

PhilHealth disburses P137 billion in claims within 10 months

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State health insurer PhilHealth has paid a total of P137.6 billion in benefit claims to more than 12,000 accredited health care facilities nationwide from January 1 to October 31 of 2024, with a national average turnaround time (TAT) of 25 days.

The total payment is P37.6 billion or 27.3 percent higher compared to P99.9 billion over the same period last year. The national average TAT for claims processing also significantly improved to 25 days which is 35 days faster than the 60 days prescribed under Republic Act 7800.

"The timely flow of payments and accelerated processing time are part of our commitment to provide timely and efficient support to our health care partners. The reduced turnaround time have been commended by partner hospitals around the country. It is helping them maintain liquidity, ensuring steady



supply of medicines and supplies, salaries for health workers, and continuous improvement of facilities which all translate to better services to members", PhilHealth President and CEO Emmanuel R. Ledesma, Jr. explained.

The significant improvement in claims payments and faster turnaround time has

exhausted to us by the Filipino people are spent judiciously and responsibly", Ledesma stressed.

To lower the incidence of denied or denied claims, the state health insurer is reaching out to the hospitals around the country to inform and educate them on the latest claims policies, guidelines and pertinent requirements. It is also conducting claims reconciliation which

was earlier validated by the PHA and PHAP Presidents.

"These efforts ensure that hospitals are properly apprised of the true status of their claims. We trust that these will put into proper perspective the issue of alleged non-payment of claims", the Chief asserted, adding that "PhilHealth is governed by pertinent laws and state auditing rules to ensure that every peso is spent prudently and transparently." ***

PhilHealth disburses P137 billion in claims within 10 months



been recognized by the Agency's partners and stakeholders. Recently, Dr. Jose P. Santiago, Jr., President of Philippine Hospital Association said during the celebration of a media event, "Marumang pagbabago sa mga nakatuturing kasama nangling sa pagbabago ng PhilHealth sa mga ospital. Personal na kamakilahon patul sa mga ospital sa iba't ibang regions para mag-reconcile at ibahin ang mga problema. Dali din, makatuturing sa ang nakatuturing issue sa payment ng PhilHealth at ang ospital, at magkakaroon ng magandang relationship ang PhilHealth at PHA. Bando sa mga ang pagbabago."

Sharing the same observation during a recent reconciliation claims conference with hospital leaders, Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines, Inc. President Dr. Jose Rene De Guzman thanked PhilHealth for "their initiative to improve claims processing and ensuring payment to hospitals better." Dr. Guzman added further that "for the past several months, we've seen significant improvements in claims processing, which hospitals can attest to, as they've acknowledged this positive change."

Moving forward, the PhilHealth Chief have expressed hope that in due time, they will be able to address the remaining bottlenecks in claims processing through

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TODAY'S NEWS AND BEYOND

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PhilHealth board okays coverage for preventive oral health services P2

First P2P bus service from Imus to NAIA launched



The P2P buses is seen to benefit OFWs and local tourists for its special and more affordable fares.

DICT EYES MORE FREE PUBLIC WIFI SITES IN CALABARZON

PCG continues on its track towards a healthier Cavite

KAMPANYA KONTRA VAWC, PINAICTING SA IMUS CITY



CMDI Recognizes the President Commissioner of FDS Indonesia as Honorary Dean



Pak Otto Toto Sugiri, the President Commissioner of Fortress Data Services in Indonesia gave his inspirational message to the academic year 2023-2024 graduates of CMDI Bay Campus.



PhilHealth...

MANILA — The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) Board of Directors en banc on Friday approved the preventive oral health benefit package for all. It is part of the state insurer's expansion of primary care benefits in line with the government's vision of "Ngiting 70-20," ensuring more Filipinos will reach the age of 70 years old with 20 permanent teeth still in place. "Universal health care must have oral health care and the best way to make it sustainable and felt by all Filipinos is through primary care," Health Secretary Ted Herbosa said. "The Board agreed on a preventive oral health benefit to be delivered by dentists working in PhilHealth Consulta package providers, and also by stand-alone dentists based on referrals from the Konsulta providers," he added. The package will pay for the annual routine preventive oral care services for every Filipino, such as mouth examination or oral screening, oral prophylaxis or cleaning, and fluoride varnish application. It will also cover pit and fissure sealant and Class V procedures as needed for a maximum of two teeth, emergency tooth extractions and dental consultations. Fluoride varnish application strengthens the enamel on the outermost layer of teeth, preventing new cavities from forming or to slow down or stop tooth decay from worsening. Pit and fissure sealants are procedures that protect from tooth decay by filling in grooves and pits of teeth where bacteria combined with leftover food or sug-

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ars can cause damage. Meanwhile, Class V procedures remove decayed or damaged tooth tissue, and then replace the area with composite resin material. A maximum payment of PHP1,000 for preventive oral health services is allotted for each patient per year. Of the total amount, PHP300 will be paid for the first visit, covering mouth examination or oral screening, oral prophylaxis and fluoride varnish application. Another PHP300 will be paid for the second visit, which must be at least four months apart from the first visit, for the same services. The remaining amount will be used to pay pit and fissure sealant or a Class V procedure for a maximum of two teeth per year at PHP200 each. No co-payments will be allowed for public dentists. Private dentists will be allowed maximum co-payment charges per visit of PHP1,500 for mouth examination and oral prophylaxis; PHP600 for both pit and fissure sealant or Class V procedure; and emergency tooth extraction. The approval coincided with the country's participation in the first World Health Organization Global Oral Health Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on Nov. 26 to 29. Following the approval, the PhilHealth management under the president and chief executive officer will draft and publish a circular for the development or enhancement of information and technology systems that will be used to capture data and facilitate payments. The state insurer plans to implement the package in the first or second quarter of 2025. (PNA)



CALABARZON Livestock Congress 2024, idinaos ng DA-4A



Sa pagdiriwang ng Oktubre bilang buwan ng paghahayupan, idinaos ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) at Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) CALABARZON ang Regional Livestock and Poultry Congress 2024 noong ika-4 ng Nobyembre sa ATI-ITCPH, Lipa City, Batangas. Nilayan ng Congress na talakayin ang estado ng paghahayupan sa rehiyon, partikular ang

kaso ng African Swine Fever (ASF), pagsasagawa ng Artificial Insemination (AI), at lagay ng pagpaparehistro sa Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA). Dito ay nabigyan ng pagkakataon ang mga magsasaka na magtanong at magbigay ng suhestiyon ukol sa mga isyu sa sektor na tinugon ng mga kawani sa Kagawaran kasama ang iba pang ahensya gaya ng National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS),

Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), Landbank of the Philippines (LBP), Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), at Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP). Ayon kay National Livestock Program Director Dr. Jonathan Sabiniano, malaki ang parte ng produksyon ng livestock sa ekonomiya ng bansa lalo na ang rehiyon ng CALABARZON na nangunguna rito. Kaya naman aniya ay patuloy ang pag-

sulong ng DA ng mga programa na nakasentro sa pagmementena nito lalo na ang gatas at itlog. Samantala, tam-pok din sa aktibidad ang pagbebenta ng mga produktong livestock at iba pa ng Lipa Pasalubong Marketing Cooperative, Batangas Egg Producers Multipurpose Cooperative (BEPKO), The Rosario Livestock and Agriculture Farming Cooperative, at Rootcrops Growers Agriculture Cooperative.

PLDT, Smart continue to use tech to help promote food security in Mindanao

PLDT and its wireless unit Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart), have reaffirmed their commitment to using technology to contribute to food security, particularly in Mindanao, by distributing PlantSmart Kits to schools across the region. Complementing the PlantSmart kits is 'Kalye Mabunga', an online video series that provides beneficiaries with a step-by-step guide to successfully starting and maintaining edible gardens. The PlantSmart-Kalye Mabunga initiative supports the Department of Education's 'Gulayan sa Paaralan Program', which aims to promote sustainable gardening practices among students.

Each PlantSmart Kit includes essential materials such as seeds, a bucket, nutrient solution, hydroton, and rockwool. The kit is perfect for using the Kratky method, a hydroponic technique where the plants are suspended above a covered container of nutrient-rich water, making it an al-

most hands-off endeavor. Each #PlantSmart kit contains with seeds, nutrient solution, hydroton, and rockwool, helping communities to start their own edible gardens. "Part of the broader PLDT Group mission of lifting the quality of life of Filipinos is to create technology-driven solutions to help address community challenges, including food insecurity. The Plant Smart kits and the 'Kalye Mabunga' video series underscore PLDT and Smart's long-term commitment to supporting the government's initiatives towards improving the lives of Filipinos," said Stephanie V. Oriño, AVP and Head of the Stakeholder Management Team at PLDT and Smart. Since 2021, the telco group has partnered with schools and like-minded organizations to promote sustainable gardening and equip communities with the skills to grow their own food. Today, more schools in the



PLDT and Smart donates #PlantSmart kits to Leonard Young Sr. National High School in General Santos City.

southern Philippine region have expanded their sustainable gardens with PLDT and Smart's help. Among the recent recipients of the PlantSmart Kits were Don Mariano Elementary School in Digos City, Leonard Young Sr. National High School in General Santos City, Simsiman Integrated School in Nurala town in the province of South Cotabato, Teodoro Palma Gil National High School, and Luman Elementary School in Davao City. Orlando Artiaga, Gulayan sa Paaralan Coordinator at Don Mariano Elementary School, is grateful for the addition-

al food sources. "These planting kits will ensure year-round food production, even in limited spaces, greatly supporting food sustainability for our undernourished learners. Your generosity not only benefits our school but also inspires our community to adopt this innovative system for our Gulayan." PLDT and Smart's efforts to use technology to contribute to food security underscores their commitment to help the country achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being.

First P2P...

IMUS CITY, Cavite (PIA) — Cavite's first point-to-point (P2P) bus service from Imus to all terminals of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport was launched on Monday, November 18 marking a milestone for Cavite commuters and travelers. Cavite Third District Rep. Jay Advincula, Imus City Mayor Alex Advincula, Lina Group of Companies Chairman Alberto Lina, UBE Express President Garrie A. David, and Ayala Land Mall Inc. Terminal Senior Associate Manager Ivan D. Bautista led the ceremonial launch.

Mayor Advincula said the premium bus service, which will cater to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and locals, is more affordable than other service platforms and taxi providers. Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Administrator Arnell Ignacio, who also attended the event, said the P2P buses will benefit OFWs and local tourists with the special rates offered. "All who initiated this project—the private sector and city officials—

will hold a special place in the hearts of OFWs and their families for providing them with a comfortable journey to every destination where they will work," Ignacio said. The 34-seater premium air-conditioned bus will have a special rate for OFWs of P150 and a regular rate of P300 per trip. To commemorate the launch, the first 50 passengers enjoyed complimentary rides provided by the city government of Imus. Additionally, from November 19-24, passengers can continue to avail of free rides sponsored by Congressman Advincula. UBE Express, Inc. is a human logistics service provider committed to providing a safe, convenient, reliable, and modern bus service, adhering to applicable legal and regulatory requirements set by the government.

They offer point-to-point service to give customers an exceptional bus experience. Additionally, the company provides a tarmac shuttle service for various airlines to transport passengers within the airport facility.

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VAWC...

Nagsuot ng kahel ang mga kawani ng Pamahalaang lungsod ng Imus ngayong araw, Nobyembre 25, bilang pagsuport sa 18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW). Sa kanyang mensahe, binigyang diin ni VAW and their Children (VAWC) Desk Officers Association (VAWCDOA) President Susana Mabbatung ang mas pinaigting na laban kontra sa ano mang uri ng pang-aabusong nararasan ng mga kababaihan sa araw-araw. | via City Government of Imus.

pangbabastos, at rape. Dagdag pa ni Mabbatung, ang bawat bahagi ng kanilang tungkulin ay ipinatutupad nila sa mga barangay sa Imus, katuwang ang iba't ibang tanggapan ng lokal na pamahalaan. Taunang isinasagawa ang 18-day Campaign to End VAW mula Nobyembre 25 hanggang Disyembre 12 na layong mawakasan ang mga pang-aabusong nararasan ng mga kababaihan sa araw-araw. | via City Government of Imus.



DTI Laguna empowers PWDs and other individuals in crisis situations through a livelihood training



Bay, Laguna — The Department of Trade and Industry - Laguna Provincial Office, through Negosyo Center Bay and Negosyo Center Rizal, in partnership with the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWD) of Bay, conducted a training last October 30, 2024, entitled "Pangkabuhayan para sa Bayeños" for indigent families, persons with disabilities, people of who use drugs, and individuals in crisis situation. The training discourse focused on how to start a business, giving the

participants ideas on how to polish their business ideas, as well as on financial literacy for them to know their responsibility in proper handling of their finance. The training started by the opening message from Ms. Jocelyn Reyes. Ms. Ma. Nicole Concejero, Business Counselor of Negosyo Center Rizal, served as the first speaker on the topic "How to Start A Business." The discussion opened with a short question and answer activity. She then provided an in-depth discussion on the pros and cons of starting

a business. In addition, she discussed the characteristics and skills that a business owner should have. The discussion on the first topic ended with the steps on registering their businesses, as well as its requirements. The second speaker, Ms. Avegail Agojo, Business Counselor of Negosyo Center Bay, then discussed financial literacy. She provided the proper management of finance, as well as examples of the habits that should be avoided in terms of handling money. Mr. Mosa Soriano

(MSWD Officer) and Hon. Julian Padrid (SB Councilor) then gave their respective closing remarks. The training ended with positive feedback from the attendees, who expressed their satisfaction through the Client Satisfaction Form. The program was highly praised by the beneficiaries, who appreciated the provision of relevant and actionable information. The enthusiasm for the training was evident, with many participants as well as the hosts expressing a strong interest in future training opportunities (MNCCConcejero, DTI-Laguna).

CAVETANO CALLS FOR STRONGER ACTION VS RISING STUNTING RATE IN FILIPINO CHILDREN



Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Tuesday called on the government to reassess its programs and consider new approaches to tackle the rising rate of stunting among Filipino children, stressing the importance of early intervention in securing the nation's future.

"This is a discussion with the whole of government. The DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development) plays a significant role, but I'd like to ask if we can try something in 2025 to really lower the numbers," Cayetano said during the deliberation on November

19, 2024 of the proposed 2025 budget for DSWD. Citing alarming data that one-third of preschool-aged Filipino children are at risk of stunting, Cayetano drew attention to the long-term consequences of malnutrition such as developmental delays, chronic illnesses,

and limited economic opportunities in adulthood. He said despite the increased funding for feeding programs and health initiatives, the impact in reducing stunting remains minimal. "In the past few weeks we'd looked at all departments. Sa lahat ng usapan na 'yan you are basically talking about two-third of our future population, because if stunted ang one-third [of children], hindi rin nila mapapakinabangan 'yan (government programs)," he added. Cayetano urged the DSWD to reassess existing programs like the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and explore how it could better monitor and support families with malnour-

PRESS RELEASE | Vibrant coconut industry takes center stage at ATI CALABARZON's TGP Summit 2024, first-ever coco expo



LUCENA CITY, Quezon – On its 8th year of consistent implementation, the Techno Gabay Program (TGP) Summit came back bigger and grander as the DA – Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) CALABARZON integrated its first-ever Coconut Expo with the program.

On November 18-22, Lucena City in Quezon province became a melting pot of coconut farmers, implementing agencies, state universities and colleges (SUCs), local government units (LGUs), and even the public, merging to celebrate the 8th Techno Gabay Program Summit and 2024 Coconut Expo, with the theme: “Kultura, Sining, at Agham tungo sa Makabagong Industriya ng Pagniniyugan.”

2024 Coconut Expo

The said Coconut Expo was housed for two days on November 18-19 at Pacific Mall Lucena, showcasing an array of coconut products such as lambanog, coco pots, coco sugar, virgin coconut oil, mouth and nasal spray, soap, cooking oil, and even delicacies such as buko pie, among others.

Featured exhibitors were cooperatives and small-scale coconut enterprises in the region namely: (1) Yakap at Halik Multipurpose Cooperative, (2) Samawin Coconut Farmers Agriculture Cooperative, (3) Makaisang Samahan ng Magniniyog at Maglalamanog Ilayang San Roque – Liliw Chap-

ter (CocoLambda), (4) Ilayang Talim Agriculture Cooperative, (5) Quezon Federation and Union of Cooperatives, (6) Mang Ed Handicrafts, (7) Prosource International, Inc., (8) Ecological Solid Waste Solution, Inc., and (9) Pasciolco Agri-Ventures.

Simultaneously, a technology forum was held covering topics such as good agricultural practices (GAP) for coconut and its importance to agribusiness, potential and innovative agricultural products from coconut, empowering coconut farmers through product development and enterprise, coconut soap-making, and unlocking the potential of coconut by-products.

“We envision an industry that moves beyond traditional practices, combining innovation and sustainability to shape the future of our coconut sector,” said Dr. Rolando V. Maningas, ATI CALABARZON Center Director.

Dr. Frederick T. Villa (University President, Southern Luzon State University); Mr. Bibiano C. Concibido, Jr. (Regional Manager III, Philippine Coconut Authority IV-A); Ms. Julieta L. Tadiosa (Provincial Director, Department of Trade and Industry - Quezon); Ms. Honeylet Familiaran from the Office of Sen. Cynthia Villar; and Mr. Alexander Garcia (Assistant Provincial Agriculturist, Quezon Provincial Agriculture Office) also graced the ribbon-cutting and opening ceremony

8th TGP Summit
After the Coconut Expo 2024, ATI CALABARZON commenced the three-day 8th Techno Gabay Program (TGP) Summit at Ouan's The Farm Resort from November 20-22.

The Center convened over 250 TGP implementers in the region, including SUCs, PLGUs, MS, and FITS Centers across the region, who are partners of the agency in responding to agricultural information and technology needs.

On the first day, TGP provincial team leaders shared the remarkable accomplishments of various FITS Centers in bridging the digital divide in agriculture for 2024.

Meanwhile, the second day highlighted some of the significant aspects of the coconut value chain through the technology forum, where participants learned from a pool of subject matter specialists from the PCA IV-A.

The 8th Techno Gabay Program (TGP) Summit concluded through an awarding ceremony, recognizing the excellence of various TGP implementers in delivering farmers' information and technology services in the region. The recipients of the awards are as follows:

Minor Awards
Information Services Category

Highest Number of RCM Recommendations Generated (Rice Crop Manager Dissemination)

- Pila, Laguna

Highest Number of Knowledge Products Developed and Disseminated

- Teresa, Rizal

(top) - Bacoor City,

Cavite - Candelaria,

Quezon - Rizal,

- Laguna

- Calatagan,

Batangas Technology Services Category

Highest Number of In-house Training Conducted and Assisted

- Dasmariñas

City, Cavite (top)

- San Pablo City,

Laguna - Batangas City,

Batangas - Morong, Rizal

- Atimonan,

Quezon Special Awards

FITS Centers with Complete Reports (Provincial Level)

- Cavite

- Rizal

Top 10 Performing FITS Center Social Media Page

- Lucena City,

Quezon - San Luis,

Batangas - MoCa Family

Farm RLearning Center

Polillo, Quezon

- Imus City,

Cavite - Dasmariñas

City, Cavite

- Candelaria,

Quezon - Alabat, Que-

zon - Sta. Cruz, La-

guna - Mauban, Que-

zon Best FITS Highlights of Accomplishment Poster

1st – Office of

the Provincial Agricul-

turist - Cavite

2nd – Lucena

City, Quezon

3rd – Bacoor

City, Cavite

Best Reels (Short video on best practices of Magsasaka Siyentista)

1st – Office of

the Provincial Agricul-

turist - Cavite

2nd – Tanza,

Cavite

3rd – Bacoor

City, Cavite

Best Tech-

no-based IEC Material

1st – Office of

the Provincial Agricul-

turist - Quezon

2nd – Office of

the Provincial Agricul-

turist – Cavite

3rd – Taytay,

Rizal

Major Awards

Excellence Awardees

Cavite

- Gen. Trias City

- Dasmariñas

City

Batangas

- Batangas City

- Mataasna-

Laguna

- Pila

- San Pablo City

Quezon

- Catanaun

- Candelaria

Rizal

- Taytay

hoy



- Morong

In his message, Dr. Maningas expressed that he witnessed how the TGP Summit grows and innovates through the years, and thanked its implementers for realizing their commitment.

Spearheaded by ATI CALABARZON through its ISS, the 8th Techno Gabay Program

Summit and 2024 Coconut Expo was in collaboration with the Provincial Government of Quezon, SLSU, PCA IV-A, DTI Quezon, and Pacific Mall Lucena.

Should you have additional inquiries on this matter, you may contact one of our staff from the Information Services Section, **Mr. Archie Linsa-**

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For our media mileage: Should you also publish this press release or write about the upcoming event featured on this, we kindly request you to inform us by sending the link of the post/s or any media file that contains the aforesaid information. Thank you very much.



EDITORIAL: A top-heavy police force

The Philippine National Police counts on a total number of 228,000 personnel to maintain peace and order through the country whose population now stands at approximately 114 million.

For comparison, in 2017 or seven years ago, the PNP had 160,000 personnel while the total population stood then at 104 million.

If the ideal police-to-population ratio is 1 cop for 500 people then and now, the PNP has already achieved its goal and can adequately perform its basic mission to serve the protect the public.

But isn't the PNP too top-heavy for its own good?

Newly confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla thinks so, and therefore wants to whittle down the number of police generals from 153 to 25.

While that piece of bad news is likely to send shivers down the spines of those likely to be affected by the downsizing of the PNP top brass, Secretary Remulla, however, has given an assurance that no one will be fired. “We are not firing anyone. We are not removing anyone. We are waiting for their retirement. And we will formulate a policy whether or not we will replace the generals who are retiring.”

This should allay fears of any grumbings in the top echelon of the PNP.

The DILG chief wants the agency to study

whether the star rank is really necessary or deserving in every position, or whether a colonel would suffice. This would be an ongoing process, he said.

Earlier, Remulla said he wanted to trim the number of generals as part of his efforts to reform the PNP, which he described as currently “very top-heavy” and is in need of streamlining to “flatten” the organization. He cited as an example the case of the PNP's National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO), which is currently headed by a police general while his deputy is also a police general.

“Why do you have two generals with the same rank occupying a position higher than the other? The area police command, nine of them now with three personnel behind them,” he asked.

The new DILG chief deserves support in his plan to review the promotion process in the PNP, where promotions are made every three years, compared with that in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, where promotions are made every five years.

Remulla is correct in pointing out that the PNP has become “very bloated” and promotion to general “has become a right rather than a privilege...I propose that it should be based on merit and need and function.”

That is how it should be. But at the same time, streamlining the PNP to make it a lean and mean institution should boost rather than diminish the morale and welfare of the country's main law enforcement agency.



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Punto de Vista
KULTURA SA PANAHON NG PAGBABAGO

Patuloy ang pagtaas ng implasyon at ang pagdagsa ng mga banyagang produkto sa merkado, na nagdudulot ng unti-unting paglimos ng ating sariling kultura. Habang mas maraming Pilipino ang tumatangkilik sa mga produktong Kanluranin, tila nalilimutan na ang halaga ng mga lokal na produkto na sumasalamin sa ating pagkakilanlan bilang Pilipino.

Ang makabago at banyagang kultura ay nagiging sanhi ng paglimos sa ating tradisyon at likhang yaman. Sa halip na suportahan ang lokal na tela tulad ng abel at piña, mas pinipili ang mga imported na damit. Ganun din, mas pinapaboran ang banyagang mga tatak kaysa sa lokal na ani tulad ng kape mula sa Benguet o tsokolate mula sa Davao. Ang mga gawi at produkto mula sa ibang bansa ay unti-unting nangingibabaw, kaya't ang mga lokal na tradisyon ay nawawala sa isipan ng nakararami.

Mas madalas pa nga, mas pinapangalagaan ng ilang Pilipino ang banyagang kultura kaysa sa sarili. Mas pinipili nilang magsalita ng Ingles kaysa ng sariling wika, at banyagang pananamit ang naurong na ang tradisyunal na kasuotan. Hindi na nakapagtataka kung bakit mas sikat ang mga dayuhang artista at pelikula sa mga kabataan, habang ang mga likhang Pilipino ay nalilimutan.

Ang pagtangkilik sa lokal na produkto ay mahalaga upang mapanatili ang ating kultura at maiwasan ang tuluyang paglimos dito. Ang bawat produktong gawa ng Pilipino ay nagbubuklod sa ating kasaysayan, sining, at tradisyon. Sa halip na itapon ang sariling atin, dapat natin itong pagyamanin at ipagmalaki.

Ang laban sa banyagang impluwensya ay laban para sa ating sariling identidad. Kailan natin muling ipagmamalaki ang likha ng Pilipino? Ang suporta sa lokal ay hindi lamang pagbili isa itong pagmamahal at pagkilala sa ating pagka-Pilipino.

KEVIN GOROSPE



DTI CALABARZON LAUNCHES FIRST 'FIESTA HARAYA' SHOWCASE LIKHA AT HUSAY NG CALABARZON



The DTI Region 4-A Calabarzon celebrated its First Fiesta Haraya on Wednesday, November 27 at Robinson's Place General Trias, Cavite. This vibrant celebration showcased the theme 'Likha at Husay ng Calabarzon', emphasizing the region's rich creativity, craftsmanship, and innovation.



CAVETANO...

ished or at-risk children. He also called for the agency to identify underfunded programs or pilot new initiatives in the areas most affected by stunting. "Is there any other program which is there but is underfunded that the DSWD can focus on or launch to prevent stunting?" he said. In his interpellation, Senator Cayetano also raised concerns about other vulnerable groups such as orphans and the elderly. He proposed a model similar to 4Ps where funding is tied to measurable outcomes like nutritional improvement for orphans. For the elderly, Cayetano called for "true no-billing" services under

PhilHealth to reduce the burden on the DSWD, allowing the agency to focus resources on better food and accommodations for elderly residents in care homes. The senator also called on agencies such as the Department of Health (DOH), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and local government units (LGUs) to collaborate with the DSWD in crafting more targeted and effective policies. "We all agree that prevention is better than cure. Marami sa stunted, sila rin ang future PWDs. The more that we take care of the stunting now, the less we have to spend on the interventions later on," he said. PR

ed opportunities and resources available to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). DTI Calabarzon Regional Director Marisa Argente said that the agency want to build a robust creative ecosystem and develop vibrant and sustainable creative industries in the region. "We invite everyone - especially our micro, small, and medium enterprises, people



Governor Athena Tolentino brought the Women's Welfare Program to the City of Imus, distributing Php 2,000 cash assistance to 2,000 women. This initiative reflects her heartfelt commitment to uplifting Caviteño women and fostering community development. She was joined by Vice Governor Shernan Jaro, 3rd District Representative AJ Advincula, Board Member Ony Cantimbuhan, and

from the creative industry sector, students, and consumers - to visit our festival and celebrate with us," Director Argente said. Fiesta Haraya served as a platform to promote Calabarzon's cultural and economic strengths while fostering collaboration and innovation within the creative industries. The festival will run from November 27 to December 01, 2024. | via Anna Mole, Mark Bryan Lito/ PIA 4A

DICT...

BATANGAS CITY (PIA) — Expect more free public wifi in the Calabarzon region as the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) is looking to onboard more public areas to benefit from its National Broadband Program (NBP). To date, the DICT has installed free wifi in 518 strategic locations with 1,111 active access sites in Region IV-A such as town halls and public markets.

DICT IV-A Regional Director Felix Tabanao Jr. said the project will cost over P100 million to facilitate the installation of free public wi-fi and other IT infrastructure in other areas such as transport terminals, seaports, airports, among others. "The entirety of the (NBP), considering that from the middle mile to the last mile could cost over a P100 trillion. Our national government, through Congress, is allocating funds for free public Wi-Fi and the national broadband," Tabanao said in an episode of Philippine Information Agency's Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas program.

The NBP is designed to build a stronger, more reliable digital payment system. DICT IV-A Regional Director Felix Tabanao Jr. said the project will cost over P100 million to facilitate the installation of free public wi-fi and other IT infrastructure in other areas such as transport terminals, seaports, airports, among others. (PB/PIA4A)

For the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), utilizing digital payment minimizes the risk of encountering counterfeit money in transactions payment of goods and services. "One benefit of using digital payments is

that it can help prevent fake or counterfeit money from being used. We know that as the holiday season approaches, the circulation of counterfeit money also rises. And we can prevent this is we use digital money," lawyer Dennis Gamaya, Area Director for BSP Lucena said. Glen, a market vendor from Calamba City, believes that using digital payment platforms like the BSP PalengQR provides convenience to business owners.

"Transactions will be faster because our customers will only need to send the exact amount for their purchase. Salespeople won't have to deal with exchanging money, and they won't need coins, so the money will always be exact." Similarly, Joemil is just one of the many local tricycle drivers who has started using digital payment platforms as a payment option to the riding public. "It will be great for us and the passengers because we all have digital wallet accounts," he said.

In 2023, the BSP reported that usage of digital platforms in transactions ballooned to 52 percent from only one percent in 2013. The Central Bank said the fast rise of digital payment platforms indicates that more Filipinos opt to use digital platforms for financial transactions. (PB/PIA-4A)

The Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas is a weekly media forum program of the Philippine Information Agency, in partnership with the Presidential Communications Office, highlighting the programs, projects, and policies of the national government under the Bagong Pilipinas governance agenda of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s administration.

PCG...

The dedicated medical and dental mission team of the Provincial Government of Cavite revisited the Municipality of Maragondon and rendered healthcare services to a total of 200 patients - 166 in medical and 34 in dental, on November 22, 2024. The LAB for ALL van was also onsite to provide

free ECG and X-ray examinations to the residents. In addition, medicines and vitamins were distributed to complete the health services availed by the patients.

The MDM program continues on its track towards better health and well-being of Caviteños. — J. Reyes

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The Timeless Magic of Christmas: EK unveils five magical gifts to celebrate the holiday season



Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, brings the most magical holiday celebration as it shares five (5) new timeless Christmas experiences in Santa Rosa, Laguna.

Apart from the more than 30 unlimited rides and gated attractions, every Filipino can now enjoy the Timeless Magic of Christmas with the Park's festive tunes, vibrant displays and colorful decors, all unveiled during EK's grand holiday kickoff last November 23.

ENCHANTING PERFORMANCES

The event's amazing lineup of performers spread the timeless holiday magic through world-class music and entertainment.

Award-winning De La Salle Santiago Zobel (DLSZ) Rondalla serenaded the crowd with a Christmas medley and enchanting symphonic music through their strings and percussion.

Returning to the EK stage to bring some Yuletide cheer, members of the powerhouse dance company G-Force teased the audience with their spectacular dance moves. They also promoted their year-end dance concert which will also be held at the theme park on December 15.

EK's homegrown vocal groups, SMS, Victoria's Way and the Kingmen, set up the festive vibe even more with their mesmerizing renditions of classic holiday songs.

THE MAGIC OF GIVING

The magical celebration was graced by Santa Rosa Mayor Hon. Arlene B. Arcillas, who shared that the Christmas season in the city would not be complete without the grand lighting ceremony of the Park's Enchanted Christmas Tree and Grand Parol.

EK's Chief Operating Officer Dr. Cynthia R Mamon officially turned over the donation funds raised during the Timeless Halo-ween: An Event for a Cause for the benefit of those affected by Typhoon

Kristine, to the city government of Santa Rosa through Hon. Arcillas. Hon. Arcillas expressed her gratitude to EK for spreading the 'very essence of Christmas' — the spirit of giving — through their offerings and initiatives.

ELDAR'S MOONLIGHT PARADE Parkgoers flocked along the streets of Portabello and Brooklyn Place in anticipation for the back-to-back launch of EK's holiday attractions beginning with the Eldar's Moonlight Parade.

And suddenly, there they were — EK's jolly wizard along with other beloved storybook characters appeared with their vibrant, glow-in-the-dark costume. Nightlife at the Park lit up as they pranced across the themed zones to the tune of lively, iconic EK songs.

ELDAR'S BROOKLYN SYMPHONY As the parade party approaches EK's 4D-simulated theater Rialto at the Brooklyn Place zone, Eldar the Wizard waved his magical wand to start the Brooklyn Symphony. Christmas lights that covered the whole zone suddenly came to life, dancing to the beat of popular Christmas songs playing throughout the area.

Guests also rejoiced upon the sight of 'snow' falling from the sky towards the end of the show as part of the holiday vibe.

ENCHANTED CHRISTMAS TREE

Once again, Eldar the Wizard orchestrates a grand spectacle of lights up in the sky with the new Timeless Magic Fireworks Show. This features the special holiday version of EK's 29th anniversary theme song Timeless Magic, composed and sung by the theme park's P-pop girl group SMS.

More TIMELESS CHRISTMAS MAGIC 'Tis the season to celebrate with the whole family here at EK! Guests can now continuously enjoy the majestic view of the Grand Parol, Enchanted Christmas Tree, and the Eldar's Brooklyn Symphony while they can watch out for the Timeless Magic Fireworks Show during Saturdays at 7 PM.

Meanwhile, starting this December, Eldar the Wizard will add a Yuletide twist to his Moonlight Parade with the Christmastime Parade.

Musical groups and bands will also spread the magical spirit of the holidays through enchanting live carols by the Grand Parol starting the end of

Serving as the highlight of EK's magical holiday attractions this 2024 is their one-of-a-kind Enchanted Christmas Tree in partnership with Firefly. It is located between the Brooklyn Place and Midway Boardwalk's Wheel of Fate.

With Dr. Mamon and Hon. Arcillas leading the lighting ceremony, purple lights soon covered the whole tree, unveiling its unique design.

This year, the theme park transformed the Enchanted Christmas Tree into Eldar's iconic wizard hat. Serving as the ornaments are star-shaped lanterns, each bearing the portrait of the EK storybook characters; while on top is an image of the nativity scene, reminding every guest of the true essence of the Christmas season.

GRAND PAROL

EK embraced Paskong Pinoy and brought back the star of Filipino holiday celebrations through its Grand Parol, which stands even brighter at the Spaceport Grounds beside the Space Shuttle rollercoaster ride where guests can enjoy its colorful display synchronized with popular Filipino Christmas songs.

The Santa Rosa-based theme park commissioned the renowned lantern maker from Pampanga, Eric Bondoc Quiwa to create this record-breaking decor together with 100 other parols installed around the park.

ENCHANTMENT CONTINUES UP IN THE SKY

November. DLSZ Rondalla will be back with their music on November 30 and December 7. Ateneo Gabay and Emilio Aguinaldo Symphonic Band will also be there to join the festivities on December 16 and 21, respectively.

EK also hinted of an upcoming anniversary promo which is also set for release this last week of November that you surely don't want to miss!

Gift the magic of Enchanted Kingdom through our upcoming holiday EKatalogue featuring the newest merchandise available for onsite purchase or online checkout through the EK Online Store.

So start planning your next EK getaway and create more unforgettable memories with your loved ones as we open six days a week (Tuesdays to Sundays) starting December 2 to 15. From December 16 until the first week of 2025, the Park will open its magical gates to all every day.

*Show schedules may be subject to change without prior notice

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