

DOST RIZAL LEADS MOA SIGNING FOR 21ST CLEM, STARBOOKS WITH LGU ANTIPOLLO, DEPED ANTIPOLLO



The Department of Science and Technology, through its Provincial Science and Technology Office in Rizal (DOST-PSO-Rizal) spearheaded the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Signing Ceremony for the 21st Century Learning Environment Modules (21st CLEM) and Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS) Project on 27 May 2024 at the Estancia de Lorenzo, San Mateo, Rizal.

The ceremony commenced with opening formalities, including a prayer and the Philippine national anthem. Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit, Regional Director of DOST-CALABARZON, delivered the opening message, welcoming attendees and expressing gratitude for the continued support of Engr.

Sancho A. Mabborang, DOST Undersecretary for Regional Operations.

The following VIPs were present: Dr. Philip Conrad "Bong" M. Acop, Representative of the Office of Congressman Romeo M. Acop; Engr. Albert G. Mariño, OIC Deputy Director of the Science Education Institute (DOST SEI); Atty. Cedrick Justice U. Capiral, City Legal Officer of the City Government of Antipolo (LGU Antipolo) representing Hon. Mayor Casimiro A. Ynares III; Mr. Fernando E. Ablaza, Provincial Director of DOST-Rizal; Mr. Allan C. Taule, Chief of the Information Resources and Analysis Division (IRAD) of the Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII); Dr. Lerma L. Flandez, OIC Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) of the Department of Education

Schools Division Office of Antipolo (DepEd-Antipolo); Mrs. Rosanna A. Ortiz, School Principal of the Antipolo City National Science and Technology High School (ANSCH); and Dr. Sheila May M. Villamor, Education Program Supervisor (EPS) for Science of DepEd-Antipolo. Also present via Zoom platform were DOST SEI's Ms. Cynthia Gayya, Chief of the Science Education and Innovations Division, and Ms. Josephine "Josh" S. Feliciano, Science Research Specialist II and 21st CLEM Project Focal.

Dir. Bagsit shared that the 21st CLEM, developed by DOST SEI, aims to support 21st century education in the K-12 curriculum, STEM Education, and the KITE Education Reform Agenda, through its focus on developing 21st century skills and utilizing technology in teaching.



The project also aims to enhance learners' performance, particularly in Science and Mathematics, and to equip teachers with 21st century and technology-based teaching skills. Meanwhile, STARBOOKS is spearheaded by DOST-STII and will be co-implemented by DepEd-Antipolo. A total of 18 schools in Antipolo will be adopting the STARBOOKS.

Next, key project partners expressed their messages of support. SDS Lerma Flandez emphasized collaboration among stakeholders (or "villagers" attributing to the idiom "it takes a village to raise a child") for successful project implementation. OIC Dir. Albert Mariño advocated for 21st century learning, and highlighted scholarship opportunities offered by DOST SEI. And, Dr. Philip Acop shared that education is one of the top

priorities of the Office of the Congressman Romeo M. Acop and stressed the importance of S&T interventions in education and expressed desire to make science, technology, and innovation (STI) more mainstream.

Ms. Josh Feliciano then presented a detailed briefing on the 21st CLEM Project via Zoom presentation for the present stakeholders and guests.

The ceremony for the 21st CLEM project involved representatives from DOST-CALABARZON, DOST SEI, the Office of Congressman Acop, LGU Antipolo, DepEd-Antipolo, DOST-Rizal, and ANSCI. Engr. Francisco Barquilla III, ARD for Technical Operations of DOST-CALABARZON, signed as a witness.

Another batch of MOA signing was held for the STARBOOKS project,

with representatives from DOST-CALABARZON, DepEd-Antipolo, and DOST-Rizal. Mr. Allan Taule represented DOST-STII and provided an extensive "5 Things You Need to Know about STARBOOKS" presentation, while Dr. Sheila May Villamor served as a witness and project focal person for DepEd-Antipolo.

The ceremony concluded with a closing message from Provincial Director Fernando E. Ablaza, who reiterated DOST's commitment to fostering scientific and technological innovation in schools. He expressed hope that the two (2) projects, 21st CLEM and STARBOOKS, through the tireless dedication and concerted efforts of all the stakeholders, will improve the quality of education and create a more technologically advanced future for Antipolo and CALABARZON. PR

LGU REAL, DOST, AND DSWD SEES POSITIVE INCOME OPPORTUNITY IN SLPS ASSOCS. STRENGTHEN PROJECT PARTNERSHIPS



The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Office of Undersecretary for Operations, and the Local Government Unit (LGU) Real, makes a visit to Maragondon Dragon Grass Sustainable Livelihood Program Association (MDGSLPA), a successful beneficiary of DOST Grants-In-Aid Community-Based Project, Brgy. Maragondon Real, Quezon, May 24, 2024.

Prior to visit, a courtesy call and a brief meeting with Hon. Diana Abigail D. Aquino, Municipal Mayor of Real, Ms. Janice F. Berris, DOST IV-A Supervising Science Research Specialist, and Mr. Joseph H. Lagman, Project Development Officer III of DSWD, took place to discuss possible projects together. Seeing the success of



MDGSLPA, they identified other SLP associations that could benefit from the national government's programs.

The DOST IV-A, through Ms. Berris signifies their willingness to assist more associations to create growth in rural areas through appropriate technologies together with DSWD and LGU Real.

Ms. Jocelyn Capablanca, MDGSLPA Treasurer, welcomed the visitors from the said agencies. They witnessed the actual product - Walis Tambo, which is made of "rasa" or tiger grass. They also assess the group for more science and technology improvements. Ms. Capablanca expressed the association's gratitude as the DOST Pollen Remover, Multi-Commodity Dryer, and Grass Cutters allow them to have safer working condition, hence increasing the association's production and income. PR

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CCC calls for 'whole country' effort for nat'l adaptation plan

LAWMAKERS JOIN CALL TO TOTALLY BAN POGOS

New Senate building construction suspended, under review

PNP chief orders quick probe into erring cops' cases

"TARA, BASA!" TUTORING PROGRAM IS NOW IN BACOOR CITY, CAVITE

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) IV-A and the city government of Bacoor has formally launch the Tara, Basa! Tutoring Program at Strike Gymnasium Bacoor City, Cavite on Monday, June 3.

Traffic rerouting scheme set on Independence Day

PBBM DECLARES JUNE 17 A REGULAR HOLIDAY TO OBSERVE EID'UL ADHA

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has declared June 17, Monday as a regular holiday to give way for the observance of Eid'ul Adha, or the Feast of Sacrifice. On June 4, Executive Secretary Lucas P. Bersamin signed Proclamation No. 579 declaring Eid'ul Adha as a regular holiday based on the 1445 Hijrah Islamic Lunar Calendar.

LANDBANK CLINCHES INT'L AWARDS FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION, FINANCIAL INCLUSION

LANDBANK Executive Vice President Ma. Celeste A. Burgos (rightmost) receives the award from ADFIAP Chairman Saud A. Minam (center) and First Vice Chairman Kao Thach (leftmost) for the Bank's development project on rural electrification under the Infrastructure Development category during the ADFIAP Sustainable Development Awards 2024 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 16 May 2024. (Photo credit to ADFIAP)

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POINT OF VIEW

MAINTAINING A HEALTHY HEART

3. Manage stress

Stress can have many negative impacts on your health in general, but it's also known to increase your risk for heart disease by elevating your blood pressure and putting unhealthy strain on your body. Finding positive releases for pent-up mental and physical tension and managing your stress levels are key for good heart health. Options that are proven to reduce stress include exercising, learning relaxation techniques, practicing mindfulness and staying well-connected to a helpful support system in your life. It's also important to prioritize self-care when needed and make as much time as possible for activities that bring you joy.

Make sure you talk to your primary care provider immediately if your stress levels become too excessive to manage on your own or lead to serious mental health conditions, such as depression or anxiety. There is no shame in needing to use professional resources, like Gundersen Behavioral Health, for coping with stress, especially if it becomes overwhelming or it interferes with your daily life.

4. Get quality sleep

Getting consistent quality sleep is crucial for maintaining heart health, and you should be aiming to get seven to nine hours each night. If you struggle with sleeping, try establishing a relaxing bedtime routine and keeping your brain's arousal to a minimum in the evening by avoiding bright screens before going to bed. Talk to your primary care provider if you suspect you may have a sleep disorder interfering with your ability to achieve restful sleep on your own. Poor sleep is a serious concern for heart health because it's associated with other cardiovascular disease risk factors, such as a poor diet, obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and inflammation in the body.

5. Quit smoking and limit alcohol

Smoking and excessive alcohol consumption are both risk factors for heart disease. The chemicals found in tobacco, like nicotine and arsenic, are known toxins that can cause severe damage to the heart. When you inhale cigarette smoke, you are simultaneously reducing your body's oxygen intake and limiting the oxygen that reaches all vital organs, like the heart, brain and lungs. Similarly, drinking alcohol excessively can also cause damage to your heart and vital organs and accelerate your risk for heart disease. If you choose to drink alcohol, be sure to do so in moderation. This means limiting yourself to no more than one alcoholic drink per day for women and two per day for men, or even less if feasible. Quitting smoking and limiting alcohol are some of the best steps you can take for your heart health and well-being—and your body benefits almost immediately by making those changes.

to be cont. for next issue



“Tara, Basa!”

The “Tara, Basa! Tutoring Program” is an initiative of DSWD aimed at enhancing educational support for elementary students, particularly those struggling with reading or who are non-readers, by establishing a learning ecosystem with the involvement of college students who will be trained and deployed as tutors and Youth Development Workers (YDWs) to improve the reading proficiency of young learners through dedicated and structured tutoring sessions.

As part of the launching program, DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian and Bacoor City Mayor Strike Revilla signed a Pledge of Commitment Book for the beneficiaries of the program



FROM PAGE 1

LANDBANK...

In recognition of its steadfast commitment to promoting sustainable development, Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) has been conferred with two international awards by the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) for its development projects on rural electrification and financial inclusion.

Present also in the launching program were DSWD Undersecretary for Innovations Eduardo Punay, Bacoor City Vice Mayor Rowena Mendiola, DSWD Field Office IV-A Regional Director Barry Chua, Department of Education (DepEd) Calabarzon Assistant Regional Director Dr. Loida Nidea, Cavite State University Bacoor Campus Administrator Prof. Menyyluz Macalalad, Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Babylyn Pambid, and Bacoor City Social Welfare and Development Office Head Emiliana Ugalde. | via DSWD Region IV-A

Stocks, peso up on Friday

MANILA — The local stock market ended the day almost unchanged while the peso closed stronger against the dollar.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) slightly went up by 8.90 points to 6,518.76.

All Shares, meanwhile, closed at 3,491.93, up by 2.14 points.

“Philippine equities ended the day relatively unchanged, echoing the muted movement of the US market,” Regina Capital Development Corp. head of sales Luis Limlingan said.

“US investors are in a holding pattern ahead of the May jobs report, anticipating that signs of a slowing labor market could

prompt the Fed to consider interest rate cuts. Meanwhile, the next significant data release for the Philippines is the FDI report, set to drop on Thursday, June 13,” Limlingan added.

Except for Holding Firms, almost All Sectors closed in the green.

Decliners led advancers at 90 to 88, while 63 shares were unchanged.

The peso, meanwhile, closed at 58.52 to a dollar on Friday, stronger than the 58.611 finish on Thursday.

It opened at 58.555 and traded between 58.49 and 58.59, bringing the weighted average for the day at 58.539.

With hot months over, Cavite provincial gov't returns to 5-day work week

CAVITE, Philippines — Starting on Monday, June 3, the provincial government of Cavite will revert to five-day workweeks, prematurely ending the period for which it originally adopted compressed workweeks due to the excessive heat experienced across the country.

Governor Juanito Victor “Jonvic” Remulla on Thursday, May 30, signed Executive Order No. 23 — Series of 2024, which repeals the 4-day workweek order issued in April.

The governor

LANDBANK...

FROM PAGE 1

In recognition of its steadfast commitment to promoting sustainable development, Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) has been conferred with two international awards by the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) for its development projects on rural electrification and financial inclusion.

LANDBANK's BRIGHTNESS Lending Program, which stands for BRinging Inclusive Growth in every Household Through National Electrification Support Services, won in the Infrastructure Development category, while the Bank's support to ASA Philippines Foundation, Inc.'s (ASA Philippines) credit expansion for underserved women earned a Merit Award in the Financial Inclusion category.

ADFIAP Chairman Saud A. Minam, First Vice Chairman Kao Thach, and Second Vice Chairman Aria Putera Ismail presented the awards to LANDBANK, represented by Executive Vice President Ma. Celeste A. Burgos, at the ADFIAP Sustainable Development Awards on 16 May 2024 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

“LANDBANK is honored to receive these prestigious awards from ADFIAP, which underscore our unwavering dedication to advancing sustainable and inclusive development. This recognition inspires us to continue empowering underserved communities, fostering economic growth, and enhancing quality of life for our valued clients,” said LANDBANK President and CEO Lynette V. Ortiz.

L a u n c h e d in 2013, LANDBANK BRIGHTNESS Lending Program aims to expand energy access in barangays to spur growth and generate more economic activities in the countryside by providing financing assistance to qualified distribution utilities and wholesale power aggregators.

This initiative supports the National Government's rural electrification efforts under Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the “Electric Power Industry Reform

Act of 2001 (EPIRA Law),” which ensures the quality, reliability, security and affordability of electric power supply nationwide.

As of 31 March 2024, total approved loans under the BRIGHTNESS Lending Program have reached P13.7 billion, supporting over 4.8 million households with reliable power supply.

M e a n w h i l e , LANDBANK's support enabled ASA Philippines to raise P5.0 billion through a five-year syndicated corporate notes facility. Dubbed “Project Nanay First,” the proceeds from the offer are aimed to reach and empower more women, particularly mothers, from economically disadvantaged sectors through the provision of accessible financing.

ASA Philippines' five-year corporate notes issuance was classified as the first-ever Gender Bonds issued in the country, as certified by social bond second-party opinion provider DNV (Det Norske Veritas) and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The partnership promotes broader financial inclusion in alignment with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028 and advocates for environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles.

ADFIAP serves as the focal point of all development banks and other financial institutions engaged in development financing across the Asia-Pacific region, with the mission to advance sustainable development through its members. The annual ADFIAP Awards recognizes member-institutions that have made important contributions to national development.

ABOUT LANDBANK

LANDBANK is the largest development financial institution in the country promoting financial inclusion, digital transformation and sustainable development to benefit Filipinos. The Bank is present in all 82 provinces in the country, committed to providing accessible and affordable financial support to key players and industries as part of its broader thrust of serving the nation.

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TIPS FOR A HEALTHY HEART

Eating Healthy Food

Regular Physical Exercise

Avoiding Smoking

Keep Blood Pressure In Check

Keep Blood Sugar In Check

Manage Stress

Taking Alcohol In Moderation

Maintaining Healthy Weight

Regular Checkup

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Forgot Your Phone?

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BASKET	DOORMAT	LAUGH	PAPER	TOILET
BATH	FART	LAUNDRY	PAPERCLIP	WASH
BATHROOM	FLOWERS	LIVE	POOP	ZONE
BROOM	FLUSH	MAGAZINE	SHOWER	
CRAYONS	KITCHEN	NEWSPAPER	SWEATER	

R

OH, MY GOD!

PRESCRIPTIONS

I Cannot prove to you that God exists, but my work has proved empirically that the pattern of God exists in every man and that this pattern in the individual has at its disposal the greatest transforming energies of which life is capable. Find this pattern in your own individual self and life is transformed.

OH, MY GOD! When you see those words, what do you think? Many of us use the word “God” without any clear concept of what we are talking about. Stop and ask yourself what God means to you. If you had to write an essay on God, what would you say on him, her, it? You see how easy it is to get into problems trying to describe God. Words don’t fit, and that’s the problem. Some say, “God is love.” But they don’t define love, and love has no gender associated with it. I don’t see my God as having a gender or human form.

If I had to describe my God I’d say, “Look around you and you’ll see my God. My God is in you and the tree and the computer. My God has many faces, and we are all one of them. God is love and more. God is things we can’t touch, like consciousness, intelligence, and energy, and God is things we can touch like matter and the things that matter. We are all God, or at least an extension of God.”

Soulution of the Day :
Contemplate what God means to you

JTF KATAGALUGAN HOLDS RTF-ELCAC IV-A MEETING TO ADDRESS INSURGENCY

CAMP CAPIN-PIN, Tanay, Rizal – In a concerted effort to eradicate insurgency, the Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (RTF-ELCAC) IV-A, through the Joint Task Force Katagalugan (JTFC) convened here, Friday, June 7. The face-to-face meeting included the participation of Advisers to the Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security (CORDS), Co-Vice Chairpersons, Head Secretariats, and the heads of the twelve clusters/lines of efforts, and presided over by no less than ASec. Jose Dominic Clavano IV of the Department of Justice (DOJ). The agenda covered a comprehensive review of the accomplishments and challenges faced during the previous quarter, the introduction of new action plans, and the way ahead of each cluster to address pressing concerns that would lead to the attainment of peace and development objectives.

Further, the gathering underscored

Senator alarmed over reported POGO ties with local criminal syndicates



MANILA – Senator Sherwin Gatchalian on Thursday said he was “horrified” after learning that some Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGO) are reportedly working with local criminal syndicates.

During the Kapihan sa Senado, Gatchalian said the deepening ties between Chinese and local criminal groups were revealed by security and law enforcement agencies during Wednesday’s closed-door session conducted by the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality.

“After nung first part [ng executive ses-

the commitment of RTF-ELCAC IV-A to maintain momentum in its mission to create a peaceful and secure environment conducive to regional development. During the meeting, ASec. Clavano IV commended the members of the task force for their dedication and hard work in their relentless pursuit of peace and stability in the region. The head of the different cluster also reiterated their commitment to sustain their mandates emphasizing the importance of respective agencies in eradicating insurgency in the country.

ARMY 2040: WORLD CLASS. MULTI-MISSION READY. CROSS-DOMAIN CAPABLE. HONOR. PATRIOTISM. DUTY. The different clusters reassured their commitment to support the thrust of the 2nd Infantry “Jungle Fighter” Division to the region, and pledged to remain vigilant and proactive in their efforts to counter the threat of insurgency and build a brighter future for the entire CALABARZON region.

sion], kinilabutan ako dahil nga na-confirm nung ating mga intelligence agencies yung kinakatakutan natin na lumalalim na yung ugat nitong POGO. Malalim, ibig sabihin, yung kanilang impluwensya umaabot na sa mga politiko, enforcement agencies tulad ng kapulisan, Bureau of Immigration at pangatlo meron silang binanggit dun na pati yung mga local criminal syndicates nakakasama na nila (After the first part of the executive session, I was horrified because our intelligence agencies confirmed what we were afraid of, that the root of this POGO is getting deeper. Deep, that is, their influence extends to politicians, enforcement agencies such as the police, the Bureau of Immigration, and thirdly, they mentioned that local criminal syndicates are already involved),” Gatchalian said.

“Nakakatakot ito dahil pera ng mga foreign criminal syndicates

PNP...

MANILA – Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Rommel Francisco Marbil has ordered a speedy investigation into the administrative cases stemming from the involvement of police officers in various illegal activities.

In a press briefing in Camp Crame, Quezon City, police spokesperson Col. Jean Fajardo said the top cop is not contented with only suspension or demotion being meted to these erring officers.

“Gusto niya idismiss lahat ng mga pulis na may mga involvement sa mga ganitong illegal activities at hindi tayo nagkulang sa mga paalala but may mga matitigas pa rin ang ulo na ayaw magpasakop sa mga policies natin (He wants all police officers who have involvement in these illegal activities to be dismissed. Again, we did not lack in reminding our personnel but there are those who are really stubborn and do not want to comply with our policies). We will enforce the stiffest penalty against them,” Fajardo told reporters in a press conference held at Camp Crame.

This comes following a spate of illegal acts committed by police officers, with a police lieutenant colonel now under investigation for his arrest over a carnapping com-

pumupunta na dito, pinondohan nila yung local criminal syndicates kaya nagsasanib-pwersa na itong mga masasamang elemento (This is scary because money from foreign criminal syndicates is coming here, they’re funding local criminal syndicates, so, these bad elements are now joining forces),” he added.

Gatchalian agreed with panel chairperson Senate Deputy Minority Leader Risa Hontiveros that the National Security Council discuss their findings with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and recommend the total ban of POGO in the country.

“Ang kinakatakutan ko baka umabot sa punto na hindi na natin mako-control ang mga ito at sila na ang ko-control sa gobyerno natin kasi may mga tao na silang binabayaran (What I fear is that it might reach a point

plaint.

Lt. Col. Gideon Ines Jr., 52, was arrested on June 5 in Baclaran, Parañaque City, for allegedly selling a rented multi-purpose vehicle (MPV).

Also nabbed were his supposed accomplices, Michael Bautista, 42, and Lyn Tuazon, 52.

They were arrested by agents of the Philippine National Police Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) following a complaint filed by the female owner of the rented MPV.

Meanwhile, two cops assigned to Quezon City Police District’s Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit together and a barangay official were recently arrested for allegedly causing panic in Barangay Moonwalk, Parañaque on the early morning of June 8.

A police major was also charged with sexual harassment for allegedly molesting a female staff inside the Plaridel Municipal Police Station (MPS) in Bulacan province on June 7.

Based on the police report, the victim is a 30-year-old patrolwoman and assigned to the Women’s and Child Protection Desk of Plaridel MPS while the suspect is the station’s deputy chief. (PNA)

where we can no longer control them, and they will be ones controlling our government because there are people who are already in their payroll),” the senator said.

Gatchalian also expressed suspicion on the recent raid of an alleged POGO hub in Porac, Pampanga where “only” more than 100 foreigners, mostly Chinese nationals, were detained.

The operation was conducted after authorities received reports of scamming activities, torture, kidnapping, and sex trafficking.

According to Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) spokesperson Dr. Winston John Casio, they expected to catch about 1,000 foreigners in the said operation, but admitted to a possible “leak of information.”

“Apparently nung nag-file ng search war-

NEW...

MANILA – The Senate leadership is set to review the construction of the new Senate building in Taguig City due to concerns over escalating costs.

This, after Senate President Francis Escudero announced during the flag ceremony on Monday that he suspended its construction, which was originally set to be finished on September this year.

“Kahit hanggang 2025, sa palagay ko ay hindi pa rin dahil marami pang bagay na kailangang ihanda at maraming bagay din na aming nakita at nagisnan na kailangan pang suriin at pag-aralan (Even until 2025, I don’t think it will be finished because there are still many things that need to be prepared and many things that we have seen that still need to be scrutinized and studied),” Escudero said.

He said the initial budget for the construction of the New Senate building was PHP8.9 billion, and later ballooned to PHP23 billion.

“Sa aking pananaw, masama ito sa panlasa ng karamihan, lalong masama sa panlasa ng nakararami nating mga kababayan, lalo na sa gitna ng krisis ng ekonomiya at sa kahirapan na nakikita ng marami sa ating kababayan (In my view, this leaves a bad taste for the majority, especially a bad taste for most of our countrymen amid the economic crisis and the poverty that many of them experience),” he said.

He said he ordered the suspension in response to a report submitted by Senator Alan Peter Cayetano, who now chairs the Committee on Accounts, detailing issues such as budget increase, quality concerns, and management inefficiencies.

He said Cayetano’s report cited some project modifications that

rant ang PAOCC, merong nag-tip dito sa mga operators. So, ang kutob ko dito hindi lang enforcement agencies, kundi pati judiciary meron na silang mga tao (Apparently when the PAOCC filed a search warrant, someone tipped off the operators. So, my hunch here is not only enforcement agencies, but they already have people in the judiciary),”

FROM PAGE 1

resulted in additional expenses amounting to PHP833 million, which is nearly 10 percent of the original contract price.

Cayetano also recommended to identify project issues and engaging a third-party construction management team for validation and cost reduction.

Escudero instructed Cayetano to review the project and address these concerns to ensure project quality and efficiency.

The construction of the New Senate building was initiated by the 17th Congress in 2017 after former Senator Panfilo Lacson, then-chair of the Committee on Accounts, called for the need to relocate to a new site for the Philippine Senate due to increasing space limitations and the need for enhanced facilities.

Meanwhile, Senator Nancy Binay, who formerly chairs the Committee on Accounts, assured that she is ready to provide all the information needed by the Senate leadership about the ongoing construction of the new Senate building.

“Naghihintay po lamang ako na ako’y ipatawag (I am just waiting to be invited). If there are questions and some clarifications, or things that need to be verified or validated, or to check if some information are indeed factual or simply intended to sow misinformation and spread falsehoods – I am just a call or text away,” Binay said in a statement.

“I understand that the Senate President meant well in reviewing the budget for New Senate Building pero sana madaliin nila ang (but I hope they speed up the) review. We want to avoid any unnecessary expense brought by the delay,” she added, but made it clear that she agrees with Escudero “to look for ways to bring the costs down.” (PNA)

Gatchalian said. “Marunong ding gumalaw ang mga ito para magkaroon ng mga galamay at ito yung isang ebidensya na meron na silang mga tao sa mga lugar na magbibigay ng tip sa kanila (They also know the moves to expand their network, and this is proof that they already have people in places to tip them off),” he added. (PNA)

EDITORIAL: POGOs under siege

Should Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators or POGOs be banned from operating in the country?

That possibility looms large close on the heels of two more high-profile raids by law enforcers on POGOs in two Central Luzon provinces.

In the latest raid on June 6, at least 186 foreign and Filipino workers were rescued from another sprawling POGO complex in Porac municipality in Pampanga.

The complex was reportedly being used for human trafficking, with some of the foreign employees allegedly tortured or sold for sex.

Of the 157 foreign nationals accounted for in the raid, 126 were Chinese, 23 were Vietnamese, four were Malaysians, four were Burmese, and one was Korean. There were also 29 Filipino workers.

The operation mounted by the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) was the second high-profile POGO raid in Central Luzon this year.

A crackdown in March on another major gaming hub in Bamban town in neighboring Tarlac province led to its mayor, Alice Guo, being grilled in the Senate about her background and links to the POGO, business, and even aroused suspicion she could be a Chinese spy.

This was the second time the Bamban POGO had been raided, the first was in September 2022.

The raids came amid growing calls especially from some lawmakers to kick out POGOs from the country after several were repeatedly linked to crime syndicates engaged in human trafficking, kidnapping, robbery-extortion, money laundering, online scams, and, lately, even espionage.

The Duterte administration encouraged the entry of POGOs because of their perceived economic impact.

Department of Finance data show that combined taxes collected from POGOs from 2017 to October 2022 reached P53.8 billion: P30 billion by PAGCOR, while P23.8 billion by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

In 2019, total collected taxes reached ₱14.44 billion. POGO generated ₱7 billion in license fees, according to PAGCOR.

NEDA also reported that, at the same year, POGOs contributed ₱104.5 billion or 0.67 percent of the country’s gross domestic product.

However, these declined thereafter, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last year, despite the decrease in the number of operators, POGO still generated ₱5.2 billion in license fees.

Meanwhile, the BIR reported in October 2022 there were 16,736 Filipino workers employed by licensed POGOs, accounting for 48.87 percent of the total employment in the industry.

But critics have long argued the economic benefits of POGOs in terms of job creation, property sector earnings and revenues for the government are far outweighed by their social cost and involvement in outright criminal activities.

Will the Marcos Jr. administration respond to increasingly strident calls to ban POGOs once and for all?



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Filipino...

Atty. Elaine Antonio Bordeaux, a Filipina Immigration Lawyer and sculptor was honored by the Provincial Government of Cavite through Sangguniang Panlalawigan Resolution No. 3145-2024, for being named as one of the 2023 Most Influential Filipina Women in the World by the Filipina Women’s Network (FWN). The recognition ceremony took place at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Session Hall, Legislative Building in Trece Martires City on June 5, 2024, marking a significant milestone in the illustrious career of the Filipino sculptor.

Atty. Bordeaux, renowned for her captivating sculptures that intricately blend Filipino heritage with contemporary artistry, has made a name for herself in the international art community. Her works, celebrated for their profound storytelling and intricate craftsmanship, have been featured in numerous galleries and exhibitions across the US, bringing Filipino culture to the forefront of the global art stage.

During the cere-

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mony, esteemed officials of Cavite headed by Board Members Abeng Remulla and Kerby Salazar, along with PGC employees, gathered to honor Bordeaux’s achievements. The event highlighted her dedication to promoting Filipino culture through her art, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of her heritage among diverse audiences.

In her acceptance speech, Bordeaux expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the recognition, emphasizing the importance of her roots in shaping her artistic journey.

She acknowledged the unwavering support of her family, mentors, and the Filipino community, which has been instrumental in her success. Bordeaux’s recognition serves as an inspiration to aspiring artists, proving that passion and perseverance can lead to international acclaim. It also stands as a testament to the power of art in bridging cultures and fostering a sense of pride and unity among Filipinos worldwide. – JDP

LAWMAKERS...

MANILA – Surigao del Norte 2nd District Rep. Robert Ace Barbers on Monday joined the growing clamor for the government to declare Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs) a serious national security threat and to come up with a statute ordering the latter’s total ban in the country due to its proven criminal activities.

He said since he delivered a privilege speech in 2017 to expose the nefarious activities of the POGOs, nothing has changed and the criminal activities turned even worse.

“These POGOs that are banned in mainland China only brought more crimes and shame to our country. Whatever benefit we got from them is nothing compared to what they have put us in. The social costs keep mounting and no amount of taxes or perceived jobs can outweigh them,” said Barbers, chairman of the House committee on dangerous drugs.

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China and Chinese legitimate businesses and investors are welcome though, but not the “garbage” that seemed to be being deliberately dumped as if the country is a junkyard for its waste products of illegal gambling, drugs and criminal syndicates, he said.

“These POGOs contributed heavily to the deterioration of our moral fiber. They are fronts to Chinese led criminal syndicates, money-laundering, espionage, cyber hacking, wiretapping, and other illegal activities that gave rise to murder, kidnapping for ransom, rape, prostitution, torture and countless other unspeakable barbaric activities,” Barbers said.

He said the worst part is when POGO money is teamed up with drug money and used to bribe Philippine government officials to buy their silence and cooperation, put Chinese pretending to be Filipinos to high government positions, buy agricultural lands that compromises

TRAFFIC...

MANILA – Temporary road closures will be implemented in the capital city Manila to give way to the 126th Independence Day celebrations on June 12.

From 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., the following roads will be temporarily closed to vehicular traffic:

Roxas Blvd – both bounds from T. M. Kalaw to P. Burgos

T. M. Kalaw – from Ma. Orosa to Roxas Blvd. westbound

From 1 p.m. to 10 p.m., the following roads will be temporarily closed to vehicular traffic:

Roxas Blvd. – from UN Avenue to P. Burgos Ave. (both lanes)

T. M. Kalaw – both sides from Roxas Blvd. to Taft Ave.

P. Burgos Avenue – both sides and Finance Road

Bonifacio Drive – from Anda Circle to P. Burgos Ave.

Adjacent roads within Rizal Park and Quirino Grandstand will also be utilized for the occasion.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) advised truckers, drivers, and motorists to take the identified alternate routes during the duration of the closure.

For public utility vehicles and private vehicles going north: Roxas Blvd. right turn to Quirino Ave. or United Nations Ave., then left turn to Taft Ave. to destination.

For private vehicles: From R-10 going to Anda Circle, turn left to Soriano Ave, turn right to

national food security, and extend their influence on all corners of the government infrastructure.

POGO politics, he said, has complemented narco politics and if the country continues to be blind and refuses to read the writings on the wall, the Filipinos are doomed.

“The attempt by PAGCOR to deodorize POGO by changing its name is futile and even highlights its negative impacts in our society. No change of name can ever erase its legacy of crimes. POGO by any other name stinks just the same,” Barbers said.

He called on all

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Solana St., turn left to Murralla St., then go straight to Magallanes Drive, turn right to P. Burgos Ave. to destination.

For trucks going northbound and southbound: South Luzon Expressway, Osmeña Highway, Quirino Ave., Nagtahan St., Lacson Ave., Yuseco St., Capulong St., R-10 Road, to destination.

Actual closing and opening of affected roads will be based on the actual traffic situation.

In a news release on Saturday, MMDA Acting Chair Don Artes said a total of 1,156 enforcers will be deployed in strategic locations to ensure seamless traffic management.

Ambulances, military trucks, dump trucks, tow trucks and other resources will likewise be dispatched.

Festival-like celebrations are lined up for June 10 to 12 at Rizal Park Burnham Green across Quirino Grandstand.

Government agencies and non-government organizations have prepared activities for the public to enjoy.

Meanwhile, the Land Transportation Office will set up booths at Rizal Park on June 10 and 11 for processing of student permits, renewal of driver’s licenses and retrieval or password change of Land Transport Management System portal accounts.

Free medical examination, a requirement to acquire a license, may also be availed of by the first 100 applicants starting 7 a.m. on June 10. (PR)

patriotic Filipinos, including Filipino-Chinese, “to join us in cleaning our country of these criminal syndicates involved in illegal drugs and POGO and get our society back from these modern day country snatchers.”

Cagayan de Oro City 2nd District Rep. Rufus Rodriguez also backed the proposal to ban POGOs.

“The negative, evil and harmful effects of POGOS on society far outweigh the revenue they bring in,” he said.

He cited House Resolution 1197 and House Bill 5082, which call for the ban on POGOs. (PNA)

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CEBU PACIFIC CELEBRATES NATIONAL MIGRANTS' DAY WITH FREE FLIGHTS FOR OFWS



Cebu Pacific (PSE: CEB), the Philippines' leading carrier, marked the celebration of National Migrants' Day by giving back to overseas workers.

As a testament to its commitment of honoring the invaluable contributions of Filipino migrant workers, the airline raffled off international tickets to aspiring and current Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).

The raffle, held during the National Migrants' Day celebration organized by the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), awarded six OFWs with roundtrip tickets to any of CEB's international destinations. This initiative offers the recipients an opportunity to reunite with their loved ones or enjoy a well-deserved vacation.

"This initiative is part of our commitment to United Filipino Global, our corporate social responsibility partner, in honoring the dedication of OFWs. We are happy to celebrate National Migrants' Day by awarding a token of appreciation for the immeasurable contributions of overseas workers to our country. Their sacrifices and resilience are an inspiration to us all, and we hope these tickets bring joy and opportunities for meaningful connections," said Candice Iyog, CEB Chief Marketing and Customer Experience Officer.

On June 2, CEB, alongside select government agencies and United Filipino Global (UFG), kicked off the National Migrants' Day celebration with an overseas job fair in Tacloban. The event aimed to address

"United Filipino Global is proud to partner with Cebu Pacific in celebrating the hard work and dedication of our Overseas Filipino Workers. These initiatives not only provide joy and recognition but also reflect the importance of their contributions to our country. Let us continue to uplift the lives of Filipino workers and ensure that they feel valued and appreciated," said Gemma Sotto, UFG Chairperson.

CEB remains to prioritize affordable and



the employment needs of Filipinos in various sectors, including healthcare, hospitality, accounting, and skilled trades, offering over 5,000 job opportunities in countries such as Australia, Japan, Malaysia, the Middle East, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

accessible air travel for every Juan while also reaffirming its social responsibility to actively contribute to the welfare and empowerment of the Filipino workforce.

For more information about CEB's initiatives for OFWs, visit www.cebupacificair.com.

PRIDE RADIATES COLORFUL ENERGY IN CAVITE



Honoring the vibrancy of all colors across the province, the Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer, officially held the Provincial Pride Month Celebration at the Provincial Gymnasium, Trece Martires City, on May 30, 2024.

The program started off with Mr. Alvin S. Mojica – Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs, Mr. Cyrus Cruzat – Provincial LGBTQIA

Federation President, Ms. Precyl Ramos – OP-SWDO Officer in Charge, and Hon. Romel Enriquez – 1st District Board Member and Committee Chair on Social Services, Family, Women, Children and Elderly gracing the event and conveying their ardent joy and appreciation to all who have shown support for the Pride. Above all that, PA Mojica and BM Enriquez assured the LGBTQIA+ community the LGBTQIA+ community of the consistent support and assistance of the PGC, led

June 12-18, 2024

CAREER FAIR CARAVAN IN DLSU-D



On May 29, 2024, the vibrant Ugnayang La Salle in the City of Dasmariñas buzzed with anticipation as it hosted the Career Fair Caravan organized by the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPEM) led by Ms. Rizalie P. Enero, in partnership with the Linkages and Scholarship Office, headed by Director Christian George Francisco, PhD. Their joint initiative aimed to provide comprehensive career orientation and opportunities for the graduating students of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas.

The program commenced with welcome remarks from Dr. Sonia Gementiza, PhD, Vice President for Internationalization and External Affairs, followed by a brief orientation from Ms. Enero. This set the stage for a day filled with opportunities and valuable interactions.

by Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla, to the advocacy, initiatives and projects for the betterment of the said community.

Additionally, as part of the celebration, a Career Fair Caravan was arranged with the help of the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager, headed by Ms. Rizalie Enero, to which Ms. Precyl Ramos thanked for giving the colorful community the opportunity to shine brighter. "Sa lahat po ng mga korporasyon at mga kompanya na narito para i-engage natin ang atin pong mga kapatid from the LGBT community, maraming salamat po" she expressed. Likewise, free HIV testing was offered by

The Career Fair Caravan brought together 27 companies from various sectors, presenting a diverse array of job opportunities. This initiative drew an impressive turnout of 875 students, all eager to explore potential career paths and secure employment. The fair offered a unique platform for students to engage directly with employers, ask pertinent questions, and gain valuable insights into their desired industries.

Beyond job opportunities, the event also prioritized holistic career preparedness by involving several national government agencies. Representatives from the Social Security System (SSS), Pag-ibig Fund, PhilHealth, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), and the National Bureau of Investigation

the Office of the Provincial Health Officer represented by Ms. Haydelisa Maderazo.

Consequently, Ms. Kimberly Mae Dimaranan led the zumba dance as an energizer to keep the enthusiasm of the attendees and participants burning.

The second part of the program was filled with rainbows, as six LGBTQIA+ entrants, composed of federations from General Emilio Aguinaldo, General Mariano Alvarz, Trece Martires City, Maragondon, Amadeo, and Bacoor, flaunted their talents in the 2024 Festival of Colors Competition.

Mr. King David Agreda, Mr. Ryann Buban,

(NBI) were present. These agencies provided crucial information and assistance on various employment and social welfare programs, ensuring that students were well-informed about the benefits and support systems available to them as they transition into the workforce.

The successful execution of the Career Fair Caravan highlights the commitment of both the OPPEM and the Linkages and Scholarship Office to fostering an environment where students are equipped with the necessary tools and resources to thrive in their professional endeavors. Through such collaborative efforts, the event not only facilitated immediate employment opportunities but also laid a strong foundation for the long-term career success of La Salle Dasma graduates. - Axel A. Sarte

and Mr. Richard Luman-das were invited to be judges of the competition.

After all the energetic performances, Trece Martires City Pride stood out and took home the Champion title. Maragondon Pride secured the 1st Place, while the Bacoor Pride landed on the 2nd Place. Special awards were also given – Best Theme for the contestant of Maragondon and Best in Costume for GMA.

The Provincial Celebration of Colors and Pride reflects the commitment of the PGC in recognizing gender diversity and sensitivity, accepting the LGBTQIA+ community. - Jam Elisse M. Reyes

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KAPIHAN SA BAGONG PILIPINAS HIGHLIGHTS GAINS IN CALABARZON TRANSPORT SECTOR



The second installment of Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas in Calabarzon showcased the achievements of various regional line agencies of the Department of Transportation such as the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) IV-A, Land Transportation Office (LTO) IV-A, Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) IV-A, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) IV-A, and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). They emphasized their notable strides in ensuring safe and efficient transportation across the region's air, land, and sea.

Highlighted points include:

- Consolidated 21,820 public utility vehicles (PUVs) as part of the PUV Modernization Program.

- Expedited issuance and distribution of 76,383 license plates within a two-week period, resulting in the elimination of license plate backlogs.
- Integration of locally apprehended traffic violations into the Land Transportation Management System (LTMS).

- Development of Sangley Airport with expectations to alleviate congestion and enhance services at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport,

serving as the country's primary gateway.

- Commitment to ensuring maritime security and safety within Calabarzon waters.
- Ongoing development efforts for local and international ports in Calabarzon.

These agencies are committed to collaborating and coordinating efforts to uphold safety standards and enhance efficiency across air, land, and sea transportation systems, contributing to the overall vision of a progressive and secure transportation landscape in the Philippines under the Bagong Pilipinas Agenda of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

FREE MENTORING FOR LIPA ENTREPRENEURS



Lipa City, known for its enterprising and hardworking entrepreneurs, was the next stop for Go Negosyo's 3M on Wheels last May 25, 2024 at The Event Center in SM City Lipa in Batangas. MS-MEs from this most populous town of Batangas province took advantage of the free entrepreneurship mentoring by volunteer Go Negosyo mentors comprising veteran entrepreneurs and executives.

Lipa City Mayor Hon. Eric Africa (center, in white) leads the mentors and MSMEs in giving the signature Go Negosyo

thumbs-up. With him are (from left) Rotary Club of Lipa City president Orlan Bancoro, host Michael Angelo Lobrin, Pan De Batangueña owner Alyanna Caringal, PCCL-Lipa Chamber president May Ann Katigbak, DTI Batangas Provincial Director Leila Cabreross, JCI Lipa president Ronnel Sarmiento, and Women's Business Council chairperson Rosemarie Rafael.

3M on Wheels is a program of the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (Go Negosyo). In addition to free one-on-one coaching for

active and aspiring entrepreneurs, financing and market solutions are also made available to them at the event. It promotes the three M's for successful entrepreneurship, namely Mentorship, Money, and Markets, which form the foundation of Go Negosyo's mission to promote entrepreneurship among Filipinos. The event was inspired by the growing number of Filipinos turning to entrepreneurship and fills the learning gap in the entrepreneurial journey of active and aspiring entrepreneurs. PR

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Cavite provincial government successfully dispose valueless records, supporting general fund.



The Office of the Provincial General Services Officer (OPGSO) and General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH), has completed a large-scale disposal of valueless records, led by the Records Management and Improvement Committee (RMIC) through its Chairman, Mr. Ferdinand A. Belamide.

Conducted on May 28 and June 3, 2024, this initiative resulted in the disposal of 19,012 kilos of records, which were packed into 1,178 sacks. This effort complied with

the provisions of Republic Act No. 9470, ensuring adherence to national standards for the systematic management, preservation, and disposal of government records.

Requests for the disposal of these records were submitted by 38 different offices within the provincial government, demonstrating a coordinated approach to enhancing records management practices.

The disposal process was conducted transparently and was witnessed by representatives

from the National Archives of the Philippines (NAP), the Commission on Audit (COA), the Technical Working Group (TWG), and other key members who participated via Zoom.

The proceeds from this disposal will be forwarded to the provincial treasurer as part of the general fund which will support various government projects and services, benefiting the broader community and contributing to the province's development goals. - Romelyn P. Dones

Pag-IBIG Fund's new love language: LAB for All

Pag-IBIG Fund rolled out its Lingkod Pag-IBIG on Wheels (LPOW) during the Lab For All at the Subic Bay Exhibition & Convention Center last 21 May 2024.

The Lab for All, an initiative led by First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, aims to extend medical services and social security benefits to communities nationwide. As part of this effort, Pag-IBIG Fund's LPOW was on site, bringing essential services like membership registration, cash loans, housing loan applications, and issuance of Pag-IBIG Loyalty Plus cards, right into the heart of the community it serves.

Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer



Marilene C. Acosta expressed her support for the initiative. "We are happy to continue participating in future Lab for All deployments. Our LPOW is prepared to mobilize na-

tionwide. As Lingkod Pag-IBIG, we are committed to ensuring our members feel the warmth of Pag-IBIG through our programs and services, wherever they may be," Acosta stated.