

CALAX GOVERNOR'S DRIVE INTERCHANGE REACHES 25% COMPLETION, TO OPEN BY Q1 2025



Governor's Drive Toll Plaza Construction progress



CALAX Road Network Map: CALAX Road Map (Operational from Laguna technopark interchange to Silang Aguinaldo; Under construction from Silang Aguinaldo to Kawit Interchange)

MPCALAX Holdings Inc., the concessionaire of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), announced that the CALAX Governor's Drive Interchange has reached its 25% completion milestone. The interchange, slated to open by the first quarter of 2025, is expected to decongest traffic on major roads in Cavite, specifically Aguinaldo Highway in Silang, and help spur economic activities for the cities and municipalities along the alignment in the province of Cavite.

Spanning 7.8 km from the Silang (Aguinaldo) Interchange to Governor's Drive, this segment will be the longest operational section of CALAX by the first quarter of 2025, while the two remaining segments are still under construction. Currently, ongoing work includes excavation works, bridge and drainage construction, and installation of fences.

Raul Ignacio, President and General Manager of MPCALA Holdings Inc., acknowledged construction challenges by the recent typhoons but affirmed the

company's commitment to deliver this vital segment within schedule.

"Despite the challenges faced in construction brought about by the recent typhoons, we are pressing forward to ensure the timely delivery of the Governor's Drive Interchange. Once operational, this vital infrastructure will ease traffic congestion, provide a faster route for thousands of motorists, and stimulate economic growth across Cavite and CALABARZON." Ignacio stated.

In addition to the Governor's Drive Interchange, two other major segments of CALAX, Subsection 2 (Open Canal Interchange) and Subsection 1 (Kawit Interchange), are progressing steadily, with 15% and 25% completion, respectively. Both segments are expected to open by the third quarter of 2025 and will eventually connect CALAX to the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEEX) via the CAVITEEX-CALAX Link. Currently, the overall completion rate of the entire CALAX project stands at 64%.

At present, CA-



Governor's Drive Toll Plaza Construction progress

LAX serves over 45,000 motorists daily. Once the full expressway is connected to CAVITEEX, it will serve at least 95,000 motorists daily, significantly improving traffic flow and accessibility between Cavite, Laguna, and the greater Manila area.

About CALAX
CALAX is a 45km 4-lane expressway with eight interchanges with

operational segments at Laguna Technopark, Laguna Boulevard, Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road, Silang East, and Silang (Aguinaldo) Interchange, with remaining segments Governor's Drive, Open Canal and Kawit still in construction. When fully completed, CALAX will reduce travel time from CAVITEEX (Kawit) to SLEX (Mamplasan Interchange in Biñan,



CALAX Open Canal Interchange: Construction in Subsection 3, Open Canal Interchange

Laguna) from 2 hours to 35 minutes enhancing connectivity between NCR and the CALABARZON region.

About MPCALA Holdings Inc.

MPCALA Holdings Inc. is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation. Aside from CALAX, MPTC's domestic portfolio also includes

Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEEX), North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the NLEX Connector Road, the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

For inquiries regarding this press release, you may reach us at corporate@mptsouth.com

Sen. Pia at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for Future Athletes' Dormitory: 'It Takes a Village to Raise an Athlete'



Senator Pia S. Cayetano joined sports officials and national athletes at the groundbreaking ceremony of the future seven-storey Athletes' Dormitory at the Rizal Memorial Sports Coliseum on September 12, 2024.

Senator Cayetano, a former national volleyball player and student-athlete, has been instrumental in funding this milestone infrastructure project. As Senior Vice Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Finance, she has been at the forefront of advocating for more support for Filipino athletes and sports development.

The project, initially announced by Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Chairman Richard Bachmann earlier this year, is envisioned to provide both living quarters and training facilities for national athletes. The new building will be constructed on the site of the former Pencak Silat and Boxing gyms, adjacent to the Teofilo Ydefonso Swimming Center. The new structure will serve as living quarters for the athletes with the sixth and seventh floor housing training venues for Pencak Silat and Boxing, respectively.

National athletes are currently housed in various spaces at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila and the PhilSports Multi-Purpose Arena in



Pasig.

In her address, the Senator highlighted the importance of building an athletes' dorm at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex – a location that is steeped in sports history. She also recalled living in the South Tower during her stint as a former national volleyball athlete.

"I really believe that athletes can be the symbol of perseverance and success for this country. Ito ay proyektong natin with the leadership of Philippine Sports Commission, your coaches, and my colleagues in the Senate who are supportive of this. We hope to continue to invest in sports for this country," Senator Pia said.

She further emphasized the athletes' need for better support systems and facilities, including sports psychology and mental health programs, underscoring the importance of community support in developing athletes.

"They always say it takes a village to raise a child. It also takes a village to raise an athlete. It really does," she stressed.

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by officials from the PSC, including Chairman Bachmann, and Commissioners Olivia "Bong" Co and Walter Francis Torres. Also present were "Long Jump Queen" Elma Muros, as well as national athletes of the Indoor Hockey Men's & Women's Teams, Softball Men's & Women's Teams, Baseball Men's Team, Weightlifting Men's & Women's Teams, and Sepak Takraw Men's & Women's Teams

ISSN NO. 3028-1954

STRAIGHT NEWS PUBLISHING

TODAY'S NEWS AND BEYOND

VOL. II · NO. 12 · September 18-24, 2024 · P 10.00

PBBM orders quick response in 'Enteng-hit areas'

Cavite works toward a healthier and TB-free province



In celebration of the National Lung Month, Cavite provincial celebration keynoting "Hingang Ginawa kapag Healthy Lungs ang buong Pamilya" was held on August 29, 2024, at the Bayleaf Hotel, City of General Trias. The event was organized through the collaborative effort of the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and the Department of Health Center for Health Development-CALABARZON, aiming to bolster the fight against pulmonary illnesses, particularly focusing on Tuberculosis.

The program commenced with an enthusiastic welcome of Dr. Nelson Soriano, Provincial Health Officer I, expressing

gratitude to everyone for showing solidarity to combat tuberculosis. Dr. Soriano provided updates on the ongoing outbreaks concerning public health and reminded everyone of the phrase, "Bawat buhay ay mahalaga."

Likewise, in a video message, Dr. Leda Hernandez, Assistant Regional Director of the CHD-CALABARZON, acknowledged the contribution and dedication of health implementers in the province for the National Tuberculosis Control Program. RD Hernandez also underlined their enrollment for TB preventive treatment, which is a driving force to accelerate the

Cont. on Page 2

Transform NAIA into a world-class airport



Airline industry leaders express strong support for NNIC and DOTr's plans for NAIA. (L-R) Philippine Airlines (PAL) President Capt. Stanley Ng, Cebu Pacific President Xander Lao, SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang, DOTr Secretary Jaime J. Bautista, NNIC General Manager Angelito Alvarez, PAL EVP and General Counsel Atty. Carlo Luis S. Fernandez, and Philippines AirAsia CEO Ricky Isla.

P130-K halaga ng interbensyon, ipinamahagi ng DA-4A sa LAB for All Caravan ni First Lady Marcos sa Rizal



The City Government of Bacoor, led by Mayor Strike B. Revilla, held the sashing ceremony for the 2024 Miss Bacoor pageant yesterday, September 9, 2024, at the Strike Gymnasium.

The event, organized by the Bacoor City Culture, History, Arts & Tourism Office headed by Mr. Edwin Guinto and the City Information & Community Relation Office (CICRD), saw 30 participants vying for the coveted title. Mayor Revilla, Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista Mendiola, and members of the Sangguniang Panglungsod were present to witness the event. Each participant showcased their modeling skills and introduced themselves, representing their respective barangays. The sashing ceremony marked the official start of the 2024 Miss Bacoor pageant, where the participants will compete in various categories to be crowned the first ever Miss Bacoor.

The event was a celebration of beauty, talent, and community spirit, setting the stage for a thrilling competition in the coming weeks.

SENATOR: QUIBOLOY ARRAIGNMENT A BIG STEP TO ABSOLUTE JUSTICE

MANILA – The arraignment of Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) leader Pastor Apollo Quiboloy is a big step to serving justice to his alleged victims, Senate Deputy Minority Leader Risa Hontiveros said Friday.

"K a r a - pat-dapat managot sa batas si Apollo Quiboloy (It is only right



for Apollo Quiboloy to face the law). He and his co-accused have caused unspeakable pain to women, children, and the most vulnerable," Hontiveros said

Cont. on Page 2

POINT OF VIEW

NATURAL SLEEP REMEDIES TO BATTLE INSOMNIA

It always seems to happen—the night before an early flight or a big presentation at work, you go to bed early, determined to get a restful sleep. You toss and turn, the anxiety building as you count down how many hours you have left before your alarm goes off. Before you know it, you're waking up the next morning feeling cranky and tired, and you spend the rest of the day feeling like a zombie in a bad mood.

Sleep deprivation due to insomnia may seem like a minor annoyance but it can have bigger implications on your health. While it may be a symptom of something going on in your life, such as stress, it can also be a cause of other health problems like an increased risk of diabetes and heart disease.

Insomnia 101
According to the U.S. National Sleep Foundation, insomnia is the difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep. Its symptoms include fatigue, low energy, difficulty focusing, mood swings, and decreased performance at work or at school.

Insomnia may be acute, which means it's brief and may happen because of something going on in your life—when you have a major project deadline, for example. Or it can be chronic, meaning it happens at least three nights a week and lasts at least three months.

The best treatment will depend on the particular type of insomnia that you have and your specific circumstances. If it has become particularly unmanageable, it's best to discuss with your physician so that you can come up with a treatment plan that's right for you.

Sleeping Tips to Battle Insomnia
If you've been suffering from a few sleepless nights and the situation hasn't yet become so dire, then there are natural remedies to combat the lack of sleep and start getting the requisite seven to nine hours a night.

Establish good sleeping habits. You have a designated wake-up time on work days, so you should also have a non-negotiable bedtime. Staying up and sleeping in on weekdays can disrupt your sleep patterns, so try to stick to your sleep schedule as much as you can.

Your sleeping habits can also start earlier in the day. Getting some exercise in the morning may be helpful; try to avoid working out strenuously at night, as this may serve to pump you up instead of helping you wind down.

Make your bed a sanctuary that's just for sleep. Avoid working in bed and instead use the space for relaxing activities so that your brain associates your bed with rest. Also make sure your bedroom environment is conducive to sleep: Invest in blackout curtains to keep out the light or wear a sleep mask, and keep your phone away from you. Invest in a proper alarm clock instead of using your phone—waking up in the middle of the night to check the time on your phone can easily lead down a social media rabbit hole that keeps you up the rest of the night. (Not to mention the light emanating from your phone signals your brain to wake up.)

Sip on something warm and comforting before bed. There's something to your mom's advice of drinking a warm glass of milk before going to sleep. Milk contains an amino acid called tryptophan, which promotes the production of serotonin, the happy hormone that's a natural sedative. Mix in some honey, which helps speed up the transmission of the hormone to your brain.

You can also try a cup of hot tea. Chamomile is a popular pre-bedtime choice and has in fact been a go-to sleep aid for ages.

Say "ohm." The U.S. National Sleep Foundation states that meditation has been shown to increase sleep time, improve sleep quality, and make it easier to fall and stay asleep. A study published in JAMA Internal Medicine found that subjects who learned meditation and mindfulness techniques reported less insomnia and fatigue than those who learned basic sleep hygiene.

You can start meditating today. Just find a comfortable place to sit or lie down, close your eyes, inhale and exhale, while focusing your attention on your breath. It's normal for your mind to wander but bring your attention back to your breath as soon as you notice it happening. You can combine meditation with cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia to reap greater sleep benefits.

Try a natural sleep aid. If you're wary about sleep-inducing drugs, you can try a natural sleep aid like an herbal medicine for sleep. Valerian root has been linked to better sleep quality for insomnia patients. Melatonin, which regulates the sleep-wake cycle, now comes in supplement form. Make sure you discuss with your doctor before taking supplements as some may have side effects and may interact with any other medications that you may be taking.

Cavite...

progress of eliminating the disease in the communities.

Eighth District Board Member and Committee Chair on Health, BM Reyniel Ambion stressed the robust support of the provincial government for the improvement and enhancement of the health programs in Cavite.

Afterwards, the NTP Activities of Cavite province was shown in an audio-visual presentation, followed by the awarding and recognition of the invaluable efforts and contributions of the health centers in the municipalities and cities of Cavite for the NTP implementation in the province. A documentary was also played during the program to witness the journey of two TPT completers, and how the 3-month treatment helped them get back on track.

PBBM...

on Wednesday directed all relevant government agencies to immediately address the needs of Filipinos affected by Severe Tropical Storm Enteng.

During a situation briefing at the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), President Marcos assured that the government is managing the aftermath of Enteng effectively.

"The standard procedures that we have put into place are working well. They are continuing to provide the assistance [in the] areas that have been hit. So, we can look to that as a continuing process that we always do when a typhoon comes," he said.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) reported that 442,804 families, or 1,720,568 individuals, were affected by Enteng. It also reported 15 deaths, 15 injuries, and 21 missing persons. The damage and



From Page 1

The official launching of TPT Day Planner was also held, and each LGU TB-DOTS placed their sticker, representing their commitment towards a healthier and TB-free province, and further solidifying their campaign and fight against tuberculosis.

In conclusion, Dr. Hansel John Ybanez, NTP Medical Coordinator, CHD-CALABARZON, imparted that the program highlighted the importance of taking care of our lungs and overall health, hence, urging everyone to work together to achieve a healthier life, healthier family and healthier community. "Sama sama, kaya nating labanan ang mga sakit sa baga, at itaguyod ang isang malusog at produktibong Cavite", he remarked. - J. Reyes

From Page 1

losses in agriculture were estimated at PhP350.85 million. The President is conducting an inspection of the areas severely affected by the storm to assess the assistance required beyond the relief already provided by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The Chief Executive instructed the Department of Health (DOH) to intensify its information campaign on leptospirosis following the flooding caused by Enteng.

He also directed the DSWD to continue delivering relief goods, while the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) was tasked with ensuring ongoing clearing operations.

The President called on local government officials, led by the governors, to stay well-informed about the situation in their respective areas of responsibility.



SENATOR...

in a statement.

"Ang pagpapaharap sa kanila sa hukuman ay isang malaking hakbang tungo sa ganap na hustisya (Bringing them to the court is a big step towards absolute justice)," she added.

Quiboloy and his co-accused aides, Jackielyn Roy, Cresente Canada, Ingrid Canada, and Sylvia Cemañes, were brought Friday morning to the Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 159 for their arraignment on human trafficking cases.

They entered a not guilty plea.

Hontiveros, in

DOLE BARES SCHEDULE FOR REGIONAL WAGE HIKE CONSULTATIONS

Workers in regions outside Metro Manila can expect an increase in their daily take-home pay within the year, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) announced on Wednesday.

In an episode of Malacañang Insider, DOLE Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma echoed President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s Labor Day directive on wage hikes.

"Noong nakaraang Labor Day, may direktiba ang ating Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. Ang kanyang sinabi to be precise, 'Kailangan ang lahat ng Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards (RTWPPBs) ay mag-sagawa ng timely review, 60 days prior to the anniversary date ng mga nakalipas o nakaraang wages order nila," he said.

In July, the RTWPPB-National Capital Region approved a PhP35 hike in the daily minimum wage of workers, raising it from PhP610 to PhP645. Laguesma also revealed the schedule of consultations for regions preparing to release wage adjustments.

The Calabarzon region is expected to hold its consultation this month, according to Laguesma. Meanwhile, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Central Visayas, and Soccsksargen began discussions on wage adjustments in August.

Sept. 18-24, 2024

From Page 1

an earlier statement, said the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality that she chairs, is finalizing the schedule of the next public hearing on the alleged abuses in KOJC.

Once the date is set, she will seek the court's permission to allow Quiboloy to attend in compliance with the Senate's standing warrant against him.

The senator is expecting more witnesses to testify against Quiboloy during the next hearing. (PNA)

Sept. 18-24, 2024

Perseverance Pays Off



Allan Caldosa, a 50-year-old entrepreneur from Tacloban City, Leyte, has proven that with desire and unwavering perseverance, one can achieve their dreams. He has shown that anything is possible when you are dedicated to making it happen.

Entrepreneurs like Allan Caldosa from Tacloban City proved that determination can transform a humble printing shop and pasalubong center into a thriving hub of local entrepreneurs and community connections.

Allan was born and raised in Alangalang, Leyte, where he spent his early years before moving to Tacloban to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Arts. Raised by farmer parents, Allan's upbringing instilled in him the values of hard work and resilience from an early age.

Guided by these values, Allan strives for the comfortable life he has always dreamed of. Now, he is a member of Tacloban Entrepreneurs' Associated Marketing, a cooperative composed of 36 local food processors and manufacturers. He manages a pasalubong center that resells products of a cooperative and connects microentrepreneurs to a wider market.

Before venturing into the business world, Allan spent two years as a teacher after graduation before deciding to shift into entrepreneurship.

In 2001, he established his first printing shop in Tacloban Downtown. However, the Super Typhoon Yolanda devastated his printing shop, causing extensive damage to his equipment and supplies. Undeterred by this setback, he utilized his savings to create a fresh start. He rented a commercial space in the Tacloban Conventional Center to revive his printing shop and reselling business,

which started in 2003.

However, during the pandemic, when he noticed that the coop operation temporarily stopped, he began reselling local delicacy products as his way of helping local producers. He became a cooperative member and played a pivotal role in processing all required documents and fulfilling requirements for the cooperative. Eventually, he was appointed as the secretary of the cooperative.

Allan faced numerous challenges throughout his business journey, especially during the pandemic. This posed difficulties in reaching clients, product distribution, and meeting client orders. However, through dedication, passion, and a strategic entrepreneurial mindset, he gradually adapted to these situations and overcame them.

As his business expanded, so did the need for capital. In 2023, with his stable business venture, Allan became a Quick SME Loan (QSL) client of CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO). He took out his initial loan of PHP 20,000, which he used as additional capital to sustain day-to-day business activities. Over time, he obtained additional business loans from CARD, Inc., totaling up to PHP100,000, which he used to purchase necessary equipment and appliances for the printing shop and pasalubong center.

Despite strong competition, Allan maintained business operation sustainability and revenue generation through his strategic plans. His pas-



lubber center now offers a variety of products from different local food manufacturers and processors in Leyte.

Unlike before, the coop's presence has stabilized and significantly impacted the lives of its members by connecting them to a broader market and government programs such as DTI Fair Trades and conventional training programs in Tacloban. Through Allan's store, locally produced products now reach a wider cus-

tomers base, mainly from Leyte, Samar, Manila, and Cebu. Reflecting on his journey, Allan expressed gratitude for the support and trust he received from CARD, which played a crucial role in his business's success. He dreams of expanding his business venture to help local entrepreneurs cater to more clients and promote local products across national and international markets by strengthening trading efforts.

Allan's perseverance has finally paid off. His printing shop continues to stand strong, offering a diverse range of quality and cost-effective printing services, including tarpaulin and t-shirt

VOL. II • NO. 12 7

printing. Meanwhile, his pasalubong center proudly showcases products from 36 local manufacturers who are part of their cooperatives.

"For those who want to venture into business, know that it will not be easy. You will face many hurdles and must be confronted with dedication, passion, and bravery. Always remember that in business success, it is crucial to ensure and maintain the quality and affordability of the products and services," he concluded. PR

LANDBANK, SariSuki unite to empower farmers with accessible credit



[L-R] SariSuki Head of Agritech Department Joselito Lontok, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer Brian Cu, LANDBANK President and CEO Lynette V. Ortiz, and Executive Vice President Ma. Celeste A. Burgos hold the memorandum of agreement for the AGRISENSO Lending Program partnership.

The partnership aims to provide financial support, technical assistance, and market access to over 300 farmers nationwide.

Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) has partnered with SariSuki, a leading Philippine agritech startup, which aims to revolutionize the agricultural supply chain through the Bank's AGRISENSO Lending Program. This strategic alliance aims to support over 300 small farmers and Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) by providing accessible financing, hands-on guidance, and a reliable market for their produce, aiming to enhance livelihoods and contribute to long-term food security.

LANDBANK President and CEO Lynette V. Ortiz emphasized the partnership as a strategic move to support small farmers and boost crop production. "Through the combined networks, expertise, and resources of SariSuki and LANDBANK, we can effectively

meet the financial needs of our farmers while providing crucial production, technical, and marketing assistance to enhance their productivity and income," she said.

Under the partnership, SariSuki will serve as the primary buyer of farmers' produce, integral to its mission of building a vertically integrated agriculture superhighway. Brian Cu, Co-founder and CEO of SariSuki, explained, "By providing a stable market, and technical support in farming, business management, and financial literacy, we address farmers' key challenges. Backed by LANDBANK's financing, we aim to uplift farmers' livelihoods, ensure business sustainability, and enhance food security.

For its part, LANDBANK will be extending to eligible partners endorsed by SariSuki the AGRISENSO Lending Program that provides affordable financing to small farmers, Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs), and

the whole agriculture value chain, aimed at bolstering nationwide food security and sufficiency.

A key element of this partnership is SariSuki's commitment to directly pay the principal of farmers' loans to LANDBANK, allowing farmers to immediately profit from their earnings, providing financial relief, and encouraging reinvestment in their farms.

The collaboration seeks to lower the cost of fresh produce by integrating SariSuki's supply chain with an omni-channel demand network and sourcing directly from local farmers. Through these efforts, SariSuki is driving meaningful change in the agricultural sector, ensuring the abundance, accessibility, and affordability of wet market goods.

The partnership also aims to expand SariSuki's network by working with LANDBANK's Lending Centers in key agricultural regions like Nueva Ecija, Quezon, Laguna, and Cavite welcoming

new farmers while continuing to support existing members.

Since the launch of the AGRISENSO Lending Program this year, LANDBANK has supported over 1,766 borrowers nationwide with P272 million in approved loans.

The Program is being offered at the Bank's "Bilis Ipon: Digital Financial Inclusion Caravan" rollouts, which has brought banking and financing services closer to farmers in 17 underserved areas nationwide, including most recently Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental.

Together, LANDBANK and SariSuki are building an innovative ecosystem that integrates financial support, market access, and technical assistance to uplift farmers and strengthen the agricultural sector. This collaboration is a significant step toward transformative change, fostering a more prosperous future for farmers, broader agricultural growth, and a food-secure nation.

DBBM: ADB helps PH in delivering ‘clear, impactful’ actions

MANILA — The Asian Development Bank’s (ADB) continued support has helped the Philippines in delivering “clear and impactful” actions to give Filipinos a brighter future, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said Thursday.

During the launching and ceremonial turnover of the ADB Philippines Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for 2024-2029 at Malacañan Palace in Manila, Marcos said the ADB has been “a reliable partner in Philippine development.”

Marcos stressed that under the new CPS for 2024-2029, the ADB is not just supporting the Philippine government’s projects but is also laying the groundwork for Filipinos’ better future.

“Thanks to the ADB, we are not just talking about progress; we are now on the path to achieving it. Your contributions have turned hope into reality and made a profound difference in countless lives here in the Philippines. For that, we are very grateful,” he said.

“This strategy is about turning lofty goals such as those into tangible

improvements in the daily lives of our people. Today, we are not just talking about progress. We are delivering it with clear, impactful actions,” Marcos added.

Marcos said the ADB, with almost USD9 billion in net commitment for the Philippines as of mid-2024, serves as the country’s top multilateral development partner and second largest source of official development assistance.

He, however, acknowledged that the markers of “genuine” progress are the “outcomes that go beyond financial returns.”

“These benchmarks of progress represent the real wealth of a nation and the heart of the [CPS] 2024-2029,” Marcos said. “If there is one thing that we have learned, it is that, with one vision and with determination, aspirations can become remarkable achievements.”

Marcos said the ADB’s commitment of over USD12 billion for the next three years is a “precious vote of confidence” in the shared vision for a “brighter and better Bagong Pilipinas (New Philippines).”

He expressed

optimism that the Philippines’ partnership with the ADB would result in better social services, improved infrastructure, and a more resilient economy.

“With this partnership, we have a unique opportunity to redefine what is possible and set a new standard for excellence and inclusivity. Let us move forward with unwavering resolve, knowing that the journey ahead is not just about meeting expectations but about surpassing them and setting new benchmarks for success,” Marcos said.

The ADB’s CPS for 2024-2029 will serve as a transformative agenda for the Philippines over the next six years, as the Marcos administration continues to implement programs aimed at building a more prosperous, inclusive, and climate-resilient future for all Filipinos.

Anchored on the long-standing partnership between the Philippines and ADB, the newly-launched CPS aims to focus on addressing three critical areas and priorities to ensure inclusive growth for the country.

These include strengthening human de-

velopment, boosting economic cooperation and quality infrastructure, and scaling up nature-based development and disaster resilience.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), as the government’s key coordinating agency for development planning, for its part said it will play a pivotal role in ensuring that ADB’s support under the CPS aligns with the country’s broader development goals as outlined in the PDP 2023-2028.

“The Philippines is on track to achieving Upper Middle-Income Country status, and it is imperative that the gains from our economic growth are felt by all Filipinos. As the CPS was formulated through comprehensive consultations with NEDA and other government agencies, we are confident that the strategies outlined are aligned with the PDP, effectively guiding our efforts to address socioeconomic and regional disparities, enhance resilience, and foster a more inclusive and equitable economy,” said NEDA Secretary Arsenio Balisacan. (with reports from Anna Leah Gonzales/PNA)

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano is calling for more flexible options in the government’s Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) Modernization Program, suggesting that alternative solutions should be explored to better meet the needs of various sectors.

“You should also explore other possibilities, ‘di pwedeng take it or leave it,” he said in an interview on Saturday, September 7, 2024.

Despite the success of the modernization program in the City of Taguig, Cayetano has expressed concerns about its suitability for other areas. His apprehensions were heightened following a recent discussion with members of the AirTODA Transport Service Cooperative (ATSC) in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, who voiced their worries about the program.

“I’m supportive kasi sa Taguig, nagawang maayos. Pero, apprehensive ako na hindi nilo-localize kasi simple lang

The regional chief urged young individuals to change their paths and assured them that the government, primarily the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Philippine National Police (PNP), will provide support and interventions to aid their reintegration into society.

He also warned syndicates and adults who prey on the youth to refrain from exploiting them, as the law will hold them accountable for these offenses. (CO/PIA-4A)

Sept. 18-24, 2024 Cayetano pushes alternatives in PUV modernization program



naman ‘yan,” he said.

The senator noted that the approach needs to be more tailored to local conditions, noting that many drivers are uncertain about their future under the current plan.

“Marami kasing lugar, hindi malinaw kung ano ang magiging future nila,” he said.

“Pero kung magiging malinaw [at] hindi mawawalan ng trabaho [ang mga drivers], makakatulong tayo magkumbinse,” he added.

Cayetano also suggested that the program consider alternatives that could benefit different sectors. For instance, introducing electric vans for tourists in places like Palawan and other regional spots could be a viable option.

“Bakit ‘di tayo magkaroon ng [mga] van para sa turista? Padami naman ng padami ang turista sa Palawan, hindi ba? So there are alternatives,” he said. PR



EDITORIAL: Playing with words

HOURS after Kingdom of Jesus Christ founder Pastor Apollo Quiboloy was taken into custody early Sunday evening, there was confusion on whether he was arrested as a culmination to a 16-day standoff that pitted the Philippine National Police with the members of the KOJC.

Government officials initially said the pastor had been arrested. It made sense.

After all, they had been pursuing Quiboloy for a long time. There was a warrant of arrest which the PNP had been trying to serve on Quiboloy’s person outside the KOJC compound.

But lawyer Israelito Torreon said no; Quiboloy made “the ultimate sacrifice.”

“He could not bear to witness a second longer the sufferings that his flock was experiencing for many days,” Torreon said of the pastor accused of sexual abuse and qualified trafficking, among others, both in the Philippines and in the United States.

“Surrender,” of course, means that the pastor, out of his own volition, gave up his person to the authorities. It conveys a willful submission to the law which one supposedly respects.

An “arrest” sounds otherwise, pointing to a resistance or refusal to be taken. Unfortunately for the person being arrested, he was overpowered. Defeated. Humiliated.

A surrendering pastor making the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of the people who follow him and regard him as some divine entity is more palatable to his supporters. What a poignant narrative that can be shoved down the throats of those with the misfortune of not knowing how to verify their leaders’ claim.

But he “surrendered” because he was told he must do so, or face other consequences. In any case, with the objective of the word play being obvious to all, does the difference even matter?

Beyond the word-twisting and face-saving attempts, what we should be looking at now is the plain injustice of somebody being so influential that he could avoid the long arm of the law, in the comfort of a fortress and under the protection of a powerful entity, for a protracted period.

And who now has the gall to say he was magnanimous enough to surrender out of concern for his people.

We can think of other examples where words have been twisted and exploited to achieve a political aim.

People must see through how the rich and mighty employ all means available, even their facility with words, to sway public opinion.

But they cannot get away with so many things and not be caught – or, prevailed upon to surrender.

Ultimately, they will be exposed for what they truly are, outside of the names and titles they bestow upon themselves.

STRAIGHT NEWS

Editorial Office
CAVITE OFFICE : Blk. 5 Lot 69 Barcelona Ph. 2, Buhay Na Tubig, Imus, Cavite
Mobile No. ----- 09556586520 / 09164731260
TIN NO. ----- 237756418-000
Email ad: newsstraight172@gmail.com
soberanmavic@gmail.com
EDITORIAL BOARD
Publisher : Maria Victoria S. Soberano
Editor-In-chief : Dominador “RAEL” Soberano
Marketing Manager : Kristina Marres
Published Weekly by: STRAIGHT NEWS

PCO to designate ‘fact-check officers’ in state media to fight fake news

MANILA — The Presidential Communications Office (PCO) will intensify its efforts in fighting disinformation and fake news under the helm of newly-appointed Secretary Cesar Chavez.

This was the assurance made by Chavez during the budget hearing in the House of Representatives on Monday, September 9, when asked by ACT-Teachers Rep. France Castro about his plan to combat disinformation and misinformation in state media.

Chavez revealed his plan to issue a memorandum circular to designate a “fact-checking officer” in all PCO-affiliated agencies.

“Immediately after I took my oath as Acting Secretary of PCO, I met the Malacañang Press Corps and informed them [about] our initiative. In the next few days, I’ll be issuing a memorandum circular address to all state media that means PTV-4, Philippine Information Agency, Radyo Pilipinas-Bureau of Broadcast Services, the Philippine News Agency, the IBC-13, and the PCO Proper that all of them will designate

fact-check officer,” Chavez said.

“A fact check officer or anti-fake news officer will help us that we cannot be an instrument or a purveyor of fake news,” he added.

The PCO chief underscored the need for all state media to be vigilant and take the lead in combating fake news.

“Therefore, institutionally there is going to be a fact-check officer in every Radyo Pilipinas, in every Philippine News Agency, in every Philippine Information Agency and state media and PCO,” Chavez said.

According to Chavez, his plans will be executed “in the next few days.”

During the budget hearing, Chavez assured Castro that there is no place for red-tagging in the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

“Madam Chair, two things. One there is no policy in this government, there is no practice in this government ... this government, this Marcos administration government... on red-tagging,” he said. (PND)



DA-4A...

Umatot sa P130,454 halaga ng interbensyon ang naipamahagi ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) bilang pakikiisa sa isinagawang LAB for All Caravan ni First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos noong ika-8 ng Agosto sa Antipolo City, Rizal.

Ang LAB for All ay programa ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. sa pamamagitan ni First Lady na nagsisilbing isa sa mga inisyatibo ng pamahalaan upang siguruhin ang patas na akses ng mga mamamayang Pilipino sa dekalidad at abot-kayang mga produkto o serbisyo para sa kalusugan.

Dito ay isang booth para sa DA-4A ang isinaayos kung saan naitampok ang 2,000 punla ng calamansi at mga bu-tong pananim na gulay. Ipinamalas din dito ang ilang ipinagmamalaking produkto ng Rizal Agricultural

Punto de Vista KAKAMPI O KALABAN?

Sa kaliitan ng bansang Pilipinas, mahirap imungkahi na nagagawang makapag tago ng samot-saring mga organisasyon na nagsasagawa ng mga ilegal na aktibidad katulad na lamang ng Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators o POGO.

Dalawang dekada ng naninirahan at nagpatakbo sa bansa ang POGO. Nagsimula ng 2000, munit sa taong 2016 lamang sa ilalim ng Duterte Administration opisyal na napatupad ng gobyerno ang industriya sa pamamagitan ng PAG-COR.

Ang POGO ay lumaganap lalo sa lugar ng metro manila at sa taong 2019, nagkaroon ng halos 300 na POGO na may lisensya , at 100.000 manggagawang Chinese.

Naging pugad ng mga krimen mula sa pandaraya, hanggang umabot sa mas malalaking krimen katulad ng, human trafficking, Money Laundering, Kidnaping, at murder.

Sa nagdaan mga taon, madaming mga alligation ang lumalabas sa POGO, munit nito lamang mistulang tuluyan naipagbawal ang pagpatakbo nito sa bansa sa ilalim ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Sr.

Maraming usap-usapin din umano ang kumakalat na ang mga tinuturing nating kakampi ay maaring kasangkot o sumusuporta sa mga ilegal na aktibidad ng POGO. Maaring tinutulungan ng mga may tungkulin sa gobyerno kaya ngayon lamang mga nagdaan taon tuluyan na imbestigahan ang mga POGO hub sa bansa.

May allegation din na binenta ang isang malaking lugar o isla na bahagi ng Calabarzon upang gawing POGO island.

May mga dati rin pangulo at Senador na sumusuporta sa isang kilalang personalidad na kilala rin pastor munit kinilalang kriminal ng bansa, sapagkat maraming mga allegations at ebidensya ang lumabas tungkol sa kanya.

Dahil sa mga isyung ito, hindi na natin matukoy kung sino ang ating mapagkakatiwalaan, dapat na kilitasin ng maigi ang mga taong ating iboboto sa darating na eleksyon, kung nais natin mag bago ang bansa, dapat tayo’t maging matalino.

KEVIN GOROSPE

From Page 1

komunidad sa pagsusulong ng urban gardening. Kasama sa mga namahagi sa aktibidad sina DA Undersecretary Deogracias Victor Savelano, OIC-RTD for Operations and Extension Engr. Redelliza Gruezo, Field Operations Division OIC-Chief Felix Joselito Noceda, RARES OIC-Chief Alexandra Jamoralin, Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) para sa Rizal Mary Ann Gajardo, at iba pang kawani ng DA-4A. PR

DMW IV-A steps up campaign to protect OFWs from online scams, illegal recruitment

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) in Calabarzon has intensified its campaign against online scams and illegal recruitment targeting overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

During the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas on Tuesday, September 3, DMW IV-A Regional Director Karen Quilao said their office has integrated anti-scam sessions into its pre-employment seminars for OFWs, equipping them with the tools and knowledge to protect themselves from online scams and fraudulent activities.

"Our efforts are being intensified because many OFWs continue to fall victim to these fraudulent schemes. The DMW's pre-employment seminar campaign aims to prevent online scams by providing training and seminars to aspiring OFWs, ensuring they

are well-informed before leaving the country to work abroad," Quilao explained.

The regional DMW chief added that the seminar covers topics such as identifying common scams, understanding the risks involved in online transactions, and knowing where to seek help if they encounter suspicious activities.

"When it comes to online scammers, this is also included in our anti-illegal recruitment campaign. We ensure that all our compatriots who are leaving the country have attended the pre-employment seminar so they are fully equipped when they work abroad," she stressed.

Quilao also emphasized their intensified campaigns against illegal recruitment and human trafficking to ensure that OFWs are less vulnerable to exploitation. She said the DMW IV-A is collaborating

Sept. 18-24, 2024 GSIS earns 98.85% rating in 2023 client satisfaction survey

In Media Center, Press ReleasesTags arta, client, gcg, satisfaction, survey

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) achieved an outstanding rating of 98.85% in the first national harmonized client satisfaction survey, a joint initiative by the Anti-Red Tape Authority and the Governance Commission for Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations.

The survey, designed to streamline feedback collection and reduce compliance burdens, saw over 426,000 clients share their experiences, far exceeding the required 1,500 respondents. Nearly 1.4 million transactions were evaluated using a one-page, pen-and-paper questionnaire.

GSIS President and General Manager Wick Veloso expressed gratitude for the results, saying, "The outstanding rating from our clients reinforces the dedication and hard work of the GSIS team. It reflects our commitment to provide top-notch services to our members and pensioners."

The 31 services evaluated received ratings between 97.13% and 99.69%, all considered outstanding. GSIS frontline staff scored 99.4% on assurance for their understanding of clients' needs and knowledge of products and services. They also earned a 99.33% rating on reliability for delivering on promises with minimal errors.

Service quality ratings included 99.31% for outcome, 99.25% for integrity, 99.21% for access and facilities, and 99.08% for responsiveness and communication. Nearly 99% of respondents reported familiarity with the GSIS Citizen's Charter, which outlines services and turnaround times.

Veloso added, "In 2024, both internal and external services will be covered by the survey. This comprehensive approach will help us gain a more holistic view of our performance."

The state pension fund emphasized its commitment to use the feedback to further improve its services. "We view these results not just as a measure of our current performance, but as a roadmap for continuous improvement," Veloso said. "Our goal is to enhance the lives of our key stakeholders, particularly our members and pensioners, by constantly refining and elevating our service standards."

GSIS ASSURES MEMBER DATA SAFETY AFTER SECURITY BREACH

of utmost priority. GSIS is implementing needed measures to protect our systems and information," the state workers' pension fund said in a statement.

GSIS said the breach was reported on Thursday, and an investigation is ongoing to determine its extent.

"The affected computer is a test computer and contains dummy data used for the tests," the statement read.

GSIS is now validating the intruder's claims in compliance with the Data Privacy Act and implementing measures to safeguard its systems and information. (PNA)

Sept. 18-24, 2024 DTI-Laguna Renews Negosyo Center MOA with City Government of San Pablo and PCCI-SPC, Inc.



SAN PABLO CITY – The Department of Trade and Industry - Laguna Provincial Office represented by Provincial Director Christian Ted O. Tungohan renewed the Negosyo Center Program Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with City Government of San Pablo represented by Honorable Mayor Vicente B. Amante and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry - San Pablo City, Inc. (PCCI-SPC) represented by President Bernardo G. Deriq-

SSS vows to provide social security protection to barangay officials nationwide

Jr. cares for the country's barangay leaders," Macasaet said.

Moreover, Macasaet thanked Liga ng mga Barangay National President Maria Katrina Jessica G. Dy for allowing SSS to explain the value of social security coverage to barangay officials.

SSS brings e-services closer to barangay officials

SSS Executive Vice President for Branch Operations Sector Voltaire P. Agas said that SSS set up 50 laptops manned by SSS personnel, which assisted barangay officials in getting their SSS numbers.

Agas said that SSS brought its Starlink and PLDT internet kits to ensure the nonstop service provision to those attending the event.

"We put up an SSS booth in the National Congress to assist barangay officials in their SSS transactions such as applying for SS and employer numbers or verifying their contribution or loan records," Agas said.

Agas said barangay officials also conducted online services such as creating or resetting their My.SSS account, updating member and contact details, generating a Payment Reference Number (PRN), enrolling in the Disbursement Account Enrollment Module (DAEM), and filing of benefit claims and loan applications.

Responsible Parenthood and Family Planning in the Workplace

In celebration of Family Planning Month, the Office of the Provincial Population Officer (OPPO) partnered with the Provincial Government of Cavite Employees and Community Multi-Purpose Cooperative (PGCECC) in organizing an informative seminar on Responsible Parenthood and Family Planning in the Workplace on August 29, 2024, at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Session Hall. The event brought together 50 women employees of the Provincial Government of Cavite for a day of learning and engagement.

Resource speakers were Ms. Clarissa S. Matienzo and Ms. Christle T. Panganiban of OPPO, who offered valuable insights on family planning and the key elements of a strong and loving marital relationship. Ms. El-oisa L. Comia, OIC-Provincial Population Officer, expressed her gratitude to everyone who attended and participated in the workshop. The Family Planning Organization of the Philippines also supported the event by providing essential family planning supplies and hygiene kits for all.

The activity was a significant step in promoting awareness and education about family planning and responsible parenthood. It highlighted the commitment of the Provincial Government of Cavite to supporting and fostering a well-informed workforce. - F. Tamio

