

Celebrating Excellence: PGC recognizes 29 Caviteño athletes

In a simple ceremony held on December 28, 2023 at the Ceremonial Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, Trece Martires City, the Provincial Government of Cavite recognized the outstanding performance of Caviteño athletes during the 32nd Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Cambodia last May 2023. These athletes showcased their prowess, determination, and dedication to their respective sports, earning recognition not only for themselves, the province of Cavite and the country.

Seven (7) Caviteño athletes who clinched the gold at the 32nd SEA Games received a well-deserved reward of P50,000 pesos each; nine (9) silver medalists, who demonstrated exceptional skills and determination received a commendable prize of P30,000 pesos each; and, thirteen (13) bronze medalists, who displayed resilience and tenacity in their competitions, were rewarded with P20,000 pesos each.

The substantial prizes serve as both a token of appreciation and a source of motivation for these athletes to continue

pushing their boundaries and inspiring the youth of Cavite to pursue excellence in sports. The acknowledgment likewise emphasizes the value placed on every achievement, underscoring the importance of hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship.

Mr. Rodel Vincent T. Bae, OIC-Provincial Administrator and Mr. Gerry Olaes, OPG-Executive Assistant V together with the staff of the Office of the Provincial Youth Development Officer were present at the event to welcome the athletes. Mr. Bae and Mr. Olaes also took the

opportunity to applaud the athletes for their hard work and dedication. Their visible support at the games not only boosted the morale of the competing athletes but also communicated the importance of sports in the overall development of the province.

The rewards and recognition for Caviteño athletes goes beyond mere monetary incentives. It plays a crucial role in fostering a culture of excellence within the province, inspiring the younger generation to pursue their dreams in sports, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. (OPIO)



JAPANESE COMPANY TO INVEST ADDITIONAL PHP 1.1 BILLION TO PH'S PUV MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. brought home PhP1.1 billion investment pledge from Japanese company Toyota Motor Corp. which expressed support to the government's public utility vehicle modernization (PUV) program.

In a roundtable discussion with Japanese business community on the sidelines of the 50th Commemorative ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation Summit, Toyota Executive Vice President Yoichi Miyazaki said they are committed to invest PhP1.1 billion on top of its prior commitment of PhP4.4 billion.

"We have completed ► JAPANESE • 4



Maligayang pagdating sa Kawit sa ating mga bisita at maligayang araw ng NCSU!



Ikinagagalak namin ang maging punong-abala ang Kawit para sa NCSU at tanggapin ang mga talentadong atletang mag-aaral mula sa iba't-ibang munisipalidad upang magtagisan ng galing sa palakasan. Ayon nga sa batikang manunulat na si Nancy Pearcey, 'Competition is always a good thing. It forces us to do our best. A monopoly renders people complacent and satisfied with mediocrity.' Manalo man o matalo, baunin ninyo ang inyong karanasan sa paligsahan na ito upang matutunan ang inyong kalakasan na dapat pang palakasin at mga kahinaan na dapat bigyan ng pansin. Advanced congratulation po sa inyong lahat! #AlagangAngeloAguinaldo #RatedTripleA #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit #MayorAguinaldo

DMW program gives former OFWs who once gave up teaching a chance to go back to the classrooms

A total of 44 teachers who used to work abroad expressed their gratitude to the government's OFW reintegration program, which they said gave them a second chance to pursue their careers in the academe.

The teachers were among those who took part in the "Sa Pinas, Ikaw ang Ma'am at Sir" (SPIMS) a special program of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) which aims to help returning overseas Filipino workers who used to work as school teachers get back to the classrooms.

The regional office of the DMW enlisted them to the program, in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd).

DMW also distributed teaching kits worth P20,000 to the 44 beneficiaries of the SPIMS program.

Dondee Palmero, who worked as a teacher in Jakarta, Indonesia before she was forced to return home due to the Covid-19 pandemic, was thankful of the DMW's efforts.

"We are very thankful for this program. We, as former OFWs, are really delighted, and we are really privileged also dahil may programa ang gobyerno para tulungan kami [because the government has a program to help us] to reintegrate," Palmero said.

Palmero emphasized how the program gave him the opportunity to share the experiences and learnings he had gained while working abroad with his learners, co-teachers, and the community.

"It was also a good thing that I can impart the learning I gained. We are acclimated to the different culture, we become more complete teachers dahil naibabahagi namin ang mga karanasan namin [because we can share our experiences] culturally to our clients as well as the learners," he shared.

When asked about his plans to work again abroad, he stated, "Maybe it's a sign from God that I have to stay here... This opportunity gave me the privilege to be with my family, so I'd rather stay here and continue working to serve the Filipino people like our learners."

With the assistance received, he said that he would use it to buy some teaching materials and equipment that he could use in his teaching and share with his co-teachers.

Palmero is a full-time teacher at Mulig Elementary School in Toril, Davao City.

Similarly, Janice Luvina Baluyo, a single parent with three children, is thankful for the SPIMS program of DMW, saying that she would not enjoy what she has achieved now if not for the program.

Baluyo recalled how hard it was to secure a teaching position in a public school in her locality. She shared that she attempted to apply twice;



DMW-XI Regional Director Atty. Angela Librado-Trinidad (center) and some DMW-XI officials with the teacher beneficiaries of the SPIMS program during the turnover of teaching kits to the beneficiaries last December 22, 2023 in Davao City.



DMW-XI turns over some teaching kits worth P20,000 to 44 returnee OFW teachers under the SPIMS program of the agency.

however, all had little chance of getting hired and securing a permanent teaching position.

With responsibilities on her shoulders as a single parent, she decided to work abroad. She worked in Kuwait as an in-house tutor for 15 months.

However, months later, she did not expect to be given a teaching position from her last application at a public school in her locality. Being employed in Kuwait, she had no choice but to reject the offer.

Baluyo recalled how her life turned upside down when she got ill while working in Kuwait. With no one to ask for help, she bravely reached out to the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Kuwait, which led to her repatriation to her hometown in Davao City.

She said that her return to Davao with no work opportunities was her lowest point, until her friend, who is a teacher in Thailand, told her about the DMW's SPIMS program.

She said the program's quick response to her needs put her at ease. The program paved the way for her to get a permanent teaching position in her locality.

"Pag-abot na ko diri gipapili dayon ko'g school (When I got back here, I was asked to choose a

school. Thanks God, because of the program, wala kaayo ko naglisod magpa rank (It was not so difficult for me to be ranked," she added.

Baluyo said she considered herself "blessed" because of SPIMS.

At present, Baluyo teaches at Doña Asuncion Hizon Elementary School in Barangay Pampanga, Davao City.

For Rens Origenes, a teacher in Thailand for seven years, SPIMS is a blessing to all OFW teachers who have returned home and want to serve their communities permanently.

Like Baluyo, Origenes tried several times to apply for a teaching position at a public school in his locality, but all yielded little to no chance of getting hired due to the small number of teaching positions with several applicants.

However, when he returned home during the pandemic and with the help of SPIMS, his application for a teaching position at a public school in his locality was easy and quick.

"I was immediately given an item after the school selection process," he shared in the vernacular, adding that their salaries and benefits were

processed quickly too.

Presently, Origenes is teaching at Ula National High School in Tugbok District.

DMW-XI Regional Director lawyer Angela Librado-Trinidad said the program is one way for the government to express gratitude and delight to the returning OFW teachers for their resilience in carrying out their duties overseas and for returning to their communities to serve.

"It's our way of telling you that we want to take care of you because we want you to take part in caring for everybody in our community," Librado-Trinidad told the teachers, as she acknowledged their sacrifices in returning home to serve their communities.

"There are comforts and perks when you were outside, but for you to decide to come home because you know that you can do better in your communities, you can better the communities in the Philippines... So we value you in that respect, and we value you when you were former OFWs who decided to come home to serve your respective communities," she said.

Librado-Trinidad believed that returning teachers have so much to

offer to their learners and communities.

"When you came back from your respective posts, you brought with you the experience that no one can ever have, and that experience that you can share with your students," she said.

Although returning abroad to work again is the choice of every OFW teacher, Librado-Trinidad said that the government will respect that right and continue its obligation to protect them while working overseas.

She said that the teaching kit given under the SPIMS program is to address their teaching needs and to enhance their teaching capabilities.

The program has already served numerous returnee OFW teachers since its implementation.

As part of the national reintegration programs, DMW ensures the successful reintegration of the returnee OFW teachers while being efficient and effective in their duties as teachers in their respective communities.

The SPIMS program is still open for OFW teachers who have returned to the country and those who wish to return to the country and decide to work here permanently. (ASO/PIA-XI)

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CHIZ CALLS ON CHED, DEPED TO ENSURE NO STUDENTS ARE DISPLACED WITH SHS PHASE OUT IN SUCS, LUCS

Sen. Chiz Escudero on Wednesday called on the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Department of Education (DepEd) to closely coordinate to ensure that no senior high school (SHS) students will be displaced with the discontinuation of the SHS program in state universities (SUCs) and local universities and colleges (LUCs).

The veteran legislator said that while the discontinuation of the SHS programs in SUCs and LUCs has legal basis and is aligned with the mandate of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), it is also important that no students will be left behind because of this latest development.

"Bagama't legal ang hakbangin ng CHED, mahalaga parin na matiyak natin ang kapakanan ng ating mga estudyante sa senior high school. Walang

dapat na maiwan at mahalaga rito na nag-uusap ang CHED at DepEd," Escudero pointed out, noting that the SUCs and LUCs were only allowed to accommodate SHS during the transition period to the K-12 program.

Escudero, who chairs the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education, also said the DepEd should closely monitor through its regional offices if there are students in danger of being displaced once the SUCs/

LUCs should no longer offer the SHS program.

CHED Chairman Prospero de Vera III has earlier confirmed that a memorandum dated December 18 has been issued, stating the "discontinuance" of the Senior High School (SHS) Program in SUCs/LUCs in line with CHED's previous directives through CMO Nos. 32 and 33 series of 2015 and 2016.

In directing the HEIs to discontinue the SHS program, he said "there is

no longer a legal basis to fund the same."

De Vera stated that he was obliged to release the memorandum after discovering that "a number" of SUCs and LUCs were still accepting more senior high enrollees as of last year, which is two years after the transition period.

De Vera clarified that SUCs and LUCs were already reminded earlier to discontinue their senior high program and stop accepting more enrollees.



Pahayag ni Sen. Idol Raffy Tulfo sa Panay Power Crisis (Enero 4): Kasalukuyang nararanasan ang malawakang brownout sa Panay Island matapos ang sunod-sunod na pagtirik at tigil produksiyon ng mga planta sa mga nasabing lugar noong Jan. 2.



Ayon sa National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), apektado sa mga power interruption na ito ang iba't ibang probinsya sa Panay kabilang na ang Iloilo, Aklan, at Capiz; ang island-province ng Guimaras, pati na rin ang Negros island.

Naka-maintenance shutdown daw ang Panay Energy Development Corp. (PEDC) Unit 3, na ayon sa NGCP ay ang pinakamalaking plantang nagsu-supply ng kuryente sa Panay. Kasunod nito, biglang tumirik din ang PEDC unit 1 at PEDC Unit 2, at isa pang Palm Concepcion Power Corporation (PCPC) unit, ang pangalawa sa pinakalamaking power plant sa Iloilo.

As of Jan. 3 ay nasa 68.75% na ang nawalang supply ng kuryente sa Panay. Kaya sumatotal, sa 13 power plants na dapat nagsu-supply ng kuryente

sa probinsya, apat na lamang ang operational sa ngayon. Kinakailangan ng at least 300MW para ma-stabilize ang system at maibalik sa 100% ang supply ng kuryente.

Bilang Chairperson ng Senate Committee on Energy, lubos kong ikinababahala ang kalbaryong dinaranas ng mga residente ng Panay na apektado ang pamumuhay ngayong bagong taon dahil sa power outage roon.

Kaya patuloy akong nakikipag-coordinate sa NGCP, Department of Energy, National Electrification Administration (NEA) at iba pang ahensya para mamonitor ang pangyayari sa probinsya at mabigyan ng agarang solusyon ito.

Maghahain din ako ng Senate Resolution upang imbestigahan at mapanagot ang mga nasa likod ng hindi katanggap-tanggap na power outage na ito sa Panay island.



Medical Mission in Paliparan 3: Touching lives and spreading healing at Barangay Paliparan III, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite. On December 27, 2023, the Office of the Provincial Governor-Medical Mission Team, alongside dedicated doctors and volunteers from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, conducted a compassionate medical mission, providing free check-ups, consultations, and essential medicines to 594 grateful patients. The health outreach made an impact to the community as it addressed the primary health concerns of the residents at no cost, a testament to the dedicated service and of the provincial government of Cavite. (OPIO)



PGC extends Healthcare Services to Indang Community. In a commendable initiative to address the healthcare needs of the community, the provincial government of Cavite organized a medical and dental mission on December 22, 2023, in Brgy. Alulod, Indang, Cavite. The mission aimed to provide essential medical and dental services to the residents, enhancing their overall well-being. (OPIO)

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Japanese... (FROM PAGE 1)

investment of PhP1.3 billion out of PhP4.4 billion. We are committing an additional PhP1.1 billion for ... as a modern jeepney, bringing the total investment to PhP5.5 billion," Yoichi told President Marcos' in an update for their preparation for "the new Tamaraw."

"The Tamaraw symbolizes our desire to contribute to the Philippine economy where we develop it to be a game changer in the field of mobility service ... we look forward to your continued support in creating the

adoption of the - program," the Japanese investor added.

President Marcos witnessed the signing of nine agreements, which focused on areas of mutual cooperation such as energy, infrastructure and manufacturing and several others that are expected to benefit thousands of Filipinos in terms of employment.

In a Kapihan with the Media in Tokyo, Presidential Adviser on Investment and Economic Affairs Frederick Go said the Philippine government

is now reaping the fruit of President Marcos' visit to Japan this month and in February this year.

Secretary Go said the Marcos administration earned PhP169 billion of actualized investments.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said President Marcos' official and state visits have resulted in \$72.178 billion, or PhP4.019 trillion worth of investments in various stages.

Of the figure, the DTI said US\$5.28 billion, or PhP294 billion were materialized, resulting in over 200,000 job opportunities from the last quarter of 2022 to December 2023. | PND

DOST, NCMF... (FROM PAGE 8)

industry. Developing food and nutrition is a vital aspect of our march towards socio-economic development," Mabborang said in his speech, adding that the gathering provides an excellent narrative of a forefront position in the global halal economy.

Solidum, on the other hand, said that the ceremony is the formal sealing of the collaboration and opportunities to help maintain the quality of of the halal industry which will benefit the country.

"These initiatives of DOST and other partners are among our ways to help achieve a strong and dynamic workforce for the country's inclusive and sustainable growth. In upskilling the workforce,

our government cannot carry on the work independently. We need a whole-of-nation approach - with government, academe, businesses, and civil society working together." Sec. Solidum, further said.

DOST XI regional director, Dr. Sales, meanwhile stressed in his message that immediately after the passage of RA 10817 or An Act Instituting the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Act of 2016, creating for the Purpose the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Board and for Other Purposes, the DOST then issued a memorandum or the support program of the

agency to the halal industry development.

According to the Philippine Halal Export and Promotion Board, the DOST is mandated that it will serve as a member of PHEDPB. The DOST was likewise mandated to assist in the upgrading of facilities and institutions in halal research and development.

Atty. Mamondiong for his part, said "halal refers to healthy food." He called on his fellow Muslims to thank Solidum as he jokingly said he (Solidum) has a "solid" support to the halal industry.

The MOA signing aims to facilitate more research methods and advanced technology inputs that will enhance the production and competitiveness of the halal industry in the Philippines. (Nelson Santos PAPI)

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MAHALAGANG ANUNSYO

Ang DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH) REGION IV-A at DPWH CAVITE III DISTRICT OFFICE ay kasalukuyang nagsasagawa ng mga proyekto sa kahabaan ng EMILIO AGUINALDO HIGHWAY na sakop ng Lungsod ng Dasmariñas mula sa mga sumusunod na lokasyon:

1. Imus City - Dasmariñas City Boundary (Orchard/Golden City) hanggang Meralco Dasmariñas (Both sides) (Region IV-A)
Petsa ng Pagtatapos: Hunyo 5, 2024
2. Robinsons Place Dasmariñas hanggang Metrogate Dasmariñas (Both sides)
Petsa ng Pagtatapos: Marso 4, 2024 (DPWH Cavite III District)
3. Metrogate Dasmariñas hanggang Iglesia Ni Cristo - Lokal ng New Era (Both sides)
Petsa ng Pagtatapos: Mayo 29, 2024 (Region IV-A)

Inaasahan na ang mga proyektong ito ay magiging sanhi ng pansamantalang abala sa daloy ng trapiko, kaya't lubos naming hinihiling ang inyong pang-unawa. Ang Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Dasmariñas ay patuloy na nakikipag-ugnayan sa DPWH, at ang City Transport and Traffic Management Office ay nakatuon sa proyektong ito upang maayos na pamahalaan ang mga epekto nito sa trapiko.

Maraming salamat
 sa inyong kooperasyon at pang-unawa sa mga pagbabagong ito.

Onward. Forward. CITY OF DASMARIÑAS!

DOH improves healthcare, brings services closer to people

The Department of Health (DOH) continues to improve its mandate of bringing quality healthcare services to all Filipinos nationwide.

For the year 2023, the agency was busy on the establishment of healthcare facilities, especially in the provinces, that would provide state-of-the-art medical services.

It has been productive in bringing laboratory services to poor people in far-flung areas with the help of other government agencies.

Specialty hospitals

On March 24, the Catheterization Laboratory (CathLab) at the Jose B. Lingad Memorial General Hospital in San Fernando City, Pampanga province opened to Central Luzon residents who need interventional cardiac and non-cardiac procedures under interventional radiology.

It was completed in 120 days through the Health Facilities Enhancement Program and in coordination with provincial and local government units.

Its funding was taken out of the PHP1-billion budget given to the hospital in 2013 for the provision of equipment and buildings.

Apart from cardiac procedures, the CathLab currently serves patients in the region who have different medical needs.

Meantime, the DOH launched the construction of the Clark Multi Specialty Medical Center on July 17 in collaboration with the

Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, the Clark Development Corporation, Pampanga local government units, and in partnership with the private sector like the Bloomberry Cultural Foundation, Inc.

Specialized departments, including heart, kidney, cancer, and pediatrics, are expected to open in the soon-to-rise medical center.

To ensure the facilities in the Eastern Visayas, DOH Secretary Ted Herbosa visited Biliran Provincial Hospital (BPH), DOH-Treatment and Rehabilitation Center-Dulag, Eastern Visayas Medical Center, and the Gov. Benjamin T. Romualdez General Hospital and Schistosomiasis Center on Oct. 26 to 27.

Herbosa checked on the construction of new facilities in some of these hospitals and their best practices, innovations, and operational challenges.

He also gave them instructions on how to improve strategies in maintaining the quality of service delivery.

Lab for all

For the benefit of the marginalized population, the DOH launched the "Libreng Laboratoryo, Konsulta, at Gamot Para sa Lahat" (Lab for All) caravan in Santa Cruz town, Laguna province on June 27.

The caravan, a project of First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, aims to provide free consultation, free x-ray, laboratory services and medicines to the provinces.

Previous "Lab for All" caravans were held every Tuesday in cities in the provinces of Batangas, Tarlac, and Pampanga, and in Baguio City.

Coordinating Council for UHC law

The DOH also pushed for the creation of a council that will serve as a governing body which will oversee the implementation of the Universal Health Care (UHC) law, the estimated total of the national cost for the UHC, and the implementation of UHC at the local government level.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has approved the plan last October.

Herbosa said the DOH will chair the council with the Department of the Interior and Local Government as its co-chair.

"The council will police or monitor how LGUs or local health systems would be spending funds, income from PhilHealth, and how the other systems can be improved," he said.

The member agencies of the council include the Department of Information and Communications Technology, Department of Budget and Management, Department



Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa (PNA file photo)

of Finance, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, Philippine Regulation Commission, National Economic and Development Authority, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Commission on Higher Education and Department of Education.

Since 2021, Herbosa reported that 71 LGUs have committed to integrate their local health systems. These were labeled as UHC Integration Sites which consist of 59 provinces and 12 highly-urbanized cities.

He added that the DOH has already engaged five UHC Integration Sites to become primary care provider network sandbox or trials or pilots and these are Baguio, Bataan, Quezon, Guimaras and South Cotabato as for 2023.

2024 Priorities

Herbosa told the Philippine News Agency on Monday that health officials are drafting the plan to modernize the DOH — a measure that would address inequity in the provision of primary healthcare services among Filipinos.

"Magtatayo tayo ng ambulatory primary care centers na kumpleto ang laboratoryo, kumpleto ang mga gamot, kumpleto ang mga imaging para 'yung mga tao hindi na magsiksikan sa mga malalaking ospital (We will build ambulatory primary care centers complete with laboratories, medicines, and imaging so that people need not flock to big hospitals)," he said.

The creation of a national ambulatory and urgent care centers nationwide will ensure that the poor receives the same healthcare services

much like individuals who go to modern hospitals, he added.

For 2024, the DOH also aims to increase the immunization coverage of children under five years old to 95 percent; lower stunting or under nutrition rate among young children from the current 27 percent to 14 percent; reduce maternal mortality deaths and teenage pregnancy; lower cases of tuberculosis and human immunodeficiency virus; and decrease cases of non-communicable diseases like hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and cancer.

"Also, road safety, dumarami ang namamatay (the number of deaths is increasing) due to accidents involving motorcycles because more people are learning to drive them," Herbosa said. (PNA)



TOY FESTIVAL AT SM CITY TRECE MARTIRES: Toy enthusiasts and cosplayers gathered at SM City Trece Martires for the Toy Fest for all ages on December 25 to 30, 2023. Favorite collectibles from various animes, cartoons, and superheroes were displayed and exhibited while South Cosplayers showcased their cosplay and runway skills here at SM City Trece Martires!



GET FRESH PRODUCE AT SM CITY BACOOR'S WEEKEND MARKET: SM CITY BACOOR, CAVITE - Discover the freshest produce at SM City Bacoor's Weekend Market, a vibrant harvest haven that invites shoppers to indulge in farm-to-table goodness every Saturday and Sunday at Entrance 1, starting 7:00 AM. Local farmers and producers showcase their finest crops, ensuring a direct link from their farm to your table. From crisp vegetables to fresh fruits and dairy produce, the market offers a diverse array of high-quality products. This not only supports local businesses but also allows shoppers to savor the authenticity and goodness of freshly harvested ingredients. Join us in celebrating the joy of community, sustainability, and delectable finds at SM City Bacoor's Weekend Market.

PH sports in 2023 'a major breakthrough, 2024 a tough challenge' – POC

Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) President Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino has expressed his satisfaction with the country's performances on the international stage in 2023.

"From a scale of 1 to 10, I give Filipino athletes a high mark of 8.5 to 9 for 2023," Tolentino told RP2 Sports Radio's Headline Sports host Judith Caringal during a live interview on Wednesday afternoon.

"Yes, I'm very much contented—after breaking those records and bringing back the glory—all of those accomplishments were hard-earned, both by the athlete and their coaches and the stakeholders," the mayor of Tagaytay City, Cavite added.

Ernest John "EJ" Obiena, the first Filipino to qualify for 2024 Paris Olympics, made record-breaking performances at the Hangzhou Asian Games and Cambodia Southeast Asian Games and a historic men's pole vault silver at the world championships.

The national men's basketball team, known as Gilas Pilipinas, pocketed the gold medal in Hangzhou, the first for the country since the 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia.

"But all these gold medals, these achievements belong to all of us, all Filipinos, all of those who prayed hard," he said. "It was all about the athletes' and Team Philippines' dedication, motivation and

inspiration."

While last year was considered a successful one, Tolentino said this year will be a tough one for the Philippines with the Paris Olympics not far away.

"This will be a tough year for us, Paris is just around the corner. And before we get there, there are tough competitions for our athletes to qualify," Tolentino said.

Obiena, Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist boxer Eumir Felix Marcial and gymnasts Carlos Yulo and Aleah Finnegan have qualified for Paris and the Philippines can get more slots via universality in athletics and aquatics.

"It will be very good if we again have 19 Olympians, but if we don't have those numbers, the focus will be on the podium. Hopefully, we haul more in Paris," Tolentino said.

With the Philippines celebrating its centennial participation in the Olympics, Tolentino hopes to surpass Hidilyn Diaz-Naranjo's weightlifting gold medal, Nesty Petecio and Carlo Paalam's boxing silver and Marcial's bronze at the Tokyo Games.

"We're not the only country preparing for Paris, everybody else is preparing hard for the

Olympics. We need all the support—moral, financial, among others," he added.

Meanwhile, Tolentino announced that Peter Joseph Groseclose, 16 (speed skating short track); Avery Uriel Balbanida, 14 (skiing, cross-country); and Laetaz Amihan Rabe, 14 (freeski slope style and freeski big air) will compete in the 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games from Jan. 19 to Feb. 1 in Gangwon, South Korea.

"I'm proud to announce their qualification and participation in Gangwon. We Filipinos have defied limitations and embraced the challenges of competing in winter sports through the years. We're living in a tropical country, but our spirit simply knows no boundaries," he said.

Other matters discussed by Tolentino during the interview were the International Olympic Committee's decision on allowing boxing icon and former Senator Manny Pacquiao to compete in Paris by March, construction of the country's first indoor International Cycling Union-certified velodrome in Tagaytay City, POC Golf Cup Legislators Edition on March 13, and the ratification of the POC's amended charter. (PNA)

IM Quizon keeps solo lead in Nat'l Chess Championships

International Master Daniel Quizon drew with IM Jan Emmanuel Garcia to keep the lead in the Philippine National Chess Championships at the Marikina Community Convention Center on Thursday.

The 19-year-old Quizon now has 6.5 points after eight rounds in the tournament presented by Marikina City Congresswoman Maan Teodoro and Mayor Marcy Teodoro.

Woman Grandmaster Janelle Mae Frayna defeated National Master Vince Angelo Medina to take solo second with 6.0 points while Garcia and Grandmaster John Paul Gomez, who beat NM Jerish John Velarde, are tied for third with 5.5 points.

IM Paulo Bersamina and Fide Masters Christian Gian Karlo Arca and Mark Jay Bacojo are in a three-way tied for fourth with 5.0 points.

Bersamina won over IM Barlo Nadera, Arca conquered Samson Chiu Chin Lim III and Bacojo split the points with GM Darwin Laylo.

Medina is fifth with 4.5



Filipino International Master Daniel Quizon (Contributed photo)

points while GM Rogelio Antonio Jr., who prevailed over WIM Marie Antoinette San Diego, is in sixth place followed by Laylo (3.5), Nadera (2.5), Velarde (1.5), Lim (1.0) and San Diego (0.5).

The champion will receive PHP120,000 in cash while three slots to the World Chess Olympiad scheduled on Sept. 10-23 in Budapest, Hungary are at stake in the 13-round

event supported by National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) chairman and president Prospero Pichay, Jr., Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Abraham Tolentino, Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chairman Richard Bachmann, the Eugene Torre Chess Foundation, Pan de Amerikana's Jundio Salvador. (PNA)

'Golden' Gilas top newsmaker of 2023 in sports

It took one miraculous run for Gilas Pilipinas to become the top newsmaker in sports for 2023.

Fresh from a so-so stint in the FIBA World Cup that was still enough to clinch a spot in next year's FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournaments, Gilas faced a dilemma entering the Asian Games.

First, Chot Reyes announced that he was resigning yet again as head coach, so a few days later, the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas decided to name his top assistant, Ginebra coach Tim Cone, as Gilas' "interim coach".

Then with barely a week left before the start of the Asian Games, some players called up to the Gilas pool turned out to be ineligible as they were not listed in two initial entry-by-name lists submitted to the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), which in turn sent them to the Hangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee (HAGOC) held from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8.

POC president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino personally went to HAGOC to make one last appeal, but HAGOC ruled with finality that the athletes for the Gilas squad must come from the second entry-by-name pool.

Gilas' short preparation seemed to have taken its toll when Jordan, led by current TNT import Rondae Hollis-Jefferson, blew them out in the final game of the preliminary round, putting them in a tough playoff route.

However, as fate would have it, Gilas stunned Iran in the quarterfinals and made a huge comeback from 20 points down to eliminate host China in the semifinals, setting up a rematch with Jordan in the final.

Learning their lessons from their first meeting, Gilas put up a terrific defense on Jordan that not even Hollis-Jefferson's heroics could save them as the Philippines finally won an Asian Games men's basketball gold after 61 years.

While the other three Asian Games golds headlined by that of men's pole vault favorite EJ Obiena are not to be



CHAMPION AGAIN. Members of the Gilas Pilipinas celebrate the country's first gold medal in 61 years in the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China on Oct. 6, 2023. Gilas' miraculous run became the top newsmaker in sports for 2023. (Photo courtesy of PSC Media Pool)

discredited, some think that the Gilas gold mattered the most for the Philippines.

EJ Obiena soars Speaking of Obiena, 2023 has been another banner year for Asia's top pole vaulter.

Aside from cementing his status as Asia's current pole vault king in the Asian Games, Obiena also won a good number of tournaments abroad, including the Brussels leg of the Wanda Diamond League where he beat no less than the top pole vaulter right now, Mondo Duplantis, last September.

What made the year even more special for Obiena is that he became the first Asian to record a six-meter jump in pole vault.

Many believe that Obiena must jump six meters or higher if he wants to get a shot at beating Duplantis in the Olympics.

Coupled with the fact that he has jumped to number two in the world, Obiena is now on a quest to be the best in the world, and the private sector signified its support for Obiena by pledging a huge sum of money to fund his training.

"I can finally plan ahead big-time," Obiena said. "I'm very humbled and at the same time blessed to be in such a position that there are these big institutions that are giving me donations to my cause of preparing for Paris 2024 that made my life easier."

Filipinas in FIFA Women's World Cup

Also this year, the Filipino football fan's dream became a reality when a Philippine team played in the FIFA World Cup for the very first time, and it had to be from the women's football squad, the rechristened Filipinas.

The biggest breakthrough, though, came when the Filipinas

stunned co-host New Zealand to put them in a position to qualify for the knockout stages.

Although Norway blew them out in their last match, the Filipinas' FIFA Women's World Cup (WWC) appearance remains historic in itself as they captured the hearts of not just the Filipino football community but also of other countries to the point that Australia, the other co-host of the FIFA WWC, decided to hold its Olympic Qualifying Tournament match against the Filipinas at a larger venue due to an expected huge attendance.

Mark Torcaso is now tasked with a mission to continue the surge of the Filipinas, who are now 38th in the world.

The rise of AP Bren AP Bren is the esports team of the year 2023.

AP Bren scored huge successes over the midyear when it won the Southeast Asian Games and the IESF World Championships as Sibol's Mobile Legends team.

The biggest breakthrough, though, came right after former Cagayan board member AJ Ponce stepped in to help bankroll the squad, which was said to be struggling financially.

AP Bren reclaimed the Mobile Legends Professional League Philippines championship and capped the year by ruling the M5 World Championship, becoming the first team to win the world title twice and the first to win the world title at home with a jampacked Rizal Memorial Coliseum witnessing the epic grand finals against Onic Indonesia live as well as more than 5 million viewers worldwide in the live streams. (PNA)

SM SUPERMALLS IN CAVITE CONCLUDE YEAR 2023 WITH CHRISMILES

SM malls in Cavite brought fun treats and happy day of games and surprises to children of various organizations in Cavite. This employee volunteerism program of SM called as 'chriSMiles' aims to involve SM employees in its goal to reach out to communities and give a small yet huge impact to the program's beneficiaries.



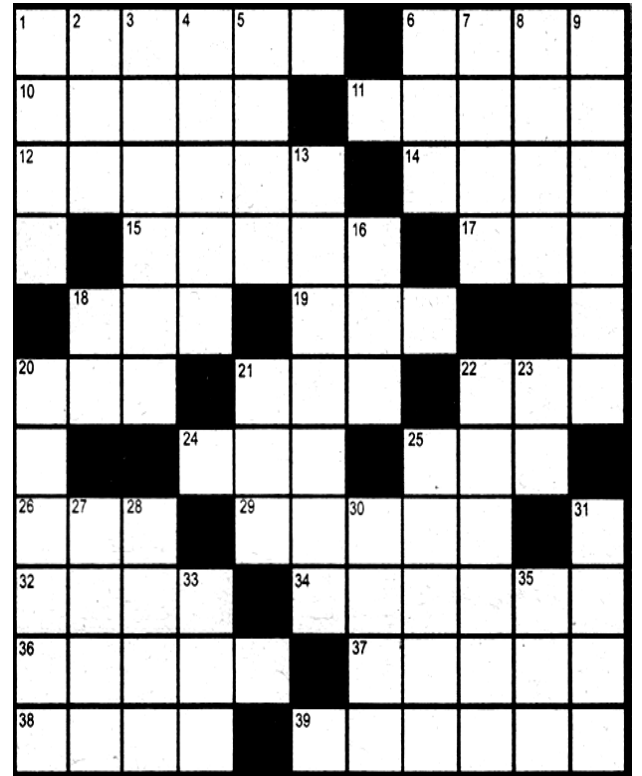
SM City Rosario employees and kids from Barangay Wawa III Child Development Center



SM City Dasmariñas employee give school supplies to children of Bahay Kalinga, Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

SM City Dasmariñas in partnership with CSWDO-Dasmariñas City, gave treats to 63 children of Bahay Kalinga and Bahay Pag-asa. SM City Tanza went to Amaya Elementary School, Tanza Cavite, catering SMiles to 40 children from (Special Needs Education) SNED Center. SM City Rosario invited to the mall 35 beneficiaries from Barangay Wawa III Child Development Center. And, SM City Trece Martires visited the Bukal ng Kapayaan Home for Special Children with 32 beneficiaries.

PALAISSIPAN



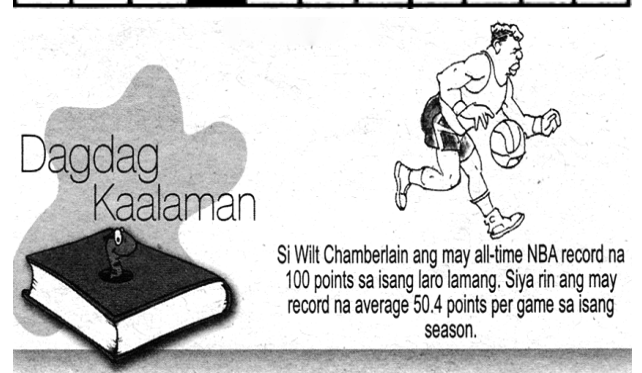
PAHALANG

- 1 Abiso
- 6 Yeso
- 10 Matibay na hibla
- 11 Gilid ng bundok
- 12 Pait
- 14 Lalawigan sa Mindanao
- 15 Hakbang
- 17 Father and ____
- 18 Mapua Institute of Technology
- 19 Unlapi
- 20 Patrolman: daglat
- 21 Signed: pantitik
- 22 Pansin
- 24 Panloob pambabae
- 25 Habag
- 26 New People's Army
- 29 Hinuha
- 32 Marupok
- 34 Bigyan ng taning
- 36 Inalipusta
- 37 Kandili
- 38 Ribbon
- 39 Abandunahin

PABABA

- 1 Marka ng bugbog
- 2 Hamak
- 3 Maliit na lambat
- 4 Libro
- 5 Bitak
- 6 Ayo ng buhok
- 7 Uri ng suman
- 8 Umang
- 9 Kaso
- 13 Sumpa
- 16 Tawag sa ama
- 18 Tawag sa ina
- 20 Mahaba at matulis na ngipin
- 21 Senora: daglat
- 22 Layuan
- 23 Simbolo ng sodium
- 25 Gunita
- 27 Panudla
- 28 Mando
- 30 Lunes o Martes
- 31 Gamit sa pagtulog
- 33 Magalang na tugon
- 35 Mr.Muhlach

SAGOT SA NAKARAAN



Si Wilt Chamberlain ang may all-time NBA record na 100 points sa isang laro lamang. Siya rin ang may record na average 50.4 points per game sa isang season.

DOST, NCMF SIGN MOA FOR ENHANCEMENT AND INTEGRITY OF HALAL PRODUCTS

THE Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the enhancement and to fortify the halal integrity of the local products with the establishment of DOST Halal Verification Laboratories (HVLs).



The ceremony was held at the Dusit Thani Hotel Manila in Makati City last Thursday, Jan. 4. The MOA signing was by DOST Secretary Dr. Renato U. Solidum and by NCMF Secretary Atty. Guiling Mamondiong and witnessed by DOST undersecretaries for Regional Operations, Engr. Sancho A. Maborang and Teodoro M. Gatchalian, respectively; DOST XI Regional Director, Dr. Anthony C. Sales; DOST-

CALABARZON Regional Director, Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit; Hon. Mujiv S. Hataman, representative of the Lone District of Basilan, other directors and representatives from DOST regional operations and its attached agencies. DOST as a member-agency of the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Board (PHEDPB), aims to collaborate with the NCMF to support the promotion of the Philippine halal

industry and to enhance market surveillance by utilizing advanced testing methods at HVLs in Region IV-A, Davao Region, Region VII, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

"Through this ceremonial signing, we will officially forge our partnership toward an increasingly innovative, creative and sustainable future for the halal

► DOST, NCMF • 4

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Wala ako sa ICU: Sec. Boying

Tinawag ni Justice Sec. Jesus Crispin 'Boying' Remulla na hindi totoo ang kumakalat na balita na siya ay malubha ang karamdaman at intensive care unit (ICU) sa isang sikat na ospital sa Metro Manila.

"Malaking kalokohan!" sabi ni Remulla pero inamin na Hunyo 27 ng nbakaraang taon, siya ay dumaan sa isang open heart surgery.

Aniya, magaling na siya, malakas at nagtatrabaho sa kanyang opisina sa Department of Justice (DOJ).

Paninira lamang ito ng mga kalaban niya sa politika, sabi ni Sec. Remulla.

Maayos na maayos na ang kalusugan niya, sabi niya sa isang presscon noong Disyembre 29, 2013.

"My heart is good, wala akong problema (sa puso)"

Aniya pa, sa edad na 62-anyos, kailangan ang ibayong pag-iingat sa kalusugan, at ngayong maayos na ang kalagayan niya, balik uli siya sa mabigay na trabaho bilang justice secretary.

"I was never in the ICU (intensive care unit)," sabi ni Remulla.

Aniya pa, nitong nakaraang araw ay madalas siyang kumunsulta sa kanyang doktor, pero ngayon, maayos na ang katawan at kalusugan niya.

Gayunman, sabi ni Remulla, "I have to be careful."

Sabi niya: "My heart is good." (ST Team)



Bagong voters registration sa Pebrero

Naghahanda na ang Commission on Elections (Comelec) na linisin ang rekord ng mga botante at ituloy sa Pebrero ang bagong voters registration sa buong bansa para sa May 2025 midterm elections.

Sa mga overseas Filipinos, nagpaalaala ang Comelec na magparehistro sa mga embahada ng Pilipinas upang makaboto sa 2025 elections.

Huling idinaos ang

voters registration sa buong bansa noong Disyembre 12, 2022 hanggang Enero 31, 2023 -- na mahigit sa 2.5 milyong botante ang nagparehistro.

Sa Comelec Resolution No.10833, itinakda ang overseas Filipinos registration noon pang Disyembre 9, 2022 hanggang setyembre 30, 2024.



BUSINESS PERMIT RENEWAL SA IMUS CITY, MAS PINADALI SA TULONG NG E-BOSS

e-BOSS inilunsad sa Imus: Mas magiging mabilis na pagproseso ng renewal ng business permit sa Imus City kasunod ng paglunsad noong Martes, Enero 2 ng Electronic Business One-Stop Shop (eBOSS). Sa mga nais magpasa ng documentary requirements ng kanilang negosyo, sinabi ng pamahalaang lungsod sa mga negosyante na gamitin sa pagbabayad ng fees at charges ang online portal na: www.egovcityofimus.ph/bpl/. Ipinapayo sa mga may-ari ng negosyo sa Imus na magpunta sa mga itinalagang BOSS center sa oras na makatanggap ng mensaheng maaari nang makuha ang aktuwal na business plates at permits. Dagdag dito, maaaring personal na iproseso ang sa physical BOSS center sa City of Imus Sports Complex, Brgy. Poblacion 3-A at sa New Imus City Government Center, Brgy. Malagasang 1-G. "Bukas ang mga ito Lunes hanggang Biyernes, mula 8:00 a.m. hanggang 7:00 p.m., at tuwing Sabado, mula 8:00 a.m. hanggang 4:00 p.m hanggang Enero 20, 2024 (Sabado)," sabi ng opisyal na abiso ng pamahalaang lungsod. (DBC, PIA-Cavite)



AKSYONG ANGELO AGUINALDO PUSO AT MALASAKIT PARA SA ATING KAWIT

BUSINESS PERMIT RENEWAL WITHOUT PENALTY SCHEDULE

January 3-22, 2024

MAYOR AGUINALDO

@mayoraguinaldo

Kawiteño business owners who have no penalties and/or surcharges, can now renew their business permits starting on Wednesday, January 3 to January 22, 2024. #KumikitangKawiteño #AksyongAngeloAguinaldo #RatedTripleA #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit