 286,190.

Meanwhile, Re- gion 7 (Central Visayas) has 176,584; Region 11 (Davao Region), 135,654; Region 6 (Western Vi-

Calabarzon...

MANILA – The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has apprehended a total of 248 vehicles na- tionwide in its intensified anti-colorum campaign for April.

Region 4-A (Cal- abarzon) recorded the highest number of appre- hensions with a total of 101.

In a statement on Friday, LTO chief Assistant Secretary Vigor Mendoza II said collated data from all regions showed a total of 84 vans were appre- hended for providing pub- lic transport service with- out the necessary permit from the Land Transporta- tion Franchising and Reg- ulatory Board (LTFRB).

About 20 trucks, 12 passenger jeepneys, 10 buses, and 93 motorcy- cles were apprehended for various offenses.

“We will continue

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ballroom, tapos inaayos pa nating magkaroon ng dialysis center,” Cayetano explained.

“With the intro- duction of the Taguig City Center for Elderly model, the national government’s agenda to promote inclu- sivity, fairness, and good governance will further be advanced,” he also wrote in the bill’s explanatory note.

On April 24 (Wednesday) at 2 p.m., the Senate will deliberate on Cayetano’s bill under the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development. Stay tuned for developments on this measure. **PR**

sayas), 129,711; Region 10 (Northern Mindanao), 121,982; Region 5 (Bicol Region), 103,399; and Re- gion 12 (Soccsksargen), 102,598 were the oth- er areas with more than 100,000 applicants.

The lowest num- ber of registrants are the Cordillera Administrative Region with 31,593; Re- gion 4-B (Mimaropa) with 61,344; and Region 13 (Caraga) with 64,857.

The deadline of the voter registration pe- riod is Sept. 30. **(PNA)**

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our campaign to send a message to the operators and drivers of colorum vehicles that we will not stop until they are held accountable for their ille- gal operations,” Mendoza said.

A total of 57 vehi- cles were also impounded for serious offenses such as using motor vehicles for public transport without



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Merrydale Homes – Cutting Ceremony Graced by General Trias LGU

The Local Gov- ernment Unit employees of General Trias joined Profriends officers in the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Merrydale Homes – St. Joseph (MSJ). This mo- mentous event is a wit- ness to the partnership of Profriends and the LGU of General Trias in provid- ing affordable and qual- ity homes for the Filipino families. “Our local gov- ernment has always been supportive of your projects in providing dream homes



identical structures, offering a breath of fresh air to first time homeowners.

Profriends is one of the fastest growing property developers in the Philippines, having built and delivered over 64,000 houses to Filipino families since 1999. For more than two decades in property development, Profriends has evolved to be a values-driven community builder that con- tinues to transform the lives of Filipino families. Its strong presence in Cavite and Iloilo is manifested through its proj- ects, Lancaster New City and Parc Regency Residences, re- spectively. **PR**

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St. Joseph Ribbon-

to our people, especially to the GenTrisenos,” said General Trias Vice Mayor Jonas Glyn Labuguen.

A unit in MSJ can be purchased via PAG- IBIG loan. Ideally situated near schools, offices, plac- es of worship, hospitals, and commercial establish- ments, MSJ is perfect for families looking for their af- fordable dream home near various locators.

Merrydale Homes melds open green spaces with low-rise res-



More so, Dr. Dotollo stated that the celebration was an opportunity to see the progress in addressing this global burden.

Likewise, talks of Ms. Michelle Malawig from DOH - Regional Office IV-A and Mr. Raffy Macdonald from Cavite OPHO un- derscored the strategies, preventive measures, and prompt response to Malar-

ia. The Online Malaria In- formation System (OLMIS II) and 1-3-5 Strategy are the practices implemented for the surveillance of, and guidelines in Malaria elimi- nation.

Event’s high- lights were the Pledge of Commitment, through which the participants dedicated themselves to meaningful contribution in

mitigating the threat of the disease; and the awarding of certificate for the efforts, hard work, and support of the agencies to malaria control.

The province of Cavite was declared Ma- laria-free in 2005, and continues to take action in sustaining its status until the future generations. - Jam Elisse M. Reyes



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Alinsunod sa Ex- ecutive Order No. 027 na nilagdaan ni Mayor Alex Advincula, magpapatupad ang mga tanggapan ng lokal na pamahalaan ng 8:00 am hanggang 7:00 pm work schedule mula Lunes hanggang Huwe- bes.

Patuloy naman ang regular na operasyon

ng mga pangunahing opisina ng pamahalaang lungsod, kabilang na ang City Disaster Risk Red- uction and Management Office (CDRRMO), City Health Office (CHO), City of Imus Diagnostic Labora- tory, Ospital ng Imus, City Social Welfare and De- velopment Office (CDRR- MO), City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), City En- gineering Office, City Agri- culture Office, City of Imus Traffic Management Unit, at Economic Enterprise and Management Office. | **via Alex Advincula**