

CALAMBA MARKS 10TH YEAR OF BUHAYANI A CELEBRATION OF HEROES LEGACY AND NATIONALISM



"He who does not look back from where he came will never reach his destination."

As this saying continues to keep the flame of patriotism alive in our country, the city government of Calamba, Laguna, not only looks back on the contributions and patriotism of our national heroes but also celebrates the modern heroes' dedication to keeping the love of country and volunteerism alive and sustained.

Now in its tenth year, the Calambagong

Buhayani Festival, with the theme "Buhay ng Bayani, Buhay na Bayani: Isang Dekada ng Saya at Parangal sa mga Bayani ng Ating Bayan," launches a variety of programs to spotlight the importance of honoring our heroes. This celebration aims to preserve history, instill national pride, and inspire future generations.

The festival coincides with the celebration of Philippine Independence every June 12 and extends to the birth anniversary of Calamba's finest son, Dr. Jose Rizal, on June 19.

One of the programs during the festival is "Kwentong Bayani," held at the Museo ni Jose Rizal. Children from various barangays in the city are invited to listen to the life stories of the known heroes from Calamba, including the national hero Dr. Jose Rizal, his brother Paciano Rizal, and Teodoro Alonzo, Rizal's mother. Other celebrated nationalist figures are World War II General Vicente Lim and General Geronimo Aclan.



Now in its tenth year, the Calambagong Buhayani Festival, with the theme "Buhay ng Bayani, Buhay na Bayani: Isang Dekada ng Saya at Parangal sa mga Bayani ng Ating Bayan," launches a variety of programs to spotlight the importance of honoring our heroes. This celebration aims to preserve history, instill national pride, and inspire future generations. (CO, AM/PIA-4A)

For Teodoro Derrick Villa, curator of the Museo ni Dr. Jose Rizal from the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the festival is a way for Filipino children to delve deeper and develop a renewed sense of nationalism through stories of justice, equal rights, and the

yearning for freedom.

"As we listen to these stories, let us reflect on the lessons they impart, seek motivation to contribute positively to our community, stand up for what is right, and carry forth the torch of their noble ideals. Engage in this experience and contemplate how the valuable actions of our

heroes can be lived out today," Villa stated.

Villa also encouraged them to gain valuable lessons for their inspiration, as they are considered the heroes of tomorrow, as stated by Rizal.

He added: "The stories of our heroes are not just narratives of the

past; they also contain plans for the future. They taught us resilience in the face of difficult challenges, the importance of unity, and the power of one person's conviction to bring change."



Teodoro Derrick Villa, curator of the Museo ni Dr. Jose Rizal encouraged children to gain valuable lessons for their inspiration, as they are considered the heroes of tomorrow, as stated by Rizal. (MO, AM/PIA-4A)

Through the Calamba City Cultural Affairs, Tourism and Sports Development Department (CATSDD), the city government unveils other events during the week-long festival centered on the life and legacy of heroes and reinvigorating cultural traits of the country.

This includes the revival of the culture of balagtas among the youth through the Calam-Balagtas sa Bayan ng Bayani program, Sulyap sa Nakaraan with the local diocesan church where Rizal was christened, awarding Calambagong Bayani awards, learning and seminar sessions, Watawat ng Lahi Mass and Program, Talinong Rizal quiz competition, job fair, fun run, cultural night,

and a special paralympic competition dubbed as "Calambagong Palakasan para sa may Kapanasanan."

On June 19, simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies throughout the city honored the 163rd birth anniversary of Jose Rizal, while 20 land floats depicting Rizal's life and works and multi-sectoral contingents participated in the Buhayani Grand Parade.

According to Maolen Karla Boholano, CATSDD Department Head, the Buhayani Festival, recognized as the official festival of Calamba, seeks to introduce Rizal as a Calambeño, a son, an educator, and a visionary, making him more alive and more human.

"Now, we intro-

duce Dr. Jose Rizal as a Calambeño, focusing on his life as a child, not just as the author of two books. Today, we highlight what Dr. Jose Rizal's favorite food was, his role among his siblings, and what kind of child he was. We make Dr. Jose Rizal more human so that children, and even adults, can appreciate and remember him in this way, and not forget him," she stated.

Boholano added that the city government conducts regular cultural mapping activities, improvements of Calamba's historical district, and consultations with the local culture and arts council to ensure that the city's efforts converge in preserving the culture and traditions of a progressive yet historic city. (CO/PIA-4A)

Cavite as access to #SerbisyongPangkalusugan



Continuing to ensure the wellness of all Cavite women, the Provincial Council of Women in collaboration with the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer, together with the Kababaihan ng Familiang Mendezeño, arranged a health outreach program called "Serbisyong Pangkalusugan para sa mga Kababaihan" at Mendez Municipal Covered Court, on June 20, 2024.

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PBBM: De Lima acquittal proves we don't need ICC

BAGONG BYPASS ROAD AT BRIDGE SA BUHAY NA TUBIG - TANZANG LUMA, BUKAS NA



Personal na dinaluhan ng mga opisyales ng siyudad ni Imus City sa pangunguna nina Mayor Alex A. Advincula, Vice Mayor Homer Saquilayan at mga konsehalas at opisyales ng barangay ang pagbubukas at pagbabasbas ng bagong bypass road at tulay na nagdurugtong sa Brgy. Buhay na Tubig at Brgy. Tanzang Luma. Kasabay rin nito ang pagpapailaw ng mga bagong streetlight sa kahabaan ng nasabing kalsada. Mabilis na biyahe, maayos at ligtas na tulay para sa mga motoristang dadaan dito.

DELA ROSA TO SKIP HOUSE HEARING ON DRUG WAR



CAVITE CAREER CARAVAN IN BACOR CITY



The Cavite Career Caravan, held on June 20, 2024, at NOMO Vista Mall in the City of Bacoor, spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM) in partnership with the Provincial Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, the local government of the City of Bacoor, and the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) Bacoor highlighted the power of collaboration in bringing service closer to people.

The event commenced with opening remarks from Dr. Abraham D. de Castro, Department Head of PESO Bacoor, followed by a welcome message from Mr. Demetrio C. Villanueva III, Labor and Employment Officer at OPPESM. Honorable Chelsea Jillian G. Sarno provided an inspirational message to the jobseekers, encouraging them to seize the opportunities presented. Honorable Palm Angel S. Buncio, SK Federation President of the City of Bacoor, also showed support for the

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POINT OF VIEW

THE ULTIMATE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BUILDING AN INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

Unit Investment Trust Funds (UITFs)

UITFs are similar to mutual funds, but are offered by banks. These funds pool money from various investors to invest in a diversified portfolio managed by the bank's trust department. UITFs are accessible and convenient for beginners as they can be purchased directly from a bank and come with the expert guidance of dedicated fund managers.

The Stock Market

Investing in individual stocks involves buying shares of companies listed on a stock exchange. This type of investment can offer high returns, but comes with higher risk. Beginners can start by opening a trading account with a brokerage firm, which also often provides educational resources, research tools, and easy-to-use interfaces to help them make informed investment decisions.

Government Securities

Government securities are low-risk investments issued by the government. These are suitable for beginners seeking stable returns. You can purchase government securities through banks and authorized dealers.

A Few Things to Consider as You Build Your Investment Portfolio

Of course, building your investment portfolio does not stop with merely knowing your investment options. It's also a must to understand how to put together a collection of investments that suit your specific situation and financial objectives. Here are some of the things you should take note of:

to be cont. for next issue

BACOR...

program, motivating the attendees. The presence and support of DOLE Provincial Director Marivic B. Martinez added to the event's significance.

The caravan saw substantial engagement, with 31 local companies participating and offering a wide range of job opportunities. The event attracted 397 applicants, with 26 individuals securing immediate employment, demonstrating its critical role in addressing the employment needs of the province.

Additionally, representatives from various national government agencies, including SSS, Pag-ibig, Philhealth, TES-

FROM PAGE 1

DA, PSA, BIR, and NBI, were present. They provided valuable information and assistance regarding government programs and services relevant to employment and social welfare, enhancing the support available to job-seekers.

The success of the Cavite Career Caravan was attributed to the unwavering support and collaboration of all participating companies and government agencies. The Provincial Government of Cavite expressed sincere appreciation to all contributors for their dedication to empowering job seekers and fostering economic growth and prosperity in Cavite. - Axel A. Sarte

PBBM...

MANILA — Former senator Leila de Lima's acquittal from her drug charges is proof that the justice system of the Philippines is working and the country does not need the intervention of the International Criminal Court (ICC), President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said Thursday.

Marcos made the pronouncement after the Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 206 cleared De Lima of the third and last charge of the series of drug-related cases filed against her in 2017.

In a media interview, Marcos said the court's decision proved that the Philippines judiciary is functioning.

"Well, maybe this is something we should show the ICC. The judiciary is working properly, our investigative services are working properly," Marcos said.

"Former Sen. De Lima has been acquitted.

MSMES INVITED TO LEARN STRATEGIES FROM LAZADA, TIKTOK

QUEZON CITY, (PIA) — Good news! Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are invited to learn special marketing strategies from popular online marketplaces Lazada PH and Tiktok PH.

This free online training session on Multi-Platform Selling Strategies is organized by the Department of Trade and Industry National Capital Regional Office (DTI NCRO).

Learn from guest speakers from Lazada PH and TikTok PH.

The training session is set on June 27, 2024 (Thursday), from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Interested participants may register at bit.ly/SMERA2024_0627 or scan the QR code.

Multi-platform selling, also known as cross-listing, involves list-

I don't know what further comments there could be. Dumaan siya sa paghugaga, na-acquit siya (She went through the process, and then got acquitted)," he stressed.

The ICC has been investigating alleged crimes against humanity under the controversial drug war of former president Rodrigo Duterte.

But Marcos said the Philippine government will not cooperate with the ICC, stressing that the international court has no jurisdiction over the country following its formal departure from the statute in March 2019.

The President said the country's stand remains.

"We still stay with our position that the ICC had no jurisdiction in the Philippines because we have a working police force, we have a working judiciary, and do not require any assistance in that regard," he said. (PNA)

ing your products on multiple online marketplaces to expand your reach and increase sales opportunities.

This allows MSMEs to tap into diverse customer bases and enhance their brand visibility by leveraging each platform's unique features and demographics.

Cross-platform marketing also allows businesses to connect with potential customers wherever they are, maximizing their reach and engagement.

By utilizing these various channels, MSMEs can create a comprehensive and effective marketing strategy that resonates with their audience.

For more free learning updates, visit the DTI NCRO Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DTI.NCRO>. (JEG/PIA-NCR)

DICT EXPANDS 'WI-FI FOR ALL' PROGRAM TO FAR-FLUNG COMMUNITIES

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Laguna continues to provide free wi-fi for public access to enhance internet connectivity, particularly in underserved and remote areas, with the aim of digital inclusion by giving access to the internet.

During the Philippine Information Agency's Usapang PIA radio program, DICT Laguna engineer Jeudiel Maunahan said that the Free WiFi program of the department aims to reach remote areas in the province and bridge the digital divide by ensuring reliable and fast access to the internet.

"As of this year, we have just finished implementing four active sites for VSAT GIGA with our partners from the United Nations Development Program where we gave wi-fi access to Famy, Pangil, Majayjay, and Rizal," he said.

Maunahan adds that having an internet connection in remote areas will foster opportunities for education, economic growth, improved means of communication, and equitable access to digital resources for all.

To ensure the sustainability and safety of the Free WiFi program, the DICT has established a connected Network Operations Center (NOC) responsible for monitoring all activities on online sites, providing real-time oversight and management of the network.

"To prevent outsiders from accessing data, we also make sure that the equipment we use is VPN-compatible.

We also check the access points, where we isolate the person connected to the Wi-Fi so that they cannot be accessed by other people connected on the same Wi-Fi network, so each of them has a private internet use of their own,"

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Maunahan explained.

Adding to the department's efforts, they also conduct cyberspace webinars which aim to educate the public on various aspects of internet use, empowering users with the knowledge and skills needed to make the most of the digital world safely and effectively.

In the province of Laguna, every local government unit has an ICT site coordinator who oversees the deployment and maintenance of ICT infrastructure, including the Free WiFi sites within their respective municipalities to whom the DICT communicates.

"We already have a means of communication with each municipality or city in Laguna, including the barangay level. Their own ICT site coordinators who oversee ICT-related operations. They work with us so that our programs can be implemented more smoothly with their assistance," he stated.

Maunahan added: "In every place, every barangay, and every school they are the ones who maintain and organize DICT programs. We receive a validation report about the programs we conduct in their areas with the assistance of their ICT coordinators."

The National Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Month is celebrated annually every June by the virtue of Proclamation No. 1521, s. 2008, where it states the need to recognize ICT as one of the drivers for economic growth. (AM/PIA-4A)



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5 Tips for a healthy lifestyle

Drink Plenty of Water

Your body is mainly made up of water or other fluids that are used to regulate and promote proper function throughout your body. So why wouldn't you provide your body with the resources that it needs the most? That only is water great for your overall health, it also helps you maintain regular energy levels throughout your day as well as regulate your metabolism.

Get 6-8 hours sleep

Sleep is vital to your wellbeing and your success. So many entrepreneurs think that the late night is the only way to success. They see these millionaires and billionaires looking about how early they get up and how making up early is the best's secret, but what they don't know is how early these individuals are going to sleep.

Eat whole food/meal prep

Meal prepping is boring and may seem like a waste of a couple hours, but those couple of hours are going to save you time and money during the week as opposed to eating out. Think about it this way, it takes you 2-3 hours to properly meal prep every Sunday so that every meal throughout the week is taken care of. That's no much time! Well, let's say you eat out for every meal instead.

Exercise regularly

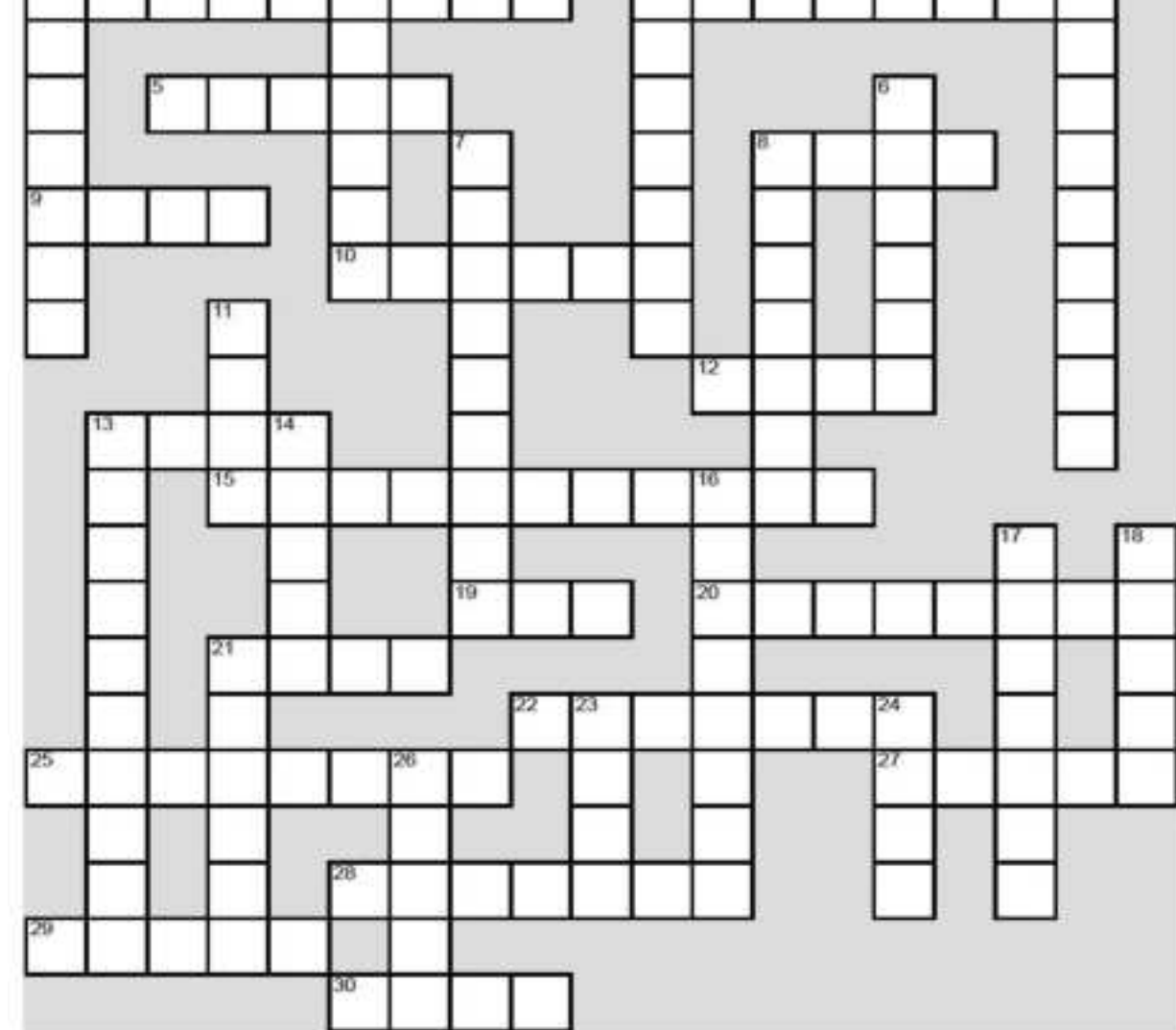
One of the suggested benefits to exercise is that you feel less stressed, but how is that? Basically, by exercising you are causing the release of a lot of hormones in your body that allow you to keep pushing forward. Afterwards, your body goes through a correctional period where it tries to readjust after a strenuous workout.

Develop a Consistent Routine

You need to get really good at time management and develop a consistent daily routine. When it comes to developing a daily routine, there is no "one size fits all" routine. My best advice to you is to do some trial-and-error to seeing what works for you on a day by day basis.

Your health really does equal your wealth. Your wealth is created by how much time, effort, and energy you put into creating it. If your body is not at 100%, you will not reach 100% of your goal.

Opera Crossword



- #### ACROSS

 - Your favorite State for Opera and the Arts
 - MN Opera's 58th Season Opener "The Abduction from the "
 - Opera " " (It's so serious)
 - Thing on stage
 - The Mikado's three little maids made one
 - Eugene " " Opera by Tchaikovsky
 - Tune for two
 - Thrown to people on stage?
 - Captions
 - Background in theater?
 - Figaro portrayed, e.g.
 - Prima Donna
 - Showy Musical Passage
 - Vocal Style focusing on beauty of tone rather than power
 - Opera star's props?
 - Rapid fluctuation in pitch
 - Stick for conducting
 - Melancholy color or Police Opera
- #### DOWN

 - Great conductor
 - Dramatic lyric voice
 - 1877 Stephen King Novel and Opera "The "
 - 1 down conducts this
 - 3 across's composer
 - Opera introductions
 - Opening to an aria
 - He had an amazing voice, but his acting was like a wet fish?
 - Rossini rags-to-riches opera
 - All singers together
 - Text for the Opera
 - This singer always got the "highest" grades
 - Female singing voice between contralto and soprano
 - From the top, in sheet music
 - 21 across's solo
 - How singers acknowledge the applause (2 words)
 - Do-re-do-re-do-re-do-re-do, e.g.

Rx SUPERTITION

Be strong. get beyond all suprtition and be free -SWAMI VIVEKENANDA

SOME FEAR ARE JUST SUPERSTITION. For instance, why fear the number thirteen? In Judaism a boy or a girl's thirteen birthday is a day to celebrate and have bar or bat mitzvah.

So what superstition? Many of us still hold to superstition in our daily lives, such as when we avoid walking under a ladder or when we sorry about a black cat crossing our path. The dictionary says: superstition 1. A belief or notion not based on reason or knowledge, in or of the significance of a particular thing, circumstance, occurrence, proceeding, or the like. 2. A system or collection of such belief. 3. A custom or act based on such beliefs.

There are enough real fears in life; we do not need to add to them by bringing in what are really just superstition.

Soulution of the Day :

How often do you let superstition run your life?



Margie Quiamco, armed with determination, ventured to the city of Manila to work as a seamstress.

Growing up in a family from the province of Albay, Margie Quiamco dreamt of lifting her loved ones out of poverty. Answering the loud call of the Metro, she departed for Manila in pursuit of this vision, where she stumbled upon an opportunity that changed the course of her life.

For Margie, NCR represented a gateway to numerous opportunities. With nine siblings relying on the meager income of her farmer parents, Margie understood the need for a better life.

Inspired by her aunt, a skilled seamstress, Margie immersed herself in the art of sewing during her three-year stint living

with her in Manila. Mastering the basics, she gradually refined her craft, honing her skills in tailoring clothes.

Afterward, she applied as a seamstress in a factory, gaining over a decade of experience there before mustering the courage to establish her own tailoring business.

Margie's journey was filled with challenges, yet her persistent dedication, perseverance, and expertise garnered her a loyal clientele. From fast-food chains to corporate entities in need of employee uniforms, her expertise extended to crafting school uniforms as well.

Currently, over-seeing two rented spaces

for her tailoring shop, Margie employs six individuals and operates 20 sewing machines. Two of these machines were acquired through a loan from CARD MRI Rizal Bank, Inc. (CARD RBI), while a recent PHP 30,000.00 loan from the same microfinance-oriented rural bank facilitated the purchase of essential fabrics for her business.

As a widowed mother, Margie remains steadfast in her mission to

secure a brighter future for her child and grandchild, diligently saving towards the acquisition of a permanent house. "My primary focus now is to provide my child and grandchild with a secured future and a roof over their heads," she shared.

Margie's aspirations extend beyond her current accomplishments. With a flourishing business, she envisions expanding more, demonstrating her commitment to growth.



MPT SOUTH CONDUCTS LINIS BARANGAY CLEAN-UP DRIVE



Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), a subsidiary under the umbrella of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), proudly announces the successful execution of its recently inaugurated 'Linis Barangay' greening initiative program. The initiative commenced in Barangay Biga II, Silang, Cavite in April, followed by a subsequent launch in Brgy. Aplaya, Kawit, Cavite this May.

This project underscores MPT South's initiative-taking stance in supporting barangays within its host local government units (LGUs) by aiding in their weekly clean-up drive initiatives. The enthusiastic involvement of the community during

these events underscores a collective dedication to environmental preservation.

Various divisions and departments of MPT South, including Communication and Stakeholder Management, Tollway Development Engineering - Project Management Department, and Project Support Services Department, collaborated with project contractors, barangay officials, and volunteers to execute the clean-up activities effectively.

To facilitate these efforts, MPT South supplied essential cleaning materials such as brooms, dustpans, garbage bags, rakes, and shovels. These provisions significantly contributed to the efficiency of the clean-

up endeavors.

Expressing gratitude for the initiative, Barangay Captain Joseline Revilla remarked, "Nagpapasalamat kami sa pamunuan ng CALAX sa pagvolunteer sa paglilinis dito sa inyong kapitbahay na barangay, Brgy. Biga II, Silang. Malaking bagay po ito pati na rin ang donasyon niyong karagdagan cleaning materials para magamit namin sa mga susunod pa na proyekto," said Barangay Captain Joseline Revilla.

"We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the leadership of CALAX for volunteering in the clean-up drive here in our neighboring barangay, Brgy. Biga II, Silang. This is of significant im-

portance, as well as your donation of additional cleaning materials, which we can utilize for future projects."

The Linis Barangay project was designed by MPT South to collaborate with different barangays within its host communities, engaging in monthly clean-up drives to promote cleanliness and sanitation. MPT South remains committed to fostering a cleaner and healthier environment through volunteer engagement and partnerships with local authorities.

Expressing appreciation for the inaugural 'Linis Barangay' Clean-Up Drive, Ms. Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and

Stakeholder Management Division of MPT South, stated, "Kami'y lubos na nagpapasalamat sa aming mga volunteer employees na nakilahok sa kauna-unahang 'Linis Barangay' Clean-Up Drive. Sa pamamagitan ng mga ganitong klaseng programa, malilit man o malaki, tayo'y nakatutulong sa ating mga kapitbahay na barangay. Makakaasa kayo na mas maraming partnership pa ang aming bubuuin para sa pagpapatulog ng 'Linis Barangay' project," said Ms. Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management Division of MPT South.

"We are deeply grateful to our employee volunteers who partici-

pated in the pioneering 'Linis Barangay' Clean-Up Drive. Through initiatives like this, whether small or large, we contribute to our neighboring barangays. Rest assured; we are forging more partnerships for the continuous success of the 'Linis Barangay' project."

MPTC, as the largest toll road developer and operator in the Philippines, oversees a vast network of toll roads, including CALAX, Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), NLEX Connector Road, Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), and Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCL EX) in Cebu. **PR**

THE national government appears dead-set on going after illegal Philippine offshore gaming operators (POGOs) in various areas of the country and shutting them down once found to have violated our laws.

According to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) the state gaming regulator, between 250 and 300 POGOs are operating in the Philippines without a license, six times more than the 46 legitimate operators.

Together with the police, PAGCOR wants to identify these illegal operators, conduct raids, and shut them down.

The online gaming industry emerged in 2016 and grew exponentially as operators capitalized on the country's liberal gaming laws to target customers in China, where gambling is banned.

At their peak, POGOs totaled 300 and employed more than 300,000 Chinese workers. But the pandemic and tighter tax rules forced many to relocate or go underground. The ongoing crackdown has been triggered by reports of POGO-related crimes like human trafficking, torture, kidnapping and fraudulent activities like credit card, crypto investment, and so-called 'love scams' where criminals adopt fake online identities to persuade victims to give them money.

In the most recent raid on a POGO in Porac, Pampanga by the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC), they discovered Lucky South 99 has been operating in a 5.8-hectare compound within the vast Royal Garden Estate without any valid permit from PAGCOR.

There, they found several Chinese military uniforms and medals in several of the 46 buildings in the compound.

They also found several rooms with bloodstains. The rooms were believed to be torture chambers where POGO workers were beaten up for not complying with management directives and for failing to reach their quotas.

One of the buildings forcibly opened by police officers showed a large KTV bar with VIP rooms and rooms with beds. Authorities believed the building was used for the sex trafficking of foreign and Filipino women.

Following recent raids on POGOs in Bamban, Tarlac and Porac, Pampanga, the clamor for President Marcos Jr. to ban all POGOs for posing a threat to national security and being the breeding ground of various crimes has been gaining ground.

Senate President Francis Escudero, who has supported calls for total phaseout of illegal POGOs, has urged the Department of National Defense to discuss with PAGCOR the concerns they had raised regarding the presence of POGOs near military camps.

For his part, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., a total ban on illegal POGOs is necessary on national security grounds because, he said, these "weaken our political, economic, social, and peace and order fabric."

Will Malacañang heed the clamor? We'll know soon enough.



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The presence of PCW Chairperson Ms. Anne Ferrer and Council Member Ms. Aisha Columna, and Ms. Danica Pontemar of OPSWDO underscored their strong will and adherence to improving the welfare of Caviteñas through a medical caravan.

Ms. Ferrer stated that the program was carried out to remind every woman to take good care of themselves, as much as they take good care of their families. In addition, Ms. Pontemar imparted "Hindi po kayo babae lang, kundi babae kayo", giving emphasis on the importance of women in every household.

Subsequently, on behalf of Mendez Municipal Mayor Francisco Mendoza, Jr., Sangguniang Bayan members Ruby Lita Bay and Romulo Martinez expressed their profound gratitude to everyone who ventured into the

worthwhile endeavor that served the women in their community.

The services offered included eye check-ups, chem12 laboratory tests, and chest x-rays, which were made possible through the help of Health Ridge Medical Services, Inc. This institution was the bridge that brought essential healthcare services closer to the doorstep of those in need.

As the event concluded, 243 Mendezeños availed the services provided. They will, then, continue with their consultation with the medical specialists the following week after releasing the results of their tests.

This collaborative effort demonstrates the dedication of the provincial government in empowering the community, most importantly the kababaihan and binibini of Cavite. - Jam Elisse M. Reyes

DELA ROSA... FROM PAGE 1

MANILA — Senator Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa on Wednesday said he will not attend the House of Representatives inquiry into the war on drugs of the previous administration upon the advice of the Senate leadership.

Dela Rosa made this reaction after the House Committee on Human Rights approved on Tuesday a motion to invite Dela Rosa and former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to attend its hearing on the drug war.

As the Philippine National Police head under the Duterte administration, Dela Rosa was the chief implementor of the bloody campaign against illegal drugs.

In a statement, Dela Rosa said he sought the guidance of Senate President Francis Escudero who said he does not need to attend the House hearing.

He said Escudero cited the traditional inter-parliamentary courtesy accorded to both houses of Congress.

"I sought the advice of the Senate Pres-

CALAMBA CITY (PIA) — An official of the Department of Health (DOH) Center for Health Development in the CALABARZON region has called for the public's support for measures preventing the re-emergence of vaccine-preventable diseases that are widespread during the rainy season.

During the regular meeting of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRM) CALABARZON, Dr. Eva Marie Torio, DOH CALABARZON's Infectious Disease Control Cluster Head, said preparing for the re-emergence of infectious diseases is more economical than taking reactive measures.

"Historically, it is more efficient for both human suffering and economic terms to anticipate, prevent, and prepare for an infectious disease rather than to react with expensive treatments and containment measures," Torio explains.

In its latest health bulletin, DOH CALABARZON saw a 143 percent spike in cases of meningococcal diseases in the region, from seven in 2023 to 17 within the first few months of 2024. The department also logged 446 cases of pertussis, more commonly known as whooping cough, which has claimed the lives of 20 patients within the first six months.

Torio emphasized: "These re-emerging diseases are vaccine-preventable. We have pen-tavalent vaccines available in our Rural Health Units,"

With the start of the rainy season, the health department also expects a spike in water-borne diseases such as dengue, influenza, and leptospirosis — despite the 33 percent decrease of

cases from 87 in 2023 to 58 this year, attributed to long exposure to flood water during heavy rains

Torio adds that local government units, including provincial hospitals, have started preparing medical supplies due to the expected spike in leptospirosis cases in the coming months.

As a response, the DOH re-launched its information and education campaign on W.I.L.D. diseases, mainstreaming the various bacterial, viral, and parasitic organisms that thrive in floodwater caused by torrential rains in low-lying areas.

The infectious disease expert advised the public to avoid walking into floodwater, wear protective gear, and clean their feet with clean water and soap after any contact with floodwater.

Other diseases such as COVID-19, are still being surveilled by the department, as it can still be fatal to immunocompromised individuals.

The health official assured: "The region, and by extension the country's, risk classification [for Covid-19] remains low. Vaccines still have a positive effect in fighting the FLiRT variant of Covid-19. This variant may better evade immunity from previous infections and vaccination, but the current vaccines still offer protection."

February, the health department through its DM. No. 2024-0073 updated its mask guidelines and protocols for treating COVID-19 patients and prioritization of vaccination against the disease. These guidelines, which axed quarantine for Covid-19 patients mandated asymptomatic but confirmed positive cases to home isolation for five days, or until symptoms are gone.

To underscore this, DOH said that precautions are being implemented to ensure that deaths are avoided from all vaccine-preventable diseases, as one individual's untimely demise is already one death too much for the department. (PB/PIA-4A)





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July 03-09, 2024

DTI-LAGUNA INSPECTS 7 FIRMS TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE DTI BAGWIS AWARDS PARAMETERS



The Department of Trade and Industry - Laguna Provincial Office (DTI-Laguna), through its Consumer Protection Division, conducted onsite assessment for the DTI Bagwis Awards on May 31, 2024, in the following cities/municipalities: Bay, Los Baños, Calamba, and Santa Rosa City. This regular monitoring and evaluation activity aimed to identify retail establishments that will be given due recognition for practicing responsible and truthful business.

A total of seven (7) establishments engaged in selling home furniture and fixtures and DTI-accredited motor vehicle service and repair enterprises were visited and assessed. On-the-spot inspection, observation, and interview with the store supervisors, managers, and/or representatives were also performed as part of the assessment process. In addition, they were briefly informed on the Consumer Act of the Philippines and other fair trade laws. They were also initially oriented on the DTI Bagwis Program.

The DTI Bagwis Program which is formerly known as the DTI Certified Business Establishment Program was launched in July 2006. The Bag-

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WILLMARR SWEETS FOOD PRODUCT UNDERGOES FOOD SAFETY TRAINING



Towards ensuring that all its employees are equipped with the knowledge and skills to maintain high standards of food safety, Willmarr Sweets Food Product underwent a Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batangas-led food safety training held at their production plant, Brgy. Dagatan, Lipa City, Batangas, May 28-29.

The training covered current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP), Food Safety Hazards (FSH), and an Overview of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) License to Operate (LTO) Application. This training aimed to enhance the company's commitment to producing safe and quality food products for its consumers.

Workshop activities on handwashing, physical hazards, and cross contamination were included to reinforce the importance of food safety practices in the production facility. Areas to improve in the production facility were also identified with the goal of achieving compliance with FDA regulations and obtaining the LTO. Ms. Jessica G. Navarro and Ms. Anna Marie M. Marasigan, both members of the DOST-CALABARZON Food Safety Team, facilitated the training.

By investing in employee education and training, Willmarr Sweets Food Product hopes to continuously improve its processes, ensure compliance with food safety standards, and acquire LTO. According to Mr. Wilberto Dagame, owner of Willmarr Sweets Food Product, their company is dedicated to maintaining a high level of food safety standards and ensuring the quality of its products for consumers. "Our team is committed to continuous improvement and will work diligently to address any areas of concern in order to meet all regulatory requirements and secure the necessary permits for our operations," he added. PR

ORIENTATION ON THE SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN THE SITUATION OF ARMED CONFLICT



The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (OPSWDO), successfully conducted an orientation aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills regarding the special protection of children in situations of armed conflict on June 19, 2024, at The Bayleaf Hotel in the City of General Tri-

mittee of Social Services, Family, Women, Children and Elderly, social workers from various local government units in Cavite, representatives from national government agencies (NGAs), and uniformed personnel, joined the activity.

The orientation sought to deepen participants' understanding of the legal framework governing the protection of children during armed conflict, encompassing both national and international laws and policies. Key topics included Republic Act 11188 or the "Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act" and its implementing rules and regulations, crucial for safeguarding children from violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect, and displacement in times of armed conflict and the salient points of DSWD's Pag-Abot Program.

The event commenced with a warm welcome from Ms. Precyl T. Ramos, Officer-in-Charge of OPSWDO, followed by an inspirational message delivered by Ms. Marife V. Bautista, representing Board Member Romel R. Enriquez, Chairperson of the Committee on Social Services, Family, Women, Children, and Elderly.

Ms. Elena Mae C. Romano, Social Welfare Officer from DSWD IV-A, served as the resource speaker, providing in-depth insights into the legal protections and practical approaches in identifying and assisting children at risk.

A highlight of the orientation was the commitment setting by all participants, underscoring their dedication to upholding the rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict. The session concluded with closing remarks from Ms. Maria Aura D. Fuentes, a registered social worker from OPSWDO.

The Provincial Government of Cavite remains steadfast in its commitment to fortify the protection mechanisms for children amidst challenging circumstances, ensuring their safety and fostering a nurturing environment conducive to their growth and development. - AC Cabrera