

# DOST upskill women in Laurel, Batangas on Tilapia, meat processing



The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batangas trained the women of Brgy. As-is and Bugaan East, Laurel, Batangas on tilapia and meat processing and basic food hygiene held at Brgy. Bugaan East, Laurel, Batangas, May 21.

The training aimed to provide the women with skills and knowledge in processing tapa, tocino,

## Abalos lauds 1,028 SGLGB passers

Interior and Local Government Secretary Benhur Abalos on Wednesday lauded the 1,028 outstanding barangays nationwide that passed the first ever 2023 Seal of Good Local Governance for Barangay (SGLGB).

“Congratulations to the 1,028 barangays across the country who responded to the call for excellence in public service and bagged the 2023 SGLGB. Salamat sa pangunguna ninyo sa pagtataas ng antas ng paglilingkod-bayan sa ating mga pamayanan,” Abalos said.

He continued: “Bahagi na kayo ng kasaysayan ng SGLGB bilang mga kauna-unahang nabigyan ng ganitong pagkilala.”

SGLGB is a performance assessment and recognition system designed to distinguish barangays with outstanding performance across various governance areas.

The SGLGB assessment covered 94.25 percent or 39,623 barangays nationwide, with 1,028 or 2.59 percent barangays hitting the stringent qualifications and

achieving National Passers status.

Regions 1, 13, and 8 led the regions with the most SGLGB passers with 135, 132, and 102 barangays, respectively.

The DILG shall present the passers with a Certificate of Recognition.

Provincial, city, and municipal governments are encouraged to give rewards or incentives to their respective barangay passers.

The 2023 SGLGB utilized the “3+1 principle” where prospective passers must adhere to three core governance areas, namely financial administration and sustainability; disaster preparedness; and safety and peace and order.

Barangays must also pass at least one of the essential governance areas such as social protection and sensitivity; business-friendliness and competitiveness; and environmental management.

Meanwhile, Abalos said he hopes that more barangays will make it to the passers list this year following the initial launch of the SGLGB in 2023. Dilg.gov

no, and tilapia nuggets. Through this initiative, the DOST, in partnership with the Local Government Unit of Laurel, Batangas (LGU-Laurel), hopes to empower women in rural communities, help them start their own businesses, and contribute to the local economy. In a study of LGU-Laurel’s social work interns, it was found out that the women’s sector

## Pagpapalakas sa negosyo ng 17 FCAs, YFC awardees, pinaigting ng DA-4A, Agribusiness Investment Forum for Agripreneurs isinagawa



I sang porum tungkol sa Agribusiness Investment para sa mga agripreneurs ang isinagawa ng Department of Agriculture IV- Calabarzon noong Abril 11-12, 2024 sa Cavite.

Pinangasiwaan ang aktibidad ng Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) upang maasistehan ang mga pinuno at miyembro ng labingpitong kalahok na Farmers Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs) at Young Farmers Challenge (YFC) Program Awardees sa pagpapal-

akas at pagpapaunlad ng kanilang mga samahan sa aspeto ng pagnegosyo. Binigyang diin ni AMAD Chief Editha Salvosa na ang porum ay isang paraan ng ahensya upang makatulong na mag-ing mas maayos pa ang pamamahala ng kanilang negosyo.

Ang dalawang araw na aktibidad ay nakatuon sa pagtalakay sa mga programa at proyektong nagaganap sa mga kagawaran at mga katuwang na ahensya na layong tumugon sa kanilang mga pangangailangan batay sa estado at ka-

lagayan ng kanilang mga samahan.

Naging tagapagsalita ang mga representante mula sa Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization, Department of Science and Technology, Agricultural Credit Policy Council, Landbank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines, Department of Trade and Industry- Small Business Corporation, Philippine Crop Insurance Center, at mga kawani mula sa baner programs ng ahensya. N a g b a h a g i

Experts from Batangas State University - The National Engineering University, Dr. Marielli Katherine C. Untalan, Mr. Nico John Abratique, Mr. Mark Anthony C. Lat, and Ms. Ma. Jesukristina M. Lumanglas served as the resource persons for the training. According to them, processed meat and tilapia products are profitable business ventures but require strict adherence to quality control measures and proper handling procedures to ensure consumer safety and satisfaction.



VOL. I • NO. 48 • May 29-June 4, 2024 • P 10.00

of the two barangays is unemployed and in need of sustainable livelihood opportunities. Hence, this training is a step towards addressing this issue and improving the economic situation of women in rural areas.

Product formulation, processing standards, and packaging techniques were discussed during the training to ensure that the participants had a comprehensive understanding of the entire production process. Storage conditions and proper handling practices were also emphasized to maintain the quality of the products. A session on basic food hygiene practices was also included to emphasize the importance of safety and sanitation in food processing.

PBBM touts Luzon Economic Corridor, RE sector, PH digitalization to investors



VOL. I • NO. 48 • May 29-June 4, 2024 • P 10.00

## Escudero’s first order of business: Put Senate in order

MANILA – Senate President Francis “Chiz” Escudero said Thursday that his first task as head of the Senate is to put the house in order.

To attain this, Escudero pledged to bridge the gap among members of the Senate who were hurt during the recent change in leadership.



# Bamban Mayor Guo has ties with criminals – Hontiveros

## VP asks dismissal of confidential funds cases



## GINTONG KWINTAS AT SINGSING, ISINAULI NG LABANDERA SA TUNAY NA MAY-ARI MATAPÓS MAISAMA SA LABAHAN

“Nagtataka ako kung bakit may tumutunog sa loob ng washing machine. Nung una ay inakala kong barya lang yung tumutunog. Pero ng itigil ko ang washing machine upang usisain kung anong bagay yung tumutunog, nagulat ako sa aking nakita. Isang gintong kwintas at singsing pala”, kwento ni Apple.

Si Apple o Julie Joy Ramirez sa tunay na buhay, 38 taong gulang, at 9 na buwan ng namamasukan bilang labandera sa Len’s Laundry Hub. Residente ng Brgy. Poblacion, Rosario Cavite. Ang naturang laundry shop ay pag-aari ng mag-asawang Marlyn at Bryan de Leon. Bago pa man nagtrabaho si Apple sa Len’s Laundry Hub ay galing na rin ito sa kaparehong trabaho. Mahigit sampung taon na rin itong nagtrabaho sa ibang laundry shop.

Abala si Apple sa pagtitiklop ng mga damit ng araw na iyon habang naki-



“Ang tingin ko sa sarili ko imbis na leader ay tulay para mapag-abot ang magkaiba at tila hindi nagtutugma na mga pananaw, opinion, at pangangailangan. Ang trabaho para sa akin ng bawat leader ay maitulay at maitawid iyon (I think of myself as a bridge instead of a leader to reach different and seemingly incompatible perspectives, opinions, and needs. For me, the job of every leader is to bridge),” Escudero said during the Kapihan sa Senado.

He said his job is to ensure the smooth flow of the chamber that he now presides over, finish the task, and take care of the institution and its employees.

“Makalipas ang panahon maghihilom iyan at ang bawat isang senador tatatayang malaya pa rin, hindi laban sa administrasyon, hindi laban sa kung sino



DANGEROUS HEAT INDEX

The heat index, also known as the apparent temperature, is what the temperature feels like to the human body when relative humidity is combined with the air temperature. This has important considerations for the human body's comfort. When the body gets too hot, it begins to perspire or sweat to cool itself off.

According to PAGASA, heat index is the measure of the temperature that a person feels, which is different from the actual air temperature. It is computed by factoring in the humidity and the air temperature

Heat cramps and heat exhaustion are likely in areas experiencing a danger level heat index, which is from 42 to 51°C. Heat stroke is also possible with continued exposure.

The highest recorded heat index reported in the country was 55°C in Guiuan, Eastern Samar on Sunday. In Metro Manila, the highest recorded heat index was 46°C in NAIA, Pasay City on April 24.

On May 4, the Department of Health (DOH) said 77 cases of heat-related illnesses were reported so far this year, including those who may have died due to the hot weather. Around 87% or 67 of these cases were aged 12 to 21 years old.

Of the 77 total cases, seven were “reported deaths” although these were “non-conclusive for heat stroke” due to insufficient data.

The DOH said these deaths may be heat-related illnesses, including heat stroke, or heat-influenced, such as underlying high risk for heart attack, precipitated by hot environment that led to elevated blood pressure.

If anyone is experiencing heat stroke symptoms, the Department of Health (DOH) advised the following first aid measures:

Move the person to a shaded, cool area, and provide ventilation. Remove the person's outer clothing.

Apply cold compresses, ice packs, cold water, or cold wet cloth against the skin, especially on the head, face, neck, armpits, wrists, ankles, and groin. If the patient is conscious, encourage frequent slow sips of cool water.

Contact emergency services or bring the person to the hospital immediately.



On May 16, the Department of Science and Technology – Provincial Science and Technology Office - Laguna, in collaboration with the LGU Cavinti Municipal Agriculture Office, hosted a comprehensive training session on calamansi processing for 19 members of the Samahan ng Magbubukid Angat Pangkabuhayan Multipurpose Cooperative. The event took place at the FITS Center in Brgy Lumot, Cavinti, Laguna.

The cooperative, which has received substantial support from the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) of LGU Cavinti, including the provision of 10,000 calamansi seedlings in 2019, is dedicated to improving its agricultural practices and enhancing its members' livelihoods. This training aimed to equip the members with the knowledge and skills necessary to transform their calamansi harvests into high-value products such as concentrate, pure extract, and ready-to-drink juice, thereby increasing their potential income.

The training session began with an overview of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) to ensure adherence to food safety standards. Engr. Wilma G. Del Rosario, a member of the DOST-CALABARZON Food Safety Team, underscored the critical importance of proper sanitation practices in food production to prevent contamination and safeguard consumer health.

Mr. Romel M. Felismino, a technical expert from the Institute of Food Science and Technology at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, led the participants through detailed processing techniques and quality control measures for calamansi

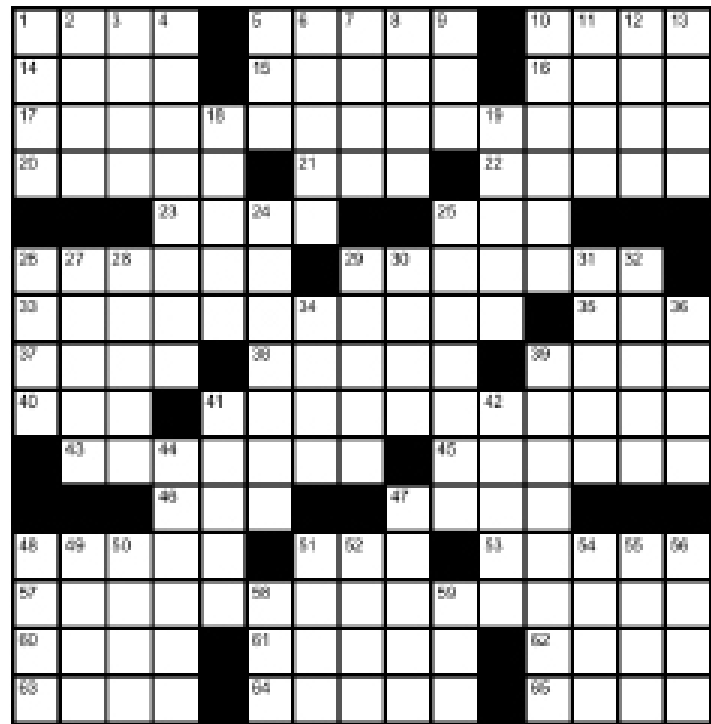
Calamansi Processing Training Empowers Cavinti Farmers

produce and in promoting Cavinti's unique calamansi by-products to tourists visiting the town's attractions.

This initiative represents a significant step towards empowering local farmers and enhancing the agricultural economy in Cavinti. By acquiring new skills and knowledge in calamansi processing, the cooperative members are now better positioned to capitalize on their harvests and contribute to the local economy. PR



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. Tibia
- 5. Respond by changing
- 10. Mold
- 14. Yield
- 15. The original "101"
- 16. Beach banquet
- 17. Result
- 20. Pickle portion
- 21. Treacherous curve
- 22. Gives the boot to
- 23. Hardy heroine
- 25. Give a single star, perhaps.
- 26. Miss Vanners' metier
- 29. Twitchy
- 33. Water quality evaluation?
- 35. Fidel's friends
- 37. Type of Tennis or bowling
- 38. She Played Gia on Full House
- 39. James of Rollerball
- 40. Suffix with lex-or-morph-
- 41. Succinct Sahara summary?
- 43. Former Senator D'Amano
- 45. Edmonton Skaters
- 46. Gore and Sharpton
- 47. Eso Beso balladeer
- 48. When Macbeth kills Duncan
- 51. American Uncle
- 53. Mutual of \_\_\_\_\_
- 57. Midmorning fruit disg?
- 60. Rapids rider
- 61. Like some verbs, abbrev.
- 62. Kind of Garden
- 63. T-men, generally
- 64. Mercantile establishment
- 65. Squid sprays

- 1. Sec 30 down
- 2. Give a hand
- 3. Like some hands
- 4. Denial
- 5. Member of the colonial army?
- 6. Saharan fruits
- 7. Fruity refreshments
- 8. Bowler's targets
- 9. Children's chase game
- 10. Show off and show often
- 11. Avignon ayes
- 12. Rave's partner
- 13. Rumble
- 18. Last name in Vacuums
- 19. Treatments for a cow or a celeb
- 24. Sunday speeches
- 25. Ideal example
- 26. Fit
- 27. Golden Globe category
- 28. Wheel of fortune buy
- 29. Buying binge
- 30. With I down govt. students.
- 31. Meeting maestro
- 34. Eyeglass Holders?
- 36. You'd like to make them meet
- 39. Squid snack
- 41. Kind of acid
- 42. Big name in cameras
- 44. Swoons
- 47. Decorative resin
- 48. Incantation initiation
- 49. Alpine porch
- 50. Clump of curls
- 51. Reorder
- 52. Retro do
- 54. Very prolife auth?
- 55. Wield a machere
- 56. Says "who"?
- 58. Towel label
- 59. Iron or bronze, e.g.

HALAMANG GAMOT

GULASIMAN



Ang gulasiman ay isang karaniwang halaman na tumutubo sa kahit na anong lugar sa bansa. Ito'y itinuturing na damong ligaw. Ang halaman ay maliit lamang at namumulaklak ng kulay dilaw. Sa ibang lugar, ito ay ginagamit bilang pampalasa at pansahog sa salad.

**ANO ANG MGA SUSTANSYA AT KEMIKAL NA MAAARING MAKUHA SA GULASIMAN?**

Mayroong tannins, steroids, flavonoids, saponins, at alkaloids ang halamang gulasiman. May mataas din itong lebel ng l-norepinephrine.

May taglay iong sustansya gaya ng vitamins A, B, B2, C, niacinamide, nicotinic acid, a-tocopherol, at B-carotene. May mga mineral din ito gaya ng calcium at iron. Mayroon pang fatty acids lalo na ang omega-3. Bukod pa dito, makukuhanan pa ito

at gamitin sa pangagamot.

Ang dahon ay karaniwang dinidikdik at kinakatasan upang maipampahid sa apektadong bahagi ng katawan.

**ANO ANG MGA SAKIT NA MAAARING MAGAMOT NG GULASIMAN?**

**1. Pasa at pamamaga sa balat.** Mabisa bilang gamot ang pagpapahid ng dinikdik na dahon at sanga ng gulasiman.

**2. Sakit sa balat.** Ginagamit sa iba't ibang sakit sa balat ang pinaglagaan ng dahon ng gulasiman. Ipinaghuhugas lamang

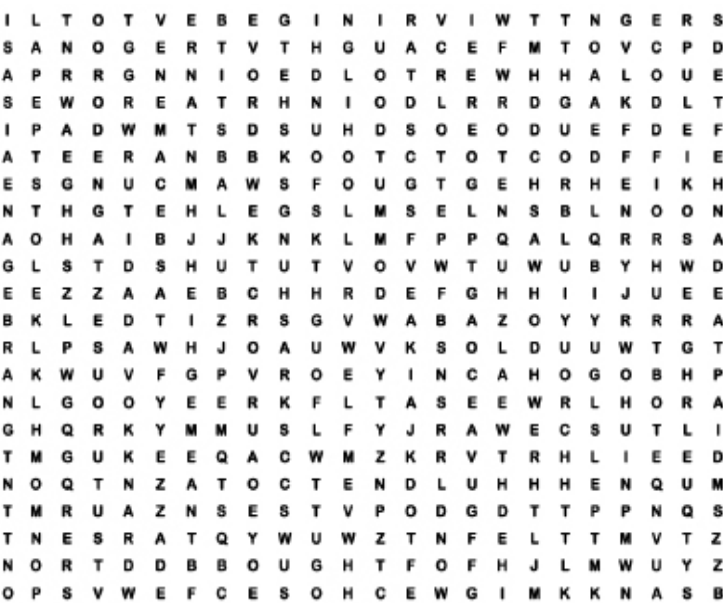
ito sa apektadong balat.

**3. Dysmenorrhea.** Pinapainom din ng katas ng halaman ang mga taong dumadanas ng pananakit sa pusun o dysmenorrhea,

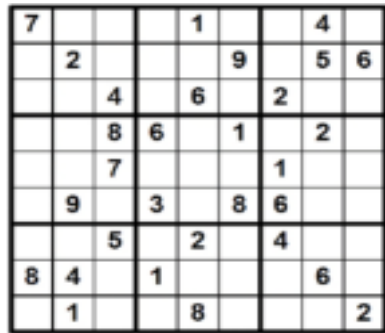
**4. Sugat.** Ang pagsugat sa balat ay maaaring maibsan ng pagtatapal ng dinikdik na dahon ng gulasiman.

**5. Pagtatae.** Ang buto ay ginagamit na panglunas sa pagtatae, gayun din ang katas mismo ng halaman. Maaari din inumin ang pinaglagaan ng buong halaman ng gulasiman.

**6. Hirap sa pag-ih.** Mahusay



|        |       |         |       |      |
|--------|-------|---------|-------|------|
| BECOME | DO    | FLY     | HEAR  | MEET |
| BEGIN  | DRAW  | FORGET  | HIDE  | PAY  |
| BREAK  | DRINK | FORGIVE | HIT   | READ |
| BRING  | DRIVE | FREEZE  | HURT  | RIDE |
| BUY    | EAT   | GET     | KNOW  | RING |
| CATCH  | FALL  | GIVE    | LEAD  | RUN  |
| CHOOSE | FEED  | GO      | LEAVE | SEE  |
| COME   | FEEL  | GROW    | LOSE  | SELL |
| COST   | FIGHT | HANG    | MAKE  | SEND |
| CUT    | FIND  | HAVE    | MEAN  | SHUT |



# MPT South Joins LGRC-MSAC-to-Enhance Governance Initiatives



Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation, has joined the Local Governance Resource Center- Multi-Sectoral Advisory Committee (LGRC-MSAC) to collaborate and strategize for upcoming projects and campaigns benefiting stakeholders in Region 4-A.

On Tuesday, May 14, MPT South announced its upcoming launch of Book 2 of the 'Bayani Ka' Activity Book to partner agencies and stakeholders at the 2nd Quarter Multi-Sectoral Advisory Committee (MSAC) Meeting held at the Santiago M. Role Hall, Cavite State University, Indang, Cavite.

'Bayani Ka, Book 2' is a second of a series on the life of 'Cavi,' as a grade school student who learns road safety practices and shares them with his friends at school, equipping them with tools to navigate the roads safely. This comic-inspired interactive book for kids aims to teach children about road signage and familiarize them with the safety features of roads, especially on expressways.

"Our goal is to

collaborate and brainstorm with everyone for the improvement and successful launch of BayaniKa Book 2, as well as other campaigns of MPT South that will benefit stakeholders in Region 4-A," said Ms. Arlette Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management of MPT South. "We believe that by engaging with local communities and leveraging the collective expertise of our partners, we can create impactful initiatives that not only promote road safety but also foster a deeper sense of community and responsibility



among the youth." Capistrano continued, "At MPT South, we are not just in the business of toll roads; we are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of our stakeholders. Our initiatives are designed to

provide educational and safety benefits that extend beyond our expressways, demonstrating our dedication to social responsibility and community engagement."

In addition to the Bayani Ka Book 2, MPT South also unveiled its upcoming launch of the Biyaheng South Cavite Tourism Passport. This project, made possible in partnership with the Department

establishments, passport holders can earn exciting prizes and items from MPT South.

The meeting also covered the accomplishments of the LGRRR Region 4-A for the first quarter of 2024, as well as updates and initiatives from MSAC partners.

MPTC is the largest toll road developer and operator in the country. In addition to the CAVITEX and CALAX network

of the Interior and Local Government Region IV-A and the Cavite Tourism Office, encourages participants to explore Cavite and Laguna's rich heritage and attractions. By collecting stamps from various attractions and partner

saengtip@vnuasiapacific.com | Tel.: +662 111 6611 Ext.330 | www.vnuasiapacific.com

About Horti Agri Next Asia (HAN Asia) | HAN Asia is the Horti Agri Next hub edition tailored specifically for the Asian market, showcasing the latest in horticultural food production, landscaping, controlled environment practices, environmental conservation, and agriculture. HAN Asia brings together industry professionals and experts from across Asia and around the world. Join us at HAN Asia to explore the forefront of the Asian horticultural and agricultural industries. For more details, please visit the official website at [WWW.HORTIAGRINEXT.COM](http://WWW.HORTIAGRINEXT.COM).

VNU Exhibitions Asia Pacific | VNU Exhibitions Asia Pacific is part of VNU Group, a globally operating exhibition company with offices in Utrecht, Shanghai, Bangkok and consolidates the international exhibition business of Royal Dutch Jaarbeurs. In Southeast Asia, Jaarbeurs formed a Joint Venture with TCC Group, a leading corporate conglomerate in the fast-growing region. From its business hub located in Bangkok, VNU Exhibitions Asia Pacific covers all key exhibition markets in Southeast Asia. | [www.vnuasiapacific.com](http://www.vnuasiapacific.com)

About VNU Exhibitions Europe | VNU Exhibitions Europe is a subsidiary company of Royal Dutch Jaarbeurs with its base in Utrecht, at the heart of the Netherlands and only 30 minutes from Amsterdam. The VNU Europe office is located within the extensive Jaarbeurs complex. The international team is wholly involved in the agrifood sector, focusing on the organization of worldwide industry events such as VIV, Horti Agri Next and AgriBITS. VNU's Utrecht team organizes shows in the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates, China, Thailand, Turkey and Africa. For more information, visit [www.vnueurope.com](http://www.vnueurope.com)

For media inquiries and further information, please contact: Mrs. Saengtip Techapatiphandee, Marketing & Communications of VNU Asia Pacific

## 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

CAVITE OFFICE : Blk. 5 Lot 69 Barcelona Ph. 2, Buhay Na Tubig, Imus, Cavite  
Mobile No. ----- 09556586520 / 09164731260  
TIN NO. ----- 237756418-000

Email ad: [newsstraight172@gmail.com](mailto:newsstraight172@gmail.com)  
[soberanmavic@gmail.com](mailto:soberanmavic@gmail.com)

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Publisher : Maria Victoria S. Soberano  
Editor-In-chief : Dominador "RAEL" Soberano  
Marketing Manager : Kristina Marres  
Published Weekly by: STRAIGHT NEWS

## GINTONG ...

king sa romantikong musika. Nang biglang napukaw ang kanyang atensyon sa isang washing machine na tila may umikot na isang bagay sa loob nito.

Isang gintong kwintas at singsing ang bumulaga sa kanya.

At dahil may pangalan naman sa resibo ang damit ng kanyang nilabhan ay alam na niya kung kaninong pag-aari ito.

Kaya't itinabi muna niya ito at ibigay ng kukuhanan na ang damit na pinalaba.

Nakilala ang tunay na may-ari ng gintong kwintas at singsing

FROM PAGE 1

na si Jeff Obviar ng Brgy. Bagbag-Il.

Nang kinuha ni Jeff ang damit na kanyang pinalabhan ay hindi niya alam na naisama pala sa kanyang short ang naturang alahas. Kaya't ganun na lamang ang pasasalamat ni Jeff sa mabait na labandera dahil isinauli ito. Ikinatuwa naman ng mag-asawang mayari ng laundry shop ang naging hakbang na ito ng kanilang laundry attendant na si Apple.

Tumitimbang na 2.2 grams ang kwintas at 1.4 grams naman ang singsing na parehong 18 karat.

## PNP: Kidnapping cases dip 31% from January to May

MANILA – The number of kidnapping cases in the country dropped by 31 percent from January to May this year, the Philippine National Police Anti-Kidnapping Group (PNP-AGK) said on Thursday.

In a press briefing in Camp Crame, AGK chief Brig. Gen. Cosme Abrenica said they have logged nine kidnapping cases during this period, from 13 incidents in the same period last year.

"For 2024, meron tayong only 18 cases ng kidnapping pero yung nine doon ay (we only have 18 cases but nine of them are) hoax kidnapping. So we are only working on these nine cases," he said.

Abrenica said they have logged zero casino-related kidnapping cases during this period.

"In the past, we encountered victims who lost money and are contacting their families abroad. They tell them they were kidnapped. Then the family will contact the embassy and

the embassy will reach out to us. We would then hold a joint operation and fortunately, we are able to recover the victims safely," he added.

These incidents include six traditional kidnap-for-ransom cases and three cases linked to Philippine Off-shore Gaming Operators (POGOs).

Out of the figure, two have been solved, three were cleared while four are under investigation.

Solved cases are those where suspects have already been arrested and charges have been filed, while cleared cases are those where suspects have yet to be arrested and charges have been filed.

Abrenica said most of the victims were Chinese nationals and happened in Metro Manila.

"We still have cases that are under investigation because it is difficult to quickly investigate kidnapping cases. We always do backtracking in solving these cases," he added. (PNA)

## VP ...

MANILA – Vice President Sara Z. Duterte-Carpio has formally asked the Supreme Court to dismiss three petitions questioning the propriety of PHP125 million in confidential funds in the Office of the Vice President (OVP) under the 2022 budget.

In a 16-page consolidated comment filed before the tribunal last May 10, Duterte, through her counsel, former Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, sought the dismissal of the petitions separately filed by Christian Monsod, Howard Calleja and the ACT Teachers Party-list.

Mendoza, in his comment, said "none of the petitions present

an actual case or controversy and none of the petitioners alleged a legal demandable and enforceable right which calls for the exercise of judicial power."

The mandate of the High Court, he said, "does not include the duty to answer all of life's questions," adding that "the petitions are mere apprehension and speculation about contingent funds or confidential funds, which does not constitute a justiciable controversy."

Mendoza argued that the Court's power "is not unbridled authority to review just any claim of constitutional violation or grave abuse of discretion." (PNA)

## Marcos denies hand in Zubiri ouster

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday denied he was behind the move to replace Senator Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri as Senate President.

This as Zubiri alluded to outside forces as behind his ouster as leader of the Senate, saying he lost his post for supposedly failing to "follow instructions from the powers that be."

Asked to comment on this during a press briefing with the Philippine media covering his state visit to Brunei, Marcos said he was not sure what Zubiri was referring to.

"I guess if you're Senate President, the only power that be is the President. So, I'm not sure what he is referring to. If that is a specific instance or just as a general principle, I don't know. I haven't spoken to him about it," Marcos said.

Zubiri resigned as Senate President amid rumors of a coup against his leadership last May 20, 2024.

A day later, Senator Chiz Escudero was elected leader of the Senate.

The President admitted that Escudero informed him of his plan to take over the Senate leadership before the ouster was carried out.

But he said he did not speak to any parties at endpoint because he was out of town, adding that he received the news that Escudero had assumed the Senate leadership when he returned to Manila from the said out-of-town trip.

"So, that's the extent. That's how I was basically informed at every step of the way but it moves so quickly as well," Marcos said.

"But of course, we knew the state of the voting. When that was still being collected, the votes were still being collected by Senator Chiz," he said.

Asked if he still trusts Zubiri, the President responded affirmatively but insisted that he had nothing to do with the change in the Senate leadership.

"It was made by the senators," Marcos said.

"So, that does not reflect on my view on Senator Migz and the trust and confidence that I have in him," he said. (PNA)



MANILA -- Pitching the Philippines' investment potential, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Tuesday cited the government's aggressive push to develop the Luzon Economic Corridor, potentials in the renewable energy sector, and the ongoing digitalization initiatives.

Addressing the 6th Indo-Pacific Business Forum (IPBF) in Taguig City, President Marcos said upgrading Luzon island's infrastructure is essential in enhancing and empowering the workforce and facilitating the smooth flow of goods and services.

"We have earmarked key projects to spur growth in the Luzon Economic Corridor, creating strategic connections between Subic, Clark, and the CALABARZON region, a prime location for export-manufacturing firms," Marcos told the forum.

"These initiatives will enhance freight transport services, mobility, and access to key economic zones, ensuring business continuity and positioning the Philippines as a regional hub for agribusiness and logistics in the Asia-Pacific," he pointed

out.

The President also delved on the Philippines' renewable energy (RE) potential, noting there are over 491,821 megawatts from sources like geothermal, hydro-power, solar, and wind, that are ready to be harnessed.

Also, recent amendments to the Renewable Energy Act allow 100 percent foreign ownership of RE sources, making the country an attractive destination for clean energy investments.

"We intend to tap this vast potential as we target to increase the share of renewables in our power generation mix from the current 22 percent to 50 percent by the year 2040," said President Marcos.

At the same time, he said the Philippines is also embracing digital transformation, with a government-led strategy to enhance digital infrastructure, connectivity, and business facilitation.

With micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) at the heart of the Philippine economy and for the economies in the Indo-Pacific,

President Marcos said his government is equipping them with necessary tools to become sustainable businesses.

"We believe that Indo-Pacific investors have the potential to contribute significantly to the expansion of such businesses," he pointed out.

"The Philippines also offers a strategic location with a robust experience and record in the IT-BPM competencies and a strong direction towards upgrading Business Process Outsourcing into Knowledge Process Outsourcing such as market intelligence, business analytics, legal services, and AI, among others," he further stated.

Furthermore, the Philippines can serve as a platform for companies to access the more than 600 million-strong Southeast Asian consumer market, he added.

And with the country's proximity to these growing economies, companies can enter other supply chains and be part of inter-country economic systems, creating more opportunities for collaboration and partnerships. (PND)

## PhilHealth to study doubling coverage for hemodialysis to P5,200

MANILA – The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) will study the proposal to double its coverage amount for hemodialysis from the current PHP2,600 per session to PHP5,200, an official said on Tuesday.

In a press conference at the Batasang Pambansa Complex, PhilHealth Executive Vice President Eli Santos said the goal of this proposed increase is to remove out-of-pocket costs of hemodialysis patients.

"Ang PhilHealth po ay pag-aaralan yung pag-increase po nito to PHP5,200... binigyan po kami ng one month po na pag-aralan po ito (The PhilHealth will study the increase [of the coverage] to PHP5,200... we are given one month to study this)," Santos said.

Santos said erythropoietin, which is used by people on dialysis, is usually purchased outside of dialysis facilities,

ties, which increases patient costs.

House Deputy Majority Leader and ACT-CIS party-list lawmaker Erwin Tulfo expressed optimism that increasing the coverage amount to PHP5,200 is "doable" following his meeting with PhilHealth officials.

"Base sa meeting namin kanina is doable naman. Base doon sa funding at pondo, every year naman nagbibigay ng pondo ang Congress sa PhilHealth, so maaring doon ho huhugutin (Based on our meeting earlier, I think it's doable. Congress allocates funds for PhilHealth each year based on available budget, so that could be a source)," he said.

Tulfo said the current hemodialysis cost of PHP2,600 per session does not typically cover the vials to be injected to the patients.

"The good news is hopefully by next month, wala na talagang ica-cash out yung mga nagpapadialysis lalo na yung mga three time a week. Kasi ngayon kailangan nila bumili ng mga vials sa botika. Dadalhin nila doon sa dialysis center para i-injection sa kanila (The good news is hopefully by next month, patients undergoing dialysis, especially those who go three times a week, would no longer need to cash out. Currently, they have to buy vials at a pharmacy. They would bring it to the dialysis center so that it would be injected to them)," Tulfo said.

Santos, meanwhile, said PhilHealth's assets amount to PHP589.5 billion, including PHP463.7 billion worth of reserve funds.

Tulfo also reported that mammograms and ultrasound have already been included in PhilHealth's Konsulta Packages nationwide since May 15.

Santos said

May 29-June 04, 2024

May 29-June 04, 2024



It's never too late to enjoy summer at SM City Calamba! Get your favorite socks ready and unleash your playfulness with your friends and family. Feed your reels and Tiktok feeds with fun summer snaps at the Bubble Dome of Fun until May 30, 2024. Beat the summer heat and satisfy your cravings with the wide array of food and drink choices. Enjoy mouth-watering meals and thirst quenching drinks from your favorite restaurants. Last minute summer getaway? Fret no more, take your summer ootds to the next level with SM City Calamba's fashion and apparel stores. So what are you waiting for? Hurry and head to SM City Calamba.

## Senate scorecard on divorce bill: 5-5-1

MANILA – Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada on Tuesday said senators are divided on the absolute divorce bill, which was already approved by the House of Representatives.

In a phone interview, Estrada said he, Senate President Francis Escudero, Senate Majority Leader Francis Tolentino, and Senators Joel Villanueva and Ronald Dela Rosa are against the bill.

Meanwhile, Senators Robinhood Padilla, Grace Poe, Imee Marcos, Pia Cayetano, and Senate Deputy Minority Leader Risa Hontiveros are among those who are in favor.

Estrada said the 5-5 standoff was the result

of a "survey of his own" to know his colleagues' thoughts on the measure.

"Well, because I thought it's a good idea to conduct a survey because the House passed it already on third reading, so I would just like to get their thoughts on it," he said.

He also said the divorce bill is not among the Senate's priorities.

When asked why he is against divorce, Estrada said the focus should instead be on easing the process of marriage annulment.

"I am a devout Catholic and there is another remedy. Meron naman annulment. Bilisan na lang 'yung mga annulment case kasi let's face it, medyo matagal at may

kamahalan ang pag-file ng annulment (There is annulment. Just hasten the process of annulment cases because let's face it, it takes quite a while and the filing of the annulment is expensive)," he said.

Meanwhile, Villanueva said he has read the bill and found no grounds to support it.

"Hindi ko nakikita kung papaanong tutulungan nito 'yung mahihirap nating kababayan. Parang sinasabi pa rin na gaya ng annulment, ito ay para sa mayayaman pa rin (I don't see how this will help our poor countrymen. It's still like saying that like the annulment, it is still for the rich)," he said in an ambush interview at the Department of Social

Welfare and Development central office in Quezon City where he graced the blessing of 14 Mobile Command Centers.

Villanueva said he is willing to scrutinize it further with his colleagues on how it will affect the Family Code of the Philippines and the majority of Filipino Christians who believe in the sanctity of marriage.

"Kailangan po natin itong pag-aralan nang husto. Ginagalang namin ang posisyon ng (We need to study this thoroughly. We respect the position of the) House [of Representatives]," he said.

Estrada's brother, Senator JV Ejercito, preferred to stay neutral.

## IT'S THE ULTIMATE TOY FEZT IN THE SOUTH!

SM CITY BACOR, CAVITE - Don't miss the ultimate Toy FeZt event in the South! Join us as we unleash the biggest and greatest toy collection featuring over 100+ of your fave life-sized heroes, villains and anime. Zzzapping first with enormous character encounters at SM City Bacoor on June 8, 3pm! Be Amazed... Get Cativated ... Be Awed... as we revolutionize the game!



ly Relations, and Gender Equality, earlier said she is waiting for the Senate leadership to list her committee report in the agenda so she can finally bring to the plenary the committee report on Senate Bill No. 147 or the Dissolution of Marriage Act.

"Matagal ng tapos ang aming committee report sa pagdinig niyan sa Senate Committee on Women. Iniintay na lang na ma-report out siya sa plenaryo para nga sa interpellation and debate. Sana mabigyang daan 'yan sa lalong madaling panahon at hindi kumbaga i-archive lang sa isang drawer (Our committee report on the hearing in the Senate Committee on Women is long finished. We are just waiting for it to be reported out to the plenary for interpellation and debate. Hopefully that will be given a chance soon and not just be archived)," she said in a radio interview. (PNA)

## Vaping poses severe health risks to users – DOH

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday warned the public against use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and other vape products as they cause severe health risks, citing a recent medical case report.

"E-cigarettes and vaping are not a safe alternative to smoking. Usok pa rin 'yan (They still produce harmful smoke)," DOH Secretary Teodoro Herbosa said in a statement.

Citing the case documented by Dr. Margarita Isabel Fernandez and published in the Respiriology Case Reports Journal, Herbosa urged the youth "not to believe false advertisements saying that vaping is a safer smoking alternative".

In the case report, Fernandez discussed the condition of a 22-year-old Filipino

male with no prior health issues.

The patient suffered a fatal heart attack, following severe lung injury possibly attributed to his daily vape use.

The patient suffering from severe chest pain, difficulty breathing and experienced a heart attack caused by blockages in his two major arteries was admitted to a hospital.

Fernandez said the patient developed a serious lung condition known as e-cigarette or vaping-use associated lung injury (EVALI).

Further examination showed severe pneumonia-like symptoms in the lungs, but no infections were detected.

developed respiratory failure, requiring mechanical ventilation, and passed away three days after admission.

The case report underscores the dangers brought about by e-cigarettes and vape products especially among young people, even as international and local studies show that their use can cause significant harm to multiple body systems, leading to conditions like heart attacks and EVALI.

Informed decisions needed

Herbosa urged the youth to make informed decisions to protect their health.

"The DOH remains committed to educating the public about the dangers of vaping, and advocating for stricter regulations on these harmful prod-

ucts," he said.

In March, Herbosa, asked the help of the Philippine National Police to ensure that the specific provision of the Republic Act (RA) 11900 relating to the prohibition of selling vapes to people below 18 years old is strictly implemented.

RA 11900, which was enacted into law in 2022, aims to regulate the importation, sale, packaging, distribution, use, and communication of vaporized nicotine and non-nicotine products and novel tobacco products which includes e-cigarettes and heated tobacco products.

The Department of Education has intensified its efforts to end vaping within school premises. It also prohibited the selling and promotion of the product within a school's 100-meter radius. (PNA)