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Bible Month Celebration Unveils Spiritual Unity in Cavite

IMUS CITY, Cavite (PIA) — Residents of Imus City can now have improved access to healthcare services with the opening of the Department of Health's (DOH) Super Health Center in Barangay Carsadang Bago 1 in Imus, Cavite.

Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa, who led the inauguration of the healthcare facility on Jan. 19, emphasized that the Super Health Center reflects the DOH's commitment to improving access to healthcare services and realizing Universal Health Care (UHC).

According to DOH, the Super Health Center offers various health services, including x-ray, an animal bite clinic, Tuberculosis Directly Observed Therapy Short Course (TB-DOTS),

dental, laboratory, pharmacy, immunization, family planning, and reproductive and wellness services.

Citing challenges in the implementation of UHC, Herbosa said the DOH needs the support of local officials to proactively implement health programs and improve the country's healthcare system.

"Mayor Advincula said that I am the supposed guardian of health in our country. That is not easy. I need to help 130 million Filipinos, and I can't do that alone. We need mayors like Mayor Advincula who are focused on health initiatives," said Herbosa.

Herbosa also lauded the Imus City government for prioritizing the health of its residents.

► BIBLE MONTH • 3



Pinoy researchers advance bone repair with AI and 3D Printing

Filipino researchers are using artificial intelligence (AI) and 3D printing technologies to enhance bone tissue repair, providing a more accessible and affordable solution for bone related challenges caused by aging, infections, and accidents.

Aiming to empower patients and doctors in selecting the optimal bone repair material based on medical needs and affordability, this project offers a more viable alternative to existing methods by providing enhanced performance for complex bone regeneration using 3D printing technology to craft

bone scaffolds with tunable shapes.

Led by Dr. Erwin P. Enriquez of the Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU), and supported by the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD), the team leverages on an international collaboration with researchers from the Vellore Institute of

Technology in India, that specializes in additive manufacturing, AI-assisted design, and biotechnology using 3D printing technology.

In its second year, the project has developed a machine-learning model to analyze factors affecting the effectiveness of bioceramic precursor

► PINOY • 4

PBBM vows to fulfill SAF 44's dreams as a state obligation



SILANG, Cavite (PIA) — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has affirmed the government's commitment to fulfill the dreams of the 44 Special Action Force (SAF) commandos who lost their lives in a tragic encounter with terrorists in Mamasapano, Maguindanao, nine years ago.

Speaking during the National Day of Remembrance of the Heroic Sacrifice of the SAF 44 at Camp General Castañeda in Silang, Cavite, on Jan. 25, Marcos emphasized that it is the obligation of the State to help realize the SAF 44's dreams for their families, for their children, for their comrades, and for the Filipino people as a way of giving meaning to their valor.

"It is now up to us, who lived, who benefited from their full measure of devotion to duty, to build a kinder and gentler society, wherein those they have left behind can live in peace and prosperity. That is the mission they have left us to pursue when they did not return from their last patrol," the President said.

Citing the lessons from the tragic encounter,

► PBBM VOWS • 4



CBMS: PARA SA ATIN 'TO! Kaisa po natin ang Philippine Statistics Authority para sa pagpapatupad ng ating Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) dito sa ating Kawit. Malaking tulong po ito para mas mapalawak natin ang ating data gathering at mas komprehensibo po nating matukoy ang kalagayan ng bawat Kawiteño. Ang mga ganitong hakbang ang ating isa sa ating kinakailangan para mas mabigyan natin ng #RatedTripleA na serbisyo ang ating mga kababayan. #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit #MayorAguinaldo

EDITORIAL

Teachers returning to their classrooms

LEADING the Department of Education (DepEd) is a thankless task because it is plagued with problems. One of them is the lack of funds to hire more teachers for public schools.

One way to mitigate this is to bring our teachers back to the classrooms — to teach. Last Friday, Education Secretary and Vice President Sara Duterte signed a policy to immediately remove the administrative tasks from the regular duties of public schoolteachers.

Department Order 002, Series of 2024, will enable teachers to perform the task they were originally trained for.

"Let us bring our teachers back to the classrooms," Duterte said in a statement.

"To ensure effective implementation, along with the filling up of 5,000 administrative personnel for 2023 and another 5,000 administrative personnel for 2024, we will also provide additional Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses to enable our schools to hire the necessary administrative support staff."

The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) think tank conducted a study on this issue in 2019. It cautioned against giving administrative tasks to teachers, as it distracts them from their main job — to educate our students in an increasingly complex and globalized world. And in the context of our students' low scores in reading, writing, science and mathematics across the board, teachers have their work cut out for them.

Among the tasks that were taken away from the teachers' plates are the following: personnel administration, custodians of property and overseers of physical facilities, general administrative support, financial management, records management, feeding program coordinators, and school disaster risk reduction and management coordinators.

Moreover, public school teachers are enlisted for various government-related projects, including serving during elections, for which payment is invariably delayed.

To fill the gap, a transitory provision requires school division offices (SDS) to quickly do clustering strategies. Administrative support



services will then be deployed to clustered schools, which are located near each other.

Current administrative responsibilities are also transferred from the teachers to the school heads and non-teaching personnel. There is also an ongoing recruitment of administrative support personnel, which should be finished in 60 days.

The DepEd has also provided a calamity fund and instituted a policy on overload pay. "We will enable more teachers to be rightfully compensated for hours of actual classroom teaching beyond the six-hour limit [per day] prescribed under the Magna Carta for Teachers," Duterte said.

It was made clear that the two extra hours per day of the teachers should be allocated for class preparation, marking of papers and consultation hours with their students.

'Long overdue'

Expectedly, the bee in the bonnet of the DepEd was quick to release its sting.

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) said Duterte's action was "long overdue." ACT claimed that the promise to remove the albatross of administrative tasks from the teachers' backs had already been made in the 2023 Basic Education Report.

ACT said that "with almost 50,000 schools suffering from being understaffed, we need at least two administrative staff per school to truly unload the teachers from being overworked."

"The allocation of 10,000 administrative staff

positions nationwide appears exaggerated in terms of its potential to relieve the teachers of their administrative duties," it said.

Diving deeply into the deficiencies of the department, ACT further said that the department did not report its lackluster record in building maintenance. The group claimed that "two out of three school buildings are currently in bad shape."

Earlier, the Department of Budget and Management turned down the petition of more than 60,000 public schoolteachers for a 36-percent increase in the take-home pay of entry-level teachers and college instructors. The petition aimed to attract more Education graduates to teach instead of working graveyard shifts in call centers or working as nannies overseas.

The World Bank is now conducting a study of teachers' salaries. Its findings will be submitted to Duterte's office.

In a welcome development, the DepEd also expanded the feeding programs in the public schools from the present 120 days to the full school year. A United Nations Development Program study showed that the poorest provinces with the most malnourished children come from those run by political dynasties.

There is a connection then between good governance and healthy children. But since we are a country run by bickering political dynasties, this does not bode well for the country's future.

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Health mission in Bayan Luma 5, benefits more than 400 Residents

In an effort to prioritize the health and well-being of the community, the Office of the Provincial Governor in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer spearheaded a comprehensive medical and dental mission in Bayan Luma 5, City of Imus on January 30, 2024.

The medical and dental mission team witnessed an overwhelming response from the community, with more than 400 beneficiaries receiving much-needed medical attention and dental care from OPHO medical professionals. The health event showcased the commitment of the provincial government to address the healthcare needs of its constituents.

One of the key highlights of the mission was the provision of free prescription medicines and vitamins. This not only addressed immediate health concerns but also contributed to the long-term well-being of the community by ensuring access to essential medicines.

The residents of Bayan Luma 5 as well as Punong Barangay Edgie Reyes expressed their gratitude for the outreach, emphasizing the significance of such initiatives in improving overall community health. Many beneficiaries, who may not have had the means to seek medical or dental care otherwise, were able to receive attention and treatment for various health conditions.

The success of the mission would not have been possible without the collaboration and coordination of various stakeholders, including local officials, and volunteers. Their collective efforts made it possible to create a positive impact on the



lives of hundreds of individuals within the community. (OPIO)

SPOT HAPPY DOZEN WITH KRISPY KREME SM CITY MOLINO, CAVITE - Happiness is right around the corner. Or better yet, drop by Krispy Kreme and make your day the happiest yet! #SpotHappy when you purchase 6 Original Glazed® and 6 pre-assorted doughnuts for only P359 on January 25 to 28 only! Save P130! Doughnut assortment may vary according to store availability. Variants may include Nutella with Almonds, Kitkat Chocolate Doughnut, Choco Iced Custard Filled, Chocolate Sprinkles, Strawberry Sprinkles, Dark Choco Glazed and Original Glazed® with Nuts. Delivery SRP is P399, and may vary across delivery partners. Promo is valid from January 25 to 28, 2024, at these times:

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HULING BATCH NG MGA ISKO AT ISKA NG BAYAN SA CAVITE STATE UNIVERSITY-CCAT CAMPUS, NAKATANGGAP NG EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE MULA KAY CONG JOLO REVILLA: Nakatanggap na rin po ngayong araw ng educational assistance ang huling batch ng ating college scholars na nag-aaral sa Cavite State University-CCAT Campus bilang bahagi ng ating Iskolar ng Bayan sa Unang Distrito program ngayong school year 2023-2024. Umaasa po ako na sana ay makatulong kahit papaano ang halagang inyong natanggap upang matustusan ang inyong mga pangangailangan at gastusin sa pag-aaral. Asahan ninyo na hanggang ako po ang congressman sa ating distrito, lagi nating unahin ang kapakanan ng mga kabataan lalo na pagdating sa edukasyon dahil kaisa ko po kayong mga Iskolar ng Bayan sa pagsusulong ng tunay na pagbabago. #Rosario #Cavite #CaviteFirstDistrict #IskolarNgBayan #CvSU #CCAT #JoloCares

Bible Month... (FROM PAGE 1)

"We look at Imus, Cavite, as one of our most advanced LGUs in terms of UHC implementation and to take a more proactive role in implementing the department's initiatives as we envision UHC," the health chief added.

Imus City Mayor Alex Advincula thanked the national government for the construction of the Super Health Center, emphasizing that it would help more residents get access to

healthcare services.

He also expressed support for various health programs of the national government, stating that good health is an integral part of a person's life.

"We prioritize health programs because we believe that, regardless of skills, education, or wealth, if you are unhealthy, nothing will happen in your life. I believe that when the body is healthy, we can accomplish more and we can contribute

more to our beloved country," Advincula said.

With support from the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), the DOH also committed to providing special medical procedures and medicines needed by the city's residents.

Herbosa said the DOH is also working to establish 28 national ambulatory and urgent care centers nationwide, catering to an estimated 28 million of the most vulnerable Filipinos, by the year 2028. (CH/PIA-4A)

DOST Rizal conducts Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) to ANSCI and AiTECH for possible 21st CLEM Adoption

The DOST Provincial S&T Office of Rizal, along with the representative of the Office of the Congressman Romeo M. Acop, Mr. Francis Javier, visited the Antipolo National Science and Technology High School (ANSCI) and Antipolo Institute of Technology (AiTECH) for a Technology Needs Assessment (TNA).



The conduct of the TNA was aimed to help DOST Rizal identify the needs of the schools and the community and to ensure

the appropriateness of DOST's technologies in line with the request of the Office of Congressman Acop for 3D Printer/

Robotics equipment and possible adoption and piloting of a 21st Century Learning Environment Model (CLEM) in ANSCI, in



partnership with the Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI). DOST Rizal will be

continuously coordinating with the relevant stakeholders and project collaborators in

preparation of the project proposal. **(By Raphael Dorutheo Martin A. San Antonio)**

PBBM vows... (FROM PAGE 1)

Marcos paid homage to the heroism of the fallen SAF troopers and urged Filipinos to honor and draw inspiration from their heroism. He said that the sacrifices of the SAF 44 are "a debt that we will never be able to fully pay, no matter how we try."

"In their last hours, in that place of honor, we can draw many important lessons: The lessons such as putting nation before self, displaying courage under fire, resolving to forge ahead, and never giving up," the chief executive said.

Marcos said their sacrifices would be devalued if Filipinos submit to those who terrorize the nation and cede the territory to trespassers.

"We would also be disrespecting their memory if we give quarters to those who terrorize our people. We would be devaluing their valor if we cede our territory to those who would trespass upon it," President Marcos added.

For the families of the

fallen SAF 44, the pain lingers as if the tragic incident that occurred nine years ago happened just like yesterday.

Raechel June Sumbilla, wife of the late PMSgt. John Lloyd Sumbilla, shared the pain she went through after the tragic death of her husband.

"As a wife, I knew the daily risks my husband faced as part of the SAF. But nothing prepared me for the news of his tragic passing. The pain was unimaginable, and the void he left behind seems impossible to fill."

Sumbilla also recounted her husband's sacrifices in the line of duty to protect and serve the country.

"As wives, we have witnessed the sacrifices our husbands made for the greater good. We have seen their unwavering commitment to protecting our society and ensuring the safety of our countrymen. Behind those members of SAF 44, there are wives who held their husbands' dreams and aspirations close to their

hearts," she stated.

Citing their shared experiences, Sumbilla called for her fellow wives to be strong, especially for their children who needed them.

She also thanked everyone who supported them during the trying times and reminded everyone to also celebrate the heroism and patriotism her husband and SAF 44 showed.

"As we gather here to commemorate their lives, let us not just mourn our loss but also celebrate their heroism and victory that defined them. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to those who have stood by us during our times of sorrow," she said.

The 44 policemen were killed in a firefight with Muslim rebels during an operation called "Oplan Exodus" at Tukanalipao in M a m a s a p a n o , Maguindanao, on January 25, 2015.

On February 21, 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte issued Proclamation No. 164, declaring January 25 of every year as the Day of National Remembrance for the fallen. **(AM/PIA-4A)**

circumstances, everyone deserves access to basic healthcare.

The compassionate outreach by the provincial government also emphasized the importance of rehabilitation and reintegration into society, recognizing the potential for positive change even in the most challenging environments. **(OPIO)**

Bridging... (FROM PAGE 8)

Healthcare professionals from OPHO and Dasmariñas City Health Office, including doctors, nurses, and dentists, collaborated to provide a range of services, from basic check-ups to more specialized medical attention to 372 PDLs. The mission aimed not only to

treat existing health issues but also to prevent the escalation of potential medical problems.

In addition to the health benefits, the mission fostered a sense of hope and humanity within the correctional facility. It demonstrated that, regardless of one's

Pinoy... (FROM PAGE 1)

materials in printing. Simultaneously, the team explores polymer-nano clay materials and 3D-printed frameworks, ensuring strength and compatibility with the human body.

"By integrating transformative technologies like AI and 3D printing, we are charting a course towards a future where healthcare is revolutionized, and innovative approaches become the cornerstone of

medical advancements. This collaborative initiative, showcasing the dedication and expertise of our team, holds promise in providing accessible and affordable solutions for bone-related challenges.," stated Dr. Jaime C. Montoya, PCHRD Executive Director.

Recognizing the limitations of traditional transplantation, the researchers advocate for a shift towards regeneration as a more

promising solution for damaged tissues and organs. The project, set to conclude in August 2024, focuses on refining additive manufacturing and processing techniques, aiming to significantly reduce fabrication time compared to current technologies.

Once successful, this initiative may empower surgeons with a diverse selection of composite materials, custom-tailored to meet the medical and financial needs of individual patients.

MPT South... (FROM PAGE 8)

Awards Gabi ng Parangal on January 31, 2024, hosted at the same venue. The campaign strategically addressed overspeeding violations, a significant contributor to road-related fatalities and injuries.

Another Silver Anvil was awarded to the toll road company for its 2023 Calendar titled "Better Ways" under the PR Tools-Publication. This visual and informative journey celebrates the company's unwavering commitment to sustainability, emphasizing People, Planet, and Progress.

Mr. Raul L. Ignacio, President and General Manager of MPT South, expressed his pride in these accomplishments, stating, "We are immensely proud of the achievements of our communication programs, a testament to our dedication to excellence. It reinforces our commitment to being more than just toll roads; we are here for the people—our

motorists, for the planet, and, of course, for progress. This recognition inspires us to continually elevate our campaigns for the greater good."

In 2023, the International Association of Business Communication (IABC) received 815 entries for the Quill Award, while the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) received XXX entries for Anvil.

Over the years, MPT South has earned several Anvil Awards, including a Silver Anvil for Drayberks (2019), a social advocacy promoting road safety; Silver Anvil for Sights of South (2020), a corporate calendar promoting tourism in MPT South's toll road network; Silver Anvil for the Silang East Interchange Opening PR Campaign (2021); and Silver Anvil for the Bayani Ka Activity Book (2022), a road safety comic-inspired book. Notably, for 2023, Silver Anvils for the #Eggstrasafe and the

Better Ways 2023 Calendar. In the Quill Awards, MPT South earned the Award of Merit for Drayberks (2022), a hybrid road safety education campaign; Award of Excellence for Biyaheng South (2022), a digital tourism marketing campaign; and Award of Merit for the 2022 Calendar titled 'Homegrown Heroes'.

MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the infrastructure arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC). Aside from the CALAX and CAVITEX network of toll roads, MPTC's domestic portfolio includes the concessions for the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the NLEX Connector Road, the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

For further information and media concerns, please get in touch with corpcomm@mptsouth.com

DOST PSTO Rizal Presents Courtesy Call to Rizal Governor Nina Ynares

DOST Rizal Provincial S&T Director, Mr. Fernando E. Ablaza, together with his staff, had a courtesy call with the Provincial Governor of Rizal, Hon. Nina Ricci A. Ynares. During the meeting PD Ablaza presented the CY 2023 Accomplishment Report of DOST Rizal and requested for assistance in securing the Ynares Center as the prospect venue for the 2024 CALABARZON Regional Science and Technology Week (RSTW) celebration.



During the meeting, PD Ablaza briefed about the 2023 accomplishments of Rizal. He highlighted the 30 MSMEs in Rizal assisted through the Small Enterprises Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), the Grants-in-Aid (GIA) Programs, the Scholarship program, the rollout of the Science and Technology Academic and

Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS) and the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST). Before the adjournment, PD Ablaza also endorsed the Section 20, Paragraph 3 of the RA 11293 or the "Philippine Innovation Act" which mandates Local

Government Units to create innovation programs through collaboration with other government agencies, non-government organizations, academic institutions, and private companies; and the Republic Act 11337 or "The Innovative Start Up Act" creating the Philippine Start-up Development Program which aims to



provide benefits and incentives to investors and innovators as start-ups, for review of the Provincial

Government of Rizal. DOST Rizal will be coordinating with the Provincial Treasurer

regarding the availability of the Ynares Center. (By **Raphael Dorutheo Martin A. San Antonio**)

DTI-Laguna Conducts Onsite Motor Vehicle PETC Inspection and Monitoring in Calamba City, Laguna

Victoria, Laguna — Pursuant to the Department Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2002 (DAO 3:2002) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Laguna Provincial Office of DTI (DTI-Laguna), through its Consumer Protection Division, conducted onsite inspection and monitoring of a motor vehicle private emission testing center (PETC) in Calamba City, Laguna, on January 30, 2024, to ensure that accredited PETCs continuously comply with government rules and regulations as well as meet the quality standards set by the government under the Republic Act No. 8749, otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Air Act.



The onsite inspection and monitoring activity of motor vehicle PETCs is one of the DTI's mandates in implementing standards and procedures on the

accreditation of PETCs. This process also includes checking of their necessary tools, equipment, facilities, expertise, and quality service; interview with

their qualified technicians; and actual testing of equipment. As part of its regular activities, DTI-Laguna will continuously inspect and monitor motor vehicle



PETCs at least once a month for this year of 2024 all throughout the Laguna

Province. This endeavor seeks to protect the interest of the consumers in

availing of PETC services. (ALSLinga, **DTI-Laguna**)

DepEd, Cebu City sign deal for 2024 Palarong Pambansa

MANILA – The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Cebu City government have forged a partnership for the 2024 Palarong Pambansa.

Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte-Carpio and Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama signed the memorandum of agreement (MOA) to ensure the intensive preparation for this year's Palarong Pambansa in a ceremony at the Community Hall on the 9th floor of Cebu City Hall Executive Building.

"We affirm our unwavering dedication to strengthening our support for young athletes. Our primary goal is to equip them with the necessary tools to nurture discipline, resilience, and the indomitable spirit required to pursue their athletic passions," Duterte said in a press release posted on the DepEd official website on Saturday.

"The unique character

and vaunted hospitality of Cebu City will make this year's Palaro even more memorable for all our student-athletes."

Cebu City will be hosting the prestigious annual multi-sporting event for the third time. The first was in 1954 and then in 1994.

"We've been waiting for 30 years for this moment. In fact, the Cebu City Sports Center was built 30 years ago, specific to the hosting of Palarong Pambansa in Cebu City," Cebu City Sports Commission chairman John Pages said, noting the city's readiness and sporting venues to be completed soon.

Under the MOA, the DepEd will coordinate with Cebu City to ensure security provisions and measures, transportation, and

communications provision, and other requirements for the competition.

Cebu City, on the other hand, will create and convene the Local Palaro Executive Committee (LPEC) and Secretariat, and facilitate the sourcing of funds for the tournament, specifically for the construction and renovation of sports facilities, billeting quarters, and other infrastructural requirements of the Palaro host.

The Palarong Pambansa, which was shelved due to the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, was hosted by Marikina City last year.

The 2019 edition of the tournament for elementary and high school students was held in Davao City. (PNA)



PALARO HOSTING. Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte-Carpio (3rd from left) and Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama (3rd from right) pose after signing a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to ensure the intensive preparation for the 2024 Palarong Pambansa, in a ceremony at the Cebu City Hall Executive Building on Friday (Feb. 2, 2024). Cebu City will be hosting the annual tournament for elementary and high school students for the third time. (Photo courtesy of DepEd)

Acorda tells PNP personnel: Stay away from politics

The Philippine National Police (PNP) leadership on Friday reminded all personnel to stay away from politics but to continue to uphold and protect the Constitution at all times.



COURAGE. Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Benjamin Acorda bestows an award to a police officer injured in an encounter with the criminal group in Samar during his visit to Calbayog City Friday (Feb. 2, 2024). The official reminded policemen to stay away from politics and uphold and protect the Constitution. (PNA photo by Roel Amazona)

"For us to keep our republic intact, we should uphold the rule of law. Kung anuman ang mandated ng Constitution sa atin, doon lang tayo, (Whatever the Constitution mandates us to do, that's where we should stand)," Chief General Benjamin Acorda told personnel from various PNP units in Samar province in a brief meeting at the Calbayog Sports Center.

The PNP top official again refuted rumors about destabilization against the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

"Often, it is told in the media. May mga media practitioners na nagsasabi (there are media practitioners who say) military and police generals asking the President to resign. Gentlemen, I never asked anyone to resign, more so the President," Acosta told policemen.

He then encouraged the entire police force to be vigilant and shun politics. "Leave the politics to them. We assure this administration kung ano ang require ng batas sa atin doon tayo (that what the law requires of us,

there we stand). That is what we will keep this country intact," Acosta added.

Acosta visited Calbayog to personally condole and provide assistance to the families of three police officers killed during the Jan. 30 encounter with a criminal group in Santa Margarita, Samar.

He also visited the four wounded cops recuperating in a private hospital in this city.

Acosta was accompanied by Police Regional Office Eastern Visayas Regional Director Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Pawid. (PNA)

Michael Jordan's sneakers sold for record \$8-M at auction

Michael Jordan's collection of sneakers sold Friday for a record USD8 million at a Sotheby's auction.



THE GOAT. Michael Jordan in this undate photo. Jordan's collection of sneakers sold Friday (Feb. 2, 2024) for a record USD8 million at a Sotheby's auction. (Anadolu)

The amount is the highest game-worn sneaker sold off in an auction in history.

It surpassed the most expensive sneaker that was auctioned as well, which sold for USD2.2 million last April, also owned by "His Airness."

The lot, called Dynasty Collection, includes sneakers each worn by the basketball legend during his NBA championship-winning games in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997 and 1998 while he played for the Chicago Bulls.

"Included with the lot is a set of signed 1/1 limited

photographs by Bill Smith, depicting Jordan following the 1992, 1993, 1996 and 1998 NBA Finals, smiling and celebrating, and wearing just one sneaker," Sotheby's said in a statement.

"The other sneaker had already been given to Tim Hallam, a public relations executive for the Chicago Bulls who had been with the team since 1978," it added.

Jordan, 60, also holds another record: the most expensive game-worn sports memorabilia. His jersey worn in the 1998 NBA Finals Game 1 was

sold for USD10.1 million in September 2022.

He won six NBA championships with the Bulls, in addition to six NBA Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards, and five league MVPs during 15 seasons in the NBA.

"By acclamation, Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player of all time," according to his profile on the NBA History official website.

While his sneakers are regarded as a cultural icon, Jordan's net worth is estimated at \$3 billion, according to Forbes' Real-Time Billionaires List. (Anadolu)

NGCP holds ceremonial switch-on for PhP 51.3-B Mindanao-Visayas Interconnection

To mark the successful full energization of the Mindanao-Visayas Interconnection, NGCP conducted a simultaneous ceremonial switch-on in Manila, Cebu, and Lanao del Norte, symbolizing the unification of the Philippine grid and marking the full commercial operations of the interconnection.

On 26 January 2024, the energization ceremony was held at Malacañan Palace, led by His Excellency President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., NGCP's Dumanjug Converter Station in Cebu, and Lala Converter Station in Lanao del Norte, and witnessed by key national and local government officials.

"NGCP is honored to operationalize this landmark energy project conceptualized during then President Ferdinand E. Marcos, Sr.'s visionary leadership, now fully realized under the leadership and guidance of the administration of his son and namesake, Pres. Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. This event marks the successful energization at full capacity of this monumental undertaking, a vision of unifying the grid proudly coming to fruition under NGCP," the company said.

The interconnection was conceptualized as early as the 1980s but was abandoned by the government due to challenges in implementation. It was only in 2011, with NGCP as private transmission concessionaire, that studies were revived for the feasibility of such undertaking. Surveys on

the original eastern route envisioned by government presented technical challenges and geophysical hazards, including underwater volcanic activity, unexploded ordnances from the Battle of Surigao, and strong seabed current. NGCP then turned west. A route study beginning in Northwestern Mindanao, crossing over to load center Cebu province, was completed in 2015, with results showing no threat of volcanic activity, and lesser seismic hazards and regional fault compared to the eastern route. In April 2017, NGCP filed its application with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to commence the implementation of the MVIP. The project was approved in July 2017 with a total cost of PhP 51.3 Billion.

"The MVIP, which unites the Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao grids, is identified as integral to economic development through the delivery of stable power transmission services and enabling of energy resource sharing. Despite various challenges, NGCP remained committed to the completion of this project which is a testament to our dedication and

commitment to fulfilling our mandate of improving, upgrading, expanding, and reinforcing the Philippine power grid," added NGCP.

The MVIP is comprised of a 184 circuit-kilometer (ckm) High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) submarine transmission line connecting the power grids of Mindanao and Visayas with a transfer capacity of 450MW expandable to as much as 900MW. The project also includes converter stations in both regions and more than 500ckm of overhead lines to facilitate the flow of electricity.

While certified as an Energy Project of National Significance (EPNS), the project still encountered various difficulties particularly on right-of-way due to opposition of landowners and long and tedious judicial processes, protracted permitting process by local government

units, security issues in certain areas in Mindanao, various requests for rerouting, submarine cable damage by an external party, and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. In September 2023, the Cebu-Magdugo 230kV line, which is crucial to fully utilize the 450MW transfer of power on the Visayas side, was also the

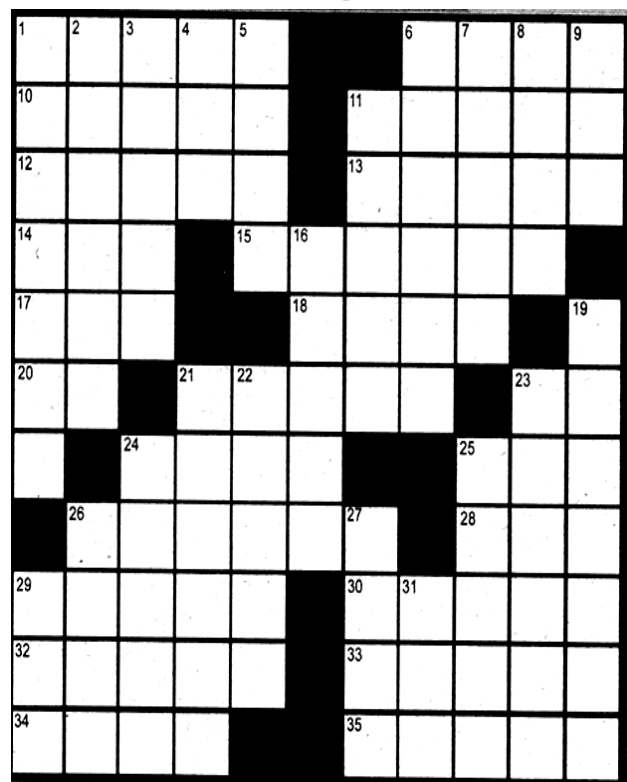
subject of a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) issued by the Supreme Court.

NGCP commends the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) for the proactive support extended in coordinating with LGUs affected by several critical transmission projects. "With the DILG's assistance, NGCP was able to secure 26 building permits from affected LGUs traversed by MVIP. We are grateful for the assistance of Sec. Benhur Abalos who extended every accommodation and went as far as appointing Asst. Sec. Odie Pasaraba who has been invaluable in our coordination with the LGUs," stated the company.

An initial load of 22.5 MegaWatts (MW) was carried by the high voltage submarine and overhead lines from Mindanao to Visayas during its energization on 30 April 2023 and was gradually ramped up to full capacity.

Parts of the MVIP were already completed in 2022, such as the Lala-Aurora 138kV Transmission Line, the 350kV Submarine Cable, and Cable Terminal Stations in Santander, Cebu, and Dapitan, Zamboanga del Norte.

PALAI SIPAN



PAHALANG

- 1 Ibulhol
- 6 Tawag sa ina
- 10 Taklob
- 11 Sira
- 12 Kandili
- 13 Pataba
- 14 Mikhail
- 15 Lugmok
- 17 Marahil
- 18 Uri ng saging
- 20 Yayo Aguila
- 21 Pangalan ng babae
- 23 Ishmael Bernal
- 24 Banas
- 25 Kotse
- 26 Kasunduan
- 28 Supot
- 29 Iwasto
- 30 Ikatay
- 32 Pareha
- 33 Batugan
- 34 Ugali

35 Istorbo

- PABABA**
- 1 Ititindig
- 2 Lalambot
- 3 Sapantaha
- 4 Signature: daglat
- 5 Bato sa hiyas
- 6 Maliit
- 7 Bango ng kape
- 8 Kukuting butil
- 9 Palayaw ni Renato
- 11 Dalisay
- 16 Pagtatanong
- 19 Manananggol na babae
- 21 Klase ng pintura
- 22 Laos
- 23 Ipatse
- 24 Ipinid
- 25 Presidente ng US
- 26 Kitil
- 27 Pangalan ng babae
- 29 Balat ng palay
- 31 Laboratory: daglat

SAGOT SA NAKARAAN



Cavite provincial government's Medical Mission Team composed of dedicated staff from the Office of the Provincial Governor and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, in collaboration with the Cavite Varsitarian-Imus Council, organized a successful medical and dental mission on January 25, 2024 at Jade Residence Subdivision in the City of Imus. The event provided free health consultations and check-ups to 506 patients, with a dedicated team addressing individual health concerns. Notably, 50 patients received free tooth extractions, emphasizing the importance of dental health. The mission, held in a strategic community location, aimed not only to address immediate health needs but also to promote health awareness and preventive care. The team expressed gratitude for the collaborative effort, highlighting the significance of community engagement in bridging healthcare gaps. The initiative's success reflects a commitment to prioritizing the health of Imus residents and serves as a model for future healthcare initiatives in communities. (OPIO)

Dagdag Kaalaman

Ang pinakamakapal na balat sa katawan ay ang nasa palad.

Bridging Health Gaps at Dasmariñas City Jail



The Office of the Provincial Governor, in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), led the medical and dental mission at the Dasmariñas City Jail on January 26, 2024. The mission sought to address the healthcare needs of persons deprived of liberty (PDL), aiming to uplift their overall well-being and provide essential medical and dental services.

Recognizing the challenges faced by correctional facilities in ensuring comprehensive healthcare for its population, the provincial government took proactive steps to extend a helping hand to those in need, emphasizing the importance of accessible healthcare services regardless of one's legal status. ► **BRIDGING • 4**

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DOST Supports Bukidnon's Herbal Oil Manufacturer Secure FDA License to Operate

Bong Galon Herbal Oil in Bukidnon, Northern Mindanao acquires License to Operate through the assistance of consultancy and training services of the Department of Science and Technology, passing the evaluations and inspections mandated by the Food and Drug Administration.



With FDA-LTO, the firm is now able to cater its customers in different regions reaching Sarangani Province, General Santos City and Davao City from September 2023 to September 2024.

DOST's comprehensive training in Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) strengthened the firm's quality assurance and documentation. The training included creating GMP manuals with a specific focus on sanitation, hygiene, packaging, labeling, and plant layout mentoring.

To further enhance products and processes, DOST brought consultants to the processing area in the Municipality of Maramag through the Manufacturing Productivity Extension Program

(MPEX). This initiative aims to improve product quality and production efficiency, fostering competitiveness in both local and international markets.

Mr. Salvador 'Bong' Galon, the founder and CEO of the firm, expressed his profound excitement and pride regarding this remarkable achievement. "Sulod sa 24 ka tuig nga paghulat, dakong kalipay ang akong gibati kay gipangandoy nga License to Operate gikan sa FDA. Sa tabang sa DOST ako nang nakab-ot na gayod ang maong tinguha ug pangandoy" (After waiting for 24 years, I am filled with great joy because I have achieved my dream of obtaining a License to Operate from the FDA. With the help of DOST, I

have truly achieved this goal and aspiration").

Bong Galon upgraded its technology with DOST's Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), enhancing herbal oil filling and capping processes.

Through SETUP, the firm now produces 4,100 bottles monthly, marking a 39% increase post-DOST intervention. As the first in the Health and Wellness Category assisted by DOST Bukidnon to secure FDA-LTO, Bong Galon Herbal Oil sets a high benchmark for MSMEs, showcasing their commitment to regulatory standards and product quality, driving progress in the province's health and wellness sector. **(Goldy H. Cordero / DOST Bukidnon)** #ScienceForThePeople #OneDOST4U



Maraming salamat sa ating Sangguniang Bayan na kasama natin sa pagbibigay ng #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit! Dininig nila ngayong araw ang ating isinusulong na partnership sa mga ospital, clinic, laboratory pati na mga funeral parlor para mas mapalawig pa ang ating health services. Buong Puso at Malasakit din nating sinusuportahan ang hakbang ng Emiliano Tria Tirona Memorial National Integrated High School na pagdaragdag ng dalawang curriculum: ang Special Program in Journalism at Rural Farm School Curriculum. #AlagangAngeloAguinaldo #RatedTripleA #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit #MayorAguinaldo

MPT South Wins Multiple Anvil and Quill Award

Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), the concessionaire for the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) and Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), once again takes the spotlight, securing two of the country's prestigious recognitions in the realm of Public Relations and Communications—the Anvil and Quill Awards.



During the 20th Philippine Quill Awarding Ceremony on January 23, 2024, held at Marriott Grand Ballroom, Pasay City, MPT South's 2022 Calendar titled 'Homegrown Heroes'

earned the Quill Award of Merit. This corporate calendar showcased the heroism of both internal employees and external individuals during the pandemic.

In addition, MPT South

secured the Silver Anvil for its viral '#Eggstrasafe' road safety digital campaign, under the category of PR Program - Best Use of Social Media, during the 59th Anvil

► **MPT SOUTH • 4**