

SMC inaugurates new HS building in Calatagan to decongest nearby school



San Miguel Corporation chairman and CEO, Mr. Ramon S. Ang (second from right) joins Calatagan Mayor Peter Oliver M. Palacio (third from left) and Batangas 1st District Rep. Eric R. Buhain (left) in unveiling the inaugural marker at the Calatagan National High School 2.0 recently. Also in photo are 1st District Board Members Armie Marie Bausas and Carlo R. Rosales.



SAN Miguel Corporation (SMC) and the municipal government of Calatagan in Batangas inaugurated recently Calatagan National High School 2.0, a four-story, 16-classroom building that immediately addresses classroom shortage and congestion in the area.

SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang, together with Calatagan Mayor Oliver Palacio and Batangas 1st District Rep. Eric Buhain, led the ribbon-cutting rites, witnessed by local officials and members of the local school board.

The school, located in Barangay Sambungan, was built with funds donated by SMC, on a property provided by the Calatagan local government unit (LGU).

"The town of Calatagan is very grateful to Mr. Ramon S. Ang for giving us this building," Palacio said. "We have Mr. Ramon Ang as a partner — not only through his projects in Calatagan, but also in the development of education in the town."

"[Malaking pasasalamat po ng bayan ng Calatagan kay Mr. Ramon S. Ang sa pagbibigay ng ganito pong gusali... Kasama po natin si Mr. Ramon Ang — hindi lamang po sa kanyang mga gagawin sa Calatagan, ngunit kasama rin siya sa pagpapaulad ng edukasyon sa ating bayan.]"

At present, 194 Grade 7 students are already using a number of classrooms in the school building, which can accommodate up to 560 students. Mayor Palacio is hoping to further expand the school to accommodate 1,200 students up to Grade 12.

The school caters to students from seven areas, namely: Barangays Sambungan, Bucal, Carlota, Encarnacion, Luya, Hukay, and Real.

Its opening is seen to decongest the nearby Lucsuhin National High School, and afford students from nearby barangays an easier commute to school.

In his speech, Mr. Ang said that he is committed to building at least two more schools in Calatagan to help solve classroom shortages, and meet the DepEd standard for teacher-to-classroom ratio.

Palacio underscored the importance of the partnership between SMC and the local government in addressing these concerns, as education is key to a capable workforce.

SMC's commitment to the development of Batangas is seen through various projects that include a state-of-art cement plant, a food manufacturing complex, a major power facility, as well as expressways.

SMC's investments in the province are a major boost to both the national and local economies.

While catalyzing growth in the province by supporting local industries and creating jobs and livelihood opportunities, SMC's operations in Batangas are also seen as crucial to providing for the food, power, transportation, and infrastructure needs of the country.

In particular, Ang touted SMC's upcoming Nasugbu-Bauan Expressway, to help improve the transport of people and goods to and from the province, and support tourism. PR



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Voluntary GSIS contribution for non-career workers gets House nod



SENATOR BONG GO NAG ALAY NG TULONG SA CAVITE CITY



Binisita personal at kinamusta naghandog ng tulong si MR. MALASAKIT Senator Kuya Bong Go sa mga nasunugan mula sa iba't ibang barangay sa Cavite City, Cavite kamakailan. Napuno ng mga taong nagmamahal at nag aabang sa senador ang Montano Hall at umabot sa 746 na residente ang nabigyan ng snacks, water container, vitamins, masks, shirt, packs, at bola ng basketball at volleyball ni Senator Bong Go, katuwang

Cont. on Page 2

PNP dismayed over Espenido's 'biggest crime group' claim

Tolentino: final push to amend 'Doble Plaka' Law underway



"The final push to amend the burdensome and discriminatory provisions of the 'Doble Plaka' Law is underway."

Thus assured Senate Majority Leader Francis 'Tol' Tolentino, as he and 1-Rider Party-List Representative Bonifacio Bosita agreed to work together to ease the burden for millions of motorcycle riders in the country in the remaining sessions of the 19th Congress.

On the radio program, Usapang Tol, Bosita thanked Tolentino for shepherding the passage of Senate Bill No. (SBN) 2555, which will amend Republic Act (RA) 11235, or the Doble Plaka Law.

The Senate unanimously approved the measure which was sponsored by Tolentino on third and final

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Telegram CEO released on bail



PARIS – Pavel Durov, the founder and chief executive officer of the encrypted messaging service Telegram, was released on Wednesday after paying 5 million euros (about USD5.6 million) bail.

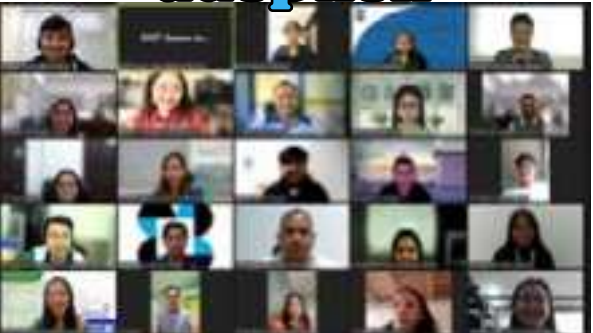
He, however, has been required to report to the police twice a week, Paris Public Prosecutor Laure Beccuau announced Wednesday night.

Beccuau also said Durov was officially placed under investigation on six charges and was prohibited from leaving France.

Durov was arrested by French police at an airport outside Paris on Saturday night after being accused of 12 criminal offenses, including failing to act against Telegram users involved in cyberbul-

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DOST Quezon Webinar Number 8 highlights SLSU's technologies for adoption



To showcase the developed technologies of Southern Luzon State University (SLSU), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Quezon partnered with SLSU Innovation and Technology Support Services Office (ITSSO) in conducting its 8th webinar, July 18 via Zoom Conference.

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No taxes for 'Golden Boy' Yulo - BIR



27 NATURAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION TIPS THAT ARE EVIDENCE-BASED

20. Avoid artificial trans fats
Artificial trans fats are harmful, man-made fats that are strongly linked to inflammation and heart disease (68Trusted Source).
Avoiding them should be much easier now that they have been completely banned in the United States and many other countries. Note that you may still encounter some foods that contain small amounts of naturally occurring trans fats, but these are not associated with the same negative effects as artificial trans fats (69Trusted Source).

21. Use plenty of herbs and spices
There is a variety of herbs and spices at our disposal these days, more so than ever. They not only provide flavor but also may offer several health benefits as well (70Trusted Source).
For example, ginger and turmeric both have potent anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effects, which may help improve your overall health (71Trusted Source, 72Trusted Source).
Due to their powerful potential health benefits, you should aim to include a wide variety of herbs and spices in your diet.

22. Nurture your social relationships
Social relationships — with friends, family, and loved ones you care about — are important not only for your mental well-being but also your physical health.
Studies show that people who have close friends and family are healthier and live much longer than those who do not (73Trusted Source, 74Trusted Source).

23. Occasionally track your food intake
Some people may benefit from working out how many calories they eat is by weighing their food and using a nutrition tracker (75Trusted Source, 76Trusted Source). Tracking can also provide insights into your protein, fiber, and micro-nutrient intake.
However, while tracking, may help some people manage their weight, there is also evidence it can lead to disordered eating tendencies (74Trusted Source, 77Trusted Source, 78Trusted Source, 79Trusted Source).
Always speak with a doctor before using this strategy.

24. Get rid of excess belly fat
Excessive abdominal fat, or visceral fat, is a uniquely harmful type of fat distribution that is linked to an increased risk of cardiometabolic diseases like type 2 diabetes and heart disease (80Trusted Source).
For this reason, your waist size and waist-to-hip ratio may be much stronger markers of health than your weight.
Reducing refined carbs, eating more protein and fiber, and reducing stress (which can reduce cortisol, a stress hormone that triggers abdominal fat deposition) are all strategies that may help you get rid of belly fat (81Trusted Source, 82Trusted Source, 83Trusted Source, 84Trusted Source).

continue for the next issue (next week)

CEO...
lying, sharing pedophilic content and glorifying terrorism.
Beccuau said the arrest “comes in the context of a judicial investigation opened on July 8, 2024.”
It also concerns “refusal to communicate, at the request of competent authorities,” information or documents necessary for carrying out and operating interceptions allowed by law,” the Paris prosecutor added.
In response to the arrest, the Telegram group said on its X account that the company “abides by European Union (EU) laws, including the Digital Services Act.”
“It is absurd to

Tolentino...

reading last July 29.
“We thank you for spearheading the passage of the amendments to the Doble Plaka Law. Because when you read it, the law seems to assume that motorcycle riders are up to no good, which is not true,” Bosita told the senator.
In response, Tolentino thanked Bosita and gave the latter his commitment to advance their common objective to remove unjust and discriminatory policies against millions of motorcycle riders.
For his part, Bosita shared with the senator that the House counterpart of SBN 2555 has already hurdled the committee level, and will be calendared

PNP...

MANILA — The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday expressed dismay over the statement of Lieutenant Colonel Jovie Espenido describing the organization as the “largest organized crime group” in the country during the third joint public hearing of the House Quad Committee.
In a press conference at their Camp Crame headquarters in Quezon City, PNP spokesperson Col. Jean Fajardo said Espenido’s statement was “sweeping” and affects the

BONG GO...

ang Malasakit Team. May mga ilan ding nabigyan ng mga bisikleta, sapatos, relo at cellphone. Katuwang din na Tumulong ang national government NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY na mabigyan ang mga kwalipikadong benepisyaryo ng housing assistance para unti-unti nilang mapaayos ang kanilang nasunilog na mga tahanan na mtatatagpuan sa Tabling Dagat na gawa sa mga light materials. Taus Pusong ding nagpasalamat ang Senador kina Mayor Denver Reyes

DOST...

In an opening remarks, Ms. Maria Espe-ranza E. Jawili, the Provincial Science and Technology Director of DOST Quezon, emphasized the importance of “Webinar Series #8 Awareness Seminar on Southern Luzon State University De-veloped Technologies for Adoption,” as it may open doors of opportunities for innovation.
Representing SLSU ITSSO, Mr. Jefferson L. Abris, Intellectual Property Management Specialist served as resource speaker, detailed the profiles of matured technologies that can be adopted by entrepreneurs. Among these are Soil Nutrient Detector, Movable Lemongrass Essential Oil Extraction System, Rice Leaf Nitrogen Meter, and Multifunctional Garlic Peeling Machine.
Mr. Abris mentioned that when technolo-

group is formed just for the sole purpose of committing crime. This is very far from the reality of why the PNP was established. So, we don’t know where the statement of this police officer is coming from,” Fajardo said.
“It casted doubt, shadow doon sa integridad ng buong PNP. Nalulungkot tayo dahil maraming pulis na seryoso at tapat sa kanilang tungkulin, maraming nagbuwis ng buhay at nakakalungkot ‘yung buong organization ang binigyan niya ng la-

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Safeguarding Journeys: MPT South launches Bayani ng Kalsada Book 2

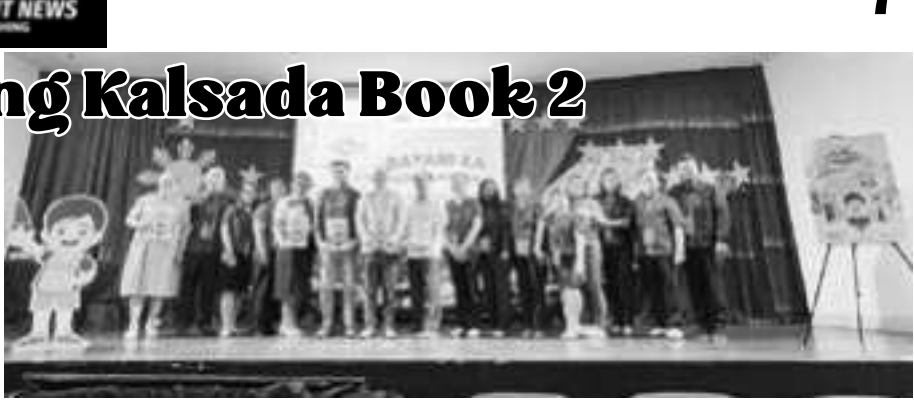


Bayani Ka Launch_Nat Lib-1: Official Bayani ng Kalsada Book 2 launch at the National Library of the Philippines [From Left: MPTC Chief Corporate Governance and Risk Officer and Head of Sustainability, Atty. Cynthia Casino, Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management of MPT South, Mr. Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, Director of the National Library of the Philippines, Dr. Angelito Umali, Health and Nutrition Officer and representative of the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and Mr. Eduardo B. Quiros, Assistant Director of the National Library of the Philippines.



Bayani Ka Launch_Nat Lib-3: Official Bayani ng Kalsada Activity Book

Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), a subsidiary of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC), launched “Bayani Ka: Bayani ng Kalsada Book 2” at the National Library of the Philippines, an activity book aimed at inspiring children to become road safety champions in their communities. Packed with engaging stories, vibrant illustrations, and interactive content, the book is designed to teach young readers the importance of road safety in a way that is both entertaining and empowering. With road safety being a vital topic for young learners, the book is an excellent resource for schools to incorporate into their curriculum, helping students become more aware and responsible on the streets.
Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management of MPT South led the symbolic turnover of “Bayani Ka” activity books to the National Library of the Philippines. She was joined by MPTC Chief Corporate Governance and Risk Officer and Head of Sustainability, Atty. Cynthia Casino; as well as Dr. Angelito Umali, Health and Nutrition Officer and representative of the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The books were received by Mr. Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano,



Bayani Ka Launch_Nat Lib-2: MPTC Chief Corporate Governance and Risk Officer and Head of Sustainability, Atty. Cynthia Casino, Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management of MPT South, Mr. Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano, Director of the National Library of the Philippines, Dr. Angelito Umali, Health and Nutrition Officer and representative of the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and Mr. Eduardo B. Quiros, Assistant Director of the National Library of the Philippines, together with representatives from different local libraries from Metro Manila and Calabarzon.

ng Kalsada Book 2,” to empower children with the knowledge and confidence they need to navigate the streets safely. By distributing this book to schools, we hope to instill lifelong habits of safety and responsibility in our youngest citizens,” said Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management of MPT South.
After receiving the “Bayani ng Kalsada” books from MPT South, Director Cesar Gilbert Q. Adriano stated that “This book will serve as a learning tool for teaching children about road safety, providing them with the essential knowledge to navigate the world safely. It empowers the young minds about the importance of knowing traffic rules and pedestrian safety, protecting them from any harm they may encounter on the road.”
MPT South, in its mission to lead in providing a safe and convenient mobility experience for all travellers, is dedicated to ensuring that expressway drivers are conscious of road safety, as well as the children of today as they go through the process of being their own “Bayani ng Kalsada” of tomorrow.
MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the infrastructure arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC). Aside from the CALAX and CAVITEX networks of toll roads, MPTC’s domestic portfolio includes concessions for the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the NLEX Connector Road, the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu. PR

CARD SME opens its 40th Branch in Zamboanga Sibugay



With the end goal of strengthening financial inclusion nationwide, CARD MRI management members alongside staff, officers, and some clients of CARD SME Bank, came together to grace the branch opening. The Ipil Branch is now ready to serve the community of Zamboanga Sibugay with even higher quality financial and personalized products and services.

CARD SME Bank, a thrift bank under the CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institution (CARD MRI), opens its 40th branch on June 10, 2024, in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay to further expand the reach of the institution to fulfill its goal of growing the businesses of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSMEs) clients.
CARD SME Bank offers a variety of products and services such as savings, remittances, and various types of loans, including business loans, to assist MSMEs in growing their businesses.
“This expansion is our way of fulfilling our part in nation-building by providing MSMEs much-needed support to sustain their businesses which will ultimately improve the economic landscape of our trading areas,” CARD SME Bank President and CEO Cynthia Baldeo stated.
As a full-fledged thrift bank, the institution also provides value-added financial products and services to clients and non-clients alike, particularly to less fortunate individuals who want to help themselves gain financial freedom.
“At CARD MRI, we pride ourselves in putting our clients first in everything we do. The 40th CARD SME Bank branch also strengthens financial accessibility and reaffirms our commitment to providing innovative financial products and personalized services to our clients nationwide,” Baldeo said during the branch opening.
The opening was also graced by CARD MRI Managing Director Mr. Aristeo Dequito, Senior Management Adviser Ms. Mary Jane Pererras, Security Consultant General Dickson Hermoso, staff, and clients. The ribbon-cutting event was further honored by the presence of Ipil Mayor Honorable Mr. Anamel Olegario.
The new branch is located at Purok Everlasting, Don Andres, Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay.
As of April 2024, CARD SME Bank has more than 6.6 billion outstanding loans and serves more than 1.2 million clients. The institution aims to become the best thrift bank in the country and be able to reach and serve more clients in the future.
For more information, visit CARD SME Bank’s official website and Facebook page, @CARDSMEBankOfficialPage.

Figaro Coffee Tree Planting 2024: From Crop to Cup

The tree planting initiative aimed to bolster the cultivation of Liberica coffees and extend support to Batangas coffee farmers. Over 100 participants took part, planting more than 1,000 Liberica seedlings donated by the Figaro Coffee Foundation to the Batangas Coffee Federation.

The Figaro Foundation has pledged to conduct biannual maintenance and cleaning of the areas where the coffee seedlings were planted, ensuring their growth and sustainability over the next two years.

The event was graced by prominent figures, including Mr. Ace Azarraga, FCG Brand and Partnership Director; Hon. Wilson Maralit, Mayor of Balete, Batangas; Mr. Arnold Malabataan, Chairman of the Batangas Coffee Federation; Mr. Michael Roma, Representative from the Department of Agriculture; Ms. Meliza Altamirano, Principal of Emilia L. Malabanan Integrated School; Ms. Maria Nina Maralit, Director of Batangas Organic and Natural Farming Agriculture Cooperative (BONFAC); Mr. Armando Maralit, Barangay Captain of Malabanan; as well as celebrities such as Actress and Singer Ms. Geneva Cruz, and Viva Artists Ms. Zsara Llxamana, Ms. Cristy Imperial, Ms. Sahara Bernales, and Ms. Lea Bernales.



Mr. Ace Azarraga emphasized the importance of the initiative, stating, "Barako, or Liberica Coffee, is a native coffee found only in the Philippines and is on the brink of extinction. The Figaro



L-R: Mr. Armando Maralit, Ms. Geneva Cruz, Mayor Wilson Maralit, Mr. Ace Azarraga, Ms. Maria Nina M. Maralit Barangay Malabanan, Balete, Batangas – August 24, 2024 – In a significant stride towards reviving Batangas' rich coffee heritage, the Figaro Foundation, in collaboration with the local government and the Batangas Coffee Federation, hosted the "Figaro Coffee Tree Planting 2024: From Crop to Cup" event. Held in Barangay Malabanan, Balete, Batangas, the event focused on promoting the cultivation of Liberica Coffee—commonly known as Barako—and supporting the local coffee farming community. This initiative aims to rejuvenate Barako Coffee, a native Liberica variety celebrated for its bold flavor and deep cultural roots in the region.



LR- Viva Artist : Ms. Lea Bernales, Ms. Sahara Bernales, Ms. Zsara Llxamana, Ms. Cristy Imperial

Foundation's mission is to restore the glory of Barako coffee in the Philippines. We are committed to supporting Filipino coffee

for the province, saying, "We aim to restore Batangas' status as the coffee capital of the Philippines. Together with the Figaro

farmers by providing them with coffee seedlings, expert guidance, and the necessary facilities for sustainable coffee farming."

Mayor Wilson Maralit shared his vision

Foundation, we will continue to support the coffee farmers of Batangas."

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by key stakeholders, including Mr. Ace Azarraga, Ms. Ma-

FOR WITH
GOD
ALL THINGS
ARE
POSSIBLE

MAKING IT HAPPEN

GSIS...

A total of 217 lawmakers voted in favor of House Bill 10733, which seeks to amend Republic Act (RA) 8291 or the GSIS Act of 1997, specifically Sections 13 (retirement benefits) and 13-A (conditions of entitlement).

The bill proposes that GSIS members in the non-career service who have not reached at least 15 years of government service shall be allowed to continue voluntary premium contributions to qualify for retirement and avail of other applicable benefits.

According to the Administrative Code of 1987, the non-career service shall include elective officials; secretaries and other officials of Cabinet rank; chairman and members of commissions and boards with fixed terms of office; as well as the personal or confidential staff of these officials.

Also included in the non-career service are contractual personnel and emergency and seasonal personnel.

House Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization chairperson and Parañaque Rep. Edwin Olivarez said the mandated 15 years of government service to avail of the retirement benefits from the GSIS may not be met by

most elected government officials.

He noted that elected officials in the local government and their staff could only stay in office for three consecutive terms or a total of nine years.

Olivarez added that the President serves a six-year term, and the senators are allowed to serve for two terms or a total of 12 years.

"It is only reasonable for these elected government officials who were not able to complete the 15-year requirement but were able to serve maximum terms of office to be given the option to make voluntary contributions to the GSIS for them to qualify for the monthly pension upon reaching the retirement age," Olivarez said.

There are no provisions in RA 8291 that cater to non-career officials, who are eligible for separation pay only and are without any privilege to make voluntary contributions to the GSIS pension program.

GSIS members are entitled to social security benefits, such as life insurance and retirement packages, which are particularly useful for senior members after dedicated years of public service. (PNA)

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DTI-Laguna...

understanding consumer rights and responsibilities.

The event gathered thirty-four (34) aspiring and current MSMEs. The participants actively engaged in the seminar, raising pertinent questions, and sharing their experiences. The interactive nature of the seminar facilitated a productive exchange of ideas and best practices among the attendees.

One of the participants, Mrs. Shirley P. Reyes, from Los Baños, Laguna, shared her thoughts on the seminar. "I found the seminar very helpful. Learning about the different Business Licensing, 5S, DTI programs and Services, has given me more confidence to grow my business. I am grateful

for the support from DTI and CMDI," she said.

The success of the seminar underscores the importance of continued collaboration between government agencies and institutions. DTI-Laguna, through its Negosyo Centers, remains dedicated to organizing similar events in the future to further support the local business community.

In conclusion, the above-mentioned seminar marks a significant step toward strengthening the local economy by providing business owners with the knowledge and tools necessary for success. DTI-Laguna, together with its partners, remains committed to supporting the growth and prosperity of MSMEs in Laguna. (BC-Capuno, DTI Laguna)

EDITORIAL: Addressing climate change

IT IS heartening that the Philippines, where sea levels are rising, is expected to secure a \$500-million (P28.14 billion) loan from the Manila-based Asian Development Bank to ramp up the country's climate action moves.

Finance Secretary Ralph Recto, who met up with ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa, said the multilateral lender is finalizing the approval of the Climate Change Action Program Subprogram 2, a follow-through of the CCAP 1 signed in June 2022 worth over \$400 million.

The program is also part of the ADB's \$10 billion climate finance commitment for the Philippines starting this year and continuing until 2029.

The CCAP will also support the Philippines in implementing its national climate policies, including its nationally determined contribution.

The program will intensify efforts to transform critical sectors toward a climate-resilient, low-carbon economy.

Recto said ADB, the country's top multilateral partner and second-largest source of official development assistance commitments, also pledged to continue leveraging regional facilities like the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility and the Green Climate Fund to enhance the availability and accessibility of grant financing for the country.

These developments buoy up authorities and climatologists who see that sea levels in the Philippines are rising at about twice the global average.

When especially strong storms make landfall, this higher sea level contributes to storm surge that can rise upwards of 15–20 feet, displacing thousands or even millions of citizens in coastal communities.

Climate change has manifested itself in rising temperature, variability of precipitation, frequency and intensity of typhoons, sea level rise, and the risks of more droughts, floods, heat waves, and forest and grassland fires have impacts on the economy, environment and communities.

Given its geographical location, archipelagic formation in the tropical Pacific, and population distribution, the Philippines is greatly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and has experienced noticeable adverse effects in recent years.

Without concerted global and local action, the challenges the country will face from climate change are expected to intensify in the medium or long term, according to authorities.

But the government, responding to what has essentially become a global crisis, has enacted the Climate Change Act that provides the policy framework with which to systematically address the growing threats on community life and its impact on the environment.

The Climate Change Act establishes an organizational structure, the Climate Change Commission, and allocates budgetary resources for its important functions.

This week, Finance Secretary Ralph Recto underscored the Philippines is set to establish a gold standard for climate finance and action globally with the recent enactment of the Loss and Damage Fund Board Act that enables its hosting of the Board.

The LDF is a global financial mechanism designed to provide support to countries' response and recovery from losses and damages caused by climate change. Last July 9, 2024, the 26-member LDF Board selected the Philippines as its host.

Developments are looking good

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PNP...

President Rodrigo Duterte during the resumption of the investigation of the Quad Committee on the possible link between the proliferation of illegal operations of Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs), illegal drug trade, anomalous land acquisitions, and extrajudicial killings (EJKs) during the previous administration.

He accused former chief PNP and now Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa of issuing an order to "neutralize" drug personalities, in which for him and the rest of the police force means "to kill."

Under quota and

reward system imposed by the PNP leadership, Espenido said "we had to knock on the doors of 50-100 households suspected of drug use or pushing" with an alleged reward of "PHP20,000 per kill."

The PNP now wants Espenido to present evidence to prove his allegations that the organization is indeed the biggest crime group in the country.

"These are serious accusations and allegations. The PNP is open to anyone who could present pieces of evidence against anybody and we will not tolerate it," Fajardo said.

Fajardo said the allegation of Espenido

against the PNP should serve as a challenge for all PNP personnel to do better in their duties and responsibilities.

However, the PIO chief said the PNP is willing to help Espenido to file charges if he has proof at hand related to the controversial drug war.

"He has to answer for all his claims. We have to ask him for the proof. Accusation is one thing but proof is another thing. On the part of the PNP, the PNP is also curious about his pieces of evidence. If he has pieces of evidence, then we will help him," said Fajardo.

She also reiterated the PNP's commitment

BIR...

MANILA – Gymnast Carlos Yulo, the country's first double-gold medalist in the 2024 Paris Olympics, does not have to pay taxes for the prizes, awards, rewards, gifts, and donations he received by virtue of his historic performance, Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Romeo Lumagui Jr. said on Monday.

In a news release, Lumagui said the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), as amended, allows for Yulo to receive these cash and properties without paying taxes.

"The BIR congratulates our two-time Olympic gold medalist for his performance in the 2024 Paris Olympics. You are an inspiration to the men and women of the BIR," Lumagui said.

He said under Section 32(B)(7)(d) of the NIRC expressly all prizes and awards granted to athletes in local and international sports tournaments and competitions held in the Philippines or abroad and sanctioned by their respective national sports associations shall be exempt from income tax.

"Therefore, all prizes, awards, and rewards granted to Yulo by the Paris 2024 Organizing Committee as well as the Philippine Government

pursuant to existing laws, such as, but not limited to, Republic Act (RA) No. 10699, or the "National Athletes and Coaches Benefits and Incentives Act", are exempt from income tax," he added.

Lumagui said Section 32(B)(3) of the NIRC also provides that the value of property acquired by gift, bequest, devise, or descent shall be excluded from the gross income of the recipient and, therefore, exempt from income tax.

"The rewards, gift or donations (in any form) given to Yulo by private entities, or individuals clearly fall under this exemption. Therefore, Yulo need not declare these as part of his gross income, and he shall not be liable to pay any income tax thereon," he added.

He also said Section 98 of the NIRC provides that the donee or receiver is not liable to the donor's tax.

On Aug. 21, the House of Representatives passed on the third and final reading of House Bill 10723 exempting Filipino athletes and their coaches from paying taxes on the incentives, rewards, bonuses, and other forms of emoluments they have received for winning medals in international competitions.

For winning two golds in floor exercise and

vault in men's gymnastics in Paris, Yulo received PHP20 million through the Philippine Sports Commission under Republic Act 10699 or the National Athletes, Coaches, and Trainers Benefits and Incentives Act which provides PHP10 million cash incentive for an Olympic medalist.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. matched the incentives provided by the law, giving Yulo an additional PHP20 million – PHP10 million for every gold medal.

He also handed a total of PHP4 million each for bronze medalists – boxers Nesthy Petecio and Aira Villegas, including the law-mandated PHP2 million for an Olympic bronze

From Page 2

to the continuing reforms that strengthen the agency, which include strict adherence to the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for a holistic approach to combating illegal drugs, with a strong emphasis on the preservation of human life.

"We encourage anyone with credible information regarding misconduct within our ranks to come forward. We are fully committed to investigating all allegations thoroughly and impartially, and should any misconduct be proven, we will ensure that justice is served in accordance with the law," she stressed. (PNA)

From Page 1

medal, and PHP2 million each for all Paris Olympians, except for Yulo, from the Office of the President and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR).

Yulo also received cash incentives from private groups and individuals, including a fully furnished three-bedroom condominium worth PHP35 million and PHP3 million in cash from Megaworld Corp.; PHP10 million from MVP Sports Foundation; PHP5 million from ArenaPlus; PHP14 million from House of Representatives and some members; and two cars – Toyota Land Cruiser Prado and Cherry Tiggo 7 Pro SUV. (PNA)

DTI-Laguna and CARD-MRI Development Institute, Inc. Empower Aspiring and Current MSMEs in Bay, Laguna



Bay, Laguna — The Department of Trade and Industry - Laguna Provincial Office (DTI-Laguna), through its Negosyo Center Business Counselors assigned in Mabitac and Victoria, successfully hosted a

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Calling All Foodies: SM Supermalls celebrates the best of the regions this September



Discover the food lover's ultimate destination at SM Supermalls, where a showcase of the best regional cuisine awaits!

This September, SM Supermalls transforms into a vibrant food haven with a series of exciting events designed to bring the finest regional flavors to you. From irresistible dining deals to festive decorations and lively entertainment, the SM malls are set to provide exceptional food and fun.

Experience **EATS & TREATS**, where SM Foodcourt and mall tenants unveil exclusive dining deals and promotions that highlight the best regional flavors. Whether you're craving local specialties or trending international dishes, enjoy a range of discounts and special offers both in-store and online, making every meal a celebration.



Step into the **FOODIE BESTIVAL VILLAGE**, an enchanting transformation of SM malls into a festive, gram-worthy wonderland. Adorned with colorful benderitas, twinkling lights, and dazzling lanterns, this vibrant setting invites you to hang with your besties in a truly festive atmosphere.



Indulge in the **FAVOREATS FOOD MARKET**, where a curated selection of the best regional and home-grown dishes await. This features authentic and trending cuisines from SM tenants and local MSMEs, offering a diverse array of flavors that showcase the rich culinary heritage of various regions.



Enhance your dining experience with **BEATS & BITES**, a specially curated playlist that complements the festive food exploration at the SM malls. Enjoy a dynamic mix of tunes that elevate the vibrant atmosphere, making every visit an enjoyable sensory experience.

For an extra dose of excitement, select SM malls will also feature **BESTIVAL CHEF**, highlighting the region's finest homegrown specialty dishes prepared by mall tenant chefs to showcase this unique culinary experience.

Additionally, don't miss **BIG BITES**, where oversized foodie displays create perfect photo opportunities, adding a fun and memorable twist to your visit.



Spend a month of fun at SM Supermalls, and celebrate the best of regional flavors from September 1 to 30, 2024!

Are the cravings coming in? For more information and to stay updated, visit www.smsupermalls.com or follow SM Supermalls on Facebook.

DTI-Laguna...

seminar titled "DTI Programs and Services, 5S and Business Licensing cum Consumer Education" on August 21, 2024. This is in collaborative effort with CARD-MRI Development Institute, Inc, held at CMDI Inc., Tranca, Bay, Laguna.

The seminar aimed to equip aspiring and current micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with the knowledge and tools needed to thrive in today's competitive marketplace. This initiative reflects DTI's ongoing commitment to fostering economic growth

and empowering MSMEs in the region.

DTI-Laguna Business Counsellors Mr. Baron Chino C. Capuno (Negosyo Center Mabitac) and Ms. Loraine M. Malabanan (Negosyo Center Victoria) facilitated the said seminar. Capuno provided a comprehensive overview of the various programs and services offered by DTI, 5S of good housekeeping and business licensing while Malabanan presented the essential aspects of consumer education, emphasizing the significance of

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Grand celebrations await this GranniesDay with SM Supermalls



Grannies can definitely still party, and SM Supermalls is making sure Grannies Day is something you and your beloved grandparents will enjoy. Bring your Lolos and Lolas, Inays and Itays, Mamas and Papas to celebrate Grannies Day with SM!

From September 1 to 8, 2024, SM Supermalls around the country will be hosting a variety of fun activities and events for our dear grandparents, and their apos, too!

Looking for something special, local, or hand-made to surprise your Grannies with? Visit **GRANNY'S BAZAAR** at your fave SM malls and support Grannie MSMEs by patronizing their heirloom recipes and produce!



Do you have a groovy Grannie that loves to sing and dance to classic hits? They'll surely have a blast at SM's **GROOVY GRANNIES** event! Dancing Grannies can showcase their best moves at the G! GRANNY! ballroom and disco weekend, while Grannies who can belt and croon will enjoy singing to their favorite songs with **GRANNY'S VIBE**. Bonus points because apo can duet with them too!



Make Grannies Day a family affair—the bigger the family, the bigger your chance of winning **GRANNY'S APO!** Grannies who show up with the most grandchildren can win as much as P20,000 SM shopping money, perfect for the Grannies who show their love by giving gifts to their precious grandkids.



Walk, walk, fashion, Grannie! Celebrate your most stylish Grannies by twinning with them! Show off **GRANNY TWINNING** OOTDs with their grandchildren during Grannies Day weekend for a chance to win special prizes and be featured across SM Supermalls' platforms. Don't forget to take a **GRANNY SNAPSHOT** at the dedicated photo booth!



And of course, we can't forget to thank God for the gift of our grandparents! A special **GRAND THANKSGIVING** Mass will be held for Grannies as they celebrate Grannies Day at their nearest SM mall.



Finally, make your Grannies Day experience at SM last forever by posting photos, videos and more on your social media accounts and use the hashtag #HappyGranniesDayAtSM!

Celebrate our Grannies and make each moment with them count at SM Supermalls! For more information and to stay updated, visit www.smsupermalls.com or follow SM Supermalls on Facebook.

Sewing communities in Quezon to receive science and technology equipment



With the assistance of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), two all-women cooperatives in Quezon Province, namely Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina Infanta Quezon Chapter Inc. (KALIP-IQCI) and Kilos Unlad ng Mamayan ng Real Inc. (KUMARE Inc.), are set to enhance their apparel and garments production with new science and technology equipment, June 25.

KALIP-IQCI empowers women by providing income by sewing tote bags, foot rugs, and pot holders. Similarly, KUMARE Inc. produces uniforms, clothing, rugs, and pot holders. Both cooperatives are committed to promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing economic opportunities for women.

The acquisition of science and technology equipment was made possible through the DOST Grants-In-Aid Community-Based Project (GIA-CBP). This program is designed to support significant science and technology initiatives that enhance local projects in the Philippines.

The partnership was formalized through a virtual ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between Ms. Maria Esperanza E. Jawili, Provincial Director of DOST Quezon, Ms. Cristina S. Luna, President of KALIP-IQCI, and Ms. Novellita R. Avellaneda, Chairman of KUMARE Inc.

