

Enchanted Kingdom celebrates love, inclusivity and diversity with the Magic of EKquality



Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, has capped off the month of June with a colorful Pride Month celebration, the Magic of EKquality - with even more magical offers and surprises in store for all. Magic of EKquality Talent Competition



The highlight of this year's Magic of EKquality was a talent competition which featured diverse performances from various LGBTQIA+ solo and group performers. Ten contenders from different parts of the country took the stage to showcase their most extraordinary talents on June 30, Sunday at EK's Spaceport Grounds.

PASTURES TO PROSPER



From a cow herdsman to a thriving entrepreneur, Daniel Aranda proves that success is the sum of continuous effort and struggle.

When we love what we do, we reap a good result. This is what Daniel Aranda, 48, from Lipa City, Batangas, did as a herdsman. The work was undoubtedly difficult; hence, he chose to love what he did to provide for their family's needs.

He used to look after a herd of cows from his uncle's farm in Padre Garcia, Tanauan, Batangas, for PHP 50 per head before becoming the owner of his farm.

After years of day-to-day farm operations, Daniel's knowledge of proper handling grew, and his interest in establishing his own farm intensified. He started saving money to buy four cows to finally start his own business.

"Taking care of cows has not only become a job for me but also my hobby. But I knew that working on other people's



The grand winner, 23-year-old singer Alquin Gutierrez from Dasmariñas, Cavite, captivated the judges and the crowd with his powerful voice. Gutierrez bagged Php 15,000, regular day passes and a chance to perform in one of EK's upcoming events.

Dance group Jazz Exchange and singer Wilson Buerano also took home cash prizes and tickets along with the runner-up titles. The show featured groovy and nostalgic musical performances from the stand-up comedian Jewel Jhonson. The Voice Generations Season 1 Grand Winner VOCALMYX also spiced up the night with their enchanting acapella renditions of local hits.

#MAGICALLYME installation
From June 22 to July 28, park goers can capture their magical memories at the Pride-inspired #MAGICALLYME photowall located near the Twin Spin ride. Six lucky guests who will post their photos taken at this colorful installation at EK's official Facebook page will win two return tickets to EK.
Magic of EKquality Bundle Promo
June may be over but Enchanted Kingdom is not yet done bringing the magic of this special promo for all until July 14. For only Php 1,200, walk-in guests will enjoy unlimited access to more than 30 rides and attractions including the first and only flying theater in the Philippines, Agila the EKsperience. They can also get one refreshing drink from Tropical Coolers located at the Jungle Outpost. Avail through the EK Online Store for a magical bonus: a Php 100 discount voucher for EK merchandise items.

For more information and updates regarding this event and EK's other upcoming events and offers, visit <https://www.enchantedkingdom.ph> and EK's official social media accounts [@enchantedkingdom.ph](#) for Facebook and Tiktok, and [@ek_philippines](#) for Twitter and Instagram.

CARD SME BANK

farms wouldn't be enough to lift me out of poverty, so I started saving money to purchase cows to sell," Daniel said.

Reaching a hundred cows to be sold was never easy for Daniel and his wife as it took months of hard work, determination, and patience to achieve. He concentrated on raising his four cows until he was able to sell at least one each month.

He purchases a new cow every month after selling one or two previous ones. Difficulties in selling did not shake Daniel's determination and dream of giving his children a better life.

Daniel felt the need to invest more in the growth of his farm. Aside

from borrowing money from his late uncle to buy a truck, he joined CARD SME Bank, a thrift bank that provides loans to its clients.

"CARD SME Bank has been a great help to its clients, especially to small business owners like me. In times of need, CARD SME Bank provides loans that aid in the sustainability of our business," he said.

Since 2011, Daniel has used his loans as additional capital to his farm. His good repayment rate allowed his loans to increase from PHP 5,000 to a much higher amount that he used for expansion.

Daniel grew his

business through proper management and determination. His farm can now sustain the increasing demands in the Alaminos, San Pablo, San Juan, and Lipa areas. He now provides jobs to his relatives and neighbors just like what his uncle did.

"I can now assist others in the same way that I was helped in the past. I have had a challenging life, so I'm willing to lend a hand however I can. We can truly find great fulfillment by sharing our blessings and knowledge," he said.

Daniel aspires to create a positive impact on his community by instilling knowledge and hopes that one can start from nothing and thrive.

STRAIGHT NEWS PUBLISHING

TODAY'S NEWS AND BEYOND

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DOLE: Sofitel management, workers' unions settle disputes

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN LAUNCHES SUCCESSFUL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR WOMEN IN CAVITE



The Provincial Council of Women, under the leadership of its President, Ms. Anne Ferrer, together with council members, and in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer, has successfully conducted a series of comprehensive health program titled "Serbisyon Pangkalusugan para sa mga Kababaihan". This initiative took place

across various locations in Cavite, including Alfonso, Magallanes, General Trias, Mendez, Tanza, and Cavite City, throughout the month of June.

The program offered free eye check-ups, CHEM12 laboratory tests, and chest x-rays, ensuring that women in these areas had access to essential health services. These services were made possible through the generous

support of Health Ridge Medical Services. Additionally, the Office of the Provincial Legal Officer provided free legal consultations to the public.

The initiative aimed to address the

DOTR EYES 6 TBMS FOR METRO MANILA SUB-WAY BY YEAR END



CAVITE LGUS ENHANCE WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES THROUGH WACS TRAINING

In a concerted effort to enhance sustainable waste management practices, local government units (LGUs) across Cavite province recently convened for a specialized train-ing program on Waste Analysis and Characterization Studies (WACS). The 4-day train-ing-workshop was held at Forest Crest Nature Resort and Hotel, Nasugbu, Batangas, and was divided into two batches: first on June 18-19, and second on June 20-21.

Facilitated by Philippine Ecology Systems, Inc.,

Cont. on Page 2

Provincial Nutrition Committee joined the regional launching of the 2024 Nutrition Month



Cavite province, represented by the Nutrition Cluster of the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, and members of the Provincial Nutrition Committee joined the regional launching of the 2024 Nutrition Month celebration hosted by the local government of Rodriguez, Rizal on July 1, 2024. Bannering the theme, "Sa PPAN: Sama-sama sa Nutrisyon sapat Para sa Lahat", the event drew participation and support from the local officials of Rizal LGUs and stakeholders across the region.

The 50th-year commemoration of nutrition month kicked off with a parade of nutrition floats participated by different barangays of Rodriguez promoting healthy diet with local-ly-sourced nutritious food as float decoration. Rodriguez Mayor, Gen. Ronnie S. Evangelista (Ret) welcomed all the participants and guests who joined the opening salvo of the celebration. In his message, he underscored that nutrition interventions require collaborative efforts from all stakeholders.

Cont. on Page 2



THE ULTIMATE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BUILDING AN INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

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:

1) You Should Assess Your Financial Situation

Before investing, ensure that you are in a financially sound position. This means having an emergency fund, being free from high-interest debt, and having a stable income. Your financial stability allows you to invest with a clear mind and reduces the risk of needing to liquidate your investments prematurely.

2) You Should Know Your Risk Tolerance

Risk tolerance refers to your ability and willingness to endure market volatility and potential losses. Assess your risk tolerance by considering factors such as your financial goals, time horizon, and personal comfort with risk. This assessment helps you choose investments that align with your ability to handle market fluctuations.

to be cont. for next issue

CAVITE...

in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), the initiative aimed to equip participants with critical skills essential for effective waste management.

Aligned with the National Solid Waste Management Commission's guidelines, the training drew representatives from 13 municipalities and cities within Cavite. Key stakeholders, including environmental officers, waste management experts, and LGU representatives, engaged in rigorous sessions covering theoretical insights and practical applications. These included standardized methodologies for waste characteri-

za-tion and data collection techniques, pivotal for accurate waste analysis and formulation of targeted management strategies.

Resource speakers from DOST-ITDI and DENR-EMB provided expertise, guiding participants through comprehensive sessions on waste sampling, sorting, and analysis. The program emphasized utilizing WACS data to bolster waste diversion and compliance efforts under Republic Act 9003.

"With the support of DOST programs and services, LGUs are poised to implement pro-active waste management initiatives," noted Ms. Anna Marie S. Daigan of DOST-Cavite. The training's success highlights Cavite's dedication to environmental stewardship, paving the way for innovative waste management solutions

DOLE...

MANILA — The management and the labor unions of the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel in Pasay City have agreed to settle their labor dispute after the closure of the establishment amid safety concerns, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said on Wednesday.

In a news release, the DOLE said the National Union of Workers in Hotel, Restaurant and Allied Industries (NU-WHRAIN) - Philippine Plaza Chapter (rank-and-file Union), Philippine Plaza Supervisor's Chapter (supervisory workers' union) and the Philippine Plaza Holdings, Inc. (management) signed a two-page settlement agreement at the agency's main office in Intramuros, Manila on Tuesday.

Under the agreement, the parties have agreed on separation packages for those regular employees who will avail of the separation packages, as well as for those who choose to stay in the country and wait for its reopening.

For workers (rank-and-file) who signify acceptance of the separa-

tion package not later than July 5, a separation package under the following terms and conditions will be given — an increase of PHP1,000 in the monthly salary effective Jan. 1, 2023 to Dec. 31, 2023 and an additional PHP1,000 increase effective Jan. 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024.

As for the supervisory employees, the separation package includes an increase of PHP1,000 in the monthly salary effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 and an additional PHP1,000 increase effective July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

The agreement also provided for a "separation pay computed at 100 percent to 115 percent of adjusted basic monthly salary per year of service; appreciation bonus of PHP10,000 per covered employee; and payment of the separation package and accrued benefits not later than July 10, 2024."

On the other hand, for employees who did not accept the separation package, the employment relationship shall be deemed suspended for the duration of the closure of the establishment.

The "no work, no

pay" principle will apply to these employees and their benefits shall likewise be suspended.

However, the hotel's two employee unions shall continue to exist.

The agreement also stated that if the hotel re-opens under the same company, the management shall inform the workers who did not accept the separation package of the re-opening of the hotel within 15 days before the scheduled date of the re-opening.

"Within 15 days from actual re-opening, the employees concerned may report to work, and the Hotel shall accept them back, under the same terms and conditions in the applicable CBA (collective bargaining agreement). Thereupon, the employment relationship shall resume," it said.

As for the representation status of the two unions in case of the hotel's re-opening under the same company, the rank-and-file union will be recognized as the bargaining agent and administrator of the remaining part of the CBA.

The rank-and-file union's CBA will expire on

July 10-16, 2024 FROM PAGE 1

Dec. 31, 2024.

"If the re-opening takes place within the freedom period or thereafter, the parties shall commence negotiations, unless the representation status of the union is questioned by another union. If the re-opening takes place after Dec. 31, 2024, the union and the Hotel shall commence negotiations in accordance with the Labor Code," the settlement added.

A freedom period refers to the last 60 days of a CBA. During this period, both employers and labor unions have the option to serve a notice for terminating or amending the existing CBA.

As for supervisory employees whose CBA expired on June 30, 2022, the supervisory union shall be recognized and the negotiation for a new CBA may commence, based on the Labor Code.

The DOLE and National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB) will closely monitor the compliance with the terms and conditions of this settlement agreement.

"In view of the foregoing agreement, the Notices of Strike are settled and conciliation proceedings terminated," the agreement said. (PNA)

FROM PAGE 1

Provincial...

On behalf of Rizal Governor Nina Ricci Ynares, Vice Governor Reynaldo San Juan, Jr., delivered the message urging stakeholders to work closely together citing that achieving good nutrition is a challenging endeavor, and promoted the Philippine Plan of Action (PPAN) as the guiding framework for nutrition

programs. DILG-Rizal Provincial Director Lionel Dalope led the Pledge of Commitment to the PPAN 2023-2028 and the subsequent signing at the commitment wall together with the other guests. Ms. Lourdes Bulante-Orongan, OIC-Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator of the National Nutrition Council-Calabarzon discussed the salient provisions of the PPAN 2023-2028 anchored on the goal of reducing all forms of malnutrition across all life stages by the year 2028.



The Senate Committee on Accounts conducted a public hearing to review the construction of the New Senate Building (NSB) on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, seeking answers from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) about the project's plans, costs, and projected completion date. "We aim for the best quality at minimal cost—a symbol of the people's voice and democracy. No one said na may anomalya, nagulat lang kami sa presyo and that's why we're reviewing this," said Senator Alan Peter Cayetano, Chair of the Senate Committee on Accounts.

July 10-16, 2024

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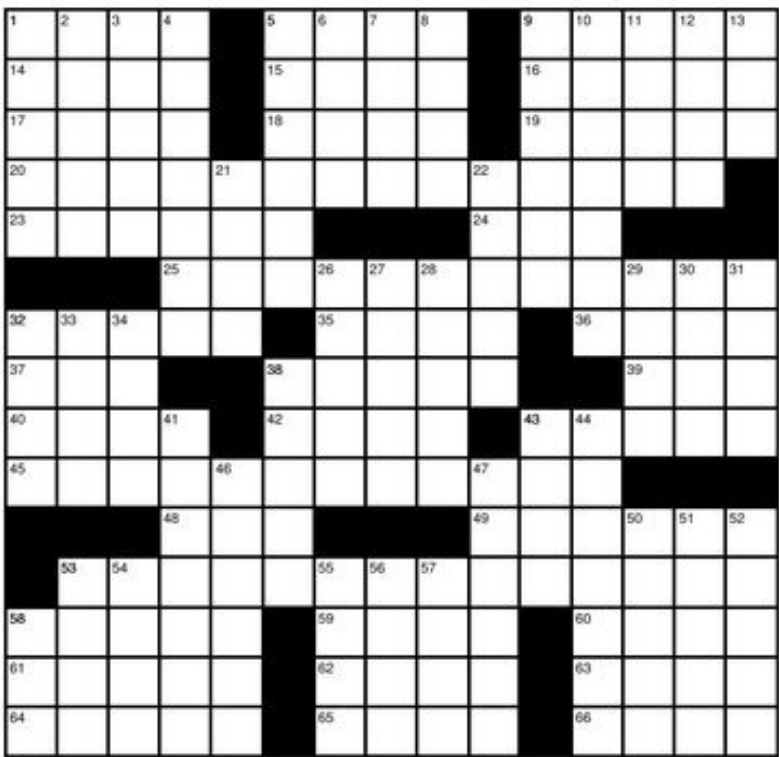
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- He may cross the line
- Literary Finn
- Divide
- Desire
- Eye with desire
- Desire
- Made mad
- "Kaboom!"
- Loosen up
- CON
- Affirm at the altar
- Liza Doolittle's dwelling
- CON
- Drilled
- Domain of Eos
- Put to flight
- Hollywood Gardner
- Stan's comedic pal
- Former fort near Salinas
- "99 Luftballons" singer
- Freshman, typically
- Dates with a Dr., perhaps
- CON
- Word with go or by
- Recited in rhyme, perhaps
- CON
- Tartan garment
- "Night Sins" author Tami
- SASE, typically
- Dancer's support
- Fit
- "Dollhouse" heroine
- Jerk
- Mexican sauce
- Eye affliction

DOWN

- Sends to stores
- Jazz Chick
- Rich Little's trade
- Place for a glasses case
- Rub elbows
- Unpleasant-sounding citrus



© 2010

- They may have their own tartan
- 1996 VP candidate
- Cut corners
- Factory configurations
- "Mission: Impossible" composer Schifrin
- "Dollhouse" director Reitman
- Popular cowboy nickname
- Was laid low by a high?
- Broadcasting pioneer Arledge
- Jung contemporary
- Yarns
- "Dallas" family name
- "Breakfast for Dinner" eatery
- _____ cloud (home for comets)
- Assents
- "Kaboom!"
- Out's partner
- Punjabi princess
- SNL alum, Cheri
- Surreptitious romances
- Love personified
- Jazz-men Ellis and Russell
- Type of bicycle
- High point
- Color lightly
- Like wool sweaters, for some
- Daphnis's love
- Response to a rake
- Legal opening?
- Imitation
- Bindlestiff
- Eden event
- NOVA network

Rx

LAUGHTER

Laughter is the most healthful exertion.
—CHRISTOPH WILHELM HUFELAND

LAUGHTER IS an external manifestation Of an internal gift. When you laugh, you are changing your internal chemistry and creating a healthy environment in you so that healing can occur. Norman Cousins wrote about his experience with laughter and healing, and his conclusion was that our beliefs are our biology

My way of saying it is your feelings are your chemistry. Laughter not only produces pleasant feeling and images for you and other, but it also alter your body chemistry. Can you laugh yourself into wellness? It is possible. When you spend your life smiling at the world, you will live longer, healthier life.

Year ago, during a difficult period as a young physician, unaware of how to deal with my feelings, I kept a journal of my day's experiences. This journal was filled with pain, and I kept hidden. One night I forgot to put it away, and my wife, Bobbie, found it She said "Honey, there is nothing funny in it." I replied, "G My life isn't funny."

She then reminded me of all the funny things I had told her about that I had not included in my journal. . . like the time a capped, masked, and gowned man walked into my patient's room. The patient was in isolation and started to get undressed, thinking he was there to examine her. Afterward they became very good friends. After my talk with Bobbie, I included the humorous things that had happened to me as well as the difficult

Soulution of the Day
Choose to find things to laugh about. You will all the people you meet. You will not burn out when you can at life.

PRESCRIPTIONS

DOF SPEARHEADS HYBRID FACILITATOR FOR CLIMATE FINANCE NETWORK INITIATIVES IN THE PH

The Department of Finance (DOF) spearheaded a hybrid roundtable discussion as the lead facilitator for Climate Finance Network (CFN) initiatives in the Philippines to pro-pel mainstreaming climate change components in the public financial management and further scale up access to climate finance.

"[W]e at the DOF are pleased to lead the initiatives of the Climate Finance Network in the Philippines, working hand-in-hand with government agencies and development partners to access and monitor climate finance most effectively," DOF Chief-of-Staff and Undersecretary for Climate Finance Policy Group (CFPG) Maria Luwalhati Doro-tan Tiuseco said in her opening remarks.

"[W]e stand ready to steer these innovative and intergovernmental solutions to efficiently manage all modalities of climate finance, disaster risk financing and insurance, and sustainable finance coordination," she added.

The CFN is funded by the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK-FCDO) and executed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

It serves as a knowledge management and technical support facility to assist member countries' Ministries of Finance, with the engagement of sector ministries and sub-national governments, in identifying and scaling up climate finance innovations in the region.

The UNDP introduced the CFN Programme and Country Plan, and presented the preliminary findings of the Climate Change Budget Integration Index (CCBII++) in the Philippines report.

This will pave the way for a more robust implementation of mainstreaming climate change components to efficiently manage financial flows towards adaptation and mitigation efforts. The DOF will work closely with the UNDP CFN to further enhance the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging with Department of Budget and



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AS LEAD NETWORK INITIATIVES IN THE PH

the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for a results-based budgeting process, particularly for climate programs and activities.

This includes the preparation of guidelines for a budget call that incorporates provisions for the budgeting of climate-aligned programs, as well as guidelines for the mainstreaming of climate change in the government's medium-term expenditure framework.

On top of this, the CFN Philippine Country Strategy 2022 – 2026 supports the Commission on Audit (COA) in undertaking climate performance audits through partnerships for sound mechanisms to ensure accountability and sustainability of actions.

It also helps in the assessments of audit results and its incorporation in strategic planning and investment programming; as well as tracking of completed and ongoing projects relative to climate change.

Finally, the CFN

has begun working with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) this year to develop an Adaptive Social Protection Baseline Assessment and Agenda.

This includes identifying entry points for climate integration for a more adaptive social protection agenda for the government in improving its readiness for integrated adaptive social protection measures.

The DOF recognizes the need to mobilize a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to respond to the increasing demands of climate change.

With this, Undersecretary Tiuseco extended the DOF's gratitude to international partners for their support in advancing climate finance initiatives that have allowed the Philippines to create the enabling conditions required to build long-term resilience against climate risks while facilitating an orderly transition to low-carbon, sustainable development pathways.

"As climate finance remains an emerg-

July 10-16, 2024

July 10-16, 2024

EDITORIAL: Crackdown on POGOs

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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CAYETANO TO DPWH: RISING COST OF NEW SENATE BUILDING COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED



Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday said the rising cost of the New Senate Building (NSB) could have been avoided if the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) had actively consulted the Senate prior to finalizing the Detailed Architectural and Engineering Design (DAED) of the project.

"How could we have avoided those revisions? Kasi looking back at all these papers na ibinigay ninyo sa opisina ko, avoidable ang mga ito," Cayetano told the DPWH during the public hearing of the Senate Committee on Accounts on June 3, 2024 regarding the review of the NSB.

As the chair of the Committee on Accounts, Cayetano stressed that the review of NSB construction aims "to establish a clear completion date, cost, and design that the Senate and the public can rely on."

Cayetano argued that the ballooning cost of the construction was "avoidable" if the DPWH, as the project manager of NSB, had only followed the "standard procedure" of consulting the Senate before approving the DAED of the building.

"Paano ka makakagawa ng DAED kung hindi mo naman kinakausap 'yung mga gagamit ng building?" he said.

"If you made all the revisions before DAED, may bayad ba 'yan? Wala 'di ba? Pero

CARD MBA Rejoins World's 500 Largest Mutual and Cooperative Insurers

For two consecutive years, CARD Mutual Benefit Association (CARD MBA), Inc. has earned a spot among the world's 500 largest mutual and cooperative insurers, as recognized by the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation's (ICMIF) Global 500 report.

This ranking is determined based on premium using the 2022 year-end data. CARD MBA Chief Executive Officer Jocelyn D. Dequito shared that this achievement underscores the Association's efforts to provide insurance to Filipino families, particularly those in vulnerable segments of society.

The 2022 Global 500 list of the world's largest mutual and cooperative insurers comprises 83% (225) companies from America and (190) from Europe, 65 companies from Asia and Oceania, and 20 organizations from emerging markets in Latin America (13) and Africa (7).

The International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation is the only international association dedicated to strengthening cooperative and mutual insurance by supporting its organizational capabilities.

Meanwhile, CARD MBA is a microinsurance Mutual Benefit Association in the Philippines that is 100% owned and managed by its members.

Notably, only two insurance companies from the Philippines were included in this list. "This recognition is an honor for CARD MBA. We are committed to enhancing our services to better support the low-income sector, ensuring they have protection against unforeseen events," Dequito added. She also mentioned that the Association will continue to continue its other community development services, including disaster relief assistance, mass weddings, scholarship programs, and working with other organized groups to provide microinsurance protection to their members.

FROM PAGE 1

Cavite LGUs Enhance Waste Management Strategies Through WACS Training



SM Supermalls is thrilled to announce the SM SuperMoms Club's highly anticipated Wellness Meetup, set to take place across four SM malls nationwide. This exciting series of #SuperMomsClubMeetup events is dedicated to celebrating and empowering moms through mental health wellness, featuring esteemed celebrity SuperMoms who will share their personal journeys and insights on motherhood and mental well-being, seasoned experts who will provide valuable insights

on stress management and healthy self-care habits, and entertaining raffle giveaways for all our SuperMoms in attendance.

SM SuperMoms Club Meetup in July 2023 Join us for an enriching experience at the following events, which center on "Empowering SuperMoms Through Mental Health Wellness."

1. July 6 - SM City Santa Rosa
o **VIP SuperMombassador:** Winwyn Marquez
o **Time:** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM



theAsianparent's Carla Perlas, host and entrepreneur Alexine Sy, and FHMoms community founder MK Bertulfo at the SM SuperMoms Club SUPER Meetup in May 2023

Highlights: Winwyn Marquez will share her experiences and strategies on balancing motherhood with her career, along with practical tips on maintaining mental health and wellness.

2. July 13 - SM City Talabastagan
o **VIP SuperMombassador:** Bettina Carlos
o **Time:** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Highlights: Bettina Carlos will discuss



SuperMoms Patti Grandidge Herrera, and Juana Manahan-Yupangco, Dimples Romana at the SM SuperMoms Club Meetup in July 2023

her journey as an actress and mompreneur and offer valuable advice on managing stress and fostering a positive mindset.

4. July 27 - SM Seaside Cebu
o **VIP SuperMombassador:** Vern Enciso-Lim
o **Time:** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Highlights: Vern Enciso-Lim will provide insights into her life as a mom influencer, focusing on how to stay mentally resilient while

Join us for the SM SuperMoms Club's Wellness Meetup and be part of a transformative journey towards better mental health and wellness. Together, we can empower SuperMoms to be their best selves! Join the SM SuperMoms Club today to find out more: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SMSuperMomsClub/>

4 VOL. II • NO. 02

STRAIGHT NEWS PUBLISHING

Iloilo City's Remarkable Tradition to Transformation

Iloilo City stands as a shining example of progress and inclusivity, driven by a commitment to sustainable development and community empowerment. Over the past



ing on initiatives that promote economic growth, cultural richness, and environmental sustainability. These efforts have not only elevated the city's profile but have also enhanced the lives of its residents.

Recognized for its vibrancy and competitiveness, Iloilo City secured accolades such as being named the Creative City of Gastronomy by UNESCO, celebrating its rich culinary heritage and commitment to cultural preservation. The city's innovative I-Bike Program, which promotes a bike-friendly environment and garnered the prestigious 2022 Galing Pook Award, underscores its dedication to sustainable urban mobility and citizen engagement.

"Iloilo City is

July 10-16, 2024

STRAIGHT NEWS PUBLISHING

Progress from



com-mitment exemplifies the upcoming revitalization of the Central and Terminal Markets through a public-private partnership with SM Prime Holdings. Valued at P1.5 billion to P2.5 billion, this project aims to modernize market facilities, providing a conducive space for local entrepreneurs to thrive and showcase their products.

"We envision our markets not just as economic hubs but as community centers that promote local culture and entrepreneurship," Mayor Trefñas emphasized. "By revitalizing these spaces, we create opportunities for our vendors to grow their businesses sustainably."

(Iloilo City's Mayor Jerry Trefñas oversees

a site inspection of the Uswag Dialysis Center in Barangay San Isidro to ensure it progresses smoothly, aiming to promptly offer free services to residents.) Steven Tan, President of SM Supermalls, echoed this sentiment, highlighting SM's role in supporting local communities and promoting sustainable development through infra-

structure in-vestments. Looking ahead, Mayor Trefñas remains steadfast in his dedication to advancing Iloilo City's sustainable development agenda. "Our focus is on building a city that nurtures innovation, pre-serves our heritage, and enhances the quality of life for all Ilonggos," he affirmed.

For updates on Iloilo City's initiatives and community-driven projects, follow **@SMSuper-malls** on social media or visit www.smsupermalls.com. Join us in celebrating Iloilo City's journey towards a sustainable and inclusive future. Together, let's continue to empower communities and preserve the cultural heritage for generations to come. **#IloiloCity #SustainableDevelopment #CommunityEmpowerment**

Kalidad ng proyektong pang-imprastraktura ng DA Calabarzon siniguro, ebalwasyon ng mga kon-struktor isinagawa

Upang masigurado ang kalidad ng mga proyektong pang-imprastraktura ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A), patuloy na isinasagawa ang Constructors' Performance Evaluation System (CPES) sa pangunguna ng Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED). Ang CPES ay binuo upang magkaroon ng sentralisadong pag-gagrado sa paggawa ang mga konstruktor base sa tamang kalidad at pangangailangan ng isang proyekto. Ito ay maaring makatulong sa pagpa-



Ayon kay RAED Calabarzon Assistant Chief Engr. Christian Paul Ariola, ang ganitong aktibidad ay malaking tulong upang ang mga proyek-

tong pang-imprastraktura ng kagawaran ay masiguro ang kalidad bago ito maturn-over at tuluyan hanggang ng mga magsasaka. Nagpaabot din ng pa-

salamat si Engr. Ariola sa mga representate ng PCAF at RAED ng ibang rehiyon sa patuloy na pagsasagawa ng CPES sa Calabarzon. (Bryan E. Katigbak, DA-4A RAFIS)

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STRAIGHT NEWS PUBLISHING

CAVITEX connector roads' fresh momentum from Presidential support



CAVITEX- CALAX Groundbreaking Ceremony Photo (from left to right) : Philippine Reclamation Authority General Manager and CEO Engr. Cesar S. Siador Jr., Cavite Vice Governor Athena D. Tolentino, DPWH Secretary Manuel M. Bonoan, His Excellency, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. , Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan, MPTC President and CEO Mr. Rogelio L. Singson, Cavite Infrastructure Corporation President and General Manager, Mr. Raul L. Ignacio.

President BBM: 'Final step to finish tollway segments'

The on-time completion of the two connector roads of the Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) has recently acquired fresh momentum, inspired by the expression of support by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., when he led the groundbreaking and inauguration of the three CAVITEX links or connector roads in different locations in one day.

"The Presidential declaration of support for these major infrastructure projects has energized us all in completing the projects on time, leaving no stone unturned to finish the job," thus declared

Raul L. Ignacio, president of the CAVITEX Infrastructure Corporation," a subsidiary of the larger Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) of the MVP Group.

"Final step to enhance transport infra. In his speech, President Marcos called the actions taken only last week as "the final step in completing the CAVITEX C5 Link Expressway, enhancing our transportation infrastructure network on behalf of countless motorists and passengers." And "the [CAVITEX]-CALAX Link, originating from Kawit, Cavite, is a 1.2-kilometer connection whose length may be short, but its impact will be substantial. By

establishing a direct connection to CALAX, we also ease the traffic congestion at the busy intersection of Tirona Highway and Centennial Road." With this, we anticipate a significant improvement in the road network connectivity from Kawit to the greater CALABARZON region.

President Marcos and his transport-related Cabinet members were joined by Manuel V. Pangilinan, MPTC Chairman, Mr. Rogelio Singson, President and CEO of Metro Pacific Tollways, and Mr. Raul L. Ignacio, President and General Manager of Cavite Infrastructure Corporation.

Two contractors: Beat the deadline. DMCI,

under a P3.3 billion contract, has committed to meet the construction deadline to finish Segment 3B, the final portion of the CAVITEX C5 Link, a six (6) lane 2.0 km expressway connecting CAVITEX at Paranaque in the West and C5 Road Taguig in the East. This segment will enable motorists to travel from Cavite to Taguig City, bypassing a number of service roads.

EET will be completing the 1.3-km. dual 2-lane CAVITEX-CALAX Link Extension also in August 2025, envisioned to stimulate commerce and industry in Cavite, Laguna and Metro Manila.

"The Presidential imprimatur has reso-

nated as the President's marching orders for our CIC project managers and our two contractors to speed up the construction so that the two segments will be ready for full operations on August 2025," Ignacio pointed out.

Right-of-way acquisition. For both construction projects, Ignacio earlier met his right-of-way (ROW) acquisition team in order to resolve all issues to ultimately clear the way for the road alignments and access roads. Progress has been made in CIC's mix of persuasive initiatives addressed to project affected persons (PAPs) made up of legal, financial and communication strategies, Ignacio added.

At press time, the

ROW status of Segment 3B of the C5 Link stands at 70.60 percent, leaving the CIC ROW project managers only 29.4 percent balance to finish the job, Ignacio added. On the other hand, the progress of the CAVITEX-CALAX Link ROW acquisition is ahead with 77.14 percent, leaving CIC only 22.86 percent to clear the way for this alignment.

"With this new impetus from the Palace, we will beat our construction deadline – and the winner is every motorist and passenger south of Metro Manila and beyond," Ignacio said. PR

For inquiries regarding this press release, please contact **corp-comm@mptsouth.com**.

CEBU PACIFIC TAKES DELIVERY OF ATR AIRCRAFT, BOOSTS INTER-ISLAND TRAVEL IN PH

Cebu Pacific Takes Delivery of ATR Aircraft, Boosts Inter-Island Travel in PH

Cebu Pacific (PSE: CEB), the Philippines' leading carrier, welcomed its sixth aircraft delivery for the year – an ATR 72-600 – further strengthening its commitment of delivering inter-island connectivity in the Philippines.

The brand-new turboprop aircraft arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) in Manila on June 5.

"With more than 7,100 islands in the Philippines, our commitment to serve passengers traveling between inter-island destinations requires us to invest in turboprop aircraft," said CEB Chief Executive Officer Michael

Szucs.

"This aircraft delivery brings our turboprop fleet to 15, and we will be receiving our sixteenth ATR turboprop in October. With this, CEB will be operating the largest turboprop fleet in the Philippines, enabling us to serve more passengers across the country," he added.

CEB operates its turboprop fleet in 25 do-

mestic destinations, servicing almost 2.5 million passengers yearly. Some of the destinations that can only be accessible by turboprop and smaller aircraft include Camiguin, Calbayog, Siargao, Masbate, Surigao, Busuanga and Naga.

The ATR 72-600 is one of the latest generations of twin engine turbo-

prop airliners produced in France and Italy by manufacturer Avions de Transport Regional (ATR). It is used by multiple airlines worldwide as a regional aircraft.

ATR says that the 72-600 can access short, narrow and unpaved runways, and can handle steep approaches and high-altitude landings and

takeoffs. It carries around 78 passengers and has a maximum range of 1,300 kilometers depending on payload.

Apart from ATRs, CEB also operates a diversified commercial fleet mix of eight (8) Airbus 330s, 39 Airbus 320s, and 21 Airbus 321s, enabling the widest network coverage in the Philippines. END