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The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (SM Prime), one of the leading real estate developers in Southeast Asia, recently called on local public officials to avoid the extraction of groundwater and, instead, invest in rainwater collection for recycling and impoundment, as well as explore new technologies such as modular desalination and modular sewage treatment plants, to manage the effects of climate change on the country's water resources.

At the multi-stakeholder forum, "Towards a Greener Footprint", in Iloilo City recently, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga shared solutions-focused guidelines to help the local government

reduce carbon footprint, with emphasis on water conservation to address the looming water crisis and increase access to safe water and sanitation.

"We need to invest in the appropriate engineering and infrastructure to

deliver water from the source," Secretary Loyzaga said. "We must avoid, if not reduce drastically, the extraction of groundwater which in low-lying coastal areas causes subsidence and increases flooding."

"Rainwater catchments

will not only provide additional supply for household use but will also help ensure the availability of surface water through the maintenance of watershed cover when impounded," Secretary

► **KOOPERASYON • 3**

PNP CHIEF PGEN. BENJAMIN ACORDA JR. PINANGUNAHAN ANG PAGBUBUKAS NG ISANG BAGONG PNP STATION BUILDING SA ROSARIO, CAVITE

Pormal ng binuksan ang bagong PNP Station sa bayan ng Rosario, Cavite. Pinangunahan ni PNP Chief, Police General Benjamin Acorda Jr. kasama si Rosario Cavite Mayor Jose Voltaire V. Ricafrente ang pagpapasinaya sa pagbubukas ng bagong Municipal Police Station nitong Agosto 10, 2023 sa Brgy. Tejeros Convention ng bayan na ito. ► **PNP CHIEF • 3**



Nasa larawan sina PNP Chief, Police General Benjamin Acorda Jr., Rosario Cavite Mayor Jose Voltaire V. Ricafrente, VM Bamm Gonzales, Atty. Norma B. Tañag Cavite Export Processing Zone Authority, Administrator, Regional Director PBGEN Carlito M. Gaces, Cavite Prov'l Director PCOL Christopher F. Olazo, Rosario Chief of Police PMAJ. Sandie Caparoso.

PBBM LOOKS FORWARD TO SIGNING MARITIME AGREEMENT WITH VIETNAM

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is looking forward to signing an agreement with Vietnam in a bid to strengthen maritime cooperation in the West Philippine Sea.



President Bongbong Marcos

Speaking to outgoing Vietnam Ambassador to the Philippines Hoang Huy Chung, President Marcos underscored the importance of maritime cooperation between the two countries.

"Now that we are going to start discussions on the agreement that we have between the Philippines and Vietnam, I think it is a very, very important – it will be a very, very important part of our relationship and it will bring an element of stability to the problems that we are seeing now in the South China Sea," the President said.

President Marcos said that the agreement "is going to be a very big step" between the Philippines and Vietnam.

Chung paid a farewell call to President Marcos on Thursday, a few years after he was installed Ambassador of Vietnam to the Philippines on Jun 19, 2020. He also served as the deputy director general of the Department of Maritime Affairs from 2017 to 2019, among other posts.

► **PBBM LOOKS • 3**

EDITORIAL

Save Manila Bay, save towns from flooding

Something is wrong with Manila Bay. For a long while, environmentalists and the public, in general, have been harping on a number of reclamation projects in Manila Bay, for its adverse impact on marine ecosystem, and the destruction of mangroves and wetlands that threaten the livelihood of fishermen and those living in surrounding communities.

But their cries appear to have landed on deaf ears as shown by the growing number of approved reclamation projects.

Not even the continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme Court on Dec. 18, 2008, directing 13 government agencies "to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to SB level (Class B sea waters per Water Classification Tables under DENR Administrative Order No. 34 [1990]) to make them fit for swimming, skin-diving, and other forms of contact recreation" has deterred the unabated abuse of Manila Bay. The agencies covered by the continuing mandamus are the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Budget, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police-Maritime Group, Philippine Ports Authority, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, and Local Water Utilities Administration.

It took the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to put a stop on all of these approved reclamation projects, albeit temporarily being a mere suspension. However, this is a step in the right direction, considering the importance of Manila Bay, not just for its world-famous sunset but also for being a source of livelihood for a multitude of Filipinos. The famed bay was once a rich fishing ground, but reclamation projects, indiscriminate dumping of waste, and other abuses have caused the destruction of its marine ecosystem.

Manila Bay is also an important catch basin for water that drains from 178 localities from Metro Manila, Bataan, Bulacan, Cavite, Pampanga, Laguna, Nueva Ecija, Rizal, and Tarlac. Water from 17 key river systems — Angat River, Bocaue River, Sta. Maria River, Marilao River, Meycauayan River, Meycauayan-Valenzuela River, Pasig River, Parañaque River, Imus River, Ylang-Ylang River, Rio Grande, Cañas River, Obando River, Navotas-Malabon-Tinajeros-Tullahan River, Talisay River, Guagua River, and Pampanga River — also drains to Manila Bay.



Disturbing the catch basin is certain to cause adverse consequences. We need not look far. The recent flooding in large parts of Bulacan and other coastal areas is one proof of these adverse consequences. With water level in Manila Bay rising due to reclamation, water from inland can no longer drain to the bay.

With Marcos' suspension of the reclamation projects, concerned government agencies will have all the opportunity to conduct a review to determine if all these comply with the law and environment policies of the state.

Crucial in this review of the reclamation projects is the 2008 continuing mandamus issued by the Supreme

Court. The order to the 13 government agencies is very clear — "to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay, and restore and maintain its waters to SB level."

Were all these projects approved in compliance with the SC's continuing mandamus and existing environment laws and policies?

We hope the concerned agencies will act promptly before any catastrophic event takes place.

We also join the nation in keenly waiting for the results of the review. May it be fair and beneficial to all stakeholders.

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'LIGTAS AT PAMPAHABA NG BUHAY ANG PAGGAMIT NG MEDICAL MARIJUANA'

KAPAG naaprubahan na ng Kongreso ang paggamit ng medical cannabis o marijuana, maraming pasyente ang maliligtas ang buhay o mapahaba ito, ayon sa isang medical expert.



Kahit na sabihing mabalakid ang pagsulong sa legalisasyon ng paggamit ng kontrobersiyal na marijuana, parami pa rin

ng parami ang nagsusulong dito, kabilang na si Dr. John Ortiz Teope, isang researcher, kritiko, political analyst, media practitioner at secretary general ng TIMPUYOG Philippines, isang samahan o organisasyon na nagsisilbing "think tank at bukas gumawa ng mga suhestiyon" para sa mga sumusuporta sa legalisasyon ng paggamit sa medical cannabis.

Ayon naman kay Dr. Richard Nixon Gomez, inventor, scientist at general manager ng Bauertek Corporation, isang research, development and manufacturing company sa Guiguinto Bulacan, ibinulgar nito na isang pasyenteng Pilipino lamang ang nabigyan ng special permit ng Food and Drug Administration (FDA) para bumili ng gamot mula sa medical cannabis, sa ibang

bansa.

Gayon pa man, hindi pa ito nakakabili hanggang ngayon dahil sa napakamahal nitong presyo na nagkakahalaga ng P1.7 milyon para sa isang pasyente lamang. Nagtataka si Gomez kung ano ang pumipigil sa Kongreso na payagan na ang pagsagawa ng gamot mula sa katas ng marijuana gayong marami ng mga mambabatas at samahan ng mga doktor ang sumusuporta sa legalisasyon nito.

Isang pag-aaral din sa Harvard University ang nagpapatunay na ligtas itong gamitin bilang gamot sa iba't-ibang karamdaman.

Si Teope ay special guest sa lingguhang Media Health Forum ng Bauertek Corporation at ang mga beteranong broadcast journalist na sina Rolando 'Lakay' Gonzalo at Edwin Eusebio ang host.

Ibinalita ni Gomez na galing siya sa Sacramento California upang mag-tour sa isang pasilidad doon na gumagawa ng gamot mula sa medical cannabis at binanggit nitong higit pa ang magagawa ng Bauertek Corp., kung papayagan na ng Kongreso na maisabatas ang legalisasyon ng paggamit ng marijuana. May siyam na panukalang-batas ang ngayon ay nakabinbin sa Kongreso.

Ayon kina Gomez at Teope, may 60 bansa na ang gumagamit ng medical cannabis at anila'y maiiwan sa kangkungan ang Pilipinas kung patuloy ang pagkontra ng iilan.

Sinabi ni Teope na kailangan ng mag-ingay ng mga Pilipino upang lubos na maunawaan ng mga kinauukulan ang benepisyo at kahalagahan ng paggamit ng medical marijuana bilang gamot.

DOH

(FROM PAGE 8)

Tandaan po natin wala pong pinipiling oras ang mga ito upang mangagat at makapagdulong ng sakit na dengue," pahayag ni DOH 4-A Assistant Regional Director Leda M. Hernandez

Ayon kay Hernandez, bagaman bumaba ang kaso ng dengue sa Calabarzon ay hindi dapat maging kampante ang publiko dahil ang mga bagyo at pag-ulan ay inaasahang mararanasan pa hanggang Oktubre.

Batay sa datos ng DOH 4-A, bumaba sa 10,178 kaso ng dengue ang naitala sa rehiyon mula Enero 1 hanggang Hulyo 29, 2023. Higit na mas mababa ito ng 10% mula

sa 11,284 kaso ng sakit na naitala sa kaparehas na mga buwan noong nakaraang taon.

Nakapagtala ng pinakamataas na bilang ng sakit sa probinsiya ng Rizal na aabot sa 3,654 kaso; Cavite na mayroong 2,033 kaso; at Laguna na mayroong 1,485 kaso ng dengue.

Sa kanyang paalala, binigyang diin rin ni Hernandez ang pag-iingat sa mga bata na may edad dalawa hanggang 10 taong gulang, dahil mas madali aniya silang kapitan ng kagat ng lamok.

"The kids are prone to mosquito bites, gumamit tayo ng insect repellent, magsuot ng mga bright

colored long-sleeved shirts, at pantalon para walang expose na balat," ani Hernandez.

Babala ng DOH 4-A, mas mainam na sumunod sa 5S streategy ang publiko bilang pinakamabisang paraan upang makaiwas sa sakit na dengue.

Kabilang dito ang "search and destroy" o pagpuksa sa mga pinamumugaran ng lamok; "safety precaution measures" gaya ng paggamit ng mosquito repellent; "seek early consultation" kung may nararamdamang sintomas ng dengue; "support fogging/spraying" sa mga lugar na pinamumugaran ng lamok; at "sustain hydration" upang maiwasan ang iba pang banta ng sakit. (DOH 4-A/PIA 4-A)

PNP Chief

(FROM PAGE 1)

Kasama si Vice-Mayor Bamm Gonzales, Regional Director PBGEN Carlito M. Gaces, Cavite Prov'l Director PCOL Christopher F. Olazo, Rosario Chief of Police PMAJ. Sandie Caparrosa, Sangguniang Bayan Members, Liga ng mga Kapitan at ang ilang mga opisyal ng bayan.

Ayon kay PMaj. Sandie Caparrosa, naging posible ang mga programa ng PNP dahil sa pakikipagtulungan ng LGU sa pagkamit sa

magandang pagpapatayo ng bagong PNP station sa bayan.

"Maraming salamat sa lahat ng bumubuo ng LGU Rosario sa pangunguna ni Mayor Ricafrente at Vice-Mayor Gonzales dahil sa kanila ay naging matagumpay at makatotohanan ang proyekto na ito para sa hanay naming mga pulis, maituturing na primerong gusali ng PNP ang istasyon na ito," dagdag pa ni Caparrosa.

Naging pangunahing

layunin ng lokal na pamahalaan ang pagpapatayo ng gusali na ito para sa PNP.

Sa pakikipagtulungan ni Cavite Export Processing Zone Authority, Administrator Atty. Norma B. Tañag ay naging matagumpay ito, dahil ang upang ibigay ang lupang pinagtatayuan ngayon ng gusali na pag-aari ng CEPZA.

Tiniyak naman ni Mayor Ricafrente na mananatili ang bayan ng Rosario na isang bayang tahimik, masaya at maunlad. (ni sid samaniego)

Kooperasyon...

(FROM PAGE 1)

Loyzaga said.

Based on the latest report of the Philippine Statistics Authority, water abstracted for own use increased from 215.2 billion cubic meters (bcm) in 2020 to 217.8 bcm in 2021 countrywide. From 2010 to 2021, the largest amount of self-abstracted water is for the power sector (58.7%). This was followed by agriculture (33.5%); mining and quarrying, manufacturing, and construction (5.3%); and services sector and households (2.6%).

Earlier this month, the DENR said the country still has enough water supply, but proper management is needed to prevent a possible water crisis by the end of the year.

The call was met with a resounding response from

the private sector, particularly, SM Prime. In the same forum, SM Supermalls Vice President for Corporate Compliance Engr. Liza B. Silerio shared how SM Prime has stepped up the sustainability programs that it has been doing since SM Supermalls started recycling water in the 1990s.

From rainwater catchment to help deter flooding in communities where its malls are located, SM Prime also pioneered the mall-based rainwater filtration system that converts the collected rainwater to be potable enough for washing, cleaning and even drinking.

Launched at SM City Baguio, the facility will supply mall tenants with enough potable water to

help reduce sourcing from the communities' water table.

"As an integrated property developer, we have seen the first-hand effects of natural hazards that are caused by the change in weather patterns in the Philippines," Engr. Silerio explained. "El Nino and La Nina are two phenomena resulting from climate change. Our country ranks number one in the World Risk Index 2022 report as the most vulnerable among 193 nations."

Faced with this challenge, Engr. Silerio shared that SM Prime will continue to find innovative ways to address the climate challenges. "We continue to evolve and adapt technology to improve our resource consumption as part of our climate action," she concluded.

PBBM looks...

(FROM PAGE 1)

President Marcos thanked the ambassador for his hard work as he emphasized that the agreement between the Philippines and Vietnam was realized during his stint.

For his part, Chung said he wanted to stay longer to build up stronger and closer relations with the Philippine government as he emphasized that the country considered Vietnam as one of its strategic partners.

The ambassador said Vietnam President Vo Van Thuong extended his gratitude to President Marcos and the Philippine government for working closely with them, especially on their common interest in the West Philippine Sea and

the prevention of further incidents in the Philippine waters.

"And President, Vietnam, we have very respect for your thought that you are a friend to all, none enemy," Chung told President Marcos.

President Marcos affirmed that the Philippines and Vietnam have a good solid agreement that is beneficial for both counties, making it easier for them to face the "common challenges" "when it comes to territorial disputes in the South China Sea."

"I really believe that we have to make these bilateral agreements. I think you will not be surprised and I think I'm

not giving away any confidence that we will like to have these bilateral agreements as well with the other countries within ASEAN," President Marcos said, referring to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The chief executive also expressed his appreciation to Vietnam's good relationship with the Philippines, which dated back since the administration of his father, late president Ferdinand R. Marcos Sr.

Marcos said the sentiments remain the same that the Philippines has always been a benevolent and compassionate partner of its neighbors in Asia specially in the agricultural, diplomatic, security and defense situations. | PND

DTI-Laguna Awards Business Packages to 64 PPG Beneficiaries

Santa Rosa City, Laguna — The Laguna Provincial Office of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in partnership with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), awarded Pangkabuhayan sa Pagbangon at Ginhawa (PPG) Business Packages to selected beneficiaries from Santa Rosa City, San Pablo City, and Calamba City, Laguna, on August 4, 2023. The awarding ceremony took place at the Covered Court of Berkeley Heights Subdivision, Brgy. Pulong Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa City, Laguna.

A total of 64 beneficiaries consisting of 61 former rebels and 3 calamity-affected entrepreneurs will each receive Php15,000.00 worth of business package from DTI.

Present to grace the said event were the following officials: Governor of the Province of Laguna Hon. Ramil Hernandez, DTI Regional Operations Group Assistant Secretary Dominic Tolentino Jr., DTI 4A OIC Regional Director Marissa Argente, DTI Laguna OIC Provincial Director Christian Ted Tungohan, AFP 2Lt. Jayson Oliver Sanchez, and Santa Rosa City Councilor Christopher Sarmiento (representative of Santa Rosa City Mayor Hon. Arlene Arcillas).

The PPG Program of DTI is a livelihood seeding and entrepreneurship development program for microenterprises. The convergence of concerned

government agencies on the provision of livelihood assistance to economic sectors affected by incidents and other calamities including armed conflicts is a post-disaster response mechanism to address the need for continued economic activities in the affected areas.

As early as January 2023, DTI Laguna started coordination meetings with AFP and validated approximately 64 potential beneficiaries on the following month in lieu of DTI's commitment to provide needed resources that will support the recovery and continuity of affected businesses and individuals and/or families.

The following are the guidelines in identification and selection of potential beneficiaries: Microenterprises affected by fire incidents and other calamities may be selected as potential



beneficiaries. Identified beneficiaries considered as priorities of the national government such as beneficiaries Killed In Action – Wounded In Action, those identified by the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict, those who availed the Balik Probinsya Program, and persons of concern (refugees/stateless persons) under the Philippines' commitment to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees may also be included in the identification and selection

of potential beneficiaries. Provision of entrepreneurial training was also facilitated last

May 24, 2023 covering topics on starting up a business, consumer education, business

registration, and simplified action planning. (PSMCortezano, DTI-Laguna)

ANAK NG LABANDERA'T PLANTSADORA, NAGTAPOS NG SUMMA CUM LAUDE

ROSARIO, CAVITE: "Napatunayan kong hindi ka talaga maliligaw kapag isinama mo ang iyong mga magulang sa mga pangarap mo. Sila talaga ang tunay na dahilan kung bakit sinikap kong makapagtapos ng pag-aaral. Hindi para sa sarili ko kung hindi para sa karangalan nila. Pareho silang hindi nakatapak ng kolehiyo."



Maraming beses din silang minaliit ng mga tao. Ngunit hindi nila kailanman pinagdudahang suportahan ang lahat ng mga pangarap ko", mga linyang binitawan ng 22 anyos na si N-Rich Salazar Recoter ng Brgy. Wawa 3, Rosario Cavite.

Si N-Rich Recoter ay magtatapos ngayon na may pinakamataas na parangal, Summa Cum Laude, sa kursong Bachelor of Arts in Journalism sa Cavite State University-Main Campus.

Solong anak siya ng mag-asawang Enrico Recoter, isang mangingisda at Roberta Recoter, isang labandera't plantsadora.

Hindi naging madali para kay N-Rich bago marating ang pagkakataon na ito. Dinanas niya ang maraming hirap at pagsisikap marating lang itong ninanais na pangarap. "Sa magulang ko, mga kamag-anak, mga kaibigan, mga kaklase, mga guro, kakilala at sa Maylikha na nagsilbing sandigan at hindi nagdalawang isip na sumama sa aking pangarap, para po sa inyo ang tagumpay na ito", pagmamalaki ni N-Rich.

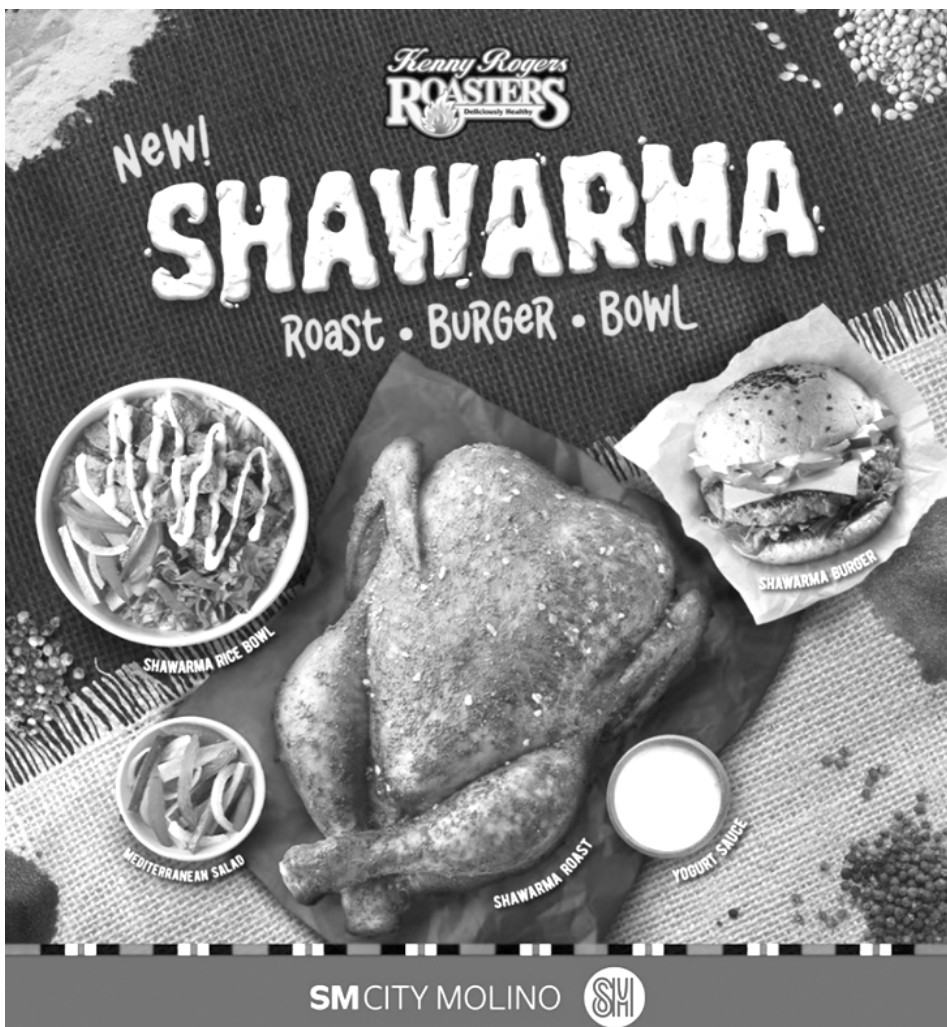
Nagworking student si N-Rich para lamang matustusan ang iba pa niyang pangangailangan. Nagtrabaho siya bilang service crew sa Alfamart, call center, at naging

freelance writer.

"Kailanman ay hindi ko kinahihiya ang pagiging labandera at plantsadora ko. Sa paraang ito kami nabubuhay ng pamilya ko katuwang ng asawa kong isa namang mangingisda", mada madaming pagmamalaki ni Nanay Roberta.

Ngayong Agosto 23, 2023 aakyat si N-Rich sa entablado kasama ang mga magulang na buo ang respeto at pagkatao kalakip ng pagsungkit ng medalyang ginto.

Si N-Rich ay nangangarap ding maging isang abogado. (ni sid samaniego)



WHAT'S NEW AT KENNY ROGERS ROASTERS' – SM CITY MOLINO, CAVITE - Embark on a flavorful journey of spices with Kenny Rogers Roasters' new Shawarma Selections! Be captivated by the mouthwatering richness and bold umami flavors in every delectable bite of Shawarma Roasted Chicken, Shawarma Rice Bowl, and Shawarma Burger. Visit them at SM Molino Ground floor level for dine-in and takeout. For delivery, call 0917-555-9000 or visit kennyrogersdelivery.com.ph

CALAX Commended with GREEN Awards by Santa Rosa LGU

MPCALA Holdings Inc. (MHI), the builder and operator of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), was recently honored with the prestigious GREEN (Gearing towards Robust, Engaging, and Eco-friendly Nature) Award from its local government partner, City of Santa Rosa, Laguna.

The awarding ceremony took place at the City of Santa Rosa Multi-purpose complex last July, where MHI's commendable contributions to sustainability and environmental stewardship were acknowledged by the LGU. The City of Santa Rosa recognized MHI as a true Sustainable Development Partner for its unwavering commitment to promoting eco-friendly practices and fostering a greener future.

The GREEN Awards is an annual event in the city that acknowledges the exceptional efforts and initiatives of a diverse range of partners and individuals, inspiring others to cultivate a community with a deep commitment to nature and environmental consciousness.

"This recognition serves as a testament to our dedication to not only providing a state-of-the-

art expressway system but also to ensuring that it harmoniously coexists with the surrounding environment, positively impacting the communities it serves. The GREEN Award reflects the fruitful collaboration between MHI and Santa Rosa in nurturing a more sustainable and eco-conscious region, and it further motivates MHI to continue striving for excellence in all aspects of its operations," said Mr. Raul L. Ignacio, President and General Manager of MHI.

MHI remains steadfast in its commitment to transform CALAX into a 'green highway,' a significant stride in highlighting the vital role of its parent company, Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), in spearheading efforts to decarbonize the country's transport sector. This bold initiative underscores MHI's dedication to



sustainability and aligns with MPTC's vision of building a more environmentally conscious and eco-friendly transport infrastructure that will benefit both commuters and the planet alike.

CALAX is a 45-kilometer high-speed road network connecting the two provinces of Cavite and Laguna, targeting to serve around 45,000 motorists upon its completion. As of today, CALAX operates from Binan, Laguna up to the east of Silang, Cavite.

Its operational segments now seamlessly incorporate resource-saving and emission-

CALAX COMMENDED WITH GREEN AWARDS BY SANTA ROSA, LAGUNA LGU

The GREEN (Gearing towards Robust, Engaging, and Eco-friendly Nature) Awards is an annual event in the city that acknowledges the exceptional efforts and initiatives of a diverse range of partners and individuals, inspiring others to cultivate a community with a deep commitment to nature and environmental consciousness.



reduction technologies while prioritizing road safety. Toll plazas, equipped with solar panels, are self-sustaining for their operations. MHI has taken further steps by introducing barrierless entry in CALAX, reducing vehicle emissions at toll plazas and ensuring faster throughput of vehicles. The toll road company is also actively establishing

biodiverse areas and planting trees along CALAX to counter emissions. The creation of green spaces at key locations such as Mamplasan Entry/Exit, Santa Rosa Interchange, and Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Entry/Exit stands as a testament to MHI's unwavering commitment to sustainability. Aside from CALAX, MPTC also holds

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

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SM CITY BACOR



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Ready for adoption: Pinoy-made tech on disaster risk reduction at Handa Pilipinas Expo 2023

On a rainy Thursday morning, a momentous event took place at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Officials from various government agencies, local government units, legislative offices, private sectors, and Filipino researchers and scientists gathered for the opening of the 1st leg of the Handa Pilipinas Expo 2023 that featured disaster risk reduction technologies.

The three-day festivity, organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), aimed to serve as a platform to empower communities and barangays through the utilization of available data and research on disaster response, rehabilitation, and recovery. Moreover, it sought to foster collaboration among local government units, private firms, and other groups in embracing innovative Filipino-made technologies.

In his keynote message, DOST Secretary Renato U.

Solidum Jr. emphasized the risks faced by our cities. Unfortunately, decades of rapid urbanization and growth have left our municipalities vulnerable to climate-related disasters. He called for acknowledgment of our cities' exposure and lack of coping and adaptive capacities, recognizing that healthier cities are essential for their full potential to be realized.

"With our innovations, we become victors, not just victims," proclaimed Secretary Solidum, addressing the common

perception of Filipinos as disaster victims. He highlighted the transformative power of technological advancements in shaping a resilient future.

Pinoy-made techs in Handa Pilipinas Expo 2023

At the Handa Pilipinas Expo 2023, the public had the privilege of witnessing 86 groundbreaking technologies conceived and developed by Filipino researchers, engineers, and scientists.

One of these is Project SAFER, developed by the Polytechnic University of



DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. gives Senator Alan Peter S. Cayetano and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benhur Abalos Jr. an overview on the technologies exhibited in the three-day exposition of Handa Pilipinas 2023 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. (Photo from the DOST-NCR)



Various R&D projects and technologies were featured in the three-day exposition of Handa Pilipinas 2023 held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. (Photo from the DOST-NCR)

the Philippines - Parañaque Campus, it aims to support emergency broadcast and two-way communication in disaster-prone areas. Another one is the GeoRisk Initiative Platform, a digital platform developed by DOST-PHIVOLCS and several government agencies, presented an official platform for sharing and analyzing hazards and climate information, collecting exposure data, and conducting risk assessments.

The exhibit also featured HazardHunterPH, an advanced system providing comprehensive site-specific reports on seismic, volcanic, and hydro-meteorological hazards. Additionally, the Automatic Trash Rake, developed by the DOST-Metals Industry Research and Development Center (MIRDC), offered an innovative solution to combat flooding caused by excessive garbage in waterways. This fully automated system enhanced flood control

operations by efficiently collecting large-sized trash along creeks and unclogging drainage systems.

On the other hand, water security concerns were addressed by the DOST-Food Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI), which introduced Iodine Rich Drinking Water (Tubig Talino) to combat Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) among Filipinos. This purified or ordinary potable water, mixed with Water Plus 2, aims to improve iodine intake and promote better health.

Handa Pilipinas Expo 2023 also showcased emergency rescue technologies such as UNSINKABLE PORTA BOAT (UPB) and the Water Ambulance (UWA), designed to facilitate quick responses in urban rescue operations. Innovations for fire incidents in informal settlements were presented, including the fire blanket and the Fire Trike, designed by Valenzuela Inventors

Producers Society that can prevent fires from spreading in narrow roads.

For families affected by disasters and emergencies, the DOST-Forest Products Research and Development Institute exhibited a DIY bamboo shelter. This 24 sq. m. semi-permanent shelter, equipped with electricity and water supply, utilized 90% renewable materials, making it environment friendly.

Notably, Filipino-made technologies were also employed to communicate scientific knowledge effectively. The DRRM Mobile Learning Hub of Muntinlupa City, DOST-ASTI's Kooha application, DOST-PAGASA's Augmented-Reality Terrain-Flood Simulator with Kinetic Sand, and DOST-PHIVOLCS' Earthquake Simulator play the pivotal role in increasing public safety awareness and disaster preparedness.

Sec. Solidum reiterated

the importance of reimagining city organization, design, planning, and construction to create smart, sustainable, and livable cities. He emphasized the Philippines' vulnerability to hydrometeorological and geological hazards, which resulted in tragic losses of life, property, and livelihood. However, he firmly believed that disasters can be prevented and that technology plays a crucial role in saving lives and securing livelihoods.

Support from the LGUs and Legislative Body

At the opening ceremony, the support from the legislative body and local government units (LGUs) was evident, with Senator Alan Peter S. Cayetano, who chairs the Science and Technology Committee in the Senate, and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benhur Abalos Jr. commending the DOST's efforts.

"One thing that I promise on this day is to Dr. Solidum and to DOST: I will make sure that the LGUs, from the Governors to the Mayors, prioritize three aspects. Number 1, increasing awareness of what you are doing. Number 2, actively participating in your initiatives. And number 3, becoming partners with DOST in establishing innovation hubs all over the country," said Secretary Abalos.

Meanwhile, in his message, Senator Cayetano urged the officials and guests involved in disaster preparedness on principles, priorities, and prevention.

"Sec. Solidum, it is in your hands to remind the entire Philippines that science, technology, and innovation are things we cannot neglect and hopefully you will have a good ally in the cabinet and hopefully myself and Senator Pia will be a good ally in Senate," said

Senator Cayetano.

Lastly, Mayor Rubiano of Pasay said that trusting in the DOST's plans and initiatives would make our home the safest and most prepared it can be, not only in the city but also in all megacities and the entire country. She assured that Pasay City will be always in the forefront of supporting all the programs of the science department, particularly to disaster response, rehabilitation, and recovery.

As the Luzon Leg with a theme "Risk Reduction in Megacities" kicked off, the Handa Pilipinas Expo 2023 provided a vital platform to showcase the latest innovations and research outputs in disaster preparedness, response, rehabilitation, and recovery. To learn more about the event, follow its official Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/dost.handapinas> (By Allan Mauro V. Marfal, DOST-STII)

Easier Journeys Ahead: Shorter Travel to Silang Town and Tagaytay Just Around the Corner

Get ready to experience a game-changer in travel convenience as the new subsection of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) gears up to open its doors, paving the way for quicker access to Silang and Tagaytay!



Nestled in a strategic location near Metro Manila, the province of Cavite stands as an ideal destination for an effortless road trip and a rejuvenating weekend getaway. Renowned for its picturesque tourist spots and Instagram-worthy destinations, Cavite boasts two notable gems - the breathtaking landscape in Tagaytay, and the rapidly growing array of coffee shops and farm-to-table restaurants of Silang town. Whether you seek



scenic landscapes or immersive cultural experiences, Cavite holds the key to satisfying every discerning traveler's wanderlust.

Explore the charm of Cavite and embrace the joys of seamless travel, as the soon-to-open CALAX Silang (Aguinaldo) Interchange promises to redefine your Biyaheng South. Check out these spots that are located a few minutes away from the upcoming exit of CALAX!

CAFES AND RESTAURANTS

1. Cafe Agapita - (Photos from Café Agapita Facebook page)

Situated in the heart of Silang, Cavite, this famous family-ran cafe in town is known for its rich-tasting coffee drinks, home-baked bread, pastries, and cakes. The cafe's charming ambiance adds to the allure, as it resides in a rustic two-story house adorned with glass windows, warm wood accents, and lush greens, creating a welcoming and soothing atmosphere for all who step through its doors.

2. Salakot Cafe - Conveniently situated along Aguinaldo Highway in Silang, near the boundary of Tagaytay proper, this delightful cafe-slash-restaurant offers a unique and authentic dining experience in a charming Kubo-style setting. Embracing its traditional theme, the establishment boasts an impressive menu featuring a wide array of Filipino delicacies, from beloved classics like Kare-Kare, Bulalo, Lechon, and Crispy Pata to delectable delights like grilled squid and buttered shrimp, fulfilling every Filipino's longing for familiar flavors.

WELLNESS AND STAYCATIONS

3. Ilog Maria Bee Farm (Photos from Melo Villareal / outoftownblog.com) - Ilog Maria Bee Farm is a relaxing place in Silang, Cavite, where guests can visit to explore various beauty products and oils. It is named after the Blessed Virgin Mary, believed to have brought many blessings and miracles to the farm. This bee farm is known for its natural and handmade beeswax products, which have nourishing and healing properties.

4. La VeryOl's Mountain View Garden - Amidst Tagaytay's renowned



reputation for its perfect view of Taal volcano and picturesque mountain backdrop, La VeryOl Mountain View Garden, located in Brgy. San Francisco, Tagaytay, seizes this opportunity to offer a truly unique experience for tourists - a kawa bath with a view. This scenic location on the ridge provides an exceptional vantage point, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the lush, forested slopes while enjoying the relaxing kawa bath experience. And for those seeking more than just an hour of relaxation, the spa also offers the option of an overnight stay, ensuring a truly memorable and rejuvenating getaway.

SHOPPING CENTER

5. Acienda Designer Outlet - Located in Silang, Cavite, Acienda proudly boasts being the Philippines' first true outlet mall. With a wide array of fashion brand units, visitors are sure to discover fantastic deals and steals. Branded and luxury goods are available at highly discounted rates, making it a must-visit stop after a Biyaheng South adventure or before heading back home. Additionally, it's just a few minutes away from CALAX Silang (Aguinaldo) Interchange, offering convenient access for travelers returning to Metro Manila.

CALAX SILANG (AGUINALDO)

INTERCHANGE

The upcoming exit of CALAX is now 91% completed and is targeted to be opened to motorists in September. Ongoing construction activities include the development of the toll plaza, concrete pouring for the main line and median barriers, as well as various finishing works. In the upcoming phases, the focus will be on the construction of toll facilities, including road lights, signages, and sound barriers. Additionally, preparations for the toll collection system are also underway. It is expected to cater to an additional 5,000 daily motorists, providing them with convenient access to these vibrant areas.

Looking ahead, CALAX will further expand to a total of 45 kilometers by 2024 and will feature eight interchanges: Technopark, Laguna Boulevard, Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road, Silang East, Silang (Aguinaldo), Governor's Drive, Open Canal, and Kawit Interchange. It will connect to the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) in Kawit. Currently, its operational segments stretch from Mamplasan Rotunda up to Silang East Interchange.

Looking for your next adventure destination? Look no further! Join us on Facebook (fb.com/biyahengsouth) and TikTok (@biyahengsouth) for a virtual exploration of the stunning beauty of Cavite.

SAFE MALLING AT SM CITY BACCOOR



SM CITY BACCOOR - To better keep everyone safe, SM City Bacoor employees and security personnel gathered with Bacoor BFP to practice extinguishing fire during the 2nd SM Nationwide Fire Drill held simultaneously across SM Malls nationwide. This is part of SM's fire emergency preparedness training and participation in the National Disaster Resilience Month.



DOH Calabarzon may paalala sa publiko kontra dengue

Patuloy ang Department of Health Center for Health Development Calabarzon (DOH 4-A) sa pagbibigay ng paalala sa publiko laban sa sakit na dengue ngayong panahon ng tag-ulan.

"During this season, heavy rainfall causes hot and wet environment and creates stagnant water - an ideal mosquito breeding condition. Kaya mahalaga na mapanatili natin ang kalinisan, sa loob at labas ng ating bahay. ► DOH • 3

"BRIGADA ESKWELA" 2023 held at MALAGASANG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MALAGASANG 1-C, IMUS CITY, CAVITE



The event was held under the supervision of 1LT EMMANUEL ERNEL C SAPINOSO PA (RES), Alpha Company Commander, led by 2LT MC DONNELLE LIWAG PA (RES) together with the Enlisted Personnels from 402nd CaviteReady Reserve Infantry Battalion and BJMP Officers and Trainees participated in the activity in Malagasang Elementary school, Malagasang 1-C Imus City, Cavite.



The new set of officers of the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) of Barangay Panamitan Kawit, Cavite (front row, from left to right) Arnel P. Reyes - Secretary, Ceferina D.G. Peregrino - PRO, Fe Javier - Purok Leader, Thelma T. Rebullar - President, Zosima M. Vallada - Auditor, Grace Napalan - Purok Leader, Nerissa S. Castillo - Purok Leader, Danilo D. Pan - Vice President, (second row, from left to right) Divinia E. Lunasin, Marieann A. Asuncion, Grace O. Sto. Domingo - Purok Leaders, Barangay Chairman Gilbert O. Reyes, Consuelo R. Reboya - Purok Leader and Griselda C. Maluto - Executive Vice President, (not in photo: Belinda Espiritu-Treasurer and Arlene Vallada-Purok Leader)