

GCash “Inclusion in Action Summit” underscores shared mission with the BSP to achieve Financial Health for every Filipino



IAS Day 2: The second day of the Summit focused on understanding the priority sectors with speakers: GoodThinking Research Inc. Interim Managing Partner Issa Baron, Southeast Asia Lead for United Nations Capital Development Fund Isvary Sivalingam, and Asia Development Bank’s Principal Investment Specialist Microfinance Program Anshukant Taneja.



IAS Day 4: The Summit concluded with a series of talks on revolutionizing the workplace with guest speakers: Philippine Business Coalition for Women Empowerment Executive Director Julia Abad, Philippine Financial Inter-Industry Pride Trust-ee Chris Eugenio, and National Council on Disability Affaris Division Chief Atty. Rhealeth Krizelle Ramos.

MANILA, Philippines, XX August 2024 – GCash, the Philippines’ leading finance super app and largest cashless ecosystem, recently hosted its first Inclusion in Action Summit, featuring the company’s key stakeholders, which include key government agencies such as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Department of Finance (DOF), and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), as well as multilateral organizations such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). The Inclusion in Action Summit served as a platform for GCash to collaborate with its key stakeholders and reinforce its commitment toward obtaining Finance for All, a collective vision and shared

journey of building an inclusive Philippines, wherein every Filipino has access to tools and services that will enable them to unlock opportunities and achieve financial goals. “GCash is committed to helping Filipinos thrive every day, be ready for a rainy day, and be prepared for one day,” stated GCash President and CEO Martha Sazon. “The Inclusion in Action Summit allows us to have a deeper understanding of the nuances that underserved Filipinos face, so that we are able to harness inclusive finance for economic development and the success of every Filipino.” The Inclusion in Action Summit builds on the strides that GCash has made in the last few years to move the needle on financial inclusion, a priority

area in the company’s sustainability journey, and empower every Filipino to have access to financial services through the GCash app. “Financial inclusion and digitalization are mutually reinforcing goals,” stated Deputy Governor Bernadette Romulo-Puyat of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), who also shared that nearly 53% of the total volume of retail payments are now done digitally and that 120 local governments have adopted the BSP’s Paleng-QR Ph Plus program, which promotes the widespread acceptance of digital payments among market vendors, community shopkeepers, and tricycle operators and drivers. GCash is a major partner of the Paleng-QR Ph Plus program. “As more people embrace digitalization, we

IAS Day 3: Day 3 of the Summit tackled how Fintech can help fuel the National Economy through guest speakers: Department of Finance Chief Economic Counselor Undersecretary Domini Velasquez, Department of Trade and Industry Financing Head Lourdes Baula, and National Economic and Development Authority Senior Economic Development Specialists David Carlo Mangalindan.

also expect Filipinos with a transaction account to increase. Based on the preliminary household data of the second quarter of 2024, the percentage of households with transaction accounts rose to 76% from 69%,” she added. Mynard Bryan Mojica, Acting Director of the BSP’s Financial Inclusion Office, further underscored the role that digitalization plays in financial inclusion, pointing out that initiatives like the Paleng-QR Ph Plus and the Basic Deposit Account, would not be made possible without digital enablers that include digital IDs, digital skills, digital finance regulatory frameworks, and digital connectivity that underpins all these. Deputy Governor Romulo-Puyat further explained that every 1% increase in digital payments is associated with 0.1% GDP increase and 0.06% reduction in informal employment over two years. She continued, “When individuals are financially healthy, they are able to meet obligations, recover from financial shocks, and feel secure about their future—so we’re talking about every day, rainy day, and one day. This highlights the importance of digital payments and financial inclusion, which are crucial in providing the financial state of every Filipino. When they are digitized, they have access to savings, insurance, loans that don’t need collateral—all these can improve their lives. However, having a transaction account is

only the beginning, that’s why I’m glad we’re now moving to the next step, which is financial health.” Financial health addresses the concerns of many Filipinos, which include managing monthly budgets, medical expenses, and securing retirement funds. Financial institutions and key players in the industry such as GCash have an important role to play in promoting financial health. “Financial health can be promoted by developing products and services that allow consumers to spend wisely, build savings, borrow responsibly, and plan for the future,” Mojica explained. The focus to promote financial health for every Filipino is a crucial initiative in view of sustaining the country’s economic growth momentum, which is underpinned by strong domestic demand. According to the Department of Finance, the digital economy is a driving force to the country’s growth, with an 8.4% share of the GDP—further underscoring the role of digital tools and channels in attaining financial health. More importantly, promoting financial inclusion as a means to attain financial health aligns with AmBisyon Natin 2040, the Philippine government’s long-term vision for the country, which also serves as anchor for development planning across various administrations. “We know that all Filipinos want to enjoy

strong family and community ties, a comfortable lifestyle, and a secure future. GCash has made strides in ensuring that most Filipinos have access to finance, and we are cognizant that our mission does not stop there. We envision a nation where all Filipinos can thrive every day, be ready for a rainy day, and have the capacity to prepare for one day—this is our north star in ensuring greater access and more responsive and innovative financial services for Filipinos. We remain committed to ensuring that financial inclusion opens opportunities for every Filipino to address their needs and goals,” Sazon stated. The four-day Inclusion in Action Summit featured GCash’s partners from the government, multilateral organizations, and the industry, including the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Department of Finance (DOF), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Trade and Industry’s Small Business Corporation (DTI SB Corp), Asian Development Bank (ADB), GoodThinking Research, and United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). The summit also explored what it means to have an inclusive workplace and workforce, featuring partners from the Philippine Business Coalition for Women Empowerment, Philippine Financial Inter-Industry Pride, and National Council on Disability Affairs, and was attended by GCash’s employees, affiliates, and suppliers.

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Bacoor LGU, LTO establishes first inter-connectivity program outside Metro Manila

BARGE CARRIER, SUMADSAD SA DALAMPASIGAN SA ROSARIO CAVITE

Cayetano isinulong ang mas mabilis, mas ‘transparent’ na paghahatid ng serbisyo sa ilalim ng e-governance bill



Provincial Government of Cavite and PGCEA Sign Collective Negotiation Agreement



27 NATURAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION TIPS THAT ARE EVIDENCE-BASED

25. Avoid restrictive diets
Diets are generally ineffective and rarely work well long term. In fact, past dieting is one of the strongest predictors for future weight gain (85Trusted Source).

This is because overly restrictive diets actually lower your metabolic rate, or the amount of calories you burn, making it more difficult to lose weight. At the same time, they also cause alterations to your hunger and satiety hormones, which make you hungrier and may cause strong food cravings for foods high in fat, calories, and sugar (86Trusted Source, 87Trusted Source).

All of this is a recipe for rebound weight gain, or “yo-yo” dieting.

Instead of dieting, try adopting a healthier lifestyle. Focus on nourishing your body instead of depriving it.

Weight loss should follow as you transition to whole, nutritious foods — which are naturally more filling while containing fewer calories than processed foods (14Trusted Source).

26. Eat whole eggs
Despite the constant back and forth about eggs and health, it’s a myth that eggs are bad for you because of their cholesterol content. Studies show that they have minimal effect on blood cholesterol in the majority of people, and they’re a great source of protein and nutrients (87Trusted Source, 88Trusted Source).

Additionally, a review involving 263,938 people found that egg intake had no association with heart disease risk (88Trusted Source).

27. Meditate
Stress has a negative effect on your health. It can affect your blood sugar levels, food choices, susceptibility to sickness, weight, fat distribution, and more. For this reason, it’s important to find healthy ways to manage your stress (88aTrusted Source).

Meditation is one such way, and it has some scientific evidence to support its use for stress management and improving health (89Trusted Source, 90Trusted Source).

In one study involving 48 people with high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, or both, researchers found that meditation helped lower LDL (bad) cholesterol and inflammation compared with the control group. Additionally, the participants in the meditation group reported improved mental and physical wellness (91Trusted Source).

The bottom line
A few simple steps can go a long way toward improving your eating patterns and wellness.

Still, if you’re trying to live a healthier life, do not just focus on the foods you eat. Exercise, sleep, and social relationships are also important.

With the evidence-based tips above, it’s easy to introduce small changes that can have a big impact on your overall health.

Just one thing
Try this today: There are lots of suggestions on this list that can help you improve your health, but it’s best to put just one or two into practice at a time so you do not get burned out. As more of these healthy actions become habits, you can add more into your routine.

Bacoor...

BACOOOR CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The city government of Bacoor, Cavite and the Land Transportation Office (LTO) signed a memorandum of agreement for the implementation of a pioneer interconnectivity system outside of Metro Manila.

The LTO-LGU Interconnectivity Program or the Single Ticketing System, plays a vital role in enforcing traffic laws, where real-time data from the LTO’s database is now accessible through the handheld devices used by Bacoor’s traffic enforcers.

Under the agreement, Bacoor’s traffic aids can now issue On-the-Spot Traffic Violation Receipts (OVRs) that will be directly linked to the motorist’s record with the LTO.

The integration ensures that demerit points are promptly assigned to the driver’s license subsequently after committing a traffic violation.

According to LTO guidelines, drivers who have accumulated demerit points or traffic violation records are no longer eligible for the 10-year validity of driver’s license and could face suspension or revocation depending on the severity and frequency of violation.

Mayor Strike Revilla together with Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista-Mendiola and other city officials signed the agreement on behalf of Bacoor, while Assistant Secretary Atty. Vigor D. Mendiza II — Regional Director Atty. Noreen Bernadette San Luis-Lutey represented LTO.

Asec. Mendiza delivered the message on behalf of Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista, where the secretary noted that the digitization of government processes is in line with the mandate of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., under the

Bagong Pilipinas brand of governance.

“The Department of Transportation, through the Land Transportation Office, intends to streamline traffic violations and fines throughout the country by institutionalizing this system. This is also a part of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s program of digitalizing government systems and processes to establish better interconnectivity among agencies,” the statement reads.

LTO believes that the single-ticket system will bring convenience and improve compliance for motorists, and will lessen the corrupt practices of some traffic enforcers.

“We can see that the single-ticketing system will bear many benefits, not just for the local governments but for motorists as well. In this way, we can fight corruption and the wrongdoings of motorists who test our traffic enforcers, and the traffic enforcers who don’t have integrity,” Mendiza added.

Meanwhile, Revilla said that the program will expedite the process of delivery services to motorists in the city and will establish a more efficient system for paying fines and other traffic-related transactions which promotes transparency and efficiency.

“The LTO-LGU Interconnectivity program not only streamlines the ticketing process but also introduces a more accessible approach for violators to pay fines online, thereby reducing the inconvenience of physical transactions,” the local chief executive said.

Once implemented, the DOTr and LTO said that the local single-ticketing system of Bacoor may become the model of observation for the future implementation of the same traffic system to other cities and municipalities nationwide.

BARGE...

Isang barge carrier ang sumadsad ngayong araw sa pantalan na sakop ng Brgy. Wawa 2, Rosario, Cavite dulot ng malaking alon na epekto ng bagyong “Enteng”.

Ayon sa Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO), sumadsad ang barge ganap na alas-8:30 ng umaga.

Sa pahayag ng mga nakakita, galing umano ang barge sa laot ngunit ilang saglit lang ay hindi na ito makontrol ng dalawang tag boat na humihila dito, dahilan upang mabilis itong sumadsad sa pantalan.

Sinisikap na hilahin ng dalawang tag boat ang naturang barge subalit inabot na ito ng low tide ng dagat. Pangamba ng mga mang-ingisda, na posibleng masira ang kanilang mga

bangka maging ng mga kabahayan kung hindi agad ito maialis sa naturang pantalan.

Personal na sinadya ni Mayor Jose Voltaire V. Ricafrente ang lugar ng pinagsalpuhan ng naturang barge upang alamin ang perwisyong idinulot nito sa mamamayan at bayan ng Rosario. Lalo na’t nadale nito ang malaking bahagi ng pipe line ng Petron.

Nabitak na rin ang ilang bahagi sa pantalan na nagdudulot ng pangamba sa maraming residente.

Pansamantalang nilagyan ng tubig ang loob ng barge upang bumigat ito.

Kasalukuyan na ngayong iniimbestigahan ng Phil. Coast Guard katuwang ang PNP Rosario ukol sa pangyayari.

Postgraduate...

The Cavite Collaboration Center for Public Health proudly hosted the graduation ceremony for the postgraduate interns of General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital, on August 28, 2024, celebrating the achievements of 19 dedicated individuals who have completed their rigorous training.

The event commenced with opening remarks from Dr. Lydia Quitoriano, who welcomed attendees and highlighted the significance of the graduates’ contributions to public health. Following her introduction, Dr. Nonie John L. Dalisay presented the esteemed guest speaker, Dr. Julie Abitria Maurel, who inspired the graduates with her insights on the future of healthcare.

The ceremony concluded with closing

remarks from Dr. Jindra Tetangco, who commended the graduates for their hard work and commitment to excellence in their field.

The graduates recognized during the ceremony include: Dr. Devine Caballero, Dr. Reia Joma Dangeros, Dr. Rhemielen De Leon, Dr. Mariel Joy Delgado, Dr. Paul Armin De Luna, Dr. Jodel Diolola, Dr. Alfa-Joy Fallurin, Dr. Rozelle Frances Avey Flores, Dr. Ruth Coleen Gonzales, Dr. Keanu Augusto Manguiat, Dr. Danilo Ocampo, Dr. Darlean Pelicano, Dr. Neil Tristan Lance Rosales, Dr. Danica Marie Sakaki, Dr. Kyle Justine Salazar, Dr. Hazel Joy Tequillo, Dr. Alyson Tomelden, Dr. Sherwin Victa, Dr. Rea Angeli Zamora. - H. Villa



MPT South’s “ALERTO KADA KILOMETRO” Drayberks Road Safety Seminar conducted at PITX



Drayberks Road Safety Seminar Leg 3_PITX-1: Attendees of “ALERTO KADA KILOMETRO” Drayberks Road Safety Seminar together with (Front row from left) Ms. Kolyn Calbasa, Senior Corporate Affairs Officer of PITX; two public transport drivers; Mr. Carlo Hipol, Manager of the Traffic Operations Department of MPT South; Mr. Rechillo Baladjay, Technical Staff of the Toll Regulatory Board.



From left: Mr. Rechillo Baladjay, Technical Staff of the Toll Regulatory Board; Mr. Carlo Hipol, Manager of the Traffic Operations Department of MPT South; Ms. Kolyn Calbasa, Senior Corporate Affairs Officer of PITX, who received the Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of Mr. Arnold Yuson; and two MPT South Representatives.

Continuing their dedication to promote road safety, Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), the concessionaire for the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) and Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), held its Drayberks Road Safety Seminar, themed “ALERTO KADA KILOMETRO,” at the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) on August 27, 2024. The seminar, aimed at promoting road safety, was attended by 65 drivers of public utility vehicles (PUVs), jeepneys (PUJs), and classes 1 and 2 vehicles. The event was also graced by the presence of Mr. Arnold Yuson, Terminal Operations Manager of PITX, and Mr. Rechillo Baladjay, Technical Staff from Toll Regulatory Board (TRB).

The event featured presentations by Carlo Hipol, Head of Traffic Operations at MPT South, who covered topics such as road safety practices, traffic awareness, and toll operations. The seminar included an interactive Q&A session with Rechillo Baladjay, Technical Staff from the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), who addressed attendees’ concerns.

Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communications and Stakeholder Management of MPT South, emphasized the seminar’s importance in promoting a culture of safety on the expressways, helping to reduce accidents, and fostering a more safety-conscious community of drivers. “Our goal in this seminar is to help reduce accidents in the expressway by imparting the importance for

drivers to be concerned for their well-being and the well-being of other road users and equipping them with vital information on proper driving along the expressways, vehicle roadworthiness and opening their consciousness to the responsibility of the role they play in being part of a mobile society.”

The Drayberks Road Safety Seminar is part of a broader initiative by MPT South to enhance the knowledge and skills of drivers, ensuring safer roads and a more efficient transportation system. Through this seminar, drivers were equipped with practical tips on how to plan their routes, navigate tollways, and prioritize safety in their daily operations.

As part of MPT South’s mission to foster a safer and more efficient



The “ALERTO KADA KILOMETRO” Drayberks Road Safety Seminar Speaker Mr. Carlo Hipol attending to the questions of public transport drivers.

transportation system, the “ALERTO KADA KILOMETRO” Drayberks Road Safety Seminar is a vital platform for our commitment to road safety and driver education. Initiatives like this build a more responsible and safety-conscious community of drivers, ultimately leading to safer roads for everyone.

The Drayberks “ALERTO KADA KILOMETRO” will be a year-long program with the aim of reaching drivers of all vehicle and private classes from the public and private sector.

MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), which operates several toll road networks in the Philippines, including CALAX, CAVITEX, NLEX, SCTEX, and CCLEX. PR

CMDI holds the 6th Commencement Exercises

tions to the graduates. “The awards and recognitions received by the graduates not only showcase their excellence but also serve as evidence of the competence of our instructors at CMDI,” he stated.

CMDI also offers college courses such as Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship, specializing in Microfinance, Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, Bachelor of Science in Information Systems, Bachelor of Science in Accounting Information Systems, and Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management.

Evangelene Pallen was recognized as the valedictorian of the CMDI Bay Campus, while Renzyle Jade Zafra was the valedictorian of the CMDI Tagum Campus.

Dr. Gerlie Ilagan, the School Division Superintendent of the DepEd-Division of San Pablo City, was the guest speaker for the program. “You have to take action to reach your goals and aspirations in life. It is just the beginning of becoming a resilient and successful citizen,” she shared.

To learn more about CMDI, you can visit the website: <https://cmdi.edu.ph/>

Evangelene Pallen, the valedictorian of the class 2023-2024 from the Accountancy, Business, and Management strand, motivates her co-graduates to dream big and follow the road where their hearts desire.

CARD-MRI Development Institute, Inc. (CMDI) holds its 6th Senior High School Commencement Exercises with the theme “Kabataang Pilipino para sa Matatag na Kinabukasan ng Bagong Pilipinas.” The CMDI Bay Campus held its SHS graduation at CMDI Bay 2 Gymnasium, Brgy. Tranca, Bay, Laguna, on June 1, 2024. Meanwhile, the Tagum Campus SHS graduation happened at CMDI Tagum Gymnasium, Brgy. Mankilam, Tagum City on June 4, 2024.

A total of 415 students from both campuses have completed their senior high school education.

“As you start a new chapter in life, carry the learning and experiences you have gathered from CMDI, including



TANAY, 28 August 2024 | The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Rizal, in partnership with the Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation, successfully conducted an "Entrepreneurial Mindset" seminar at Teleperformance Village, Brgy. Tandang Kutyo, Tanay.

Twenty-five (25) aspiring women entrepreneurs participated in the seminar. This event aimed to equip them with essential knowledge and skills to start and manage their own businesses. Ms. Marlene De Luna, Senior Trade and Industry Specialist, led the discussion, covering key topics such as DTI programs and services, the Barangay Micro Business Enterprise Act, and the Business Name Law.

Following the presentation, participants actively engaged in a Q&A session to



clarify their queries and deepen their understanding of the discussed concepts.

Mr. Arnel Deo, Project Dungganon Area Supervisor, and Ms. Ma. Carissa Bueno, Project Dungganon BH, expressed their sincere gratitude to DTI Rizal for its unwavering support in empowering individuals and fostering entrepreneurship in the community. PR

Provincial...

From Page 1

In a significant step towards strengthening labor relations and enhancing the welfare of its employees, the Provincial Government of Cavite, led by Governor Jonvic Remulla, signed a Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA) with the Provincial Government of Cavite Employees Association (PGCEA) on August 29, 2024, at the Office of the Provincial Governor.

The signing ceremony was attended by key representatives from both the provincial government and PGCEA, headed by its President Michelle S. Osorio, together with the other officers, and Mr. Renato A. Abutan, who showed strong support for the landmark agreement.

The CNA is a product of mutual understanding and collaboration between the Provincial Government of Cavite and PGCEA. It outlines key provisions on employee benefits, rights, and responsibilities, aiming to create a more conducive work environment for all

employees of the provincial government.

Ms. Osorio highlighted the significance of the agreement as a representation of the collective efforts to achieve a fair and just workplace for all employees. She expressed gratitude to Governor Remulla and the entire provincial government for recognizing the importance of the CNA and for the continuous support to the employees' association.

The signing of the CNA is expected to bring about positive changes for the employees of the Provincial Government of Cavite, as it sets a precedent for future negotiations and collaborations aimed at improving labor relations and employee welfare.

With the agreement in place, the Provincial Government of Cavite and PGCEA look forward to a strengthened partnership built on trust, respect, and shared goals for the benefit of the Caviteño public. - A. Cabrera



ALL HANDS ON DECK! LEE URGES DA TO TAP HPG, PPA TO MAN ASF CHECKPOINTS ALONG HIGHWAYS, SEAPORTS

Cong Wilbert "Manoy" T. Lee urged the Department of Agriculture (DA) to set up more checkpoints not only along roads but also in seaports to curb the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the country.

"Napaka-crucial ng mahigpit na pagbabantay para hindi na kumalat ang ASF na dahilan ng sobrang pagkalugi ng ating mga magbababoy. Milyon-milyon po ang nalulugi sa ating mga hog raisers, paano naman ang mga pamilya nila na dito lang inaasa ang pantustos sa pagkain at iba pang pangangailangan?" Lee, who recently attended as guest speaker at the Agarwood Orientation Seminar in Maasin, Leyte, asked.

"Kaya dapat dagdagan pa ng DA ang checkpoints nila para rito, lalo na may mga ulat na kumakalat na ang mga baboy palabas sa mga lugar na may ASF patungo sa ibang parte ng Luzon," he said.

Previously, the DA's Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) seized two trucks in Quezon City carrying infected hogs reportedly from Quezon province. The trucks were on their way to Pangasinan province.

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Lee said the DA should partner up with Philippine National Police Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) as well as the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to augment BAI manning checkpoints, aside from tapping personnel of the Metropolitan Manila Development Au-

thority (MMDA).

"While we laud the BAI for proactively looking into tapping MMDA and local traffic enforcers to man checkpoints in Metro Manila, all hands must be on deck to genuinely curb ASF. We have force multipliers available from the PNP, HPG and from PPA that could be deployed should the BAI decide to set up more checkpoints along major highways and ports," the solon from Bicol said.

There are currently six meat inspection checkpoints across the National Capital Region (NCR) to ensure that the pigs being delivered to slaughterhouses and in markets are ASF-free.

"Ayaw natin na maging epidemya itong ASF lalo pa't wala pang sapat na bakuna sa bansa laban dito. Hindi pwedeng malamya sa pagpuksa ng ASF. Dapat doble-kayod ang gobyerno dito at tapatan ng agrisibong aksyon at mabilis na solusyon ang pagpigil sa pagkalat ng sakit," Lee stressed.

The Bicolano lawmaker also urged the government into preparing to declare a state of

national calamity should ASF spread beyond what could be controlled by the ASF vaccines, which have been earlier procured.

"2019 pa lang, nagkaroon na ng kaso ng ASF sa bansa. Huwag tayong magloko-han dito. Paulit-ulit na ito kaya walang excuse na di magkaroon ng komprehensibong plano para mapigilan ang pagkalat ng sakit, matulungan ang mga apektadong hog raisers, masigurong hindi magkukulang ang supply at protektahan ang mga consumers sa posibleng pagtaas ng presyo ng karne ng baboy," he said.

Earlier, Lee filed House Resolution No. 1956 to investigate the escalating impact of ASF while calling relevant government agencies to provide assistance to hog raisers and prevent possible hike in pork prices.

"Filipinos deserve better so we should demand better protocols to protect the livelihood of local food producers and welfare of our consumers. Tulong-tulong po tayo: Tiyak na kabuhayan at dagdag na kita, gawin na natin. Murang pagkain, gawin na natin!" he stated. PR.

EDITORIAL: Don't stop with Guo

AMID the incessant rain and news of harm and destruction brought by Enteng, one sunny development is the arrest of dismissed Bamban, Tarlac Mayor Alice Guo, who also supposedly goes by the name of Guo Ha Ping, in Indonesia.

s of this writing, Philippine officials are coordinating with Indonesian immigration authorities for Guo's return to Manila at the soonest possible time.

She will then be turned over to the Senate, which has issued an arrest order for contempt against her. This is the only standing warrant against the former mayor, even as cases have been filed against her for money laundering and human trafficking by the National Bureau of Investigation, the Anti Money Laundering Council, and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission.

Guo was famously evasive during her Senate testimonies, with life details almost too fantastic to believe.

She has become the subject of jokes and memes in popular culture and on social media. The jokes intensified when it became known that she had disappeared.

Then again, how someone as alien as Guo could be elected mayor of a town has always been a puzzle.

We wonder: how much light would she be able to shed on the Duterte-era phenomenon that is Philippine Offshore Gaming Operations (POGOs)?

Now that she is in custody, would she be any more forthcoming regarding her involvement in gaming, and most especially on who exactly enabled and emboldened the likes of her to engage in said economic activity?

And for whose prime benefit? It would be interesting to see how Guo will be made to "face justice," as those who promptly exalted her arrest said.

We should not forget, however, that the matter does not begin and end with Guo.

The issue of gaming operators and the ill they bring is not limited to one woman with a shady past.

It carries implications that go beyond the amusing details we all were treated to during the Senate hearings.

There is abuse of power, deceit, corruption on a grand scale, undue economic advantage, security risks, unconscionable working conditions, crime, and danger to Filipinos.

All in the name of supposed additional economic activity.

There is thus a bigger story to be told. Guo's disappearance is a feat that cannot be accomplished by one person alone.

There were friends who helped her. People of influence who ensured the availability of resources for her to escape authorities' watch. Personalities who held sway so that her presence would not be detected, or at least flagged.

They should be hunted as well. Guo's arrest is not a happy ending to this saga.

To focus on Guo while turning a blind eye to those who conspired to make her escape possible would be a travesty and a disservice to the Filipino people.

STRAIGHT NEWS

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The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reported Friday that it had released 265,104 family food packs nationwide in response to the effects of Tropical Storm Enteng.

"Mr. President, from the last time we met two days ago. That time was 133,000 released food packs. Now, we're up to 265,104 nationwide, of which in CALABARZON, one of the hardest hit areas, 41,961," DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian told President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during the storm situation briefing at the Ynares Events Center in Antipolo City.

"We are still processing another 200,000 as we speak, so 'yung initial na nasabi ko sa inyo na I think it will play at around 250 to 300. Hindi

ho, it keeps on going up kasi there are still flooded areas understandably. We'll probably close at around half a million family food packs for Enteng alone," he added.

Of the 41,961 family foods packs released to CALABARZON, Gatchalian said a greater chunk went to Rizal, with 28,100 food packs.

Asked by the President about the estimated requirement to alleviate the people's condition from the effects of Enteng, Gatchalian said the requirement will be half a million family food packs nationwide, adding that the agency is already halfway through the effort.

"Nag-slowdown na ho 'yung pasok ng requests. So, we'll be able to process everything by end of this week. Lahat ho 'yun



fully deployed na. Then, we start stockpiling for the next two storms coming in," Gatchalian told the President.

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRMO) of Rizal has reported at least 12 deaths, three missing individuals, and five injuries due to flooding and landslides caused by Tropical

Storm Enteng, enhanced by the prevailing southwest monsoon.

An estimated 5,668 individuals, or approximately 1,670 families, are currently housed in 49 evacuation centers in Rizal. The province's hardest-hit areas include Morong, Teresa, Cainta, Rodriguez, and San Mateo. PND

From Page 1

Cayetano...

Umusad na sa Senado ang panukalang pag-digitalize sa operasyon ng gobyerno matapos maihain ngayong Miyerkules ang Committee Report ng mga e-governance bill sa Senado, sa pangunguna ni Senador Alan Peter Cayetano.

Inihain ni Cayetano, na chair ng Senate Committee on Science and Technology, ang Senate Bill No. 2781 sa ilalim ng Committee Report No. 297 na naglalayong pabilisin at pagandahin ang serbisyo ng gobyerno gamit ang digital tech-nology.

"This isn't just a gradual change; it's a quantum leap — from slow, corruption-riddled processes to fast, transparent operations," pahayag ni Cayetano.

Sa ilalim ng panukalang batas, inaatasan ang Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) na bumuo at i-update kada tatlong taon ang isang E-Government Master Plan na magsisilbing "blueprint" sa pagbuo ng mga kakailangananin para sa pag-digitalize ng gobyerno.

Kapag naisabatas ang panukala, oob-ligahin ang gobyerno na gawing "integrated" at "interoperable" ang mga sistema, website, at mobile application nito. Ibig sabihin, bibilis at magiging plantsado ang serbisyo ng gobyerno kabilang ang pagkuha ng mga legal na dokumento — gaya ng birth certificates, passports, business permits, at driver's licenses.

Magkakaroon din ng Online Public Service Portal kung saan maaaring humingi ang kahit sinong Pilipino ng iba't ibang impormasyon, magpagabay tungkol sa mga frontline service ng gobyerno, at magpadala ng mga reklamo at komento.

Bukod dito, bubuo rin ng isang electronic payment system kung saan na padaraanin ang lahat ng ayuda at bayarin sa gobyerno.

Para maisagawa ang mga ito, bubuo ang DICT ng mga information and communications technology system, kabilang ang Records and Knowledge Management Information System na magiging daluyan ng

lahat ng mga dokumento, record, at mga serbisyo ng gobyerno.

"E-governance will enhance efficiency, reduce corruption, and make services more inclusive," wika ni Cayetano.

Bawat opisina ng gobyerno ay magkakaroon ng E-Governance Unified Project Management Office (E-Gov-UP-MO) na tututok sa mga programa at proyektong may kinalaman sa ICT.

Kasama ni Cayetano sa paghahain ng Committee Report ang

mga co-author niyang sina Senador Christopher "Bong" Go, Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri, Grace Poe, Jinggoy Estrada, Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara, Sherwin Gatchalian, Ma-nuel "Lito" Lapid, Ramon Bong Revilla Jr., Mark Villar, Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, Joel Villanueva, at Loren Legarda.

Kasunod ng pagkakahain ng Committee Report, dadaan sa deliberasyon ang panukalang batas sa mga susunod na plenary session. PR





Enchanted Kingdom celebrates Filipino talent and modern-day heroism at the 2024 Agilakas Gumalaw Dance Competition



Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, paid a magical tribute to our modern-day heroes through the 2024 Agilakas Gumalaw Dance Competition at the Spaceport Grounds on August 24.

The Agilakas Gumalaw Dance Competition is an annual event in EK that gathers talented dance performers in the country to show off world-class Filipino talent. This year, ten (10) spectacular dance groups took their synchronized moves to the stage to show the world that “Pinoy, Magaling Ka!”

The NU Dance Company from Sampaloc, Manila highlighted the rich, dynamic Filipino culture through their winning performance. The group clinched the grand winner title and bagged Php 20,000, twenty (20) return passes to EK, and a chance to perform in one of EK’s upcoming events.

NEW BREEDZ from Muntinlupa City and League of Monsters-Brothass from

magical memories with your loved ones with EK’s newly launched attraction, the Midway Mirror Maze. Drop by the Midway Boardwalk, and help Eldar the Wizard and Princess Madeline in finding Princess Victoria by threading your way towards the center of this thrilling labyrinth.

For only Php 150, guests will be able to have special access to this EKciting and immersive adventure filled with captivating lights and visuals waiting at every turn. Special ticket rate is also available for students at Php 120, and senior citizens and PWDs at Php 107.14 only.

For more information and updates regarding these 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.

Cebu Youth Receive Entrepreneurship Training



Senior High School students of the Abellana National School in Cebu City became the latest to benefit from Youthpreneur, Go Negosyo’s school-based entrepreneurship mentoring program for Senior High School students in public schools aimed at promoting an entrepreneurial mindset and increase financial literacy. The nationwide program made its stop in the southern capital last August 28, 2024.

Joey Concepcion, founder of Go Negosyo, said that the program develops students and prepares them for a life whether in the corporate world or as entrepreneurs. “Youthpreneur is going to help our young students to develop an entrepreneurial mindset be it as an employee or employer,” said Concepcion.

Alma Ruby Torio, Department of Education Asst. Secretary for Curriculum and Teaching, delivered an Inspirational Message via video, expressing the DepEd’s support for entrepreneurship training among the schools.

On hand to speak to the more than 400 students in attendance were top business executives including Pro-food Intl. President Justin Uy, Zip Technologies CEO Josephine Romero, RNC Marketing Founder & CEO Rey Calooy, Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Jay Yuallos, Mata Technologies CEO Eria Dell Sanco, But First Coffee President Isabelle Magalona, Metal Straw PH Founder & CEO Nadine Ablaza, The Pages Food Group Chairman & CEO Bunny Pages, Menchavez Legal Services’ Atty. Estrella Menchavez, Ideaz Advertising Founder Adriano Zen Pastoriza, P&A Grant Thornton Director Atty. Kim Aranas, and Konverge Builders CFO Renea Tan.

To date, Go Negosyo has conducted Youthpreneur events in schools nationwide, including Laoag, Baguio, Bataan, Occidental Mindoro, and several cities in the National Capital Region.



DOST helps intensify Twin Lakes Hotels food safety implementation conducts various seminars



In support of the Twin Lakes Hotel’s efforts to enhance its implementation of food safety practices, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batangas conducted seminars on Halal awareness, basic food hygiene (BFH), food safety hazards (FSH), and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) in food service operations for its personnel, July 15-16.

The seminars were designed to provide hotel personnel with the necessary knowledge and skills to ensure the highest standards of food safety in their operations. By partnering with DOST, Twin Lakes Hotel hopes to further improve its food safety practices and maintain a competitive edge in the industry by becoming a Muslim-friendly establishment that prioritizes the well-being of its guests, including those with specific dietary restrictions.

In November 2023, the hotel was invited as one of the tourism establishments to participate in the Halal Training organized by the Department of Tourism in partnership with DOST. As a continuation of DOST’s support, seminars on Halal awareness, BFH, FSH, and HACCP were organized to further enhance the hotel personnel’s understanding and implementation of Halal practices in their operations. This is also part of the DOST Research Ecosystem for Development and Innovation (ReDi) Project titled “Development and Deployment of Halal Tourism Training Module and Halal Assurance Systems (HAS) to Secure Halal Compliance of Tourism Establishments.”

Nineteen hotel personnel attended the training session, including food and beverage managers, supervisors, chefs, and representatives from HR, front office, engineering, finance, and security departments. They were engaged in workshop activities focused on practical skills, such as handwashing techniques and the application of HACCP principles, to underscore the importance of implementing comprehensive food safety standards.

Ms. Maria Teresa A. Pamplona and Ms. Anna Marie M. Marasigan, both members of the DOST-CALABARZON Halal Assurance System Team and Food Safety Team, facilitated the seminars.

Twin Lakes Hotel management thanked DOST for providing the seminars, which they believe will greatly benefit their operations and ensure the maintenance of the highest standards of food safety. Ms. Blessy Bayas, the training manager, mentioned that she now feels more confident in their ability to comply with food safety regulations and standards. “The seminars have significantly boosted our readiness to meet food safety requirements, most importantly in Halal,” she added.

MANILA – The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) has partnered with the Social Security System (SSS) to enhance social protection for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families.

In a news release on Wednesday, Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac said that many OFWs in various parts of the world remain clueless about the many security programs that they can avail of as SSS members.

He said that the partnership with SSS would help OFWs and their families become better informed about social securities that would be helpful in their eventual reintegration.

“Alam po natin na ang mga OFWs at ang kanilang pamilya ay uhaw sa impormasyon (We know that OFWs and their families longs for more information) on how to make wise decisions for enhanced social protection and financial freedom,” Cacdac said.

Through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the DMW and the SSS on August 27, the two agencies would embark on a massive information drive on social security programs and membership benefits for OFWs and their families.

Cacdac said that the partnership with SSS is an integral part of DMW’s whole-of-government approach for the full-cycle reintegration program for OFWs and their families.

“Through this partnership, OFWs and their families will have enhanced access to social safety nets for retirement, unemployment, and other contingencies,” he said.

Moreover, he added that together with the SSS, and other stakeholders, the DMW will explore the possible development of savings and provident fund programs tailored to the specific needs of OFWs.

SSS President and CEO Rolando Macasaet, meanwhile, reiterated its commitment to helping OFWs and their families through its convenient and reliable social security programs.

He also said that SSS is looking forward to welcoming more OFWs as members through its partnership with the DMW.

“Before, the OFW membership in SSS was only 1 million, but now there are 4 to 5 million OFW members, which was made possible through our massive membership campaigns,” Macasaet said. (PNA)

PhilHealth-NCR completes first-ever claims reconciliation with LPGHTC



August 21, 2024 — The PhilHealth Regional Office of National Capital Region and Rizal (PRO NCR) has issued a Certification for eClaims Periodic Reconciliation to the Las Piñas General Hospital and Trauma Center (LPGHTC) after completing their claims reconciliation efforts. This, after the State Agency confirmed that claims submitted by LPGHTC from January to May 2024 have been settled.

The initiative which was spearheaded by PRO NCR PFinMaREP Committee and Benefit Accounts Management and Reconciliation Team marked a major milestone in improving claims processing through close coordination with partner healthcare facilities. This is in consonance with PhilHealth Circular No. 2023-0028 on the Periodic Reconciliation and Enhanced Recording of Benefit Claims Transactions between PhilHealth and Health Facilities (HFs) which institutionalized the PhilHealth Financial Management and Reporting Enhancement Program or PFinMaREP. This groundbreaking innovation aims to hasten claims processing by providing fast and reliable service and open lines of communication with health facilities to immediately address concerns on benefit claim transactions while ensuring compliance with the Ease of Doing Business Law.

P F I N M A R E P proved effective in ensuring accuracy and timeliness of digital claims submissions through the Electronic Periodic Reconciliation which involves a thorough review of the Summary Report of Unpaid Claims – Accounts Receivable. Both institutions were able to cross-check, verify submitted claims, and match account receivables with account payables to address any discrepancy.

The ceremonial signing of the first-ever claims reconciliation certification was held at the PRO NCR office at the Panorama Techno-Center Bldg. and was led by PRO NCR Vice President Dr. Bernadette C. Lico, Management Services Division Head Maricel J. Maglalang, and Head of Local Health Insurance Office – Makati Rey Sulit. Meanwhile, the LPGHTC was represented by Medical Center Chief Dr. Ignacia G. Fajardo, Finance Management Officer Charlito M. Yu Jr., and Head of Claims Section Wilma Lyn E. Estigoy.

DA: Agri damage after ‘Enteng’ climbs to P659-M

MANILA – Damage to agriculture due to the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Enteng has risen to more than PHP600 million, according to the Department of Agriculture - Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DA-DRRM) Operations Center on Friday.

Based on the DA-DRRM’s Bulletin No. 4, the volume loss almost doubled to 28,788 metric tons (MT) worth PHP659.01 million, from the 15,205 MT volume loss valued at PHP360.18 million on Sept. 4.

About 27,598 farmers were reportedly affected in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Bicol, Western Visayas, and Eastern Visayas.

Rice production incurred the highest volume loss, worth PHP624.06 million, with Camarines Sur reported to be the hardest-hit area.

Damage to corn production, most of which were in the reproductive and maturity stages, was valued at PHP22.75 million; followed by high-value crops, PHP10.41 million; cassava, PHP1.77 million; and livestock and poultry, PHP16,000.

The DA-DRRM has yet to receive situation reports from the Cordillera, Ilocos, Calabarzon, and Mimaropa regions.

To date, available funds are still prepositioned for the distribution of PHP202.86 million worth of seeds, bio-control measures, and farm tools, up to PHP25,000 loan under the Survival and Recovery Loan Program from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council; and indemnification funds under the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PNA)

