



PBBM CITES SIGNIFICANCE OF MATATAG CURRICULUM, SAYS IT COULD FINE TUNE PH EDUCATION

The Department of Education's (DepEd) launching of the MATATAG Curriculum will improve the country's school curriculum and determine what suits the needs of Filipino learners, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said on Monday.

"This is very significant because ... ang sinusubukan nating gawin

ay ayusin ang curriculum para maging mas bagay sa pangangailangan ng mga

batang Pilipino," President Marcos said during an interview after attending

2023 Brigada Eskwela event in Manila. "Kasama na rin diyan,

the MATATAG Program includes all our efforts na **► PBBM CITES • 4**

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

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Kawit tourism presents local history and culture through heritage tour

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, CAVITE (PIA) - The local government of Kawit, through its Tourism Office, offers a free heritage tour, done every Thursday of August, as part of the month-long celebration of Kawit Day.

Municipal Tourism head Rhouz Camposanto, in an interview on Tuesday, said the tour is a regular activity every August and is being done to make its town folks, especially the youth and various sectors, realize the municipality's significance and the various roles it has played in history and the country's independence.

"Mahalagang makilala ng bagong henerasyon ang ating Kawit at ang ambag natin sa kasaysayan pati na sa kalayaan ng ating bansa," (it is important for the new generation to have an in depth knowledge about our town and its contribution to history and independence), said Camposanto.

Through this understanding, it is the LGU's hope that it will forge appreciation and love for the historical town.

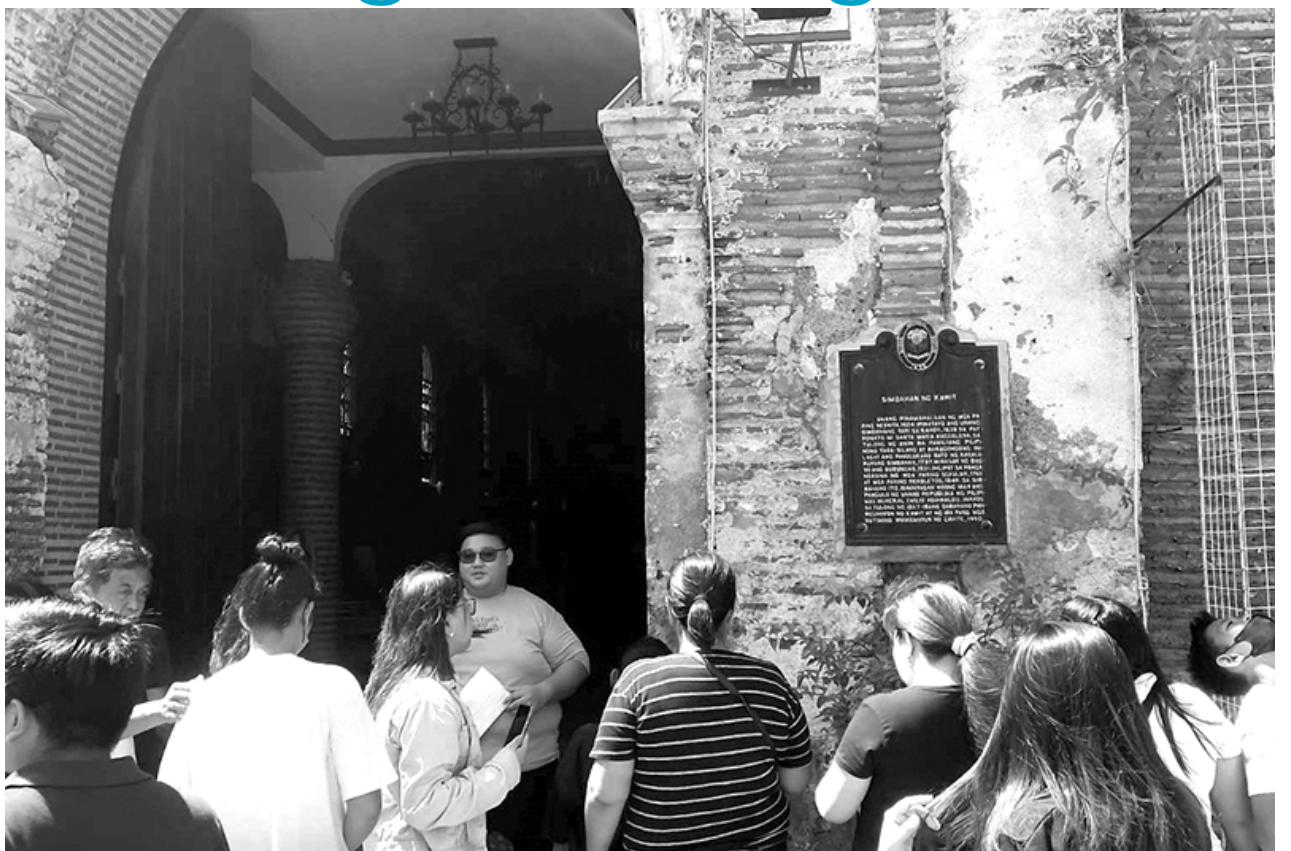
Done in partnership with the National Historical Commission of the

Philippines (NHCP), the tour itinerary includes the town's historical landmarks like Museo ni Baldomero Aguinaldo, Diocesan Shrine and Parish of St. Mary Magdalene, the Battle of Binakayan Monument and the Aguinaldo museum and freedom park.

Guests will be touring around on board Cavite's very own baby bus. Tour guides, including water on board and some light snacks, are also provided.

To date, local tourism has catered to youth groups, the LGBTQIA+ community, religious organizations, tour operators, and persons with disability (PWD) sector.

There are two remaining Thursdays left to join the tour - on the 24th and 31st of August - and non-Kawit residents are welcome to join. **(RF/PIA-Cavite; with reports from Gladys Pino)**



Kawit tourism head Rhouz Camposanto explaining to children with disability and their parents about the Diocesan Shrine and Parish of St. Mary Magdalene and its significance to history.

New CAVITEX toll rates starting August 21



The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), the government agency that regulates all toll roads in the Philippines has recently approved the 2017 periodic toll petition of joint venture partners Cavitex Infrastructure Corporation (CIC) and Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), for the toll rate adjustments in the 14-kilometer Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX).

Under the Toll Operation Agreement between the TRB, CIC, and PRA, the CAVITEX toll rates are allowed to be periodically adjusted every three (3) years. Exercising their right, CIC and PRA filed their Petition for Approval of Periodic Toll Rate

Adjustment for R-1 Expressway (Seaside to Zapote) and R-1 Expressway Extension, Segment 4 (Zapote to Kawit) before the TRB in 2017.

Upon careful consideration and diligent review of the submissions,

the TRB issued its Resolution granting the Petition and allowing the implementation of the provisionally approved toll rates.

With this, starting midnight on August 21, 2023, CAVITEX motorists traveling from MIAA Exit to

Longos, Bacoor (and vice versa) would be charged the following VAT-inclusive rates per vehicle class at the Parañaque Toll Plaza: ₱35.00 for Class 1, ₱70.00 for Class 2, and ₱104.00 for Class 3. Meanwhile, **► NEW CAVITEX • 3**

SMC: NMIA not a reclamation project

The New Manila International Airport (NMIA) project, set to be the country's largest international airport with four runways, is being built not on reclaimed land, but on existing low-lying land that, historically, are vulnerable to heavy flooding and were converted to commercial fishponds.

San Miguel Corporation (SMC) president and CEO Ramon S. Ang said it is important to clarify the nature of its airport project amid recent discussions surrounding Manila Bay reclamation projects.

The construction of the airport project, covered by Republic Act 11506, does not involve creating new land from Manila Bay, Ang clarified.

Rather, he said, it involves re-developing existing land, that had been inundated by water in previous decades due to factors that include flooding from **► SMC: NMIA • 3**

EDITORIAL

Do you have a tree planting plan?

I think that I shall never see, a poem as lovely as a tree," goes the famous poem, Trees, by Joyce Kilmer.

In today's landscape, with climate change hanging thick in the air, a tree is more than just lovely, it is precious. The value of a tree is well-known and its functions are many: its branches, leaves and trunk provide shade, food ingredients, and material for shelter, while its roots prevent soil erosion to hold back floods and landslides.

Through the years, there had been many tree planting programs initiated by government and private organizations to keep forests populated with trees. The programs continue until today and it is not unusual for private groups to hold tree planting activities to commemorate special days in their personal or corporate calendars.

Last week, almost unnoticed, the House of Representatives approved a "bill that will require a Tree Planting Plan (TPP) from all applicants of building permits for residential, commercial, industrial, and public building development projects in a bid to help mitigate the effects of climate change and environmental degradation."

Known as House Bill (HB) No. 8569, it will require any person or entity who will construct a structure to have a tree planting plan. The bill also specifies the species to be planted –indigenous tree varieties that can grow well in specific locations. For residential lots, endemic ornamental plants or fruit-bearing trees will be recommended.

"In requiring a Tree Planting Plan to secure building permits, we aim to enhance environmental quality, mitigate the effects of climate change and preserve the environment for present and future generations," House Speaker Martin Romualdez said after the bill was passed with 266 affirmative votes, with no negative vote nor abstention, during plenary session on Aug. 9.

He said that "under the bill, any person, firm, corporation, department, office, bureau, agency or instrumentality of the government intending to construct, alter, repair or convert any building or structure, is required to set aside, and properly maintain in said property, areas adequate for planting and maintaining trees and flora."

Setting aside a piece of property for the trees should not be the only requirement for the TPP. It will also need a person to nurture them until their branches, leaves and trunks will be strong enough to survive the elements. Many tree planting programs in the past did not prosper because of the absence of a caretaker.

This bill which is expected to become a law soon



is not the only one dedicated to populate our forests and urban landscapes with trees. A few years ago, a local government unit passed an ordinance requiring applicants for a marriage license to plant a tree. That ordinance was happily followed by couples who found the requirement a significant activity that marked the beginning of their lives together.

There is one more reason why trees are important. In the eighties, the concept of "forest bathing" was introduced in Japan and the health effects of nature,

particularly trees, was the subject of scientific studies. The many who have found walks in the forest and time with trees calming and healing know the importance of trees in the lives of humans.

Those of us who are aware of the tree's value in our environment should make it our aim to do more to propagate trees. One, to plant at least one tree a year, perhaps on one's birthday. Two, if you have time, go further: volunteer to be a tree caretaker for your neighborhood.

NGCP conducts facility tours for universities nationwide

To help mold and develop the next generation of engineers, NGCP continues to hold facility tours for university students from different parts of the country. Recently, several universities completed tours in various NGCP facilities: the Tarlac State University at NGCP's Mexico Substation, Batangas State University at Laoag Substation, University of Nueva Caceres at Naga Substation, Mindanao State University-General Santos City Campus at Toril Substation, University of the East-Recto at Bauang Substation, and Mindanao State University-Marawi Campus at Baloi Substation.



More than 400 engineering students from these universities participated in the facility tours, which included a walkthrough of NGCP's substation operations as well as presentations on NGCP's critical role and

contribution to the power industry. "We are more than happy to host young minds at our facilities so they can see for themselves the everyday operations of NGCP. Understanding the importance of power

transmission in the energy system, and how NGCP contributes to the country's economic development is important to understanding the energy industry," said NGCP. "We also want to showcase the capability of

our engineers and other technical staff, and we hope to inspire them as future engineers," added the company. NGCP expects to conduct more facility tours for university students in the coming months.

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DENR TO CONDUCT THOROUGH REVIEW OF MANILA BAY RECLAMATION PROJECTS FOLLOWING PBBM'S SUSPENSION ON ALL PROJECTS

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) assured the public that it will do its job to ensure that reclamation projects in the Manila Bay are implemented within the bounds of the law, especially after President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ordered the suspension of all reclamations in the vital waterway.

In a press briefing in Malacañang, Environment Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said that the administration understands the intersection between sustainable development, the environment, biodiversity, climate change, and land-use change among others, as mentioned by President Marcos in his State of the Nation Address (SONA).

"We are here at that point where the President has then issued the suspension of reclamation projects in Manila Bay really to look into, number one, the environmental impacts, (and) also the social impacts of these activities,"

Yulo-Loyzaga said. "On the part of the DENR, we are, of course, as I said before, looking into the compliances, the conditions under which the ECCs (Environmental Compliance Certificates) and area clearances were issued."

The issue, she said, is the Community Impact Assessment to be carried out by a scientific team that the DENR will be organizing by this month.

"We intend to provide a program of work, once they have all met together. Hindi lang po ito simple. Community Impact Assessment involves drivers; it involves feedback and it involves

many different disciplines," she pointed out.

The assessment of some 22 projects, approved during the previous administration, will be through trans-disciplinary work, which will get the inputs from social scientists, communities, experts, and academicians, she said.

Asked about DENR's target, she said, the department will know once the scientific team converges and the work program will be laid out. The team will include physical scientist, oceanographers, geologist, climate scientist, as well as social scientist.

Yulo-Loyzaga clarified that the President's declaration covers all the projects that are now suspended and under review.

"We have to take our time, really, beginning with those that are ongoing, because they are, in fact, already impacting the areas. And then, we will graduate to those that are in fact, still not yet begun," she pointed out.

In addition, the DENR chief said her agency has a mandate under the mandamus issued by the high court, which is to rehabilitate Manila Bay to the point "where people can actually swim and fish, and that is an order we take very seriously."

She pointed out that aside from the DENR, there are 13 other agencies ordered by the Supreme Court to



rehabilitate the bay.

"Now, if we are to do what we have been obligated to do by the Supreme Court, we need to do the review of these projects," she said.

During a meeting with local officials in Bulacan early this week, Marcos

said the government has suspended all reclamation projects in Manila Bay, noting the issues in project implementation. He pointed to multiple problems, stressing that many of the projects are not being conducted properly. | PND

New CAVITEX

(FROM PAGE 1)

motorists traversing Longos, Bacoor to Kawit (and vice versa) would be charged at the Kawit Toll Plaza with Php 73.00 for Class 1, Php 146.00 for Class 2, and Php 219.00 for Class 3.

Through the years, CIC and PRA remain dedicated to enhancing and maintaining the CAVITEX, continuously striving to provide a seamless and safe travel experience for all motorists.

They have jointly undertaken various enhancements, including a full asphalt overlay across the entire stretch of the expressway, the construction of the Pacific fly-over and Marina left turning facility, the widening of Las Pinas, Wawa, and Paranaque bridges, and regular heavy maintenance works, to ensure optimal road quality.

To enhance the efficiency of its toll collection system, the toll road operator has implemented Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology. This advanced system utilizes smart cameras to instantly recognize and capture vehicle license plates at all toll booths, enabling seamless and fast-track cashless transactions. These improvements have greatly contributed to the safety and convenience of the 160,000 average daily motorists who rely on CAVITEX.

Mindful of the effect of the toll rate adjustment,

CIC will be reactivating the Abante Card program. CIC has initiated the program specifically to support public utility vehicle (PUV) operators and drivers who ply the CAVITEX thoroughfare, including jeepneys, UV Express, and buses. Through the program, PUV operators and drivers can enjoy the old toll rates, helping them sustain their businesses and facilitate affordable transportation options for commuters.

"We recognize the impact of the toll increase on Class 1 and Class 2 PUV drivers. That's why we're reactivating our Abante Card program to provide some relief during this transition. With the Abante Card, PUV drivers will have the opportunity to adjust and enjoy the old toll rates for a period of about three months. We believe this program will help alleviate the financial burden on our valued PUV drivers and provide them with a smoother transition during this time. We remain committed to supporting the PUV community and ensuring their continued success on the road," said MPTC President and CEO Rogelio Singson.

The toll reprieve program has been designed to be user-friendly and convenient for PUV operators and drivers. Through a simple RFID enrollment process, operators can easily

register their accounts in coordination with their respective transport organizations. Once enrolled, the program will automatically apply the reprieve for a duration of 90 days, starting from the first day of the implementation of the new toll rates.

Cavitex Infrastructure Corporation is a concessionaire of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation, the leading tollway and mobility service provider in the country. Aside from CAVITEX, MPTC also holds concession rights for Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), Subic-Clark Expressway (SCTEX), NLEX Connector, and Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX)

Additional Information: The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) is the government agency that regulates all toll roads in the Philippines. It was established through Presidential Decree No. 1112. It is governed by the Board composed of the following: Secretary of Department of Transportation (DOTr) as Chairman; Secretaries and heads of the following agencies as Members: Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH); Department of Finance (DOF); National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); and A representative from the private sector to be appointed by the President.

SMC: NMIA...

(FROM PAGE 1)

heavily-silted river systems, conversion to fish ponds and over-extraction of groundwater that made it more susceptible to land subsidence, among others.

"The airport project does not involve reclamation. The project site has existing, valid land titles indicating its original status as land. Due to natural processes over time, this land had become prone to regular inundation. Instead of creating new land, we are redeveloping it to its former state ensuring its productive and sustainable use for the future," Ang said.

Worth noting is the fact that the site is an island, as can be seen in maps of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the National Mapping Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) from

the 1990s.

Surrounded by the Meycauyan, Taliptip and Maycapiz rivers, the low-lying land has been converted into fish ponds. This has, however, contributed to flooding in nearby towns, as the flow of the rivers out to Manila Bay had been impeded, and since the rivers themselves had become shallow due to siltation and pollution.

Ang reiterated that the land re-development is being done with international experts and partners including global maritime services expert Royal Boskalis, to ensure that it follows the strictest international standards in environmental and social impacts mitigation.

As part of the airport's development, SMC is also implementing a massive river cleanup and rehabilitation effort

covering not just the nearby Marilao-Meycauyan-Obando river systems (MMORS), but other rivers throughout Bulacan, to help address the province's perennial flooding problem.

"Again, our goal with this massive project is to rejuvenate the inundated land and repurpose it into a more productive and transformative asset for Bulacan, the country and the Filipino people. The NMIA will not only provide a world-class facility, it will also serve as a catalyst for local and national economic growth, opening doors to countless job opportunities and paving the way for a future-ready Philippines that is competitive on the global stage," Ang said.

"We will stay committed to ensuring that this development uplifts the lives of our kababayans and balances progress with responsibility," he concluded.

Fun run...

(FROM PAGE 8)

their primary care providers by providing information on risk factors, symptoms, and access points that would make it easier to navigate the healthcare system," Ho said in a statement.

"This also interfaces with our campaign for the Seven Healthy Habits, and in making the healthy choice the easier choice for everyone, every time and everywhere," she added.

Meanwhile, DOH

Calabarzon encouraged smokers to quit smoking and vaping as these remain risk factors for lung diseases.

The regional health department also stressed the importance of annual physical and chest X-ray examinations.

"We have to stay away from smoking and vaping. And don't forget to have your annual physical examination especially your chest x-ray. At kung meron na po

tayong ubo ng dalawang linggo magpacheck up na po tayo sa pinakamalapit na hospital," Dr. Evamarie Torio, DOH Calabarzon's Infectious Disease Cluster Head, said.

Proclamation No. 1761, s. 1978 declared August as National Lung Month to increase public awareness among Filipinos about common pulmonary conditions and the importance of maintaining healthy lungs for a better lifestyle. (AM, PIA-4A/with reports from PIA Cavite)

MPTC, SMC officially inks deal to build CBEX and NBEX

PASIG, Philippines, 14th August 2023 – Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (“MPTC”), the tollways infrastructure unit of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation and San Miguel Corporation (“SMC”) today announced the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) to design, build and operate the 87.96-kilometer Cavite-Batangas Expressway (“CBEX”) and Nasugbu-Bauan Expressway (“NBEX”). The project aims to connect MPTC’s Cavite-Laguna Expressway (“CALAX”) to Bauan, Batangas, making travel easier and more convenient for motorists.

The signing ceremony, led by MPTC Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan and SMC Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang, along with Chaye Cabal Revilla and SMC SVP, Infrastructure Business Head Lorenzo Formoso III, marks a significant milestone in the development of the P72 billion CBEX and NBEX project.

The MOA signing underscores the commitment of both toll road companies to deliver world-class expressways that will serve the needs of millions of motorists and commuters in the CALABARZON region. Throughout the project, MPTC and SMC will work closely with the Philippine government, local communities, and stakeholders to ensure a sustainable and responsible development that aligns with the country’s infrastructure goals.

“Our shared commitment to nation-building has led us to this historic collaboration. Together, we aim to deliver world-class road networks that will serve as arteries of progress,

growth and development for our country and the Filipino people. This collaboration stands as a testament to what we can achieve when we are united in purpose,” SMC President and CEO Ramon S. Ang said.

“Together with SMC, we envisage a future where our CBEX and NBEX can help pave the way for connectivity and economic growth in the CALABARZON region. We look forward to leveraging on our respective strengths for the realization of this vital infrastructure project.” said MPTC Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan

Under the agreement, MPTC and SMC will jointly undertake the construction, operation and maintenance of the 88-kilometer-long toll road projects. This will encompass two vital expressways: one is the 27.06-kilometer CBEX that will establish a crucial link connecting CALAX’ Silang (Aguinaldo) Interchange to Nasugbu, Batangas, while the 60.90-kilometer NBEX will provide seamless connectivity from Nasugbu to Bauan, Batangas. The groundbreaking is

scheduled for 2024 and CBEX and NBEX are expected to be completed and open to the public in 2027.

The route will traverse the townships of Silang, Amadeo, Tagaytay, Indang, Mendez, and Alfonso in Cavite before crossing into Nasugbu and finally reaching Bauan, Batangas.

In 2018, MPTC presented a proposal for the 50.4-kilometer Cavite-Tagaytay-Batangas Expressway (CTBEX) project to the Department of Public Works and Highways and was granted the original proponent status. Similarly, SMC’s unsolicited proposal for the CBEX and NBEX was approved by the Cavite and Batangas government. Both projects share the common goal of connecting the provinces of Cavite and Batangas through Tagaytay City and MPTC and SMC have come together as partners in this significant venture.

Both MPTC and SMC share a common goal of contributing to the development of road infrastructure and enhancing the transportation sector in the



MPTC Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan (right), signs a Memorandum of Agreement with SMC Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang (left) to design, build, and operate CBEX and NBEX.

country. Aside from CALAX, MPTC currently holds the concession for several vital expressways, including the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), its C5 Link Segment, the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), the NLEX Connector Road, and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu. Whilst SMC holds the concession for crucial toll roads such as the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), Skyway, NAIA Expressway (NAIAX), Star Tollway, Tarlac-

Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX), and the Muntinlupa-Cavite Expressway (MCX).

The implementation of the transaction is subject to completion of certain conditions, including the execution procurement relevant approvals and execution of definitive agreements.

About Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (“MPTC”)

MPTC is the leading toll road concessionaire and operator in the Philippines. It manages and operates a network of expressways , contributing to the

improvement of transportation infrastructure and connectivity in the country.

About San Miguel Corporation (“SMC”)

SMC is one of the largest and most diversified conglomerates in the Philippines. It operates businesses in various industries, including food and beverage, packaging, infrastructure and energy. The company is committed to nation building and contributing to the country’s progress through various infrastructure projects.

DOST, LGU...

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the first project for Oroquieta City under DOST’s Smart and Sustainable Communities Program.

Through this project, we are hopeful that this would help fuel the realization of the city’s thrust of becoming an economically sustainable city. In DOST, we assure you that we will continue to support projects like MapX for the advancement

of our communities,” said Rogelyn Calago, Science Research Specialist II of DOST-Misamis Occidental.

The Ceremonial MOA Signing was graced by Rogelyn Calago, Science Research Specialist II of DOST-Misamis Occidental, Dr. Rolynd Daguil, President of Caraga State University, and Mayor Lemuel Meyrick Acosta of Oroquieta City. They are also joined by Melbert Bonotan, Project

Leader of MapX, and Rey C. Guerra, Officer-in-Charge of the City Assessor’s Office.

Along with the Ceremonial MOA Signing, the MapX team also started gathering data for the onboarding of RPUs into the system. The team will then conduct a user training to upskill the staff of the City Assessor’s Office in using MapX. **(Ella B. Nadela, DOST Misamis Occidental) #ScienceForThePeople #OneDOST4U**

LRT-1

(FROM PAGE 8)

of our LRT-1 system. We aim to improve capacity and performance across the line, as well as enable more trains with better connections and greater reliability in anticipation of the much-awaited completion of Cavite Extension Phase 1,” LRM Chief Operating Officer Rolando J. Paulino III said.

The continuous upgrade of LRT-1 includes the installation of a new software baseline on the currently operating

signaling system to be fully compatible with the LRT-1 Cavite Extension software baseline and facilitate the needed testing and commissioning of the system.

Once successfully upgraded, this is expected to lead to the full cutover for the extended signaling system from the existing LRT-1 Roosevelt Station in Quezon City to Dr. Santos Station in Paranaque City or the end station in the LRT-1

Cavite Extension – Phase 1. As of the end of July 2023, the overall completion rate for Phase 1 is already at 90.1%.

The LRM adopts advanced communication and modern technology to control and monitor the operation of its trains. It successfully migrated to the new Alstom signaling system in February 2022 to improve the total traffic control system of LRT-1 and facilitate the testing, commissioning, and operation for revenue service of its new Gen-4 trains. **(LRMC/PIA-NCR)**

PBBM cites

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para pagandahin ang mga international score natin, especially when it comes to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) tinatawag na STEM subjects. At also, binibigyan natin ng pagkakataon ‘yung mga after 10th grade na mamili kung sila ay mag-vocational, magte-technical training o itutulong nila. So that’s, more or less, the big system changes that we are doing.

For her part, Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte said the MATATAG Curriculum is the legacy of the Marcos administration in the country’s basic education, which will address the problems cited by international and local education experts in the new K-10 Program.

Among those that will be addressed are the numerous learning competencies, in which, from approximately 11,000, DepEd cut it down to 3,000 learning competencies, the education chief said.

“And sa key stages, Grade 1 to 3, dati seven subjects tayo, binaba natin

sa five subjects with the focus on Math and Reading. And then ang Science natin, papasok ‘pag Grade 4.”

DepEd launched the MATATAG Curriculum last week with the aim of decongesting the current K to 12 Curriculum.

Aside from cutting down the number of competencies, and focus on literacy, numeracy, and socio-emotional skills for kindergarten to Grade 3 learners, the new curriculum will also intensify the formation of learners’ values and character development in adherence to the Good Manners and Right Conduct (GMRC) and Values Education Act as well as the articulation of 21st Century Skills.

Asked if he supports the proposal of reverting back classes to pre-pandemic schedule, the President said he has been discussing it with DepEd officials and educators.

“Pinag-uusapan nga namin. We were talking with the teaching staff here. Tinatanong ko sa kanila, ano ‘yung preference nila. Pinag-aaralan natin. The DepEd

is in the process – sila sa kasalukuyan ay mayroon silang ginagawang study kung ano ba talaga ang pinaka-maganda,” Marcos said.

“Siguro malaking tanong ‘yan. Hindi ganooon kasimple ‘yan kasi noong pinalitan natin, pinalitan natin ‘yung schedule dahil may pandemic, tapos ngayon naman climate change ang kailangan nating pag-usapan. Dahil sa schedule ngayon, napakainit, at pati ‘yung mga bata ay hinihimatay na. Kaya’t kailangan natin isama sa ating pag-aaral ‘yan kung ano ‘yung mga dapat gawin.”

The President though clarified that the administration has no preference, and is only looking at what is the best for the Filipino learners to make them comfortable while they are in school.

“Titingnan lang talaga natin kung ano ‘yung pinakamaganda both for the kids, especially for the children, at saka sa mga teacher at saka sa mga administrative non-teaching staff. Dahil kailangan, (kung) papapasukin natin sila (at) mainit masyado, baka hindi na kayang gawin ang trabaho nila, magkasakit pa,” he added. | PND

SM Cares Advocates for Creating Safe Spaces for Breastfeeding with Free to Feed Photo Campaign

In celebration of National Breastfeeding Month this August, SM Cares continues to promote breastfeeding awareness by mounting the "Free to Feed: Championing Safe Spaces for Breastfeeding at SM" forum and photo exhibit roadshow, launched at SM City Dasmariñas last August 16, 2023, together with Provincial Nutrition Office, Dasmariñas City Health Office and Dasmariñas Green Ladies.



Mothers from Dasmariñas Green Ladies and partners from the public and private sector join hands with SM Cares in advocating for safe spaces for breastfeeding mothers with the Free to Feed photo exhibit and forum at (Mall Name)



Mothers getting the DE-DEcation perks from the Supermoms Club booth during the event.

The roadshow will be held throughout August to serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of supporting mothers in their breastfeeding journey. Under the #StoriesMatter campaign of the SM Cares advocacy on Women, featured works from photographers reflect the different stories of breastfeeding mothers from various parts of the country. The exhibit launch also featured an inclusive forum with panelists representing various sectors to spark conversations on how to create safe spaces for mothers to choose and sustain breastfeeding.

"As a Mall for All, we believe in the importance of advocating breastfeeding awareness among Filipinos and encouraging safe and welcoming spaces for mothers," said SM Cares Committee on Women and Breastfeeding Mothers Program Director Atty.

Pearl Jayagan Turley. "SM malls are a prime example of such a place where mothers are free to breastfeed anywhere, while also having breastfeeding stations that are fully equipped with anything moms might need to nourish their babies."

SM Supermalls provides accessible and safe spaces for nursing mothers through 80 breastfeeding stations available for customers and employees across SM malls nationwide. Earlier this month, SM Cares kicked off World Breastfeeding Week with sensitivity trainings for frontliners conducted by SM Mall Nurses to help create a welcoming environment for breastfeeding mothers. Dede-cation Perks are also available for mothers visiting breastfeeding stations in partnership with Baby Company, Watsons, Cetaphil, Dove and Sansfluo.

To amplify how breastfeeding is welcome at SM, the Free to Feed photo contest was also

launched for photo enthusiasts to submit original photos featuring breastfeeding mothers in any area within any SM mall, such as the food court, car park, tenant areas and more, but most especially at breastfeeding stations at the mall. Participants may send their entries through until August 21, 2023 through this link: www.bit.ly/FreeToFeedAtSM

Visitors can view the Free to Feed exhibit during the following schedules at these participating SM malls: August 10-20 at SM City Davao, August 15-21 at SM City Pampanga, August 16-20 at SM City Dasmariñas, August 19-24 at SM City Iloilo, and August 28 to September 2 at SM City North EDSA.

For more information, please visit www.smsupermalls.com/smcars or follow SM Cares on www.facebook.com/OfficialSMCares

SM CARES

Free to Feed Photography Contest

Championing Safe Spaces for Breastfeeding

Tell a story with a photo: **Where do moms breastfeed at SM?**

Submit entries by **August 21, 2023**

Scan to view mechanics and submit entries

As much as **Php30,000** in prizes for the winning photos

For pair of photographer and feature subject

SPONSORS: baby, watsons, collagen, Dove, etc.

The SM Cares Free to Feed photo contest invites photo enthusiasts and mothers to capture their breastfeeding moment anywhere within SM Supermalls.

BTS
BAWAT TAHANAN, MAY SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS 2023

The City Government of Carmona is inviting Senior High School graduates of both public and private schools to apply and be part of *Bawat Tahanan, may Scholar* (BTS) under the Local Educational Assistance Program (LEAP).

To qualify for BTS, applicants must be a resident of Carmona, a Senior High School graduate for S.Y. 2022-2023 and an incoming College Student.

For inquiries, please call the Community Affairs and Youth Development Office at (046) 487-8657.

Scan here to register

Twitter: @DahliaALoyola, Facebook: carmonalgu

LUNGSOD NG CARMONA

BTS
BAWAT TAHANAN, MAY SCHOLAR APPLICATIONS 2023

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bona fide resident of Carmona (part of RBI, CBMS, or others)
- Must be a graduate of Senior High School (S.Y. 2022-2023) and an incoming 1st year College.
- Enrolled this coming school year to any University or College in the Philippines

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- Accomplished Application Form
- Xerox of 1st Sem Enrolment (Reg) Form
- Photocopy of receipt for 1st Sem payment
- Photocopy Last Grades from Senior H.S.
- Photocopy of School ID (Back to Back) or Certificate of Non-issuance
- Barangay Clearance
- Barangay Certificate of Indigency
- Letter of request from parent addressed to Mayor
- 2 x 2 picture (1 piece only)

LUNGSOD NG CARMONA

Twitter: @DahliaALoyola, Facebook: carmonalgu

DTI 4-A rolls out second batch of KMME-MME for 2023

The Department of Trade and Industry Region 4-A, in partnership with the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE)-Go Negosyo, rolled out the second batch of KAPATID Mentor ME-Money and Market Encounter (KMME-MME) Online Program on August 15, 2023 via Zoom. 51 CALABARZON mentees from the cafe and carinderya sector will undergo the program.

The KMME-MME Online is designed to integrate the Money Market Encounter (MME) into the regular KMME Program. This aims to provide a platform for existing and aspiring micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to learn and be inspired by the entrepreneurial journey of mentors online, adapt their business strategies in responding to the challenges of the new normal business

environment, be the channel for capacity building on an online platform using the KMME modules and canned lectures via webinar, and provide an avenue for business mentorship of the waitlisted MSMEs across the regions and enhance their resiliency through a crisis.

“Our DTI Secretary Alfredo Pascual put on the top of his list of priority strategies the scaling up of MSMEs from micro to small, from



small to medium, and from medium to large. Our real goal here is to produce confident MSMEs with the right mindset and business know-how that will enable them to sustain and scale up their businesses,” said DTI Regional Operations Group Undersecretary Blesila Lantayona.

The KMME-MME online program has ten modules: entrepreneurial mindset; marketing mindset; business model canvas; operations management; digitalization; supply and value chain; enterprise accounting/financial management; human resources/organization management; product development and marketing expansion and internationalization; and good governance & ethics. Webinars on the Digital Shift & The Great Reset will also be presented.

After the ten modules, a coaching session will be held to improve the business improvement plan (BIP). After the two-week coaching, the mentees will present their BIPs to a panel of evaluators.

According to Go Negosyo Coordinator Rholan Christian Nuqui, the program has already produced 792 online mentee-graduates this 2023 and 12, 176 face-to-face and online mentee-graduates from 2016 to 2022, formed a community of MSMEs, and established business linkages.

“The KMME-MME program is developed as a practical delivery mechanism for the same mentorship modules, including access to money and market, to

guide and assist MSMEs. Thus, we wish that our mentees will enjoy their journey as they become better entrepreneurs and create better business models to navigate in this new normal,” said Pocholo Soliven, President and CEO of Soliventure Philippines, Inc. and Go Negosyo Mentor Coordinator.

“Day one of our KMME-MME program is always exciting and significant to our mentees, and I hope that the energy you have today will stay with you until the rest of the sessions. Throughout your whole journey in this program, we will guide and stay with you—from start to finish,” said DTI 4-A OIC-Regional Director Marissa Argente in her welcome remarks.

The KMME-MME Online is a public-private partnership program between the DTI and the PCE-Go Negosyo to provide business coaching and mentorship for entrepreneurs across the country. If you want to be a mentee of the KMME-MME Online, visit your nearest DTI Regional and Provincial Office or Negosyo Center nationwide.

To join the program, you must be at least 18 years of age, a resident of the region with valid ID, with registered business and operating for at least one year, with recommendation letter from partners or local officials, willing to attend 10 modules on specified schedules, willing to enter into a Contract of Commitment, must have employees/team, and must have a laptop/mobile device, strong internet connectivity, and a headset.

MARCHING STREET PARADE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 (08:00 AM)
EVANGELISTA ROAD

Sanctioned by: FIBEC, PCE-Go Negosyo

Prizes:
Champion - P50,000 + Trophy
1st Runner-Up - P30,000 + Trophy
2nd Runner-Up - P20,000 + Trophy

Scan QR Code for Registration

DRUMLINE BATTLE
SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 (09:00 AM)

Sanctioned by: FIBEC, PCE-Go Negosyo

Prizes:
Champion - P20,000 + Trophy
1st Runner-Up - P10,000 + Trophy
2nd Runner-Up - P5,000 + Trophy

Scan QR Code for Registration

COLORGUARD BATTLE
SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 (01:00 PM)

Sanctioned by: FIBEC, PCE-Go Negosyo

Prizes:
Champion - P20,000 + Trophy
1st Runner-Up - P10,000 + Trophy
2nd Runner-Up - P5,000 + Trophy

Scan QR Code for Registration

MARCHING FIELD SHOW
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 (01:00 PM)
BACOOD OVAL TRACK, BRGY. ALIMA

Sanctioned by: FIBEC, PCE-Go Negosyo

Prizes:
Champion - P100,000 + Trophy
1st Runner-Up - P50,000 + Trophy
2nd Runner-Up - P25,000 + Trophy

Scan QR Code for Registration

Registration para sa Marching Band competition ay bukas na: Bacoor City, The Marching Band Capital of the Philippines, ay nag-aanyaya sa mga musikero na sumali sa The Grandest Marching Arts Competition in the Philippines, ito ay sa category ng Marching Field Show, Marching Street Parade, Drumline Battle, at Color Guard Battle. Sa mga interesado ay maaaring bumisita sa link na ito. <https://forms.gle/wrAm6y3op81pWax7A>. Hinihikayat ang mga sasali na magpa-rehistro ng maaga dahil magsasara ito kapag nakuha na ang target participants. Ang competition ay bahagi ng pagdiriwang ng Bakood Festival 2023 at 352nd Founding Anniversary ng Bacoor. (Kuha mula sa official Facebook page ng City Government of Bacoor)

44 referees to be trained for FIBA World Cup 2023

The International Basketball Federation (FIBA) World Cup 2023 will have all its referees trained and prepared to the utmost, as assured by a Pre-Competition Clinic (PCC) from Aug. 19 to 22 in Quezon City.

The training program hosted by Seda Hotel (morning sessions) and Victoria Sports Tower (afternoon sessions) will make sure that 44 game officials will be in tip-top shape and of sound mind with under a week to go before the world meet.

"Through our PCC, we hope that our referees will be equipped with everything they need to call games as correctly and fairly as possible," FIBA Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Sports & Competition Head Eric Altamirano said in a news release on Friday.

FIBA Head of Refereeing Carl Jungerbrand and Refereeing Consultant Tomas Rimkus will join Altamirano in leading several seminars, drills, and practice games that aim to ready game officials both physically and mentally for the three-

week long tournament featuring 32 teams.

After the four-day clinic, 11 referees will be assigned to each of the four venues: the Smart Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City/Philippine Arena in Bulacan (only for Opening Day), the SM Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay, the Okinawa Arena in Japan, and the Indonesia Arena in Jakarta.

"I, along with the rest of the FIBA LOC, am looking forward to how our well-trained referees will help the FIBA World Cup 2023 go down in history as a record-breaking event," Altamirano said.

Fans can be first-hand witnesses to the readiness of referees in the FIBA World Cup 2023 by availing of tickets for Smart Araneta Coliseum games at ticketnet.com.ph, as well as for SM Mall of Asia Arena games at smtickets.com.

3 female referees

For the first time in the history of the FIBA's flagship event, three female referees, Amy Bonner, Blanca Burns and Jenna Reneau, have been nominated for the FIBA World Cup scheduled to tip off on Aug. 25.

The FIBA announced on Wednesday the selection of 44 referees who will be dispersed to various venues after a pre-competition camp in Manila to put the finishing touches on preparation for them.

The referees, with an average age of about 40, generally have more than 11 years of FIBA experience.

The 2023 FIBA World Cup will be held in the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia, marking the first time in history that the event is hosted by multiple countries. *(with reports from Xinhua/PNA)*



FIBA Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Sports & Competition Head Eric Altamirano (3rd from left) with his staff (Photo courtesy of SBP)

Junior world softball champ of Negros receives hero's welcome

BACOLOD CITY – The softbellees from Bago City, Negros Occidental, who brought honor to the country after winning the 2023 Junior League Softball World Series title in Kirkland, Washington on Aug. 5, returned to the province with a heroes' welcome Friday afternoon.



HOMEcoming. The softball team of Bago City, Negros Occidental, champion of the 12-14 age group of the 2023 Junior League Softball World Series held in Kirkland, Washington earlier this month, arrives at Bacolod-Silay Airport on Friday afternoon (Aug. 18, 2023), with the wife of Bago City Mayor Nicholas Yulo, Jeanne Louise (center), leading the hero's welcome. Representing the Philippines and the Asia-Pacific Region, it defeated USA's East Region in the finals to bring home the country's second title in 20 years. *(PNA photo by Nanette L. Guadalquivier)*

Representing the Asia-Pacific Region, they defeated USA's East Region, 3-0, in the finals of the 12-14 age category to bring home the Philippines' second title in 20 years.

Pitcher Erica Arnaiz, who led the team with 85 strikeouts, said she is glad to be home and grateful for the grand welcome accorded to them.

"We didn't expect to become champions but with God's help, we did it," she said.

They swept their first six matches to arrange a championship showdown with the team from Milford, Connecticut.

Arnaiz said determination, hard work and discipline were the keys to their victory.

Head coach Francis Fuentes said he is thankful to bring the championship back to the Philippines after two decades as he acknowledged the support of the city government of Bago, led by Mayor Nicholas Yulo.

From Bacolod-Silay

Airport, a motorcade took the team to the capitol for a courtesy call on Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson.

"I congratulate them. It shows that we Filipinos can compete in the international level," Lacson said.

The team then continued with the motorcade going to the Bago City Community Center.

Upon arrival in Manila on Wednesday, the team paid a courtesy call at the Senate, where they were honored through a resolution.

Senate Resolution 723 sponsored by Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri stated that the Junior League world champions "deserve praise, recognition and commendation for bringing pride and inspiration to the Filipino people and for showing to the world the unrelenting spirit of Filipinos."

"We are immensely proud of our girls for not only representing Asia-Pacific and the Philippines but also Negros Occidental as well. They remain undefeated in their whole junior league run," Zubiri

said. "We salute the whole team for putting Negros Occidental back on top of the softball scene."

On Thursday, the team was welcomed by officials of the Philippine Sports Commission, led by Chairperson Richard Bachmann and Women in Sports Oversight Commissioner Bong Co, at Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila.

In a statement, Michael Zialcita, district administrator of Little League Philippines, lauded the country's Junior League world champions for "achieving a remarkable milestone in their softball journey."

Arnaiz and her teammates Thereze Francine Fuentes, Ann Dyana Buenafe, Icelle Tanaman, Ashley Ortiz, Froline Manalo, Christine Jane Caracas, Daniela Bejos, Audrie Sarsona, Marie Antoinette Scapone, Nice Lobrido and Casandra Sumatra are students of Ramon Torres National High School. *(PNA)*

200 surfers to join NextGen Pilipinas Surfing event in E. Samar

TACLOBAN CITY – At least 200 surfers from all over the country will be in Calicoan Island in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, in September for the Calicoan Odyssey Wave 2023, the second leg of NextGen Pilipinas Surfing Nationals 2023.



A surfer in Calicoan Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar. *(File photo)*

Kinna Kwan, Guiuan town municipal administrator, said in a phone interview Wednesday that the actual competition, scheduled from Sept. 15 to 21, will be held at the ABCD Beach, which is considered the best surfing site in Calicoan and known for its left-handed and right-handed reef breaks.

The event will kick off on Sept. 14 through an orientation and a beach clean-up and will be followed by the opening of the surfing competition the following day. The awarding ceremony is on Sept. 20 and will be concluded by another beach clean-up the

next day.

More than PHP600,000 cash prizes are stakes for winners of the four categories in the competition.

Before Calicoan, the first leg of NextGen Pilipinas Surfing Nationals 2023 is set in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte from Sept. 1 to 7. Another leg of the surfing competition will be in Baler, Aurora; Borongan City, Eastern Samar; and Cabugao, Ilocos Sur.

The event is sanctioned by the United Philippine Surfing Association (UPSA), the national sports body for surfing in the Philippines, and recognized by the Philippine Sports

Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee as a regular member.

The event is organized by the local government unit of Guiuan, UPSA, and the local surfing organizations of Calicoan Island and Eastern Samar; ABCD Surf Calicoan Local Surfers Samrayan Surfboards, The Backyard Surf Co., and the Surf Riders Club of Eastern Samar Inc.

Calicoan, unlike other popular surfing destinations in the country, is known for its left-handler waves, which surfers would dream of surfing. It is one of the islands in Guiuan town. *(PNA)*

LRT-1 on half-day ops, Aug. 20

The Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC) announced it will implement half-day operations of LRT-1 on August 20, 2023 (Sunday) to give way for signaling system upgrade.

In an advisory, LRMC said trains from LRT-1 Baclaran Station and Roosevelt Station will start operations at 12:00 noon while the last train operation from Baclaran is at 9:30 PM and 9:45 PM for train coming from Roosevelt Station.

"We would like to ask for the kind understanding of our commuters as we implement these necessary activities for the continuous upgrade ► **LRT-1 • 4**

TESDA Cavite to launch 2023 World Café of Opportunities

TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA)
CAVITE PROVINCIAL OFFICE
celebrates

NATIONAL TECH-VOC DAY THROUGH
Programang pang-TVET Alumni

World Café of Opportunities

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
AUGUST 22

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS

WCO
World Café of Opportunities

Empowering the people through the provision of deliverable and accessible employment opportunities.

(046) 419-2646; 419-2421; 0910-549-9029

region4a.cavite@tesda.gov.ph

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, CAVITE – The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Cavite Provincial Office prepares for the conduct of a job facilitation activity dubbed "World Café of Opportunities (WCO) this August 22 to further operationalize the agency's Job Linking and Networking Services (JoLINS).

The program is in support of the TESDA's three-pronged direction toward poverty alleviation as embodied in the JoLINS which was institutionalized with the objective of helping TVET graduates/alumni in landing a job.

The activity will take place at SM City Dasmariñas, in collaboration with the Local Government of Dasmariñas City, the Provincial Government of Cavite, the Provincial Public Employment Service (PPESO) of Cavite, and the Association of Cavite Training Institutions and Vocational Educators, Inc. (ACTIVE).

TESDA Provincial Director Rosalinda B. Talavera explained that the World Café of Opportunities (WCO) through the Job Linking and Networking Services (JoLINS) of TESDA was institutionalized through TESDA Circular No. 38

series of 2016, with the sole purpose of increasing the latter's employment opportunities and served as a venue to exhibit various products of Dasmariñas through a trade fair.

Ms. Talavera added that with the support of the invited industry employers from various sectors such as construction, agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism, and national government agencies like the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Social Security System (SSS), PAG-BIG, and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), the activity will act as a conduit between job seekers and employers. **(RBF/PIA-Cavite)**

DOST, LGU Oroquieta signs MOA with CSU for digitalization of City RPT mapping operations

The Department of Science and Technology and the Local Government Unit of Oroquieta City signs a Memorandum of Agreement with Caraga State University for the digitalization of the real property tax (RPT) mapping operations of the LGU's assessor's office, recently.



The MOA strengthened the partnership founded through DOST's project, "Boosting LGU Oroquieta City's Revenue through S&T-based Real Property Tax Mapping System – MapX, a DOST funded technology". MapX is a complete

real property mapping and assessment solution that uses advanced geoinformatics technologies. Use of the system will enable LGU Oroquieta City, through its City Assessor's Office, to conveniently analyze and create maps of real property units (RPU). The

purpose of MapX is to improve tax mapping processes that could result in the increase in RPT collection thereby boosting the city's revenue. The MapX also includes a web-based parcellary mapping, map overlays, spatial analysis tools, dashboard and

visualization tools, and a programming interface. The project also covers training and technical support for the use of the system. "The improvement of tax mapping operations through MapX is only ► **DOST, LGU • 4**

Fun run kicks off lung month celebration in Calabarzon



DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE (PIA) – The Department of Health kicked off the National Lung Month observance on Saturday, August 12 with a fun run that gathered at least 500 participants from the Calabarzon region.

Dubbed run for healthy lungs, the event held at the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas included 5-kilometer and 10-kilometer races to encourage physical activity. Other activities such as zumba, fun games, 100-meter and 200-meter dash, and booths for lung health literacy and mobile x-ray

were also made available as part of the celebration. DOH Assistant Secretary Dr. Beverly Lorraine C. Ho said the DOH continues to promote the health and wellness of Filipinos by giving them information and knowledge on health-related issues to achieve a "Maligayang Body for every Filipino."

"We continue to pursue the goal of ensuring that all Filipinos have access to timely and relevant health services and health information. With KonsulTayo, we enjoy Filipino families to consult ► **FUN RUN • 3**