

Enchanted Kingdom shares values, fun and magic to celebrate Eldar the Wizard's birthday



Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, celebrated the special day of its most beloved character, Eldar the Wizard, through a magical celebration last July 27.

The Eldar's Birthday Bash was held at the Eldar's Theater on Saturday and brought FUNtastic treats, performances and surprises to all attendees. Kids and kids at heart discovered EK's five core

values — love of God, respect, loyalty, integrity and innovativeness through a series of fun games and educational activities.

Nico R. Mamon, EK's Integrated Marketing Officer-in-Charge Division Head, also teased the newest ride that will be launched sometime this year. He invited the Park's loyal guests to name this new attraction through an engagement campaign that is set to start this quarter.



Goin' Bullit star Dani Zee and Sparkle artist Margaret "Meg Meg" Montgomery charmed the crowd with their solo musical performances. Other EK storybook characters and sponsor mascots were also there to join in the festivities.

Meanwhile, Eldar's birthday celebration will go on until August 31! For only Php1,200, enjoy one (1) Regular Day Pass to EKsperience unlimited rides and attractions, one (1) Eldar's Purple Brew drink, and one (1) Php100 discount voucher for Eldar-branded merchandise when you book via the EK Online Store from July 28 to August 31. Walk-in guests will also get to savor one (1) Eldar's Purple Brew drink! The Eldar's Birthday Treat Promo is

valid for visits from today to August 31.

This magical celebration was made even more magical with the following sponsors: Dove Baby Wash, Dove Deo, Dove Body Wash, Lifebuoy, Surf, Dewberry, Cherifer, Krrrrunch, Selecta, Minute Maid, Roller Coaster, Nips, Nova, C2 Cool and Clean, Hello! Chocolate, Pretzels Stick Snacks, Cream-O, Purefoods Ready-to-Eat, Tiny Buds Baby Naturals, Nutriboost, Krispy Kreme, Nutri10Plus, Dayzinc, Chuckie, Reyes Barbecue, MPower, and Ceelin Gummies.

The following tenant partners also extended their support for Eldar's special day: ViewTrue Imaging, Xtreme Paintball Philippines, Aun-



tie Anne's, Teho, Shakes Station, Dash Premium Ice Scramble, Dairy Queen, Angel's Corn, Fortune Bakeshop, Potato Corner, Lil' Orbits Mini Donuts, Po Jang, Mary Grace, Alcatraz, Sigue Trading, Hap Chan, Shakey's, D'vinia's Buko Pie and Food Products, Buko de Lite, and Frutti Delite.

PNP launches mobile app to improve visibility, efficiency

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – Help is just a tap away as the Philippine National Police Re-gional Office IV-A launches a new mobile application which aims to enhance public safety and service efficiency in Calabarzon.

During the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas on August 6, PRO IV-A Regional Director Police Brig. Gen.I Paul Kenneth Lucas discussed the app, dubbed as the Protect Our Community's Well-being through Effective Services and Response or P.O.W.E.R. Services App, emphasizing its role in improving police services, enhancing transparency, and promoting public safety across the region.

"If you have downloaded it and you are going somewhere and you are missing, you can open it. The app will tell you where you are, where is the nearest police station, where is the nearest hospital, everything is there. When you need an example you will apply PSA, you will just download it. You will apply for a firearms license, you can use it", Lucas said.

The app is aligned with the pronouncement of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. that police forces should focus on public safety, integrating secure and AI-driven technology into police operations.

PRO IV-A Regional Director Police

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.

Brig. Gen.I Paul Kenneth Lucas discussed the app, dubbed as the Protect Our Community's Well-being through Effective Services and Response or P.O.W.E.R. Services App, emphasizing its role in improving police services, enhancing transparency, and promoting public safety across the region. (AM/PIA 4A)

The mobile application is internet-based, and with user-friendly design to provide a seamless platform and one-stop shop solution for emergency as it offers variety of services such as: emergency assistance, PNP Internal Services, community engagement, Bagong Pilipinas Ser-vices, list of local tourist destination, public safety information and advisories, news and updates, downloadable resources, tools, events, and RD's Corner.

"This POWER APP is a product of a wild imagination of our command group and our regional staff because when PGEN [Rommel Francisco] Marbil sat down with us he said, "I want the po-lice to be on the street, how can we do that?" So, our command group and regional staff saw and studied what we were going to do", Lucas stated.

The police director emphasized that they intend to stay true to the commitment of 'help is just a tap away' through the app as another platform for their community engagement initiatives.



GSIS maintains ISO certification; assures best customer experience

DA-4A F2C2, sinanay ang 21 cluster ng mga magsasaka sa pagnenegosyo



Sinanay ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) Farm and Fisheries Clustering and

Cont. on Page 2

NU Dasmariñas inks partnership with DTI Cavite to boost its extension services



LEE DETERMINED TO INCREASE AGRI BUDGET



Cong. Wilbert "Manoy" T. Lee said he will push for a bigger budget for agriculture once deliberations begin for the 2025 General Appropriations Bill (GAB) at the House of Representatives.

"Kahapon sa DBCC (Development Budget Coordination Committee) briefing, natalakay itong pagkaltas sa pondo ng agrikultura. Nakahanda po

tayong amyendahan ang budget para dito para madagdagan at maiwasto dahil para sa atin, ito ang dapat na prayoridad at dagdagan ng suporta ng gobyerno," Lee said.

"With this year's drought brought about by the El Niño and the La Niña in the coming months, we need adequate financial support to boost productivity and re-energize the sector to achieve food sufficiency and food security," he added.

The P6.352-trillion National Expenditure Program (NEP) was officially turned over to the House of Representatives by the Department of Budget and Management on July 29.

Under the NEP, the proposed budget for the agriculture sector – which includes the Department of

Cont. on Page 2

Abcede Lucban Longganisa & Meat Products Inc. undergo food safety training



Cavite Career Caravan facilitates 24 on-the-spot hires, expands services for job seekers in Naic



The Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM) in partnership with the local government of Naic, successfully spearheaded a career caravan at Naic Stadium Shopping Strip on August 9, 2024. The event featured 25 companies offering a range of job opportunities to the 145 eager applicants, alongside services from seven national governmental agencies. Remarkably, 24 individuals were hired on the spot, showcasing the event's effectiveness in providing immediate employment opportunities within the community.

Cont. on Page 2

DEPED to Continue Entrep Programs with Go Negosyo



Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion met with Angara on Aug. 6 to discuss programs that are already underway and being conducted with the support of the DepEd. These include Youthpreneur, Pam-paaralang Taniman sa Agribida, The Board-room Experience, and Mentoring the Mentors.

Newly appointed Department of Education Secretary Sonny Angara is set to continue entrepre-neurship programs conducted by the Department of Education (DepEd) with Go Nego-syo.

Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion met with Angara on Aug. 6 to discuss programs that are already underway and being conducted with DepEd's support.

"We should give education and MSMEs

(micro, small and medium enterprises) all the help they need – these sectors have a big role to play in the future of our country. I am glad that we have Sec. Angara to help us continue with these programs," Concepcion said.

These initiatives are part of a November 2023 agreement that seeks to promote entrepreneurial skills development among learners, teachers and parents. PR



DOTr supports transport groups' call for PTMP summit



27 NATURAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION TIPS THAT ARE EVIDENCE-BASED

11. Take vitamin D if you're deficient

Most people do not get enough vitamin D. While these widespread vitamin D inadequacies are not imminently harmful, maintaining adequate vitamin D levels can help to optimize your health by improving bone strength, reducing symptoms of depression, strengthening your immune system, and lowering your risk for cancer (44Trusted Source, 45Trusted Source, 46Trusted Source, 47Trusted Source).

If you do not spend a lot of time in the sunlight, your vitamin D levels may be low.

If you have access, it's a great idea to have your levels tested, so that you can correct your levels through vitamin D supplementation if necessary.

12. Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables

Vegetables and fruits are loaded with prebiotic fiber, vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, many of which have potent health effects.

Studies show that people who eat more vegetables and fruits tend to live longer and have a lower risk for heart disease, obesity, and other illnesses (48Trusted Source, 49Trusted Source).

13. Eat adequate protein

Eating enough protein is vital for optimal health, as it provides the raw materials your body needs to create new cells and tissues (50Trusted Source).

What's more, this nutrient is particularly important for maintenance of a moderate body weight.

High protein intake may boost your metabolic rate — or calorie burn — while making you feel full. It may also reduce cravings and your desire to snack late at night (51Trusted Source, 52Trusted Source, 52aTrusted Source).

14. Get moving

Doing aerobic exercise, or cardio, is one of the best things you can do for your mental and physical health.

It's particularly effective at reducing belly fat, the harmful type of fat that builds up around your organs. Reduced belly fat may lead to major improvements in your metabolic health (53Trusted Source).

According to the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, we should strive for at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity each week (54Trusted Source).

continue for the next issue (next week)



AGRI BUDGET...

Agri-culture (DA), the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and all their attached agencies and corporations — suffered a P10.4-billion reduction, down to P211.3 billion from P221.7 billion in this year's General Appropriations Act (GAA).

According to DBM, bulk of the budget will be used to fund agri-culture modernization programs as well as cash aid to farmers and fisherfolk.

Lee said the proposed P211 billion agri-culture budget in the NEP was a far cry from the P513.81 billion target budget announced by the DA in April.

"We are supportive of the original proposed budget for the DA, especially since around P225.83 billion out of the target P513-billion budget was supposed to be for agricultural modernization as well as to improve the anti-smuggling efforts of DA's bureaus," he said.

The Bicolano lawmaker has been a vocal supporter for modernization of the agriculture sector.

He has been persistent in urging the Philippine Center for Post-harvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) to efficiently use their budget to provide farm equipment and post-harvest facilities to in-crease agri-cultural workers' production and address soaring food prices.

The solon from

Cavite...

The event was officially opened by Ms. Annaliza T. Garcia from the Municipal Public Employment Services Office, who delivered the welcome remarks.

Local officials, including Mayor Raffy Dualan, Vice Mayor Jun Dualan, and Ms. Jacinta Remulla, were in attendance to show their full support for the initiative. They reaffirmed their commitment to creating and fostering employment opportunities for the residents of Naic.

Bicol likewise advocates for additional post-harvest facilities and market linkages for farmers and fisherfolk through his House Bill (HB) No. 3958 or the "Post-Harvest Facilities Support Act" and HB 3957 or the "Kadiwa Agri-Food Terminal Act."

Moreover, Lee underscored the importance of the digitization of the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), saying: "Ang mga panukalang ito na itinutulak natin ang sisiguro na sapat at tuloy-tuloy ang ayuda ng gobyerno mula sa pagtatanim, anihan, hanggang sa paghatid at pagbebenta ng produkto sa merkado."

"Pera ng gobyerno, pera ng taumbayan. Dapat meaningful spending. Walang underspending, walang pagwawaldas. Kapag nag-invest tayo sa agrikultura at sinuportahan ang mga magsasaka at mangingis-da, tataas ang kanilang produksyon, hindi tayo masyadong aasa sa imported, bababa ang presyo ng pagkain at iba pang bilihin, at gagaan ang pasanin ng ating mga kababayan."

"Ang pinakamabisang solusyon sa inflation ay pagtulong sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda—ang ating 'food security soldiers'. Kaya kailangan na laging top priority ang agrikultura. Sa pangunguna ng ating food security soldiers, murang pagkain, gawin na natin!" he added. PR

Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero, head of OPPEM, along with Sangguniang Kabataan Provincial Federation President, Board Member Chelsea Sarno, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Naic community for warmly welcoming the Cavite Career Caravan. They emphasized the crucial role of such initiatives in providing the youth with valuable employment opportunities, both locally and internationally. -Romelyn P. Dones

DA-4A...

Consolidation (F2C2) Program ang 21 cluster ng mga magsasaka ukol sa entrepreneurial mind-setting simula noong ika-22 hanggang ika-23 ng Hulyo sa Los Baños, Laguna.

Ito ay upang ihanda ang mga cluster sa pagkakaroon ng bisyon sa pagnenegosyo sa tulong ng pag-alam sa mga katangian ng pagiging negosyante at pagbuo ng mga ideya sa negosyo na nakasentro sa kanilang pag-unlad.

Binuo ang aktibidad ng 44 na mga kalahok na representante ng isang wang cluster mula sa High Value Crops Development Program, tatlo mula sa Livestock Program, pito mula sa Corn Program, at siyam mula sa Rice Program.

Ilan sa mga ti-

GSIS...

MANILA — The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) successfully maintained its ISO 9001:2015 certification after a revalidation audit.

In a news release on Friday, GSIS president and general manager Arnulfo "Wick" Veloso said digitization, such as the GSIS Touch Mobile Application and online services, has played a crucial role in enhancing their system.

"Digitization has also played a salient factor in enhancing our processes through the GSIS Touch Mobile Application, online Annual Pensioners Information Revalidation (APIR), the recent launch of the digital ID and enterprise architecture consulting services project tie-up with SGV and Ernst and Young," Veloso said.

He said the GSIS is aiming to deliver the best customer experience to its members, pensioners, and stakeholders by adhering to international

From Page 1

nalakay ay ang pagpapalicensya ng negosyo, angkop na pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga kustomer, at paggagawa ng business model canvas. Nagbigay inspirasyon din sa isang pananalita si General Manager Joel Atendido mula sa isa sa mga modelong cluster sa rehiyon, ang Llano Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

Ayon kay Manager Atendido, sa pamamagitan ng F2C2 ay naabot ng kanilang cluster ang iba pang naghahayupan kung saan sila ay natulungan na lumago ang negosyo. Kaya naman pinayuhan din niya ang mga kalahok na ipagpatuloy ang pagdalo sa mga pagsasanay para makinig at matuto. (Danica T. Daluz, DA-4A RAFIS)

From Page 1

standards for quality management and innovation.

"The GSIS continuously signifies its commitment and builds up initiatives in providing the best customer experience to our members, pensioners, internal and external stakeholders, strengthening our adherence to international standards for quality management, innovation and delivery of timely and efficient service for all government workers," Veloso said.

The GSIS began its ISO certification journey in 2015 for its loans processing system and has since achieved certifications for various processes, including membership administration, claims, data center management, and non-life insurance.

In 2021, more certifications were obtained, and in 2023, three major branch offices in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao were included in the certified processes. (PNA)



Crossword 3

ACROSS

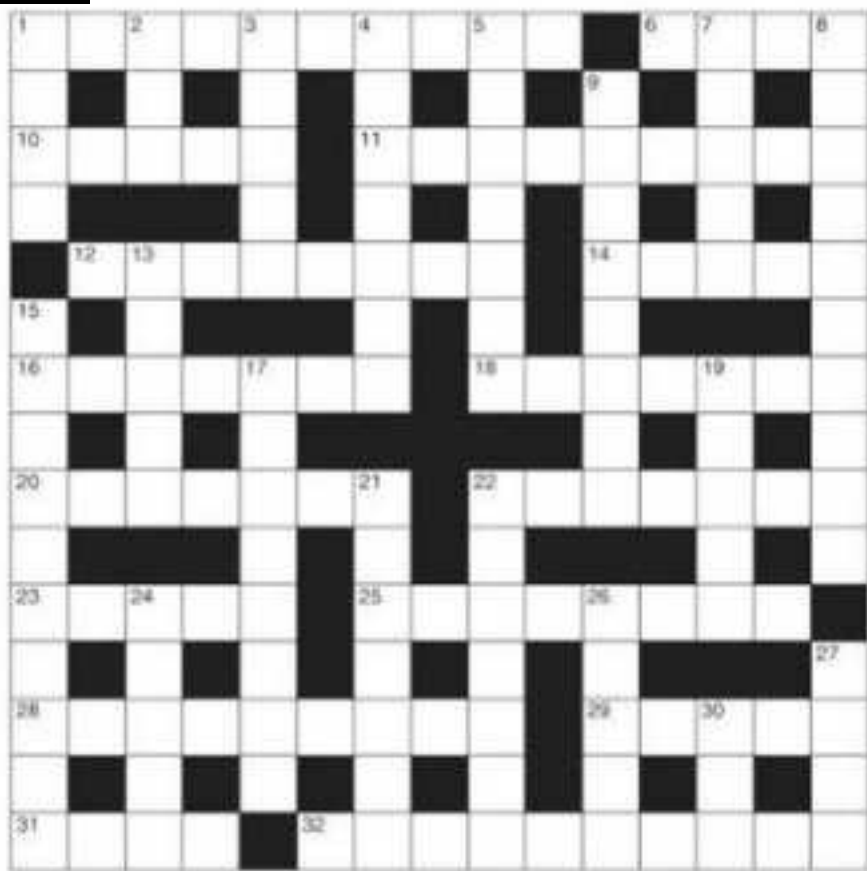
- Talkative person
- Motorway off-ramp
- Cathedral, ... Dame
- Slanting lines
- Ticketed
- Japanese seaweed roll
- Pierced with fork
- Every evening
- Annoyed
- Nuclear process
- Vanilla slice topping
- Railway bridges
- Take apart
- Was gloomy
- One-on-one fight
- Carry out (crime)

3			8		1			2
2		1		3		6		4
			2		4			
8		9				1		6
	6						5	
7		2				4		9
			5		9			
9		4		8		7		5
6			1		7			3

		6	5					8
		9	5				2	
7			9			3		
				4		2	7	
			8	7	3			
	7	9		5				
		2			8			9
	5					8	1	
3					5	4		

DOWN

- Dollar division
- Appropriate
- Here, ... & everywhere
- Overrun (with disease)
- Continually (2,3,2)
- Bone photos (1-4)
- Giving evidence
- Delivers (goods)
- In existence
- Tolerant (4-6)
- Weight unit
- Discredit (reputation)
- Dedicated admirer
- Sudden outburst (5-2)
- Agenda item
- Unfulfilled
- Rim
- Ham & ... soup



GO! TRIVIA

Solutions page 73

3. In which Dickens book would you find the character Little Nell?
(a) A Christmas Carol (b) David Copperfield (c) Oliver Twist
(d) The Old Curiosity Shop



OH, MY GOD!



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.

—C. G. Jung

OH, MY GOD! When you see those words, what do you think? Many of us use the word "God" without any clear con-cept 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 com-puter. 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 conscious-ness, 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."

Solution of the Day :

Contemplate what God means to you

Speaker Romualdez tells Filipino Olympians: You are our heroes, there is no limit to what we can achieve

SPEAKER Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez on Wednesday told Filipino athletes who participated in the recently concluded 2024 Paris Summer Olympics in France that they are the nation's heroes.

The leader of the 300-plus-strong House of Representatives made the statement during the conference of the Congressional Medal of Excellence (adopted as Resolution No. 233) on gymnastics competition double Gold winner Carlos Yulo and Congressional Medal of Distinction (adopted as Resolution Nos. 239 and 240, respectively) on boxing events Bronze medalists Nesthy Petecio and Aira Villegas, a constituent of the Speaker in Tacloban City, and awarding of other delegates.

The Congressional Medal of Excellence is the highest award to Filipino achievers in sports, business, medicine, science and arts and culture.

Resolution No. 241 was adopted to honor all Filipino athletes and the entire Philippine delegation who competed in the last Olympics.

"Kami po dito sa House of the Representatives, House of the People are honored by your victories and by your achievements. We want to thank every one of you. Of course, the coaches and the family that all supported you, for you have made these all possible," Speaker Romualdez mentioned his kababayan, Villegas, in his short speech.

"We want to take this brief but most memorable opportunity to recognize your achievements in the sports community. You are now what they call the shining beacon. Kayo po ang nagiging ehemplo sa taong-bayan. Sa lahat ng kakayanan ng Pilipinas, ito po ang resulta na kapag nag-sama-sama talaga tayo, we can achieve everything. Iyun po ang mensahe ng ating mahal na Presidente kagabi, kaya po kami dito sa Kongreso,

we join him in celebrating your victory, recognizing your sacrifices, and recognizing your hard work," Speaker Romualdez said.

The Philippines was represented in the Paris Olympics by 22 world-class athletes who competed in nine different sporting events, namely Yulo, Aleah Finnegan, Emma Malabuyo and Levi Ruivivar for artistic gymnastics; Villegas, Petecio, Hergie Bacyadan, Carlo Paalam and Eumir Marcial for boxing; Ernest John Obiena, John Cabang-Tolentino and Lauren Hoffman for athletics; Vanessa Sarno, John Febuar Ceniza and Elreen Ann Ando for weightlifting; Joanie Delgado for rowing; Samantha Catantan for fencing; Kayla Sanchez and Jarod Hatch for swimming; Pagdanganan and Dottie Ardina for golf; and Kiyomi Watanabe for judo.

Sports officials accompanied members of the Philippine delegation to Paris to the House of Representatives, where they were given a heroes' welcome.

Speaker Romualdez, Tingog Rep. Yedda K. Romualdez, Senior Deputy Speaker Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr., Majority Leader Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Isabela Rep. Michael Carlos Faustino Dy III, and House Secretary General Reginald "Reggie" S. Velasco led the awarding of incentives and citations to all the athletes and coaches who attended the event.

Yulo received P6 million from the House of Representatives for his two golds and an additional P8.010 million from contributions of House members led by Speaker Romualdez, Rep. Yedda Romualdez, House Committee on Appropriations chairman Zaldy Co, Gonzales, Dalipe and Deputy Speaker David "Jay-jay" Suarez.

This is on top of the P500,000 he received before he left for the Paris Olympics. In total, Yulo received

extraordinary feats in Paris, but for the inspiration you have given to every Filipino—young and old. You have shown us that with determination and unity, there is no limit to what we can achieve," he said.

Last week, the House of Representatives adopted House Resolution (HR) No. 1864, which consolidated with other resolutions conferring Yulo the Congressional Medal of Excellence.

The House also conferred the Congressional Medal of Distinction on Petecio, who won Bronze in the 57-kilogram boxing event, and Villegas, Bronze medal winner in the 50-kilogram boxing competition.

On Monday, HR No. 1915 was adopted by the House of Representatives in consolidation with HR Nos. 1901, 1905, 1906, 1911, and 1914, granting Petecio the Congressional Medal of Distinction and Villegas the same honor through adopting HR No. 1916 in consolidation with HR Nos. 1889, 1891,

1895, 1896, 1898, 1909 and 1913.

HR No. 1917, which seeks to honor all Filipino athletes who competed in the last Olympics, was also adopted in consolidation with HR No. 1887.

Speaker Romualdez said the congressional awards and the medals the athletes won "are also a reminder of the collective effort behind your success - your coaches, your families, your friends, and the entire nation that cheered you on with every step, every jump, every stroke, and every lift."

"You have made us believe once again that we are capable of greatness," he said.

He said the athletes' participation and victory in Paris are "stories of triumph, resilience, and sheer determination that our athletes have etched into the annals of history."

"The Paris 2024 Olympics have once again brought to light the indomitable spirit of the Filipino people—a spirit that rises above challenges and

stands tall on the world stage," he added.

He pointed out that each Olympic medalist "has not only won a medal but also brought immense pride to our nation."

"Your achievements are a testament to what we can accomplish when we dream big, work hard, and never give up. These medals, made from the purest of metals, represent the purity of your dedication, the strength of your resolve, and the weight of the expectations you carried on behalf of more than 110 million Filipinos," he stressed.

The House leader also extended his "deepest appreciation to all of you, our dear Filipino athletes who made it to Paris."

"Your hard work, dedication, and commitment have brought honor to our nation. Qualifying for the Olympics is already an extraordinary achievement, and you have shown the world the strength and resilience of the Filipino spirit," he said. PR

Province Of Quezon Conducts Benchmarking Activity at Provincial Government of Cavite



The Provincial Government of Quezon, led by Mr. Romano Franco C. Talaga, Executive Assistant II, and Mr. Alberto S. Bay Jr., conducted a benchmarking activity at the Provincial Government of Cavite on August 6, 2024, at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Session Hall, Legislative Building, Trece Martires City. Their visit aimed to improve the LGUs' operational practices and quality management system.

Mr. Alvin S. Mojica Provincial Administrator

for Community Affairs and former PGC Quality Management Representative (QMR) proudly welcomed the delegates. In his speech, he highlighted the meticulous processes and collaborative efforts that propelled the PGC to achieve the ISO Certification, emphasizing the commitment to excellence and quality management that define the province's governance.

The PGC team led by the current QMR, Ms. Michelle F. Alcida helped assisted the visitors



EDITORIAL:

Warm welcome for our Olympians

The nation will extend a warm and rousing welcome to the contingent of 22 Filipino athletes who took part in the Paris Olympics.

We know they all tried their best to win medals and bring honor and prestige to the country simply by being there amid the expected stiff competition from outstanding athletes from other nations across the globe.

Our athletes brought home two golds and two bronzes in the much-awaited sports spectacle.

But while our medal output in this Olympiad could have been far bigger, we also know that athletes from other countries also adequately prepared for this and were just as focused on winning the coveted medals in this premier sportsfest.

The challenge now is for every Filipino athlete who wants to excel in future Olympics to strive to improve the skills through rigorous training and participation in local and international competitions so each one can meet the high standards set by the International Olympic Committee in each sports category.

It is understandable the focus of our attention would be on 24-year-old gymnast Carlos Edriel Yulo who won two gold medals in the vault and floor exercises.

It's an awesome achievement as we know that he trained really hard for this and that he can further hone his skills after his first Olympics stint in Tokyo in 2022.

We congratulate Yulo for this singular feat and hope he can achieve greater heights in his sporting career in the years ahead.

Two of our women boxers, Nesthy Petecio and Aira Villegas, meanwhile, managed to enter the quarter-finals and win bronze medals. We wish them well in their quest for excellence in their chosen sport. Perhaps in the next Olympics?

EJ Obiena, considered the world's No. 2 pole vault athlete, may have faltered in his bid to win a medal, but nonetheless managed to land in fourth place.

He has vowed to do better in the next edition of the Olympics four years from now. He deserves our full support as well in his Olympic dream.

Two women golfers, Bianca Pagdanganan and Dottie Ardina, may not have won any medal this time around.

But sports analysts believe their exceptional performance in Paris amid a field of A-list women golfers showed they can very well win medals in future Olympics.

Our first-ever gold medal in the Olympics was won by weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz in the 2022 Tokyo Olympics. She paved the way for Yulo to excel in gymnastics not only once, but twice, and, who knows, perhaps even more in the next Olympiad.

We pay tribute as well to the sports officials, coaches, trainers, and generous benefactors from the public and private sector who supported the training of our athletes and encouraged them to excel in their chosen sport.

But after all is said and done, we need to acknowledge as well the support of the entire nation for our athletes.

After more than a century of participation in the quadrennial games, our athletes should always be guided by the Olympic motto of "Stronger, Higher, Faster" and begin to prepare for the future.

Onward to the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028!

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Abcede Lucban Longganisa & Meat Products Inc. undergo food safety training

Abcede Lucban Longganisa & Meat Products Inc. is an established company in Quezon Province renowned for its specialty in processed meats. The company is particularly famous for its Lucban longganisa, a traditional Filipino sausage known for its distinct flavor and quality.

Recognizing the importance of food safety in their processing system and the need to ensure safe and high-quality products, Abcede Lucban Longganisa & Meat Products Inc. sought the expertise of DOST Quezon to conduct a two-day training on Current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) and Food Safety Hazards (FSH).

The cGMP por-

tion addressed several topics, including the Quality Management System, which guarantees consistent product quality and adherence to regulatory standards. It also covered Production and process controls, which oversee and fine-tune manufacturing processes to ensure precision. Equipment maintenance was emphasized to ensure that machinery operates effectively and reliably. Additionally, Sanitation and hygiene practices were highlighted as essential for preventing contamination and maintaining a clean production environment. These components collectively uphold the overall quality and safety of food products.

Under the topic of

FSH, the training covered different categories of food hazards, including biological, chemical, and physical contaminants that can jeopardize food safety. It also addressed control mechanisms for mitigating these risks. Participants learned preventive measures such as proper hygiene practices, effective cooking methods, and appropriate food handling techniques to prevent contamination. The seminar emphasized the importance of monitoring and verification methods to ensure adherence to food safety practices and their effectiveness. Additionally, corrective actions were discussed as procedures to address and resolve issues when food safety controls fail. Participants

gained an understanding of regulatory compliance, including the food safety regulations and standards required for legal adherence.

Participants actively took part in workshop activities designed to enhance their practical knowledge and skills in food safety. These activities included hands-on training in proper handwashing techniques and exercises aimed at identifying both physical and biological hazards.

Ms. Sydney Mae G. Tadiosa and Ms. Raiza Lyn N. Antenor, both members of the DOST-CAL-ABARZON Food Safety Team (FST), served as resource speakers for the training. PR

NU Dasmariñas inks partnership with DTI Cavite to boost its extension services

The National University Dasmariñas inks a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DTI Cavite at a signing ceremony held on August 9, 2024 at NU Dasmariñas, Governor's Drive, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The partnership centers on strengthening the University's extension

services, event partnerships, and academic internships while promoting inclusivity and effective resource sharing on the part of DTI.

DTI Cavite OIC Provincial Director Lilibeth Chavez expressed optimism about the collaboration, citing DTI's commitment to empowering

more stakeholders by expanding its business development and consumer advocacy services. Particularly, she mentioned the continuous support of DTI in terms of provision of Learning Service Providers (LSPs), participation in the conduct of research, and other DTI interventions that may be relevant to the University.

Despite NU Dasmariñas being four years young, Executive Director Catherine Lagadia emphasized that the University's drive to scale its programs for the community remains a top priority as it strives to bridge the gap between the academe and the industry. This was evident in the potential

NUD Community projects presented by Community Extension OIC Director Manuel Logatoc. Said projects include the NUD ComEx Project U.N.L.A.D, Project N.I.N.G.A.S, Project A.S.E.N.S.O, and Proyecktong May Husay at Malasakit.

NU Academic Director Ramon Rodriguez, SBMA OIC Dean Laila Malabanan, Program Chair Josephine Moradoz, AILPO Coordinator Steven Jacson, DTI Cavite BDD Chief Rebecca Tarasona, Trade & Industry Development Analyst Froy Galapon, and Trade & Industry Development Specialist Kristine Diaz were also present to witness the MOU signing.



Cavite Career Caravan in Kawit



On August 5, 2024, the Cavite Career Caravan took place at Mana Town Center in Kawit, Cavi-te. The event was a joint effort led by the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM), under the leadership of Ms. Rizalie P. Enero, and Cavite SK Federation President Chelsea Jillian G. Sarno. The event was conducted in collaboration with Mana Town Center management and was supported by the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) of Kawit.

The Cavite Career Caravan attracted 187 job seekers and 27 companies, offering numerous employment opportunities to attendees. By the end of the day, 35 individuals secured employment on the spot, showcasing the event's effectiveness in connecting job seekers with potential employers. Notably, one of the on-the-spot hires

was a participant from the Government Intern-ship Program (GIP) under the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM).

The event was further enriched by the presence of representatives from several national gov-ernment agencies. These agencies included the Social Security System (SSS), PhilHealth, Phil-ippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Pag-IBIG Fund, and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). Their participation provided valuable information and assistance to job seekers regarding employment and social welfare programs.

The Cavite Career Caravan served as an excellent platform for job seekers to explore various employment opportuni-

ties and gain insights into different career paths. It also highlighted the commitment of the local government and partnering organizations to address unemployment and support community members in securing gainful employment.

Overall, the event was a testament to the power of collaboration between government agencies, local organizations, and the private sector in creating positive change and empowering individuals through meaningful employment opportunities. The success of the Cavite Career Caravan in Kawit underscores the importance of such initiatives in fostering economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents in Cavite. -Axel A. Sarte

Over 2,000 Batanes LGU workers are now SSS members under the KaSSSangga Collect Program



Social Security System (SSS) President and Chief Executive Officer Rolando Ledesma Macasaet (4th from right) lauds Batanes Governor Marilou H. Cayco (4th from left) as the provincial local government becomes the latest KaSSSangga Collect Program implemented during a recent ceremonial signing held at the Batanes Provincial Capitol. Joining them are (from left) SSS Tuguegarao Branch Head Guadalupe D. Castillo, SSS Vice President for Luzon North 2 Division Porfirio M. Balatico, Batanes Provincial Government Human Resources Head Ana Marie A. Rosas, SSS Executive Vice President (EVP) for Branch Operations Sector Voltaire P. Agas, SSS EVP for Corporate Services Sector Elvira Alcantara-Re-sare, and SSS Senior Vice President for Luzon Operations Group Antonio S. Argabioso.

BATANES - The Social Security System (SSS) said that over 2,000 job order (JO) workers of the Provincial Local Government (PLGU) of Batanes will now have social security protection under the KaSSSangga Collect Program (KCP) after Batanes becomes the newest implementer of the program.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Rolando Ledesma Macasaet and Batanes Governor Marilou H. Cayco inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that allows the provincial gov-ernment's JO workers to get social security coverage from SSS under the KCP.

"This only shows

MANILA -- The National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) are in talks about the expansion of healthcare coverage and support for senior citizens.

In a news release Thursday, the NCSC said Commissioner Mary Jean Loreche proposed an ex-pansion of PhilHealth's current laboratory packages for the elderly.

Loreche said prostate-specific antigen tests for males, breast ultrasound and mammogram for women, and comprehensive screening for various diseases and geriatric syndromes must be included in the current packages.

Citing that some elderly patients prefer less invasive and more comfortable options over dialysis, Loreche proposed the creation of conservative kidney management programs.

Seniors fighting depression, anxiety, and cognitive decline would also benefit from expanded mental health programs, she said.

Other benefit packages which the NCSC deemed important to the elderly are home-based healthcare services, and transition and convalescent care to support senior citizens recovering from illnesses and surgeries.

The NCSC pushed for the accreditation of the Senior Citizens Community Care Center

for the Konsulta Package to ensure its coverage and sustainability, providing a robust support system for elderly care.

It also pushed for discussions on the status of the National Geriatric Center in Metro Manila -- transforming it into a model hospital nationwide similar to the Bicol General Hospital and Geriatric Center.

As of 2020, the Philippine Statistics Authority recorded 9,242,121 senior citizens or those above 60 years old nationwide.

Earlier, the NCSC said about 4,419,153 senior citizens have registered to its nationwide database as of March 1, 2024. (PNA)

At the same time, PLGU Batanes will serve as the SSS collecting partner, who shall collect the contributions of the JO workers through a salary deduction scheme and remit them to the SSS.

"The timely remittance of monthly premiums will ensure that JO workers are qualified to avail of SSS benefits and loan privileges in times of emergencies," Macasaet said.

He explained that JO workers, as self-employed members, could avail of SSS benefits like sickness, maternity, disability, retirement, death, and funeral. "They can also avail of loan privileges such as salary and calamity loans."

In addition to SSS benefits, he added that they are entitled to receive Employees' Compensation (EC) benefits in case of work-connected sickness, injury, or death.



SSS is committed to its mandate of expanding social security protection and services to all working Filipinos up to the last mile provinces in the Philippines like Batanes," Macasaet said.

Macasaet explained that under the KCP, PLGU's JO workers will be registered as SSS self-employed members.

Senior citizens body, PhilHealth to enhance elderly care programs



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DOTr supports transport groups' call for PTMP summit

MANILA – Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista on Friday supported the call of public transportation groups for a national summit on the Public Transport Modernization Program (PTMP) to help address issues and concerns on the program.

In a press conference at the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) headquarters, Bautista said a national summit would help improve the execution of the PTMP.

"Natutuwa ako sa mungkahing magkaroon ng national transport summit para mapag-usapan natin ang mga isyu through dialogue, at mapagtulungan natin ang pagbuo sa mga solusyon (I welcome the suggestion of a national transport summit so we can talk about issues through a dialogue and work together toward a solution)," he said.

He also allayed fears on the immediate phase out of traditional jeepneys, noting that the

program is being done in phases.

"Yung mga old vehicles hindi naman aalisin kaagad 'yan. Kaya nga maraming components 'yung ating modernization program (We're not going to immediately phase out old vehicles. There are many components in the modernization program)," he said.

The first phase, he said, was the consolidation of public utility vehicle (PUV) operators into cooperatives.

The cooperatives, he said, have since experienced "efficient and profitable" operations.

"Natutuwa sila dahil nagkaroon ng consolidation naging efficient ang kanilang operations. Nabibig-yan ng tamang benepisyo yung employees nila and because of that naging profitable ang kanilang operations (PUV operators are happy with consolidation because their operations have since been more efficient.

before.

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